

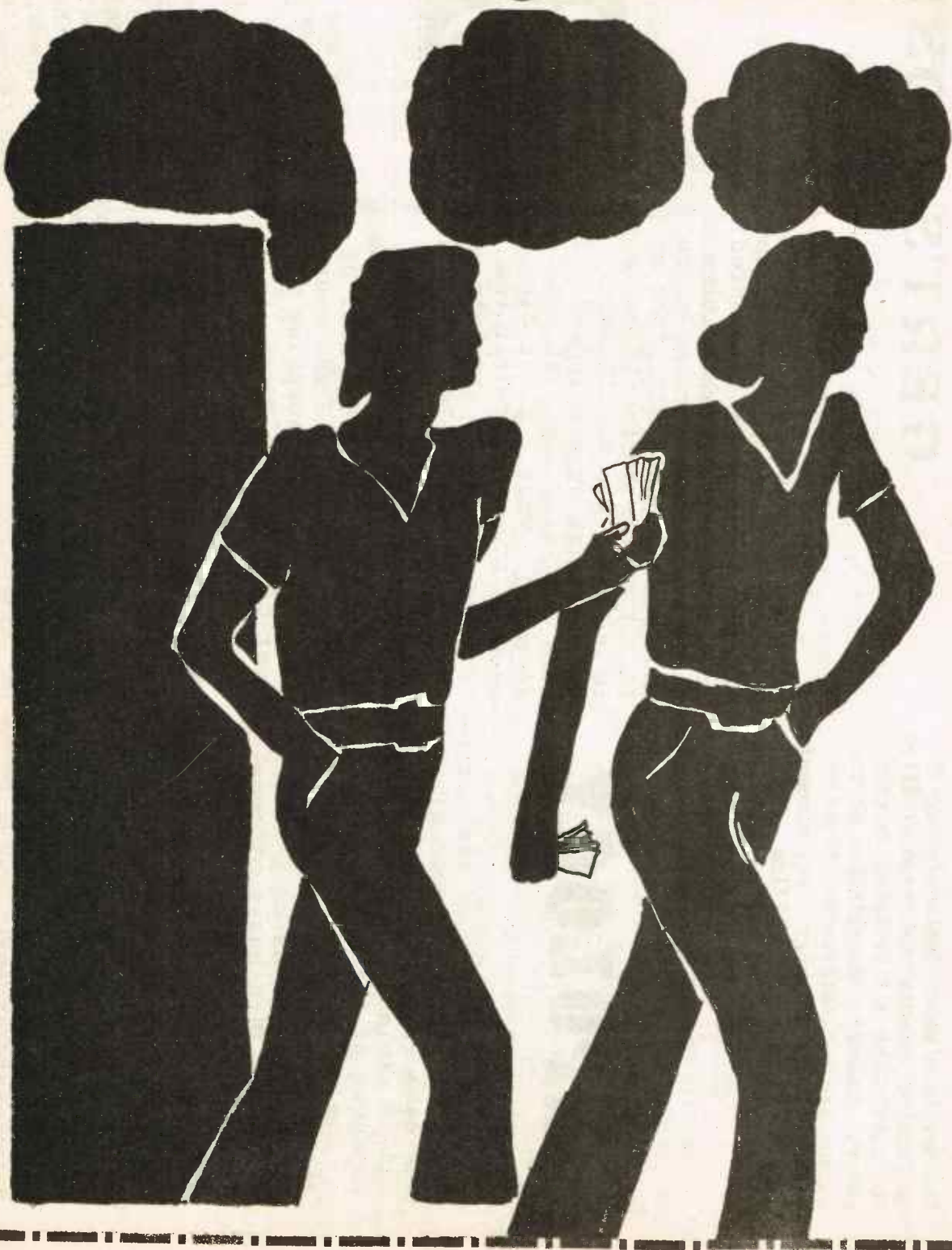
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# Northern Woman Journal

Volume 3

50¢

Issue 6



The Northern Woman Regional Journal collective accepts the responsibility for publishing all articles in this paper. However, the opinions of the author are not necessarily those of each collective member. Any comment should be sent to our office.

The Collective.

## APOLOGY

The collective of the Northern Woman Regional Journal owes our subscribers both an apology and an explanation for the lateness of this issue.

The transition from paid staff to a working collective cannot be successfully made without a firm basis of committed voluntary workers. In the past, the load has not been fairly distributed, and we have relied too heavily on the creative energy of too few. This has had the effect of making those who were involved feel they were taken advantage of, and those who were not involved feel they were not needed.

We attempted to cement a foundation of collective solidarity before we went to press again, to insure a continuous publication every two months as we originally promised to do.

After long discussions, and many disagreements, we have established a working volunteer collective. Some of the members of the new collective participated in the evaluation and goal setting meetings. Some new members did not. Some of the participants in the organizational meetings chose to withdraw as "collective" members, but will continue to offer their services.

While the format will not be changed a great deal, we hope to do more that is original, with each member of the collective committed to their special interests.

We still make regional input a high priority, and earnestly solicit from all our readers letters and advice on the paper itself as well as news of things that concern women.

We feel the bond created in the forming of this new collective will show itself in a richer, more diversified Journal.

Stay with us and continue to support us.

## GERT'S GOSPEL

It was a great personal relief to me when multiple personalities began to be documented. It has been quite a long time since I faced my morning mirror and asked plaintively, "Who am I". I am now perfectly content to query, "Are we all here?" knowing that we are indeed all here and ready for just about anything. When I first discovered I was a crowd it was my intention to be absolutely fair with equal time for everyone concerned but when I discovered we were a fairly easy going crew we just decided that when I knocked on the door of myself, whoever had the energy would answer and surprise the rest of us.

Consequently on any given morning it could be Carlotta, a gift from my Spanish grandmother. Will she in her perpetual lust for life invade the chamber of my aging spouse, rip off his sheet, expose him to the morning air, bite off half his ear and sink her long nails into his quivering and flabby flanks. Not likely, but she is not dead, she sleeps, weary of it all and no one mourns her absence more than my spouse. She was his favourite.

It could be Nanna, the professional relative, alias mother, grandmother, aunt, sister, and wife not to mention daughter, mother-in-law and daughter-in-law. In the days before I knew I had a lot of help in there to straighten her out, she almost did me in. Hell-bent on being indispensable to an ever widening circle who were just as committed to testing the myth, she found herself with a case of the terminal guilts whenever the cookie jar was empty or a button missing, used to grind her teeth a lot. She's very relaxed these days, saying things like "Is your leg broken?" "Don't bother me, I'm thinking" and "Get your foot off my neck". We just let her out long enough to pack the



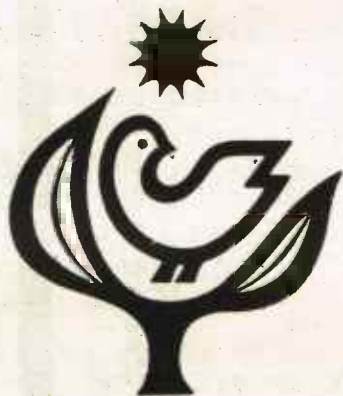
cookies she bought at the market in the cookie jar and take the loose dirt out.

A couple of days a week it's bound to be Libby the Libber, off to the house of women where she feels not indispensable but reasonably intelligent, spiritually energized and creative. Lib is a late bloomer, stuck like a fly in the syrup of the biblical good woman, she had stifled her own rebellion by gnawing off her wings and laying down for the sugar. Just in time she experienced a born-again conversion which straightened her spine, removed the film from her eyes and sent her out to preach the gospel of the total female, having recognized the enemy who shall remain nameless. She is out to curb his influence, reduce his power, relieve him of his fantasies while hoping there's enough good stuff under all that garbage to win her love and respect.

That is only the beginning of the personalities that inhabit the long house that shelters us. I am enchanted with the idea that I might be a long house. It has connotations of natural people, in a natural place doing natural things in harmony, where the gut fighter and dreamer, the dirt farmer and poet puff lazily on the pipe of peace and the smoke drifts out either end of this open-ended structure, where the aging crone who has advanced to reflection sits in solitary dignity observing the sweat and fever that takes place outside the long house, lays another log on the fire and thanks the great spirit that love never diminishes with use.

The single personality has no balance. Without ying and yang, it lies rigid as a stone, never gets off the ground. The builder builds better knowing the destroyer is present. It takes patience to know and appreciate the value of your own complexity. Some of the most interesting people in me

are socially unacceptable which has increased my affection for them and made it practically impossible to be either surprised or disappointed in the human equation present in all my human family.



# bits & pieces

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

AL ANON	345-2711
ARTISTS CO-OP	622-9577
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CRISIS INTERVENTION	344-3571
EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS	475-1691
FAMILY COUNSELLING	623-9596
FREE CLINIC	344-0727
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION	475-1693
LEGAL AID	345-1972
MUNICIPAL DAY CARE	344-3922
NORTHERN WOMAN JOURNAL	345-5841
NORTHERN WOMEN'S CENTRE	345-7802
NORTHERN WOMEN'S CREDIT UNION	345-7802
SMITH CLINIC	344-2471
SOCIAL SERVICES	623-2711
TELECARE	344-2471

## BRITISH RAPIST RELEASED

London--Thomas Holdsworth, a guardsman in the Coldstream Guards, was given a three year sentence for his attempted rape of Carol Maggs. He broke her ribs caused her serious internal injuries and ripped out her earrings. When he appealed, his sentence was reduced to six months and suspended. One judge said, "It is probable that this girl would have been less severely injured if in fact she has submitted to rape by mere threat of force rather than force being applied in the manner it was." As the London Times said, "This almost suggests that refusing to be raped is a kind of contributory negligence." In other words, we can't win. If she had submitted without violence, they would have said that she didn't care whether she was raped. Maggs is seventeen years old. Holdsworth was ostensibly released while waiting for his appeal because of his fine military service in Northern Ireland, where he was supposed to return. However, after his sentence was reduced, he was discharged from the army. Groups of angry women staged several demonstrations in response to this verdict. Two hundred members of Women Against Rape (WAR) staged a mock trial in Trafalgar Square, in which they found England's judges and government ministers guilty of conspiracy to rape and trespass against the minds and bodies of women.

Info from LNS and the Detroit Free Press

## OUTERS CLUB

Pam Wilson is interested in forming an informal Women's Outers Club. People interested in planning season's activities will meet Sept. 27 at 7:30 pm at Women's Place, 316 Bay St. or contact Pam for details, 683-5764.

## THUNDER BOLT - TO

Black Squirrel for the sexist T.V. ads showing women's posteriors and stating "We have the best bottoms in town". And to the Chronicle Journal who distorts the idea of women's Liberation by a sexist ad appealing to girls (Girl's Lib.). Have they run out of boys to exploit??



THUNDER CLAP to Marilyn Cavar one of four women who belong to the Toastmasters International. It took courage to speak on an unpopular subject (Wages for Housework) in the presence of her male peers. Carry on Marilyn.

## NEWS



### Hitchhiker Advertise Availability

Calif. - In a nice companion piece to the Madison judge who ruled that rape is a normal reaction to women, the California Court of Appeals voted unanimously to set free a man convicted of raping a woman because she was a hitchhiker. In the written decision, Judge Lynn Compton said, "The lone female hitchhiker in the absence of an emergency situation as a practical matter, advises all who pass by that she is willing to enter the vehicle with anyone who stops and in so doing advertises she has less concern for the consequences than the average female. Under such circumstances it would not be unreasonable for a man in the position of the defendant here to believe that the female would consent to sexual relations."

A coalition of women's groups picketed the Los Angeles Court of Appeal protesting the ruling. The groups will work to have Compton recalled and the ruling overturned.

In other words, it is impossible to rape a hitchhiker because she is the property of all men. The next woman hitchhiker raped in California should sue the Court of Appeals.

Info from LNS and In. These Times

Anyone interested in forming a group for Alcoholic Women please phone 345-7802 and leave first name and phone number. A meeting will be arranged.

## Cancer - causing Cosmetics

The Food and Drug Administration is beginning an investigation into cancer causing properties of 27 popular shampoos and lotions. This investigation came only after a report on these products was prepared by Dr. David Fine for the National Science Foundation and released at the American Chemical Society's March meeting.


Products under investigation are: Clairol Herbal Essence, Breck Shampoo for Dry Hair, PP Baby Shampoo, Mennen Baby Magic Shampoo, Head and Shoulders Shampoo, Wella Balsam, Johnson's Baby Lotion, Noxema Skin Cream, Keri Lotion, Nivea Cream Lotion, Sea and Ski Suntan Lotion, Extra Strength Desitin, School Cocoa Butter Lotion, Nutaderm Dry Skin Lotion, Bain de Soleil Suntan Creme, Diaparene Crado, Scholl Rough Skin Remover, Almay Deep Mist Extra Rich Lotion, Avon Topaz, Revlon Young Blush, Max Factor Ultraluscant Waterproof makeup, Clairol Creme Formula Hair Colour, Helene Curtis Everynight, and Extra Body Conditioner.

by jk

## "SHE WON"

Inez Garcia, convicted of second-degree murder in 1974 for killing a man whom she said helped rape her, was acquitted this spring after a retrial. Raped and threatened with death she testified that she had picked up a gun, gone after her tormentors, and killed one of them. After she was sentenced five years to life-Garcia stated simply, I have won...people believe in me...they identify with me." She spent 15 months in jail before the decision was overturned and a new trial ordered. Susan Jordon, Inez Garcia's lawyer in the second trial, said she felt that thousands of women had identified with Inez Garcia's struggle and had brought pressure to bear on the public to reexamine its attitudes about rape, and that this was instrumental in winning the acquittal.

Ms. Magazine, July/77



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# FEMINIST BOOKS

I've just finished reading a book I'd like to share. I made a mental note to buy copies for all my friends and family. I'd also like to donate a copy to Women's Centre. I realize that this first flush of enthusiasm may not last as long as it takes to find the necessary number of copies.

The book, Notes of a Feminist Therapist, by Elizabeth Friar Williams, is published in paperback by Dell, and sells for \$1.50.

The value of the book for me was that it helped me to analyze more clearly, and to identify specific behaviours in myself and others. I saw myself and some of my friends quite often among the pages.

I will admit I was cautious at the outset for as I skimmed through the book before settling down to read it, some clearly Freudian references leaped out. I feared the title might not relate to the content. The book, however, was better than I dared hope.

A number of "cases" are used to illustrate the conflicts in women's lives--in the areas of love, marriage, sex and work. Each "problem" could be connected in some way to either failures in communication, or a failure to reassess goals. For example, women are socialized to be devious and manipulative rather than to express honestly what we want. (In fact, we learn very quickly that making demands is "uppity" and uppity women tread on very thin ice.) Ms. Friar Williams points out that nice girls/good girls don't often get what they want despite being nice/good--although they do manage to escape the hostility generated by "uppity" women. The book offered more honest examples of communication.

With regard to goals, the author works closely with her clients to ensure that the goals like marriage and motherhood are realistically assessed and that goals like independence and work satisfaction are carefully reviewed.

I am not without criticism of the book, of course. I think there is not enough (although there is some) recognition of the realistic necessity of much of the behaviour discussed. There is also an undue emphasis on

individual problems, and individual solutions.

Overall, however, there is enough material to sort through, so that most everyone will find something to take from this book and apply to our private and political lives.



## Kin-flicks by Lisa Alther

The title is translated as home movies and this author has a feast in store for the brave and the bold. A first novel, it could only have been written by a woman and one has the feeling that sadly it may only be fully understood by a new generation of female readers. It's southern base firmly establishes the parents of this only daughter as far removed from the realities that free wheeling Ginny Babcock explored with zest and as wicked a sense of humour as anyone repressed under penalty of exposure. Her adolescent fumbling into sex is the most hilarious you will ever see in print yet has the stamp of such authenticity one dredges up almost against your will a similar set of circumstances you didn't take full advantage of. Her abiding belief that there has to be more than this takes her out of her parents influence and embarks her on a trip of intellectual discovery through the hippy counter culture, the radical feminist movement complete with a journey into bisexuality, the back to the land trip with a woman's commune into the cult of transcending spirituality with a small episode of traditional wife and mother, and deposits her back at the source with a dying mother. There is a sadness here one senses rather than reads. It is an adventure story of grand proportions, mocking and tongue in cheek as she peels the varnish off each succeeding experience. Her feeble attempt to end it all tells us all plainly she still believes there is more. The sadness comes when we recognize there will never be enough.

Gert Beadle

POWER POLITICS by Margaret Atwood, Published by Anansi, Toronto, 1971.

This must be what reviewers traditionally label "a slim volume". It's also a book of poems describing a dissolving relationship between a man and a woman.

I like poems which conjure up feelings and events and places I can remember. In this book, the imagery does not always make this connection with my experience. It does, however, make the connection symbolically:

*I see you fugitive, stumbling across  
the prairie,  
lungs knotted by thirst, sunheat  
nailing you down, all the things  
after you that can be after you  
with their clamps and poisoned manna*

*Should I help you?  
Should I make you a mirage?*

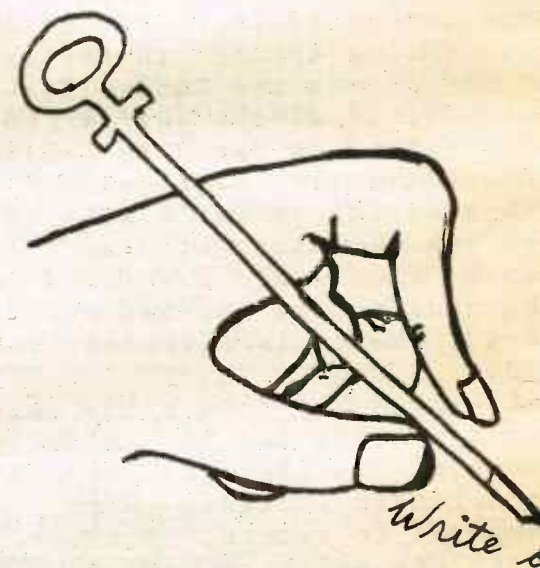
*My right hand unfolds rivers  
around you, my left hand releases  
its trees,  
I speak rain,  
I spin you a night and you hide it*

*Now you have one enemy  
instead of many.*

Some of the poems are brutal in their description of the man and relationship. These ones most certainly evoke memories. Some of the poems offer insights that relate to any number of relationships.

*We are hard on each other  
and call it honesty,  
choosing our jagged truths  
with care and aiming them across  
the neutral table.*

*The things we say are  
true; it is our crooked  
aims, our choices  
turn them criminal.*



On the cover, the reviewers' comments include references to the peeling away "layer after layer of protective armour", "cutting down to the bone", "poems that lie on page like secretive and dangerous pieces of glass". This is very definitely what the poems in many instances do for me--sometimes I appreciate the results, sometimes I feel uncomfortable because it all seems so raw emotionally.

One thing the book didn't do was to offer viable alternatives to the traditional male-female relationship. The poems may tell it "like it is" but not "how it could be".

## The Wind

Through the marshes the wind blew  
Caressing and weaving about the leaves  
Bending and ploughing the grass,  
Gently soft or steadily fast.

The soothing brush of the breeze,  
Flowing, sensual, beholding  
Blowing in rich sweetness and cleanliness,  
Always there, so you'll never be friendless.

On the beach waters it entertains you  
Showing you its energy, its power,  
Stirring violently or shaking lovingly the blue,  
Jolting and striking but never at you.

It is majestic in all its splendor,  
Roaring to the fullest masses,  
Mighty are the currents which never rest,  
No matter what it does, it's for the best.

Julie Stojko  
Terrace Bay

Brown and golden edged in black  
the moment  
Where you crushed my chin in your fist  
And I leaned over without thinking  
Kissed you on the mouth so softly  
I liked the taste so much it scared me  
And I drew back.

Goddamn you and your truthful whispers  
Goddamn you and your mouth  
I should kill you for all the broken glass  
Across my kitchen floor  
And the rings in my hand  
But instead you break me  
Your cruel gestures break me.

Deirdre Hamill  
Thunder Bay

Why am I the one  
to do the dishes, and  
wash the floors,  
make all the meals  
and not complain?

Am I here only to  
have the babies  
change the diapers,  
do the shopping  
and keep smiling?

When more money is needed,  
I go to work and  
make a meagre living,  
I take the bus everyday  
while you take the car.

Why, when something is bought  
it is always yours  
never mine  
because all my money  
went into just surviving?

And you tell me  
It is better that everything  
is yours.  
After all, women can't handle money,  
and things like that.

And then you wonder why  
I packed my bags, walked out  
and started a new life  
of my own.

Eve/77

# POETRY

## BETRAYED

There was a man  
With whom I chose to live.  
The others did not matter,  
Of no care did I give.  
Unshamefully there was love,  
and care.

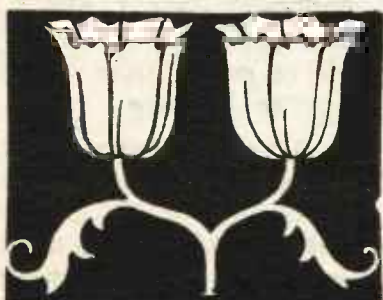
There was this woman  
Who said she was a sister.  
Who could resist her?  
Behind a deceptive smile  
She prostrated a friend and assistor.

What contemptuous deeds,  
Have been done in the name of Sisterhood.  
She slept with my man,  
"You're my sister, so I could."  
"Where", I recounted "is this sisterhood?"  
Promising respect and consideration of women  
Ruining something of mine that was good  
I condemn him -  
But I condemn you too.  
I will strip you of your deceptive smile,  
I will strip you of your rhetoric.  
What then, sister, is there left but guile.

There is no care of hurting her,  
That who you profess to protect.  
Of disrespect and contempt,  
To that woman you project.  
Sexuality that is not your right  
For other women's men you fight.

You are no sister of mine  
Your acts and your kind.  
What contemptuous deeds  
Have been done in the name  
of Sisterhood!

Doreen Boucher



## To The Pink Goodie Curler Set

I was having a good time until  
a boy told me to shave my legs and stop  
spitting on the ground  
my life was very simple then  
a lady teacher said to wear dresses to the knee  
and paint my face to prove non-masculinity  
I used to be a happy girl person then  
glamour magazine said I should be married and dependant  
I was free floating energy  
why did "society" teach me not to be me  
now, everytime I breathe I must  
explain and prove my honesty  
in order to be the little girl again  
I must refrain from politics and legalities  
the person inside of me cares not if it is male or female  
the person inside this prison is a human-being first  
this body-cage-machine matters little of its' sex  
my point is to respect every form of humanness

Beverly Pudas  
Thunder Bay  
Aug. 22nd, 1977

# DOING IT TO US - MANPOWER AND U.I.C.

The job situation for women in Thunder Bay is absolutely horrifying. I am one of many women, university educated, who for the past few years has gone from job to UIC benefits to job, etc.

Collecting U.I. benefits has to be the most degrading and humiliating experience. The workers at the UIC building behave as though the money you are collecting (and it is rightfully yours) comes from their own personal bank account. They suggest that you are a liar, a burden on the country and that you are "ripping off" the government. Women, more than men, are generally harrassed. After all, most women are not unionized, and from my experience, UIC workers assume they don't know their rights. Some unions (male oriented) don't even have to go to Manpower for interviews or to the U.I.C office because their union has made a deal with them. Their unions are considered their sole hiring agent. This means of course that if these men refuse a job for lower wages than they were getting before, or whatever, U.I.C. will not "cut them off" because they have no knowledge of their activities. Whereas they know almost every move you make when you do not belong to a union. Many men in trades, plumbers, electricians etc. are not harrassed or "cut off" because they are considered trained in a specific area and are usually unionized. After a certain number of weeks there is a system where you can be demoted. For example--if you are a nurse after this certain number of weeks, U.I.C. can make you work as a waitress for minimum wage even though you may have made two or three times that amount. These women are trained too, but U.I.C. doesn't seem to really recognize this.

There is a case that happened last year to a woman collecting U.I. benefits who was making \$150.00 a week before being laid off. She was "cut off" when she said she could not possibly work for anything under \$3.00 an hour because she had babysitting expenses that would cost her \$12.00 a day. That would cut her wages in half and she would be living on \$60. a week--no wonder women are forced to live on welfare--they can make more money.

It's a wonder no one has nervous breakdowns while collecting benefits. I recall last year that every time the phone would ring I would contemplate whether to answer it or not for fear that the U.I.C. Interrogation department were checking on me and heaven forbid I wouldn't want to be caught having a cup of tea when I should be on the street begging for a job.

An organized group is needed to harrass these bureaucrats back and stand up to their abuses, perhaps calling itself the UIC Action Group. Something must be done to stop this unnecessary harrassment of people who's rights are being violated.

Following is the procedure when applying for UIC benefits:

The first step when applying for UIC benefits is to be interviewed by a counsellor at your local Manpower office who will determine if you are eligible for benefits. Then they will fit you into a category they believe suitable. You are then given an application form for UIC benefits. Remember to have your separation slip with you. If you have not received it, your previous employer has five days to send it to you. After filling out the application form, some people (not all) will be asked to go to the UIC office for a group interview. If you are not called within two weeks of applying, they have not forgotten you, you will be called eventually.

At the group interview, be prepared to wait at least ten minutes after the set time to be called in. You will be directed to a room to watch a film which is incredibly immature and an insult to intelligence. The counsellor will then explain your rights and obligations under the UIC Act. Before you leave, you will be given a Job Search form which you must complete before returning for your next interview (in about a month). Possibly it has changed, but last year I was called into the office every two weeks for three months and my Job Search form was checked for approval.



When you go for your interview, KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!! Because they have a quota (for cut-offs), many will try to trick you. Here are some important rights to know:

- 1) Read the pamphlet they have given you very carefully. If you do not understand something in it, ask for a better explanation from a UIC counsellor. (That is their job)
- 2) Don't sign anything unless you have read it carefully. Again, ask if there is something you don't understand.
- 3) No matter what education you have, tell them you will work for less money and will take any kind of job.
- 4) Apply for Every job Manpower sends you.
- 5) Check in with Manpower once a month - talk to the person at the information desk. She/he will mark down on a pink card that you were there.

6) If you want to speak to a counsellor at Manpower or UIC - demand it. It is your right.

7) Ask the Interrogation Officer if she/he can provide any ideas for jobs if you get to the point where you don't know where else to apply. That is also part of their job.

## Testimonial: (U.I.C.)

I'm a secretary, at least according to my work history and my marketable skills. In my heart I am not a secretary. I want better things: to be able to use my head, to have freedom of movement, to make a living wage. I've tried in the past to get Manpower to recognize my own desire for something better. I've asked to be registered as a labourer, told them I was interested in different training, perhaps heavy equipment operating. Of course, my clerical skills remain on record, and since they are much more impressive than my lack of training in other areas, and since there has been a period when I was collecting U.I.C., the times they have called, they have called to tell me about available clerical work. And that is frequently at least once a week. My heart dies every time I pick up the phone and my helpful Manpower Counsellor asking me if I'm interested in a secretarial job at \$4.00/hr. "Of course, of course", I say to the UIC police force, "What's the address, what's the pay? I'll call to arrange an interview. I'll let you know how it turns out." And all the time I like to scream, "Leave me alone - stuff your typing jobs at \$4.00 an hour! Help me find something different, give me some support to break out of the typing pool, open up your training courses in male-oriented fields to women." But if I expect that next UIC cheque to keep me going while I explore other alternatives on my own, I keep my mouth shut.

I've been working for some years now. I had Grade 9 typing and began working for agencies selling temporary clerical workers. I did this for a long time because I never wanted to accept the fact that secretarial work might be my lot in life. I always figured, this is a temporary job, I won't be here long, when this is over I'll go on to something different. I would work for \$3.50 an hour. The company selling me would get \$1.00 an hour for finding me a job, screening me and sending me my pay cheque. Manpower has never challenged these agencies. Right here in Thunder Bay such an employment agency exists, and is able to find work for women looking for temporary jobs, and yet Manpower hasn't/won't do the same. and give the women in those jobs that extra money that private agencies currently make.

It seems Manpower plays an effective police role for both private agencies and UIC, and provides a fairly efficient, cheap service for employers looking mainly for cheap labour to do "shit work". If UIC

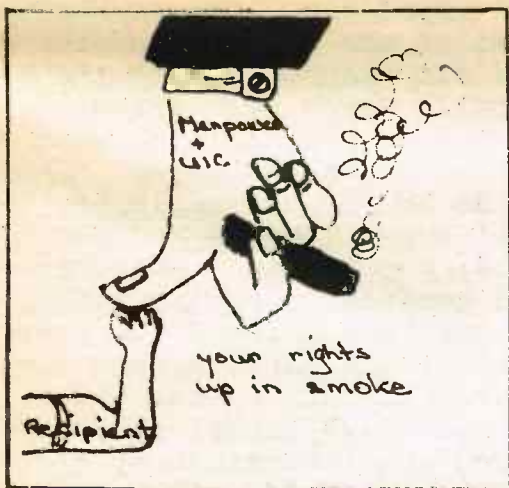
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wants to take a few claimants off its roles, it can call Manpower to put pressure on claimants who have little choice about the kind of work they accept. If an employer has unsavoury jobs to do and doesn't want to pay to have someone do them, he can call Manpower and count on their coercive abilities to again shame someone into working who has little choice or training. And the private agencies can count on Manpower to leave them a clear field for providing another cheap, convenient service to employers while cheating their workers out of their rightful wage.

The worst thing about both UIC and Manpower is the image they present as defenders of the public good. The progaganda certainly contradicts my experiences with both agencies. And what so often happens is that I'm fooled by the pitch, and start to believe that it may be my fault that I can't find a better job.

I have never outrightly been harassed by UIC. Their method of operation seems much more subtle: telephone calls from Manpower to let me know there are always jobs if I'm willing to work for minimum wage; cheques delayed in the mail; the constant pressure of knowing that UIC requires a job search form; being called into interviews and being given helpful suggestions by a UIC counsellor while she tries to find out the "real" truth - have you been looking for work 8 hours a day, 5 days a week? Are you willing to accept any kind of work - at minimum wage? Waitressing? Babysitting? Cleaning House?



### Testimonial: (Manpower)

If You're Smart - Don't Bother with  
Canada Manpower

Last spring I was out of work. The first time in twenty years. Unable to return to my trade because of an allergy, I applied for U.I.C. and registered with Canada Manpower.

Eventually I had an interview with a counsellor. I told him that I would really like to be retrained in some other field. He thought this was an excellent idea and said that I would first have to take some tests to see where my aptitudes and interests lay. These tests are given in the morning he explained and I would need 2½ to 3 hrs. to complete them. I arranged for a babysitter and reported for testing bright and early at ten to mine Wednesday morning.

Five other men and I filed nervously into a room and sat around a big table. I hadn't written any kind of test in years. "Please don't let me fail," I prayed. We played word games, games to indicate hand and finger dexterity, simple algebra, basic geometry, the usual shape puzzles and round peg/square hole tests.

Then it was on to the interest tests. All of these were done under the direction of a monitor with stop watch. I staggered out at noon - a nervous wreck. They informed me that I would need another 2 hours to go over the results with my counsellor.. And so I returned the next week.



We went over these results, my creativity was high, routine was low, etc., etc. All these results were numbered and this gave me a rating. My number started with 836. He showed me how we would look up my number in a great red book to see what kind of job I would like.

We went to a private room upstairs to evaluate my results. My counsellor drew a Bell Curve for me, explaining that the first section indicated the 10 percent of the population who are in the below average range of intelligence. The large middle section was the 80 percent of the population who are average and the end of the line indicated the 10 percent of the population who have above average intelligence.

"Where do you think you are on this curve," he asked.

"Well probably about here," I said, indicating somewhere in the upper average range.

"No, no," he said and smiled, "you are right here," and he pointed to the top ten percent. He was really happy.

"You can do anything - anything you set your mind to."

"Oh good," I thought, "now I don't have to get stuck with a clerking job."

"Now," he said, "the important thing is to check your interest chart. We must see where you would be most happy."

Mr. Counsellor flipped through the pages of the red book. "836... 836 Ah yes, here we are, Professor of Anthropology, Professor of Archaeology, Professor of English." He read on and on.

"Wow," I thought, "they are going to send me to university." Then we looked up 638. This time I could be a film director, an editor of a newspaper or a stage manager. "Hey," I said, "are you going to retrain me

to be a film director?"

"Well no," he said. We went through the red book and the possibilities were endless. Marvellous job after marvellous job. I could hardly contain myself.

"They are really going to get me a great job," I thought to myself.

Mr. C was ecstatic as he read through this prestigious list. Finally he closed the book. "We'll go downstairs and see what is available for you."

"Great!" I said. After we were seated, he burrowed through some papers and finally said, "well this isn't the greatest but..."

"What is it," I said.

"Clerk at a stationery store, \$2.65 an hour with Sunday and Monday off."

"Are you nuts, I am a University professor, remember," I said.

"Well I guess you're right, it doesn't sound too interesting," he said.

"Anyway I thought you were going to retrain me? How about welding?"

"Oh no, you can see by your interest chart, that you hate routine. It would be a bad investment for us to place you in something that you would be bored with in a year or two," said Mr. C.

When I told him I wouldn't be bored on payday I evoked a sick smile from him. I told him I'd done housework for 20 years and couldn't think of anything more boring. I didn't quit that. Another sick smile flowed across his face. "Well is there anything I can be retrained in, what about a professor of English?" I asked.

"We have to take into consideration how many years it would take and your age."

"So you're not going to retrain me. How about your job, I could do this," I hissed. This got a real chuckle out of Mr. Counsellor.

"I suggest you go to the Chronicle Journal and apply for a job there," he said, "but you might have to start at the bottom."

I told him I didn't mind starting at the bottom, but I was a little too old to scrub floors. "I can't even type. They'll laugh me right there. How about retraining me in typing, then at least I'd have a skill to sell."

He blinked at me and said, "We can't retrain you in just one subject, you would have to take the whole secretarial course. And as you can see by your interest chart you really hate routine and need a challenging job to keep interest up. So you can see that would be a bad investment."

I told him that my babysitter could only stay two hours and I had already been there for 2½ hours. I have to leave.

"Let me know what you come up with," he called as I left.

As I waited for the bus I thought "let me know how YOU make out..What is his job anyway?..." What ever it is I'm sure I could do it. Five hours spent at Canada Manpower and still no job...What do they do there? I wonder where you apply for a job with Canada Manpower? My counsellor did tell me."

(names withheld for obvious reasons.)

# Women Against Rape

## Local News

In May of this year, the Thunder Bay Rape and Sexual Assault Centre acquired two paid staff for the interim of ten months through a Canada Works grant. The women that were hired are Bev Pudas, who has a lot of experience in the communications field, and myself, Doreen Boucher. We will be endeavouring to fulfill the criteria of the Rape and Sexual Assault Centre of victim support, education, and social change, as well as co-ordination of activities of the Centre.

There are various projects in the making. An education kit will be ready for the fall to be distributed to schools, public speaking engagements, etc.

We are in need of additional volunteers who can help in areas of victim support, public speaking, fund raising, etc. We are sensitive to the problem that many people would like to help but hold back because they do not feel they have skills to contribute. In order to overcome this dilemma, we are considering training sessions for the fall, and individualized training manuals. Interest is the first step, direction, hopefully, will follow.

If you are interested in attending meetings, please call us and we will inform you of our next meeting. Our number is 623-3220. We have an answering service that takes calls if we are not in the office, and we return any calls we receive.

Bev, myself and concerned individuals have been monitoring court cases. There will be two cases coming up during the fall assizes. It is our intention to monitor further cases that come up and lend solidarity and support to the victim through our presence.

We cannot print any information on one particular case which will be going to trial in the fall. The defense lawyer for the accused requested that none of the material on the preliminary trial (which we attended) be made public, and the judge granted this request. We are abiding to this condition because we do not wish to jeopardize the victim's case in court. We will inform interested parties as to the date of the trial, with the understanding that those who attend the trial are doing so in support of the victim, and will respond to the circumstances with discipline regardless of how much our sensibilities are outraged. I am writing this with the hope that the judicial system will

come forth with justice. If this does not happen, we will not be silenced.



## International News

One news item that has gained a place of distinction is the Claudia Caputi case in Rome. There is a dilemma involved with the sensationalism that was induced by the mass media. We recognize the need for some exposure of the atrocities of rape, but this kind of news does not seem to get priority or coverage by conventional media unless the attack is of such brutal calibre that it results in murder--and in those circumstances, the rape is minimized. Otherwise, rape is swept into a basket or relegated to an inch column on the last page of a newspaper. It is not often treated with sensitivity.

The Caputi case is unusual because of the social and political impact in the geographical boundaries in which the rape occurred--Italy. Bound and restrained by male domination in a system that would prefer a rape victim to marry her attacker and put an end to the whole insignificant incident. This is only the second time in judicial history that a woman has chosen to make public the crime of rape committed against her. There have been rapes, and perhaps as brutal and sadistic attacks made previously on Italian women, but they chose silence rather than family disgrace. Therefore, we will never know their torment

under the code of silence enforced by the Italian attitude toward women.

There is a growing sense of outrage in some Italian women who no longer want rape to be silenced by attitude and tradition. The risk one took by rape was disownment by father, family or husband for disgracing the family. Italian feminists are angry about this tendency that openly reveals the contempt for women in Italian society. They are further outraged by the treatment of police and the ten gynecological examinations one has to go through if raped. Women are now demanding public hearing on rape charges. It has been revealed that rape in Italy is a bigger problem than realized--gang rapes being the "thing" for bored youths practising violence and torture.

One woman came to the front to symbolize this struggle, and was firmly backed by Italian feminists who took up her cause.

Claudia was not a feminist at the time of her rape. She had gone to Rome to work, leaving behind a small, poverty-stricken village. One summer evening, she was walking with a teenage man and was chased by a gang of 17 youths who threatened her with a club and raped her. She identified some of the rapists before she was transported to the hospital. Seven were arrested, including her "friend" who joined in on the rape.

Backed by her employer, two well-known lawyers and feminists, she defied tradition and demanded a public trial. Because she pursued the case against the rapists, she received threats on her life.

Four days later, she was found semi-conscious by a roadside. She told police that she had been abducted coming from her lawyers' office and raped and slashed with a razor blade several times over her breasts, face and legs.

The new abductors were recognized by Claudia as members of the gang from the first rape. Within 24 hours, an estimated 15-20,000 women marched into the assailants' neighbourhood in outrage against the latest assault on Claudia's life. The group was made up of various feminist collectives, the UDI (Union of Italian Women) and the large national organization of Communist women. Feminists took up a 24-hour vigil at Claudia's bedside.

Complications and political manoeuvrings followed. The original judge selected for the case was replaced by an extreme conservative, Paolini



Dell'Anno. When the charges for the second rape were filed, the next in line as prosecutor was side-stepped and Dell'Anno took over, something almost unheard of in Italian judicial procedure.

The prosecutor's next move was that after he had interrogated Claudia in the hospital, without her lawyers present, he announced that he felt Claudia had devised the second assault and mutilated her own body. (Doctors' reports later showed that the lesions could not have been self-inflicted.) Conflicting statements from Claudia further clouded the issue. Claudia's lawyers asked the public prosecutor to resign because of obvious prejudice, and he refused. The lawyers walked out in protest, as 4-5,000 angry women waited in front of the justice hall in defiance of the attitude of Dell'Anno, and the exploitation of and violence toward women.

Further complications resulted when the possibility of Claudia's involvement with prostitution was rumoured. Her background was not unusual. She was raised in poverty in a small village and attempted to leave this situation by going to work in the big city. She answered a request for employment advertized in a Rome newspaper. Her employer, Vito Gemma, evidently wanted a bed partner as well as a housekeeper. Without friends, family or money she adjusted to these circumstances in the only way she could. The only alternative she had was to give in to the situation. We, who feel we are sophisticated in the art of survival, should remember that in Italy, women are not encouraged to participate in the labour force, and there are few alternatives to choose from. When Vito Gemma was rumoured to be involved with organized crime and prostitution, Claudia's involvement with prostitution became a viable concern although details of her inclusion are not clear. Italian feminists were thrown for a loop.

Some withdrew their support, others chose to stay by her side. Some realized that rape is political, as are other facets of female exploitation. The Italian movement had some stiff competition to face up to. On one hand, their religious upbringing that condemns contraception, abortion and prostitution, and held sacred strong extended family ties, came into collision with the rape of a prostitute.

Obviously, if the fact of Claudia's relationship to prostitution caused so much disorder within the Italian feminist movement, the response in the general populace would have been disastrous in Claudia's bid for judicial retribu-

tion. The prejudice against her was already rampant. (Her own father had slapped her when she told him she had been raped, telling her that it was her own fault for leaving home and trying to make it on her own.)

The discussion of prostitution was kept out of the case by Claudia's defense lawyers until the moment was right, and the feminists were given time to regroup and take a stand on prostitution.

Seven of the youths were sentenced to prison terms, with four released on probation because they had been underage. The "friend" of Claudia's who joined in on the rape was charged only with public obscenity because Claudia had originally accepted his invitation. Some of the defense statements reveal the degree of seriousness they attributed to the crime. "My client did not know such a sexual act was against the law." "My client was one of the last. If he refused they would have thought he was impotent." "Boys will be boys, and when a girl likes to go out and have a good time, she has to expect trouble (emphasis mine)."



To further add insult the lawyer accused Claudia of having a phallic fetish - inferring prostitution. He reminded the judge that the testimony of minors and prostitutes is not valid evidence. Claudia disappeared with the help of feminists and her whereabouts are unknown. Vita Gemma was arrested for perjury because he gave conflicting statements during the trial. He tripped up on dates and time regarding the second rape. In a sworn affidavit, after Gemma's arrest Claudia admitted to perjury because she feared for her life. She charged Gemma with setting up the second rape to keep her quiet regarding the first.

Circumstances are rather vague and scattered. Obvious-

ly the situation turned out to be less than "ideal" for setting a precedent in changing realities regarding attitudes and behaviour toward rape victims. But it made the Italian women face up to the broader implications of female exploitations part of which involves prostitution. A single court case cannot end the repression and stigma toward women in Italian society but to those involved, the economic necessity of prostitution became part and parcel of the whole issue of rape. Is it any less a crime if the victim is a prostitute? If a prostitute cannot say no then would it be any more unrealistic for those of us with husbands and lovers to deny ourselves the right to choose if we want sex or not when a partner demands or wants it?

Nineteen percent of Italian women are employed and this number is decreasing. Prostitution is an avenue open to women being denied education and resources to enter into other avenues and occupations. "The growth of a revolutionary feminist movement depends on our understanding, and of combatting the mechanisms which produce mass poverty, prostitution and rape - all of which are part of Claudia's personal experience." Off Our Backs, June 77

Perhaps this case will never be paralleled again as to its complexities. However, the violence of this case cannot be denied. No amount of intellectualizing and moralizing can diminish the degree of degradation inflicted on Claudia and thus, women. We cannot begin to imagine the attitude and climate toward women unless we have been brought up ourselves under the Italian rule of female silences and obedience, pope, power and poverty. Prostitution has relevance in our own court system as well. The condition of "lack of consent" comes into play in a court case. Who says a prostitute has the right to say no?

There is hope. A new generation of Italian women might learn from Claudia's experience if one recent situation is any indication of the rejection of submissiveness in Italian women. Reportedly, 400 girls at a Milan highschool held a nineteen year old youth hostage in a "people's trial" after he was accused of rape. Only after the mother informed police was he released.

The process seems slow but it only takes one assisted by others before the ball begins to roll. We hope for a mountain and lots of snow.

Doreen Boucher  
On page 12 is the survey. Please fill in conscientiously and send to:  
Rape and Sexual Assault Centre  
McKellar Hospital, Box 47,  
Thunder Bay "F", Ontario.  
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# women in music



## THE WOMEN'S WORKSHOP

*"We are each our sisters, mothers, daughters, lovers and friends. We have our own quests and struggles. We are workers and slaves. We are artists and revolutionaries. We have a mythology and herstory. We need to sing with and for each other... We need those shared highs that give us the energy to go ahead in our lonely quests for self-realization. We need to sing our lives and share our songs. If we don't sing for ourselves, no one will sing for us."*

### NORTHERN LIGHTS FOLK FESTIVAL

I went to the Sudbury Folk Festival on July 15, 16 and 17 of this year, and from my experience there, I decided to do an article on Women in Music. Because this is a very complex topic, all that I hope to do is share some of my impressions, and perhaps from this, more specific areas can be examined in future issues.

The Northern Lights Folk Festival is a valuable concept because it draws a large part of its music and people specifically from the Northern regions, as well as from other parts of Canada. It supports and encourages talent from Thunder Bay, Sudbury, Sault Ste. Marie, North Bay, etc., and it reflects the English, French and Native cultures through its music and crafts. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for women. What I mean by this is that, while women did participate in the festival, their numbers in all areas were either significantly less than their male counterparts or, in some cases, non-existent.

For example, workshops took place everyday from 12 noon to 5 p.m. This is supposed to be a time when people get together and share their music with other performers as well as with the audience. Approximately 81% of the performers invited to share their craft were men.

In workshops for individual performers, women made up 39% of the total. In mixed workshops (male and female), this declined to 25%, and workshops which were hosted by women totalled only 20%.

The evening concert performers included women even less often. Out of 17 evening concerts scheduled for the three-day festival, only one woman was billed for a solo performance; only four women who appeared on the stage with men as part of a group.

In contrast, there were 10 men scheduled for solo performances (some of whom had male back-up musicians) and four groups with men only.

I think these figures are significant in terms of the kinds of struggles women musicians are undergoing. It is certainly not that there is a shortage of women who are capable or available, but perhaps more a reflection of how the organizers of the festival perceive women in relation to music.

The festival organizers gave names to the workshops that were meant to indicate what kind of music you could expect to hear. For example, there were workshops called Honky Tonkin, Songwriting, Blues with a Fuse, Unusual Instruments, Northern Songs, Love Songs, Latin American, Odes to Mother Nature, Songs of Protest, and, finally, one called Women.

Now that's leaving a workshop wide open. All you have to do to participate is to be a woman. Host Rika Ruebsaat introduced the workshop by pointing this out. She felt strongly that it was not enough to label a workshop Women without talking about the importance of the music to be found there. She saw the workshop as a "token gesture", and suggested that a specific theme such as "Sexual Liberation Songs" might have been more appropriate.

I can see the value of a women's workshop with a Sexual Liberation theme as a way to combat the traditional view of women, which for example includes the view that women "just sing" while the men "play"---leaving the real talent and authority to be seen through male musicians. Women being there "just to dress up the act".

In this workshop, some excellent music was shared, although there were some disturbing elements seen to indicate we still have a long way to go.

- one woman ignored the female back up, and asked men to come up and play !

*"One time the M.C. forgot the name of the female half of the performing duo. It's hard to imagine the reverse happening, that is, the man's name being forgotten."*

Ellen Shumsky  
from *Sing Out*, Vol.  
25, No. 2, 1976



-Photo by Helen Hale-

*"The judge said, Screw 'em, Boys, you're only human. They brought it on themselves being born a woman. Like a mountain's there to climb and food's there to be eaten woman's there to rape to be shoved around and beaten."*  
Malvina Reynolds  
from *The Judge Said*

## BACK IN THUNDER BAY

Coming back from Sudbury made me curious as to the kinds of struggles women locally were going through with their music. Some of the women I approached talked about feeling vulnerable, always feeling on the outside, and constantly having to "prove" themselves as good musicians. There were feelings expressed of belonging only on "male terms"---like a leader/follower structure, with women seldom in positions of leadership.

*"It's easier to stand by the side of the road and cry than to change the damn tire...it's easier to put on a record and live vicariously through Joni Mitchell, or putter about making coffee, while the men play music in the living room, than to go through the pain of learning to play oneself."*  
Holly Tannen

A friend talked about what working with male musicians meant to her. She feels that it's important not to be fooled into believing you operate from the same power base as the men, and to avoid the trap of any special attention you receive as a woman performer because it could be a cage.

I asked some women if they would like to play in an all-woman's band. Many of them felt that it would be fine if women worked together to develop a feeling of camaraderie, a sense of exploring the culture of women's music---to sing about their own experiences instead of always doing music related to men's experiences.

*"I could never write about a song like Stand By Your Man. But if I were to sing something like Stand By Your Man, my responsibility would be to put that song into some kind of context that says this attitude has to be overcome---but nevertheless this attitude is a reflection of women's experience."*

Alice Gerrard

I can see support and encouragement occurring in this way, with women taking control over the kind of music in which they participate, in order to provide some real alternatives. Nothing could be better than to work with people (women and men) who were interested in change and responsible for the kinds of music they produce.

While it would be nice for women to work together, we are still often faced with the old values. Competition is their within us all, because we've been geared to it---but for women, the roots of mistrust often go deeper.

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Although women may like to work with each other, it is not a general rule. One woman in a group of men works very hard to acquire acceptance, but if there is more than one woman, feelings of fear and insecurity for your position may surface. This type of situation can then work as an advantage for some groups by keeping women isolated from each other--just as they do in society as a whole. It helps perpetuate the traditional power structure.

Some women musicians feel they have reached a plateau when they are considered in a male group as "one of the guys". This deception, along with stereotypic relationships like "kid sister", "torch" between women and the men with whom they work, show how much further we need to go before we as people, as women, as musicians achieve equality in the truest sense.

I have only touched on a few areas, but there are many more concerns and issues that should be talked about and shared:

- sexism in music
- what influence has the women's movement had on women in music
- what contributions have women made throughout herstory in the field of music
- what types of roles are women portrayed in--Mother Earth, whore, deceitful bitch
- what kinds of experience and struggles are women having locally?

\*\*\*\*\*

### women's place

Women's Place is settling in. What began as a possible dream is now functioning as a centre of various activities.

The Women's Credit Union has a growing membership, with share capital around \$15,000. The Northern Women's Centre has the hottest phone in town despite existing social services. The Citizen's Committee on Crisis Housing has become revitalized and re-committed to an eventual interval house specifically designed and operated for abused women and children, to supplement existing facilities. The Rape and Sexual Assault team have found it convenient to operate their research project from here. The Northern Woman Regional Journal has formed a strong collective of both old and new energy, with long term goals for the paper. The NWO Decade Council does its office work and keeps its files in their own space here.

The files on the Herstory Project await future attention, but the joint effort to produce the Salt and Yeast book of poetry from the manuscript presented to the Journal by Gert Beadle, and illustrated by Sirpa Bishop, is in high gear. It will be "camera ready" in September.

There are well over 100 women represented in minor and major roles in Women's Place, each group fully autonomous, with its own structure, but all moved by a single ideal, that of commitment to women.



"We can't reach liberation unless the whole society changes. But one of the many problems under capitalism is the the competitive values we all have to live with. For example, it has been very hard to find men to accompany me. They feel ashamed, diminished and put down by accompanying a woman."

Suni Paz  
Singer/songwriter  
from Argentina

Our credibility grows, and with it our confidence. The time has long passed when we can be dismissed as malcontents with no direction. We are a voice that has been too long silent in the pursuit of acceptance. With a little help from our friends, we will speak carefully, thoughtfully, and with conviction, in defense of woman's right to be a full partner in the decisions that concern us all.

Women's Centre is open every day from 9am to 4pm and Thursday evening until ??? Thursday evening this fall a series of information sharing meetings are planned to increase woman's awareness that they individually as well as collectively need to examine their economic power. Stocks, bonds, Real Estate, your own business, and other investments will be discussed with knowledgeable resource people. Come out and share with us your needs for economic growth. We can all learn together.

Every other Thursday night meetings will be open discussion on a variety of topics emphasizing self awareness and growth potential as women. We will be sharing our frustrations, problems as well as our joys and successes as women in our individual situations. We welcome everyone to share themselves so that we may all benefit and grow from each others experiences and thoughts. Phone 345-7802 for more information or to see what else is happening.

"Most of the Garlands loved to sing. We sang when we were happy, sang when we were sad. Sometimes I think being able to express my feelings in song has kept me from going nuts."

Sarah Ogan Gunning  
from Sing Out, Vol.  
25, No. 2, 1976

#### Albums:

A Few Loving Women  
Lavender Jane Loves Women  
Lesbian Feminist Liberation, N.Y.

I'm Gonna Be An Engineer, Peggy Seeger  
"It should be noted that the song was written in Britain for British usage, and in Britain, an engineer is not a train-drive, but one of a huge body of industrial workers, a profession which includes tool-makers, lathe operators, fitters, etc.

Give Your Hands to Struggle, songs by Bernice Reagon

You Can Know All I Am  
Words and Music -- Songbook  
Holly Near

Held Over  
Malvina  
Malvina Reynolds, all by Malvina Reynolds. Order directly from her own company, Schroder Music, 2027 Parker Street, Berkeley.

## COMING SOON

We are pleased to inform our friends and readers that the book of poetry SALT AND YEAST presented to the Journal in manuscript form by our sister Gert Beadle is now being readied for the publisher. It is a matter of great pride to us that from the financing to the final proof-reading it has been the combined efforts of a very special sisterhood. The talented artistry of Sirpa Bishop will get it's first exposure in it's pages and the warm and human chronicle of one woman's search for the larger truth in her own life over half a century will, we feel, find it's place with women everywhere. It is our intention to share with women's groups a profit in distribution. We invite inquiries as to the method, write The NORTHERN WOMAN REGIONAL JOURNAL for further information.

#### NEW GROUPS THAT WILL BE FORMING.

- Being A Widow.
- Outers for Women.
- Newly Separated/Divorced.
- Over 60 and Female.
- Women's Breakfast Club.

# Women Against Rape

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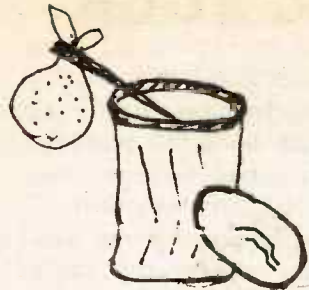
The Thunder Bay Rape and Sexual Assault Centre is attempting to compile statistics. We need honest, open responses. Please think carefully before answering. If more space is needed write on separate sheet and attach.

Present age \_\_\_\_\_ Marital Status \_\_\_\_\_ Race \_\_\_\_\_

Education \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) Have you been raped or attacked? \_\_\_\_\_ How long ago? \_\_\_\_\_  
How many times? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Do you know anyone who has been raped? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) How old were you at the time? \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) What time of the day/night was it? \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) Where did the rape occur? \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) Did you know the attacker? \_\_\_\_\_ What relationship to you? \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) Did you scream? \_\_\_\_\_ Struggle? \_\_\_\_\_ Have a weapon? \_\_\_\_\_
- 8) Did the rapist have a weapon? \_\_\_\_\_ What kind? \_\_\_\_\_
- 9) Did he threaten you? \_\_\_\_\_
- 10) Did you report the rape? \_\_\_\_\_
- 11) How did the hospital/ police treat you? \_\_\_\_\_
- 12) What circumstances surrounded the rape? \_\_\_\_\_
- 13) Were you hitchhiking? \_\_\_\_\_
- 14) Did you tell anyone about the rape? \_\_\_\_\_
- 15) Was there more than one rapist? \_\_\_\_\_
- 16) Did you have contact with the rapist after the rape? \_\_\_\_\_
- 17) Did the rape change your attitude toward men? \_\_\_\_\_ How? \_\_\_\_\_
- 18) Did the rape affect your sex life? \_\_\_\_\_
- 19) Did you become pregnant? \_\_\_\_\_ How was the pregnancy handled? \_\_\_\_\_
- 20) Has an employer ever requested or demanded sex from you? \_\_\_\_\_
- 21) What ethnic background would you think the rapist was from? \_\_\_\_\_
- 22) How old was the rapist? \_\_\_\_\_
- 23) What background do you judge him to be from? \_\_\_\_\_
- 24) Do you know if the attacker had previous rape charges? \_\_\_\_\_
- 25) What kind of notable qualities did he have? \_\_\_\_\_
- 26) As a child, were you ever sexually molested? \_\_\_\_\_ By Whom? \_\_\_\_\_
- 27) Have you taken self-defense? \_\_\_\_\_
- 28) In retrospect, would you handle the rape differently? \_\_\_\_\_ How? \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:



## crisis housing cont'd

speaking, in the dark as to what happens to that woman when she has, as it were, gone through the city mill, we have to ask ourselves, did she have the advantage of a restored self-confidence, was she exposed to any self-analysis, were her options clearly presented to her, could she in fact have had an alternative to marriage break up?

It was generally felt we must begin a serious documentation encompassing both the agencies now involved in marital violence and the numbers of victims of that violence.

Our location in Woman's Place presents us with the evidence we cannot deny; a survey in west-end Toronto presents us with the statistics that over 50% of women need it as a result of physical abuse, and further states that in more than half

those cases, there is no evidence of whether or not a satisfactory conclusion was reached in each case. We have no reason to believe the situation is any more enlightened here in Thunder Bay.

We have waited patiently for three years for the words "battered wives" to be spoken out loud, even in polite conversation. Our mayor has been running around speaking for the sanctity of life, but we have yet to hear him give an opinion on the abused wife. Would he walk a mile for them--even for a crack at a bicycle?

It becomes more obvious to us every day that if ever a true refuge is in the future of this city, it must be through the efforts of a feminist group.

### Satisfaction Guaranteed

*For once, I was dressed to the teeth  
As I walked down McKibbin Street  
So, a carload of slathering boys  
Decided I would be their evening toy  
They showered me with hoots and jeers  
Something that's happened to me for years  
When they once more circled the block  
I planned of them to make a mock  
As the car pulled up to the curb  
I was completely ready to disturb  
Quite calmly I raised my face  
Innocently stared, slowed my pace  
I just wanted to express with prose  
How I grossed them out...with my finger  
up my nose.*

Bev Pudas

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## BEATEN WOMAN FIGHTS BACK

Women from the Women's Resource and Survival Centre in Keyport, N.J. have volunteered to set up a legal defense fund for a young woman, Roxanne Gay. Roxanne had been battered for years by her husband, Blenda Gay, a defensive lineman for the Philadelphia Eagles. Last Dec. after hours of threats and beatings, Roxanne finally fought back and fatally stabbed her husband.

Until recently Roxanne has had virtually no legal assistance. The Women's Centre has taken up her case

in order to assist all women who may be punished by society's neglect of their terrifying situations.

Besides the urgency and importance of Roxanne's position, this case has tremendous implications for battered women.

Anyone wishing to write Roxanne may do so via the Women's Centre, and people are urged to send any donations possible to help pay for her defense to:

Women's Resource and Survival Centre  
Roxanne Gay Legal Defense Fund  
57 West Front St.  
Keyport, N.J. 07735

# NORTHERN WOMEN'S CREDIT UNION

## INTRODUCTION

The concern for equal access to credit is based on the premise that women will only be equal with men when they have a measure of control in the economic sphere. This includes the ability to finance and pledge their credit just as it includes receiving equal pay for work of equal value.

A major step in achieving this goal was taken when women began seeking independent financial commitments.

This is the first in a continuing column from the Northern Women's Credit Union. This column will discuss some of the obstacles, both legal and social, that women have encountered and will continue to encounter until prejudices are challenged and eliminated.

This first column is concerned with women and retail credit.



## A testimony

I want to share two experiences I had in trying to obtain charge accounts with two local stores.

The first was about a year ago. I was phoned by Macleods, during a campaign they were having to get more charge customers. I felt that I should have done something earlier about getting accounts in my name but had not, so this seemed like an opportune time to try.

I agreed to open an account with them on the condition that it would be in my name. (There was a long pause and then "just a moment please").

It appears she had not encountered this request before and had to consult someone with more authority. She returned to the phone and said this would be alright and that someone would be around to my home with the contract agreement.

The person came, I signed, emphasizing "my name only or I don't want it".

There was a space provided for on the application where the name of the spouse had to be entered. I gave 'his' name but was not asked for any other information on 'him', employment etc. (1)

A few weeks later the account card came and, you guessed it, it was 'his' name. I cut it in half, wrote an indignant letter and mailed it to their head office. I had first called the local office to complain and was told this 'oversight'

occurred at their head office.

Later a second card arrived still in 'his' name, this time accompanied with an explanation that -- here was the additional card I had requested !!!

I cut this card, wrote a more indignant letter, mailed it, and was finally rewarded some weeks later. Even though the computer had only managed to spit out my first initial, it had managed to retain the Mrs., I was satisfied. Fortunately my first initial and 'his' first initial are not the same or I might have given up at this point.

The second attempt to obtain credit came as a result of reading some material obtained from the Women's Credit Union office and an article in Chatelaine, July/77, on the importance of establishing a credit history.

During the time of my marriage I had opened, signed the agreement, and used extensively, various charge accounts. I was also the person who was responsible for seeing they were paid, from a joint chequing account. (2) My husband rarely entered a store, let alone made purchases on the account.

I went to Simpsons-Sears to try and get an account with them. I made purchases from this store on 'his' account a lot.

I filled in the application form (3) and within a few days received a phone call informing me that I could not have an account with them as my present employment was only on a contract basis and this was not considered permanent. My past, and lengthy employment, my financial contribution to the joint chequing account, my credit worthiness was all negated; it meant nothing to them.

Feeling that this refusal was not fair, I wrote to the credit manager asking that they confirm in writing the reason for their refusing me an account. (4) The manager responded to my letter thus, "I have reviewed your application for an account and wish to advise you that our decision can be revised, however.....an applicant must have steady employment to be considered....upon reviewing our files we found that in (year) you signed an agreement. This account was set up under your husbands name but has been a "joint account". (5)

The letter also said I could have a line of credit for \$300. I responded to this letter in agreement and requested that the account be set up using my first and last name, eliminating the titles denoting sex. (I could not tell by the signature from the credit manager whether it was a she or he) but I didn't

need three guesses.

Having learned that the account with Simpsons-Sears was a joint one, I dropped into the Credit Bureau (6) expecting that they would have a credit history on me. They did not. They did have an excellent history on my husband, however. The credit rating that I had established while I was single (7) was only kept for seven years. I was also informed that if separate records on your credit history are to be kept, you must request that this be done. I informed them I now wanted a separate history kept, and this was agreed to.

Now, after five letters, three phone calls, two interviews - not to mention the anger and frustration - I have two charge accounts in my name. I will continue to proceed till all the accounts that I use are in my name also.

**celebrate  
CREDIT UNION  
day  
Oct. 20**

NORTHERN WOMEN'S CREDIT UNION  
316 BAY ST.

HOURS  
TUESDAYS & FRIDAYS  
10 a.m. TO 5 p.m.  
THURSDAYS 7 p.m. TO 9 p.m.  
PH. 345-7802



**join now !**

## FOOTNOTES

- (1) Most lending agencies request information on your spouse, but if you have acceptable qualifications and plan to maintain the account on your own, you are not obliged to provide this information.
- (2) The signature on the cheque means nothing - unless it

cont'd page 14

footnotes cont'd

bounces - to the store or the Credit Bureau. The credit history belongs only to the person whose name is on the account.

(3) The information asked for is not enough to determine properly whether you should be given credit.

(4) Credit grantors in Ontario are legally required to give you their reasons, however it may be a phone call or a form letter listing many possible reasons. You take your pick. It is your responsibility to inquire within 60 days.

(5) Creditors claim it is expensive for them to open two accounts for a family and with a choice between the husband and wife, they prefer to deal with the man.

(6) At one time, a married woman could not only not get credit on her own, she was also denied access to the family's credit record unless her husband accompanied her. To-day the associated Credit Bureaus of Canada has a policy whereby a married woman who wants to establish a separate file may do so by advising the Credit Bureau.

(7) You can maintain the credit history you had before you married and keep the accounts in your maiden name. There is no law that requires you adopt your husband's name.

## Married Women the Credit Ability Gap

In recent years, women's desire to share in the market place equally with men is probably more pronounced. Their ability to do is often linked with their capacity to obtain credit, and in spite of the high cost of credit, its availability is vital in the upgrading of women's economic status because it determines their access to education, home ownership, self employment, private transportation and independence. Few people

## CRISIS HOUSING

The Citizen's Committee for Crisis Housing met August 15 and again August 17 at Woman's Place, 316 Bay Street, to revitalize our original intent to have in Thunder Bay an interval house specifically designed for abused women and children.

Our membership of interested persons shows both growth and energy. We discussed seriously how we might supplement the present city family crisis homes in a way that recognized the basic needs of food and

would be able to buy homes, cars, and appliances without some form of credit.

Some women, particularly divorced and separated women, suffer the results of being dependent on their husbands credit rating, even if they have worked and contributed to the family income. A woman who divorces must establish from scratch her own credit record. No matter how faithfully she may have contributed to the record it belongs to her husband. Widowed women "inherit" their husband's credit history. If it is not a good history they too must start from scratch and establish their own. It is important that married women should insist on having "true" joint accounts or separate accounts.

In the area of retail credit we can start by examining

### What Can We Do

In the area of retail credit we can start by examining those charge cards we use. Some women believe that the space provided for our own signature means the account is ours, however, these are only courtesy cards and the computer punched name in them is the name of the person whose credit history is being recorded with the Credit Bureau. We should go to the Credit Bureau and ask that they set up a separate file for us.

Although credit-granting policies and practises have changed considerably in the past year or so, the whole credit-granting industry will not necessarily be aware of all the changes. If you are denied credit and believe you have been discriminated against because of your sex or marital status, ask to see the credit officer of the agency involved. If your request for credit is still refused and you are not given a satisfactory explanation contact the Women's Advisor of the Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations, 555 Yonge St. Toronto, Ontario.

And of course, (it goes without saying) join your own Northern Women's Credit Union, a good place to begin to establish your own credit history.

As women we must pursue our right to obtain credit. The attitude is in general that women are poor

credit risks. Regulations and rules will not be sufficient to combat this attitude. The assumptions must be exposed as myths. Those that offer services to the public must be forced to treat women on the same footing as they treat men.

Noreen Lavioie

## Credit Union up-date

The Women's Credit Union is growing steadily. There are now 169 members with shares over \$17,000. This is an average growth rate of over \$2,000 per month in the eight months we have been open. We have \$6,900 of this money now out in loans with a further \$2,200 in loans approved. We have \$2,000 invested in the Ontario Credit Union League.

Expenses to date have been covered by the donation we received in January from the Northern Women's Centre.

It is important that we maintain our growth rate. You can help promote the Credit Union by telling your friends about it and also by starting a Credit Union savings account for your children (a great way to encourage them to save).

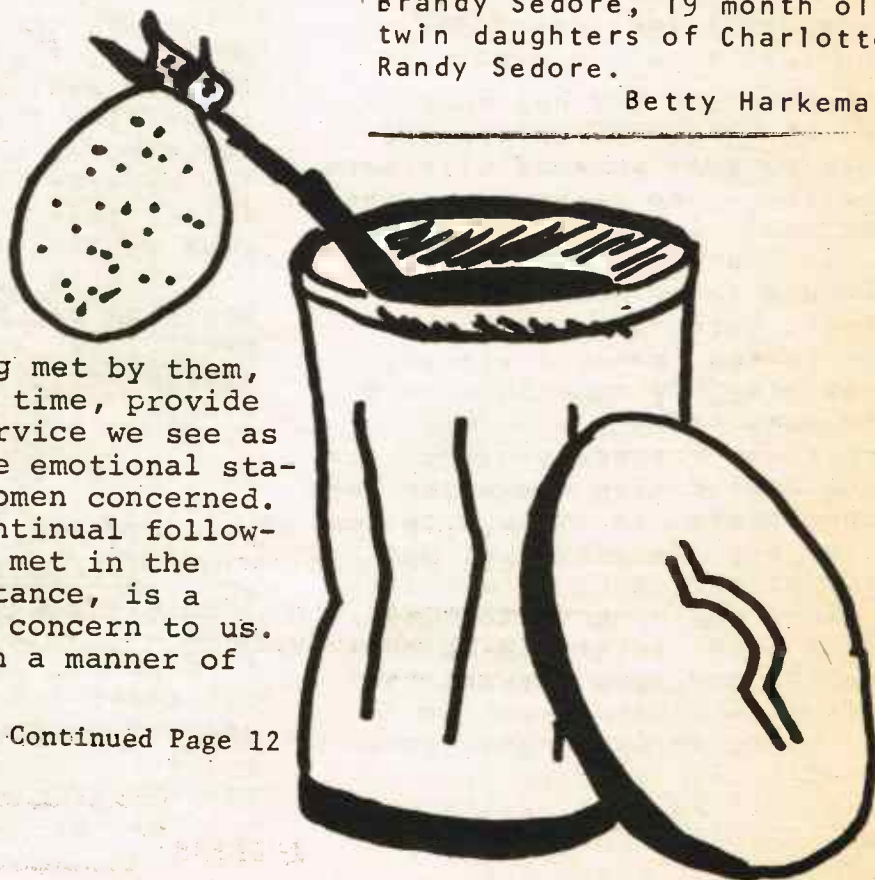
We urge our members who now have the minimum share in their accounts to increase their shares. The importance of regular (even if small) deposits cannot be over-emphasized as well as saving your money you are helping make loans available to women in need.

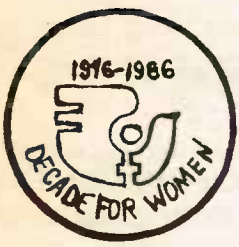
Welcome to our newest and youngest members, Beverley and Brandy Sedore, 19 month old twin daughters of Charlotte and Randy Sedore.

Betty Harkema

shelter as being met by them, and at the same time, provide that further service we see as necessary to the emotional stability of the women concerned. The value of continual follow-up which is not met in the present circumstance, is a matter of great concern to us. Since we are, in a manner of

Continued Page 12





# Decade Council News

The International Women's Decade Co-ordinating Council of Northwestern Ontario held their monthly meeting at Confederation College on August 20.

Plans are being made for an in-depth evaluation seminar on Sept. 17 and 18. This will be for the purpose of assessing the work of the Decade Council in the last year and planning the direction for the next year.

The focus of the Decade Council at the present time is on two very important issues, Waitresses' vs. the Tip Differential and the Widows' Pension Brief. Both of these briefs have been circulated throughout Northwestern Ontario by the Decade Council asking for support.

## Waitresses' Action Committee

Since organizing last January, the Waitresses' Action Committee has been able to give a voice to the concerns of many workers in the tourist industry. They formed originally in response to proposals and lobbying by this industry to the Ontario Government to freeze the minimum wage of workers earning tips. In March 1976 a precedent was set for this, when a new category was formed, alcohol-servers, who were to receive 15¢ less per hour than the standard minimum wage. These new proposals would expand that category to include all workers who receive tips, and increase the 'differential' to as much as 50¢ per hour.

In response, an action committee was formed to oppose any impending lowering of the already much too low wages. A brief was circulated which gained support from a wide variety of organizations. Many groups wrote letters of support to their local MPP's, newspapers, and the Ministry of Labour. Media coverage has been steady and sympathetic. This support has been crucial in pressuring the Government to consider a meeting to present demands and points of view.

The need for a public forum for debate was a focal point of discussion when the Waitresses' Action Committee met with senior officials of the Ministry of Labour on June 27. Representatives from the Waitresses'

Action Committee, Immigrant Women's Centre and Opportunities for Advancement met with Tim Armstrong, Deputy Minister of Labour, Marnie Clark, head of the Women's Bureau and three other officials. The purpose of this meeting was to present to the Government a broad view of how not only waitresses would be affected by a lowered minimum wage, but how this would seriously limit the options for many other women in the paid labour force, who have had to continually fight just to keep their heads above water economically.

The meeting ended with support from both the Deputy Minister and the Women's Bureau, and a pledge to take the call for a public forum to the Minister of Labour. These changes in the minimum wage would affect thousands of workers directly and even more, indirectly, by setting a precedent for an industry to obtain special privileges to pay for its crisis at our expense.

The Waitresses' Action Committee, with much support, has driven a wedge into the Government's closed-door decision-making policy. Please get your organization to mail the form on this page in to the Minister of Labour, calling for a public forum on minimum wage, before any changes are made.

## Widows' Pensions

Two areas of concern regarding widows' pensions for older women have been brought to the attention of the N.W.O. International Women's Decade Council. These are concerns that should be widely publicized so that all will be made aware of the injustices experienced particularly by widows in the 60 - 65 years of age bracket.

Protests against these injustices should be voiced to all branches of government concerned with pension programs, urging correction of the existing conditions, and the inclusion of survivor's benefits in all pension plans both in public and private sectors.

A news release from Ottawa published in a number of newspapers on February 24, 1977 stated:

## \*"ELDERLY WIDOWS PREY TO PENSION WRINKLE."

About 200 elderly women a month receive condolences from the federal government for the death of their husbands...and are informed that because of his death their old-age pension (his old-age pension and her Spouses Allowance) will be cut off. They are victims of a wrinkle in the rules governing the recently created Spouses' Allowance, paid to people aged 60 - 65. But the death of the elder marriage partner cancels out the pension of the other. It means that a combined monthly pension of as much as \$460 is suddenly reduced to zero.

The Spouses' Allowance was set up in 1975 to assist couples when only one partner is eligible for the Old Age Security pension, but where there is little or no other income. The spouse must be at least 60 to receive it and about 70,000 now do, most of them women. It is, in effect, an old-age pension paid early for those in need.

But a clause in the rules says that the Spouses' Allowance is only payable to the spouse of a pensioner. If a pensioner dies, his pension dies with him and so does his wife's. Officials say about 200 pensions a month are lost because of this rule."\*

(Toronto Sun, Feb. 24, 1977)

May Sutton of the Decade Council has prepared a brief on this injustice affecting widows. Copies of the brief are available at Women's Place, 316 Bay St., Thunder Bay P. Letters of support for the brief can be written to:

THE HONOURABLE MARC LALONDE,  
MINISTER OF HEALTH & WELFARE  
HOUSE OF COMMONS,  
OTTAWA, K1A 0K9

TO: THE HON. BETTE STEPHENSON, MINISTER OF LABOUR OF ONTARIO  
400 University Ave., 14th Floor  
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1T7

We feel that changes of any kind in the minimum wage must not be made without consulting the people who are going to be affected.

We demand, therefore, that the Ontario Government provide a public forum where workers can present their position to industry and Government.

SIGNED: (organization or individual name)

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

# DAY CARE NEWS



## NEW RATES FOR THUNDER BAY MUNICIPAL DAY CARE

As a parent who uses City Day Care, I received a schedule of the new rates effective September 1/77. For day care centres, the rates are now:

- \$8.50 for full day
- 5.25 for half day with lunch
- 4.25 for half day without lunch
- 6.50 for 3/4 day (between 4 and 6 hrs)
- 3.50 for 2 hours or less

If I have two children (or three), the above rates apply to each child. Before the price hikes, second and third children obtained "special family rates"--additional \$1 per day per child. Now, two children in full day care would cost \$340/month, and three children would cost \$510!!

For private home day care, the rates are now:

- \$7.50 for full day, under 1 year old
- 8.00 full day, 1 to 2½ years
- 8.50 full day, over 2½
- 6.50 3/4 day, any age
- 5.25 half day with lunch
- 4.25 half day without lunch
- 3.50 two hours or less

And the special family rates no longer apply here either.

In the case of private home day care, it costs the City \$7.80 per child per day to offer the service. This includes administrative costs. How many other City programs recover all expenses--including administrative?

The extra \$0.70 will not be applied toward improving the conditions of day care workers. Home providers will still be paid \$7.50 per day per child, without receiving sick pay or vacation pay benefits.

What does this tell me about how Council views day care? It tells me they see child care as the sole responsibility of the parents; that they do not see children as our shared resource for the future; that "parents" is a special category, and "full paying parents" should be the ones to help out the welfare parents, instead of sharing the responsibility equally between parents and non-parents.

City Council has effectively limited day care to very high income people and to very low income people. As someone in the middle, I know I would find it difficult (an understatement) to finance two children in day care, and even harder to finance three children.

Maybe it's a Council plot to reduce population growth. I know I've considered waiting till my son is 6 and in school before I produce yet another child. Maybe Council smugly assumes that one parent in every family (probably the mother) should be at home anyway.



Grown-ups speak funny  
They say choo-choo  
When they mean train,  
And bunny  
When they mean rabbit.  
They say goo-goo to my sister  
Who's a baby.  
She laughs at them.  
I'm not surprised.

My aunt calls a clock  
A tick tock.  
Our dog had puppies,  
My aunt calls them bow wows.  
Perhaps she didn't have the chance  
To go to kindergarten  
Like me.

My friend's mother  
Calls cows moo moos,  
And ducks quack quacks.  
My aunt should meet my friend's mother.

My teacher knows  
The right words  
But she says them in a funny voice  
Like my mother uses  
To my sister.

My grandpa speaks normal.  
Not many people understand him  
Except me.

Anne Clifford, adult  
Kitchener, Ontario  
from Weekend Magazine

## "PARENTS"

Parents who are using or interested in DAY CARE and AFTER SCHOOL LUNCH AND BEFORE SCHOOL programmes PLEASE write to your alderman requesting their full uncompromising support complete quality child care service. Emphasize the child's right to complementary parenting as a community and municipal responsibility. A meeting for those concerned about DAY CARE will be held at Women's Centre on November 3, 1977. This a regular Women's Centre meeting and we'll discuss the philosophy of day care as well as plan some action strategies for support of day care.

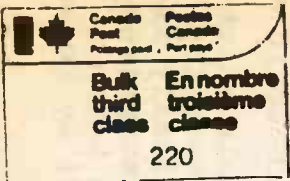


## "KIDDIES" BOOKS

- Travels of Ms. Beaver ..... \$1  
Rosemary Allison
- I'm a Child of the City..... \$0  
Ister Fine
- Strange St-Ann Powell..... \$1
- All About Us ..... \$1
- Bonnie McSmithers..... \$3  
Sue-Ann Alderson
- True Farm Stories, Freda Kamstra  
(local)







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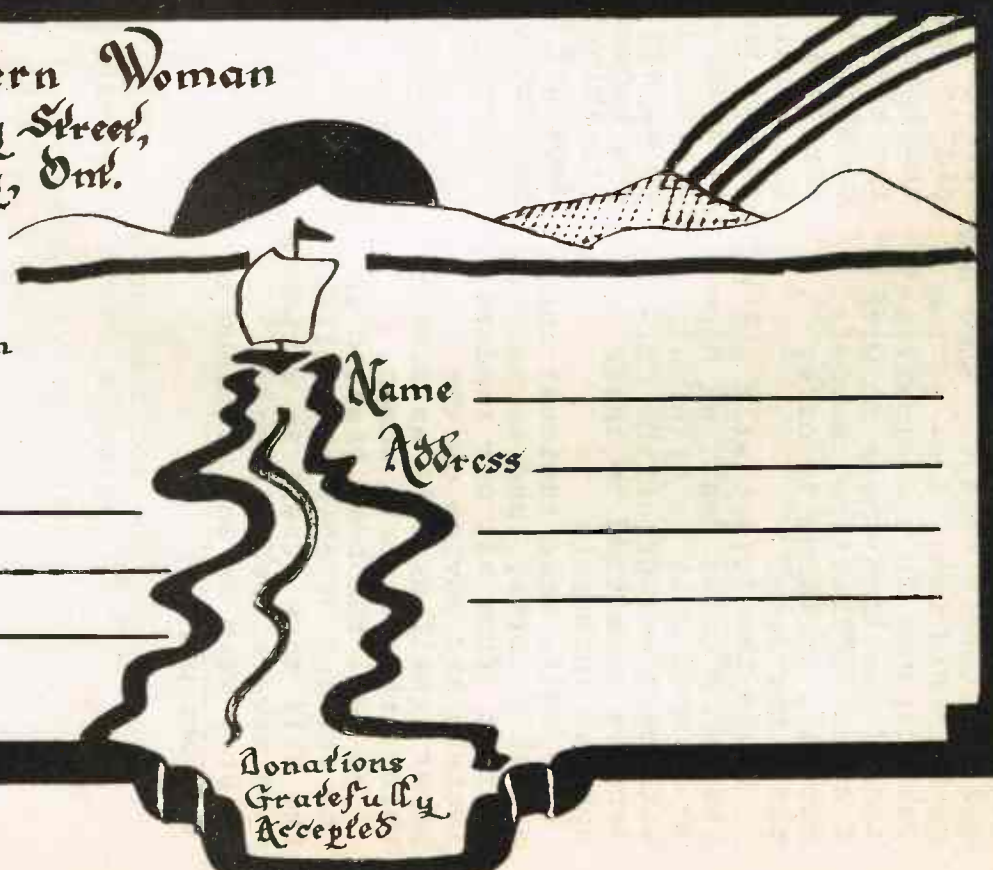
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Who Did This Issue - Eve, Pat, Doreen, Noreen, Gert, Thyra, Leona, Lenny, Julie, Peggy, Lynne, Sharon, Donna, Betty, Annette.		

Want to get involved?

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