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Northern Woman

Volume 4

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Issue 1

Journal



DECEMBER 1977

GERT'S GOSPEL

The subject of mother's and daughters is as wide as thought can make it. That each generation fits into the pattern of progress in societies evolution immediately makes them different. With a quality of sameness in that the same things happen to both of them and is measured by the preception that is the product of the times. It is a wise mother who therefore knows the preceptions that have taken her years to formulate will only serve to provide a beginning and a base for the kind of experimentation and rethinking which is not only the norm for the young but the sign of personal growth. The number of daughters who think their mother's don't understand them is only equal to the number of mother's who try but somehow never make it. What goes wrong when the two people designed to be natural allies become the author of each others misery and sometimes destruction? What part is played by a mothers perception of her own self-worth? In a position of dependance does she unknowingly project her anxiety and anger in those who are in turn dependant on her --- from observation it seems likely. If she has persuaded herself that her own secret rebellion has been unworthy of her high calling as wife and mother, will she not strive to check that rebellion and the questions it asks and see her daughter safely esconced in a similar bind. It used to work and in far to many cases it still applies but one thing never changes. The pride

with which the rare young woman speaks of the strong independant mother and grandmother who refused to play a passive role in the face of injustice, moved with the times in a pattern of awareness, and nutured that same lively independance in her daughter. Since woman have been relegated to a position of dependance in the scenario of civilization and this fact is only partially compensated for in covert manipulation, the point at which mothers and daughters should find their closest alliance is mutual rebellion. The number of daughters that imagine their circumstances are different, their feelings alien is a direct result of the reluctance of mothers to establish this vital link of communication. The desperate desire to remain comforter, protector and counsellor rather than fellow travellers in a common direction to the fullfilment of all female potential separates the generation and robs both mother and daughter of the support each needs to survive.

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.

EDITORIAL

Your Northern Woman Collective have had serious discussions lately regarding the future of this journal. The survival of the paper as a vehicle that chronicles our progress in the cause of greater awareness in the public and a closer relationship with the readers has been a priority in the minds of all of us. To this end we have volunteered our time, our energy and in many cases our money to subsidize the operation that places in the hand of the reader a fair representation of what Women are doing in the region to support other women.

In the last two years we have seen postage increase from 3 to 14 ¢. Our printing costs have climbed over 40%. (Materials are costly and we must therefore decide, Should we go the route of further subsidization, and if we do, can we afford it or should we move our price of subscription to \$4.50 a year.)

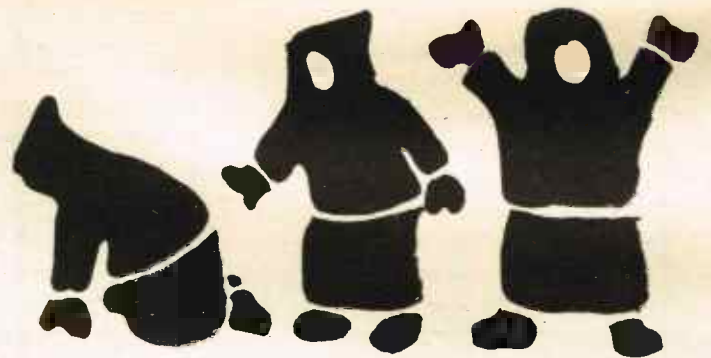
We feel our readers should respond to our Dilemma. As alternate Women's papers bow to the pressure of economics, it is important for us to know. How do you feel about it's survival?

OPPRESSION IS...



..Oppression is poverty; oppression is exploitation; it is forced dependence; it is being property, yet not being valued as other forms of property; it is being confined to work ghettos; being held solely responsible for the rearing of children; it is unwanted sex; being beaten; being raped; it is having no control over one's body. It is low self-esteem, it is fear of aging, of being alone, it is not liking oneself very much, it is learning at an early age that one is not quite tall enough, slim enough, pretty enough, competent enough -- oppression is never being able to accept that as an individual, one is not solely responsible for and the cause of one's poverty, exploitation, dependence and fear.

Credit - Kinesis



have a sisterly Christmas,

INTRODUCTION TO NON-TRADITIONAL OCCUPATIONS

HAVE YOU BEEN THINKING OF GETTING BACK INTO THE WORLD OF PAID EMPLOYMENT? HAVE YOU BEEN THINKING OF SOME OF THE MORE "UNUSUAL" JOBS THAT MIGHT BE AVAILABLE? If so, this could be the course for you.

Manpower is sponsoring, through Confederation College, an eight-week course for women who wish to seek employment in areas generally regarded as restricted to members of the "opposite sex". The course is designed to help students:

1. Assess their own skills.
2. Determine which jobs are within their range.
3. Develop job search techniques.
4. Provide four weeks on-the-job training. The student will choose, with help from the instructor, where this training will take place.

The course begins October 17, 1977 in Thunder Bay South. REGISTER WITH YOUR LOCAL CANADA MANPOWER OFFICE. For more information, call Women's Programs, 577-5751, Extension 278, 353 or 232.

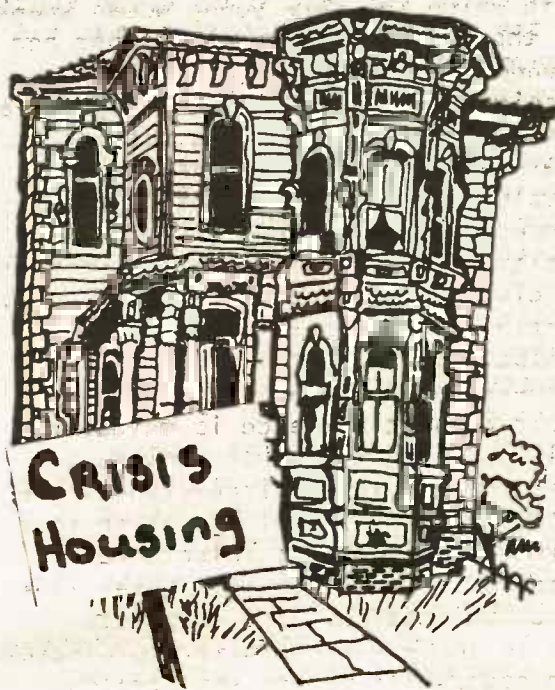
KINGSTON INTERVAL HOUSE

Directors and staff of Ontario Interval and transitional houses met in conference at Queen's University, Kingston, Ont. for 4 days Oct. 11th to 14th, to share their common experience, re-enforce their common goals and plan a future strategy to insure the continued concern for women and children unhappily the victims of physical and emotional battering will culminate in a series of houses of refuge that will provide the support and encouragement as well as the knowledge to re-assess her life-style with in a way that promotes change. With 14 houses now operating in the province and 5 more in the planning stage the question of permanent funding is crucial to the survival of an operation that speaks to the problem as well as the solution.

The lack of public interest and the persistent stereo-typing of the woman caught up in this cycle is a major difficulty. From a feminist perspective clearly those involved have a responsibility to lead the way in a concentrated effort to challenge the apathy of those whose position of influence could provide invaluable support to the projects. Donna Miller from Hiatus House in Windsor, presented an example of a community where business and professional elements play a fully supportive role which has enabled them to serve both as a refuge for abused women and a counselling service for non residential couples in marital dispute.

An interesting and encouraging new element emerged in the role that city law enforcement is playing in the field of violence in the home. London's family counselling division of the regular force and the female officer assigned to family emergency calls.

A unanimous decision to form an incorporated association of Interval and transitional houses in Ontario will hopefully come to fruition before Xmas when Hiatus House will host a representation of those houses both in operation and planning comprising two persons, one actively working with women in transition and one board member of an incorporated committee. The exercise to emerge with a constitution that will enable them to seek a mandate from the provincial government that will provide a stable operational budget. It was my pleasure along with Bev Curtis from Atikokan to share the concerns that we here in North Western Ont. have felt about the growing incident of violence in the home. Our incorporated committee has been in place for three years. At Woman's Place the woman in trauma is no stronger to us, we have felt removed and outside the city run crisis housing being neither allowed or willing to refer the women to the first format. It has been small consolation to us that these houses exist because of our pressure when so many of our hopes were not realized in it's



operation. The climate for a closer co-operation now seems possible and we are prepared to explore every avenue that leads to a better service. We have been granted a Canada Works for five persons for a documentation of both incident and the gaps in social services and will concentrate on follow-up procedures as well as producing a hand book for women in difficulty.

Bev Curtis from Atikokan and her group have the added problem of a mining town, the problem is real and immediate but there are strong women in that community and she feels confident a place of refuge will be a certainty. The possibility of a Interval house in Fort Frances has also been discussed. It is one of the exciting realities that in our time a woman terrified and abused may no longer feel there is no one who really cares. With the advent of a provincial association the subject of battered women will finally be exposed to public conversation.

Report from conference held in Kingston, Oct. 11th to 14th.

Women In Transition

The "Crisis Homes, Inc." citizen's committee, concerned in the area of interval shelters for women and children who are victims of physical abuse are sponsoring an intensive study of the problem. The present social structure now involved in offering service and counselling to this particular segment of our citizens will be under review. This project will operate from 316 Bay St., Thunder Bay, and is funded by Canada Works.

Five persons have been hired under this project, and it is their intention to research the area of "Battered Women" and to produce a booklet specifically designed for victims of violence in the home, offering choices of a course of action for their protection. The project will run from November 21, 1977 to July 14, 1978.



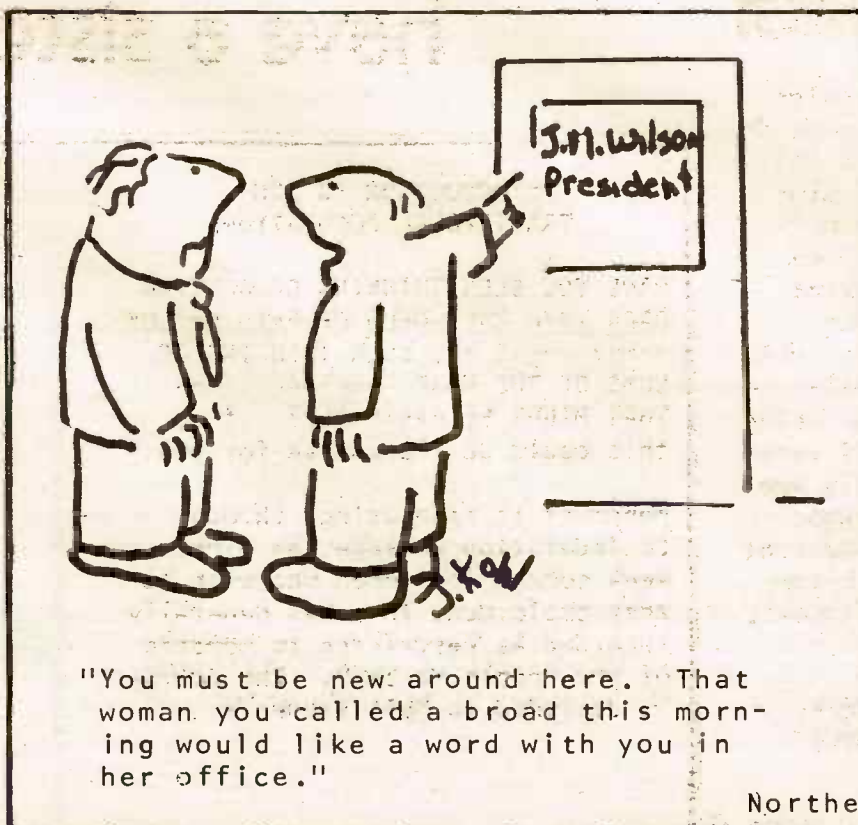
"Can Boys be doctors, Mom?"

A RIDDLE OR A MYTH?

A boy and his father were driving in a car. They had an accident, the boy's father died. The child was taken to the hospital, a doctor was called. The doctor said "I can't operate on this boy, he's my son."

How can that be?

answer on pg. 15



"You must be new around here. That woman you called a broad this morning would like a word with you in her office."

Northern Woman Journal page 3



FEMINIST BOOKS

\$ 12,000

SET AS GOAL

WOMEN, MONEY & POWER

By Phyllis Chesler and Emily Jane Goodman. Bantam, \$2.50

As everyone knows, women have neither money nor power and they have been systematically excluded from the means to achieving both. If you have read and enjoyed Chesler's Women and Madness her very academic indictment of the psychiatric profession, you will certainly find this insightful reading. It is a collaboration with a New York lawyer, Emily Goodman, to castigate another social institution - the economy.

Chesler and Goodman take turns poking gaping holes into such concepts as the alimony myth (wherein women live like queens off the spoils of divorce), the total commitment of women to motherhood and marriage, and "powerful" women.

The financial impotence of women is examined from every angle, from the psychology of ambivalence in women toward women to the psychoeconomics of beauty. One thought is clear throughout the analysis of the psychoeconomic oppression of women and that is, that women simply only get close to money. Any appearance of power is merely derivative. Even the wealthiest women in the world have virtually no power of their own; any power they might have is through association, with some individual man. Achievements are generally made in the area of beauty and youthful looks... few women rarely run countries, banks, or businesses because it takes more than beauty and youth to qualify and women are not allowed access to the more important avenues.

The expectation that all women are committed to motherhood particularly generally prevents them from: Obtaining high-salaried jobs, advancing, getting credit, developing necessary job skills and experiences, and receiving equal pay for equal work.

Little has changed for women in terms of power in the co-called revolution. Chesler and Goodman point out only too blatantly that they have no access to the means of change and the ends are not even in sight.

By Mary Burns

PROTEST...NOVEMBER 5th, 1977

ON NOVEMBER 5th, A NATIONAL DAY OF PROTEST AGAINST VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN WAS HELD ACROSS CANADA. AMONG THE THEMES WHICH EMERGED FROM THE PROTEST WERE:

...RAPE IS LESS AN ATTEMPT TO GAIN SEXUAL GRATIFICATION THAN A WAY OF ASSERTING POWER, OF DOMINATING AND HUMILIATING THE VICTIM.

Northern Woman Journal page 4

Women Artists, 1550-1950
by Ann Sutherland Harris and Linda Nochlin, published by Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1977. \$11.95 in Canada.

I couldn't read the whole book before writing this review. But before you decide to discount me as a reviewer, let me explain further.

The book reviews the work of women artists over four centuries. It provides biographical information and discusses the historical conditions which hindered women as artists, as well as reviewing the works of the women. It is a very large book with a wealth of interesting information, and illustrations of many beautiful paintings.

It is a book you could browse through, finding something new each time. It is a book you could begin, put down and pick up again much later.

The book reviews in detail the paintings chosen for an exhibition of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. The research on works not part of the exhibition was made possible by several grants.

Judging from the introduction, which provides an overview of women as artists from the medieval period to the 1950's; and from some of the passages which describe the artists and their work; the perspective of the authors incorporates both an understanding and an appreciation of the women whose talents could not be suppressed.

Just one more thought-- there are 32 colour plates (which are magnificent), and over 150 black-and-white illustrations.

This book has something for almost everyone.

Lynne Thornburg

...RAPE SHOULD BE REDEFINED IN THE CRIMINAL CODE, POSSIBLY AS ASSAULT RATHER THAN A SEXUAL VIOLATION, SO CONVICTIONS COULD BE GAINED MORE EASILY.

...WOMEN SHOULD LEARN THE PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SKILLS OF SELF DEFENCE, AND

...WOMEN, RATHER THAN POLITICIANS, POLICE AND SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES ARE GOING TO ULTIMATELY HAVE TO ERASE THE EXISTING STEROTYPES OF MEN AND WOMEN THAT ARE LARGELY RESPONSIBLE FOR VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN.

As anyone who drops into 316 Bay Street can see Women's Centre is thriving. The growth of activity, the re-natal of energy, the involvement of many women in the variety of issues and projects underway is heart-warming. What is abundantly apparent is that to maintain this energy and increase the involvement, permanent funding to provide for staff must be obtained. At the Women's Centre Annual Meeting on December 1st, considerable time was spent discussing fund-raising endeavours that we wish to pursue immediately.

We began by establishing a goal. We intend to raise (in cash or commitment) \$12,000 by April 1, 1978.

There is agreement that while government grants (always uncertain) will continue to be sought, energy must also go to other fund raising projects. We would like to develop small business projects, that not only would be a source of funds for Women's Centre but would generate needed employment for women. We agreed that we have many skills that could be turned into money-raising events.

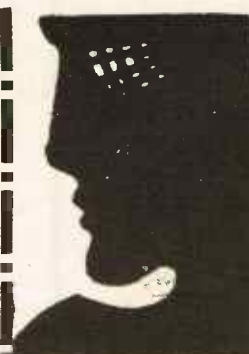
Two projects were immediately initiated - wrapping Christmas presents and making Christmas crafts. Monies raised will be placed in a special account (Women's Centre Survival Fund) with the Northern Women's Credit Union and we are determined to reach our goal of \$12,000 in four months.

If you have fund-raising ideas we would really like to hear about them - please call 345-7802.

Cash donations are encouraged and receipts will be given for tax purposes. Have you considered a donation as a gift for someone? Every dollar counts.

Crafts, candles and Christmas cakes are available to purchase from Women's Place, 316 Bay Street.

Anyone interested in a first aid course starting in January 1978 Please phone Women's Place before January 18, 345-7802



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HERSTORY

huriel boyle

Muriel Boyle was born on February 20th, 1884, in London, England. Seven of her adolescent years were spent in India where she lived with an uncle and attended school. Returning to London in 1902, she received secretarial training and was employed in the municipality for many years. In 1921 Muriel took a Montessori Course; she taught in private schools in Devonshire and Derbyshire before emigrating to Canada in 1927.

Muriel taught at Havergal College in Toronto for a year; the next fourteen years were spent as a social worker at University Settlement in Toronto. She set up a nursery school, music centre and recreational activities during this time and was involved with a variety of people. For three years she taught at the Royal Conservatory of Music, specializing in eurythmics. She instructed children with learning difficulties in consultation with the psychiatric department of the Sick Children's Hospital in Toronto. After an injury in a car accident in 1944, Muriel spent a year in Quebec where she taught school.

In 1945 she arrived in the small settlement of Pearson, 40 miles south of Fort William, where she taught in a one room school for a year amid many hardships. The next two years she taught in the nearby settlement

of Pardee. In 1948 Muriel came to Sioux Lookout; she taught music in the public schools throughout the area for many years past retirement age. In 1965, at the age of 81, she began Lakeview School for the retarded in her home. For two years she taught children with learning problems; After this time the Board of Education purchased the present Lakeview School and Muriel discontinued formal teaching. However she continued to teach music in her home for 10 more years and at the present she is teaching piano to a friend.

She also gives instructions in reading to visiting children who require extra help in their schooling.

Muriel's interest in the retarded continues; she is the membership chairwoman for the mentally retarded and an active member of the management board. An adult residence for the retarded was built in Sioux Lookout in 1975 and named in her honour (The Muriel Boyle Centre). In 1975, she was presented with the Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship in Toronto by the lieutenant Governor Pauline McGibbon.

Muriel is an active member of the community; she is the musician for the Rebekah Lodge and secretary for the Senior Citizens' Club. Her main interests-teaching, music and children, continue to benefit the community and she is a resource person in the field of education. She is a avid reader

At 93, Muriel is still active and presently residing in a senior citizens complex in Sioux Lookout. Thanks to Marion Babcock for submitting this herstory.



and studies eurythmics, folkdancing, the English language, and people with enjoyment.

Muriel is sympathetic to the women's movement and feels that women should have a choice in the work world that is equal to a man. She feels that there should be a sharing of duties in the home with no dominance by the male. She has enjoyed all stages of her life, particularly teaching. In each new setting she has become completely involved. She appreciated individuality, has lived very independently all her life, and has few regrets. She believes that life is determined mainly by luck. She has cultivated her talents and is an interesting person to be with. Her wit and intellect, as well as her true concern for others, make her a joy to know and she remains an influence on all who know her.

Mimi Dovick

CREDIT UNION update

The Northern Women's Credit Union continues to progress very satisfactorily, with membership and assets growing monthly. Members of the Credit Union have been speaking to Women's groups about our activities. If you belong to a Woman's organization that would like a speaker about the Credit Union please call the office (345-7802).

The Credit Committee, which consider all loan applications, is kept busy and we would like to explain some of the Committee's work. The Credit Committee really has a dual responsibility: to provide loans to members for necessary purposes at a low rate of interest and to protect the savings of the Credit Union members.

To be eligible to apply for a loan you must first be an approved member of the Northern Women's Credit Union. Memberships are approved by the Board of Directors which meets the second Monday of each month. We point this out to encourage you to become a Credit Union member now, rather than waiting until you need a loan, and being disappointed by a delay.

A member wishing to obtain a loan must fill out an application form,

which is available at the Credit Union office. The Credit Committee meets every Thursday evening to review all loan applications. Usually, for first loans, an interview with the applicant is held.

Both the Credit Union Act and the Northern Women's Credit Union's By-Laws regulate the granting of loans. Thus, it is required that any loan over \$500 must be secured. (The Credit Committee may also require security for loans under \$500). Security may be a chattel mortgage (e.g. on household furniture or an automobile), an assignment of wages or other monies receivable, an assignment of Credit Union shares, or a co-signer.

The total amount that can be loaned to a member is also regulated. At the present time the total cannot exceed \$1,100 in excess of the member's savings. As our assets grow so will the total amount we are able to loan out.

If you wish further information about the Credit Union, please drop into the office at 316 Bay Street, (next to the Hoito) Tuesday's or Friday's 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. or Thursday evenings from 7 - 9 p.m. or phone 345-7802.

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— Margaret Trudeau Phobia —

Now that Margaret Trudeau is settled in New York and about to become a movie actress, perhaps it is time to check back and evaluate the whole "Margaret affair".

It is hard to think of anyone in recent times who has been so castigated by the Canadian news media. Margaret was called spoiled, irresponsible and a traitor to her country. MacLeans, who came down the hardest, labeled her "a media groupie" and warned she was a danger to national unity. Ottawa gossip, usually left unprinted by the press under an unwritten "gentlemen's agreement", was inserted into the articles as fact.

Harvey Kirk, CTV newsman, warned in a story in the Globe and Mail, March 31 that she was "fair game" for the press and Peter Kent of the CBC agreed on the grounds that she went into a public bar, something that Prime Minister's wives don't do.

"Today's Generation", a teen magazine handed out free in the high schools, called Margaret a "national disgrace" and suggested that she "keep her mouth shut." Furthermore the magazine claimed she had made the country "an International joke."

In spite of an unprecedented deluge of mail protesting its treatment of Margaret, MacLean's continued its character assassination through March and April of this year. The language they used provides an interesting study in sexist reporting. Margaret did not talk; she "burbled", nor did she walk; she "skittered". She did not get angry; she "bitched", nor could she make a remark; instead she "chirped" (MacLean's, March 21, p. 63, 64 and April 4 p. 23). Every adjective and verb used was to make her sound childish and trivial.

What did this woman do to merit such treatment??

Well, there was the separation and talk of divorce. Today's Generation said that a divorce would be hard on

Jailed Victim of Incest

Noreen Winchester is now in Armagh women's prison in Northern Ireland, sentenced to seven years for the 'man-slaughter' of her father.

From the day of her mother's funeral, when she was 13, Noreen was raped by her father, who threatened to kill her brother (9) and two sisters (6 and 7) if she told the police what he was doing.

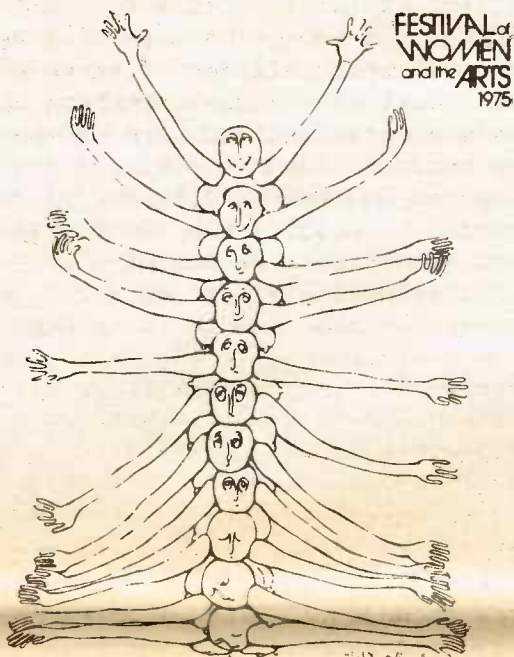
In 1975 when she was 17, she met Dermot Farrar and they planned to marry in April 1976. Noreen's father then said they need not be careful any more - if she got pregnant everyone would think it was Dermot's child. Noreen tried to ward him off but he raped her again. Desperate, the next night when he came home drunk, she put a knife in his neck. Passing sentence, the judge said she had been "a willing partner for years" and had had "plenty of time to go to the police about the incest" - showing a complete lack of understanding of pressures within the family.

An international feminist campaign has started to fight for Noreen's release. Other raped women in the USA who retaliated against their attackers and got heavy sentences, have been acquit-

national morale (May/June, 1977). A lot of the remarks about lack of responsibility were really a veiled criticism of the marriage separation.

Margaret's patriotic duty was to remain in the marriage lest she upset the country and especially upset the Prime Minister. MacLean's even opined that the stress on the PM might cause him to resign, which in turn would cause the separatists to triumph and therefore the break-up of the country would be on Margaret's conscience.

Let us ask ourselves this question: What are the duties and responsibilities of a Prime Minister's wife? As far as I know there are none. To be sure the Prime Minister's wife is in the public eye for she is often made part of that political party's publicity as Margaret and her children have been.



It has become customary for wives to act as hostesses and perhaps most of them have enjoyed it. Margaret did not.

We do not pay the Prime Minister's wife a salary nor is she elected. If she lends herself to election publicity for her husband we can do nothing about



ted by higher courts after feminist publicity campaigns: Inez Garcia who killed one of two men who raped her; Joanne Little who was to be hanged for killing her rapist.

This campaign is being co-ordinated by the Noreen Winchester Committee, Gero-laan 52, Zeist, Holland - they want postcards demanding Noreen's release. Irish Women United are organising support - contact them at PO Box 909, Dublin.

- Spare Rib issue 62
Sept/77

RAPE IN THE NEWS

Two young women sunbathing in a secluded spot near Sacramento, Calif. were approached by a man with a gun

that but we should not expect her "work" in return, nor should she be up as a model of virtue to refrain activities common to Canadians such marriage separation, or going to ro concerts for that matter.

Yes, it was that Rolling Stone co which seemed to irritate the media most. Why, they asked, should she her position to get tickets? The is that heads of state and their fa have always used their positions fo tickets, the best seat at sports ac tivities and other favours. The Ameri presidential family doesn't get tic they arrange performances in Washin Former Prime Ministers in Canada ha used every bit of influence to meet rich and famous as their autobiogra show. Prime Minister MacKenzie Kin enamoured with the British aristoc and pulled every string to get invi Whatever you think of the morals of there was no secret about it and I not remember hearing criticism unti Margaret Trudeau went to a Rolling concert. I wonder if the outcry wo have been as intense if she had bee given tickets to the ballet?

There are two lessons to be learn here. First, women in public posit are still being judged by a special of standards. For instance, it was Trudeau who used violence against he yet it was Margaret who was blamed.

The second lesson is a positive o The volume of mail from Canadian wor was an admitted surprise to the news and magazines. Women wanted no more coverage of what was essentially a p vate matter and there was also conc about the sexism of the reporting. pro-Margaret letters were so numerou that newspapers began to cover the story in a more dignified, less goss manner. Finally, only MacLean's cor the tone of vilification.

Joan Baril

who ordered them to undress and pe form oral sex on each other, then him. But while one of the women fellated the man, he lay back and closed his eyes, and the other wom hit him on the head with a rock.

Stunned, the attacker dropped hi gun and fled. Police arrested him five hours later when he returned the scene to pick up his car.

Reuters.

A Milwaukee man abducted a local woman and forced her to have inter-course with him in his car. After he'd finished, the woman told him that she might get pregnant and she wanted him to know about it if she did. He gave her his phone number. Police arrested him later that day.

Wisconsin State Journal
(Karen Kim)

A newly invented rape protection product called "Rapel" consists of vial of concentrated skunk oil with which the attacked woman is suppose to drench herself in order to repul a would-be rapist.

Toronto Star

Credit to National Lampoon.

Northern Woman Journal page 6

WOMEN AGAINST RAPE



A recent trial was held during the fall assizes involving an attempted rape of a 26 year old secretary. The attacker was her employer. The case was particularly important, as the Thunder Bay Rape and Sexual Assault Centre was familiar with other 'activities' of the alleged rapist. A year earlier he had been charged with rape--first trial was a hung jury--and then he was acquitted.

The TBR&SAC collective and other supporters showed up at the trial to lend support to the victim and to watch how our justice system works. For the most part most of us had never attended a rape trial before, although we had been to preliminaries. Needless to say we were educated quite severely in matters of law.

"HE LOCKED THE DOOR AND TOOK OUT HIS PENIS AND SAID WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO WITH THIS? AND THEN SHUT OFF THE LIGHTS."

Our members heard testimony of evidence including the victim's. The victim related how she had worked for only four months for her accused employer before the attack happened. She related that she planned to leave his employment because of his persistence in becoming 'familiar' with her. He did so by cornering her between the wall and filing cabinets, etc. During her testimony, the victim was not emotional, she was polite and not vindictive. Her account was supported by other witnesses and corroborative evidence of clothing, bruises, evidence of fighting, etc. We felt from her testimony alone that the jury probably would have convicted him. But,

"I EXPECT MORE FROM YOU THAN SITTING BEHIND A DESK TYPING."

The defense for the accused was the only wife and husband team in Thunder Bay. The fact that a woman was defending the accused was bad enough, but she also had been regarded as a supporter of women's rights and was friends of members of our support group. They were hurt, shocked, surprised and felt betrayed. I personally cannot speculate on her reasons for defending a rapist --frankly, I don't give a damn.

Another interesting fact about

the male member of this lawyer team, is that he had, but two years before, called the police to report a rape committed by this very man he was now defending.

The victim was asked questions regarding drinks she had during the afternoon; her boyfriend's temperament; her debts -- subtle inferences with this line of questioning. The reasons behind this questioning became apparent later when the defense called the accused to the stand.

"I'M GOING TO PENETRATE YOU ANYWAY!"

The accused took the stand and gave his account of what happened. The defense lawyer led her questioning of the witness to portray the image of a fine upstanding citizen. In the RCAF for a number of years, 45 years old, divorced, father of three children, businessman, well dressed and very contrary to the myth of the sleazy pervert. He was manager of a life insurance agency until this last incident. It boggles the mind to realize now, that this man operated a business that allowed him easy access to women's homes. The accused only spoke in glowing remarks about his victim. He related what happened that day with the smoothness of a well-rehearsed actor. Tears flowed when appropriate and gestures were made to emphasize his statements. He managed to look puzzled and persecuted when the crown asked direct questions that required a few seconds to think of a response. He angered self-righteously when the crown goaded? him on certain aspects of his testimony.

"AT ONE POINT I GOT INTO THE OUTER OFFICE, BUT HE DRAGGED ME BACK."

The accused, in his testimony accounted for the bruises on the victim, the bites and severely sprained finger by steadfastly insisting that she had reciprocated to his advances that day. He also mentioned, in passing, that the victim had asked him twice about an increase in wages prior to that time. (The defense's innuendos about the victim's debts come into play here.) In the middle of their 'passion' he says, "She asks about that raise". "Well," he announced, half ashamedly "I said something I'm very sorry for." He told her if she was that hard up for money, she could go out on the street and hustle for it. He claims, she, then in anger, lashed out at him and to protect himself, had to beat her up. The defense lawyer could not understand, in his summation, how a slim woman of 5'7", 130 lbs, could not have come out more physically abused if she indeed had maintained a two hour fight with a 6', 180 lb. man. A previous victim related later that a man like the accused knew he would have to have an excuse for some bruising, but controlled himself so that he didn't beat her beyond accountability.

As for the 2 hour struggle--it would seem that many people have never been in a situation where their life

had been in danger. They would realize if they had, that when your life is in mortal danger, you have no conception of time when your every move is being controlled.

WITNESS FOR THE ACCUSED--"ARE YOU READY TO GO HOME." THE ACCUSED--"NO, I'M NOT FINISHED WITH HER YET!"

How did the accused account for the bites to the victim's thigh, breast and nose? "Oh,---well---in the midst of our scuffle, I accidentally fell on her, my elbow hitting her breast, when her leg flew up and I instinctively bit her thigh, and as she raised her head, I accidentally bit her nose." The victim supporters reacted to his story with anger, near hysteria, urges to laugh and others shook their heads in disbelief. They felt his account was too smooth, well-rehearsed, and lacking credibility.

"MR. DEVLIN" CRIED THE ACCUSED, I KNOW I AM NOT A PARAGON OF VIRTUE, BUT ___.

(One of the witnesses testified she saw indentations of teeth marks on the victim's breast.)

This 'paragon of virtue' is free again. The verdict was NOT GUILTY. He could have been found guilty of indecent assault or common assault. The jury found him not guilty on any of the included charges

Our Interpretation

In the legal system, it is her word against his. Interwoven in this are the myths of rape and the attitude our society has toward women. The defense and the accused perpetuated the myths in this case, as well as many other cases that have passed through the courts before, in order to squirm out of the grasp of the law.

It is only two years since the jury was instructed by judges that they could not convict on the woman's testimony alone. There had to be corroborative evidence--bruises, cuts, etc. Now we are told that rape, as a criminal offence is treated as any other criminal offense. Is this instruction apparent in robbery, embezzlement and murder? Does this not suggest that women are potential liars? The jury is no longer instructed this way, but even with corroborative evidence or NOT, it's still her word against his. The defense therefore, must infer, and make innuendos as to the character of the victim, using all the methods of exploitation of her 'suspected' morals. For instance, don't drink before you are raped. Suggestion: You are loose and have no control over yourself sexually. Don't live with a man. Suggestion: If you've

CONT'D PAGE 12

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL

XMAS

All I want for Xmas is myself.
Just wrap me up and give me
back to me.
From myth and social custom
set me free.
I'm not a tinsel angel on your
Xmas tree,
I'm just a hungry searcher for
my own reality,
that sees the shabby promise
in this false equality.
Can't you see the gift I'm
dreaming of, is freely giving
me to me
-- with love!



CHRISTMAS PARTY



Sorry, but we really hoped to invite our subscribers to a party at Women's Place. The paper is going to print tomorrow, December 16/77 (hopefully) so by the time you, our readers will receive it - we're afraid the party will have come and gone.

Hopefully, most of you know about the party and we will see you or saw you. Merry Christmas anyway!

Peace from the hearth
of the longhouse,
wishes to hang on your tree,
May the heart that we show
the values we hold
draw to our fire
the lonely and cold.
There is joy for the moment,
strength for the day,
your welcome is sure
at 316 Bay.
We cherish our friends
in the old fashioned way,
Merry Xmas to all
on this greatest of days.

Gert



Northern Woman Journal page 8

The Night Before

On the night before, the night before,
confusion reigns supreme,
for every woman walks the line between
the nightmare and the dream.
To pick it up or let it lay..or..
run away and hide, some mad impulse to satisfy
the fevered soul inside.
The bird lays cold and hollow and
the tree not fully dressed,
fathers making merry, the kids
have flown the nest.
Her brain is counting dollars while
her hands are tying string, her heart
lies sunning on a beach
where its eternal spring.
Will the relatives arrive on time
and who will meet the plane, for
the streets are blowing snow
and the battery's dead again.
Has the silver all been polished,
will the crystal shine and gleam,
will the elves within the bottle
ruin the whole darn thing again.
Still she moves as automated,
programmed to a drafted task, and she
swears her heart is merry,
if anyone should ask.
She will put it all together
as she's done in seasons past, till the
last pine needles perish,
in the vacuums sucking blast.
How society enfolds her, now the merchants
bless her name, Mother served up
for the hungry, mother sucked into the game.
When we ask the Christmas meaning,
take the measure of the plot,
between the nightmare and the dreaming
something takes a lot of thought.
Cast it out and set it drifting,
burn a candle, give your love,
join your hands across a table,
bless the turtle and the dove.

GERT

I saw my sister raped to-day
and I sat there
immobilized.

I watched, as hour after hour
they beat and kicked her
and tore her flesh
and beat again.
Unsatisfied to tear her body, they
also tried to rape her mind.

And I was powerless to stop them.

I saw my sister raped to-day
because she is a woman.

With all the tools of their power
and prestige
They imprisoned her, and, with
constant threat held her captive.
Then they said - You must enjoy
our violence - for why else do you
stay.

I watched my sister raped to-day
Yet did not scream in her defense
But in my weakness crept away
to my safe place, where I could only
Vomit, Vomit.

Not all of her attackers
Were joyful in their violence
Some were uncomfortable - some
even frightened.
Some joined in merely because of
their ignorance.
While some had systematically
devised elaborate justifications for
their participation.
But some of them smiled.

I saw my sister raped to-day
because she is a woman.

And still she battled back
Though bruised and bleeding
She stood tall, and clearly spoke
"I do not let you rape me"

I am filled with the most humble
pride
For the sister that I met today
And for all women who
with their strength and courage and
self worth
Tell the world that
Violence against women must be
stopped.

I saw my sister raped to-day
because she is a woman.

And I, myself, am raped today
because I too am woman.

Margaret

MY CAT

Somewhere under a sofa bed.
Sometimes you will be lucky and maybe
you won't.
I once asked him how he came to be.
Once I asked... Once I asked...
Once he came by softly and sneakily.
He gave me a wink and sorta flipped
his tail.
A presence so soft and warm and true.
He gave me a wink and sorta flipped...
You are the only one I can think of
You've lived far and wide..... large
and small happy all the time.

Mila



POETRY

SOUNDS

There are sounds from your written
words
Echoing across the distance,
Sounds as soft as rain on my window
And sounds that might be if I
listened hard,
Like those of sunlight fluttering
on water.

They are sounds from your heart,
And in the depth of a lonely night,
I pick your letter up
And I listen.

The trees stand naked against the
star-pricked sky,
The moon,
Like a great silver bird in the
night,
Encloses the woods with platinum
wings,
Pressing the darkness away,
Shielding every crevice from the
shadow of night.

Even as I stand here,
I feel the soft flutter of those
wings in my mind.
Though naked, as I am,
Alone,
Crossing eternities before birth
and after death,
Turning only to the stars for
answers,
I can feel the pale light quicken,
And in my solitude,
Let the moon-bird take me towards
the dawn.

Stephanie

War Cry

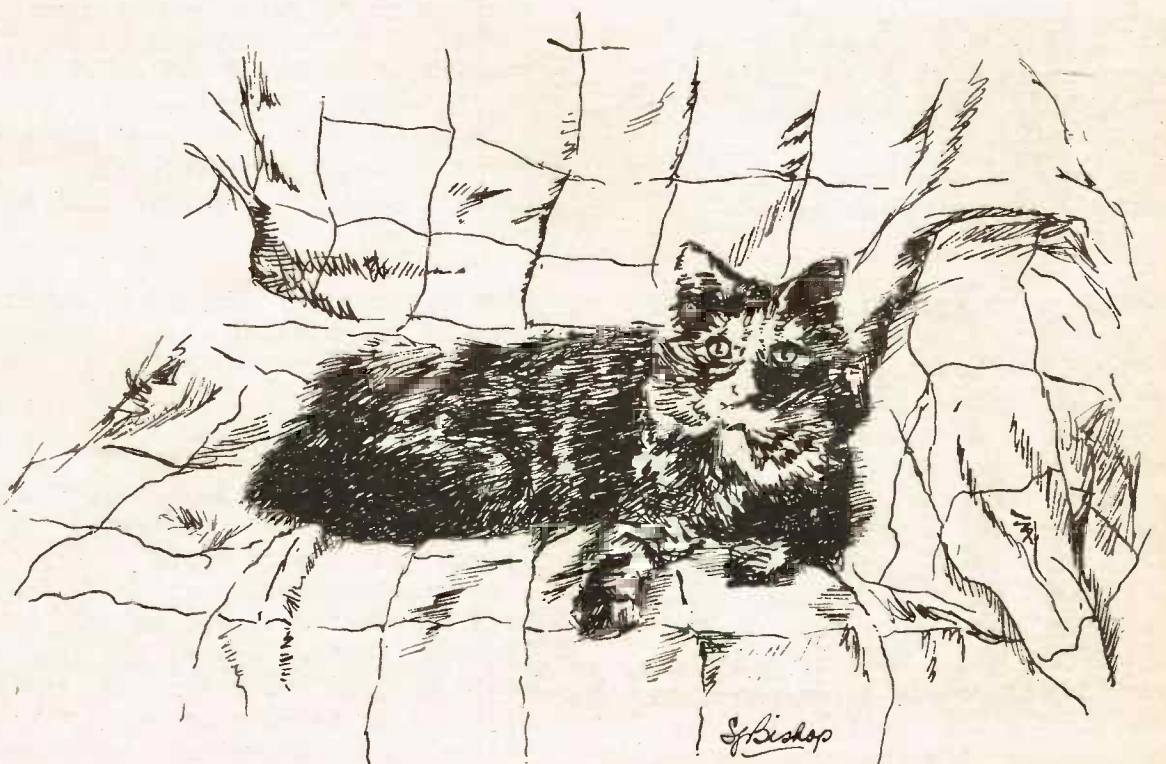
I am the ravaged victim.
There is nothing left to defend.
I am the stinking, female cadaver.
Left in the wake of a mad invading
army.
I scream out, to yet-unborn
generations of women---
Hear me---
Help me---
Save me---

Anon

Politics Anyone?

The play goes on and on
from day to dreary day
I sit transfixed
it is better than Another World
better than the restless young.
I ponder on the
quantity of swallowed air.
The price of tongue
We have for sale
More garbage by the pound--
More righteous posturing
More flexing of the Lung
Than Simple folk can bear--
Canadians, they say
from Coast to Rocky Coast
Are foaming at the mouth
A billion Canadian bucks
Will sun their back-sides
in the south.
And all because, because
Our faith has been destroyed
God knows we're pure
This Nation of achievers
We'd rather lose the Country
than admit we're unbelievers.

Gert



PROFILE

woman artist

This interview was done July 13, 1977 during Suzette Downey's exhibition of paintings at Keskus Mall.

Suzette Downey was born in Hearst, and presently lives in Longlac. She is French speaking. She has Grade 8 education. Prior to her marriage, 8 years ago, she worked in plywood plants in Hearst, but quit at her husband's request. Her interest in painting was renewed during the time she spent at home. She has little formal training: an art class in Longlac sponsored by the local recreation committee and a Confederation College art course. She's been selling her paintings for 10 years now, and has had exhibitions in Toronto and Thunder Bay. Recently she and another woman artist invested in greeting cards displaying their paintings. She has no children, but "has lots of fun trying." She spends approximately 8 hours a day, 5 days a week painting in her basement studio.



HOW DID YOU GET INTERESTED IN PAINTING?

When I was young I always coloured, and won the colouring contests. I was always best in class and the teacher would make me do all the decorations. At school I was terrible - zero on top of zero. Anything that had to do with spelling, I was terrible. Painting was my way of expressing myself.

I wanted to do something. It was a big hang-up for me to have only Grade 8. There was nothing I was going to do that would ever be great. I would have liked to have been a hairdresser - I really enjoyed doing it. But when I asked to take the course, I needed a higher grade. I would have liked to be a stewardess. But all the doors were closed. It was too late for me to go back - you can't redo your life. So to me art was a door to get there, to show that I could be somebody too. I came from a big family. I'm the oldest one and I'm the only one who didn't go to school - the others all

finished school and they're all somebody. And there I was... doing nothing. So it seemed art was my bag. I like sculpture and stuff like that, but I found after awhile that I was better at painting. So I try to exploit the thing I'm best at. I haven't 'made it' yet, but I will. And I'm not going to let go either. And there's another reason, too. All the people who go skiing or have hobbies aren't going to have anything left when they get older. When I'm 80 years old I'm still going to be able to dab. Men retire at 65 and half of them die within 5 years because they don't know what to do. It doesn't matter what happens to me,

I'm always going to have something to fall back on. If I leave town, I've got something. It's kind of nice.

HOW DID YOU FINANCE YOUR PAINTING?

I had a little money before I got married - not very much, but it was enough to buy painting supplies. I sold my first paintings for about \$75.00, just enough to buy material to make another one. I was so greedy about getting supplies that as soon as I sold a painting, I would right away go and buy supplies, in case I wasn't going to get anymore. It's hard to change that now - I have more supplies than I know what to do with. Friends and neighbours used to buy my paintings for \$25-35 as a kind of favour. Today they're glad they bought them.

DID YOU HAVE ANY SUPPORT TO CONTINUE PAINTING?

I like to talk about painting. I find it hard to talk to women who want to talk about housework or children. So for a long time I didn't have many friends.

People laughed at me when I started painting. They thought it was a big joke. 'Let her do some scribbles' was their attitude. A couple of relatives would be nice and say, keep going, keep going, but to the rest an artist was somebody who was dead and famous. People who are alive and painting aren't well enough known. People are changing now - it's not the same attitude.

My own hometown people started to accept me more because I went to Toronto to Fairview and because I have paintings in Lord Simcoe Gallery. When they see which galleries are buying my paintings they say, well, it must be good. You know you never do it in your own little town. You have to make it somewhere else before they accept it.

When I first got married my husband thought my painting was ok because it kept me busy, out of trouble. It wasn't a big deal. But when I started to sell them and bring the money home, well, that was good. That's how he started to take me seriously - when my art was paying for itself. Before it was just a nice hobby. He's pretty understanding about it now. He'd have to be to let me come here to Keskus for two weeks, and then I go to Longlac and Hearst for one week. At first he laughed at me, but when he saw I was determined, he changed his mind.

Last year I formed a group with four other women - we called ourselves Northern Ontario Artists Five. Instead of paying a lot of money when we went out of town, we stayed at each other's

houses. We shared the expenses for renting malls and advertising for exhibitions. It was very important to have that kind of help.

YOU WERE ENCOURAGED TO TAKE YOUR PAINTINGS TO TORONTO BY THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND TOURISM. HOW DID THAT WORK OUT?

I got jipped there. When I got there they only offered me about \$25.00 a painting. That was another catch. A big hope and then poof! I had no idea from them. They simply said, come to Toronto and we'll buy your paintings. Just because my paintings are in a gallery, doesn't mean I'm getting rich.

HOW WAS YOUR PAINTING RECEIVED IN TORONTO?

People figured it was a fantasy thing snow on a tree. They figured I was something else. It was like a fairy tale for them - not real. A person came and said some people think that northwestern Ontario has lots of Eskimos - people right in Toronto! You figure only people from the U.S. would say that.

YOU PUT A LOT OF ENERGY INTO SELLING YOUR PAINTINGS. IS IT HARD WORK?

It's not very nice to expose yourself in an exhibition, to say, 'here I am, these are my paintings and they're the result of 20 years of work.'

There are lots of women artists, or even some young boys who come and figure, oh, isn't she lucky, she's got it made, sitting in a mall with lots of paintings. But they don't know what it's really like. I don't even know if I'm going to sell one. And I have to invest money in rent, frames, pegboard for displaying and advertising. Maybe I will go in the hole. Every art show is a fight, and sometimes you lose. But you don't talk about that. Who's going to buy a painting from someone who didn't do very well?

Half of the artists are afraid to take the criticism that comes with exposing yourself. People say what junk it is, that prices are too high, who do you think you are. But they don't tell you to your face. When you ask them, they say, very nice, very nice.

I'm stubborn. I know what I want and I'm going to get it, even if it takes 10 years.

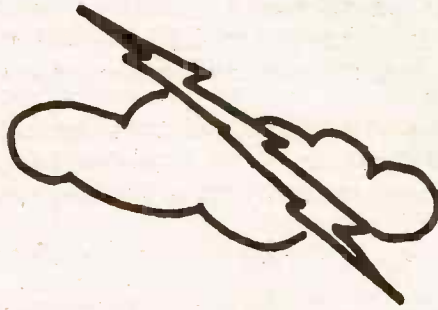
HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT YOUR OWN WORK?

Some of my paintings I like, some I don't even care about. But usually I'm wrong about my paintings. Something that I won't like will sell, and something I spend lots of time on and am really proud of, people don't pay so much attention to. The ones I pick to be my best are not as popular as the others.

WOMEN'S CENTRE IS HAVING A SERIES OF "WOMEN AND HEALTH" DISCUSSION GROUPS ON THURSDAY EVENINGS 7:30 p.m. BEGINNING JANUARY 12, 1978. THESE WILL CONTINUE THROUGH THE END OF FEBRUARY. SOME TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION WILL BE MENOPAUSE, ESTROGEN REPLACEMENT THERAPY, ACUPRESSURE, DRUGS-WHAT ARE YOU TAKING/SIDE EFFECTS, BIRTH CONTROL & ITS SIDE EFFECTS, MASTECTOMY, HYSTERECTOMY, NUTRITION, MENTAL HEALTH & WOMEN, PLUS OTHER TOPICS. THE FILM "TAKING OUR BODIES BACK" AND OTHERS WILL ALSO BE SHOWN. SUGGESTED READING IS "OUR BODIES OURSELVES" WHICH IS AVAILABLE ON LOAN AT 316 Bay St. RESOURCE PEOPLE WILL BE USED FOR THE DISCUSSION GROUPS AS WELL AS WOMENS' EXPERIENCE BY THOSE WHO HAVE LIVED WITH/ THROUGH THEIR OWN HEALTH PROBLEMS AND TREATMENT. WE ENCOURAGE ALL WOMEN TO COME TO LEARN AND SHARE THEIR HEALTH CARE EXPERIENCES.

THUNDER BOLT

To the justice system for their collective guilt in the perpetuation of oppression of WOMEN.....



THUNDER CLAP

To us, for struggling to keep this paper alive and to all the women who helped put Gert's book 'SALT AND YEAST' together.....

Salt and Yeast



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FOR COLLEGE WOMEN

given before, you're expected to give at the office. Don't owe any debts. Suggestion: You try to get money anyway you can -- and then cry rape.

The crown tried his best for a conviction, but he too was unable to pursue certain aspects -- because he tries rape as a sexual crime and not one of abuse and power. His line of questioning would have been appropriate if he was able to see a woman's point of view.

After the trial the media played on the fact that a group of women shouted unpleasantries to a man who had just been found innocent of a crime. Before, during and after we were given accounts from men and women about the accused 'paragon of virtue'. Two women reported that he was the same person who harassed them in university until one told him to fuck off. When the accused showed up at her home and her boyfriend appeared he made a hasty retreat. The other victim was not so lucky. He raped her. She reported it and the officer in-charge treated her story with disbelief.

One man overheard another man who was reading about the case in the paper and announced he hoped they got the son-of-a-bitch. Why? The 'paragon of virtue' had been his landlord and he had often heard women's screams from his apartment. Another man told us that a native woman was raped in the car of the accused, while three people watched. They refused to report what they had seen.

The Rape Crisis Centre: feel that rape should be defined in the criminal code as assault rather than sexual violations so convictions could be gained more frequently. It has been shown in studies that men have not raped for sex; they have sexual outlets. Rape is used to humiliate, intimidate, over-power, brutalize and control.

In its enthusiasm to protect innocent persons in this court system, they give more right to an accused rapist than they do to the victim. The sentence for assault should be changed from zero to life, with additional years applied to the degree of the offense. Attitudes toward women have to be changed. Men have to be changed. Men have to start paying for their crimes against women.

"AND AFTER HE WAS FINISHED WITH ME, HE HANDED ME TWENTY DOLLARS, I REFUSED IT!"

Member of Rape Crisis Centre

COURSES -- 1978

WOMEN IN HISTORY-Instructor: Joan Baril; Tuition \$30.00; Mondays from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., January 9 to April 17, 1978. Description: This subject traces the place of women in the history of western civilization from antiquity to the first two decades of the 20th Century. The final lectures will concentrate exclusively on the history of women in Canada consistent with the emphasis on unity as a priority for Canada. Students will be expected to select one woman or topic to present for group discussion (or perhaps in the case of a credit course, do a short essay on).

WOMEN AND PSYCHOLOGY-Instructor: Dr. B. Coomes; Tuition \$30.00; Tuesdays from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., January 10 to April 18, 1978. Description: A course designed to familiarize the student with basic psychological concepts as they relate to women. Alternatives to the traditional approaches are reviewed and discussed.

WOMEN MAKE MOVIES-Instructor: Rae Farrell; Tuition \$30.00; Thursdays from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., January 19 to April 20, 1978. Description: Can you recall one film you have seen that was directed by a woman? The most popular image of the great director is male. But women have been directing films since 1896.

For a refreshing change, view over 30 films made by women. Included are feature, short, documentary and animated films.

Women Make Movies is for everyone. It offers prize-winning international cinema to encourage a critical interest in the influence of women on film-making.

Some of the titles include Shirley MacLaine's, THE OTHER HALF OF THE SKY: A CHINA

MEMOIR and Judy Collin's, ANTONIA: PORTRAIT OF THE WOMAN.

WOMEN'S RE-ENTRY PROGRAM (W.R.E.P.)-Instructor: Sandra Steinhouse; Tuition \$25.00; Mondays and Wednesdays from 1:15 p.m. to 3:15 p.m., January 23 to March 15, 1978. Description: Do you want to return to work or to College, or to University? You do, but you're scared you lack certain basic skills?

This course will offer training in skills that the group decides are important to them. It will be limited to 16 women so that the group and individual needs will be satisfied.

Some examples of past training sessions include: listening effectively, non-verbal communication, report writing, preparing a proposal, role playing job interviews, giving a talk, how to use a library, problem solving, visiting apprentice-training centres, vocational guidance sessions, preparing a resume or job application forms, job search techniques, assertiveness training.

WOMEN AND THE LAW-Instructor: Dianne Baig; Tuition \$15.00; Tuesdays from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., January 24 to February 28, 1978. Description: A course designed to acquaint students with the law as it effects women. Topics include labour law, consumer, marriage and property laws, and laws dealing with children, sex and welfare.

REAL CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE-Instructor: Sandra Steinhouse; Tuition \$20.00; Wednesdays from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., January 25 to March 29, 1978. Description: Did you know that Harlequin Romances are the hottest item in the paperback industry? In 1974 there were 75 million sold in North America with a 79 % increase from the previous year.

The course will be a seminar-discussion type. We'll examine today's Harlequin Romances and compare them with those written in the 1950's and the 1930's to see how women are portrayed. Since popular literature reflects the leading values of culture, Harlequin Romances and Love Magazines are important to analyze in order to understand our Canadian society.

Suzette Downey

Con't from pg. 10

I like to do black and white. In painting, black and white is usually a no-no. First of all, you're not supposed to use black in a painting, and I'm trying to break that rule. And if I'm successful at it, black and white will be recognized, but there's no guaranty. I may get shot down all over the place. But I want to prove that black and white is beautiful.

I have a camper trailer and spend most of my time in the bush. That's what I paint. I think I'm better at that than at portraits anyway. So why not try to do what you're better at. I'll throw in another kind once in awhile to try to improve myself. Like my painting of the baby there - it's not real, it's kind of a caricature. But people like it. It makes them talk. It's like the skeleton I painted - that's just a conversation piece. People stop and say, ugh! or whatever. Then they notice something else. But when they're going a hundred miles an hour, they don't see anything. So when you get something like that, they don't like it, but at least they stop.



There are people who are a hell of a lot better than I am. But they don't do anything about it. It's a big waste. I think they're scared. I'm scared, but I try not to show it. I'm afraid of not making it. But if you don't try, you'll always say, if I had tried I probably would have made it.

IS IT HARDER TO BE A WOMAN AND AN ARTIST?

I think it's harder for women to be successful. She always has to ask her husband, can I go here? can I go there? A man, if he's an artist, he's going to find a woman who will follow him. Women like me, who can't support themselves, have to follow the men. If I was a man, I would get a woman to do what I'm doing here - sell my paintings. She would be my manager. A man can stay at home and paint and get his wife to go and do his dirty work for him - sit in a mall for 10 hours a day selling his paintings.

Suzette Downey will be holding another exhibition at Keskus Mall, Thunder Bay the first two weeks May 1978.

Her cards, plaques and paintings are carried by Art-Metal Stores (Thunder Bay), 36 S. Cumberland St. Her cards are also available at Woman's Place, 316 Bay St.; Small Wonders, Keskus; Val's Cards, Keskus; and the Written Word, Cumberland St. Or you can write directly to: Suzette Downey, Box 465, LONGLAC, Ontario, POT 2A0.

by Donna Shaw & Peggy Smith
(Special thanks to Faye Peterson for help in transcribing.)

reflections a mother

It took me more years than I am prepared to admit to understand the kind of fevered restlessness that drives a woman to cut herself loose from a man that in a child's mind, seemed to personify the very virtue of selflessness, - the happy hard-working nature that demanded nothing further from you than you be happy too. As a child, I lived and sometimes bore the load for the kind of harnessed fury that occasionally manifested itself in hysterical departures and the penitent tears of new beginnings. The quality of forgiveness as expressed by my father and encouraged in us by him cemented him in my mind as a saint. She would be good now, she would be happy and if she were happy, then we would all be happy, this mother whose capacity to dream dreams she had no hope of fulfilling would forget all that nonsense and get on with the business of hoeing the potatoes under penalty of destroying the happiness of this magnanimous family.

She did not, of course and, in due time, a further, by this time expected disappearance resulted in the little legal paper that said it was permanent. Operating from the lofty perch of self-righteousness and the sting of being abandoned, we comforted ourselves with the obvious, "We had lost nothing of any real value", we asked only for the opportunity to tell her she was unforgiveable. Our father remained the Saint and to this we added the further attraction of victim. The fact that she took nothing of value with her was not considered strange - after all, she deserved nothing.

We survived, of course, and it might even be said we flourished. We became independent deciders of our own fate and under the loose management of our father's benevolent trust there was an unspoken confidence in our ability to produce the best. We devised a pack mentality that consciously spared him any details of the occasional fall from Grace.

My mother pervaded my thoughts from time to time as I matured and married and became a mother myself. There were disturbing similarities in our natures which I tried to hide and dismiss but the old adage "the apple doesn't fall far from the tree," could make me cringe and send me into extreme soul-searching. I compensated by merging myself in my father's personality and had a spell of sweet passivity that to this day makes me shudder. Today I am able to assess both the mother and the daughter with something akin to profound regret that it took me so long to know either of them. I don't remember the cruel things she said and did out of her frustration; I remember, instead, the time she was asked to participate in a theatre group and we laughed at

her till she refused and how pleased my father was to see her make a sensible decision.

A thousand memories return to haunt me of the subtle oppression we all practiced to make her be what we wanted her to be and do what we wanted her to do. I see clearly the large spirit nailed in the small box, the strong encircled by the weak and the price one pays for survival.

I see them because I know them, not because I am my mother's daughter, but because I am a woman and the rules of the game demand she meet every expectation but her own.

It would seem this story has a chance for a happy ending where the mother and daughter could meet and find something of beauty in each other. This is not the case. Over the years that separated us, I had begun to think of that mother as one who took her freedom boldly and went on to live a triumphant and satisfying life. I found an elderly woman, unhappy and cringing under the cross of guilt. I found her desperately searching for someone to shoulder the blame for her unhappiness, unable to speak of herself in any terms but self-pity and still resentful that she had wasted so much of her life for a husband she never wanted and the children who became a reason for not leaving sooner. I found her aggressively demanding that after all these years we make it up to her, that her grandchildren and their children who never knew her, produce the kind of love accorded a beloved grandmother. I found hysteria and tears if a birthday was forgotten. I realized to understand is not enough, I had to deal with the transference of her own deep-seated guilt. I could not do it as a daughter, I had to do it as a woman and that is the base of our new relationship.

But I have had a glimpse of the price she paid for the freedom she is unable to enjoy, and I am glad that in a similar circumstance I chose to struggle and grow to my present feeling of self-worth.

Northern Woman Journal page 13

DREAMS for SALE

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To start with the kind of facts which are usually impressive in our culture, note that the Harlequin Romances, all by themselves, account for about 10 percent of the entire paperback book publishing industry in North America. Not bad for a Canadian company, eh? They are the hottest thing in publishing. If you want to invest money in a growing business, look at these figures: from 1965 to 1975, HR sales increased from 6 million books sold annually to 75 million annually. In the year 1974 alone, there was an increase of 79 per cent in sales over the previous year, and that trend is continuing. Total income from the Romances increased well over 200 per cent in just the two-year period 1973 to 1975, and that trend is continuing too. Of the more than 140 HR writers, several have very good incomes indeed from royalties, and at least one makes well over \$100,000 a year.

Who are the readers that come up with all that money? HR told the *Financial Post* that its TV ads are aimed at "the women...who watch the afternoon soap-operas and quiz shows" But that represents only a group HR is trying to draw in. Those who already read Harlequins, according to a quick survey taken by two Regina University students, include women from ten to fifty, from just about all walks of life: factory workers, secretaries, housewives on all economic levels, university students. (Of the women students in university freshman classes that I polled recently, over half said they were or had been HR readers.)

So what do people relax with, in Harlequins? That's easy to say, because Harlequins are written to a formula. They are all much alike; only the details of names, places particular twists of plot, etc, are likely to change. The typical Harlequin Romance is the story of a girl in her very early twenties who has not yet met the man she will love. Either she has just left home and is working, or she is an orphan and never had a real home. She is humble. She sees herself as plain, simple, not loveable - though others probably see her as interesting and pretty. She is a good girl, inexperienced sexually, and full of ideals. She would never cheat or try to deceive a man. Her work may be interesting and she may take pride in it, but it is essentially meaningless. Working is simply something to do until Mr. Right comes along, and then she will quit her job and devote herself only to him and his children (and bossing his servants).

She falls in love, always, with a man who is about twelve years older, who is strong, handsome, rich and successful. No taking chances on a young man who may or may not make good! This man has already made good, in a big way. He owns a chateau in France, or an estate in Spain. He comes from

a proud and ancient family. Or perhaps he is in high diplomatic circles, or is a famous (and wealthy) novelist, or he owns a very successful mill or fashion design company. He is highly respected.

The narrative key to the Harlequins is that the woman is always a child in her relationship to the man. She is a nobody; he is a big shot. She comes into his world like a waif. To emphasize this, his world is likely to be high society in France, or Hawaii or Japan, or one of the Arab nations. In this world, he knows everything; she knows nothing, not even the language. He looks down at her five-foot-two-inches from his six-foot-one, and calls her "little one" or "ma petite" or "child". When she does something naughty, disobeying his orders, he sighs but understands, and murmurs only, "Are you always so disobedient?"

When she falls off a ladder, or a stone wall, or a horse, he is always there to catch her in his strong arms, and comfort his one. When he finds her trespassing on his estate with a little boy she is taking care of, she and the child confront him like two naughty children, and later, "he was haunted by the image of Janie, tightly holding the child's hand, both of them smiling up at him timidly." Still later, he realizes that "it was the child in Janie... which first touched and charmed him.

As a matter of fact, one of the most important dreams the Harlequins let a reader indulge in is the dream that you don't have to grow up. Be good, be chaste, be idealistic, be patient, and sooner or later that one man destined for you will come along, with his money and prestige, and hand you the world on a platter. You don't have to do anything. Just wait, and be good, and you will make the transition from being Daddy's child to being hubby's child. You don't have to grow up.



In recent years the Harlequins have been gradually becoming more overtly sexual. The woman now feels sexual passion, and can even imagine herself sharing the man's bed.

The kisses are becoming less gentle and wholesome, and more frankly passionate. Also the hero is changing. A decade or two ago, he was likely to be a cold, lonely man, disappointed in love and therefore cynical about women, with no one to share his wealth and prestige until the childish purity of the heroine redeems him. Nowadays, he is more likely to have the same odd mixture that Tarzan of the Apes had: both an impeccable gentleman of the

old school, and at the same time a beast. He has a black belt in judo, rides like a centaur, drives sports cars at over a hundred miles an hour. He is harsh, arrogant, spoiled, even cruel - to everyone but her, of course. In short, HR is edging out of the wholesomeness business and edging into the passion and masochism business. Eventually, the HR readers may have to look somewhere else for gentleness and wholesomeness.

In other words, we have something here which needs explaining. Almost everyone looks down on the Harlequins or is ashamed to admit reading them. When I asked a university class to read *Garden of Dreams* (HR 1943) they objected that people might see them carrying the book around. And yet women read them, in such large numbers as to make HR writers and investors rich.

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One of the odd things about our culture is that so many people think that stories, fantasies and dreams have no meaning and are of no importance. How many people say they watch TV shows or read Harlequins or Westerns just to relax, or "just for pleasure" as if it didn't matter what they were doing while they relax or enjoy themselves. People know that what you put in your stomach when you eat can either make you healthy or make you sick, or listless, or even dead - but sometimes the same people think you can feed your mind any kind of diet at all and stay healthy mentally and emotionally. But it does make a difference what you enjoy and what you do to relax. Any folklorist or anthropologist knows that the popular literature of a culture is always meaningful. Taken as a whole, the stories of a culture always reflect the leading values of the culture.

But as long as they can, the HR publishers will try to keep readers looking for solutions in exotic dreams, "wishing something that (in real life) could never come true." Instead of doing anything about their lives, instead of doing anything about society, instead of trying to make the world a better place, HR readers will take their literary tranquilizers and "escape" into the world as they think it ought to have been. What are they escaping from? Not from their problems! No - as a matter of fact, they dream about those problems - about loneliness,

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boredom, isolation, the lost little child in the adult, about marriage and the roles of the sexes, about money, about what it means to be happy. They take all these real problems right along with them, in order to dream about phony magic solutions to them. HR tells them all the wrong answers:

1. Don't do anything -- just wait.
2. Money is happiness.
3. Social status is happiness.
4. Work, and working people are vulgar.
5. Society is perfectly all right. Only your own personal loneliness is the problem.
6. So: Don't try to change anything. A rich, arrogant capitalist will come along and save you, and you will realize that the world is fine the way it is. Or, if it's too late for that in your life, you can dream that it ought to have been like that, and be nostalgic for the world as it ought to have been. Such a sweet sadness!

WHO ARE WE?

The outcome of many years of growth and painful struggle. I am now trying to say how I feel about when he says, "This is the way I am." I start feeling guilty for I am asking too much or I am wanting too much! He says I want him to change to be something he is not.

Do you feel tired, fed up with bumping your head against his wall of indifference, intolerance and apparent lack of understanding? Do you compromise, sell out, give in AGAIN? It seems to be a deadhead - a stalemate - but something has got to give.

As women, I feel we continue loving, caring and giving even when he is tired, drunk, ready to quit so many times. We continue to be the putter-upper-witthers - but where and when will the changes happen? Who does it? We do.

We sisters are changing, but to have change, we have got to do something. We have so much to give. Let's not let his apathy discourage our creativity, our growth and our ability to change. We are logical, intelligent, zestful and especially loving human beings. Our emotional display is our strength. We cry, we laugh, we feel the pain, the love and let it out.

I'm proud to say I am a woman. Who are we? We are sisters. We are women, we are changing.

Donna Shaw

"Is there to be no romance, then?" That is the response of many Harlequin readers, to people who talk against the Harlequins. There must be romance, yes, by all means. Properly speaking, *Romance* means "dreaming about things as they ought to be," as distinguished from *realism*, which means "describing things as they already are." No individual and no society ever made any real progress without romance - that is, without dreaming about a better way of life. How could they? You have to imagine a better world before you can try to achieve it.

One of the great troubles with our literature (both popular and "serious") is that today there is so little romance that leads us into growth. Most of the stories we see or read, in novels, or on TV, or in the movies, are either sick romances that go nowhere, or sick so-called realism about how rotten and hopeless everything is.

Our literature makes us dream that only big Daddy can bring us security, peace, happiness. We can do nothing

by ourselves, nothing by working together. In other words, the same system that controls our lives and our jobs also controls our dreams, and the irony is that we pay the system handsomely for doing that. No male chauvinist ever put down a woman more insultingly than women put themselves down when they pay HR to let them dream that dream of big Daddy. That, finally, is what's wrong with the Harlequins. Like so many other stories in our culture, they are dreams that demean and belittle us, and keep us from growing, and keep us, too, from doing anything about making the strong dreams, the real dreams, the dreams about a better world, come true.

Bob Cosbey
Next Year Country Saskatchewan
News Magazine
Vol. 4 #5

FACT - there is more energy expended in one hour of ballet than in an entire football game



DON'T MOURN.... ORGANIZE

Answer to riddle on pg. 3
The answer is the doctor is the boy's MOTHER, of course.

DAY CARE NEWS



PROVINCE

The Ontario Welfare Council Action Committee on Day Care prepared a report following a series of meetings (Feb 10-12, 1977) in which Ontario Private Home Day Care was studied.

Recommendations which are discussed in the report are listed below:

1. That provincial regulations and guidelines recognize the need to provide additional funding to meet the needs of exceptional children in private home day care and, more specifically, that costs related to providers' fees, special support staff, equipment, program supplies and transportation be recognized.

2. That subsidized private home day care be made accessible to children 12 years of age and over with documented special needs which can be met by this service.

3. That the province and municipal governments recognize the administrative costs of assisting parents who are ineligible for subsidized care to obtain approved private home day care placements for which the parents would provide full payments to providers.

4. That provincial regulations and guidelines recognize the additional costs of providing alternative care when, due to sickness or other special circumstances, children cannot be cared for within their regular day care homes.

5. That provincial regulations and guidelines be altered to allow for greater rates of payment for care during irregular hours (i.e., 4 day weeks, weekends, shifts and late hrs.)

6. It is recommended the day care provider be recognized as a person giving a skilled service, and that this should be acknowledged by the community.

7. That provincial guidelines should recognize the need for private home day care programs to provide necessary program supplies and equipment to enable providers to create a stimulating and enjoyable environment for the children in their care.

8. That further study is needed to develop a flexible system of staff ratios which would recognize differences in job descriptions, turnover of homes and children, differences in geographic areas and the differences in community needs (i.e., multi-cultural demands, stresses of urban living, etc.)

9. It is essential that all agencies/organizations providing private home day care have a multidisciplinary of staff insofar as educational backgrounds are concerned, (i.e., social work, early childhood education, nursing, nutrition). Competency is expected over and beyond academic qualifications.

10. That regulations under The Day Nurseries Act and related provincial guidelines should be revised to require home visits on a monthly rather than a quarterly basis, and that related records should be available for municipal review.

11. The report also makes specific suggestions for improving the economic situation of day care providers.

CITY

Mr. MacLeod, on behalf of the City Social Services Dept., responded to these recommendations. On some points there is agreement, and on some there is strong disagreement.

No. 1: Our City feels we should recognize the needs of exceptional children with equipment and transportation--but not special support, this being available "through other community resources".

No. 2: Our City agrees.

No. 3: Our City charges all costs to parents who are ineligible for subsidy. In fact, the City charges more than actual costs. (See the article in last issue for a breakdown of child care charges.)

No. 4: Our City agrees that the area of emergency alternative care should be studied.

No. 5: Because irregular hours of care would "put the cost of the program beyond the reach of full paying clients and create additional expenses to the Municipality", our City has not adopted a policy of

providing this care. I do not get the impression of their intending to do so in the foreseeable future either.

No. 6: Full agreement.

No. 7: Our City agrees.

No. 8: Our City program operates on the basis of 25 homes per worker, and feels the actual number of children is not a good indicator of work load. "We can appreciate that in remote under-populated areas

that the ratio may be too high, and would suggest that this is the only area of change that should be considered."

No. 9: "As mentioned previously, we feel very strongly that this is a Child Care Program and therefore should be staffed by child development specialists." Again, the fear of increasing costs precludes the possibility of considering this alternative.

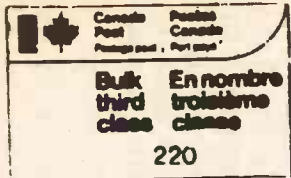
No. 10: The City already offers excellent supervision of the program--"...our contact with Providers is at a minimum of a weekly basis, and at present the supervisor also has contact a minimum of once every quarter".

No. 11: The City response is that "We are strongly opposed to the concept of hiring Day Care Providers as Municipal employees." Rather, the City would continue to deny them employee benefits such as holiday and sick pay, or guaranteed wages. "...to suggest that Providers would be paid for care which is not in fact provided would result in increased administrative overhead...and result in increased fees being charged to persons who are not creating the problem but would be subjected to pay their share of these increased costs." No mention of Municipal responsibility--always the threat of added charges to parents who use the service, forcing the parents into a position of accepting/permitting the exploitation of Providers in order to continue receiving day care.

The City does not provide funds for the purchase of "start up materials", nor does it assume responsibility for the liability insurance a Provider must have.

The City does attempt to provide income tax information to Providers who are eligible for special exemptions as "self-employed" individuals.

In answering the question, "Who Pays for Day Care?", it seems it is a joint responsibility--the Municipality subsidizes low income families, full paying parents add some to the pot, and the Providers also help to underwrite the cost of day care.



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