

# Northern Woman Journal

90¢

Thunder Bay, Ont.

7.5

NOVEMBER 1982



**we must work collectively —  
if we don't, our energies die**



# Your VOICE

Dear Sisters :

The last Journal surfaced while I was doing some cleaning, and this time I noticed the asterisk! (Time to renew - Ed.).

I would not want to miss a single issue; I usually devour each one cover to cover the day it arrives. In the last one I particularly enjoyed Joan Baril's report on Judy Chicago's Dinner Party. I would love to see it but it would have to come closer than Toronto.

As for Joe Borowski, his attempts to stop legal abortion fall into my definition of "obscene". If he would use his energy to stop the killing of women, men and children in wars - people already born, about whose personhood there is no doubt - he'd be doing some thing more to the point. The fact that he is contesting a law affecting only women, with the money (taxes) of both men and women, only adds to the obscenity. Yes let's stop Borowski.

Please keep the Journal alive - we need it, lest we become complacent over small gains and forget that there are many who would like to turn back the clock.

Yours in sisterhood,  
Kay Tingley,  
Red Lake.

Dear Collective Members :  
I have just completed reading the last issue of the Journal and was impressed, as always, with the variety of feminist issues covered and the quality of presentation.

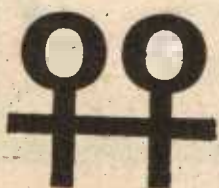
The Journal is a fine undertaking and never disappointing. Keep up the good work !

Yours truly,  
Joy Fedorick,  
Community Outreach Officer,  
Women's Bureau - Northern Office,  
Ministry of Labour.

Thanks for publishing a paper that expresses what so many of us feel but cannot articulate and so often feel frustrated and angry because we can't. Our worst "enemy" - women who don't believe that other women live in less than perfect conditions. It really shakes me that so many of these ivory tower women are not of my over 40 generation but are less than 30.

Best of luck in your future endeavours.

Shirley Browning,  
Dorchester, Ont.



# BATTERING

"The Silent Crime"

Wife battering is one of Canada's biggest cover-ups. It is obscured on police occurrence sheets and social worker case reports as a "domestic dispute" or "family violence".

Wife battering knows no geographical, economic or cultural boundaries. Any woman can find herself a battered spouse.

Wife beating is rarely a one-time occurrence.

Wife battering often results in serious injuries. Fully 20% of Canadian homicidal deaths are the result of one spouse killing another.

Battered wives often feel they have no place to go, no protection from their husbands, little money to live on, and little access to professional help.



## HAVE YOU TOO BEEN ABUSED?

The Women's Centre is here to support you.

We care ... think about dropping in or telephone our counsellors.

**345-5841**

**345-7802**

# WOMEN'S CENTRE



Fiona Karlstedt

Women's Centre, in conjunction with the National Action Committee on the Status of Women, participated in a public education event on the streets of Thunder Bay on October 16. Formally proclaimed as "Unity Day with Battered Women" by the City of Thunder Bay, its objective was to increase public awareness of the problem of wife battering and, hopefully, lead to greater recognition of the issue and support of services for these women.

That time of the fiscal year has arrived and Women's Centre is again actively seeking financial support from various sources. An application has been submitted to the Thunder Bay Foundation for funds to revise and update our kits and publications on battering and sexual harassment, as well as a centre fact sheet. Our submission to Secretary of State is to be discussed and finalized at a meeting scheduled for Saturday, December 4th, 10-4 p.m. at W.C. You are invited to participate, so if you can attend, please make a note of the date.

Women's Centre is sponsoring "Outreach 82" a public education project in which the kit on battering will be taken out into the community. Vija Russell, Barbara Fotherby and Colleen Jimoh have been hired



Karen Lockwood

and will be addressing interested groups in the city and surrounding area on the topic within the next four months. If you know of any group who would be interested, please give them a call at the Centre.

Women's Centre has been active in the schools speaking to students on the issues of women and the law, pensions, employment, and pro choice perspective.

Sabine Berg, a fourth year LU nursing student, recently completed her placement with Women's Centre. Consistent with our interest in and promotion of community health, it was a valuable learning experience for both Sabine and the Centre.

Joyce Michalchuk was recently appointed to fill the vacancy on the Board of Directors.

If you are interested in more information regarding Women's Centre activities, drop in or call - we'll be happy to tell you more.

As part of our campaign for funding, we are asking YOU to write a letter setting out why you believe Women's Centre deserves support! Let's hear from you ...



# ♀ Reclaim the Night

Taken From Fight Back -- Feminist

Resistance to Male Violence 1981

by Janet Howard

As I read this first sentence, a woman somewhere is being beaten until she is bloody and half conscious, not sure if she is alive or dead.

By the time I have completed reading this page, several more women will have been beaten, -- and at least one other woman will be aching with the pain and terror of rape.

We are here because we are aware of violence against women - injury, abuse and destruction directed against and experienced by women. In this country and in many other countries around the world women are the object of a violence so wide ranging and so much the result of interlocking oppression that to untangle the violent web and understand the different strands will take a long, long time and the collective work of many people.

Women in this world are owned bought and sold, paid unlivable wages, forced to work hard and provide services for no money at all, locked away, sterilized, used to sell every product that makes a profit, burned alive, drowned at birth, lobotomized, denied basic human rights ...

Somewhere along the list of grievances we come to the physical abuse of individual women by individual men - the isolated, raw violence - of a specific man against a specific woman, or a group of specific men against a specific women.

An individual violence that repeats itself again and again to become a kind of MASS violence. The violence known as rape is increasing, and already the number of known cases is staggering; the records suggest that a woman is raped every 13 min. in Canada. But reported rapes are only a very small percent - it is estimated 1 in 10 women report it. It is impossible to estimate the real number because women who are raped often choose to keep quiet rather than face further attacks from family, the law, and the rapist himself.

The definition of rape is very different depending on who you talk to.

The province defines rape very narrowly in terms of penetration and presence of semen--as if rape is something that happens to the vagina--not a whole woman. A woman experiences rape every time a man forces her into performing a sexual act against her will.

Force takes many forms: actual physical force, the use of weapons, the threat of losing a job or being deported, and the threat of death.

As read by Carol McColl on the steps of Thunder Bay's City Hall on September 17, 1982.



## DEAL WITH HARASSMENT

A quick glance through any newspaper should be enough to convince anyone that all women regardless of age, income or race, are vulnerable to attacks. Therefore all should have a knowledge of self defense as one of their basic life skills. As unpleasant as the subject of assaults is, it is one no woman can afford to ignore.

Wen-Do is a system of self defense designed for women. A very efficient form that teaches awareness, avoidance and reaction to attacks. Wen-Do was developed in Toronto in the early seventies by the Paige family. The physical components of the course are from a combination of martial arts and street fighting techniques. The basic course is from 12 to 14 hours long. It can be structured to fit into any schedule. Examples of class times are: -an intensive two full day weekend - once a week, three hours per session for four or five weeks.



Wen-Do offers ways to deal with harassment on the streets, in public places, at parties and with physical and sexual assaults. An advantage this course has over others is the emphasis on women, their socialization and conditioning and their needs. It is taught by women and only women attend the classes.

The mental aspect of the course is equally important as the physical. Often the most valuable thing that originates from this course is the feeling of self-confidence, the belief in oneself. To realize that

you can be effective in your environment, in your life, is a definite asset. Women have stated that taking Wen-Do has enabled them to be more active in their lives. Until now women have had no concept of attack situations; they have had no concept of their self power. Through Wen-Do women have been discovering this power.

## IT'S YOUR DECISION

In every situation you must make the decision to fight or not to fight, considering all the variables of yourself, your assailant and the environment the attack is taking place in. If you decide to resist you must put one hundred percent of your effort into your defense.

For women who wish to train more intensively and keep up their skill there is intermediate and advanced Wen-Do. Again the classes are made up of mental and physical sections. Women learn different types of kicks, punches and blocks, sparring (training of defense and counter attacks) and katas (stylized movements using different forms and combinations of movements). There is no set course length. There is a sliding ranking scale of six steps. At the second rank women are able to take an instructor's course to enable them to pass on their information and experience. From a basic course it is expected a woman will become proficient in one or two favorite techniques.

CONTACT PARKS & REC 6232711 FOR MORE INFORMATION RE DATES OF FEBRUARY COURSE





# YIP YIP SUR LA RIVIERE !

Two hours out on the South Kawishiwi River in a party of four canoes and ten women I realize that my fears about this five-day canoe trip are groundless. I lean back into the stroke happy to see the July sun glint off water and paddle drops. The shore of the wide and incredibly beautiful river slides by in cliffs, spruce and swamp. The women are laughing and talking, meeting each other for the first time.

Another tour by Woodswomen, the women owned wilderness outfitters of Minneapolis was gliding off into the Boundary Waters Canoe Area of Northern Minnesota.

At the first portage, I make my little speech. "I cannot carry the canoes or heavy packs, only the paddles and lighter stuff. I'm apologizing now for the whole trip."

I scan the womens' faces. All are smiling acceptance without a hint of the disgruntled expression so familiar to back sufferers when they have to beg off heavy work. Judith Niemi, our guide and a founder of Woodswomen had been infirmed of my disability a month previous when I first signed up. Now she smiled. "Don't apologize. We've had lots of bad backs on our trips and people with other disabilities too."

"We don't keep a list, but I don't want anyone to do more than her share." Someone in the group giggles: "That's surely a speech designed for women. I bet when you take a group of men camping you don't have to remind them not to over-do on dishes."

Evening campfire in a world dimming into lavender dark. Women's conversations. A topic moves out, is encircled by our experience, enlarges into a thought-field. We learn and listen and add, we brood and study, we joke and toss the conversation back and forth across the fire like hoop dancers. We can feel our own human force field emerging in the black bush and gold light. We do not try to score points, nor hammer home a point of view. There is no thrust and parry talk, no desire to impress or to "solve" all problems. We are women after all.

We discuss American politics, the "fundies" (rabid anti-women religious fundamentalists), the fifties, children, marriage - surprisingly only one of us is married and she wishes she weren't - divorce, the single life, being 40 or older, living alone and living with someone, the lives of women, and of course the lives of men.

in the mapping of the course as some women do. Mmm. I grit my teeth and ask Mary to teach me how to cast. Somewhere in my heart, I realize, is a little black hard pebble marked "Impossible. You can't do it." I fling the rod out according to her directions and the line sings through the blue air in a perfect arc. "To hell with fishing--I'm casting." I am elated and just cast again and again.

Two days later I'm standing on the shore studying a long flashy set of rapids using my new white-water skills. I'm checking for deep water vs. standing waves, the dangerous rock-concealing pillows. Next, I'm in the bow, twisting through the course, in a tremendous high. After one particularly exciting run, Judith carried the canoe back over the portage and we ran it again, just for the pleasure of it. Chris, a champion kyaker, says: "White water is addictive."

So I learn to cast, to whitewater, to map read, to make a fire with a flint; but, the little pebble is still there. I ponder on its origin as we sweep along. There were many times in my life when I tried to learn something but was balked. Lost and enlightening memories ripple in. For instance, my first driving



An hour later, over the portage and on our way, my second worry melted away. There was not a "bush jock" in the group, and certainly our two guides Judith Niemi and Kris Frish didn't qualify (Bush Jock: one who insists on paddling thirty miles a day, who trots over the portages and refuses to lie down at night until all muscles are exercised into knots of pain; has a raucous guilt-producing call ending on a rising note, "All right! All right! Let's go! Let's go!")

Woodswomen, I realize, deliberately designs their trips as a relaxed focussing into the wilderness with time to learn camping skills and to zen in on the details--a flower, a bird call, a sunset. This is an over-40 trip, eight women from various parts of the U.S. plus two guides. I am the only Canadian. Decisions are made collectively and amiably, sometimes slowly. "Everybody should do their fair share of cooking and dishes," says Judith,

Meg Cruikshank of San Francisco has a definition: "Whatever can be measured, weighed, compared, rated, counted, quantified in any way - that has importance to the masculine world."

The next evening as Mary is fishing, two men in canoes glide past. "How many fish have you caught? How much do they weigh? How far did you paddle today?" Those of us within earshot fall to the ground in laughter.

I learn something new and deep about myself that sends me spiraling down a well of self-knowledge. I realize I resist learning new things which require manual skill. On a sunset canoe tour of the lake with Peg, I'm happy to learn from her about the San Francisco life-style, her teaching experiences and a book she is editing. I'm fascinated. But the next day, I don't join the group around Marianne who are learning to filet fish. Mmm. Nor do I take out my compass and get involved

lesson. It was in Ottawa and my husband, who was my driving teacher,

directed me without any prior instruction into Confederation Circle at rush hour. Round and round the War Memorial I went in a complete panic--my first time at the wheel. When I finally got out I was so shaken I decided driving was too difficult for me. My husband agreed, no doubt secretly pleased that his plan to retain control of the car (and me) had worked so well and that he hadn't killed himself carrying it out. He convinced me that he himself had learned to drive instinctively without lessons but that I was the sort of person who could never learn.

Cont'd on pg.18



# Health Wanted

## finally, health project a reality

by Teresa Legowski

In Northwestern Ontario, the predominant policy of physicians is to perform cesaerians on women with the risk of a breech birth. As well, it is also their policy to perform C-sections on each successive birth. This is one of the many health issues that the Northwestern Ontario Women's Health Education Project (W.H.E.P.) will be addressing.

The project received funding from Health and Welfare Canada for the first of its three year operation, and started rolling September 1st. The four co-ordinators, who are working together within a job-sharing and collective structure, are Heather Woodbeck, Margot Morgan, Dianne Loucks and Teresa Legowski.

The basic philosophy of the project is to promote personal responsibility for women's health through education.

Working as far east as Homepayne, and as far west as Kenora, the co-ordinators hope to have 13 target communities gear their health



From left to right, Dianne Loucks, Heather Woodbeck, Margot Morgan, Teresa Legowski.

education to their own specific needs. Through questionnaires and workshops, the project will attempt to bring a balanced viewpoint of health information to all women in Northwestern Ontario.

Anyone who is interested in W.H.E.P. may contact the office at 214 Red River Road, Suite 4, in Thunder Bay, phone 345-1410, 345-7583.

When all coffee, tea, colas and chocolate were eliminated from the diet of women in the study who had FBD, 13 of 20 women (65%) experienced complete disappearance of all palpable breast nodules, pain, tenderness and nipple discharge in one to six months. Also, Minton found that once women began to consume caffeine again FBD reappeared.

In another study, 66 women with FBD were placed on a caffeine restricted diet. Improvement in breast symptoms occurred with 88% of the patients and 91% had a reduction in palpable nodularity.

Very few studies have been done on this subject but the authors advise that any radical surgical procedures should be postponed for at least two months. During this period the woman should attempt a restricted caffeine diet with constant monitoring of FBD symptoms by her doctor.

## C.A.R.A.L.

What is Childbirth by Choice? Briefly, childbirth by choice means freedom of choice in planning ones family.

It means a woman should not be pressured to bear a child against her will.

It means a woman should not be pressured to have an abortion against her will.

CARAL believes that women should have the freedom to choose whether or not to continue an unplanned, undesired pregnancy. Our position is the one taken in the United Nations Human Rights Declaration of 1968 (signed by Canada) and further enunciated at the UN-sponsored International Women's Year Conference in Mexico City in 1976: "Every couple and every individual has the right to decide freely and responsibly whether or not to have children as well as to determine their number and spacing, and to have information, education and means to do so."

If you believe that you, not the government should decide when you will or won't have a child, then you are what the "Right to Lifers" call "Pro-Abortion."

Frankly, we at CARAL don't know anyone who is "pro-abortion." But all birth control methods can fail and unwanted pregnancies do occur.

Some people feel abortion is immoral. Others feel it is immoral for a government to force a woman to bear a child or to force her to risk an illness or death with a back-alley butcher.

An unwanted pregnancy is a situation faced by thousands of Canadians every day. It's a situation where there are no good answers, only rational decisions. The "Right to Life" people are unrelenting in their campaign to make your decision for you. And they won't stop without a fight.

It should be our choice.

The purpose of CARAL is to ensure that no woman in Canada is denied access to safe, legal abortion. Our aim is the repeal of all sections of the Criminal Code dealing with abortion, and the establishment of comprehensive contraceptive and abortion services, including appropriate counselling, across the country. "We regard the right to safe, legal abortion as a fundamental human right".

## Coffee, Tea and Lumpy

by Teresa Legowski.

A recent article in the pharmaceutical magazine On Continuing Practice (Volume 9, No. 9, 1982) has linked fibrocystic breast disease (FBD) with caffeine consumption. Fibrocystic breast disease is defined as a benign condition in which there are many painful lumps in the breasts.

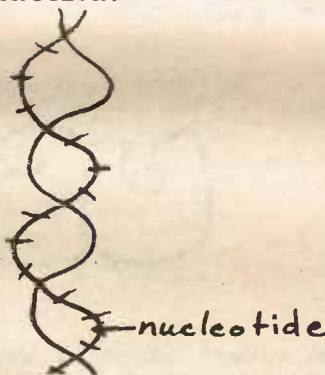
Besides the famous coffee bean, caffeine exists in other commonly consumed substances. Following, is a brief diagram demonstrating caffiene content per unit for different items.

Item	Caffeine content /unit
Brewed coffee	64-124mg/140ml cup
Instant coffee	40-108mg/140ml cup
Decaffeinated Coffee	2-5mg/140ml cup
Tea	30-48mg/tea bag
Instant tea	24-31mg/140ml cup
Ovaltine natural	5.5mg/19 g powder
Ovaltine chocolate	8.2mg/19 g powder
Cola	32-65mg/336ml
<u>Drugs</u>	
Frosst 222 or 282	30mg caffeine citrate
Tylenol #1 or #2	30 mg caffeine citrate
Choledyl	100.200 or 300mg

(Caffeine citrate contains 50% caffeine)

Understanding how caffeine contributes to FBD involves some biochemistry. Putting it simply, the action takes place at the DNA molecule level. This molecule carries genetic information in body cells and controls the type of growth that occurs. The DNA is made up of four different kinds of nucleotides, each of them responsible for a particular function.

The diagram of the DNA molecule shows its typical spiral form, made up of nucleotides in a linear succession.



Every fourth nucleotide is called c-AMP and its function in the DNA is twofold: assisting in energy transportation and transmission of genetic information.

However c-AMP doesn't work unless its broken down into another nucleotide called 5-AMP. An enzyme performs this job.

Now when caffeine enters the picture it acts as a "lock" that fits the "key" enzyme and stops it from performing its function. Eventually, the body cells develop a very high concentration of c-AMP. For some reason (and no one knows why) high c-AMP concentrations are directly associated with FBD development.

Two studies were cited in the article. J.P.Minton conducted a study in which normal breast tissue was compared to benign and malignant breast tissue. In benign lumps, c-AMP existed 1.5 times the normal level. In malignant tissue c-AMP existed five times the normal value.



# UPDATE

●●● Cabin Fever - we used to call it 'getting bushed'. It strikes isolated trappers in the winter and young mothers at any time. Now a group of local women have decided to designate one day in January as Cabin Fever Day and not a minute too soon either. The idea is to make people aware of the behaviour changes caused by isolation. An education workshop will be held in February. The women call themselves 'The Cabin Fever Connection',... The women also won a prize for the best Public Service Booth at the Hymer's Fair. They set up a 'Baby Change and Feed' area - marvelous idea. For more information contact the Rural Resource Office at Kakebeka Falls 577-1211 mornings. ●●● "I've gone through a whole personality change since starting work here", says Fiona Karlstedt, administrator of the Women's Centre. "When you work in a traditional office you lose the ability to think. Here at the centre I'm being creative again - I'm starting to think again. It sounds corny but it's true" ●●● Fiona brings a lot of business and administrative experience to the Centre. She had her own successful secretarial business for three years and then worked in a local law firm. "The first few days I was just drowning here" says Fiona. "The work is so varied, so unstructured compared to office routine. I felt under pressure to produce something but I often didn't know how to equate what I did with money. So much goes on here. You have to find a balance. One day I sat and talked for an hour with a woman who was totally depressed - how can you equate that to money?". ●●● If you like to receive information concerning activities at the Women's Centre as well as the Centre's newsletter, please phone in your

BY JOAN BARIL

training workshops. A trained doctor can use the kit in faster time ●●● what about the rape victim? In September a young woman was turned away from Humber Memorial Hospital in Toronto after a three hour wait. The doctor on duty said he was too busy to treat her. After phone calls to two other hospitals, she finally found



one who would take her in ●●● rape tests are "not a priority" said hospital spokesman Robert McMillin. Rape Crisis Centres in Ontario have often charged hospitals with keeping victims waiting for hours, leaving them in public waiting rooms. Victims cannot wash their clothes until tests are done ●●● local Rape Centre spokeswoman, Doreen Boucher gives good marks to St. Joseph's hospital. "The women are put in a private area where we can talk to them" she said. Doreen admitted that a victim might wait as long as an hour for care 'depending on how frantic the emergency room is at the time'. She has never heard of a case of a woman being turned away as at Humber ●●●

anecdotes, opinions and pedantics ●●● "in five years, this guy has never asked me one question about myself, never shown any interest in me as a person, in fact he doesn't know one thing about me--perhaps not even my name. I'm just a big ear for him" ●●● Several women present at this conversation agreed this was a common male type in Thunder Bay. They facetiously suggested a huge paper mache ear which could be fixed in front of the face whenever Mr. Monologue appeared ●●● Women supply "The Big Ear" for men in marriage as well as at work as several studies (i.e. Dale Spender: Man Made Language) have pointed out. Men just talk a lot more than women, socially, at work and at home ●●● A happily married man, regardless of how much he talks, also listens, concludes a nine-year study of 487 couples by John M. Gottman of the University of Illinois reported in October's Psychology Today magazine. He is like a good C.B. radio which not only sends signals but can quickly pick up and interpret messages coming in, even non-verbal signals. He knows when his wife is happy, playful or pleading ●●● The unhappily married man cannot do this. He doesn't "hear" his wife. Like a radio with a broken receiver, he can't pick up messages. When something finally gets through to him, he labels his wife's concerns as problems to be solved usually by arguing them away. (These unhappy husbands often enjoy arguing). If his wife expresses an emotion, he sees that as a problem too ●●● Gottman's major findings state that in distressed marriages, there is an imbalance usually caused by the husband ●●● strangely enough, however the deficient husbands, when shown video-tapes of other women, could interpret their intended non-visual messages. They were only dense with their own wives, which no doubt made them appear responsive and caring to anyone outside the marriage situation.

# JOIN

# US

name and address ●●● Are there lots of magazines, newspapers or pamphlets piling up at your workplace which will eventually be thrown out? Or perhaps you are a magazine or newspaper reader. At any rate the Women's Centre would appreciate it if women with access to magazines would clip articles to add to their educational files. Any material dealing with women and women's issues from any type of publication, be it popular magazines or specialised journals is welcome. Please write the date and name of the publication on the article ●●● The Rape Kit. Every hospital in Thunder Bay has one. It is used to gather forensic evidence such as hair, blood and sperm traces from the victim. The kits are supplied by the Ministry of Health but many doctors don't like them. They say the tests in the kit take too long = over a total of two hours in some cases ●●● Local police admit the procedure is lengthy but this is partly caused by the doctor's lack of experience in using the kit. More doctors should have attended the

●●● A recent issue of Worldlit, the Canadian newsletter on global literacy, states that "nearly two people out of every three illiterate in the world today are women". In the Arab world, 89% of women are illiterate (compared to 66% of the men) and the figures for Africa are almost the same. In Latin America 30% of the women are illiterate, in Asia 57%. In spite of the U.N. declarations and programs to combat illiteracy among women which were initiated in International Women's Year, evidence indicates the situation has deteriorated, according to Worldlit. ●●● The company of women makes life more enjoyable for everyone, both men and other women, says a recent study, which found both men and women had more enjoyable, meaningful social experiences when they were with women than when they were with men ●●● nevertheless one local woman claims she is fed up with providing "meaningful social experiences" without the usual human interchange. At her place of business, she claims, there are a few "Monologue Men," the kind of male who when he sets beside her at lunch for example, fills her ears with non-stop



Poll after poll, Canadians vote pro-choice. The latest survey commissioned by CARAL (Canadian Abortion Rights Action League) showed 72% agreed that the decision on abortion should rest with the patient ●●● pro-choice means a commitment to education about contraceptives in order to prevent unwanted pregnancies ●●● "We need funds for public health education" says Wayne Taylor, vice chairman of the York Borough Board of Health. Taylor claims the abortion rate in Toronto is highest amongst 12 to 14 year olds and girls of Roman Catholic and/or immigrant

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# RAPE NOT INHERENT IN SOCIETY

NEW ANTHROPOLOGICAL FINDINGS NOT ENTIRELY NEW

by Joyce Michalchuk

New anthropological evidence indicates findings which contradict a feminist hypothesis that rape is inherent in male-female relations, as published in Susan Brownmiller's 1975 text on rape.

University of Pennsylvania anthropologist Peggy Reeves Sanday has consulted extensive research encompassing the cultural traits in 156 societies and some of the findings indicated are not entirely surprising to those familiar with the "nature - nurture" controversy. The research shows that cultural factors, in particular, govern the incidence of rape in various societies, and that in many cultures in the world, rape is virtually unknown. Scientists (who acknowledge that the findings are tentative at this point) can divide the societies into two basic categories: rape-free and rape-prone.

In the article published in the October edition of *Science* 82 magazine, entitled "Rape-Free or Rape-Prone", author and anthropologist Beryl Lieff Benderly adds a third category - rape-present - which lends about an even split to the sample societies studied which encounter rape, and those that don't. Benderly reported that 47% of the societies were rape free; other forms of sexual assault were either "absent or rare".

On the other hand 17% were "unambiguously rape-prone", and displayed "the social use of rape to threaten or punish women or the presence of a high incidence of rape of their own or other women". It is known that rape exists in the remaining 36% but the extent is undetermined. This new research shows, Benderly states, that the incidence of rape in a given society is dependent on cultural factors such as the attitudes which are taught to boys, women's status and the values governing male-female relations within the given society.

Further, Ms. Sanday writes that Ms. Benderly's findings show that "rape is anything but universal. It does not stem from a biological drive, she (Benderly) believes, but is rather a conditioned response to the way certain kinds of societies are organised."

With regard to the U.S., Benderly writes that "American women are several hundred times as likely to be raped as are women in certain other cultures". She cited the example of the football players who are culturally encouraged in the game of football to inflict bone-crunching tackles on their opponents as a form of violence. This violence is not innate in the natures of men, but is culturally reinforced.

To further illustrate cultural influence, Benderly cites research undertaken on various African societies, such as the model rape-free free Ashanti society of west Africa, where women play a full and influential role, and whose contributions to all aspects of life, including full religious

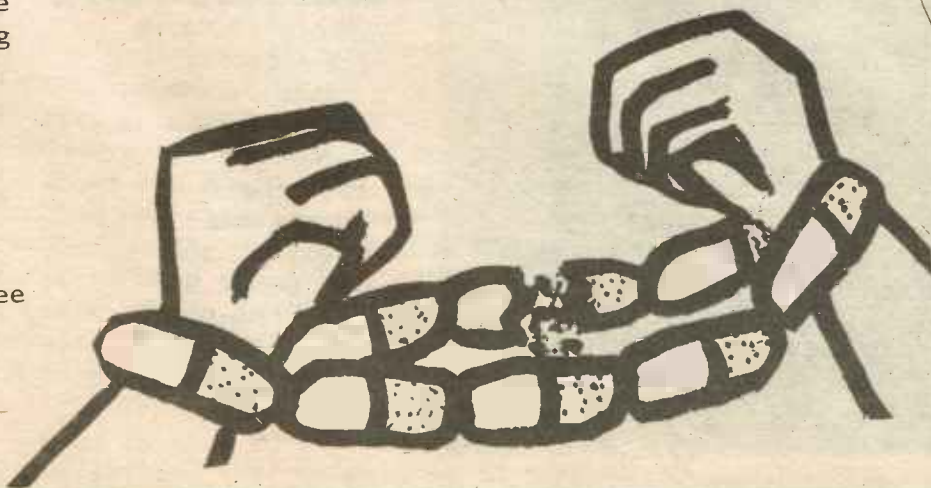
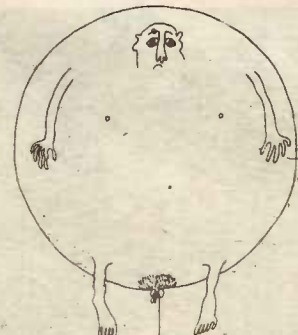
participation, are highly regarded and valued by the Ashanti people. Likewise, the Mbuti pygmies of central Africa live co-operatively in small bands, where both men and women fully share the work and decision-making, in the belief that they must live harmoniously with nature which provides for all their needs, lest nature become displeased with displays of anger, discord and human attempts at dominance.

By contrast, the rape prone Gusii society of Kenya showed an incidence of rape almost 3.5 times greater than the U.S. rate, when the U.S. rate stood as one of the highest in the industrialised world. The Gusii regard the sex act as an act of dominance and aggression "in which a man overcomes the resistance of a woman and causes her pain," Sanday writes. Horrifyingly, sexual relations as a forceful act of aggression to be inflicted "upon a woman is actually encouraged by the wife on the wedding night. According to cultural mores, she holds no respect for the husband unless she is taken by force in an assertion of the husband's so called "manhood". Other rape-prone societies included the men of the Plains Indian tribes who extended invitations to friends to gang-rape their unfaithful wives, and the Mundurucu men of the Amazon who threaten women with rape if they approach their sacred trumpet. They regard these trumpets as embodying supernatural powers and are kept closely guarded from women in a special men's house.

Sanday believes that much can be done to prevent the incidence of rape in societies by revering nurturance rather than violence in the raising of boys within the societies, and by encouraging women to resist assault.

Essentially, this is not new. In her "Sexual Politics: A Manifesto for Revolution", Kate Millet in part called for "a re-examination of traits categorised as "masculine" and "femine", with a total re-assessment as to their human usefulness and advisability in both sexes. Thus, if masculine violence is undesirable, it is for both sexes; "feminine" dumb-cow passivity likewise. If "masculine" intelligence of efficiency is valuable, it is so for both sexes equally, and the same must be true for "femine" tenderness and consideration." (This was written in connection with the Columbia University meeting of the first women's liberation group in 1968).

As Ms. Benderly concludes "rape is not inevitable".





# ITS TOUGH TO BE OLD

*Editors Note: In May 1982, a NWO Women and Pensions Conference was held in Thunder Bay. Extensive information about the "pensions issue" in Canada was provided to Conference delegates by several expert guest speakers. Last NWJ issue (7-4) we featured excerpts from Monica Townson's speech. The following are excerpts from the address given by Louise Dulude. Ms. Dulude's speech has been edited to include only areas of new information, philosophical differences or additional recommendations than those expressed by Ms. Townson and reported last issue. The complete text of both speakers remarks appear in the Women and Pensions Conference Report which is available free of charge from Northern Women's Centre, 316 Bay St.*

## the PROBLEM is POVERTY

Problem one. The most urgent problem, one that is acknowledged by everyone is the problem of poverty. The Old Age Security Pensions, and the Guaranteed Income Supplement together are sufficient to give a couple a level of income that is at, or slightly above the poverty level. So couples are okay. Unfortunately it is not high enough for singles.

It is such a flagrant injustice and it is clearly women who are the victims of it. Not just women generally, but specifically it is mainly women who did stay in the home most of their lives working for practically no pay and no fringe benefits. So, they are the women who did what society told them they were supposed to do, and they are the ones who are punished the most today.

It has become then this problem of poverty, strictly a political issue.

Now the second problem is in fact related to the first, and it is that even if people were not poor, they end up with a pension that is very much lower than the income they received before they reached the age of 65. And that means they have to suffer a considerable drop in their standard of living. And this applies to practically all of us. The reason they are getting such a low one now is first that the CPP and QPP only replace 25% of the earnings that you were getting before, and that the employers pensions that are supposed to be on top of that are completely unreliable.

And on that subject I really encourage you if your husbands and yourselves are participating in an employer sponsored pension plan to look very carefully to see what the conditions are because it may be that you think you are protected while in fact you are not. Especially in the case of women who are in the home, you should look at a provision concerning widows' benefits because in the majority of cases, there is an option to have a higher pension for a retirement pension and no widows' benefits or a lower retirement pension and a widows' benefits, and, it is found in surveys across Canada that the majority of men, because it is almost always the man who is the employee, choose to not have the widows pension, and their wives don't even know about it. It is only in Saskatchewan that they have changed the law to waive that option you need the signature of both spouses.

..... So we've come to the last big block of problems under the present pension system which is the unfairness of the system toward women. And there are two aspects to that injustice towards women: the first is the design itself of the CPP, the design of it is unfair, and the reason for that is that we weren't around in 1965 when the plan was being set up. There were no women who were making representations then, so we ended up with a system that leaves out the work women do in the home, that penalizes women who drop out, if only for a few years, to take care of younger children, and we have a benefit structure that perfectly mirrors the discrimination that women are subjected to in the labour force. So you see, everything in the design of the CPP was ensuring that the gap between the incomes of elderly men and women would grow as the CPP matured and this is in fact what happened. For every additional \$1 that elderly women have gotten, men have gotten an additional \$2. If it just continues like this we will never catch up under the present system.

The other problem is the unequal treatment of the spouses. And I'll say that the unequal treatment of the spouses results from three bad habits of Canadian women, (and I'll tell you in advance that these are jokes because in one place somebody didn't understand them and took it badly). The first bad habit of Canadian women is their passionate love of housework. Women go out and even if they have a full-time paid job they insist on coming home at night and doing all the housework. So what happens is they don't have as much energy as men to put into their careers. Of course, they're tired, and women will often say "Don't talk to me about a challenging job, I just can't take it, I've got too much to do". Of course that means that they don't have the higher paid jobs. Also they don't have a wife doing things for them which helps men have better jobs, and they end up with lower pensions because the pensions are related to income. So that's the first bad habit of Canadian women. The second is that women have the disagreeable characteristic of continuing to live after they are no longer wanted. This was less obvious in the past when marriage lasted forever, but ever since one marriage in three ends in divorce (and we know that's going to increase) it's become increasingly embarrassing. After all, no husband wants to leave one third of a widows pension to each of his former wives. He wants the present system where only the last one gets the widows pension, because, of course, the last one is the only one he's in love with. I don't know if you realize that this is the system we have today. The widows pension goes to the last wife, and if you were married from the age of 20 to the age of 55 to someone who at 55 decides he's tired of it and walks out and he goes to live with someone else for a few years, even if he's not married, the second one is entitled to the full widows pension. This I'm sure was not an accident and I've been discussing it and they did say that this was the reason, that really the man only cares about the last one. So even if you were getting alimony, lets say you were divorced, your alimony stops at 50 or 55. And you get nothing, nothing at all to show for your 30-40 years of marriage.

Now the third fatal flaw of Canadian women is they don't have the elementary decency to die at the same time as their husbands. Not only do they not die at the same time but they also have the nerve to complain that widows usually get much reduced benefits while widowers usually continue with exactly the same benefits that they had before. Now



*Conference guest speaker Louise Dulude, of Ottawa, is a lawyer and researcher specializing in the economic rights of women. Louise Dulude is author of the NWC report 'Women and Poverty' and the CACSW report 'Pension Reform with Women in Mind'*

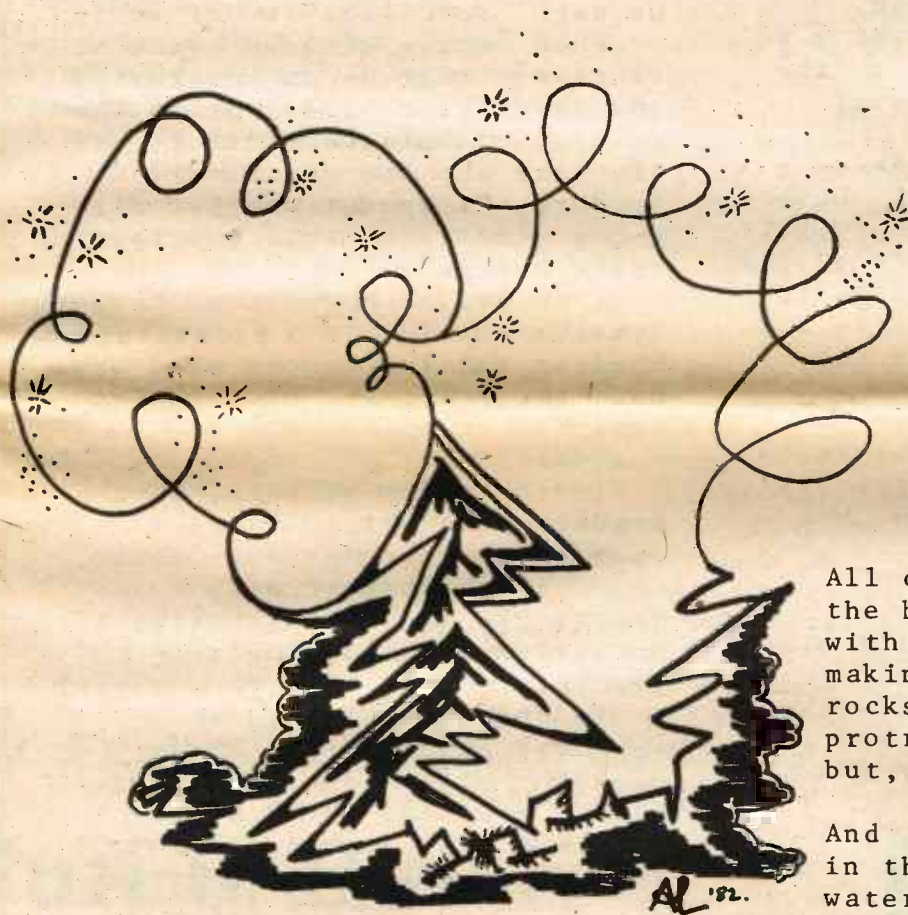
continued on page 13



SUNSET ON ALGOMA STREET

Christmas holidays at home  
 Boyfriends, relatives, skiing in  
 favourite haunts  
 Only one person was missing from  
 the family scene  
 An escapee  
 From the old folks home  
 Living in sin with her boyfriend  
 On Cumberland Street  
 She wasn't home when we came to call  
 The boyfriend said she was in  
 hospital  
 So I went  
 Waited for him to leave  
 Waited in a waiting room  
 Watching the sun go down  
 Behind the stone church on Algoma  
 Until I couldn't wait any longer  
 I went into the room  
 Shared by three other beds  
 And one crying boyfriend  
 Sitting, head in hands, beside  
 One old woman  
 Bruised and incoherent  
 Hands clutching like steel claws  
 The nurse said  
 "Try to get her to eat..."  
 What for? I thought. Clutching back.

Roxanne Merits



WHAT'S IT IS

So far I have had  
 neuritis,  
 bursitis,  
 arthritis,  
 mastitis,  
 myositis!

Now I have ligamentitis.

I'm sick of it all  
 by a damsitis!

Will the day ever come  
 when I'm allrightis?

-Irma Johnson-



Stifled Dreamer

They were divided,  
 people say,  
 like blind fish  
 in a bottomless cave.

He had hopes,  
 dreams,  
 aspirations;  
 Which he expounded, volubly,  
 with the force of a cresting wave.

She had hopes,  
 dreams,  
 aspirations too!

With no opportunity for expression.

They were concerned  
 silly,  
 childish,  
 no account!

How could she be so lacking in discretion?

She lifted her hand,  
 tentatively,  
 as though to banish  
 her expression.

She sighed,  
 resumed her task;  
 once more she would strive  
 to ward off recurring depression.

-Irma Johnson-



All day  
 the heavy mist swallowed the trees  
 with its open mouth,  
 making sky meet earth  
 rocks and spruce like old worn teeth  
 protruding, darkly stained;  
 but, soft around the edges.

And  
 in the flowing midst,  
 water jewels  
 clung to the wolves' gnarled coats,  
 those victimized creatures  
 terrorized by European land scavengers,  
 their teeth chewing a moose meal  
 protruding, darkly stained;  
 but, hard around the edges.

Teresa Legowski

POETRY

SUBMISSIONS REQUESTED

Let Us Fly

How we can lift each other  
 Like dreams, we can drift so high  
 How we can be chained to one another  
 Like fences, we can close and  
 encumber

Let us fly

Joyce Michalchuk



# HEDDA AND POWER

by TERESA LEGOWSKI

Some folks go to THAH THEEAHTAH to view the primal quality of the acting; some to model their designer clothes during intermission (over scotch, of course); some because their mate would like to entertain them expensively. Some folks go to figure out what the playwright is attempting to say.

Henrik Ibsen first intrigued me with his play The Doll's House about eight years ago. Since then I have been wondering how a man could so perceptively be a spokesperson for the women's movement, and during the Victorian era to boot. Most times, men describe women's lives in the way they see their own lives. Ibsen's play, Hedda Gabler, recently performed at Magnus Theatre in Thunder Bay, left me less perplexed. I have yet to meet a woman like Hedda (played superbly by Deborah Kipp) outside of fiction.

Generally, the acting was adequate, the set beautiful, and the costume design simple and tastefully enhancing the characters and moods of each act. Interesting too, was the colour sequence of Hedda's costume, changing from white through grey and red to morbid black with the closing act. However, the play itself reinforced the stereotypical heroine (villainess?): scheming, bitter, bored, attuned to society's gallows of gossip and tenacious ladders to the upper crusts. From Shakespeare's Kate in Taming of the Shrew, to Erica of the afternoon television soap All My Children, we see this coniving, hand wringing, pacing, evil-minded, BUT intelligent and beautiful, portrait of a woman. Hedda Gabler is no different.

The first act reflects the two social norms of society prevalent at that time (and now, too): men are naive; the most wonderful part of the house is the wife. Now let's get our basics straight!

In the second act, we find out Hedda's motives for her marriage to a young, rising scholar. During a private conversation between herself and a former beau, Judge Brack (played by William Webster) she rationalizes that 1) she is not getting any younger; 2) she wants respectability and what a better way to get it than marrying a distinguished scholar; 3) it was more than some other admirers could do. Certainly no romantic illusions about marriage are at stake here.

(I find this attitude common among today's teenaged boys and young men - women marry for money, only, period. So the stereotype lives on.)

Hedda also confides that she is bored and lonely. The Judge suggests she find herself "an occupation" to solve her restlessness. Immediately, Hedda indicates that her husband might go into politics. But Brack elaborates. He means

"the most solemn of responsibilities" for a woman. Should we guess the obvious? Well, Hedda responds with definite disgust and refusal, denying her pregnancy exists. As yet another alternative Judge Brack then illudes to a clandestine relationship with another man. Needless to say, we know who he has in mind. Again Hedda refuses, having no intentions of unfaithfulness. Not too many choices for a career woman in those days.

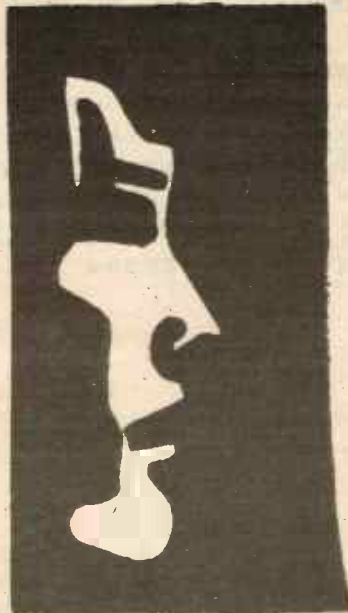
Soon, we discover that another one of Hedda's more flamboyant lovers, Mr. Lovborg (played by Nicholas Kilbertus) is in town. Apparently a new woman has reformed his violent and drunken tendencies. He has written a new historical, potentially publishable book that rivals Hedda's husband's, George Tesman, scholarly endeavours. We meet this new woman, Mrs. Thea Elvsted (Diane Lasko), with first impressions of honesty, straightforwardness and idealism.

A jealous Hedda attempts to befriend Mrs. Elvsted, to the point of an obvious sexual seduction.

Lovborg's visit to Hedda's home ended in a quarrel. Lovborg questioned the purpose of their previous intimacy. He felt that Hedda used their closeness to gain control over his life and to acquire knowledge of the "secret world" of men.

Hedda saw nothing immoral with this. Using devious means to gain knowledge, to gain life, was typical for a woman. How else was she going to achieve power?

Herein lies the clue to Ibsen's rationale for the play. Limited to the Victorian structure, he saw an alternative to the woman's stereotyped lot. That alternative presents itself in Thea Elvsted.



A fire of destruction is sparked in Hedda on from this moment. She ends the act with the statement "For once in my life, I have the power to shape a human destiny."

In the third act, Lovborg's book is revealed as being, jointly, his and Thea's "child". Through Hedda's temptatious offerings of liquor and goading words, Lovborg, against Thea's wishes, attends a wild, males only party with George (Peter

Millard) and Judge Brack. His manuscript "child" went with him, and through the course of the liquid evening, was lost.

Is this not typically naive? Back at the ranch, Hedda and Thea await until dawn the return of their mischievious mates. After Thea goes to bed, Hedda's husband arrives bearing the lost manuscript. He leaves shortly to attend a dying relative.

Haggard and desparate, Lovborg arrives, bemoaning his loss. Hedda underhandedly does not reveal that the manuscript is in the house. However, she again plays the scheming temptress role, convincing Lovborg that "an act of deliberate courage is still possible in this world." He still has a chance to perform an act of beauty, despite the loss of his "child". She hands Lovborg her pistol and he leaves.

Having destroyed Lovborg's relationship with Thea, and his will to live, Hedda finally destroys his and Thea's "child". She burns the manuscript, page by page, revelling at her action.

When George returns home, he discovers that Hedda has burned the manuscript. Hedda plays the martyr, claiming she did it for his sake and George naively ponders, "I wonder whether all young wives feel this way towards their husbands?"

Word begins spreading. Lovborg commits suicide in a prostitute's boudoir and the weapon used was, none the less, the property of Miss Hedda Gabler. Oh, oh! Scandal!

In the midst of this, Thea produces the original notes from the manuscript and George jumps at the opportunity to assist her in reconstructing the destroyed book, during the evenings.

To Hedda this means an absentee husband. Let alone spending afternoons with Judge Brack, evenings would be unbearable. Her husband is more interested in Thea's offerings now. Lovborg did not die beautifully. She is pregnant. Her plan did not work out. Hedda is defeated. No more power. No more freedom. What is the next step? Hedda shoots herself in front of George, Thea and the Judge.

The play should have been about Thea. Thea Elvsted utilized her own intellect wisely. She wrote books. But at that time, a woman had to live through a male partner, so she wrote through Lovborg, and through Tesman. Pity. A talent gone uncredited.

In a way both Thea's and Hedda's power was directed to personal desires of achievement. Thea wanted to write. Hedda wanted to manipulate. One was a creative power, the other self-destructive. However, unless a woman was guided by some inner motivation that presented itself in terms of a vocation or a talent, she had no idea of where to direct her energies.



# MONEY

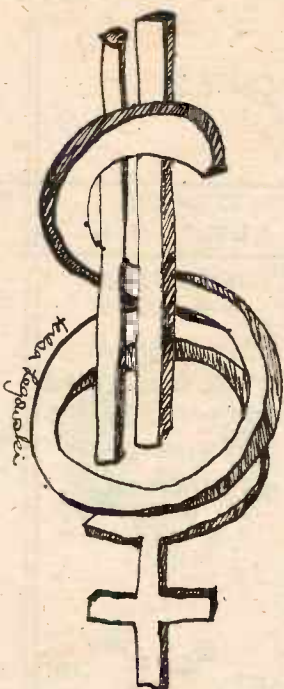
by CAROL BARRY

Money is essentially a necessary form of security but it can also be a nuisance and a worry, a responsibility and a joy. We store money in sugar bowls, pockets, under mattresses and in the banks. In all of these places, money loses value due to the economy and the inflated cost of goods. Because most of us never seem to have enough of it, we can try to offset the cost of inflation on our money. To retain some value it is necessary to look at the different ways of earning interest, then money can work for us.

Financial institutions such as banks, credit unions and trust companies offer interest earning options. There is a wide range, from true chequing, statement and passbook chequing accounts, chequable savings, daily and true savings accounts. Some chequing accounts have no service charges and the cheques are provided at no cost to the user, while others can cost up to \$4.00 per month to operate.

Some people feel that trust companies are not for savings or chequing like the banks. Go in and talk with the personnel. They offer similar services. The trust companies are regulated, like banks under the same Canadian Crown Corporation, the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation and it protects a depositor's money up to \$20,000. A list of member institutions can be obtained by writing the corporation.

I believe that 3 accounts or more are needed to maximize the options; a chequing, a daily interest and a true savings. Remember to list the account numbers and the branch location and to keep a record in a safe place at home and/or in a safety deposit box.



On payday calculate how much you will need for bills that must be paid and place this amount in a chequing account. Write cheques at the beginning of the month so they will be cleared before month end and then any remaining can be transferred to a daily interest account. The daily interest account is calculated on the closing balance for the day and there can be a lower minimum during the day, the final entry is what counts. At the end of the month and before the first of the next month, transfer what is in the daily interest account to a true savings account. The money must remain in this account for the full month to receive interest as it is calculated on the minimum balance in the month. The interest is credited to the account monthly or once every 6 months. The funds can be transferred by signing a form ahead of time and there can be a charge of about \$1.50 for this.

A savings account is for longer term goals. A chequing account is to take care of current bills within the pay period. A daily interest account is for excess money or deposits within the month or that may have to be spent soon. In the latter case, it can be transferred to the chequing account just prior to writing the cheque.

Some plans require a minimum balance of \$100 or \$200 be retained and then there are no service charges for cheques drawn. However it seems to be difficult to maintain this balance unless a person deletes that amount from the cheque record and pretends that it doesn't exist, otherwise there is a great temptation to spend it. On a \$200 amount the interest that could be earned in one year at 10% would be \$20.00 so that must be included when figuring the cost of the account. It is a good account if a person writes numerous cheques.

Remember the more frequently the interest is compounded the greater the financial advantage. (daily interest) The higher the rate of interest over a month period, the better is the return. (true savings)

By watching these interest rates and being flexible in transferring money, it is possible to make up some of the inflationary costs and to have extra funds available for special goals. Let the money work for you and you will receive the benefit. In this way it is possible to enjoy some control and it is well worth the effort...after all, it is YOUR MONEY!

Charts on page 12

## Stuff It Russ!

RUSS RAMSAY RECEIVES PACIFIER

by Merle Donald, Women for Women

In response to the now infamous remarks about equal pay for work of equal value from Russ Ramsay, Minister of Labour, the Sault Ste. Marie women decided to present him with an award befitting his statements: an over-sized pacifier. So Russ became the invited guest of several women's groups at the Sault Ste. Marie Women's Resource Centre "Friday Soup's On" lunch.

Lavera Crack representing the women gathered for the occasion presented the soother to Russ with an appropriate poem. Telegrams in support of the event were read from an impressive list of women's groups.

Ms. Crack told the Minister that his remarks were an embarrassment to constituents in Sault Ste. Marie and an insult to women in Ontario. She went on to say "Our silence would seem to condone your behavior, therefore we must speak out."

Mr. Ramsay opened with the cliché "I don't deserve this" and went on to wade through a wad of statistical side-stepping data. First he informed us that a team of eleven were investigating "Equal pay for work of equal value" but could not tell how many of the eleven were women. He then told of a recent settlement to women under equal pay for equal work legislation in the amount of \$856,000 but who got what for which, why or when he was unable to say. Nor did he know how long the women in question had been struggling and waiting. He went on to the Sunder-son Report, a more or less scare paper to keep women on hold. Mr. Ramsay said that moving forward with Equal Pay for Work of Equal Value was economically untimely and the climate among his colleagues unreceptive. He stressed the difficulty of legislating E.P. for W.E.V. and the necessity for thorough study.

Finally he exhausted his rehearsed material. Merle Donald pointed out that after all it is the year 1982 and women are understandably impatient and intolerant of continued delay. Donna Siltanen-Pickering asked the Minister if he thought a racial minority seeking justice could be placated with "The state of the economy". He had no comment.

Mr. Ramsay seemed somewhat dismayed at the large scale reaction his statements received. He left the occasion, pacifier in hand, less likely to stir the ire of women again. But will he or any others in Queen's Park really work on behalf of women?

SISTERS, THANK-YOU FOR PUBLICIZING THE DISATISFACTION OF ALL OF US WITH RUSS RAMSAY'S NEGATIVE RESPONSE ON AFFIRMATIVE ACTION. WE HOPE THIS STOPPERS ANY MORE STATEMENTS AGAINST THE URGENCY OF LEGISLATION TO ENSURE AFFIRMATIVE ACTION SO THAT ALL OUR SISTERS CAN CEASE TO BE ECONOMICALLY SECOND CLASS CITIZENS. NORTHERN ONTARIO REPRESENTATIVE TO THE NATIONAL ACTION COMMITTEE FOR WOMEN - LYNN BEAK, NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO REPRESENTATIVE OF LES ONTARIOISES - LISE PROVOST, NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO WOMEN'S CENTR, ATIKOKAN WOMEN'S CO-ORDINATING COUNCIL, NORTHERN WOMAN JOURNAL

WE HEARTILY ENDORSE YOUR CHOICE FOR THE PACIFIER AWARD. THE TIME FOR EQUAL VALUE IS NOW. DORIS ANDERSON, PRESIDENT, NATIONAL ACTION COMMITTEE



SEPT 30 182

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS	CHEQUING ACCOUNTS			SAVINGS ACCOUNTS		
	BANKS	TRUE CHEQUING	DAILY INTEREST CHEQUING	OTHER CHEQUING	DAILY INTEREST SAVINGS	TRUE SAVINGS
BANK OF MONTREAL	NO INTEREST -23 CHARGE/CK CHEQUES RETURNED + STATEMENT	IF DAILY CLOSING BALANCE IS 9.75% - ↑ 200 <sup>00</sup> 3% - ↑ 200 <sup>00</sup> -FREE CHEQUING -23/CHEQUE IF DAILY CLOSING BALANCE IS BELOW 200 <sup>00</sup> NO CANCELLED CHEQUES BUT STATEMENT OR PASS BOOK.	"CHEQUABLE SAVINGS" 3% INT./ANNUM ON LOWEST BALANCE FOR 6 MO. PERIOD -23 CHARGE/CK NO CANCELLED CHEQUES	9.75% PER ANNUM CLOSING BALANCE -CREDITED MONTHLY NO CHEQUES NO CHARGE FOR WITHDRAWALS OF TRANSFERS	10.5% PAID ON LOWEST MONTHLY BALANCE -CREDITED EVERY 6 MONTHS -NO CHEQUING BUT FREE CASH WITHDRAWALS	"SENIOR CITIZEN" 10.75% PER ANNUM SAME AS TRUE SAVINGS
ROYAL BANK	"PERSONAL CHEQUING" NO INTEREST -23 CHARGE PER CHEQUE CHEQUES RETURNED + STATEMENT	"SIGNATURE" 3% INT./ANNUM ON DAILY CLOSING BALANCE -CREDITED MONTHLY -STATEMENT + CANCELLED CHEQUE 2 FREE CASH WITHDRAWALS OR CHEQUES PER MONTH THEN -25/CHEQUE	"BANKBOOK CHEQUING" 3% INT./ANNUM ON MINIMUM BALANCE IN 6 MONTH PERIOD. MAY 1 - OCT 31 NOV 1 - APR 30 -20/CHEQUE EACH QUARTER @ END OF JAN, APRIL, JULY, OCT REDUCED 20 FOR EACH \$100 OF MAINTAINED BALANCE FOR QUARTER -CASH WITHDRAWALS @ NO CHARGE	"THE CALCULATOR" 9.75% PER ANNUM ON CLOSING BALANCE -CREDITED MONTHLY 2 CASH WITHDRAWALS OR CHEQUES OR TRANSFERS FREE EACH MONTH THEN \$1.25 PER EACH	"BONUS SAVINGS" 12% PER ANNUM -LOWEST MONTHLY BALANCE -CREDITED EVERY 6 MONTHS NO CHEQUING BUT FREE CASH WITHDRAWALS	"ROYAL CERTIFICATE SERVICE" COST \$400/MONTH -FREE CHEQUING -FREE PERSONALITY CHEQUES -OVERDRAFT PROTECTION -NO 1% CHARGE TRAVELLERS CHEQUES -NO CHARGE MONEY ORDER -FREE BILL PAYMENT -SAFETY DEPOSIT BOX -CHEQUE CASHING COAST TO COAST
CREDIT UNIONS	-NO INTEREST -NO CHARGES -CANCELLED CHEQUES + STATEMENT CAN BE PICKED UP EACH MONTH -MUST HAVE A SHARE IN CREDIT UNION					\$5.00 / SHARE DIVIDEND DECLARED YEARLY ON EARNINGS
TRUST COMPANIES	TRUE CHEQUING	DAILY INTEREST CHEQUING	OTHER CHEQUING	DAILY INTEREST SAVINGS	MONTHLY SAVINGS	OTHER ACCOUNTS
CANADA PERMANENT	"STATEMENT CHEQUING" NO INTEREST IF 200 <sup>00</sup> MINIMUM MONTHLY BALANCE THEN NO CHARGE FOR CHEQUES BELOW \$200 <sup>00</sup> -22 / CHEQUE	9.75% IF DAILY CLOSING BALANCE IS ↑ 1000 <sup>00</sup> 3% ↑ 500 <sup>00</sup> NO CHARGE FOR CHEQUES "60+" FREE CHEQUING -BILL PAYING	"PASSBOOK CHEQUING" 3% PER ANNUM ON MIN, 6 mos BALANCE 1 FREE CHEQUE FOR EACH \$1000 MIN. BALANCE EACH MONTH THEN -22 / CHEQUE	10% PER ANNUM ON CLOSING BALANCE -CREDITED EVERY 6 MONTHS PASS BOOK NO CHEQUES	10.5% PER ANNUM ON MINIMUM MONTHLY BALANCE -CREDITED EVERY 6 MONTHS NO CHEQUES	"PERMA SERVICE" \$3.50 / MONTH
GUARANTY TRUST	NO INTEREST -25 / CHEQUE CHEQUES RETURNED 4 MONTHLY STATEMENT		"GUARANTEED SERVICE" COST 3.75/month	10% PER ANNUM ON CLOSING BALANCE -CREDITED JUNE 30 DEC 31 NO SERVICE CHARGES NO CHEQUES -PASS BOOK	10.5% PER ANNUM ON MINIMUM MONTHLY BALANCE -CREDITED JUNE 30 DEC 31 NO CHEQUES -PASS BOOK	"GT 60" 10.5% PER ANNUM INTEREST PAID MONTHLY ON MINIMUM BALANCE FOR PERSONS 60 & OVER
ROYAL TRUST	NO INTEREST \$3.00 MONTHLY CHARGE STATEMENT + CANCELLED CHEQUES		PASS BOOK CHEQUING NO INTEREST NO RETURNED CHEQUES NO SERVICE CHARGES -PASS BOOK NO MINIMUM BALANCE	10% PER ANNUM ON CLOSING BALANCE -CREDITED 6 MONTHS NO SERVICE CHARGES NO CHEQUES -PASS BOOK	"BLUE CHIP" 10.5% PER ANNUM ON MIN. MONTHLY BALANCE -CREDITED 6 MONTHS	

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in the case of women even if they were married all their lives until he died, the CPP benefits will drop to 60%, the old age pension that the husband was getting will disappear, and usually she won't get anything at all from the employer-sponsored pension that her husband was contributing to. It has been estimated that a widow usually ends up with about 1/3 of what the family income was before the husband retired. Try to imagine what that does to one's standard of living. Now the solution proposed to correct these problems of the unequal treatment of the spouses is all in these equalization proposals - the splitting of credits between husbands and wives - and it is already partially introduced in the case of divorce. But the fact is that it is not working. Less than 3% of spouses in the last 3-4 years that it has been available have been applying for it. And we don't know why. We know that it is partly a problem of information. So if you know anybody who is divorcing tell them. Don't tell the husband - tell the wife about this splitting provision.

So what is being proposed now is that we extend this right to equalization to couples who are remaining married. The proposal that seems administratively the easiest is that when the younger spouse reaches the age of 65, so that both are 65, you do this splitting between them and you give them each a cheque as a result.

Let me interject first the question of employer pensions which I wasn't going to mention. But since it is little known, I will talk about it.

In the case of employer pensions, what happens upon divorce? It depends upon provincial law. And the Family Law Reform Act of Ontario, which was adopted in 1978, says that pension credits are not part of the family assets, which are split as a matter of course between the spouses upon divorce. Neither are monies put in a retirement savings plan, neither are savings of any kind. These are not part of the family assets (and) I don't know how many of you realize that.

The only case in which a woman might be entitled to a share of these-- which are the pension credits, the RRSP and other savings--is if she can prove that her work in the home helped her husband earn the money that he thereby put away, and this is extremely difficult to do. There hasn't been a case to my knowledge of pension credits as such that has gone to higher court. But in the case of an RRSP, it was found that a woman who had stayed at home all her life was not entitled, so it looks like the proof is going to be very difficult to make. So this is Ontario law, and it need not be that way.

Monica was saying that the splitting of CPP credits and of employer-sponsored pensions on divorce (would be sufficient) if we can get it in Ontario...that it would be enough to give pensions of their own to homemakers and they wouldn't need any more than that. And I completely disagree with that. Because in the case where only the husband was the earner...if you split the pension, you would end up with two inadequate pen-



sions instead of one. If there was a divorce, you would end up with both of them living in poverty instead of just her, as is the case now, so it's clear that it is not sufficient because the total pension would remain the same, and the total pension was not calculated to be for a couple; it was calculated to be for a single person.

Now this is why it is essential that we have not only that splitting of pensions...to recognize the equality of the woman's contribution within the marriage, but (that) we must also have a recognition of the value, the economic value, of the work of homemakers...

## Credit Due

Indeed, we are all each personally responsible for (our own) material maintenance...and this is not the type of work we would like to have recognized because it leads into massive complications. What we are talking about is the work that a homemaker performs for others, whether it be children or a spouse or parents or adult children. And also I want to emphasize that all the proposals being made were not just for women, but were equally for men. If the man is the homemaker, he will be covered the same way.

Now, to start, which is the main proposal that's being made to integrate homemakers? It is the Child-Care Drop-Out Period, and Monica has isolated that as if it were not a proposal to integrate homemakers, but that is what it is. If you leave out of the calculation of the pension the years spent at home with a young child, what you have done is you have just subsidized the participation of the homemaker in the CPP--and call it by any other name, this is what it is. This is the proposal that everyone pretty much agrees upon except the Government of Ontario. Ontario has been blocking its introduction--not just here, but everywhere in Canada outside of Quebec--and I can tell you that women in many other provinces are not at all happy about that.

## JUSTICE for HOMEMAKERS

In fact, this is one of the petitions I have that Monica was referring to. It is a petition to the Government of Ontario, specifically about the Child-Care Drop-Out Period. This one says, "We the women of the Thunder Bay area want this changed as soon as possible". And I hope that Monica is right when she says that Ontario is about to change its mind, but I've been hearing rumours like that for a long time. The problem is that Ontario seems to be using this (by) keeping it in reserve

as an argument in its bargaining (on the funding of the CPP) with the federal government...You know that the money is being loaned to the provinces, the fund that's accumulated, and mainly that means that it's been loaned to Ontario because it has been on a per-capita basis.

So Ontario has borrowed these huge amounts of money, and the negotiations, are coming about what's going to be done and how much Ontario will have to repay. And this, the Child-Care Drop-Out Period, is the bargaining tool. Women are being used as a hostage by Ontario in this fight: they're saying, "We know you, the federal government, want this badly, but we want something in exchange for it. That's why even though there are all these rumours about Ontario changing its mind, it wouldn't be surprising if they waited until the very last minute and didn't give it up without something in return."

So this is the CCDOP, which is enforced in Quebec and has been enforced since 1977, and, as I said, it gives fully-subsidized pension coverage to women who are, only women. It is discriminatory--it is given to the person who received the family allowance. So that means the woman, because family allowance is discriminatory, so it is fully-subsidized coverage of women who have children under the age of 7. And it has been calculated to increase a typical woman's pension CPP benefits by about 23%, so as far as women are concerned, it is a very important subsidy. And it's paid for by all other plan contributors. Though it doesn't add up to a lot of money in the whole of the fund, the estimate is that it costs 0.02% of the total expenditure of the fund.

Also, what was mentioned following a question is that there have been several proposals to expand the drop-out period so that it would also cover the time taking care of very disabled family members, and there has been no reaction (to this) from governments at all. The proposal was made in my report, Pension Reform with Women in Mind, which came out last April at the National Pension Conference. There's been no reaction from the government at all about this. Women all across the country are in favour of it, (as are) the majority of men I've talked to. Now, apart from these drop-out periods, there are some people who oppose the participation of homemakers in the CPP. It is the minority of people, so what you were hearing Monica express was very much a minority view in the Women's Movement, and I'll come back to this. The reasons they invoke - and I'm not including only Monica in there

continued on page 14



"Mother, what is a Feminist?"  
"A Feminist, my daughter,  
Is any woman now who cares  
To think about her own affairs  
As men don't think she oughter."

- Alice Duer Miller, 1915

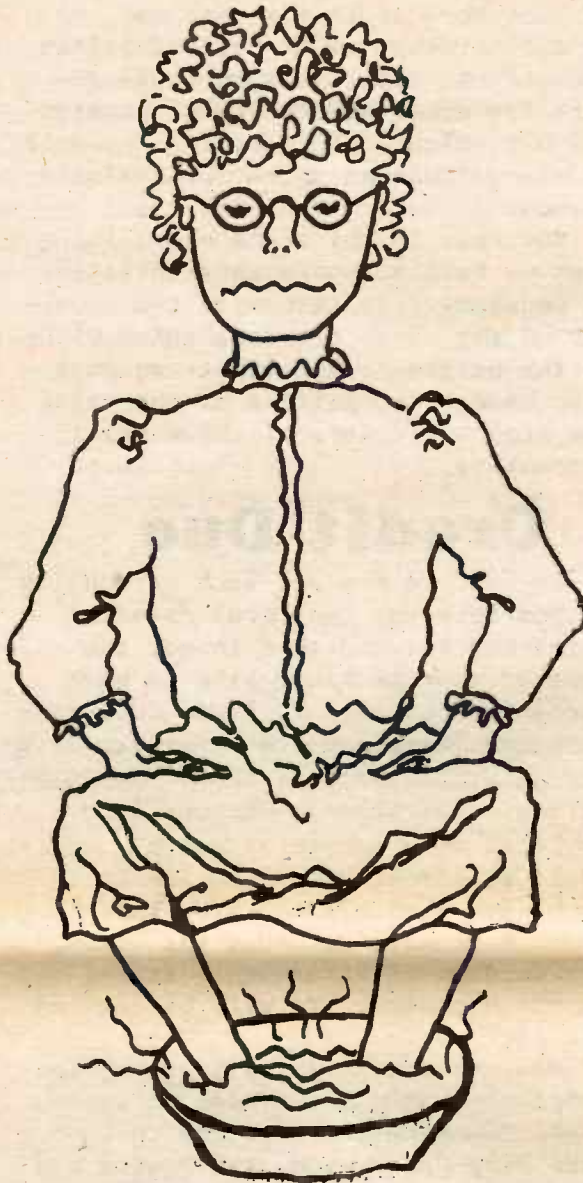


but I'm including some bureaucrats' opinions as well - the reasons they invoke for not including other homemakers are, first, they say that homemakers who don't have young children aren't working. Not working, they just stay home and sit and do nothing. This is the common view among bureaucrats. If women choose to stay home and do nothing, it's their business. Secondly, and this you heard Monica express, that women who take care of young children or very disabled family members are working for all of society so they should be included through the dropout period, but homemakers who are doing homemaking only for older children and spouses should not be included, because the work they do is a private matter between them and their spouses and families. So that the state shouldn't intervene in that case. Thirdly, they say that pension coverage will discourage homemakers from joining the labour force. Then some others say that there is a contradiction between women's claims for equality in the labour market and their demands for recognition of the value of the work they do in the home.

### something wrong

.... Also, in my view, generally about all these arguments, there is something wrong there, and it is that we are starting from the wrong end. It's looking at the picture starting from a different point of view from the one of the system itself. Because if you look at the system itself, you see that there are homemaker pensions and they are widows benefits. Everybody agrees that this is the homemakers pension we have today. The reason it is essentially a homemakers pension is because if you are in the labour force, you're automatically entitled to no widows pension at all or reduced amounts because your benefits are reduced accordingly. The more labour force credits a woman gets under CPP the less her widows benefits will be, so only full time homemakers are getting full widows benefits. The problem is that if you look at that widows benefits system, that homemaker system we have today, you see that it is outrageously expensive, very very unfair. First, these widows pensions give benefits to people who don't need them at all, while denying them to people who need them very badly. It's very haphazard in its coverage and it is very expensive. It was calculated recently that one third of all benefits paid out by the CPP were widows benefits. So compare this, the dropout period was 0.02% of the cost, widows pensions amount to 30% of the costs. And who pays for this? ...it is not the husbands because the husbands in the labour force aren't paying anymore in the CPP than anybody else. So you have a system of homemakers benefits right now, that are heavily subsidized by women in the labour force, by married women specifically in the labour force because they are the largest group that won't leave survivors. And what kind of benefits does it give? It give pensions that are based on husbands earnings. So that means the higher the income of the husband, the higher the widows

benefit, so it has no relationship whatever to the work that the homemaker is doing. So you see the question really is not whether we should integrate homemakers in the CPP because they are there. The question is how we can have a system of homemakers participation in the CPP that makes more sense, and that is fairer than the one we have now. And if we had that, if we had a system where homemakers could get fair pensions on their own, then the result would be that widows benefits could practically disappear because they would be no longer needed. Women would have benefits in their own name.



### how much

What are the questions that arise when you talk of integrating them. The first is at what level of income are you going to integrate them? And that doesn't mean you are going to give them a salary. It means that you have to choose a level on which to base the pension, because the pension is a percent of earnings ..so what hypothetical level of earnings do you pick in the case of a woman who doesn't have earnings (or a man who is a homemaker)? That's the first question. The second question is who should pay for the homemaker participation in the CPP? Third question.. should the system be optional or mandatory? Okay, first one.. the level of income.. there have been a few proposals. Some have said it should be the average wage which is about \$20,000 because the work of homemakers is very important and they should get the maximum. Now it was soon seen that this creates difficulty, because it means that in many cases, if a woman joined the labour force her pension credits would go down. And that is not acceptable to women generally because it would give a very small disincentive to join the labour force, but it would be there nevertheless and we don't want such a

disincentive. We don't want to encourage or discourage either choice of being at home or outside we just want the choice. Okay, so the average wage was too high, the level of the husbands earning was another proposal. As in the case of widows pensions it's unacceptable because it is unfair, it has no relationship to the work done. So the last proposal that is being retained right now is half the average wage, which is about \$9,500. The advantages are that it resembles the market value of the work homemakers do. If you had to hire somebody to keep the house for you and do all the things that a homemaker does, it would cost you somewhere around \$10,000. Also it means it would not usually be a drop in the credits of the woman who joined the labour force because that is about what women earn. If she was working part-time you could let her contribute on her earnings but give her credit up to that level, so women who are working part-time would be covered too. There would be an assumption that if a person works part-time it is because they are taking care of their families the rest of the time. So they could be assigned credit then.

### who pays?

The second question was who should pay? We saw that in the case of women who had young children and who dropped out, the dropout period would subsidize them and the people who would pay would be all the other participants. So that subsidy is already accepted. It seems logical to extend the same principle to other women who are outside the labour force and can't benefit from the drop-out period but who are also taking care of young children or disabled relatives. It's reasonable that they should be subsidized too. Now the other homemakers, if you look to see who they are, they are women who are mainly homemakers for their spouses, the largest group is women between the ages of 45 to 65. There are also men and women who are homemakers for their parents or for their adult children, sometimes the woman will keep house for her son or daughter. Now all these people are giving

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## CHRISTMAS COFFEEHOUSE

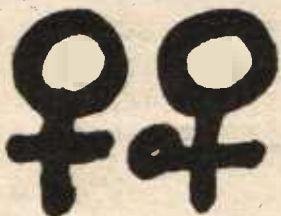
Come out and celebrate winter solstice and the new year with us at Women's Centre, 316 Bay St., on Friday, Dec. 10! There will be a coffee house atmosphere, with music to be made by local women, skits (hopefully) and food and drink to suit everyone. If you wish to come early, there will be a dinner hour from 7-8. Bring something--it's a potluck. There will be taped music, with the live entertainment beginning at 8. Since this will be both a celebration and a fundraiser for the Centre, we will be asking for a \$2 donation at the door. Tell your women friends. It should be a good time, and we'll see you there!



families whose parents consider birth control unacceptable ●●● Taylor's observations may explain a phenomenon noted by U.S. abortion clinics who say a large number of their clients come from anti-abortion families ●●● In the U.S. Senate anti-abortion amendments have been talked off the floor and onto the shelf. The media has been hailing this as a significant defeat for the conservative right. However it is doubtful if an organisation as well financed and as powerful as the anti-choice group will shrivel up and fade away quite yet ●●● Senator Jesse Helms of North Carolina, who is easily the most powerful conservative in the country after Reagan, still retains his position of leadership with the anti-people, as does Senator Orin Hatch ●●● according to Ms. (June 1980) the majority of American Roman Catholics support pro-choice. So does the National Coalition of American Nuns. Says president Sister Donna Quinn "the organisation considers it (abortion) a matter of conscientious, moral choice for a woman to make." Although opposed to abortion, the nuns also oppose any legislation to limit choice ●●● according to Dr. Henry Morgentaler on the Oct. 14 tv. programme "speaking Out", Canada is the second country in the world after India with the highest rate of second trimester

abortions, a more traumatic and dangerous procedure than first trimester abortions. He attributes this to our backward abortion laws which cause delay. He also stated that two thirds of Canadian women who get abortions go to the U.S for them. Morgentaler praised the Quebec government policy of allowing free standing abortion clinic, separate from a hospital, which can provide compassionate and trained service for women to have an abortion on request. Quebec Medical Insurance pays for Quebecois but out-of-province women must pay for themselves. The fee is \$250 at the Morgentaler clinic in Montreal but there is a policy that anyone unable to pay will not be turned away ... attempts to set up women's clinics in Ontario which

victory for African women's organisations ●●● however the practise is deeply ingrained in the culture. It is doubtful it will cease with the publication of a government edict. In 1979, an African conference on health emphasised intensive awareness programmes to abolish the practise. The difficulties can be seen if one considers that in Egypt, where genital mutilation was banned in 1959, the disfiguring operation is still performed and 90% of Egyptian women, both Muslim and Christian, have experienced it, according to Cairo Family Planning. ●●● It is estimated that 60 to 70 million women in the band of countries south of the Sahara, in southern Arabia and in a few areas in Malaysia undergo the operation which includes removing the clitoris and all or part of the external genital area, in most cases without anaesthetic ●●● occasionally reports surface mentioning the procedure being performed in Europe. In Sweden it was learned that some doctors were operating on the daughters of African residents ●●● the American Agency for International Development (AID) has been criticised for not co-operating with local health officials and international agencies (UNICEF, WHO) to end the practise. A.I.D has been accused of allowing modern hospitals and AID trained personnel to be used for the mutilation - a perversion of medical ethics ●●●



would provide abortion have always run into provincial government opposition ●●● Female genital mutilation is now outlawed in Kenya following the deaths of fourteen young girls. It is unclear if they bled to death or developed infections due to a common scapel. The directive, issued by President Daniel Arap Moi, was praised by the Kenya media and represents a

# A FEAR LIKE STONE

by Joan Baril

It's a "Pilot Project" and many people fear we'll be taken for a ride. In October 1982, lured by the carrot of provincial money and the stick of provincial pressure (and ultimate power), the City of Thunder Bay has agreed to take on financial responsibility for sole-support mothers who are at present receiving provincial Family Benefits or "mothers' allowances".

The pilot project is expected to fly well for the first eighteen months but it is feared that once the City takes it over it won't be able to hand it back. It is also feared that the province will eventually pull back funds and the whole contradiction-ridden structure will come crashing down, right in the middle of the City's budget.

A spokeswoman from the Single Parents' Coalition of Toronto outlined to me what is happening now in Toronto when a woman just can't hold on. She calls it the Toronto Scenario and it may be the scenario of the future. There are five steps, all leading down.

One: A sole-support mother finds she just cannot manage on the bone-scraping money she gets. Perhaps an emergency, a rent increase, a cessation of a husband's support money,

a combination of reasons.

Two: She loses her apartment.

Three: She gives her children to Children's Aid. She moves to a hostel or a friend's place. Without an address she can't get benefits.

Four: She shows up at the legal clinic, the Manpower office, the women's centre, social service office trying to find a solution. She says, "When I get a place... if I could only find something so I could get a place..."

Five: Her kids are in foster care. As time goes on she wonders if she should just let them get adopted. She thinks, "If I could just get a place..."

There is a bizarre footnote to this story. In Toronto, there is a shortage of foster care. Our province, which cannot afford to keep mothers and their children together, is spending a lot of money on a promotional campaign to attract foster parents.

This opinion has been expressed by many citizens, including the sole-support mothers, who call themselves "the Concerned Moms", who tried - unsuccessfully - to convince the city to turn down the proposal. Other citizens, including some aldermen, believe changes in the whole welfare system are coming. By accepting the pilot project now, they believe, it can be monitored and there



**The Welfare Mother**

Fully half of all low-income earners are single mothers or senior citizens

can be some input into the future. It is especially necessary to make sure that any changes in welfare policy have Northern conditions in mind. However, it should be noted that the present "pilot project" scheme was devised without any input at all from the people most affected... the sole-support mothers.

Probably no issue has been more surrounded by sincerity and posturing, rhetoric and fear, all encompassed in a cloud of politico-babble. At a meeting at the Vale Community Centre, organized by the Concerned Moms in June 1982, the local Family Benefits officials sincerely

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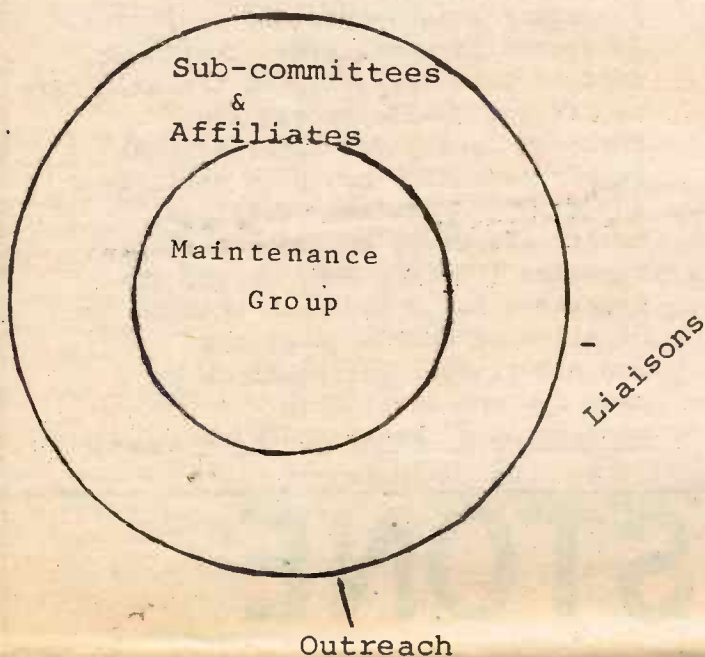
# sow or hen or any such thing... DECADE COUNCIL

by Sara Williamson

Northwestern Ontario Women's Decade Council is set up to connect women and to give them a stronger lobbying voice.

But people were saying that Decade Council was getting fuzzy. They weren't even sure what kind of critter it was anymore. So the new executive and core committee got together on a Saturday morning and clipped and trimmed away the fluff and fuzz. Some said it looks like a brood sow with lots of piglets. Some said it is more a mother hen. Everyone did at least agree that it is a fine woman-made creature.

You can look at it this way



There is a maintenance core group that ensures that Decade continues to operate. And there is a ring of committees and affiliates that give Decade its purpose and excitement.

In the maintenance core there are four executive positions with specific responsibilities and limited power. The chair (Marg Lanchok) and vice-chair (Ruby Chumway) are there to co-ordinate the input of the membership and ensure that work and responsibilities are delegated to the membership. The treasurer (Julie Fels) keeps the financial records up to date so that the membership can make decisions on where the money is to be spent. The secretary (Leni Untinen) has to keep track of the minutes and correspondence.

The networking committee takes on the task of ensuring that members are in touch with Decade about the issues they are working on and that Decade news and requests get back to the members.

The lobbying committee can become active as needed to direct strategies to influence the decisions of different levels of government on matters that are of special concern to women. There are several women who are experienced in ways of going about this ... from writing letters to writing briefs and from telephoning municipal coun-

cilors to confronting federal ministers face to face. Lobbying technique training is available. Women from Geraldton, Marath Fort Frances, etc. also join Decade as individuals, or as representatives of sub-committees or of affiliate groups. To assist with transportation Decade pays the gas for one vehicle per community and can arrange billeting.

The media committee are the women who can contact and respond to the media on behalf of Decade on the women's issues where their expertise lies.

The special events committee of course is struck whenever special events are being planned by Decade such as a Conference on women's issues in March, and a morning of sharing information by women's groups in October.

Decade has three types of membership: committees, affiliates, and individual members. Committees may have originated to deal with a concern such as Women and Health or Women and Economic Development. Or, they may have been formed to respond to a maintenance need of Decade such as media contacts or special events. Committees use Decade's name and can get help from the whole Decade Council. They must promote participation with Decade and an awareness of Decade by women and relevant organizations.

Affiliates are women's action groups who wish to exchange information on their work and get added support for lobbying. Both affiliates and committees are expected to participate in some way with Decade supported lobbies.

Individual members are the women of the maintenance core group. They help by actively enlisting new members for Decade, serving on committees of their choice, promoting Decade and women's issues in their communities, participating in Decade activities and, as much as possible learn how to do the maintenance jobs of Decade.

Decade wants to continue outreach into communities to provide technical assistance and resources to emerging women's groups and to individual women working on women's issues. To this end, the budget allows for a staff person (Leni Untinen) who also functions as a co-ordinator. Decade also liaises with other organizations, institutions and government bodies, that are directed to responding to women's issues in Northwestern Ontario such as Confederation College Women's Programs and Secretary of State Women's Programs.

Decade meets at least once a month on Saturdays to deal first thing in the morning with maintenance matters and the remainder of the morning and early afternoon to discuss issues, concerns and information brought up by the membership. For more information contact Leni Untinen, R.R.16 Pine Shore Drive, Thunder Bay 683-5236.

C.A.R.A.L. MEETING

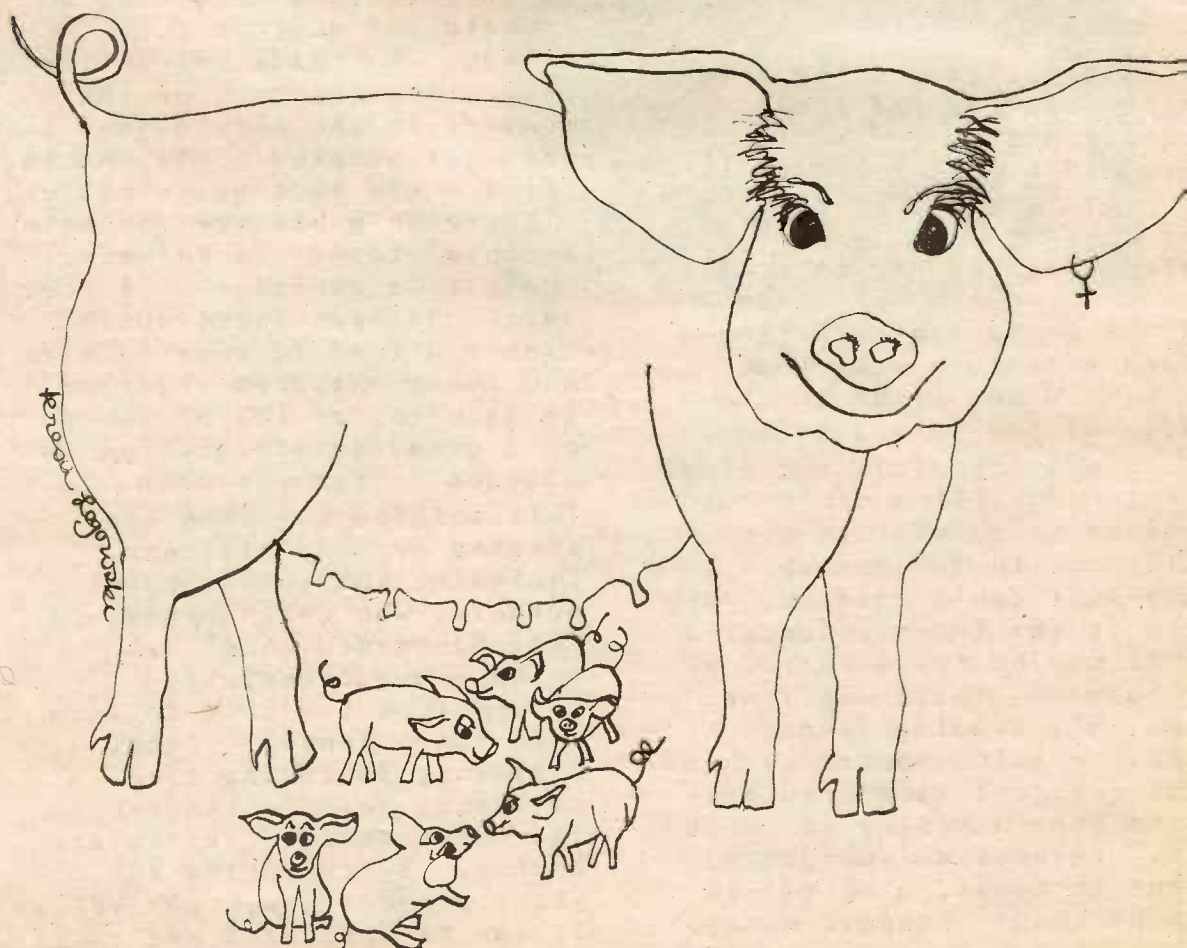
DEC. 2nd

8 p.m.

WOMEN'S CENTRE

316 Bay St.

Did You Know??? If you've had a hysterectomy, you still should go for a regular pap test.





# Women On The Other Side

By LUAN WALL

Women comprise one half of the world's population; do two thirds of the world's work; receive one-tenth of the world's income and own less than one-hundredth of the world's property. Statistics regarding women in developing countries are even more appalling and worsen when one considers the rural dwellers of these countries. Women in rural areas are amongst the most overworked, underpaid and ill-educated people in the world.

Development theories have changed considerably in recent years. Foreign aid and investment once concentrated on large scale projects such as dam construction where the trickle down process was meant to take place. Now the concept of 'small is beautiful' and 'self help' dominate approaches and bare-foot doctors, teachers and agricultural extension workers are logging up an impressive number of miles world wide. One factor in the development field remains virtually unchanged however, and that is both national and foreign programme developers' attitudes to women. Women's roles in and contribution to the local economy continues to be virtually totally ignored. Rarely are women included in the public participation exercises to discuss project development, local issues etc. Seldom are projects directed to address specific women's needs - except possibly in the case of health care. Even here though motives are suspect with projects often being prompted for governmental economic and political reasons rather than from direct concern for the problems of the women they address.

Many reasons can be cited for this - most of which are similar to those which women of more developed countries have had to deal with. False assumptions abound and are the bases for many of the current failings in development programmes.

1. Men cannot be presumed to be heads of households. In developing countries as many as 1/3rd of all households are headed by women with no male head to support them. The figure augments considerably for periods of months or years as male folk migrate to other parts of the country in search of work.

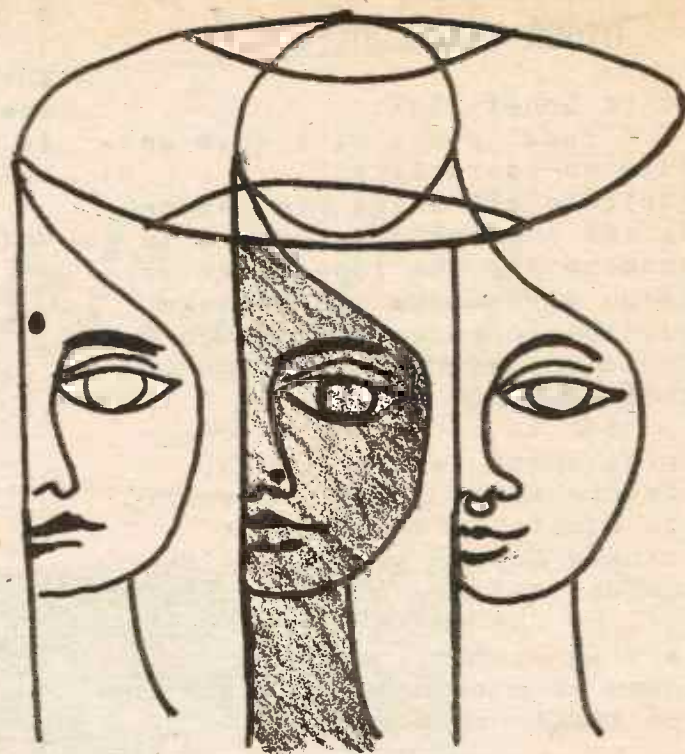
2. Improved circumstances for the male will not by necessity benefit all the other members of the household. Often increased wages from male earnings are directed to purchasing material possessions such as bicycles and radios - or to more tobacco and alcohol. They do not always go to improving the household wellbeing.

3. Women do make an important contribution to the local economy. The latter very

often is a subsistence economy with food production being the greatest activity. According to the FAO\* women are responsible for at least 50% of all food production. More importantly much of their efforts go to providing for their own families and community. Increasingly men have been devoting their energies towards the production of cash crops for export. These undoubtedly earn more immediate income but in the long run can prove to be costly. Depending on foreign markets their demand is not ensured they often require large amounts of pesticides and fertiliser and can engage cash crop farmers in lending arrangements and often permanent indebtedness. Furthermore it is usually the women that work at weaving, embroidery and other crafts to be sold to increase family earnings. These activities have a further positive contribution in that they help to diversify the local economy. Rarely are either of these contributions directly recognised by programme developers.

4. Women are not unable to learn. Many are superstitious, many hold onto old traditions, many cling to the familiar when the new is strange, not understood and imposed from outside - but they are not unable to learn. What often evades programme designers are the local social, religious and customary beliefs. These often prevent women from learning anything but the local dialect (and thus any effective communication with many programme operators), from being assertive or from taking a visibly active part in the community. These beliefs are not always acceptable to the women they oppress nor are they impossible to change.

Worldwide there is a male-child preference. This has many implications. In some countries male children between the ages of 0-5 years have a 40% greater chance of survival than female ones. Frequent pregnancies, lack of access to adequate health care and malnutrition have meant that longevity rates can differ by as much as 10 years in favour of the male and the little seen need for education for women means that two out of every three illiterate people in the world are female (in rural areas for every four literate males there is one literate female). And the tale of woe goes on - development programmes are usually staffed by the elite ie. well educated males who have little understanding or empathy for the people they purport to serve - the lowest strata of their society. Alternatively the programmes can be staffed by well educated foreigners who come to a society they barely under-



stand and into parts of which they can often be barred from entering (the most obvious example being in Muslim societies) - with such characteristics what hope is there for the rural, female peasant?

So the features of many of today's programmes are not surprising - instead of ignoring the needs of a vast number of the world's rural poor they now only ignore 50% of them - those of women. It is the landless male that is benefiting from land reform; it is the peasant male farmer that is receiving credit, fertiliser, agricultural training etc. - many of the fruits of recent development programmes totally bypass the female component of the communities they serve. In some cases programmes have left women worse off than before they were introduced - increased mechanisation has infiltrated their agricultural functions. Instead of being trained to use new machinery their former tasks are being taken over by men and the division of labour is now even greater than it once was. Also with the increasing trend towards cash crop production less land is available to produce adequate supplies of food for home consumption. The increased cash earned and controlled by men does not make up for the shortfall leaving families suffering serious malnutrition.

But the situation is not without its bright spots. Work is slowly being done. In countries as diverse as the Philippines, Thailand and Bangladesh programmes dealing with the problems and needs of rural women have been set up. The brief experience of these I have been that:

- social, religious and cultural restraints can be overcome if women work together in groups.

- rural women can be motivated to design and implement development activities, both inside and outside their villages.

- rural women will travel outside their own localities to receive training they perceive

CONT'D ON PG 18

\*FAO - Food and Agriculture Organization



## OTHER SIDE cont'd

to be beneficial.

- rural women will form and join co-operatives.

Basic to all these programmes is the concept of strength in numbers and the importance of group structures. These make possible events which women could not realistically achieve on their own.

But to have just a few programmes is not enough. Development, if it is ever to be equitable development cannot happen as long as the needs, talents and potential of 1/2 of the world's population are ignored or, at best, are seen as marginal, secondary and of little relevance.

## A FEAR cont'd

assured the mothers that the change-over would not reduce benefits and might even provide better services. Yet on June 9, 1982 COMSOC Minister, Frank Drea, stood on the steps of Queen's Park in Toronto and screamed at a crowd of mothers that they were no-goods who didn't want to work. Questions from the women about the availability of day care and jobs were ignored. Mr. Drea continued

## YIP, YIP from pg. 4

On another occasion a boyfriend who I had asked to teach me chess so confused me with fast talk and jargon that I could not understand him. He refused to clarify, but simply repeated the incomprehensible sentenced louder. When I still didn't understand, he shrugged and suggested perhaps I never would catch on. I believed him too.

It was a rewarding sweep down the South Kawishiwi River. Catching on at last, for six years old and realizing I'd been conned into incompetence--negative conditioning doesn't end with childhood after all. I sang bits of vogageur songs I once knew: "Yip! Yip! Sur la riviere... oh, fils du roi, tu es mechant"...

We saw no moose--though we had seen signs on the shore--or any other large animal, but there were birds, mama ducks and loon families. One day Karen yodelled a beautiful loon imitation and a loon answered back. A conversation developed with the loon sounding each time a little more puzzled.

Occasionally, we saw another canoe. Like Quetico, the Boundary Waters area is reserved for canoeists, and no motor boats are allowed. But the solitude seemed so fixed we were soon skinny dipping or paddling along topless.

The evening circle again. No roughing it in the bush for us as far as food is concerned; we eat curry, falafel, fresh fish and fresh fruits, and vegetables--nothing canned or freeze dried. The food is mostly vegetarian and it's delicious. The tents go up and the mosquitos come out filling the clearing with their horrible hum. I burn a bit of "pic" in my tent to clear them out. The American women have never seen mosquito coils. I offer pieces

a tirade of abuse. This type of behaviour on the part of the Minister makes many women fear that the "Pilot Project" is just a step to dismantling Mother's Allowances in Ontario.

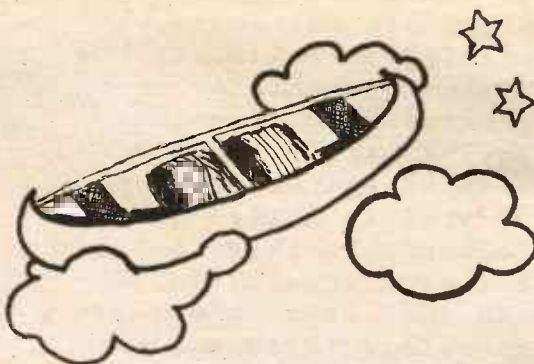
Mother's Allowance is based on a philosophy fought for by the first woman's movement: mothers who have to bring up children on their own need financial support.

In the present economic depression more and more people are applying for city welfare. This winter is going to be a nightmare as U.I.C. claims run out. At the same time government revenue is declining.

There are various schemes around the continent that would make sole-support mothers take the brunt of the economic crunch. In the United States, one idea is to cut the living allowance as soon as the child reaches two years old. In various provinces, and American states, officials are considering many ways to cut back, cut off, or make ineligible funding to mothers.

In Ontario, the new program will allow mothers to be classified as "employable". The province claims that this is for "statistical purposes only and will not affect the

around but they are suspicious--probably rightly--that sleeping in the fumes is unhealthy. But my tent mate Gayla is thankful I've brought it. "Light it up," she says, "There are millions of things I hate about this trip and all of them are mosquitos."



On a Woodswomen trip all food, supplies, tents and canoes are supplied by the organization. Although they specialize in tours for women only, or women with children, they have guided mixed and all male trips. "An entirely different experience", says Judith. "The men spend the first day setting up heirarchies. They develop competitive groups that absolutely refuse to work with each other. And in the mixed group, some of the men expect to carry the canoes and packs and of course paddle stern. It's easy for the women to slip into passive roles."

Operating out of Minneapolis, Woodswomen was founded six years ago by three women. It's aim is to encourage women to enjoy the wilderness. Besides canoe trips of various lengths, its calendar lists cycling, rock climbing, riding, cross-country skiing, and classes in white water canoeing, outdoor skills, plus a history course on wilderness women of the past, such as the Canadian, Minna Hubbard, who journeyed across Labrador to Ungava Bay in 1905. Her name was frequently mentioned because

benefits." Single parent organizations, such as the Mothers Action Group of Toronto, don't believe it for a minute. People classified as "employable" receive much less in benefits than those labeled "unemployable". Privately, the women were told that "by the Fall of 1982, there would be no further referrals of mothers to Family Benefits", and that during the reclassification period, only those "obviously unemployable" or who insisted on family benefits would be referred (for more, see P.26 "Protecting Our Own," report of Mothers Action Group, Toronto. Available at Women's Centre).

In fact, the difference between what the government is saying publicly, and what officials are saying privately are the chief cause of the confusion and fear surrounding this issue.

But underlying all is a deadly fear--a fear like stone in the hearts of the mothers I talked to at Vale Community Centre and the women at Queen's Park--the fear of losing their kids. Just scraping by on Mothers Allowance now, what will happen if their benefits are reduced through such ploys as a reclassification as "employable" or a change-over to the lower city welfare rates... how to hold on then?

some woodswomen, including Judith Niemi, hope to duplicate her 576-mile trip in 1982.

On our fifth day, we leave the Boundary Waters area. At the last carrying place, I am dumbfounded to see a large man strolling down the trail toward me, a lit cigar in his mouth. The hum of motor boats is heard and the final mile is lined with summer cottages.

At the landing, some unload, others go for the cars or set up lunch. We all look a bit glum. I'm suddenly struck by "post camping syndrome"--the sudden and overwhelming desire for a hot bath. And I realize I have a long drive ahead of me and I have to return to work tomorrow. "Joan, what are you thinking," says Marianne. "I'm thinking I have to stop on the way home and buy pantihose for work tomorrow," I reply truthfully. Everybody laughs.

At the campground, we eat a farewell meal which included fresh watermelon and champagne. "You can gold plate these or make them into earrings--these are original souvenirs" Judith says as she hands out momentos--saran-wrapped moose berries. I receive the first one "as a symbol of international good-will". "Turds across the border," we laugh.

All the things we ten women talked about still float like pollen through my mind--it's all there. "Oui, l'ontain que je t'aime. J'amaiz que je t'oubliais."

For a Woodswomen calendar, write 3716 4th Avenue, S., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55409 or phone (612) 832-1900.

HELP PREVENT RAPE - ♀♀  
SISTERS GIVE RIDES TO SISTERS!



It's Tough...continued from page 13

services which really can't be said to be given to society as a whole. So it seems reasonable that the adult who is receiving the service should be the one paying for the pension contribution. Now the only exception that seems to be widely accepted to that rule is that if the person who was being taken care of made a low income, then you might have a subsidization by other participants of the CPP.

Now the last question...should this be optional or mandatory? It's clear from what has come out of European countries where this has been tried. Many European countries where they have opened up voluntarily the public pension plans to homemakers and said anyone who wants to contribute can come in, have had disastrous results. It seemed that less than 5% in any country that has tried it, has contributed. And that the ones who had were all the upper income women who had money of their own. So they in fact had the least need for pension coverage to start off with. So this is really not fair and not adequate. It is clear that the only system that could possibly work is a mandatory system that would cover all homemakers. Here I want to come back to something very important that Ruth Cunningham said yesterday. She was talking about the relationships between women in the home and women in the labour force. She was saying that unless we were united, that we would not be very strong, we would not be listened to. This subject came up at the National Action Committee on the Status of Women and this was specifically voted on in the context of pensions, because the choice was between women whose goal is to push everyone into the labour force, for good intentions, because they say that women will be more financially secure if they are in the labour force so we shouldn't reduce the disadvantages of being in the home. And this is Monica's position, and the other position which was to have the choice and to reduce the disadvantages of being at home. And the vote overwhelmingly went in favour of the choice. I think that given that you can say NAC does represent a good cross section of the women's movement in Canada, I can say safely that this is the position of the women's movement in Canada...that women should have the choice. ... I would go further myself.. and I think that we must bring the work homemakers do, which is private now, bring it out of the private domain and bring it in the market place. And again, Ruth was saying last night, women's work is not in the market place. As long as it is not in the market place it will not be recognized and it will not have proper credit. The situation with homemaking is similar in a way to that with part-time work, politically. The reason why one reminds me of the other is that when labour first studied the problems of women who work part-time, the reaction was to say 'we should abolish it'. Part-time work shouldn't be allowed. In fact several unions still hold

that position. This is the position they have to homemaking. That we should abolish it. In the case of part-time work though, most of the unions have turned around, because they've realized you can't take a magic wand and make part-time work disappear... no more than you can make homemaking work disappear. That as long as there is a demand for it, it is going to exist. So in the case of part-time work, they've changed their tactics, and now they are saying the way to make it better, the way to take away its disadvantages is to make it safer to have women who work part-time have good working conditions. Then it won't be objectionable any more, women will not be financially insecure as they now are when they work part-time. I say the same thing applies for working in the home. The way to deal with it is not to wish it away and hope it will disappear. Because as long as there is need for it and several women have shown, how in diverse conditions it is a choice they have made, or it is something they have had to do because they have had no choice for whatever reason, it is clear that full time or part time homemaking is going to be with us for a long time yet. The majority of women are still not working full time in the labour force at the present time. So as long as homemaking fills a need, the best way to reduce its disadvantages is to make it safer, to give financial security to women in the home. The main way of doing this would be to change family law, so that women at home are entitled to a part of their husband's income while they are in the home, not only if they divorce, but while they are homemakers. And the other less important, but also important way to make the homemaker more financially secure is to give her financial protection under the CPP and that is why I think we should do it.

I will end the subject of homemaker participation by saying I strongly disagree with the argument that seems to be developing that there is a contradiction between the interests of women at home and women in the labour force. This has been set up for you I think, as you have to choose between women at home and women in the labour force. If you look at the picture closely, you see that it doesn't work that way but that the interests of women at home and in the workforce are inextricably intertwined. The reason women in the labour force full



time are not getting the value for their work that they should be getting is because the women that are at home are under cutting them in a way, because they are a pool of cheap labour who is not protected in any way. So you have this Achilles heel. The weakness of women in the labour force is the financial insecurity of the woman at home. As a woman who is full time in the labour force I know full well that to better my own position, the best thing I can do is to support measures that will improve the financial security of women in the home. That is why I support this, this is my reason, as well as the realization that if women are not united behind the political positions they put forward, they will be very weak.

Now to end, I really encourage you to work in this area because it's really going to come back to roost for us before long and I think that once you start work, you realize the old saying that 'charity begins at home' really applies in this area. That if you look at the projections for the year 2010 you see that 60% of senior citizens are going to be women and most of us are going to be in those figures at that time.

HEDDA from pg. 10

*HEDDA*

Henrik Ibsen was writing in the Victorian era. How much of this is still so true today?

Adrienne Rich describes feminine power very succinctly in her book *Of Woman Born*. "Like other dominated people, women have learned to manipulate and seduce, or to internalize men's will and make it their own, and men have sometimes characterized this as a "power" in women. But it is nothing more than the child's or courtesan's "power" to wheedle, and the dependent's "power" to disguise her feelings - even from herself - in order to obtain favours, or literally to survive."

Nonetheless, Thea Elvsted was still powerless. Yet she dealt with her situation creatively. She made her will (the book) her own (the child) and convinced men that it too should be theirs. Thus she controlled the creative aspect of her life (unlike in pregnancy), although she remained dependent upon men for its final expression.

Hedda showed us a destructive means of overcoming powerlessness. Her actions did not stem from boredom. Her actions cannot be coined as intrigue, seduction, toying. Her actions depict the powerless woman. Her actions present the stereotypical version.

Discounting the television screen, how many women do you know who fit into Hedda's lot?

Are not all of us, in our own ways, Thea, conceiving and growing our unbodily children?

It's time we saw some new, refreshing, unsteretyped feminist plays.





# THE CONFEDERATION COLLEGE OF APPLIED ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY THUNDER BAY DISTRICT

It is now possible to receive a General Arts and Science Diploma emphasizing Women's Programs Curriculae.

Post-secondary credit subjects toward the Diploma may be taken in full-time studies or as part-time; contact the Registrar 475-6164.

For information about Women in Non-Traditional Occupations (Management, Trades and Technology), contact Women's Programs 475-6278.

A new bibliography of feminist books and films is available now.

FOR INFORMATION ON HOW TO REGISTER,  
CONTACT WOMEN'S PROGRAMS AT 475-6232.

For information about these subjects outside  
of Thunder Bay, contact your local Confederation  
College office or call Toll Free:  
800-465-6961  
800-465-6962

GS 136 99

## WOMEN IN MANAGEMENT

This subject will briefly look at the traditional principles, strategies and skills of management, but will focus primarily upon particular experiences of being a woman in management.

Resource to include "Women in Management" by Bette Ann Stead.

DATE AND TIME: Monday 7:00-10:00 p.m.

STARTING DATE: January 10, 1983

COMPLETION DATE: April 18, 1983

INSTRUCTOR: Barbara McEwen

FEE: \$45.00 ROOM: 265

GS 144 99

## WOMEN & INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

This program introduces an international perspective in an endeavour to address the common issues affecting Canadian and Third World Women and the effectiveness of developmental efforts aimed at improving living and working conditions for women in developing countries.

DATE AND TIME: Monday 7:00-10:00 p.m.

STARTING DATE: January 10, 1983

COMPLETION DATE: March 14, 1983

INSTRUCTOR: Barbara Marcell

FEE: \$30.00 ROOM: 342

GS 026 99

## ASSERTIVENESS TRAINING

Provides the student with the skills necessary to negotiate honestly for the things s/he wants -- on the job, at home, in the community.

Assertion is not to be confused with aggression. Assertion takes into account the rights and feelings of others.

DATE AND TIME: Tuesday 7:00-10:00 p.m.

STARTING DATE: January 11, 1983

COMPLETION DATE: March 15, 1983

INSTRUCTOR: Ruth Corbett

FEE: \$30.00 ROOM: 260

ZW 043 99

## POLITICS FOR WOMEN

The political process -- how it works and how to make it work for you.

DATE AND TIME: Tuesday 7:00-10:00 p.m.

STARTING DATE: January 18, 1983

COMPLETION DATE: March 22, 1983

INSTRUCTOR: Rita Ubriaco

FEE: \$45.00 ROOM: 282

ZW 264 99

## WOMEN & THE LAW

This subject will focus on the Law as it pertains to women, including special reference on the Charter of Rights, other Human Rights Legislations, Family Law, Employment Law and Native Women's Rights.

DATE AND TIME: Tuesday 7:00-10:00 p.m.

STARTING DATE: January 18, 1983

COMPLETION DATE: March 22, 1983

INSTRUCTOR: Lynn Beak

FEE: \$45.00 ROOM: 342

## GETTING AHEAD: BASIC SKILLS FOR THE WOMAN SUPERVISOR WORKSHOP

JANUARY 20, 1983 (7:00 - 10:00 p.m.)

JANUARY 21, 1983 (9:00 am - 3:30 p.m.)

Resource Person: INLA ROBERTS, nationally known consultant and educator.

For further information, contact the Seminar Centre at 475-6380.

## Women's Programs

ZW 001 99

## LIFE AFTER 65

This subject will explore the changing roles of the older person in today's society with emphasis on the concept that Old is Beautiful and that the lifestyles of the over 65 age group can and must include meaningful status and useful functions in the community.

DATE AND TIME: Thursday 7:00-10:00 p.m.

STARTING DATE: January 20, 1983

COMPLETION DATE: March 24, 1983

INSTRUCTOR: Betty Chalmers

FEE: \$45.00 ROOM: 282

ZW 017 99

## WOMEN KNOW YOUR CAR

Students will learn the basic procedures of car maintenance and general operation.

DATE AND TIME: Thursday 7:00-10:00 p.m.

STARTING DATE: January 20, 1983

COMPLETION DATE: February 17, 1983

INSTRUCTOR: Don Young

FEE: \$25.00 ROOM: Auto Shop, Dorion Bldg.

## COMING UP - 1983

### INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION

Women coming INTO Trades & Technology (WITT)

Women coming INTO Management

DATE: Friday MARCH 4, 1983

TIME: 1:30-4:30 and 7:00-10:00 p.m.

PLACE: Concourse, Shuniah Building

Resource People .. Displays .. Films

### MEN'S ATTITUDE TO WOMEN'S CHANGING SEXUALITY

Thursday APRIL 28 (eve), 1983

Dr. Claude Guldner, Dept. of Family Studies,

University of Guelph

For further information, contact the

Seminar Centre 475-6380.

### ASSERTIVENESS TRAINING INSTRUCTORS' WORKSHOP

To provide a laboratory experience for those wishing to teach Assertiveness Training or to integrate it into their educational materials.

Registrants will be expected to have a background in Social Sciences or permission of the instructor.

DATE: MAY 4, 5, 6, 1983

For more information, contact Women's Programs at 475-6232.

## TAKE A LEAP FORWARD

### WOMEN'S EDUCATION-NORTHERN ONTARIO (WE-NO)

JULY 1984 -- SEMINAR CENTRE

where required accommodation will be available in the Student Residence at a moderate cost.

### WOMEN'S EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE

1. To facilitate an opportunity for students to undertake post-secondary credit subjects and non post-secondary subjects, which study roles and relationships which women experience on all levels of Canadian society.
2. To provide leadership in contemporary issues of particular concern to women.
3. To respond to the needs of women-for information and practical skills to assist them to meet pressing, immediate problems.
4. To reach segments of the population who for one reason and another, have not benefited from the resources of the College.
5. To become a *method* for disseminating information to any interested person about education and employment issues touching the lives of women.

### UNITED NATIONS 1985 WORLD CONFERENCE FOR WOMEN

NAIROBI, KENYA

Initial meeting to organize the trip:

DATE: Monday JANUARY 24, 1983

TIME: 7:00-10:00 p.m.

ROOM: Room 213, Shuniah Building

Barbara Marcell and Ruth Cunningham.

GS 143

99

## WOMEN & STRESS MANAGEMENT

This program is intended to examine situational stresses in our lives--family, job, social relationships, conflict, change, developmental crises, etc., as well as potential sources of stress. They bring to every situation because of their personality, their own belief system, their life rhythms and their style of problem-solving. A lifestyle and attitude approach to changing their stress response will be developed by each individual.

DATE AND TIME: Wednesday 7:00-10:00 p.m.

STARTING DATE: January 12, 1983

COMPLETION DATE: March 16, 1983

INSTRUCTOR: Walter Martin

FEE: \$30.00 ROOM: 342

ZW 032

## IMAGES OF WOMEN IN THE MEDIA

Through the use of films and recordings, this subject will examine the portrayal of women in advertising, television, newspapers and contemporary music.

SECTION 99 (Evening)

DATE AND TIME: Wednesday 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

STARTING DATE: January 19, 1983

COMPLETION DATE: April 27, 1983

INSTRUCTOR: Liz Poulin

FEE: \$45.00 ROOM: 282

SECTION 98 (Day)

DATE AND TIME: Wednesday 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

STARTING DATE: January 19, 1983

COMPLETION DATE: April 27, 1983

INSTRUCTOR: Liz Poulin

FEE: \$45.00 ROOM: tba

## SKILL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS:

### JOB SEARCH SKILLS FOR WOMEN

A three-week program sponsored by Canada Employment and Immigration to assist women who want immediate employment.

Contact the Women's Employment Centre at 623-2731.

### INTRODUCTION TO NON-TRADITIONAL OCCUPATIONS

An eight-week program designed to give women an academic and experimental introduction to traditionally male occupations. The students will choose, with the help of the instructor, where the training will take place.

Start Date: JANUARY 17 and MARCH 21, 1983.  
Contact your Canada Employment and Immigration Counsellor at 344-6601 or 623-2731.



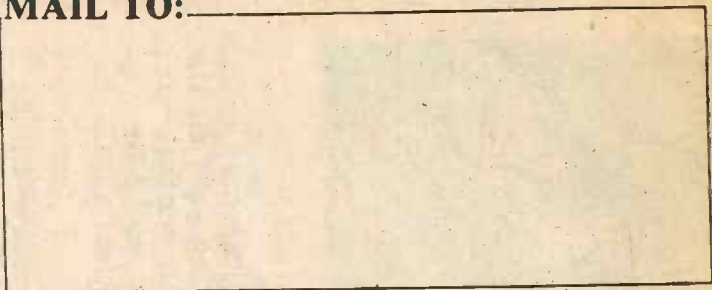
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Women who worked on this issue:

Anna McColl, Teresa Legowski,  
Noreen Lavoie, Danalyn MacKinnon,  
Joyce Michalchuk, Donna Phoenix,  
Sara Williamson, Margaret Phillips,  
Luan Wall, Arja Lane, Viola Nikkila.

THUNDER CLAP

Edith McLeod for Person  
of the Year in Canada,  
Founder of Ontario Native  
Women's Association.



*Happy  
Holidays*