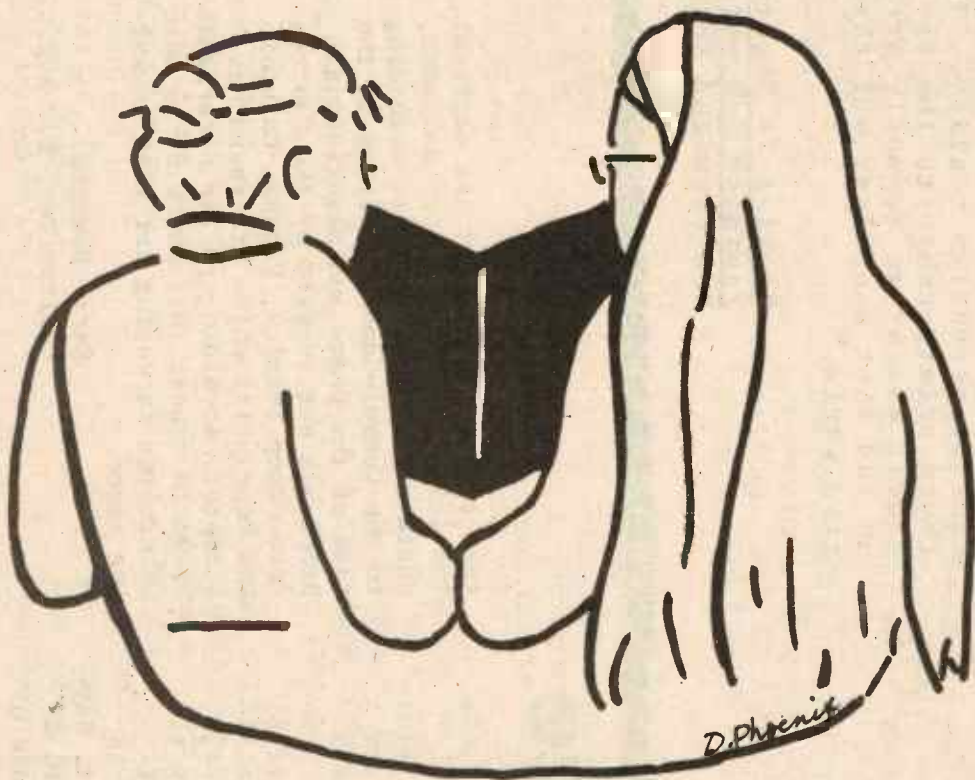


Northern Woman Journal

Vol. 8, No. 3

Thunder Bay, Ontario



OUR LITERATURE MUST BE VISIONARY,
A LITERATURE OF CHANGE THAT EXAMINES
ALL ASPECTS OF OUR LIVES



- " It has become clear to us that resistance to war and to the use of nuclear weapons is impossible without resistance to sexism, to racism, to imperialism and to violence as an everyday pervasive reality. There is a profound relationship to the fact that individual women are commonly attacked and beaten up and that a nuclear war threatens the entire world."

Piecing It Together:
Feminism & Nonviolence (p.5)
Feminism and Nonviolence Study Group

Your Voice

Based on information available to the Lakehead Central American Support Group by national and international sources we see it as our responsibility to alert the media and public of Thunder Bay that armed intervention into the affairs of El Salvador and Nicaragua by the military forces of the United States, Guatemala and Honduras is being actively planned and prepared for.

According to news sources in New York and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) in El Salvador, the Minister of Defense of El Salvador, Mr. Casanova, has requested armed intervention by Guatemala and Honduras against the rebels in El Salvador. This will allow a pincer attack on FMLN controlled territory and rear base areas in El Salvador bordering on the Guatemalan and Honduran borders. Unconfirmed reports state that 1500 U.S. troops are being moved into this area as well. In conjunction with this military build-up, the refugee camps in the area are being uprooted again and moved further into Honduras.

On October 22 and 23 a meeting of the military leaders of the United States, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras was held, where they discussed and planned the co-ordinating of common action under the mantle of the revamped Central American Defense Council (Mexico, Belize and Nicaragua were not invited and Costa Rica declined its invitation). A document arising out of the meeting spoke of "an international pacification action" and "direct participation by the U.S.A. with all its resources".

In Honduras the rapid military build-up is continuing. It has been marked by a vast expansion of military bases, transfers of war material from the U.S. to the Hondurans and logistical support for the C.I.A. -Contra army. A major joint military exercise lasting up to six months is now underway. Involving 5000 U.S. troops, these exercises are taking place essentially on the Honduran/Nicaraguan border and consist of paratroop drops, jungle sweeps, quick reaction strikes and amphibious landings from the U.S. fleet sitting off Nicaragua's East coast. In addition to this, the attacks by the Honduran based C.I.A.- Contra army on Nicaragua are escalating both in numbers of attacks and costs in Nicaraguan lives.

All of this activity viewed against the backdrop of recent events in Grenada has convinced the Consul-General of Nicaragua to Canada, Mr. P. Valle-Garay, that the Central American region will be the scene of a massive military escalation by the

turn of the new year at the earliest. The policy of the U.S., El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras is, according to the Consul-General, flying in the face of the peace and negotiating proposals put forward by the Contradora Group (Mexico, Panama, Columbia and Venezuela) which Nicaragua has accepted. According to the Nicaraguans, it would appear that the U.S. is more interested in waging war than in waging peace.

Barry Beaupre
Chairperson, L.C.A.S.G.

Reprinted from Chronicle-Journal
'Letters to the Editor'

Many women today live in constant fear of being physically or sexually assaulted. We all know that you do not have to be "young" or "attractive" or "dressed provocatively" or out late at night alone for it to happen. For the most part, we try and push it out of our minds so that we can function like normal human beings. Your editorial of Oct.26 (Protection, for whom?) regarding the tragic death of Corina Carlson served as a grim reminder of our reason to fear.

Immediately after reading your editorial, we came across an article written by Regina lawyer Morris Schumiatcher which had appeared in an earlier issue of your newspaper (The difference is in the asking -Sept.27) In it, he makes reference to an appearance he made in the Court of Appeal on behalf of "a young farm lad who had been convicted of raping an acquaintance a few years younger than he". He then proceeds to expound on why, in an age of unprecedented permissiveness, complaints of rape should have become more numerous than in earlier years.

No words can describe the chill and revulsion we felt reading it. Here is what learned counsel Schumiatcher had to say: "The difference between a sexual assault and a loving relationship is essentially a matter of manners... Most men have been charged and convicted of rape simply because they failed to say 'please' before they embarked upon their venture or because they failed to express a kindly human word or affection on parting. To be treated callously, as a mere thing, is an affront no woman will forget. Callousness is not a criminal offence, but it is a breach of manners that few women will forgive. A dictionary of words is not required. A few 'well chosen' phrases tastefully addressed to the object of one's passion may



prove sufficient... With the vast array of girls from which to choose and a million words in the English vocabulary to use, rape is for slobs and sexual assault for clods."

In your editorial, you said that it was inconceivable that someone, somewhere, sometime during the investigation of the Bohatchuk matters did not see the pattern and suggest, recommend or order that he be separated from society and treated for his illness. We don't agree with you. It is quite conceivable if mindless attitudes such as those expressed by counsel Schumiatcher should prevail. Until physical and sexual assaults are dealt with as acts of violence and not as "interactions gone wrong" women cannot look to the courts for protection or to the wider community for support.

Fiona Karlstedt,
Margot Blight,
Thunder Bay.

Northern Woman Journal:

Did you happen to hear that in the Finnish parliamentary election at the end of March 1983 62 women were elected? With the total number of members being 200 it is still not a fair representation(=50%),but it is about 30 %, a good step forward. In several previous elections the number of women has been around 40. In the Helsinki area majority of representatives are women.

Maisa Martin
Thunder Bay



P O T L U C K

S U P P E R

Womanspace, 316 Bay St., Jan. 11/84

followed by concert

by

JENNIFER GARRETT

by JOAN BARIL

●●● The Toronto Women's Bookstore, which was destroyed by anti-abortion arsonists this summer, is open again at 296 Brunswick Avenue, 2nd Floor, and will move to a new, permanent location at 73 Harbord St. (at Spadina) in February, 1984. The Bookstore has received thousands of dollars in donations from the women's community. They were much helped by a supportive article in the TORONTO STAR by columnist Michelle Landsburg. At present, they are operating with about a third of their normal stock ●●●



Confederation College is offering free courses to women interested in careers in the trades or technology fields. I.N.T.O. (Introduction to Non-Traditional Occupations) starts January 2. A free W.I.T.T. course (Women in Trades and Technology) started November 28. For women without enough high school training, there are free upgrading courses ●●● Women who want high-tech or scientific education often worry about math. College Upgrading has popular math classes running all day and evening. If need be, a person can go back to the basics. The students work at their own speed. Women who are interested in refurbishing their math should phone the College Upgrading for a free test and an estimate on how long it will take to reach a Grade 12 level. The co-ordinator, Joan Baril, begs people not to leave this until the last weeks in August and then hope for a quickie refresher, as sometimes happens. "We can work miracles, but it takes time" ●●●

Although major renovations are going on on the first floor of the College, Ruth Cunningham, Director of Women's Programs, reminds everyone that her office is still in business, still in the same place but redecorated and with a different entryway. You enter the office from the corridor on the Balmoral Street side of the building ●●●

Film series on violence are being planned in the region, Kenora, Northshore and Geraldton ●●● Preparations for a spring conference in Dryden called "Women in Transition" are underway ●●● A note from Joy Fedorick, Women's Directorate, that the International Women's Day Celebration committee will be starting preparations for next March 8 ●●● Joy has become a part of the core committee of the newly-formed local Human Rights/Civil Liberties committees ●●● She has also helped organize the December 5th Women in the Workplace meeting which focused on non-union workers ●●● The Ontario govern-

ment held a Women and Technology workshop November 5 and 6. They promised nirvana at the Valhalla. The women participants were all invited as "community leaders"; the general public, such as the interested, ordinary Jill, couldn't get in. After listening to the virtues of both technology and the Ontario government for quite a long time, the women were asked to spend a couple of hours developing strategies on how women's organizations could voluntarily implement the government's programs. After talking it over, they voluntarily refused to do so ●●● Ontario women want equal access to new jobs but we will define our own solutions. We insist on being consulted in the formation of government programs, not as volunteer clones, overworked and underpaid, snapping into action to implement every program coming down the pike ●●●

This brings us to the government proposals to build Family Resource Centres and the money for running them. Again, no consultation. The Ontario Assoc. of Interval and Crises Houses, which are the women with all the experience in the field, has not been consulted ●●● Apparently, some of the money is slated to be used for research on family violence again. A great saving could be made here if the programmers would read the research on violence already published by their own government. And the federal government. And other provincial governments. And the many books on battering, etc. ●●●

The B.C. Women's Research Centre is putting out a paper on "The Institutionalizing of Women's Issues" and not a minute too soon, either. They are also publishing "Impact of the Recession on Women in Single Industry Towns". Locally, Marita Maki, a summer student with the Women's Bureau, has drafted a handbook for decision-makers on Women and Economic Development ●●●



The MacDonald Commission said that the best dialogue they have had with women so far was here in Thunder Bay. Fiona Karlstedt from the Women's Centre, Liz Poulin, Decade Council and Ruth Cunningham, Director of Women's Programs at Confederation College, presented briefs. The brief by the Women and Economic Development Committee of the Decade Council noted how economic planning always makes two assumptions about women: that they are dependent on men and that they are in traditional marriages, being supported by the husband. (In fact, only 12% of Canadian women are in such marriages) ●●●

In mid-October, Dr. Henry Morgentaler and seven clinic staffers were sent to trial after their preliminary hearing in Winnipeg. However, supporters were shocked to hear the presiding judge improperly comment that Morgentaler was "probably guilty".

It is the duty of the judge at a preliminary hearing to decide if the evidence is sufficient for a trial, not to speculate on the verdict ●●●

The taboo against speaking about the gang-rapes on reserves in North-western Ontario was broken by Grassy Narrows Indian Reserve Chief Steve Fobister at a meeting of the social development committee of the Ontario legislature. Since his statement, Fobister has received all the criticism usually heaped on people who break silences.

Wayne Spragge, a counsellor at Kenora's Mental Health Centre, believes half of all native girls are gang-raped as a first sexual experience. According to another informant, on one reserve the guys band together to "initiate" a young girl when she reaches puberty.

Christine Strong, a probation officer at Grassy was quoted in the Times-News: "It sounds sick, but it's true. Almost every weekend you hear this girl was drunk and gang-raped by a bunch of guys. But no-one wants to talk about it." Grassy has 600 residents.



Both Fobister and Strong make it clear that the purpose of raping is to shame the girl, to humiliate. "By raping, men make a fool out of her," said the chief. Being marked by shame makes it impossible for the women to speak up. "If I raised (the issue), my husband would be shamed and he would think it happened to me."

Some observers link the high suicide rate of teenage girls to being raped.

Edith McLeod, a native spokeswoman, charges chiefs with being more concerned with "rice and land claims" than sexual abuse. Fobister notes that the gang-rapes are a subject of jokes in the Kenora area. When he tried to bring it up in council, people laughed. Priscilla Simard of the Ontario Native Women's Association mentions the other tragedies of reserve life which destroy people: no jobs (80% of Grassy residents are unemployed), alcohol and solvent abuse, isolation and lack of recreation.

●●● Sally Barnes, the Premier's hand-picked president of the Ontario Council on the Status of Women, got the message from her constituency. "Which side are you on, Sally?", the women of Ontario asked after she told a legislature committee that the public wasn't ready for equal pay for work of equal value--no, no, not even for a pilot project, said she. Ontario women were angered. Several groups such as NAC (National Action Committee) called for her resignation. Facing the music, Barnes performed the

CONT'D ON PAGE 4

by JOAN BARIL

Davis sidestep and announced a new-found commitment to the cause. In a letter to Robert Welsh (Minister responsible for women's issues), she stated her council to be fully supportive of efforts to test the concept. She added it would be "tremendously helpful if...the government would go on record as supporting the principle". Which it has, so presumably the pilot project will begin, but when will we get equal pay?

"It's the government of an iceberg," said NAC President Doris Anderson ●●●

A B.C. woman walks into her neighbourhood store last November. She is wearing a Solidarity support button. Someone rushes up to her and



spits in her face. The atmosphere in B.C. has been extreme this autumn--right-wing people quivering with hate, government workers becoming the new pariahs, being described as parasites and bums. The settlement of the strike saved the public sector unions from virtual extinction but did nothing to stop the cutbacks in services to the population. Many of the cutbacks were deliberately aimed at women and children's services and educational programs. The layoffs and closings will now begin ●●● Judge Stephen Borins has done all women a service by ruling on October 24 that sexually violent video tapes distributed by two companies were obscene because they depicted the violent treatment of women and because they indicated women experienced pleasure from pain. The tapes ruled not obscene, although graphically sexual, were generally free from violence. These truly disgusting tapes will now disappear from Ontario shelves but can still be ordered from outside the province from, such places as Red Hot Video of Kelowna B.C. which advertises nationwide, just phone in your Visa or Master Charge ●●● Video machines are the new toys for the boys, the fad in this year's Christmas wish book. Video porn watching is a male bonding activity. A local woman described how her husband threw beer and video parties for his male friends. In order to prevent her children from seeing the tape, she has to sit in the bedroom with them until the tape was over ●●● On Remembrance Day a group of women attending the Women in Therapy Conference in Toronto purchased every porn magazine on the shelves of



Graphic: LNS

the Holiday Inn gift shop. They carefully pulled each magazine apart and distributed the pages to about 300 conference participants. A spokeswoman began to list some of the things they had found in these magazines. When she began to describe a picture of young children tied to the four bedposts of a bed, she broke down in tears ●●● The women assembled in front of the gift shop, held up their magazine sheets in the air and chanted, "No more porn". This action was deliberately held for the media; it was the women's way of making a public statement ●●● At the registration desk, the Holiday Inn staff and customers exchanged amused smiles and little mock sighs. But as the chanting got louder, business ceased and there was a moment of apprehension. But then the demonstrators started a song and business resumed...

●●● We avoid looking at porn magazines in stores, we turn our backs or stay on the other side of the room. We don't even have a vocabulary to explain what hurts and disgusts and shocks us. But we must try to find the language in order to explain to others. This, from Susan Cole, workshop leader. ●●●

The End of the Decade. Nairobi, Kenya will be the site of the 1985 United Nations World Conference on Women. This conference ends the U.N. Decade for Women proclaimed in 1975 in Mexico City. The theme has been Equality, Development and Peace. The Mexico conference and the one in Copenhagen in 1980 were both marred by governments who used the women's congress as a forum for their own propaganda and priorities--hence, Arab-Israeli confrontations, or the spectacle of the Iranian delegate proclaiming the equality of women in her country at a time when feminists were being jailed, silenced or killed. On both occasions, parallel conferences had to be set up to allow a women's forum free from government posing. Considering that in the past 10 years, the women of the world have not achieved equality, nor been improved by development, nor, in many instances, been blessed by peace, a preparatory conference meeting in Vienna has proposed that a second U.N. Decade for women be proclaimed ●●●

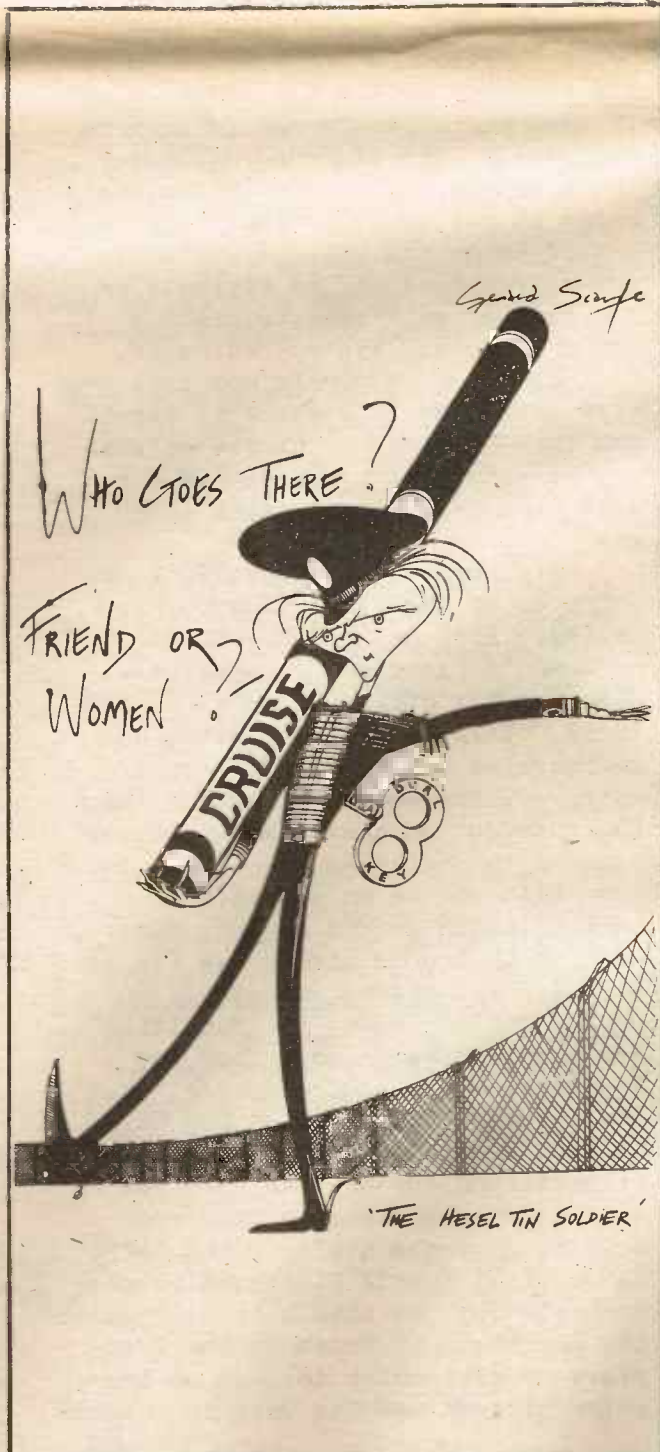
Some quotes: "The Moral Majority is what our ancestors came to this continent to escape." ●●● "Rich people plan for generations, poor people plan for Saturday night." ●●● "Rich cultures value thin women. Poor cultures value fat women. All cultures value weak women." ●●● "Fantasy for depressed feminists: an army of women taking over Saudi Arabia." All quotes from Gloria Steinham. Phyllis Chestler: "We are at war. It was declared long ago by nameless others." ●●●

Such good news--a feminist bookstore in Thunder Bay at last. Margaret Phillips and Anna McColl have taken over the small, streetside office of 316 Bay Street and are engaged in its transformation to bookshop. The store will be open three days a week--Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays--and carries feminist magazines, philosophy and fiction, "especially Canadian novels", says co-founder Margaret Phillips. The plan (carried out by press time) was to open quietly in December, or as soon as sufficient stock arrived; the official opening will be after Christmas ●●●

The Women's Centre held an open house for the Welcome Wagon Club. In fact, this autumn, the Centre has been very active. Over 160 people attended the film series on mental health. Speakers spoke on CKPR, to the Girl Guides and to College, University and highschool classes on such topics as Women and the Law and Reproductive Rights ●●● The Women and Pensions Committee of Thunder Bay have received funding to publicize pension issues and to discuss with women the issues raised in the position paper which came out of the pensions conference and which was presented to the Taskforce on Pension Reform.

The Committee will be travelling in the region. Their aim is to alert women to the chief hazards of aging--no money. They plan to contact the politicians, too. ●●●

A conference on Family Violence was held at the Airline November 17-18 and mainly attended by social workers and workers in various agencies. Fiona Karlstedt of the Women's Centre presented a paper on Community Agency Responses to Family Violence. Under the topic of housing, she pointed out that Thunder Bay has the second worst housing problem in the nation with a vacancy rate of less than 1%; there is a waiting list of 400 for subsidized housing and only 60 spaces available in crisis housing for women and children--a pretty grim situation for a woman to face if she has no money and wants to clear out of a house where she is abused.



Sudbury

Homemakers Conference

One of the activities that is tentatively scheduled for February 1984, is a Homemakers Conference.

Anyone who is interested in organizing this event may call the Women's Centre in Sudbury. In the mean time, ideas and input on guest speakers, activities, workshops, and resource people are requested.

Caregivers Registry

by Dale Mansfield

The Caregivers Registry, which started up last month, is progressing well. Currently there are approximately twice as many caregivers as parents on file at the Women's Centre.

This is probably due to the high unemployment situation in the area. Consequently women are staying at home with their children. There is hope that as time goes on, more parents will call. It seems that publicity is the name of the game.

Once people register, a follow-up letter is sent stating the terms of the registry, as well as a notice of upcoming workshops of interest to the parents and caregivers.

Canada Pension Plan and SWAG

by Andrea Levan

The Sudbury Women's Action Group has recently presented a brief to the Task Force on Pension Reform in Sudbury. Of particular assistance were

Louise Dulude's "The Pink Paper", the minutes of the National Action Committee's presentation to the Task Force and the CPP Advisory Committee's presentation to Monique Begin on home-maker participation in the CPP.

As a second part of the pensions issue, SWAG prepared a joint brief along with six representatives from different women's groups in Sudbury. Despite some rather large differences in philosophy and outlook, SWAG found itself able to agree on a surprising number of points. Although most SWAG members had to make some compromises they were pleased with the result. This particular brief was presented in Toronto in October.

North Bay

To Have and To Hold

On the last day of November, the North Bay Women's Centre presented the film "To Have and To Hold", a film about men who batter women. The problem of wife abuse was examined through the man's experience of it.

Marsha Greenfield presented a report on the Nipissing Transition House. As well, a discussion was held on solutions to wife battering in its next phase - help for the batterer.

The Nipissing Transition House

by Nancy Bishop

It's now a reality: a roomy, four bedroom house has been rented at 547 John St. in North Bay. The house can accommodate nine residents: women and children in need of safe refuge from violent situations.

Three full time staff have been

hired and the house is presently open from 9-5 week days, with an answering service after hours.

Since a number of structural modifications still need to be completed, counselling services are presently being offered. Once these changes are complete, the house will be fully operational.

Putting Happy Into Holiday

For those who wanted this holiday to be better than the last, a workshop was held on December 2nd at the Indian Friendship Centre. Discussion groups talked about: making children's expectations more realistic; dealing with loneliness during the holiday season; decorating and gift giving for pennies; the Xmas spirit and where to find it; booze and happiness don't mix; family expectations and avoiding conflict.

The workshops were sponsored by the Women's Centre and a number of other community groups and services.

Longlac

Child Care

by Diane Parise

A total of 77 delegates attended the 6th Annual Northwestern Ontario Day Care Conference hosted by the Longlac Child Care Centre.

Participants enjoyed a choice of 18 workshops ranging in topics from developing a playground site, child abuse, separation and divorce to puppetry and exercise for children.

During the last day of the three day event new trends, goals of early childhood education and philosophies were discussed.

Dryden

INFORMED CHOICES

by Jeannie Mascotto

Dryden does it again! Plans are in full swing for the Bicentennial Women's Conference '84, to be held April 6, 7 and 8 at the Dryden High School.

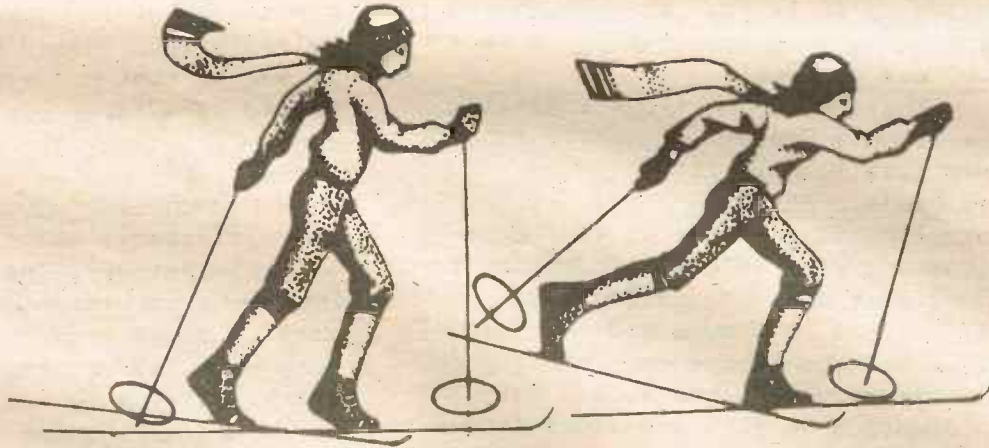
The conference's theme is Women in Transition. It will offer educational opportunities to women to enable them to make informed decisions on emerging issues.

The line up of workshops look this: family law - property and marriage contract; microtechnology - impact on women; effective parenting - how to teach your child with love and discipline; preparation for aging - the process of aging and resources needed for preparation; coping with inflation - investments and insurance; changing roles in responsibilities - the rights and responsibilities of single parents.

Two hundred women from Thunder Bay west to Winnipeg are expected to participate. For out-of-towners, accommodations will be available at the Best Western Motor Inn. As well, day care services will be arranged.

For further information contact Jeannie Mascotto, Co-ordinator, Bicentennial Women's Conference '84, Box 531, Dryden, Ont., P8N 2Z2.

NAKINA - CONT'D ON PAGE 12



Nakina

VIDA and GOLIATH

by the Women's Group of the Nakina Anti-Run-Through Committee

In 1923, C.N. uprooted everyone in Grant, Ontario, moved them up the line and literally plunked them, houses and all, in the bush! The C.N. employees and their families picked up the pieces and with great determination set about making Nakina a habitable place to live. Everything in Nakina is a result of the start these pioneering families made. These people made this town! They did it willingly and for the most part happily. They made the best of the situation that C.N. forced on them.

Now, for the third time, C.N. wants to run-through Nakina. Once again the railroaders must fight for their existence. This is extremely upsetting, frightening and devastating; the axe hanging over everyone's head for approximately 20 years is

ready to fall again.

C.N. will not give its employees any reasons or answers to their questions; in fact, will not even talk with them. The word is C.N. will save money; no one knows how much and/or where it will save it. One company official said that, after all, it's only good business to make progress. Is it good business to do so at the expense of its employees and their families? Where, and when, does the responsibility that C.N. brags about, start?

There are numerous reasons why we do not want C.N. to "run-through" Nakina. Some of which follow:

1. As women living in Nakina, many of us have jobs locally. In view of to-day's economy, these jobs are vital to the financial stability of our families. When C.N. forces our men to move, we will lose our jobs. We won't be able to find other jobs in the new townsite due to the rate

I.N.I.T.I.A.L. REACTION

A report on the Women's Inter-Agency Committee Meeting, Oct. 24/83

by ROSALYN TAYLOR PERRETT

As I attended the Women's Inter-Agency Meeting, I found out I was in for quite a learning experience, not just in terms of content but in the tight, bureaucratically imposed process which unfortunately places iron-clad walls around even the most well intentioned, aware women.

The Women's Inter-Agency Meeting was born out of a need for a support system and a sharing of information in the women's community. The format of these meetings consist of information exchange on programs, activities and women deserving special recognition for their contributions. Future hopes and plans are also shared. Various participants can then take news back to their own groups for planning purposes, political action and/or personal participation.

As an eternal optimist, I prefer to begin with the good news... A Women Through Film Series is being planned by the women in Red Lake. The content remains undecided at present. There is discussion about a new women's group on the campus of Lakehead University. The Women and Economic Development Committee are working on a handbook for decision makers in Northwestern Ontario on 'Women's Role in Economic Development'. The Employment Development Branch is currently undergoing consolidation. The four new programs are Job Corps, L.E.A.P. (Local Employment Assistance Program), Canada Works and Career Access. The focus for L.E.A.P. is community based economic development. For more information call Sandra Steinhouse or Julie Fels at 344-0815.

There will be a spring conference in Dryden called Women in Transition. Proposed workshops focus on women's social and economic independence. More information will be forthcoming.

The International Women's Day Celebration Committee is in the works and hopes to involve many women's groups.

Confederation College has some exciting courses for women who wish to pursue non-traditional occupations. For more information see Joan Baril's 'Update' column. It is important to register as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

The remainder of this report looks at current concerns. Family Resource Centres are receiving a lot of attention these days. There is considerable concern about their impact on Northwestern Ontario. Funding for Family Resource Centres and Transition Homes has been very scanty. The per-diem rate is a very awkward way of ensuring that each woman at the home gets basic room and board. Transition Homes are more than room and board, they offer counselling service and child care. A larger problem arose when Family Resource Centres were given a floating per-diem rate, meaning, the daily cost is figured and divided by the number of women using it. This means that Family Resource Centres get a different per-diem rate from Transition Homes. This move seems calculated to split women into two opposing factions - those involved with Family Resource Centres and those involved with Transition Homes. It is vital to keep the main issue in perspective - Battered women need to have their support services legislated. The recent lobby was intended to ensure that any gains would be in writing.

Over the past two years, new mental health programs have begun in most district communities. Their approach is largely clinical and there is concern over this isolated method of dealing with clients who are mostly women. As most of the mental health workers are male, and from outside the community, it is unlikely they will be able to relate to problems women face. There is not a lot of choice for women with no where else to turn. Alternatives are being researched. It is felt that women's problems should be regarded as social, not personal.

There were questions regarding the Women's Employment Centre report. More details were requested concerning Project Next Step. Further information is required on the local situation with INTO (Introduction to Non-Traditional Occupations) and WITT (Women in Trades and Technology). Plans for the future were missing in the report. It is hoped that more information on this and other issues will be exchanged at the next meeting.

The mood of the meeting was subdued and there was only partial attendance. Those present seemed to be feeling the strain of too many meetings. The age-old problem of commit-



ting energy to so many equally important issues while being one step ahead of the 'fickle fist' of bureaucracy can make the most optimistic person feel over-burdened. Sometimes the gains are microscopic and other times the larger gains feel like grains of sand as the tide rolls out. It is like scrambling for grains before they all go out to sea.

Personally (despite my gloomy introduction) I hope these meetings continue in order to provide some check and balance on the 'system', and keep women well informed about current issues affecting them. Networking alleviates the isolation that fragments us, removes the barriers erected by misinformation or total lack of knowledge. There are, however, some dangers when women become too insular. Even with this opportunity for exchange, there is a tendency for women's groups to look inward and develop a protective, bureaucratic language that alienates them from the women they work so hard to support.

I attended this meeting, a relative newcomer to the format, the tiny political seeds just beginning to sprout. I came to listen but I also came to try to understand. I was amazed at the ease with which initials were tossed back and forth. It was as though I was suddenly immersed in a large bowl of alphabet soup. It is easy to be intimidated by the sub-language of meetings (designed presumably to maintain order and efficiency) and almost lose sight of their purpose. One has to plunge into this curious way of communicating in order to survive. I learned much more information after the meeting by talking to various cooperative women and asking for their thoughts and feelings. Perhaps the language can be simplified so that it is more universally understood. Communication should bring us together not set us apart.

Rising by Gert Beadle

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FRAGMENTS/BETRAYALS

You look at me, and I know you see.
I'm convinced brown eyes betray me, and I try to hide
Hidden, the hurt is unaffecting. Others will not see.

I try to hide behind them
Put glasses on them to shade me from blindingly hot reality
which I confronted (having run headlong)
under which I partly buckled, somewhat strong
over which I measured a stunted truth, with an
Ancient faith, unreligious but integral, personal and omnipresent

Shattered, slammed, blown from betrayal to blunder
Unproud but unashamed, admittedly knuckled under
I wrap the blows and bruises in the womb of home and room
Refugee from a reality too unreal for me
Eventually (as always) I resume the plea
For the peace so cherished, so removed, I grieve
Winding me with barbed wire, they cannot and will not leave.

I plead for freedom, for release
But I cannot cry for a rightful peace...

Then, the tears follow
Like fragments of fibreglass, itching and biting
Angry and unclesing in eyes exhausted with fighting
Eyes betrayed and betraying
Watching the cards, and the cutting

Go on, deal the hand, but for now
I'm folding
Bone-cut with disillusion, dissolution
But holding.

Joycè Michalchuk
12/15/83

A ONE NOTE CHORD

I used the electric drill.
It didn't run through my feet and around my apartment.
Not this time.
My mind over its matter.

I put those ugly mugs away.
I must love her less if I hate those blue mugs.
I love her.
It's those blue mugs I hate.

I came home.
Tired womon-child.
I wanted my friend and my dinner. Now. Complete.
Incomplete me completed dinner.
Cried. Did the damn dishes.
Survived.

I went to bed.
I touch my Self. feel my Self. heal my Self.
I run away.
To return. Sometimes coming further with my Self.

I sigh.
I transcend. fall. touch. splat. stumble. glide. want. speak.
cry. scream. dream. read. bang. write.
I am tired. thrilled. strong.alone. creative. in pain. in the bath.
in need. in sane. in trouble. indeed

I am:

An average extraordinary womon learning to Be.

Lal Sarson, Winnipeg



P
o
e
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y





Wheels (For Mary)

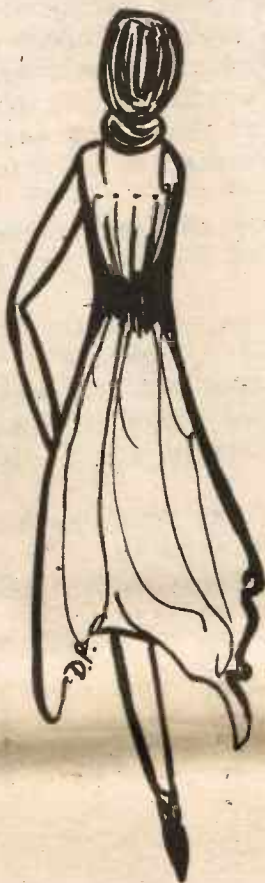
*Turning
Wheels turning
Round
Round ring circles
Spinning spirals
Spinning
 round
Forward, and round
Round, and forward
And
 round
In spirals

Time spent
Strength gone
Riding my nightmare
 round
In spirals*

*Wheels
Within wheels:
Whirling.
Spinning wheel
Ferris wheel
Wheel of fortune:
Sanity?/Insanity
Wheels whirling*

*See my
Wheels
Turning
Round...*

Susan Collins Hawkins



Annex

*I dance beneath you, swaying
in the rhythm of our two-step,
hips hugging, lips touching,
legs teasing.
Tempting hungry hands
to hoard an inch of flesh
with a moment of man
caught in a word of woman,
catching us both battered
into wanton warmth, leaving
us limp and pensive with peace.*

*Joyce Thierry
Yellowknife, N.W.T.*

I wanna

*cast
stoke
love
grow
least
seek
hiss
tickle
open*

Live/in my dark places

*witch
I am
creating
casting
spelling
changeing my faces*

*Lal Sarson
Winnipeg*

*meeting
for brenwyn*

*when the red chip of potsherd
held warm in your palm
spoke to you as it speaks to me
i knew we had met at last
when you saw the woman
of the colorado earth
her braided hair
her worn healer's hands
her wise lined face
i knew we had finally touched
when you saw her as i do
molding clay into strips
and the strips into a bowl
sunk deep into the ashes
of a hot pinyon fire
i knew you and i were as one
when you saw the pot broken
by a narrow running stream
the ancient woman gone
the valley silent of her voice
i knew what we had held
together was of woman's love*

*Diane Stein
Pittsburgh*

Womanstories

*a thousand untold stories
the kids, the home, the meals
menial tasks to cloud the mind
to cork the bottle of wisdoms for safe storage
she's a good wife and a good mother too*

*The Woman resources to be tapped
Aging like a celler of home made wine
Don't wait any longer, I beg you
Don't let her ferment much longer
Or it may be too late*

*She may lose that beautiful bouquet
She may become bitter, too
She has an expiry date.
The grave's a great place for safe-keeping
But where the hell does all the potential energy go?
Don't let her take her story to her grave!*

Judy McMartin



FOOLS BITTER SORROW

Beloved together we are outcasts
coloured
a threat
Beloved together we are alone.
I try to hide from so called women friends -
feminists fighting each other -
fighting me.
I try but I fail
I want to embrace all women.
She weighs me down with her hatred
She tears my eyes out so that perhaps
I won't see
But I see anyway
I open my mouth to speak it
She rips out my tongue, my teeth
I bleed.
Yet my heart still opens with love
(Such a fool I am)
She kills me with vengeance
because I speak the unspeakable
I eat the inedible
I question
She wants me dead, disappeared
I open out my hands palms up,
no weapons
but myself
Myself once again
I must be myself
(Such a painful fool)
No trust
Only those who are my beloved know me
and know the bitter sorrow.
Beloved together we are alone.

teresa legowski



GRENADA BETRAYED

Grenada little sister
I watch you as you bleed
A woman torn and battered
By a violent heart of greed.

Little sister I must watch you
Held down by foreign need
Ringed around by giants
With their towering phallic greed.

The U.S. is the tyrant
With his simpering brothers six
They took a fragile sister
They betrayed her with all speed

Canada and Cuba her sister and a friend
Fairweather yes
But still I hope
A conscience in the end.

A. Rapper



Reflections

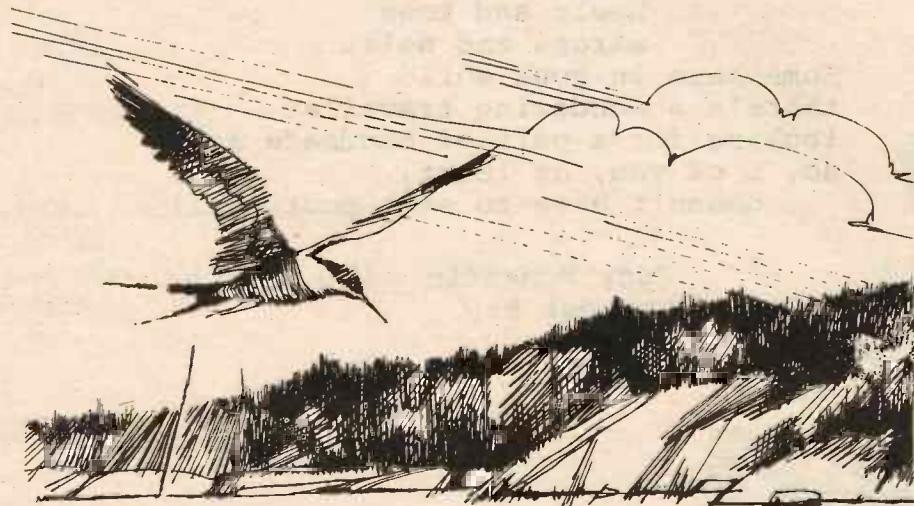
I take off my clothes.
Remove my ring.
With my mirror,
Naked. My truth sings.

I touch my self.
Trace my pain.
Kiss my lips.
Heal-ing again.

Whisper-ing tongue.
Tickles my soul.
Spin-ing fingers,
Remember they know.

Tingle-ing with pleasure.
Ooze-ing with life.
Savour-ing my Self.
Caress-ing to flight.

Lal Sarson



MEMORABILIA...(as inspired by
WOMANSPACE Rummage sale)

(Allegro) Canto I

Fancy, high-heeled shoes
"Sexy", classy, and expensive, too
\$60-\$100 a few years ago
(Probably purchased at a "discount" though)
Useless, uncomfortable "sexy" shoes
...something or other... IES DAVID
embossed in gold
How cruel I was then!
How amazed I am now!
(I took my warm, woolly work socks off to measure...)
How did I ever put these broad, strong, sensitive feet
into that pair of dainty little frames ??
and even with that task accomplished
how to walk, to dance, to run???
The heels--3 3/4" from flesh to earthly contact point
(probably 4" or so when they were younger
when I was younger...)
the left worn harder than the right
(at least something's making sense!

"Sexy" shoes?
Token of payment dearly made
for needing approval at the door
once inside they were hidden under a table
or kicked off on a dance floor
Were their teeny little buckles made of gold?
If I knew then what I know now...
Well, I'd have bought hiking boots, of course!
If I'd had another 100 or so
I could've had a tent!

(Reassuring at least that my Left
made more tracks than my Right ever did
- ever could!)

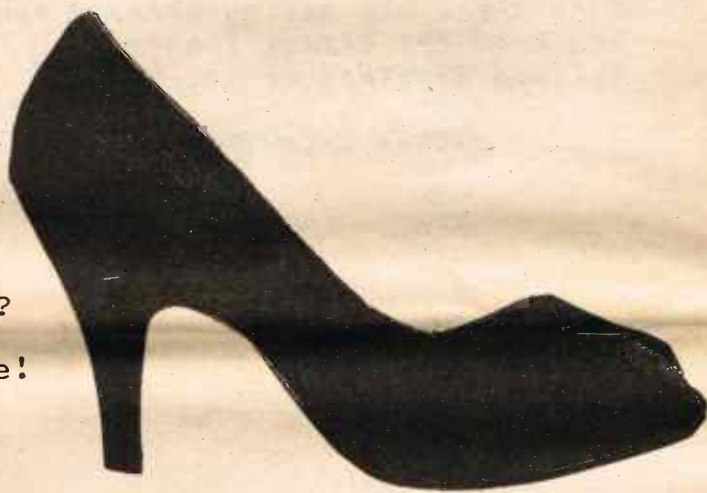
(for metric conversion: 10 cm \approx 4")

(Andante) Canto II

I wonder now...
How their factory-worker builders
(knowing & imagining what's just been described)
must have laughed
& maybe cried inside
wishing to be working/creating for themselves
without someone else's crazy little rules
crazy little frames....

Oh! Souls of sole-builders,
(Bata and others)
using other crazy little names
Makers of uppers and lowers
heels and toes
straps and soles
Somewhere in your world
there's a wandering traveller
looking for a pair of handmade soles
so, I of you, at least,
doesn't have to sell your soul!

Judy McMartin
Thunder Bay



Female Frogs and Crumbs

by TERESA LEGOWSKI

"Crumbs; we're all scrambling after Crumbs." (Fiona Karlstedt)

It's easy enough to see the avenues for gaining power in the community for women are limited to about two, maybe three. It's easy enough to see that the structure for attaining power is imposed by the same patriarchal institutions which women are supposedly fighting. It's easy enough to see. It's called not biting the hand that feeds you. It's called funding. It's called money. All this is easy enough to see and analyze and get angry about.

It's easy because it's intellectual.

So I'm a feminist. So I walked into this community straight out of the bush with my skis on my feet and my belongings on my back. I sure didn't see then what I see now. What idealistically I hoped would be an equal situation is in reality a hierarchy of some big female frogs in a little pond trying to out-croak each other.

It's called empire building.

I see these frogs getting real possessive about their particular lily pad. I see them real scared about any new frogs in town. Once in a while a younger frog gets ousted by the old gang and decides to build her own new lily pad; a new little empire in the frog pond. Sometimes old frogs get the same idea when they realize that the younger upstarts are going to get them hopped.

But all these new lily pads are kept floating by patriarchal funding, by crumbs from the bull frog pie.

It doesn't matter who the female frogs are. It doesn't matter what empires they're building. None of that matters. The situation is universal.

So what we have here is a pretty closed and stagnating pond. It's really sad to hear all the bickering and backstabbing and biting. It's really sad to see no room for new ideas or old ideas that have been suggested but never tried. It's really sad to realize there will be no improvement.

There are the occasional croaks about who is the better feminist frog. Who is the best feminist in this town? Who is the worst feminist? Who cares? These pointed questions are really saying, "I've got the best lily pad in town. So croak off!" After all, isn't the floating lily pad built on a foundation of feminism? Or is it?

All it takes is the one and only patriarchal bull frog to pull the bucks and the little lily pad sinks.

The truth is these little lily pads are built on dollars. Their purpose is not to achieve feminism, freedom, a new society, a new universal order, a new religion, a new world, ribbit, ribbit, ribbit. Their purpose is to get ahead in a patriarchal pond.

And what about the actual female frog empire builders? Where do they see themselves in this pathetic



"THE SWIMMER"

Obscene Telephone Calls

by GERALDINE VAN CRAM

The bedside phone rang - eagerly I answered. Alas - only heavy breathing. "Disappointed" - again - I hung up.

I tried not to wonder.

Then - late one night - late autumn - 11:30 p.m. - the phone rang just as I was crawling into my lonely sheets. A voice I recognized. An occasional "fuck". He was miserable. I declined his invitation to join him at his place. With genuine sympathetic concern I suggested he come over for coffee.

I went downstairs to kitchen and put the espresso pot on. I had no idea what I was going to say to the guy - an American ex-G.I. in Canada working and looking -----

BANG - through the backdoor. No nothing - just a very rough maul with the obvious intent of a fuck. He left after 10 minutes or so of my refusals. I was telephoning when he came in again. (I couldn't lock the door of my old house.) For the next one and a half hours I was subjected to tension of death-like terror and disgust. Vietnam visited upon me!

During the ordeal I was ordered not to make any sounds. He held me by the throat as he attempted to get an erection. The entire event seemed to have something to do with an obsession with sounds.

Rape of the body is equalled only by rape of the psyche. For the following year I attempted to lay charges. All the procedures were followed. I went to City Hall. It is ironic that THE POLICE made the HIT Parade.

There is MORE but details are now irrelevant - so if you get a "friendly fuck" watch out for obscene telephone calls.

scenario? I don't think they see themselves at all. They see red when their lily pad gets jostled or when their croak gets questioned. They're really good swimmers. But they don't seem to sit back, review the situation, analyze their actions and their behaviors, question their own conditioning and how it relates to the perpetuation of patriarchal bullfrogging. Instead they go home and hide in their slurpy, mud-bottomed bubbles.

Who wouldn't? It's a frog-eat-frog pond. After all, once all the crumbs are gone, female frog legs for supper are the next best thing.

WOMEN AND PENSIONS

After years of study on pension reform, the government is expected to act soon. Considerable concern exists, however, about whether the needs of women will be met by the proposed legislative changes.

To encourage continued discussion and awareness of pension issues, the Women and Pensions Committee will visit a number of NWO communities during the next few months. Meetings will be sought with members of parliament to discuss the recommendations that deal with women's pension needs.

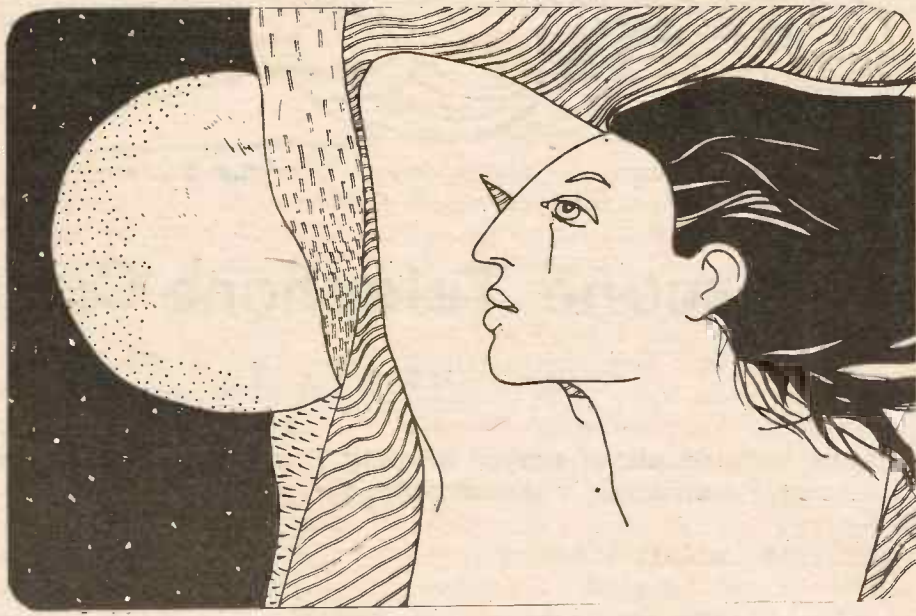
CASE HISTORIES WANTED

The committee also hopes to compile a series of case histories documenting NWO women's situation in respect to pensions. We are seeking the experiences of full or part-time workers, full time homemakers, women dealing with widow's pensions, etc. We feel that personal accounts of women's pension experience will more forcefully demonstrate the need for improved legislation, and put a human perspective to the pension debate. If you have a story to share please write: Women and Pensions Committee, c/o Northern Women's Centre, te.4, 204 Red River Rd., Thunder Bay, Ont. P7B 1A4.

An adequate retirement income is the right of every Canadian. Continued advocacy is necessary for women to achieve this right.

WOMANSPACE POTLUCK

If you missed the last very successful potluck at 316 Bay St., here's your chance to attend the next one on Jan. 11 at 6:30 p.m. A concert by Jennifer Garrett will follow. All women welcome. See you there!



P. Foote-Jones — HYSTERIA

THE "COPING" COP-OUT

by JOAN BARIL

Notes based on a Workshop by Gerry Wine, O.I.S.E., at the Women and Therapy Conference, November 11/83 Toronto.

Mental health workers are the new priests. Therapy cannot change history. Counselling cannot change economics. At best it can teach you to fight. At worst it can teach you to cope. "Cope" is a terrible bald word. Flat and defeatist. "Cope" means giving in, capitulating in a war. It means you are colonized and oppressed from the moment of birth.

The mental health system has two major lists of concerns to deal with. One list is all the things it does badly and the second list is all the things it does not do at all.

Problems often not acknowledged by counsellors (or badly handled) include:

1. Women's low self esteem. Why don't mental health workers address themselves to the fact that many women have low self esteem? Is it because they are not convinced that women should have it? Is it because self esteem in a woman might cause problems for her husband?

2. Women suffer from a lack of intimacy. Husbands are often afraid of intimacy. The patriarchal family does not provide it.

3. Women's guilt and depression is not handled well, especially the guilt of mothers. They must constantly be on guard against exterior threats to the child, poisons in the environment, unsuitable movies and TV, unhealthy food, poor education, trauma. They cannot veer from the accepted path of "good motherhood". They get tired. They feel guilty.

4. Sexual harassment of many kinds.

5. The sexual deprivation of women is unacknowledged. Where are the houses of pleasure for her, the sensuous places with good books, conversation, massage, exercise, exquisite sex.

6. Once a woman is over 30 she comes to an age where she is no longer a possible sexual partner for a man. She fails all the cultural standards on beauty. Nobody looks at her, nobody sees her. To a degree she becomes a different human as if she mutated into something else.

Things the mental health system doesn't deal with at all:

1. The obedience and conformity demanded of little girls who grow up into conforming women. Conforming starts young and it is a serious mental health problem.

2. Lack of identification with women. Women's altruism and volunteer work is poured into men and into children and less often into other women. There is also the petty harassment of women by women. Feminists ignore this because they want to believe in the myth of sisterhood.

3. Inability to congratulate ourselves. Few women are able to take pleasure in their own achievements.

4. Women often lack compassion for themselves. They harass themselves.

5. Homophobia.

6. Racism and anti-semitism.

7. Women's inability to have a righteous rage against men. To say "I hate men" to the therapist or counsellor, to explain that this means I hate this male system and I hate what this male system has done to me.

Nakina

CONT'D FROM PAGE

of unemployment. Our well-being, our standard of living, our economic security and independence will be destroyed.

2. Those of us women who own our own businesses in Nakina will be devastated. Who will be left to buy our commodities? Selling the business in a Northern Ontario community such as Nakina is impossible, in view of the economy, as well as the disruption of the C.N. "run-through". It will be a direct financial loss, absolutely unrecoverable.

3. Our children will lose the opportunity to grow up in a secure and open community environment, as many of us did.

4. If the C.N. employees decide to "pack-sack", which means we - the wives - live in Nakina while our husbands work elsewhere - the result will be devastating to a stable family life: i) two living accommodations to keep up (ii) raising children on our own (iii) the burdens encountered of keeping the home front alone (iv) where to turn should sickness arise, as it will (v) the agony of being separated from our spouses (vi) will it lead to drinking problems (vii) will it lead to marriage breakdown (viii) lots of stress and its self-destructive ramifications

We refuse to adjust to being a "C.N. pack-sacker's widow".

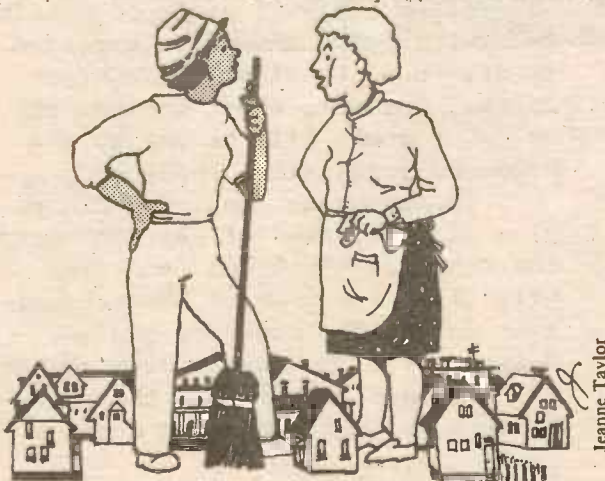
The vice-president of C.N., Mr. Van Water, is an example of the type of intelligence of the people running this company. He suggested commuting C.N. gives a 2 hour call and it would take 4 hours to drive to Hornepayne. The mathematics of this intrigues us. Since there is no 4-lane, paved highway from here to anywhere, this proposal is totally ridiculous. The road is bad enough in summer, what with loose gravel and potholes. In the winter it is extremely treacherous, with lots of snow, -30 C. weather, hard-packed glare ice the majority of the time.

C.N. does not care that they are destroying our livelihoods, our homes, our marriages, our families and our community. Should C.N. have such control over its employees and their families? It certainly owes us humane consideration. We are not robots.

Already we are going through unbearable anxieties and mental pressures. We really do not know if we can endure any more heartache and stress. The thing that is keeping us sane right now is anger and the need to fight this corporation. And fight we will!

Help us fight this giant!

From a conference on Housework, part of a series of workshops on the international Human Rights of women as workers, sponsored by the International Education Centre, a bibliography on Housework has been published. The bibliography provides a comprehensive listing of articles and books dealing with various aspects of the issue of housework. Copies of the bibliography may be obtained free of charge from the International Education Centre, Saint Mary's University, Halifax, B3H 3C3



Jeannie Taylor

A popular saying in Alderson went as follows: "They work us like a horse, feed us like a bird, treat us like a child, dress us like a man - and then expect us to act like a lady".
(from the Alderson Story)

GRENADA The Destruction of Hope

by MARGARET PHILLIPS

I am walking down the beach, the bright Caribbean sun warming my weary soul. A young Grenadian girl puts her small black hand in mine and we walk together, joyfully, in harmony. It is April, 1981.

I am marching through the streets of Thunder Bay, joining millions throughout the world who unite to demand the end of this nuclear madness that will destroy us all. We march and sing and shout NO MORE WARS. It is October, 1983.

Wendy looks for me each afternoon. For a few minutes she leaves aside her work to visit and tell me of her day. My day is brighter because of her welcome.

We sit in silence in the Cathedral, each one of us maintaining our own vigil. Our lighted candles a flickering ray of hope for PEACE. While at that moment the Americans finalize their plans to invade Grenada.

I come to Grenada exhausted - mind, body, spirit - weary and worn from years of futile effort in my quest for social justice in my city, my country. For a few weeks I am escaping my inability to counteract the institutional violence directed against women, against poor people, against minorities in our society.

From the moment I step off the small LIAT plane, a sense of excitement fills me. Grenada is a country like no other Caribbean country I have visited. Perhaps it is the quiet steady activity that is most striking. And the sense of pride, of dignity of the people. The cleanliness, the orderliness, the absence of petty crime, the absence of prostitution. The people of Grenada are poor, but they have hope. I come to Grenada when their revolution is just two years old.

Grenada, most beautiful of all the islands, yet one of the poorest countries in the world. Its history one of slavery, colonization, exploitation, and in recent years the despotic leadership of Eric Gairy. Grenada, the first English speaking Caribbean nation to experience a socialist revolution, led by Maurice Bishop and massively supported by all sectors of the population. A revolution of HOPE.

Our March for Peace is not allowed to assemble on City Hall property. City Council succumbing to the Legion pressure. Do I really live in a city that believes it is subversive to protest nuclear war?

"If peace fails, the plan is to run the Government of Canada from an aging underground bunker for about two weeks.

The emergency planners, whose task it is to think about 'the continuity of government' during a nuclear nightmare, feel that after about two weeks the radioactivity levels would drop sufficiently so that the Governor-General, the Prime Minister, a war Cabinet of at least three other ministers and the bunker support staff could emerge to see what was left and decide whether it was worth trying to carry on.

The bunker Government would not have the niceties of parliamentary democracy. The leaders of the opposition parties, almost all other MPs, senators, a majority of Cabinet ministers and almost all of the civilian population of Canada would have to fend for themselves on the outside, among the nuclear fireballs, flying debris, radioactive mushroom clouds and whatever other horrors the next war could bring." (Globe and Mail, Nov. 18/83)

The leader of the revolutionary government, Maurice Bishop, is enormously popular. I marvel as I hear the cheers responding to Bishop's speech to a worker's rally. I ponder how it must feel to have a political leader that inspires such love and admiration.

The media gives confused reports about Grenada... .. a coup .. a military takeover. Demonstrations supporting Bishop. Then the news - Maurice Bishop has been murdered.

I visualize the panic, the despair the Grenadian people must feel.

I explore Grenada - what lessons can this tiny, underdeveloped country provide? The focus this year is on agriculture - getting fertile but long idle land back into production - ensuring agricultural self-sufficiency. So development stresses agriculture, education, literacy, health care, co-op development, the new airport. They certainly seem to have their priorities straight.

Yet behind the hope and excitement is a constant strain of fear. Desablization and invasion. It started early with the refusal of American economic aid, and when economic sabotage didn't work, the onset of physical violence. It is commonly understood throughout the Caribbean that the repeated attempts on Maurice Bishop's life are CIA inspired. The 1980 bomb explosion, intended for Bishop and his Cabinet members, but which instead killed three young women, is still in people's minds. The need to defend their revolution prompts the development of a strong militia. With each achievement of the revolution the threat of invasion grows stronger.

In an interview in 1981 Prime Minister Bishop replied to a question about the Reagan administration's outlook towards Grenada:

"We are also concerned in fact about the increasing talk about 'linkage', that is to say linking developments in other parts of the world; let us say in the Middle East, with what is happening in this region and direct threats that under this system of linkage some country in this region could be invaded as a result of what may be happening in a different part of the world" (Maurice Bishop, Caribbean Times, March 19, 1981)

"All the indicators are that it was to 'avenge' the Marines killed in Beirut that the American president decided to take the step [the invasion] and carry out plans that had been ready for a long time. But here again, the message is ambiguous as it is tantamount to an admission that the U.S. can do nothing in Lebanon. As one U.S. senator put it on learning of the Grenada invasion 'You win the wars you can win'". (Manchester Guardian, Nov. 6/83)

I receive the news of the invasion of Grenada without emotion. Like the numbness one feels on the expected death of a friend.

Several days later, war filming released, the agony fills me. Gunfire pounding the beach where I walked, bombs blasting the countryside I travelled. I scream.

For the first time I acknowledge the inevitability of nuclear war.

"The U.S. Federal authorities have stockpiled 71,000 pounds of opium (morphine is a derivative of opium) for critical civilian use, and have recently requested 59,000 additional pounds.

The Pentagon has asked the National Funeral Directors' Association of the United States to prepare to handle mass burials; the president of the Association has asked for a training course in embalming radioactive corpses. One thing is certain -- unburied, buried, incinerated or vapourized, the dead will continue to be radioactive -- forever." (Wallenius, NWJ Sept./83)

continued on page 14

continued from page 13

The Grenada people welcome me - as they welcome everyone - be they tourists - mainly British and European, or workers - the U.N. officials, international aid people, and the Cuban workers who have come to help build the new airport. And the 1000 American medical students. Finding an American medical school in Grenada is a shock - serious young men ensconced on lounge chairs on the beach, a stack of medical journals beside them is an unusual picture, but they soon become part of the landscape. I ask how many Grenadians are enrolled at St. George's Medical School ...someone thinks maybe two or three.

People talk freely to me about their country, its future, and about their personal goals. I'm pleasantly surprised at the openness. Most people support the revolution, although I meet several critics - they miss the big U.S. tourist \$. Reagan's mounted a huge propaganda campaign and scared off the American tourists.

The focal point of the people's optimism is the new international airport. Without exception Grenadians agree the new airport means future prosperity. The airport is also the focus of Reagan's paranoia... who conjures up a picture of a Soviet-Cuban military base.

Obsessively, I read and watch reports about the invasion. I grow increasingly distressed about the inadequacy of the Canadian reporting of the Grenadian tragedy. Is it incompetence, ideological fervor, laziness or fear that prompts Canadian journalists to simply regurgitate the political propaganda issued by Washington. If our journalists had deigned to visit Grenada in the past four years they might have gained the insight needed to provide a thoughtful analysis. But war is news, while social development is not. So, in the first few days journalists are content to pass on the distortion, the lies, the scare tactics, effectively manipulated by Washington.

And some Canadians accept it as truth. Others know better, but they cannot, will not (understandably) think through to the real meaning of this atrocity.

"While I was building neat
castles in the sandbox,
the hasty pits were
filling with bulldozed corpses

.....
Each time I hit a key
on my electric typewriter
speaking of peaceful trees

another village explodes"
(Margaret Atwood, *The Animals In That Country*, 1968)

"The news seems vague and far off, not as if it were really happening. It sits on us like an ache. We are trying to ignore it lest the pain become unbearable"
(Hundreds and Thousands, the journals of Emily Carr, 1937)

The beach is Wendy's workplace. Vendors, of all ages, daily market their crafts, their produce, working diligently to meet their families needs. Before the revolution Wendy and other 12 year old (or even younger) children would be vending full-time. But now she also goes to school. Free education, school lunch programs, mean the children from even the poorest families have a chance for education.

Not only the children are educated. The adult literacy campaign is one of the first programs of the Bishop government. In one year adult illiteracy is almost eliminated.

"Perhaps the worst crime that Colonialism left our country, has indeed left all former colonies, is the Education System. This is so because that system was used to teach our people an attitude of self-hate, to get them to abandon our history, our culture, our values. To get them to accept the principles of white superiority, to destroy our confidence, to stifle our creativity, to perpetuate in our society class privilege and class difference. The colonial masters recognized very early on that if they get a subject people to think like they do, to forget their own history and their own culture...then they have already won the job of keeping us in perpetual domination and exploitation" (Maurice Bishop, quoted in Grenada, The Peaceful Revolution, EPICA Task Force, 1982)

The news analysis shifts. Criticism emerges of Reagan and the Pentagon. But not criticism of the invasion. Only criticism that journalists were denied access to report the war first hand. A valid complaint, no doubt, but hardly the most basic issue.

The legality of the invasion is moderately questioned. An occasional voice ponders the morality of the world's most powerful nation invading one of the smallest, poorest nations in the world. Not once, have I seen any analysis of the racism that underlies this invasion.

Health care, along with education was the first priority of the Bishop government. I learn about health care advances since the revolution: the establishment of health centres and dental clinics in each parish, the medical stations in each village.

I think of the years of futile effort we spent trying to secure a community health centre in our downtown core. That Grenada's population is 110,000 - the same as Thunder Bay's - is a irony that does not escape me.

The Food and Nutrition Council provides health and nutrition education. Their program to encourage new mothers to breast feed puts our feeble efforts of a Nestles bouycott to shame.

The initial rationale for the invasion -- the safety of the American medical students gives way to Reagan's absurd assertions of saving Grenada from a Cuban take-over.

After days of misinformation the U.S. military officials admit they exaggerated the number of Cubans in Grenada. They acknowledge the numbers provided by Cuban authorities were correct.

The only statistics on war casualties give the number of Cubans killed. No figures are provided about the Grenadians who died. Cuba seeks to return the Grenadians whose bodies the Americans shipped to Cuba.

A friend just back from Central America tells of the horror and tragedy she witnessed. The unbelievable violence in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras. The desperate refugee situation. The increasing armed aggression of Nicaragua, the systematic destruction of the Nicaraguan economy. For Central Americans there is no doubt that Grenada is only the first step.

Many analysts believe the U.S. will invade Nicaragua before the end of the year.

My friend talks about the fear. But also the determination. The courage.

continued on page 15

continued from page 14

Women Step Forward ... the billboard on the outskirts of St. George's intrigues me. What's happening with women in Grenada? The National Women's Organization is busy helping women organize local groups in villages as well as larger towns. Day care, school projects, recreation, small economic co-ops are the projects women organize around. Basic grass roots stuff.

I learn about the legislation affecting women: equal pay, protection from sexual harassment, and a very progressive maternity leave law.

I visit the National Women's Organization office. I keep my feminism in check - recognizing that Caribbean women view feminism as a white, middle-class American woman's luxury. But I'm anxious to discover how they see women's role. Despite the reality that men dominate the leadership, the women are convinced that they will achieve equality within the goals of the revolution. My head tells me it will never happen. My heart wishes it might be so.

The U.S. military embark on a "witchhunt" in Grenada, seeking out officials and supporters of the Bishop government. Grenadians are coerced and bribed to inform on other Grenadians. Everyone with any association with the revolution is branded subversive, criminal - militia, development workers, co-op leaders - anyone. Kendrick Radix, the former Attorney-General is picked up without a warrant and detained in a 10 foot barbed wire and wooden crate.

The military is joined by U.S. AID who charts Grenada's future. Health and education are to be re-structured. All education materials developed by Bishop's government to be destroyed. The director of the Food and Nutrition Council is fired.

The Psychops (Psychological Operation Battalion) are in charge of "communications". The new airport is expected to become a permanent U.S. military base.

The National Women's Organization, the National Youth Organization are eliminated.

The Grenadian provisional council, sanctioned by the U.S. military has banned all public gatherings, all group meetings - except for the Rotary Club.

CUSO workers returned from Grenada hold a press conference. They attempt to focus on the social implications of the tragedy, as well as refute the distorted military-controlled information that has filled our media.

They confirm my fear that the social developments of the past four years will all be stamped out. They also express their fears for the safety and freedom of the Grenada people with whom they worked: the women who organized a food-making co-operative, women working in programs to upgrade education, to encourage non-traditional jobs.

"We are concerned about those people because they will be identified as having associations with the revolution. We are really concerned, we are seriously concerned about this."
(Marlene Green, transcript of CUSO press conf. Oct. 31/83)

The human and social consequences of the invasion that the CUSO workers describe receive little coverage from the mainstream Canadian media.

The idea of braiding my hair fascinates Wendy, so one day I indulge her. I am rewarded by the gentle smiles of the older women on the beach who watch our project with interest. I ignore the stares of the other tourists.

One especially hot day we wend our way to the ice cream stand, then find a shady spot to enjoy the cooling treat. We talk about her future. "I want to be a nurse" Wendy tells me.

Huge military vehicles pound through the streets of St. George's, the American soldiers jeeringly brandish their powerful guns. The venom of their contempt seeps into me ... corrodes my very core.

I think of the horrors forced on women in other wars. Women's bodies the victors reward. Prostitution inevitable for sheer survival. That rape occurs even more often in an occupation than in war.

I think particularly of the American veteran's testimony at a forum on the atrocities witnessed and committed in Vietnam

"It wasn't like they were humans.... they were a gook or a Commie and it was okay"
(quoted in Against Our Will, Men, Women and Rape, Susan Brownmiller, 1975)

I think of Wendy --- a young woman now.

Headlines of the Grenada invasion fade - to be replaced by more visible wars in other areas of our world. But war is only the most extreme form of organized violence. Just as insidious is the violence of poverty, of imperialism, of racism. The physical war in Grenada may be ending, but the U.S. invaders have ensured that the silent violence of imperialism will be Grenada's future.

U.S. "aid" to Grenada includes distribution of baby formula. The violence is just beginning.

It is my last day in Grenada. I look for Wendy to say good-bye. I encourage her to stay in school, pursue her goals. She asks me if I will come and visit again. I tell her ..Yes, Yes, I very much want to come back to Grenada.

Grenada, that tiny island that evokes in me such strong feeling. It is not likely that I will visit you again. But how grateful I am for the privilege of being a welcomed visitor - for a few brief weeks - to a country that tried - against insurmountable odds - to build a social revolution.

I cry - for a country that dared to dream of justice and equality.

I cry - for a young girl who dared to dream that she might be a nurse.

I cry. And I fear.



THE CONFEDERATION COLLEGE OF APPLIED ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY THUNDER BAY DISTRICT

WOMEN'S PROGRAMS

WINTER '84

In conjunction with Divisions of the College, Women's Programs initiates, develops and facilitates subjects, seminars and conferences in response to changing needs in education and in employment.

Women's Programs provides resources for educators, students, individuals and community groups who require consultation about feminist issues.

GENERAL ARTS AND SCIENCE DIPLOMA PROGRAM emphasizing Women's Programs Curriculae is designed to be of particular interest to women seeking training for a future career through general study prior to career selection. It offers subjects that develop an awareness of issues relevant to women in the work force combined with the opportunity to explore career field(s) through additional subject selection.

AVAILABLE POST-SECONDARY CREDIT SUBJECTS:

GS 010	PERSONAL FINANCIAL PLANNING
GS 026	ASSERTIVENESS TRAINING
GS 052	WOMEN, SOCIETY AND CHANGE
GS 136	WOMEN IN MANAGEMENT
GS 143	WOMEN & STRESS MANAGEMENT
GS 159	AFFIRMATIVE ACTION-EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

For further information, contact the Program Co-ordinator at (807) 475-6390.

BUSINESS DIVISION--EQUAL OPPORTUNITY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (Pending Council of Regents Approval) will prepare the student to be a manager, emphasizing program analysis, development and coordination of Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity for women, ethnic and racial minority group members and for people with disabilities, in government and non-governmental organizations.

For further information, contact the Program Co-ordinator at (807) 475-6140.

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

* TECHNICAL UPGRADING PROGRAM (T.U.P.)

T.U.P. facilitates the entry of individuals, particularly women, into the workplace or technical or trades training programs. The program has two components: -- Career Counselling provides a "training path" outlining the training necessary to enter the intended workplace or technical or trades training program; -- Academic Upgrading provides 8-40 weeks of upgrading in related certificate and diploma programs in technology or business programs as well as selected apprenticeable trades.

For further information, contact the Associate Registrar-Adult Training & Special Programs at (807) 475-6302.

* INTRODUCTION TO NON-TRADITIONAL OCCUPATIONS (I.N.T.O.)

I.N.T.O. is an 8-week program that helps women to explore opportunities for employment in non-traditional jobs. Students study job search skills, goal setting and plot a career path. Work placement gives women real job experience.

For further information, contact the Chairperson of Communication Arts at (807) 475-6210.

* WOMEN INTO TRADES AND TECHNOLOGY (W.I.T.T.)

W.I.T.T. is an 18-week program designed to expose women to all aspects of practical trades training and the world of High-Tech.

For further information, contact the Chairperson of Industrial & Motive Power at (807) 475-6215.

*



These programs are supported by the
Canada Employment and Immigration Commission,
under the Canada-Ontario training agreement of 1982.



ZW 036

TO REGISTER, contact your local Canada Employment & Immigration office, or the Women's Employment Centre, 130 S. Syndicate Avenue, Thunder Bay, Ontario P7C 1C7 (Phone 807-623-2731).

TOMORROW'S WOMAN

New confidence through self-awareness and self-esteem will be achieved through the exercises, group discussions, and skill development of this subject in personal growth. Each individual will acquire a profile of interests and goals, a sense of new options and a clarification of values.

DATE & TIME: Wednesdays 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
START DATE: January 18, 1984
COMPLETED: March 21, 1984
INSTRUCTOR: Liz Poulin
FEE: \$30.00 ROOM: 362, Shuniah Building

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 & TIME: Mondays 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.
START DATE: January 9, 1984
COMPLETED: March 12, 1984
INSTRUCTOR: Pat McInnis
FEE: \$30.00 ROOM: 342, Shuniah Building

ZA 119

99

FIRST STEP - COMPUTER PROGRAMMING FOR WOMEN

An introductory subject in computer fundamentals designed to give women an understanding of the capabilities and terminology associated with computers. Upon completion, students will be able to design some of their own "BASIC" programs such as budget or mortgage payment calculations. Students will have hands-on experience with computers.

DATE & TIME: Tuesdays 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.
START DATE: January 17, 1984
COMPLETED: March 20, 1984
INSTRUCTOR: Marlene Walther
FEE: \$45.00 ROOM: 362, Shuniah Building

GS 136

99

WOMEN IN MANAGEMENT

This subject will deal primarily with the roles of women in management, and the particular skills needed by women to effectively fulfill managerial functions under constraints which are from within themselves, as well as those imposed by the organizations.

DATE & TIME: Mondays 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.
START DATE: January 9, 1984
COMPLETED: April 16, 1984
INSTRUCTOR: Betty Chalmers
FEE: \$45.00 ROOM: 265, Shuniah Building

GS 143

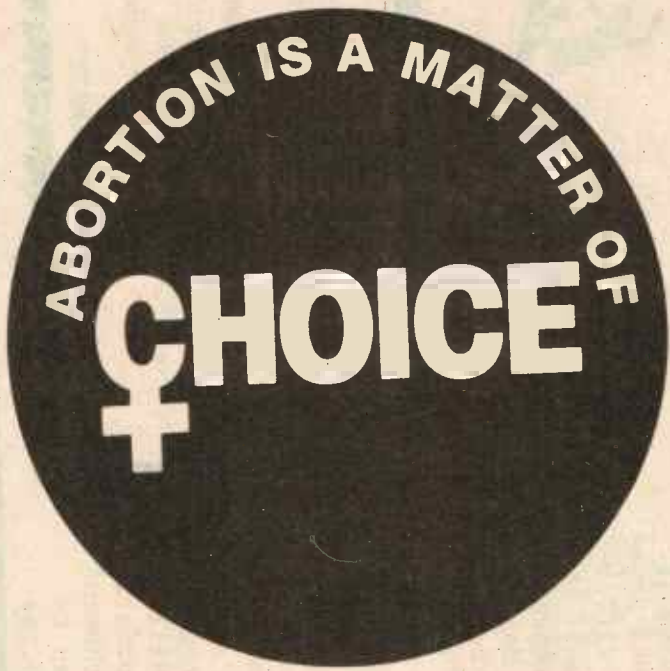
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WOMEN & STRESS MANAGEMENT

This subject 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 & TIME: Wednesdays 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.
START DATE: January 11, 1984
COMPLETED: March 14, 1984
INSTRUCTOR: Walter Martin
FEE: \$30.00 ROOM: 265, Shuniah Building

FOR INFORMATION, CONTACT WOMEN'S PROGRAMS (807) 475-6232.



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