

\$1.50

Northern Woman Journal

AUGUST 1986 VOL.10.1. THUNDER BAY, ONTARIO



Editorial

Thunder Bay readers will by now be aware that the Northern Women's Centre, which receives a financial grant from the City of Thunder Bay, is being reviewed by City administration. For the benefit of our regional/national/international readers the details of this situation is reported elsewhere in this paper, as we believe it is important for feminists everywhere to be aware of the escalating attack on women and women's services that we are all being increasingly subjected to. Last year it was HERizons, last month it was Halifax Women's Centre, this month it's Northern Women's Centre. Next month it could be ... your newspaper ... your women's centre ... your day care advocacy group ... your transition house ... you ... Be prepared.

The local situation began when the Right to Life Association of Thunder Bay and Area appeared before City Council, ostensibly appealing the refusal of the City to provide Right to Life with a grant. What evolved, however, was an attack on Women's Centre by a Right to Life member who demanded that "twenty questions" be answered. It remains unclear whether this man spoke as an individual or a Right to Life representative, as the president of the Right to Life Association waffles between disassociating his group from the "twenty questions" and taking credit for the review. In any event the majority of Council succumbed to the intimidation, and approved a review, however, on debating the matter a second time, saner heads prevailed and the "twenty questions" were withdrawn.

Superficially, the issue at hand is perceived to be the "abortion question". It would be misleading to reduce the issue to this equation. Rather what we have been witnessing must be understood in it's full depth... that is ... an attack on women, on women's integrity and on women's human rights.

What is being attacked is the existence of a Centre that serves women, the existence of a service that respects women, and that offers the resources, information and support from which women may be empowered to take control of their lives with dignity and self-respect.

It is the empowerment of women to become self-determining, fully human people that is so threatening to our detractors.

No, it is not the "abortion question". Right to Life activists (and presumably most members of City Council) are fully aware that it is the Thunder Bay Branch of the Canadian Abortion Rights Action League that is the political lobby that advocates repeal of Canadian abortion laws. Similarly, they know that the responsibility for providing education about the pro-choice position is undertaken by Childbirth by Choice, the educational arm of CARAL. Ascribing these activities to Women's Centre is mischievous and designed to obscure the real attack against the Centre.

Those of us who might be tempted to be lulled by the modest reforms that the women's movement has made must reconsider. We must be alert to the full dimensions of the backlash. Gone are the days when the demands of feminists were dismissed with patronizing condescension. Feminists are now taken seriously... thus must be stopped by any means, and in every arena.

So, it is not simply the "abortion" issue. The backlash erupts when we ask for quality day care for our children, when pay equity appears on the agenda, when we urge adequate pensions for older women. The backlash seeps in more subtly with the bureaucratic institutionalization of the transition house movement and the rape crisis centre movement. The backlash appears in proposed legislation that obscures the issue of pornography by confusing hate literature with sex.

Ah, yes, woman is evil, and she must be contained.

Anti-woman material proliferates. It is instructive to read "pro-life" material which devotes as much discussion to the "immorality" of homosexuality, or the evils of feminism, as it does to abortion.

We aren't suggesting that you expend your time reading these diatribes. We do, however, recommend that you read immediately Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*. But don't delude yourself into thinking that Atwood is writing fiction.

N.W.J. Future

We are delighted by the generous response our subscribers have made to the Journal's appeal. Your donations have eliminated our financial crisis, have enabled us to apply for membership in the Canadian Periodical Publishers Assoc., and pay our debts. Thank you to everyone who made donations. We cannot, however, be complacent .. with three more issues to be published, and ever rising production costs we encourage each of you to promote new subscriptions to keep our cash flow in a positive position.

The fall issue of NWJ will focus on the arts. Interviews with local artists and craftswomen are planned. Literary submissions are encouraged. Target date for receipt of copy is August 30th. For more information call Carolyn at 345-584

Cover photo by Carolyn Greenwood

V your VOICE

To All Women:

I just wanted to write to express my feelings now that I have had a chance to analyse myself and what was said at the Conference. (Northern Ontario Women's Conference). This was the first conference I have ever attended and I can assure you it won't be the last. For I now do feel a sense of gratitude to the women's movement. I can now appreciate what they have done to help me get where I am, and for that, I do thank all those women who had the courage

to stand up for their beliefs and/or rights.

I am what is referred to as a white Indian. My mother was white and my father was native. I grew up on a reserve but left it when I was 15. I am now 28 and back to where I was born. I know I walked around all weekend with a chip on my shoulder both towards whites and natives. I am not trying to apologize for my actions because that was where I was at, at that time.

I know deep down inside my heart that I am an Indian but I am a very ignorant one. I very much would like to have the respect of my people but I know I will have to earn it, first. For, I myself have discriminated against them.

I am a native, but I am also ignorant towards my own heritage. I am going to learn more on my own, and also with the help of the next conference planned to deal with all the different native issues.

I wanted to thank all the women in the movement and my early, special thanks to the native women who I am sure will be working very hard to organize another conference to help us understand them better. Thank - you all for your support for now I do feel we do stand a chance in getting rid of some of the discrimination that is going on to-day.

Thank - You
Your friend and peer,
A Newfie Indian.

A-MAZING

"Within a culture possessed by the myth of feminine evil, the naming, describing, and theorizing about good and evil has constituted a maze/haze of deception. The journey of women becoming is breaking through this maze springing into free space, which is an a-mazing process" (Mary Daly 1978) from A FEMINIST DICTIONARY

Women's Centre Under Attack

Across the country status of women organizations are under attack. An orchestrated endeavour by Campaign Life, R.E.A.L. women, and local Right to Life groups are mounting campaigns to protest government funding of women's services. In fact, every organization that has received a grant from the Department of Secretary of State Womens' Program has been "targeted" for attack. This anti-woman lobby is persistent, and is focusing also on municipal governments and federated charitable appeals that provide funds for women's services. Thunder Bay is no exception.

Thus, we find the Northern Women's Centre subjected to yet another "review" by city administration. What is to be reviewed remains unclear, however it is why this review was approved by (a majority of) Council that deserves our examination.

But first, some background.

- * Northern Women's Centre has, since 1980, annually received financial assistance from the City of Thunder Bay. It is well known that the Right to Life Association of Thunder Bay and Area has long been antagonistic to Northern Women's Centre. Right to Life members lobbied Council to oppose Women's Centre funding.

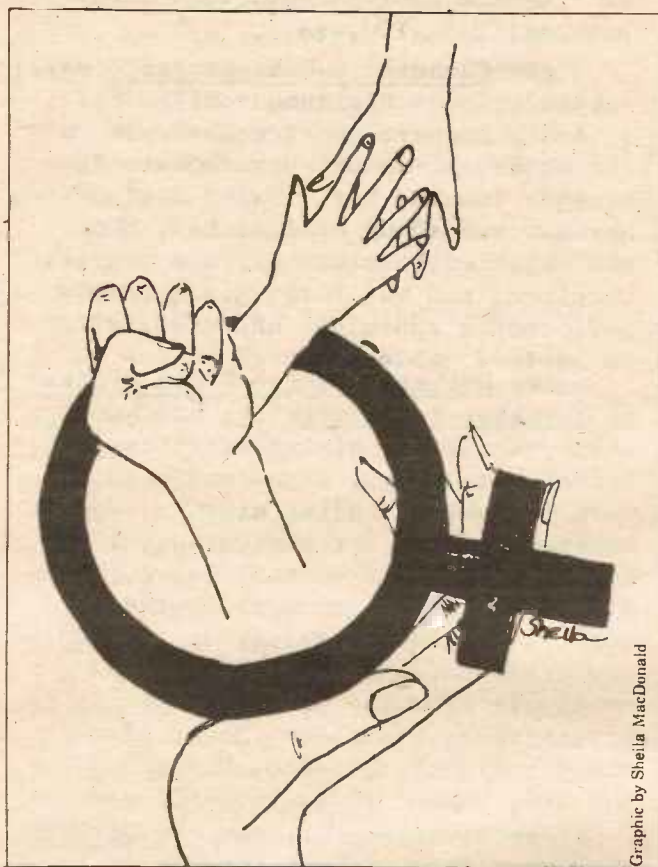
In 1983 Women's Centre representatives were asked (at a Council meeting) if the Centre was pro-abortion. Women's Centre advised that their position was pro-choice. A Council member further asked if the Centre would forego their position if it affected City funding. The answer was no.

- * In 1984 and again in 1985 the Right to Life Association requested a City grant of \$20,000. Council recommended a grant of \$1000.

In 1985 Women's Centre's grant was reduced by close to \$5000. Some members of Council advocated giving this \$5000 to Right to Life, but this was not approved. Women's Centre simply lost the \$5000.

Confused debate within Council during the grants discussion saw an attempt by some aldermen to compare the activities of Right to Life and Northern Women's Centre. Northern Women's Centre, exhibiting admirable patience, repeatedly explained the comprehensive services they provide to women of Thunder Bay.

A release by Women's Centre following this debate again clarified the Centre's position on reproductive choice, by stating "With regards to the issue in question, the Centre endorses the United Nations Human Rights Declaration of 1968, signed by Canada, whereby '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'".



Graphic by Sheila MacDonald

from NEWSMAGAZINE

This release further explained that abortion counselling was not carried out by the Centre and that no City funds were directed to any organization advocating reform of abortion legislation.

As well, the Thunder Bay Branch of the Canadian Abortion Rights Action League (CARAL) publicly provided information about its mandate. (The purpose of CARAL is to ensure that no woman in Canada is denied access to safe, legal abortion. CARAL's 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. CARAL regards the right to safe, legal abortion as a fundamental human right.)

- * 1986 requests for City financial assistance were dealt with at an Administrative Services Committee meeting in March. A grant of \$20,000 to Northern Women's Centre was approved. A grant request of \$3000 to Right to Life was denied. A grant request of \$2600 to Childbirth by Choice (the educational arm of CARAL) was denied.

Near the close of this meeting a motion was put forward recommending \$5000 be taken from Northern Women's Centre and granted to Right to Life. The motion lost by a vote of 11-1. At a subsequent Council meeting another motion was attempted recommending a grant to Right to Life. The motion failed to get a second.

The Right to Life Association appealed the decision. The City's defined procedure for appeals is for the appellant to appear before the Financial Assistance Review Group to lodge the appeal, and when required to provide further documentation and justification. The Financial Assistance Review Group reviews the appeal and makes further recommendations to Council who make the final decision.

After reviewing the Right to Life's appeal the Financial Assistance Review Group recommended to Council that the appeal be denied. This recommendation came before the City's Administrative Services Committee in May.

Prior to this meeting heavy lobbying of some members of Council was carried out by Right to Life members. (Councillors Kennedy and Miller were not included in this lobby.) It appears that the lobby concentrated on opposition to Women's Centre rather than justification for Right to Life's grant request. Selected members of Council also were provided with an article written by John Carroll that appeared in a newsheet called the Interim. The article, said Karen Maki of the Northern Women's Centre calls Betty Kennedy "a well-known abortion supporter" and Dusty Miller "well-known for her pro-abortion views".

Rather than dealing with the administrative report of the appeal the Administrative Services Committee chose to dispense with their rules of procedure and permitted Carroll, as spokesman for the Right to Life, to address the Committee. The address, rather than defending the Right

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from KINESIS



Update

●●● Joan Baril will no longer be writing the Update column for the Journal. In Joan's words "For several years now I have been writing the Update column. In fact I started the column. But as with anything that you do for a long time (love, marriage, paying rent etc.) the thrill slowly goes and the thing becomes a chore. So it is with Update. I loved phoning everyone up, 'networking' around town, meeting different people - all enjoyable. But the time has come to focus on something else. I will still be submitting other things for the Journal and I also want to do interviews from time to time." Elsewhere in this issue there are articles by Joan.●●●

●●● NO Daycare facility on Lakehead University Campus. In a recent comment from the Lakehead University Administration support for child care facilities on campus was practically withdrawn. The University pledged only \$14,000 to the development of a childcare facility and suggested finding premises off campus or buying newer trailers (at a cost of \$41,000).●●●

●●● Homebase: A Forum For Mothers at Home is a newsletter issued by the non-profit group, Mothers are Women. The objectives of the newsletter are to "raise the consciousness of a society which tends to undervalue our contributions and to bolster the self esteem of home based women who do not work for pay and should not feel pressured to consider themselves supermom's" Published 4 times a year, address Homebase, 12 Farm Gate Cres., Nepean, Ontario, K2E 7N7.●●●

●●● The Health Protection Branch (HPB) of Health and Welfare Canada is planning Autumn meetings in part to assess opinion regarding approval and safety of Depo Provera. The meetings are to be by invitation only with a limited number of spaces per location. Meetings are planned for September with no definite dates set as yet. Six cities have been targeted: Halifax, Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg, Calgary and Vancouver. The committee will report to Dr. Burt Liston, Assistant Deputy Minister with HPB. Karen Kennedy, a consultant with HPB, is both organizer and chairperson of this soon to exist committee.

Kennedy appears to be leaning towards a medical committee, but has not yet finalized membership. She defines the committee's task as "being a messenger", hearing "what we think and what we feel." The committee also wants to hear from the public about fertility control methods in general. And they will produce an information pamphlet about contraception!

Kennedy has asked the Canadian Coalition on Depo Provera to let her know who should speak across the country. She stresses that she wants the Coalition to be well represented. However, if the Coalition assists her in screening who is to speak, credence will be given to the invitation-al pretext of the meetings.

This is not the kind of process that the Canadian Coalition on Depo Provera requested in December. (See last issue) The Coalition had asked for and is still asking for open public hearing into Depo Provera use and issues related to that use, full media access to these hearings, and that the committee have equal con-

sumer and medical representation.

If you want more information or want to help lobby to make these hearings public ones contact the Women's Centre nearest you. In Thunder Bay call 345.7802.●●●

●●● Canadian Labour Congress says sexism rife on Parliament Hill. ie: a female support service employee was the object of sexual harassment. Her manager touched her, leaned against her and rubbed up against her. When she objected, she was given a heavier workload, and was later given a poor performance appraisal and transferred to another job.●●●

●●● Workers rights- "Your Rights as a Worker in Ontario", a brochure which discusses; hiring practices, sexual harassment, terms and conditions of work, including minimum wage, hours, holidays, sick days, equal pay for equal work, pregnancy leave, conditions of firing, domestic workers rights, health and safety on the job and trade unions. Published by and available from the Ontario Women's Directorate, 4th floor, Mowat Block, 900 Bay Street, Toronto, Ontario. M7A 1C2, phone: (416) 965-4801.●●●

●●● As of June 1, the new Divorce Laws went into effect, its aim is to make divorce cheaper and quicker. Under the new law, the only ground for a court approved divorce is marriage breakdown, which can be proved by a separation of one year, or by adultery or cruelty. Gone from the law are such grounds as three years separation and sodomy, bestiality and non-consumation of the marriage. If divorcing couples can negotiate terms successfully it could save them money as they wouldn't need to pay lawyers for expensive court time.●●●

●●● A San Francisco pregnancy testing service has been sued by a 26 year old woman who charges she was forced to view slides of aborted fetuses before being allowed access to the results of her pregnancy test. Carla Abbot accuses a "Free Pregnancy Clinic" of engaging in unfair business practice and false advertising. She says she chose the clinic because of its promise of free pregnancy tests but claims after she was given a urine test, she was told it was mandatory that she watch a slide presentation on abortion before getting back the results. The slide show reportedly showed aborted fetuses and featured a narrated account of a woman's death during an abortion and a teenager's suicide following an abortion.●●●

●●● In the face of the growing backlash against the right to free abortion on demand, over 100 women's groups in Quebec have united to take the offensive under the label of the Coalition quebecoise pour le droit a l'avortement libre et gratuit (Quebec Coalition for free abortion on demand). The new coalition is comprised of women's student and union caucuses, health workers, shelter and youth groups. The coalition is responding to threats from a very vocal pro-life movement, reduced provincial funding and the returned Liberal government that brought Dr. Morgentaler to trial 3 times during their last administration. He was acquitted each time.●●●

●●● Calgary Birth Control Association. At this year's city funding meeting their local "Campaign Life" was not given a chance to speak re: C.B.C.A.'s funding. One day, six members of campaign life sat in their office for one full day. A banner was placed across the doorway to the building which houses many agencies. People were verbally attacked as they

entered the building. An injunction was secured to bar these people from the premises. Once a week or so - there is still the odd picketer. C.B.C.A. funding is secured.●●●

●●● Congratulations to the women of Geraldton for hosting a tremendously successful conference May 30 and 31. Enthusiasm was high as nearly 200 women from the Geraldton area joined together for their first Women's Conference. Key note speaker Maude Barlow set the stage - skillfully addressing the spectrum of issues that affect women today. On Saturday a variety of workshops were held on pertinent topics (family law, health, networking, financial planning, lobbying, dual careers, computers.), all were well attended and thoroughly enjoyed.

The Conference concluded with a fine presentation by the Nellie McClung theatre (of Winnipeg), who expertly use theatre to consciousness raise as well as entertain. The organization and hospitality of the Conference was superb - and appreciated by all. Look for many interesting long term results of the Conference - we heard talk of on-going workshops and plans for a Geraldton Women's Centre!●●●

●●● WHIN Conference! The first annual N.W. Ontario Women's Health Information Network's Health Conference. Healthy Horizons!!! October 3rd 4th, and 5th 1986 at Confederation College, Thunder Bay, Ontario. The theme will be Women and Reproductive Health, throughout our years! Some of the workshops which will be offered will be, menopause and aging, exploring life changes, reproductive health hazards, Midwifery, then now, in the future, PMS: the social implications, Assertiveness: dealing with the medical system, Birthing options in N.W.O. DES: an uncertain legacy, Speaking out. For more information call 807-345-1410, or write 8A N. Cumberland St. #17, Thunder Bay, Ontario, P7A 4L1.●●●

●●● FEMINIST CARTOONISTS!

In order to establish a talent bank of feminist cartoonists across Canada, women who would like to be included are invited to submit their names, addresses, and a sample of their work to Susan De Rosa c/o Communiqu'Elles, 3585 St. Urbain Street, Montreal, QC H2X 2N6. The bank will be accessible to feminist magazines and associations across Canada.●●●

●●● The Next Step, a series of 3 films produced by the National Film Board in collaboration with the federal Women's Film Program, examines the urgent need for services to battered women. These 3 half-hour films along with the users guide that accompanies them contain suggestions for pre and post screening discussions and ideas for action to implement and improve services in all types of communities: urban, rural, northern and native.●●●

●●● Notable Women Records and Tapes, a catalogue of Canadian women's records, tapes, and music - related books, has been released. Bertha says of her catalogue "I believe in the revolutionary and spiritual power of music. The music offered here is distinctly varied in style, yet amazingly similar in so far as it speaks to us intimately, bringing the realities of our daily lives into focus with humor and humility. By illuminating the truths of our lives, music becomes an effective tool for revisioning, transforming and healing ourselves and our world." A copy of this catalogue can be obtained from: Notable Women Reco-

Continued on page

N.O.W. Conference

by KATHRYN FOURNIER

Participants at the recent Northern Ontario Women's Conference in Sudbury have already decided to hold a future conference on Native women's issues and to establish a more effective network among Northern feminist groups.

The projects reflect the dominant themes of the highly successful Conference, held June 20-22, which brought together some 150 women from many of the smaller communities in Northern Ontario as well as from the larger centres. With strong representation by both Native and Franco-phone women, as well as Anglophones, the Conference provided a forum for the discussion of concerns by all communities.

While participants addressed a number of issues during workshops, panels and informal discussions, the struggle by native women and the problems they encounter in the larger women's movement became a conference theme at the opening keynote address when speaker Susan Hare described the discrimination and prejudice native women still encounter. Participants decided by an overwhelming majority to organize more actively around Native women's issues by holding the next NOW Conference on that theme on Manitoulin Island... a conference organized by Native women with input by non-native feminists.

The need to establish greater links among women in the North also became clear as participants presented the work going on in their own communities during the Regional Update session.

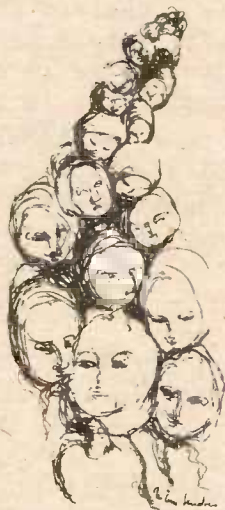
Feminists are active in even the smallest and most isolated communities in Northern Ontario, but often do not know about other groups who may have experience or expertise to share. At a special meeting to discuss networking, women discussed the possibilities of using existing northern women's media to communicate, establishing a northern clearinghouse, creating a networking committee, preparing a northern women's directory or simply staying in touch. A number of women from various communities will continue to discuss these and other options.

Conference organizer Jennifer Keck also announced that the National Action Committee on the Status of Women may hold its annual mid-year meeting in Sudbury later this year with the theme of Regional and Economic Development.

The weekend began with an evening of participatory theatre on Friday. As women used themselves to create living group sculptures, a number of ideas and feelings about being Northern Ontario feminists emerged.

The keynote speeches of Saturday morning, presented by OISE scholar Dorothy Smith and Susan Hare from the Homemaker's Club of West Bay Reserve, provided contrasting perspectives on the character of power and the strength of women.

While Dorothy Smith outlined how women have traditionally been excluded from power and how our current strength comes from our organizing, Susan Hare discussed the particular problems of Native women, who are often considered to be the



from HYSTERIA

most disadvantaged in Canada. While Native women face very real obstacles

in their struggle for empowerment, Susan Hare also pointed out that Native women have a respect for individual choice and a sense of relationship that can be useful tools.

A number of workshops on Saturday were built around the practical themes of successful planning, effective speaking, and creative organizing, and most were presented in

French and English. In addition several workshops addressed Native women's concerns.

Anglophone, Native and Franco-phone women were all represented and their specific concerns were addressed at times. Although women from all groups expressed a need and a desire to build greater links, the conference indicated there are still a number of barriers between the communities, and between individual women, that remain to be addressed.

It was clear that many women have political and cultural links to their own communities that are not always fully understood by others and many are involved in struggles involving larger problems not always identified as "women's issues".

However the desire of participants to come to an increased understanding of those problems and to include them in a broader feminist perspective was clearly expressed.

Creating an effective network and meeting again to discuss the specific concerns of Native women will help to realize the initiatives undertaken in Sudbury.



WOMEN'S STUDIES

Courses in Women's Studies are offered by correspondence in both the Winter and Spring Sessions.

- Women in Modern Society
- The History of Women and the Women's Movement
- Women and the Arts
- Women and Religion

For more information or for registration material, contact:

Margaret Kechnie
Women's Studies
Programme Coordinator,
Laurentian University,
Sudbury, Ontario P3E 2C6
(705) 675-1151, ext. 380.

 Laurentian
University

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to Life's grant request, took the form of an attack on Northern Women's Centre, describing the Centre as "pro-abortion" and "pro-lesbian". Carroll demanded an investigation of Women's Centre and presented 'twenty questions' to be answered. (The questions, many of which were repetitious, asked about Women's Centre's position on abortion, lesbianism, Catholicism and prostitution. They also dealt with Women's Centre's personnel policies, and with Board members affiliations.) The Administrative Services Committee passed a motion to establish an administrative review.

The minutes of the Administrative Services Committee came before Council for approval on June 12. An amendment was moved by Councillor Betty Kennedy (seconded by Councillor Allan Laakkonen) to delete from the minutes the recommendation to review Northern Women's Centre. In speaking to her amendment Councillor Kennedy announced that she had instructed her lawyer to serve notice on John Carroll and the Right to Life Association of Thunder Bay and Area for defamation. Councillor Dusty Miller also announced that she too had instructed her lawyer to serve notice on Carroll and Right to Life. (Kennedy and Miller had by this time obtained copies of the Interim article.) The president of Right to Life, Claude Wyspianski, in a press interview after the meeting disassociated himself from the article.

The amendment lost on a vote of 8-5. (Mayor Masters and Councillor Polhill joined Kennedy, Laakkonen and Miller in supporting the amendment. It is significant to note that Laakkonen and Polhill supported the amendment with thoughtful procedural arguments despite their previous opposition to funding of Women's Centre.)

A further amendment to delete the 'twenty questions' from the review subsequently was passed. Discussion of this amendment demonstrated that the majority (but not all) Councillors were uncomfortable with questions that clearly contravened the Canadian Charter of Rights. For some the anticipated cost of required legal advice in respect to the questions may have been the deciding factor. So the "review" sans 20 questions goes ahead.

What needs to be questioned is not Northern Women's Centre, which has a respected history of providing service to Thunder Bay women, but rather the intention of the City Council members who approved the review.

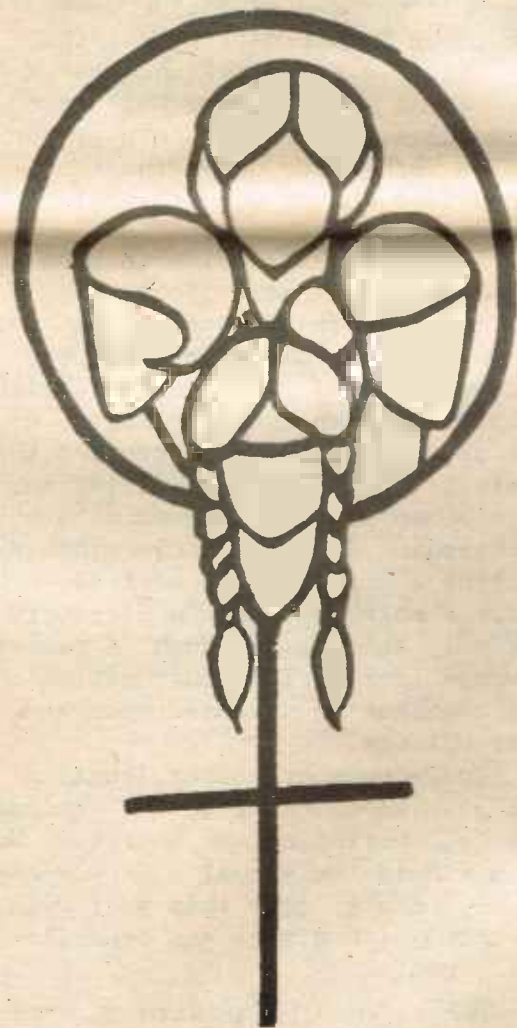
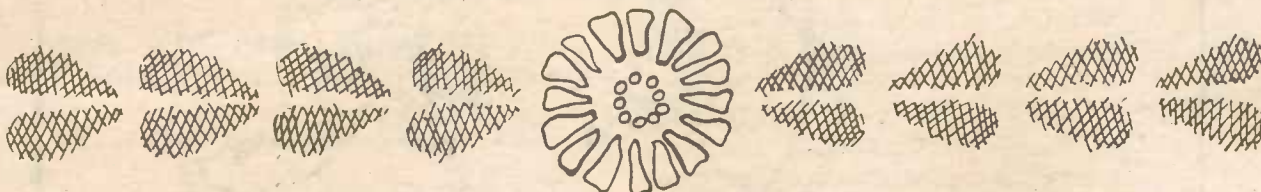
Question 1: Why were Council's established procedures abandoned to permit a representative of Right to Life to address the Administrative Services Committee? This action negates the entire Financial Assistance Review process. What precedent will this set? Will any group who disagrees with another group's program or philosophy be given an audience with City Council?

Question 2: Why was John Carroll allowed to attack Northern Women's Centre? Why was he not ruled out of order when he digressed from the subject under discussion .. ie whether the City should approve or deny Right to Life's appeal. Will Council meetings become the arena through which any individual can proselytize their particular dogma? (or will this vendetta be confined to attacks on women's services?)

Question 3: Was John Carroll speaking as a Right to Life representative or as an individual? The issue was Right to Life's appeal. Yet the president of Right to Life, Claude Wyspianski, was quick to disassociate his organization from Carroll's 'twenty questions', and even quicker to disassociate Right to Life from the Interim article. At the same time, Wyspianski, on behalf of Right to Life, took credit for Council's decision to review Women's Centre.

Clearly, the opposition to Northern Women's Centre by Right to Life can be expected to continue.

The essential question is whether City Council will continue to provide the forum for Women's Centre bashing. And if so, WHY?



FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH

**WOMANSPACE
POT LUCK**

69 N. COURT STREET
345-7802

"Without exception, groups which consider themselves part of the Canadian Women's movement and define themselves as feminist, stand firmly committed to two principles; choice and equality. We believe that neither principle can exist independently of the other. The right to choose - to marry or remain single, to become a parent or remain childless, to work inside or outside the paid labour force - is the cornerstone of the Canadian Women's movement upon which all demands for equality are based." (Chaviva Hosek)

Pay Equity

COMMON ARGUMENTS AGAINST EQUAL PAY FOR WORK OF EQUAL VALUE LEGISLATION: A REBUTTAL

by the Sudbury Women's Action Group

1. Women choose to work for less; the free market principle has determined the value of their jobs.

REBUTTAL: It is naive to imagine that women ever entered the labour force under a "free market" principle. Their work was devalued from the beginning, and wages were set at a rate about two-thirds of men's -- remarkably like the ratio that still exists today. Moreover, because the range of jobs available to them was so limited, they exercised very little "choice" in the kind of work they did. Even today they continue to be channelled into only a few kinds of work by a variety of societal forces. This situation has resulted in a glut of labour in women's jobs, which continues to keep wages low. To create a truly "free" market we must open up other job areas to women. But we must also ensure that the work they do now is fairly evaluated: this will ensure that new areas of women's work will not become "ghettoized" and devalued in the future.

2. Equal value legislation will result in undue government interference with wages.

REBUTTAL: The government has not hesitated to interfere when it realizes that a principle of social justice is at stake; for example, in minimum wage legislation or the current equal pay law. Injustices sometimes require legislation as the only means of redress. Employers have had plenty of opportunity to voluntarily correct discriminatory wage scales, and they have not acted.

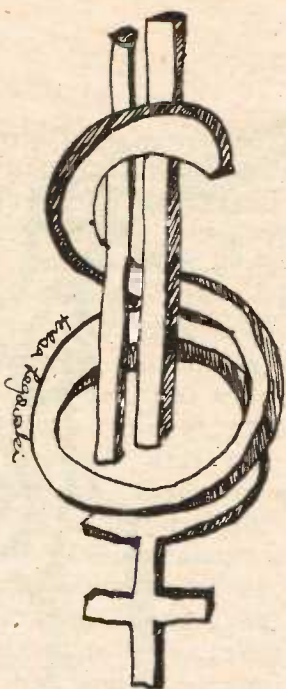


Women: A Journal of Liberation

3. Equal value legislation will have a devastating impact on collective bargaining procedures.

REBUTTAL: This does not need to be the case. Once those jobs which have been undervalued because of sex discrimination have been identified, they need only be compared to men's jobs to determine fair wage scales. From this point, bargaining can be as usual. Part of the process should be to identify inequities and negotiate increases in these before

across the board percentage increases are negotiated. "Pro-active" models of legislation, such as that enacted in Manitoba, have made collective bargaining a central part of the legislated process.



4. Job evaluations will be too difficult to develop. The task is too big and too complex.

REBUTTAL: It is misleading and unfounded to assume that a comprehensive, province-wide evaluation scheme will have to be developed. When individual jobs within a company are compared, cases of discrimination quickly become obvious. In fact, even opponents of equal value legislation are ready to admit the injustices of many case by case examples. Using the four area evaluation system (that is already described in the Employment Standards Act for comparing similar jobs) will provide a fair and reasonable method for evaluating the worth of different jobs. Many employers already have such systems in place. The method has proven workable in enforcing Federal and Quebec equal value legislation. NOTE: Australia, New Zealand, and the European Economic Community all have equal value legislation. 45 of 50 U.S. states are studying or have implemented it in the public sector.

5. If employers have to pay women more, fewer women will be hired.

REBUTTAL: Employers who have exploited women in the past by suggesting that they are lucky to be working under any circumstances have been quick to use this argument. Evidence from countries such as Australia, however, shows that women have not been adversely affected by equal value laws.

6. It will cost too much.

REBUTTAL: Again, evidence from other countries suggests that the cost is not nearly as high as many employers fear. In particular, employers who enact their own programs and do not wait for complaints and costly court-ordered settlements have found the costs to be manageable. (In Manitoba 1% of the total payroll was set aside for four years.) Furthermore, although in the short term there may be some expense, in the long term it must be remembered that increasing women's wages to a fair level will correspondingly increase their spending power and provide a boost to businesses. Underusing the talents of 42% of the work force is also costly. Low pay forces women into poverty. Money that is now spent to support single mothers who are unable to earn a living wage or to subsidize elderly women who have not earned enough to build up pension credits could be freed for other use if pay equity were achieved.

7. It will not close the wage gap, only narrow it.

REBUTTAL: Although this is true, equal value legislation will address the most significant factor underlying the current wage gap and is essential if we are to begin to work toward fair wages for women. Other programs, notably affirmative action and increased public awareness, will be necessary to eliminate the gap altogether.



N.O.W. Conference

Photo by JOAN BARIL

DAY CARE NEWS

By MARGARET PHILLIPS

SPECIAL COMMITTEE HEARINGS

With articulateness and passion Northwestern Ontario day care parents workers, administrators and advocates presented their concerns about the future of day care to the parliamentary Special Committee on Child Care at hearings in Dryden and Thunder Bay in mid-May. The message was clear - and consistent - from Fort Frances to Geraldton, from Marathon to Red Lake - the municipal and non-profit day care we have in Northwestern Ontario is high quality care, is important to families from all income levels - and is in jeopardy ... unless senior levels of government make the commitment to develop a comprehensive child care system in Canada and provide the funding to ensure high quality care. The Committee heard as well from evolving new day care groups such as Lakehead University Day Care Committee and the Big Trout Lake Women's Group about their struggles to initiate necessary day care services. The need to recognize the value of child care work, and provide adequate wages and benefits for workers was also stressed. The Committee was also made aware of the particular problems Northwestern Ontario isolation creates... and the need for resources appropriate to individual community's needs to be readily available.

The Special Committee has now completed its hearings and is expected to complete its report by late fall. Meanwhile, the very excellent Child Care Report prepared by the Katie Cooke Task Force is being ignored. And millions of Canadian children continue to be denied quality day care.

In the process of preparing for the Special Committee hearings the Ontario Coalition for Better Day Care, through a grant from the Ontario Women's Directorate, produced a series of video-tapes portraying the day care situation of diverse communities across the province. Northwestern Ontario Regional Day Care Committee participated in this project and with the enthusiasm of Marathon and Sioux Lookout day care people, the expertise of Monitor North, and Fiona's newly found editing skills, we have two very informative video-tapes, which describe the day care situation of an established centre (Sioux Lookout) and the newly developed day care service (Marathon). You may be interested in viewing these videos - please contact N.W.O.R.D.C.C., Box 144, Thunder Bay, phone 345-7802 for more information.



COMMUNITY DAY CARE NEWS

Best of luck to Big Trout Lake Women's Group as they continue to plan for day care in their community...we're all behind you. We're also happy to know that interest in a day care parents/advocates groups is evolving in Kenora.

Thanks to the leadership of Community Services Chairwoman Dusty Miller the City of Thunder Bay has appointed an Advisory Committee on Day Care with representation of parent users of centres and private home care, Thunder Bay Advocates for Quality Child Care and City administration. This is a very positive development which we believe will have an important impact on the continued development of high quality municipal day care in Thunder Bay.

PROVINCIAL HAPPENINGS

Ruth Wells (Thunder Bay Advocates) and Holly Rupert (Red Lake) attended the recent Ontario Coalition for Better Day Care meeting where plans were made to continue organizing activities and refine the Coalition's recommendations for provincial action.

Although the provincial Treasurer's announcement about negotiating with the federal government to develop day care as a public service is a positive step, it must be recognized that such negotiation will be a slow process and will not be achieved in time to save our Northwestern Ontario centres which are threatened with closure at the end of December. The province must act now to stabilize and secure the funding for existing municipal centres and relieve the anxiety and stress that families and day care workers are now suffering.

Midwifery Task Force



RE:BIRTH,

A Task Force has been appointed to study and make recommendations to the Government of Ontario on the implementation of midwifery in the province. The Task Force was appointed by the Minister of Health and will make its recommendations both to him and to the Minister of Colleges and Universities.

The mandate of the Task Force is to recommend a framework for establishing midwifery as a regulated profession and part of Ontario's health care system. The Task Force invites written submissions from all interested groups and members of the public. Presenters

of written submissions will also have an opportunity to make oral submissions to the Task Force at hearings to be held in various communities in Ontario in the fall. The Task Force's itinerary will be publicized through local news media.

Submissions addressing the following matters will be particularly helpful to the Task Force:

- education and entry requirements for midwives
- scope and standards of practice
- locations and types of practice
- patient access
- relationship with other health professions
- personal experience with midwife-assisted or physician-assisted deliveries

It will also be helpful for persons or groups wishing to make oral submissions at hearings to so advise the Task Force.

The members of the Task Force are Mary Eberts, Chairperson; Alan Schwartz, Q.C., Vice-Chairperson; Rachel Edney, M.D.; and Karyn Kaufman, R.N., C.N.M.

Submissions may be addressed to and further information obtained from Linda S. Bohnen, Executive Director, Task Force on the Implementation of Midwifery in Ontario, 14th Floor, 700 Bay Street, Toronto, Ontario, M5G 1Z6, Tel. No.: (416) 965-5094.



"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, 1911

C.F.P.C.

by C. Greenwood.

I recently had the good fortune to attend the Canadian Feminist Periodicals Conference. This was the first conference of this nature that I have attended (sort of coming out as a feminist publisher) and the impact of being with so many women committed to feminist publishing was rejuvenating. I had a chance to put faces to names and publications and of course all those women together have a tremendous energy output!

Serious issues were addressed; Race and Class, Lesbian Visibility and the politics involved in designing editing and publishing Feminist press. Our weekend began with a panel discussion, which introduced us to some of the women and issues, participating and addressed in the workshops. The workshops themselves were wideranging and my only complaint is that I couldn't attend them all.

Donna Gollan (Broadside) gave an excellent workshop on fundraising, something dear to the Journals heart. We dealt with everything from government funding to advertising. Needless to say, we went over our allotted time (a theme common to most of the workshops). The Politics of Design workshop was hosted by a group of women from



Pandora, who shared their considerable design sense with us. I also had an opportunity to speak with Moe Lyons, who was acting as a production skills resource person. Moe looked at our last issue, page by page and gave suggestions for improvement. If this sounds like an exercise in masochism - it wasn't. Moe gave many helpful tips and once again I wish there had been more time.

The workshop on lesbian visibility went far overtime but it was time well spent. The workshop sensitized us to the isolation experienced by lesbians working in feminist publishing. We also examined perceived differences in lesbian and feminist politics, and we agreed to work towards the elimination of heterosexism.

I suppose to summarize the weekend, I can only say it made me aware of the tremendous network of feminist publication's across Canada. It gave me a feeling of unity with other publication's, from colour glossy to tabloids. We are all struggling with the same problems and gain strength by working together. The conference gave me a renewed sense of purpose (so much so, when I returned to my collective I was unbearable) and commitment. I'm looking forward to next year.

Future Feminists

Photo's by Carolyn Greenwood



Shivaun
Daughter of Miriam Ketonen



Kendra
Daughter of Joan Williams



Justine
Daughter of Pam Dunk



Saille
Daughter of Teresa Legowski

Out of the Ashes

It's a nice place
In a lousy location
All night the gulls cry
The trains go
 back and forth
 back and forth
Across the yards.
A block away
Someone was shot:
My window has a lovely view
Of a former bawdy house.

I treasure the memory
Of good times
Scattered across a life of
Quiet desperation:
Many years from now
How will I remember
The gulls?

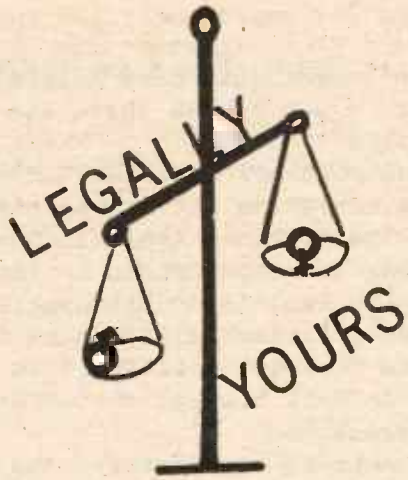
Susan Collins



We function in the world of men
like second thoughts ...
a good idea someone had
to take up the slack.
We're polluted by his wisdom;
it seeps from every pore
and, if one ever shuts his mouth,
another hollers, "More!"
We're the ones who look and listen,
pouring love and sympathy
into holes without a bottom,
into nothing ... endlessly.

Gert Beadle

Family Law * Reformed Again



by LYNN BEAK

This is the first part of a two part series on the revisions to family law statutes that affect residents of Ontario. This part focuses on the new Family Law Act, and the second part will review the new Divorce Act and the support order enforcement acts enacted by the federal and provincial governments.

Family law in Ontario has been reformed for the second time in seven years. Although many of the changes will be of benefit to women, the fact that the law has been revised again will make it more difficult for many women to understand the options that they have upon separation or the death of their spouse. It has become increasingly important for women to seek legal representation as soon as possible after family breakdown, and in some cases even before separation, since many new time limits have been included in the Family Law Act of 1986 (FLA). The FLA came in force March 1, 1986 and its provisions have retroactive effect. Therefore the rules may have changed even for couples separated before March 1, 1986.

AREAS OF LAW WHICH REMAIN UNCHANGED

There are several areas of law which remain unchanged. Firstly, the provisions for division of property and sharing property still do not apply to people living in common law relationships (not legally married). The only benefit a person in a common law relationship can apply for, after separation, is support payments, not a sharing of property.

Secondly, the rules governing the granting of child custody orders remains unchanged. It is still "the best interests of the child" that will form the judge's decision.

Thirdly, the rules governing the 50% division of the matrimonial home (between legally married couples only) remain fundamentally unchanged, although the rights of third parties (especially creditors) are clarified.

Fourthly, both legally married and common law couples can still prepare domestic contracts governing the main financial aspects of their situation, which will frequently override the FLA. However, marriage agreements, cohabitation agreements and separation agreements should now be prepared only when each person has independent legal representation.

Also such agreements should now be accompanied by financial statements fully disclosing the assets and liabilities (debts) of both people.

Lastly, the sections allowing family members to sue for damages for loss of guidance, care and companionship and for recovery of expenses when a third person injures or kills a family member remain substantially unaltered.

AREAS OF LAW WHICH WERE CHANGED

1. FAMILY PROPERTY (MARRIED COUPLES ONLY)

The most significant changes have occurred in the area of division of family property for legally married couples. Now a spouse can apply for division of property not only on separation but also within six months after the death of their spouse. This means that the surviving spouse has to choose within six months whether she wishes to take what her spouse has left her under the will (or the rules of intestacy if there is no will) or to apply for division of family property. It will be necessary for the surviving spouse to see a lawyer soon after the death of her spouse to determine how she wants to proceed.

The other major change is in the definition of family assets; these now include virtually all assets acquired by either spouse during the marriage. This means that pension funds, family farms, businesses and private bank accounts are now included in the items to be divided as well as household belongings, vehicles, campers, etc. Exclusions are limited to assets owned by each spouse before the marriage (except the matrimonial home), gifts, inheritances, insurance policy proceeds, damage awards and subsequent property traceable to one of these exclusions.

The family property (minus debts and liabilities) owned by each spouse is then totalled and the spouse who has the higher value must compensate the spouse with the lower value so that the value of assets held by each will be equal. Some limited reasons are stated for allowing exclusions to the complete equalization of family property.

2. DIVISION OF ASSETS BEFORE SEPARATION

An interesting provision, included for the first time, allows a legally married spouse to apply to the court for division of family property even though the spouses are still living together if the applying spouse can demonstrate that her husband will squander, waste or deplete the assets. This section may be useful for a woman married to a chronic gambler or alcoholic who wishes to preserve her share of the family assets but to remain with her husband.

3. CHILD SUPPORT

Minor changes were made to the child support sections. The parental obligation to support a child does not end at age 18 any longer, but continues while the child is enrolled full time in a school, college or university.

If a person who is considered a parent because they have "demonstrated a settled intention to treat a child as a child of his or her family" is sued for child support, that person can bring the birth parent (or parents) into the application to have the child support distributed between all parties.

4. SPOUSAL SUPPORT (MARRIED COUPLE)

A legally married spouse who wishes to sue for support for herself (not the children) must now commence the application within two years after separation, or else she will be required to obtain a judge's consent to allow her application to proceed.

Furthermore, spousal support is being seen by the courts only as a backup to division of property and only for the purpose of helping the applying spouse to get back on his or her feet. The primary obligation for spouses is to support themselves, and therefore the courts have been giving support awards for shorter periods of time. Of course, if someone is disabled or otherwise unable to consider entering or re-entering the workforce, the judge's have the choice to award spousal support for a longer period of time.

SPOUSAL SUPPORT (COMMON LAW COUPLES)

For couples in a common law relationship spousal support is the only benefit provided by the FLA. If two people have been living together for more than three years (reduced from 5 years), or if a child was born to the couple, then either spouse can apply for spousal support within two years of separation.



continued on p14

Meeting a Lesbian

by CAROLYN KOWCUN

Reprinted from Arthur
Canadian University Press

Most straight women do not know how to react when they meet a lesbian. As a result, when a straight woman actually meets a lesbian face to face, the situation becomes a little embarrassing for all parties concerned.

This column is full of sound advice and practical information on what to do on that fateful day you finally meet a lesbian.

If you think you will never meet a lesbian, or believe that you presently don't know any, here are a few facts to consider. It is estimated that anywhere from one in twenty to one in six women are lesbians. Surely you know at least six women; you probably know at least twenty, maybe more. Statistically speaking, chances are you do know a lesbian whether you are aware of it or not.

Now, if you wonder how you would react if a lesbian actually told you she was a lesbian, this article is for you. The following sixteen hints, carefully compiled by a team of experts (whose names escape me), should be studied carefully and memorized if possible. Perhaps it would be best to clip and save this article and carry it around in your purse. You never know when the following advice will come in handy.

This is serious stuff. Are you ready? Here we go.

When you meet a lesbian
- Hints for the Heterosexual
Woman:

1. Do not run screaming from the room. This is rude.
2. If you must back away, do so slowly and with discretion. Do not grimace at all costs.
3. Do not assume that she is attracted to you.
4. Do not assume that she is not attracted to you.
5. Do not assume that you are not attracted to her.
6. Do not expect her to be as excited about meeting a heterosexual as you may be about meeting a lesbian.
7. Do not immediately start talking about your boyfriend and/or husband in order to make it clear that you are straight. She probably already knows.
8. Do not tell her that it is sexist to prefer women, that people are people, and that she should be able to love everybody. Do not tell her that men are as oppressed by sexism as women, and that women should help men fight their oppression. These are common fallacies and should be understood as such.
9. Do not invite her someplace where there are men unless you tell her in advance.

10. Do not ask her how she got this way. Instead, ask yourself how you got that way.

11. Do not assume that she is dying to talk about being a lesbian.

12. Do not expect her to refrain from talking about being a lesbian.

13. Do not trivialize her experience by assuming it is a bedroom issue only. She is a lesbian 24 hours a day.

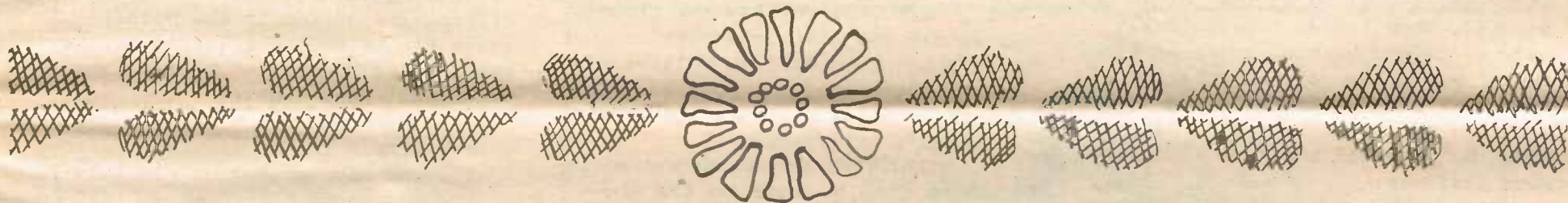
14. Do not assume that because she is a lesbian she wants to be treated like a man.

15. Do not assume that her heart will leap out for you if you touch her arm (condescending? flirtatiously? powertestingly?) it may make her angry.

16. If you are tempted to tell her she's taking the easy way out, think about it.

Now, that wasn't so difficult was it? Perhaps the next time you see a pink triangle, you won't faint from fear of the unknown. If you do faint, though, you should read this article again and ask yourself what you are afraid of.

Oh yes, I almost forgot about helpful hint no. 17. Do not stop breathing. Lesbianism is not contagious, nor is it caused by a virus.



Feminist  **Books**

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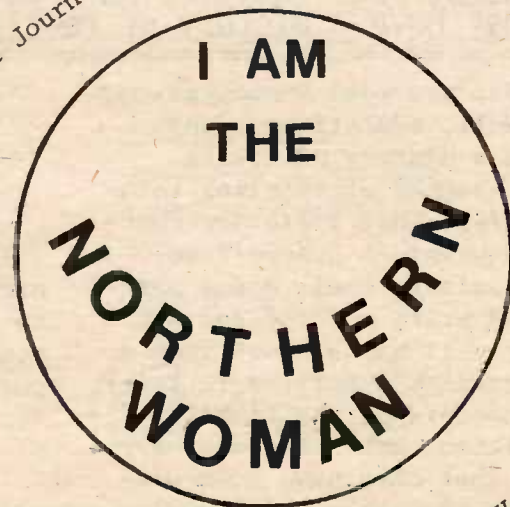
Northern Woman

WOMEN WORDS

At the recent annual meeting of The Writers Union of Canada, Myrna Kostash presented her detailed research on Canadian women writers, revealing that only 29% of books published in Canada are by women although 42% of all writers are women. Canadian literary anthologies include an average 25% of their content from women writers works, only 13% of teachers in university writing programs are women, only 31% of authors on Canada Council supported book promotion tours in 1980-81 were women, and 25% of Harbourfront readings have been given by women.

Regarding the institution of the Marian Engel Award, (Margaret) Atwood told the gathering of men and women that some opposition had been expressed because the new award will be given only to women. "We've given the matter some thought" said Atwood. "We decided that when everything else is equal, we should open it up to men." (Quill & Quire Aug. '86)

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INTERVIEW

with RUTH CUNNINGHAM

by JOAN BARIL

After twelve years in women's programs at Confederation College, Ruth Cunningham is retiring. At her retirement dinner on June 5, Ruth received tributes from several women who had worked with her in nursing and education. She received scrolls from the City of Thunder Bay, presented by Mayor Jack Masters, the Province of Ontario presented by MLA Mickey Hennessy and from the Government of Canada presented by a representative for Iain Angus MP for Thunder Bay-Atikokan. Here she speaks with Joan Baril.

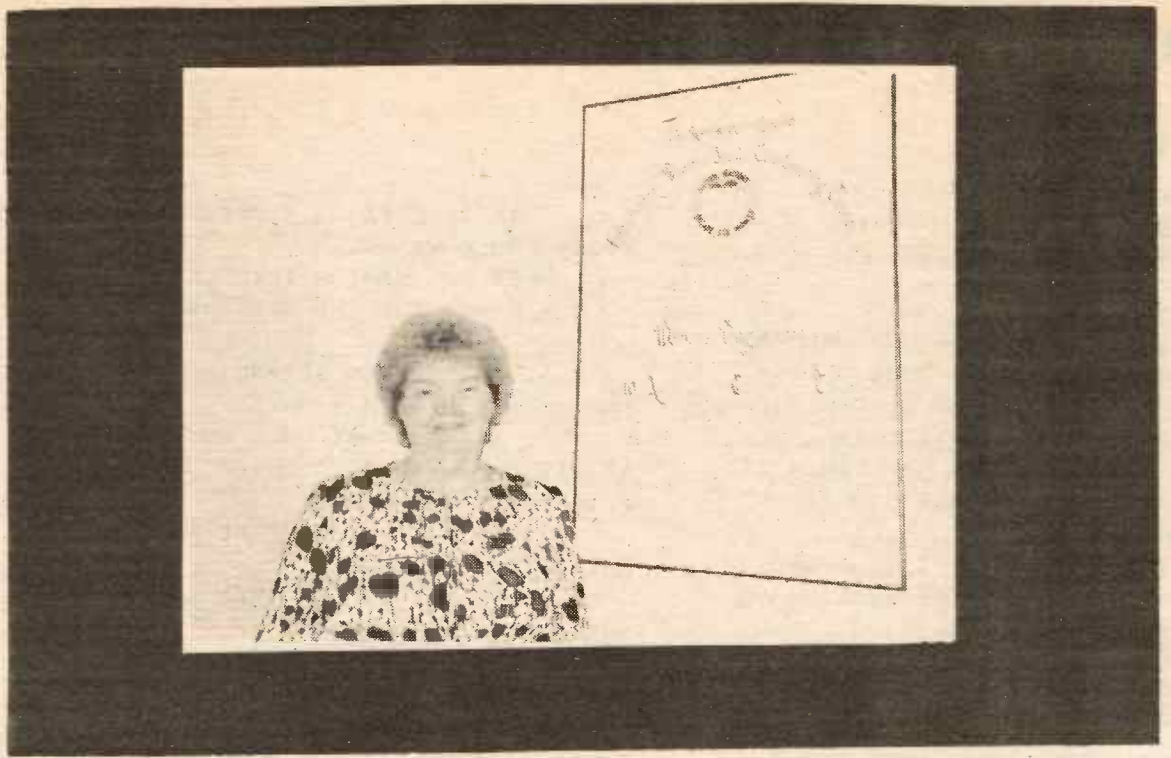


Photo by JOAN BARIL

Joan: At the dinner many people said they couldn't believe that you would really retire. I can't imagine you without some sort of commitment. It seems to me your life has been one of commitment.

Ruth: I was ten years old when I sat behind the ranch house and said to myself 'There must be something better than doing dishes and cleaning. There has got to be something better.

Joan: Did you get that idea from a book?

Ruth: Oh no. I didn't have any books. We lived on a ranch in Saskatchewan. The only book I had until I was twelve was a Happy Gang book. I was an intellectually deprived child. But I did have time to do lots of thinking. I decided at ten not to get married. When I did, I practically made my future husband write in blood that I was going to have a career of my own. I was not domestic and I didn't have any intention of working inside the home all the time. But I did want children.

Joan: Did your mother influence you?

Ruth: I'll never forget it. My mother said, "Do your own thinking, Ruth".

Joan: Has this been your philosophy?

Ruth: I believe that adults should be free to make the decisions which affect their lives, be willing to take the responsibility for those decisions and have the opportunity to carry them out.

Joan: You've been at the College for twelve years in Women's Programs. Can you talk a bit about this?

Ruth: A Community College has a mandate. It is to meet the needs of people in the community. A college has to address itself as best it can to do this. My mandate was to women. Within my twelve years I have implemented programs into every division.

Educational institution's have a history of sexism,
They have a history of reacting rather than leading.

Joan: But you were a pioneer.

Ruth: Well, educational institutions have a history of sexism. They have a history of reacting rather than leading. They therefore change only when pressure groups force them to re-evaluate their modus operandi. I could write a book! But since I've been here it has evolved from a period of outright hostility to tolerance and acceptance and finally some recognition that women are here to stay and that they have been disadvantaged in education and unemployment.

I think there's been a woman's revolution from day one,
But it's never really been won and it's a continuing struggle.

Joan: Do you see a role for women's studies?

Ruth: There certainly is a role for women's studies. If I didn't think that I wouldn't have been here for twelve years. That role is now enlarging rather than decreasing because many people see that they need women's studies in order to find themselves and learn something about their history.

Joan: At one college, the president refuses to allow women's studies. He claims it is discriminatory.

Ruth: Men are not forbidden to attend any of our programs such as Assertiveness Training, Women in History, or Women, Society and Change. So we are not discriminatory.

Joan: This college believes it is the content of the courses which are discriminatory since they focus on women's experience.

Ruth: They are no more discriminatory than to focus on the study of Natives or any ethnic minority. That president is wrong. I have in my office documentation to show that special programs are covered under the affirmative action code of Ontario and the Canadian Human Rights code and consequently we are able to do special programs for women.

I have passed this information on to the different divisions. I'm having a hard time selling it and I think it's important that they have it in writing. I also have articles on this. I spoke on special programs for women to the Association of Community Colleges (note: this association is for college presidents, management, and boards of governors). I was the speaker last year concerning special programs versus integrated programs. They were amazed when I told them we had a General Arts and Science program emphasizing

women's curriculum. Women over the years have worked hard to legitimize women's programs.

Joan: What about the future?

Ruth: There has to be a plan for maintaining. I already foresee erosion. The government has decided to "privitize education" without adequate monitoring. It's an open opportunity for women to be exploited, for a company to make money instead of the issues being addressed.

I'm very glad I'm leaving at this time. I feel I've done a good piece of work but I think if I were to stay

I would see it erode and disappear.

And no one wants to see the work they have done disappear. Especially when there has been personal cost. Don't paint me as a victim. I'm not that. But I really do think we are at the crossroads.

Joan: When I talk to my students they tell me that everything is so much better for women now that there are few changes to be expected in the future.

Ruth: Society never stagnates. You either go forward or you go back. Of course, there have been gains. We have the Charter. But we had to fight for the equality clause. We do have affirmative action in the Ontario Human Rights Code but hardly anybody knows it is there.

Joan: What's next?

Ruth: Fighting on. We tend to underestimate the opposition.

Joan: Why is that do you think?

Ruth: Women have been socialized to nurture. That has been their greatest contribution. They are very uncomfortable working for change. It's threatening to their husbands. It's threatening to their families. This leaves women's organizations very vulnerable. The family is resistant. We've had indications of this in our work with women over the years. Women tend to put the family before themselves and they come out at the bottom of the heap many times.

Joan: We end up paying for our virtues.

Ruth: Yes. Of course many women have heavy family responsibilities. They have so much to do. Many women are working very hard. They don't have much energy sometimes even to read the local paper. As for some of our students, many of them have so little income. They have to sacrifice a lot for their children. There's no day care here. It's only for those who can afford it, not for those who can't afford it. So with the kind of socialization and burdens placed on women it's going to take a great revolution for many to move from that position.

Joan: Is that revolution happening?

Ruth: I think there's been a women's revolution from day one. But it's never really been won and it's a continuing struggle, a never ending struggle.

●●● UPDATE ●●●
continued

rd's and Tapes, Box 3294, Stn D, Thunder Bay, Ontario, P7B 5J8.000

●●● Laurentian University offers an impressive Women's Studies program. Of particular value to regional women, is the Correspondence Courses program. Courses include: Women in Modern Society, Women and the Arts, A History of Women and the Women's Movement: Renaissance to the Present. For more information contact - Women's Studies Program, Thornloe College, Laurentian University, Sudbury, Ontario.●●●

●●● Women's Art - Womanspirit Art Resource Centre of London, Ontario regrets that it must close its doors to the public due to lack of volunteers. The main body of the centre's research materials - the slide registry of women artists, their collection of books, periodicals and magazines, and other research and reference materials will be moved to Weldon Library at the University of Western Ontario, and will be available to the public.●●●

The Canadian WOMEN'S FESTIVAL

LE FESTIVAL DES FEMMES CANADIENNES

3D-161 STAFFORD STREET
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA
R3M 2W9
(204) 477-5478

●●● Contrary to rumor there will be a Canadian Women's Festival this year. The 3rd Annual Canadian Women's Music and Cultural Festival will be held September 5 & 6, 1986 at the Centre Culturel Franco-Manitobain. As yet we do not have a final schedule. But be assured that performers are being contacted, women artisans are being sought, and visual artists are being eyed.

Like many women's organisations the Festival is experiencing a severe lack of dollars. Last years event left the organisation with a substantial debt. This, coupled with an intransigent anti-culture federal government funding policy leaves us in dire straits. Consequently 1986 has seen a flurry of fundraising activity, a commitment to not incurring another debt, and occasional flirting with the fine edge of panic. We are in the midst of a membership drive and are welcoming women with \$5.00 or more into our fold.

This years festival is going to be quite different to previous ones. We will be having a more extensive visual arts program including film and video showings and workshops. It will be a smaller, more intimate affair, held indoors on a Friday night, Saturday and Saturday night. In this spirit we are making every effort to arrange billets for our out-of-town friends.

Your involvement at previous festivals has been greatly appreciated and we thank you in advance for your participation in this year's festival. Looking forward to a nice time in September and we are hoping you can attend. Until then we remain,

In Solidarity,
The Canadian Women's Festival.

●●● CALL FOR NOMINATIONS ●●●

The annual meeting of the N.W.O. Decade council is fast approaching, to be exact, 18 and 19 of October, 1986. At this meeting we will be holding the election for the executive. Anyone who is interested or requires further information, please contact either Margaret Lanchok at 807-345-6345 or Pat Wilson at 807-939-2803, or write Box 1091, Stn F, Thunder Bay, Ontario, P7C 4X9.

The positions to be filled are: President, 2 Vice-Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer. ●●●

●●● Received from Ian Scott, Minister Responsible for Women's Issues: "I am very pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Elaine Todres as the new Assistant Deputy Minister of the Ontario Women's Directorate. As former Director of the Policy and Research Branch, Dr. Todres has contributed a great deal to the work of the OWD. She has helped map a course for the OWD, and for this Government, which has put Ontario in the forefront of policy-making on women's issues.

I look forward to working with Dr. Todres and I'm sure she can count on your continued support."●●●

●●● All our good wishes to Liz Poulin, president of Decade Council for a speedy return to health and her usual dynamic energy.●●●



PRO-LIFE (?) TACTICS

The "pro-life" crusade occurs on many fronts ... from trained subtle harassment of abortion clinic patients (called sidewalk counselling), to planned violence, to verbal and written attacks on anyone who does not share their anti-abortion views.

In 1985, 27 (U.S.) health clinics offering birth control and abortion services were attacked by bombings or deliberate fires. These assaults, which have numbered 50 in the past two years, are becoming increasingly life-threatening to the women working in the clinics. In December, a bomb exploded during office hours at Manhattan Women's Medical Centre, the same month, the Feminist Women's Health Centre in Portland, Ore. received a letter bomb. No one was injured in either attack but according to Nanette Falkenberg of the National Abortion Rights Action League, "This is really the first time that it's clear the intent is to kill people." (Kinesis, April 86)

Canadians are not immune to "pro-life" violence. In 1983 the Toronto Women's Bookstore was set on fire by an arsonist. The Morgenthaler Clinic was located on the second floor of the building in which the Bookstore was situated.

Recently staff members of the Morgenthaler Clinic have been subjected to increased harassment as "pro-life" demonstrators have picketed the staff's personal residences and distributed leaflets to their neighbours urging the neighbours to persuade the staff not to work in abortion clinics.

The Morgenthaler and Scott Clinics are not the only targets. On May 14, protests were held outside Canadian hospitals (including Thunder Bay hospitals) that provide therapeutic abortions.

"Pro-life Abortion Services" (the contradiction is deliberate) are also being established in many cities. For an excellent discussion of these services readers are referred to the June issue of BROADSIDE.

FREEDOM OF CHOICE



CANADIAN ABORTION RIGHTS ACTION LEAGUE (CARAL)
ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE POUR LE DROIT A L'AVORTEMENT (A.C.A.A.)



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."

I support the statement of purpose of CARAL and wish to become a member.

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Family	\$15.00
Sustaining	\$25.00
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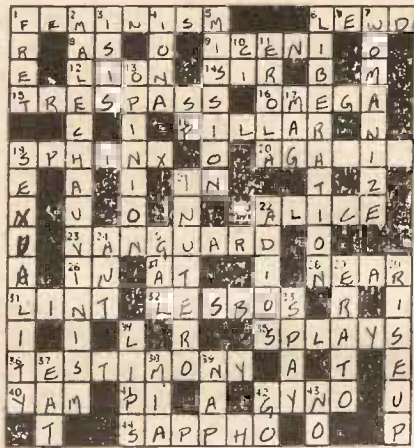
QUOTABLE NOTABLE QUOTES

a matching quiz by JOAN BARIL

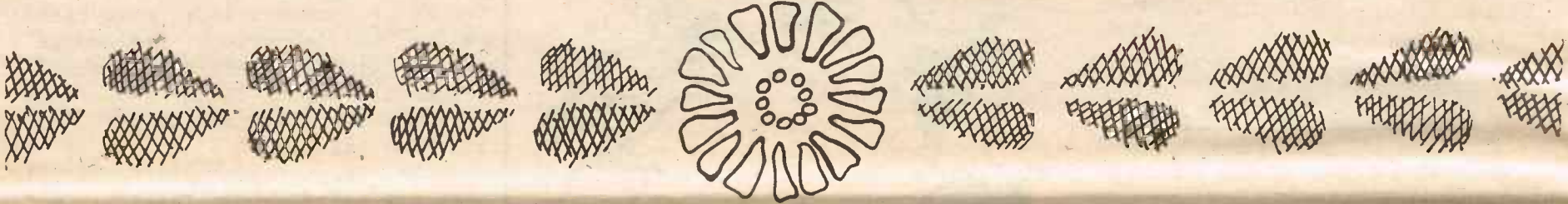
ANSWERS TO LAST
ISSUE'S CROSSWORD

1. When one is pretending, the entire body revolts
2. It is better to die on your feet than live on your knees.
3. The liberation of language is rooted in the liberation of ourselves.
4. In search of my mother's garden I found my own.
5. Marriage is a great institution but I'm not ready for an institution yet.
6. I can't be a rose in any man's lapel.
7. Women have very little idea of how much men hate them.
8. A woman without a man is like a fish without a bicycle.
9. Woman is not a completed reality but rather a becoming.
10. There will be sex after death - we just won't be able to feel it.
11. My only concern was to get home after a hard day's work.
12. Never go to bed mad. Stay up and fight.

- A. Germaine Greer
- B. Gloria Steinham
- C. Margaret Trudeau
- D. Simone de Beauvoir
- E. Mary Daly
- F. Anais Nin
- G. Delores Ibarruri
- H. Alice Walker
- I. Lily Tomlin
- J. Phyllis Diller
- K. Mae West
- L. Rosa Parks



1F; 2G; 3E; 4H; 5K; 6C; 7A; 8B; 9D; 10I; 11L; 12J.



FAMILY LAW

continued from p10

The same considerations as discussed in the previous section on amount and duration of the support award apply here except that the concept of "family property" does not apply to common law couples.

However, if a woman has contributed to the acquiring of an asset registered in a man's name (or vis versa) then she should speak to a lawyer since other laws may assist her to recover her investment.

CONCLUSION

This has been a brief summary of some changes to the family law in Ontario. As a result of these changes many people may wish to see a lawyer in order to revise their will or assess their situation. Since this information has been very general, IT MUST NOT BE RELIED UPON, OTHER LEGISLATION MAY VARY THE SITUATION. If you wish to obtain legal advice, you should see a private lawyer, contact the lawyer referral service (Zenith 58600) where you will be given the name of a lawyer who will provide you with a half hour interview at a low cost, or contact your local legal clinic.

HAPPY



SUMMER

Art by Rick B.

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WOMAN WORDS

Intrigued by the book covers on our cover? Here's a bit more about them to whet your appetite.

A FEMINIST DICTIONARY by Cheris Kramaral and Paula A. Treichler is a different kind of dictionary. Indispensable to every woman who has felt put down or made invisible by male-defined language. The authors state their purpose in compiling the dictionary was "to document words, definitions, and conceptualizations that illustrate women's linguistic contributions, to illuminate forms of expression through which women have sought to describe, reflect upon, and theorize about women, language and the world; to identify issues of language theory, research, usage and institutionalized practice that bear on the relationship between women and language, to demonstrate ways in which women are seizing the language; to broaden knowledge of the feminist lexicon; and to stimulate research on women and language." Doubtless, many readers will be stimulated to expand their own study and reading from introductions to new thinking, new writers, that the dictionary provides. A FEMINIST DICTIONARY will be a great present to yourself.

In the expanding body of literature exploring violence against women, it is encouraging to note the growing contribution of Canadian publications. NO SAFE PLACE: Violence Against Women and Children, edited by Connie Guberman and Margie Wolfe is a timely anthology that links the issues of wife assault, child battery, rape, child sexual abuse, sexual harassment and pornography. The articles included in this volume not only examine the data documenting the extent of violence in our society, but also analyses the institutional response to the demands of feminist for action on these issues. That political response has been evidenced in the past

few years (particularly in respect to rape and wife battering) poses a distinct dilemma for feminists who increasingly witness the "institutionalization" of these women's issues. While governments have become receptive to funding crisis services "...the state has done nothing which really changes the social order that produces violence in the first place ... Until society focuses on the real causes, we cannot hope to eliminate the problem". The demands of providing services for victims of violence too often overrides the need for continual analysis of society violence. NO SAFE PLACE is a valuable contribution to encourage our continuing feminist analysis and an increasing awareness of the need for qualitative societal change.

Another new Canadian publication is Pat Armstrong's LABOUR PAINS: Women's Work in Crisis which "... presents a stunning analysis of current (economic) patterns, exploring for the first time the effects of the crisis on women's and men's work both in the labour force and in the household.... Armstrong explains why women's employment will deteriorate both absolutely and in relation to men ... warning.. that unless they get together and do something about it, the working women of Canada will emerge from this crisis in a more uncertain position than before."

Anyone interested in girls and women's education will want to study Dale Spender's INVISIBLE WOMEN: The Schooling Scandal. The heart of women's oppression is their silencing. Spender, a communications expert, analyzes how the educational "system" has been set up by men as an adjunct of another system - the patriarchal system. She describes and quotes studies which show what actually happens in the classroom - the negation, trivialization and silencing of girls, teaching them to be invisible.

A 1986 Women's Press fiction publication is SUBVERSIVE ELEMENTS by Donna E. Smyth. Described as "an intriguing melange of voices that entice us to explore two seemingly unrelated strands - a highly romantic and unlikely love story and a timely account of the controversy surrounding uranium mining in Nova Scotia. Textually and thematically subversive, these two narratives resonate off each other creating a story that is both innovative and moving".

Winnipeg writer Carol Shields recently released collection VARIOUS MIRACLES will be a welcome addition to the bookshelves of all short story enthusiasts.

Other fiction titles we suggest for your summer reading include: FABLES OF BRUNSWICK AVE. by Katherine Govier; SPARE PARTS by Gail Scott; INLAND PASSAGE by Jane Rule; TENDER WARRIORS by Rachel Guido de Vries; SOMETHING OUT THERE by Nadine Gordimer; and Doris Lessing's DIARIES OF JANE SOMERS.

Judith Petch, a faithful NWJ reader responds to our call last issue and sends her suggestions with her comments. They are MANY TENDER TIES: Women in Fur-Trade Society, 1670-1870, by Sylvia Van Kirk - The economic and domestic survival skills of women, particularly native women, played a crucial role in the development of the North American fur trade, especially during its early days. A POISON STRONGER THAN LOVE, by Anastasia Shkilnyk - A whole community, individually and collectively shows signs of emotional (and mental?) illness when hit by successive waves of economic and social dislocation and an environmental disaster. A lot of testimony about the resultant problems is given from women's perspective.



Good-bye Simone

by JOAN BARIL

The first book I read by Simone de Beauvoir, Memoirs of a Dutiful Daughter, bored me. The life of a bourgeois French girl was foreign to me, seemingly unconnected with my own. As for The Second Sex, it seemed to go on forever, full of rich images, yes, but I couldn't grasp the meaning. The concept of woman as "other", a person without "projects" (projects?), the references to philosophy and French literature, the long descriptions of women's lives so different from my own left me disoriented as if I had found myself in a wood with a hundred paths and no clear direction. It was all too French, too foreign, intellectually over my head.

It took several years, but slowly all the paths merged into a pattern. There was no sudden "click". I just grew enough to understand de Beauvoir. I believe I read everything she wrote. Some of it was unforgettable. She wrote about her love life, her mother's death, movingly about her own encroaching old age. In future years I think she will be remembered as an historian because her series of memoirs are as much an historical account as they are a personal.

When she wrote The Second Sex, she was way ahead of her time and roundly criticized by her friends. Virginia Woolf had the same experience with Three Guineas). Later in the seventies she was criticized by feminists. Because the book was written in

1949 it was freighted with assumptions of the period which even a mind as adept as de Beauvoir's could not uncover. She accepted many of the criticisms as just. She was never afraid to change her views. She revised her ideas on women as many articles and interviews show. It was amusing at her death to hear the same old critiques trotted out as if what she wrote in 1949 was exactly what she believed in 1986.

De Beauvoir combined an active political life with a theoretical one - a life of praxis. She was in the forefront of political activity in France and the forefront of the women's movement everywhere. She died this spring, 1986. Good-bye, Simone.



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For further information contact the Associate Registrar (807) 475-6365.

GENERAL ARTS AND SCIENCE DIPLOMA PROGRAM emphasizing Women's Programs Curricula may be taken full-time during the day or part-time (evenings) through Community Programs.

For further information contact the G.A.S. Program Co-ordinator (807) 475-6390.

CAREER PLANNING FOR WOMEN is an 8-week program to assist women entering or re-entering the labour force to understand present employment conditions, to select realistic career goals and to enter appropriate employment or begin suitable training.

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WOMEN INTO TRADES & TECHNOLOGY (W.I.T.T.) is an 18-week program designed to expose women to all aspects of practical trades training and the world of Hi-Tech.

Program commencement dates: September 15, 1986 to January 16, 1987
February 2, 1987 to June 5, 1987

For further information on CAREER PLANNING FOR WOMEN or W.I.T.T., contact the Chair Industrial & Motive Power (807) 475-6215, or Women's Employment Centre (807) 623-2731.

BASIC TRAINING IN SKILLS DEVELOPMENT (B.T.S.D.) Academic Upgrading Grades 8-12; English as a Second Language.

For further information contact the Chair Secretarial & Hospitality Programs (807) 475-6318, or your local Canada Employment & Immigration office, or the Women's Employment Centre, 130 S. Syndicate Avenue, Thunder Bay, ON P7C 1C7 (807) 623-2731.

YOUR SUGGESTIONS ARE WELCOME ... CALL THE ASSISTANT SUPERVISOR OF COMMUNITY PROGRAMS AT (807) 475-6189.

Northwestern Ontario Residents may call Toll Free: 1 - 800 - 465 - 6961

PROGRAMS

REGISTRATION INFORMATION: For ALL subjects begins August 5th (5-7:30pm) and commencing on August 6th from 9am-7:30pm every weekday except Fridays from 9am-4pm in the Registrar's Office. MALL Registration from August 18th to 23rd, 9:30am to closing at Intercity Shopping Centre. MAIL-IN: to obtain a registration form contact Community Programs (807) 475-6116. Deadline is September 2nd; no postdated cheques accepted, VISA is accepted.

GS 010 (99)

PERSONAL FINANCIAL PLANNING (FOR WOMEN)
This subject will give women practical instruction in personal economics, the art of handling money and managing one's financial affairs. Topics covered include budgeting, banking and investing, credit, housing, insurance and car ownership, together with other topics in which the students may express an interest. This subject is targeted for women only.
DATE/TIME: Tuesdays 7:00-10:00pm
START DATE: September 9, 1986
COMPLETION: December 16, 1986
INSTRUCTOR: Lauretta Johnson
FEE: \$56.25 ROOM: 267, Shuniah Bldg

GS 026 (99)

ASSERTIVENESS TRAINING (FOR WOMEN)
This subject will provide women with the skills necessary to negotiate honestly for the things she 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. This subject is targeted for women only.
DATE/TIME: Thursdays 7:00-10:00pm
START DATE: September 11, 1986
COMPLETION: November 13, 1986
INSTRUCTOR: Shirley Stevens
FEE: \$37.50 ROOM: 267, Shuniah Bldg

GS 143 (99)

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 you bring to every situation because of your personality, belief system, life rhythms and style of problem-solving. A lifestyle and attitude approach to changing your stress response will be developed by each individual.
DATE/TIME: Mondays 7:00-10:00pm
START DATE: September 8, 1986
COMPLETION: November 17, 1986
INSTRUCTOR: Shirley Stevens
FEE: \$37.50 ROOM: 265, Shuniah Bldg

WT 843

MOTOR VEHICLE (WOMEN KNOW YOUR CAR)
In this elective post-secondary credit subject, women will learn the basic procedures of car maintenance and general operation.

Section 99

DATE/TIME: Mondays 7:00-10:00pm
START DATE: September 15, 1986
COMPLETION: October 27, 1986

Section 98

DATE/TIME: Wednesdays 7:00-10:00pm
START DATE: September 17, 1986
COMPLETION: October 22, 1986

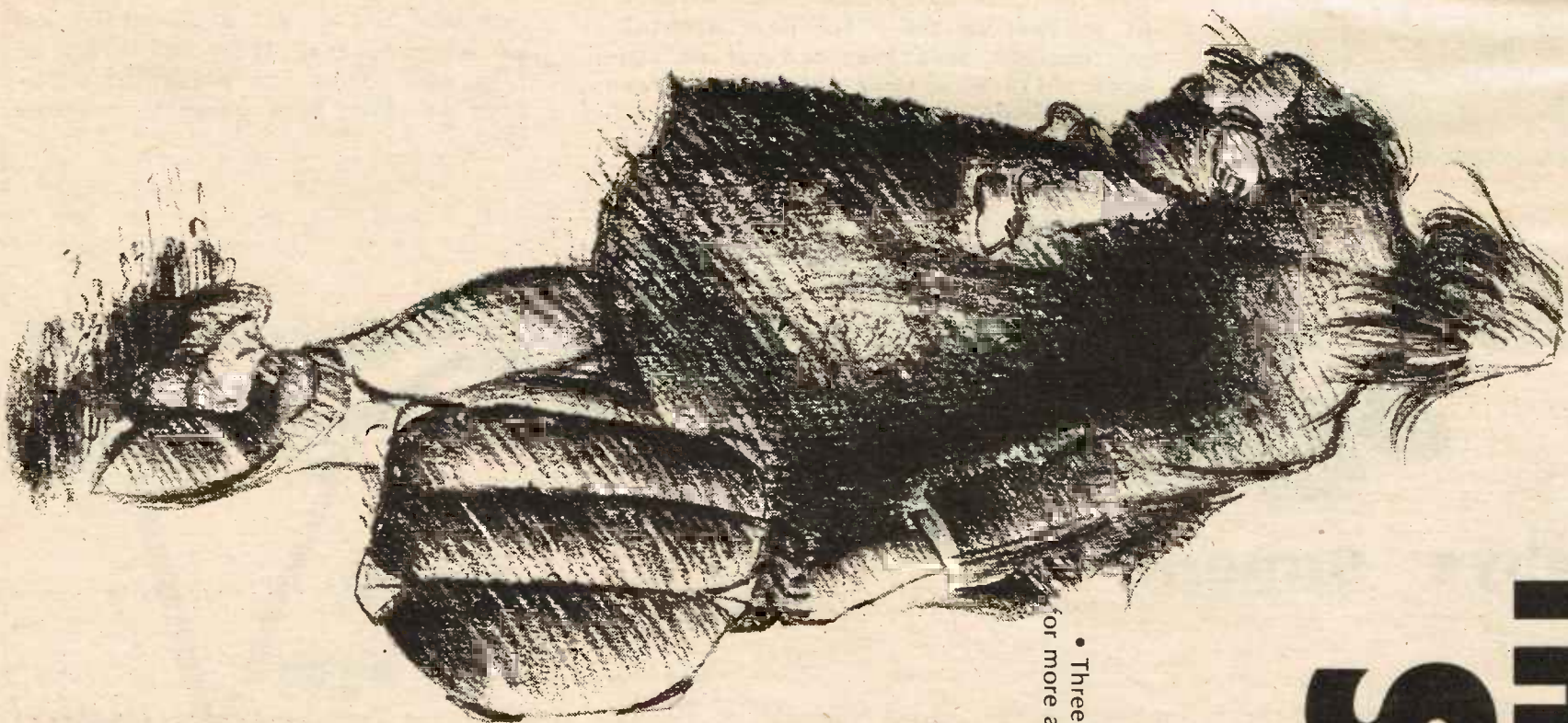
INSTRUCTOR: Dave Wirta

FEE: \$22.50 ROOM: 149, Auto Shop, Dorion Bldg

ZM 027 (99) **BECOMING MYSELF: BODY IMAGE**

Do you consider your body your friend or enemy? If you learn to accept your body, you will gain self-esteem and confidence. To help you do this, we will be listening to our bodies, examining cultural influences, body image, eating patterns and taking control/changes. We will use a variety of methods including relaxation techniques, colour, imagery, simple movement, group sharing as well as private writing time.

DATE/TIME: Tuesdays 7:00-10:00pm FEE: \$37.00 INSTRUCTOR: Eleanor Albanese
START DATE: September 16, 1986 COMPLETION: October 28, 1986 ROOM: 342, Shuniah Bldg



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