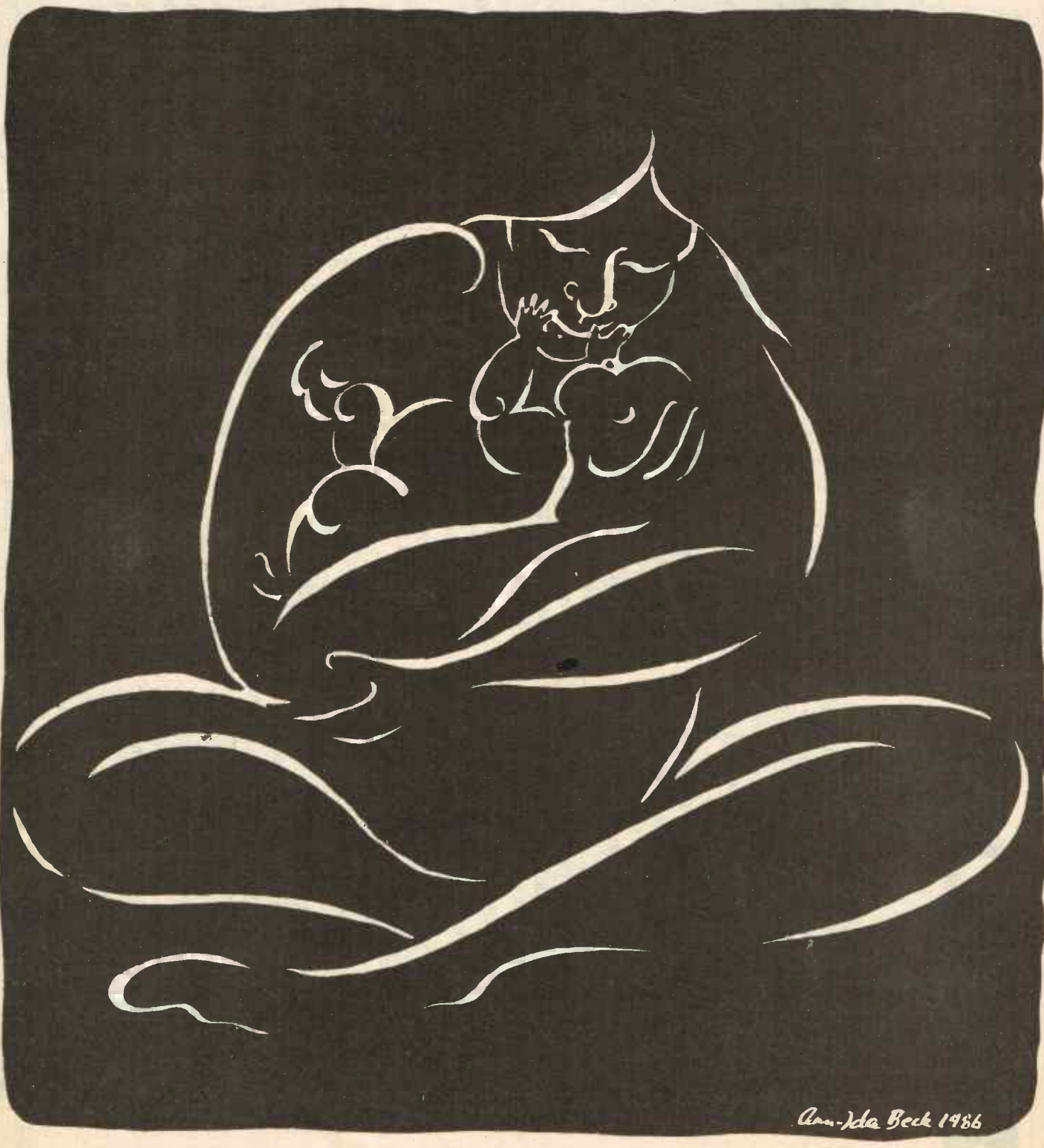


# Northern Woman Journal

**\$1.50**

June 1987, Vol. 10 No. 3, Thunder Bay, Ontario



# DATELINE: KENORA

by TERESA MALLAM

David Ramsay, parliamentary assistant to Northern Development and Mines Minister, Premier David Peterson was in Kenora last month to announce a grant of \$100,000 for Women's Place Kenora to purchase an existing building.

The selected building will be used to house a telephone crisis service, counselling and meeting rooms, office space and programming for women's services.

A ministry news release noted that Women's Place had been recognized in its role of helping "more than 500 women in crisis in the last ten years and serving over 20,000 people in the region".

Following the grant announcement by Ramsay at Pinecrest Home for the Aged on March 12th, Charlotte Holm expressed the group's appreciation to the Premier and to Katie Heikkinen of the ministry's Thunder Bay office.

She also expressed her sincere thanks to the Transition Houses, family resource centres and women's groups from all over Northwestern Ontario who supported the application for funding, as well as local organizations such as Kenora-Keewatin Business and Professional Women's Club and the Kenora Family Resource Centre.

The funding was urgently needed

in order that the organization simply survive said Holm. Beyond that, Women's Place will now be able to improve its services to area women and respond to unmet needs in the community.

"Our organization is very much accustomed to dealing with poverty, and we think we do that very well" she said in response to the ministry's announcement. "But we are less accustomed to prosperity and news of this impending announcement has left us somewhat stunned and glassy-eyed.

There is a lot of apparently aimless rushing about ... however, we are confident of our ability to cope.."

In addition, Holm gave thanks to the Northwestern Ontario Women's Decade Council staff and members "who keep us well informed, supported and relatively sane". And a special note of appreciation went to Lisa Bengtsson, of Secretary of State Dept., Thunder Bay, "who keeps us focussed and is consistently helpful and supportive."

"Last, but not least, we want to thank our own members - those who have stayed with us through some very difficult times, and those newer members who bring energy, enthusiasm and a fresh perspective. We also want to recognize and acknowledge the efforts of past members, Board members and staff who sometimes gave until they



had nothing to give. We recognize that our survival and our accomplishments are the result of a cumulative effort, and we want to assure those people that their contribution is remembered - and valued."

Women's Place hopes to relocate this summer. The organization has formed a committee who will investigate real estate in the area. At the moment the group is busy comparing notes on several prospective buildings.

As well, in the search for new premises, Holm said they will be looking for a building which could accommodate an extensive resource library on women's issues (the current collection is overflowing the shelves!) and provide revenue bearing suites for an ongoing source of income in future years.

## V your VOICE

Dear Friend:

Canadian women are still a long way from being equal to men.

Consider this ...

-YES, the wage gap between men and women has diminished, BUT... much less than people realize. In 1971, a woman's earnings were 60% of a man's. In 1984, they were 65%, so that we have gained only 5% in thirteen years.

On average, a woman with a university degree still earns less than a man with a high school diploma.

-YES, we have succeeded in having laws changed throughout Canada to ensure a fairer sharing of assets between spouses on divorce. BUT ... most divorcing people own very little, and the trend is for support payments to be smaller and smaller and last for three years at most. With close to half of new marriages expected to end in divorce, the likelihood of a young bride becoming a poverty-stricken single parent is skyrocketing.

-YES; minimum pensions have been raised with every recent federal election thanks to feminists and other concerned citizens. BUT ... Canada's population is aging very fast, and most of the very old are widows with income below the poverty line. As it is, a woman who spent her life as a middle-class housewife is almost certain of ending her days alone in a

tiny apartment without enough money to buy the necessities of life.

-YES, more childcare is available than before. BUT... since thousands more mothers are working outside the home and many have to support themselves and their children, the supply of good child care spaces is more squeezed and inadequate than ever.

Why - after decades of fighting have we come such a little way? One reason is that the closer we get to achieving real change, the greater the resistance we meet. Equal pay for the same work, which meant little because women and men have very different jobs, was relatively easy to obtain. Equal pay for work of equal value, which is essential to break this vicious cycle, is blocked or delayed almost everywhere by strong business opposition.

Also, our successes have created a backlash. Now we see right-wing groups unashamedly spreading lies about the women's movement and our group. Most outrageous is the lie that the National Action Committee on the Status of Women (NAC) is "anti-housewives" "anti-motherhood", and "anti-family".

NAC has always insisted that our society should recognize the crucial role of the family - and women's massive contribution as wives, homemakers and mothers. We have always supported measures - such as pensions for homemakers - that would give housewives the respect and financial security they deserve.

We have fought on behalf of mothers and pregnant women - defending their right to generous maternity leave and benefits, higher family allowances, quality day care, and protection against reproductive hazards in the workplace. And we support the right to choose whether or not to have children, and when.

Unlike most right-wing groups NAC does not advocate only one kind of family. Indeed, the only sorts of families we consider unacceptable are those in which there is exploitation, violence, abuse or incest.

Have recent decades been completely bleak for the women's movement? Of course not. But for every mile we have come, there's an extra mile to go.

As Canada's most important women's organization, NAC plays a vital role in doing research, public education and lobbying on all issues of concern to women. We are the united voice of Canadian women. Our support is strong and growing. In the last year alone our membership has risen from 360 to 470 women's groups.

I am writing to you today to ask you to help us continue to be a strong voice for Canadian women. We speak for millions of women from all parts of the country. Please add your voice to ours.

Your cheque for \$30, \$50, \$100 or whatever you wish to send is essential ....

Please help us continue to speak out for Canadian women. Your support is our strength. Please mail your donation today.

Sincerely,  
Louise Dulude  
President  
NAC  
344 Bloor St.,  
Suite 505,  
Toronto, M5S 1W8

The Northern Woman Journal Collectors apologizes for the long delay between issues. Moving to our new location took priority over publishing. We want to make up for lost time and get the next issue out very soon. Contributors please note deadline copy for next issue is July 10/87.



Source: ISIS

Carolyn Greenwood

This article is titled Rebirth because of the feelings we all have since centre has moved to her new space. When City funding was withdrawn, I think the general feeling was one of gloom. Even though we didn't really expect Council to do the unexpected and stand up to the pressure from various groups, the finality of the averted faces and not even bothering to explain was a setback. Or seemed to be at the time. The reality, once the smoke cleared, was a feeling of elation. Hence Rebirth. Because our funding was withdrawn we no longer have paid staff, but, many women have stepped in with incredible energy. The feeling is "This is OUR centre", and it is. Everyone is putting in long hours with the sense of working for ourselves.



With the Court Street building sold, Centre has moved just down the street to 184 Camelot. Our new home is on the corner of Camelot and Water Streets across from the Bus Terminal. The storefront is divided into three sections: the Northern Woman's Bookstore, Northern Woman Journal and, of course, Northern Women's Centre. There is a 'no smoking' lounge, and kitchen area along with a large common room used as a work area, social space, and resource library. There is some parking at the side of the building. We have a large, bright space to work from.

The move from old to new was accomplished (in hindsight) with a minimum of fuss and bother. The majority of the organization and guidance came from Karen Maki, who pulled it off with ease and her usual panache. She was not alone though. Many women came out to help when they

## REBIRTH

could. Evenings or weekends. There was the excitement of shared woman energy.

This feeling was carried through to the construction that had to be undertaken at our new home. There was quite a bit of work that had to be done. The majority of the space was open and had to be divided. Particularly to separate the bookstore from the main area. Enter several builders extraordinaire. A wall was built complete with door. This seemingly humongous task was finished in what seemed like a remarkable speed. Everyone did a wonderful job. It looks great!

Much work is being done internally at centre as well. Our Resource Library has been reorganized and material is available to members, researchers and students for a period of three weeks.

Journal space is now separate, I'm sure to everyone's relief (we can be rather messy during the layout stage).

Centre is having regular meetings on the first Tuesday of every month. Also, regular meetings are being held to form and record policy. A mammoth task. The first meeting came up with a mission statement as follows: The Northern Women's Centre is a meeting place that provides a strong feminist voice for women in Northwestern Ontario. To achieve this the centre will:

1. Focus on feminist resources, interests and energies.
2. Promote community awareness of Northwestern Ontario women's concerns.
3. Lobby on feminist issues. Serious issues have been discussed at the many meetings held so far and will continue. We are concentrating less on social service and more on our own needs as feminists. Policy meetings are open to any woman who wishes to take part in the future growth of centre. If you wish to take part all meetings and announcements are posted at the centre. Our policies will continue to grow with us.

Centre has also received another boost of energy in the form of a grant to host, plan and organize an Ontario Women's Centre conference in September, in Thunder Bay. Our goals are to examine issues of survival for Women's Centres, to develop a provincial support system and communication network, to look at the future needs and issues, what the future of women's centres may be and to deal with the institutionalization of women's issues. Karen will be coordinating this event. Much work has been done already and we are all looking forward to this exciting event.

We realize that we have much work to do but are entering into an energizing new time in our lives and the life of Women's Centre. We can look back at the work we have done so far and rejoice and look forward to the work we have yet to do.

## Solstice Celebration

Sat June 20  
8:30 — ???

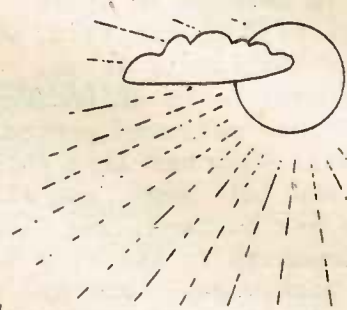
PORT ARTHUR PROSVITA SOCIETY HALL  
540 South High Street.

DRINKS, SNACKS, MUSIC AND MORE!!!  
CELEBRATE THE LONGEST  
DAY OF THE YEAR!!!

\$5.00 AT THE DOOR

FOR WOMEN ONLY!

For more information contact the Women's Centre at 345.7802.



DIVE RIGHT INTO  
THE ACTION!!!



# A Collage of Barriers

Address by Leni Untinen,  
NWO Women's Decade Council,  
to the Nipissing Transition  
House Wife Assault Conference,  
Panel 'How Society Has Failed  
The Abused Woman'

I have been asked here today to address the situation of northern, rural and isolated women. I have some problem in doing this because, although I live in a rural municipality, I work in Thunder Bay and do not feel particularly rural. Being part of a women's network, I don't feel isolated. And, until I started going to Toronto as part of the Battered Women's Movement, I never considered myself northern. However, I am part of the Northwestern Ontario Women's Decade Council Violence Subcommittee and certainly many of our constituency fits the categories of northern, rural and isolated. I will try to speak to their needs and their frustrations in accessing a system that attempts to provide safety and protection from battering and purports to offer alternatives to victims.

I want to speak for Agnes. Agnes lives in a rural farming township in Northwestern Ontario. She is a farmer's wife, the mother of 10 children. Her shopping is done at the village store and she travels to a small town 30 miles away for business that cannot be transacted in the village. The only trip in her life to the city was for medical reasons. Her academic education is minimal; her skills are related to home and farm. Her limited socializing is attached to the church and to the Legion of which her husband is a member. Agnes is a strong woman. Her future is on the farm. The future of her sons is on the family farm. The future of her daughters is as wives of farmers in the same community. Battering is not foreign to Agnes. It is a part of life when things are bad. Things are bad a lot on the farm. The idea of a transition house is foreign to Agnes. The thought of life without the farm, without the man, is foreign to Agnes.

I want to speak for Dorothy. Dorothy was battered periodically for 23 years. When her last child had grown and left home, and after a beating by her husband, she fled her home and community to the city 200 miles away. Within days, she had a job, though minimally paid, and a shared apartment. Then the letters came. From her husband, an executive, pleading with her to come back. It looked bad for him at work and he couldn't understand why she had done this to him. From her children, weekly reports on how lonely and sorry dad was, and telling her how they worried about her. From the minister of her church - 6 in all - telling her what a good provider and father her husband had been, reminding her of her responsibility to her husband and her family, in the eyes of God.

But Dorothy was strong and other than being lonely, life was good. She would share the letters and ask for support in her decision from the women that she sought help from originally and now called her friends. At Christmas Dorothy's family begged her to be with them for the day. And she wanted to go. The idea of not being with them at Christmas hurt. What hurt more was that her family, her church and her neighbours saw her as the "bad one", "the deserter". She told us she felt strong enough to go home, to make them all understand, and to have them stop worrying about her. She was fine and happy. Dorothy never came back from that visit. I saw her a year later at a women's conference, and I asked her how she was doing. She said that things weren't good, but that she was surviving. She also said she would not try again. She had failed in her attempt to leave. In leaving, she had failed her role as wife and mother and she had failed her faith. Dorothy is still surviving in her home. She is still periodically beaten.



Helena is the daughter of a company family, wife of a company man, in a company house, in a company town. When she tried to leave her battering husband, the company said there was no other housing available to her. As a separated woman, she was no longer a company asset. With no other house in town, and not wanting to leave her community and the rest of her family, her only support, she stays. Her company husband continues to beat her, her company family attempts to console her and to hide the truth from the company.

It is difficult to speak for the battered native woman. They need and want to speak for themselves. While we share in their pain, their lifestyles, their culture and their traditions hold their own uniqueness and their own barriers.

However, they have told us of how traditions of the family that are the basis of their strength and pride are

also their prison when they fall victim to an abusive partner. We have learned that pressing assault charges on a Reserve (policed by special constables, often connected by family or fraternal relationships with males on the Reserve) ranges from difficult to impossible. In remote areas, if somehow charges do get to court, the whole village and beyond attend as this is their opportunity to visit. It is viewed as the only game in town. The entire village witnesses the shame of the relationship. They tell us - in a community where all homes are owned by the Band Council - that housing opportunities are non-existent if the Council has chosen to be supportive of the male who is often affirmed as having the right to control his family.

They have told us of the heartache when choosing between fleeing for their safety or their life and having to leave their children who are viewed as the children of the extended family, children of the community. Many times if they choose to walk, they walk alone.

Mostly, they have told us how leaving their home, their family, their world, shakes the very foundation of their spirituality.

Many times, the native women find themselves in a new and frightening environment. An environment without support, without adequate funds, and surrounded by a chaos that is confusing. They now walk in a culture that claims to have done away with discrimination, that claims to be compassionate and caring, and claims to be effective. The task of going to a shopping mall to purchase underwear for her children is frightening for a woman from a small, isolated, northern Reserve. The task of meeting with white social workers, white lawyers and white Crown Attorneys is frightening. Suddenly, the woman may be given more money than she may ever have been in charge of; only to find that adequate housing may cost more than half of it. From the rest, she will pay high installation and operating costs for telephone and utilities; transportation costs around the large city to the places she must go and scrimp to buy groceries from shelves that are loaded with abundant choices. She can become more than a little discouraged.

Battered women from rural, isolated and northern communities face a collage of barriers, each heaped one upon the other. This is a land bearing a male image - of miner, of logger, of trucker, of labourer. Hard working, hard talking and often hard drinking. It is a strong and physical image, of males in charge, in control of life, his family, and the little woman. There is no room in the dream of the north for the reality of a strike or mine or mill closure; for the despondent unemployed male; for the chaos that racks the entire community when a town busts and the dream is not a reality. There are very few services to handle the stress or to deal with the dilemma of families in personal crisis in small northern towns.



There is no room in a boom town for a separated parent with children needing housing, when accommodation is a premium and prices are skyrocketing.

There is little truth to the promise of confidentiality in a community of 4000 with a transition house, where everyone knows what kind of car everyone else drives and where children arrive at the same school but walking from a different direction.

There is little protection for a woman living on a country road, 5 or 10 miles from her nearest neighbour, in an area served by 4 or 5 OPP officers covering over 100 miles of highway and a web of back roads. Or for a woman living in a town or village where the community is unable to financially support a police detachment around the clock.

There is little encouragement for women from small neighbouring municipalities who flee to larger centres and will possibly end up on their welfare roles, which are already experiencing constraints.

There is little chance for a mother of 5 or 6 children when there are only 40, 4 or 5 bedroom subsidized units in a city of 110,000, and non-subsidized housing of that size costs \$450 - \$650 per month.

There is little opportunity for a mother of 3, working for minimum wage in the many clerical or service industry jobs that are filled primarily by women.

There is little hope for a separated and independent woman to break into the higher paid non-traditional occupations in communities where unemployment is above the national average, where males are viewed as the primary labour force which must be employed, and where youth is targeted for make-work projects.

**BATTERING IS A BRUTAL  
DEMONSTRATION OF POWER.  
PHYSICAL POWER,  
FINANCIAL POWER.**

We continue to press for more services. We need our existing transition houses and family resource centres. As women in communities without services work toward establishing new shelters, we will support their efforts. The houses have truly been for many women their only protection and life-line. Unfortunately, we will never have transition houses in the over 450 organized and unorganized communities in Northern Ontario. There will always be gaps.

We need more subsidized housing and second-stage housing for the women leaving our houses in every community in the north.

We need social assistance raised to an adequate level to reflect the real needs and costs experienced by battered women and their families.

We need the public to understand and support the battered woman, the separated woman, the woman on welfare.

We need more jobs, paying equal pay for work of equal value.

We need more affordable child care to give working woman a fighting chance.

All our needs will take a lot of money, and that will take a lot of time. But if I asked Agnes, or Dorothy, or Helena what they want right now, I am sure that they would echo what the majority of the women we have worked with would ask. **MAKE HIM STOP!** And for that we need a concentrated effort on education, directed at this adult generation and the next.

We need to start in our school system, teaching young people (from the wee ones up) that violence directed at another individual is unacceptable.

### MAKE HIM STOP

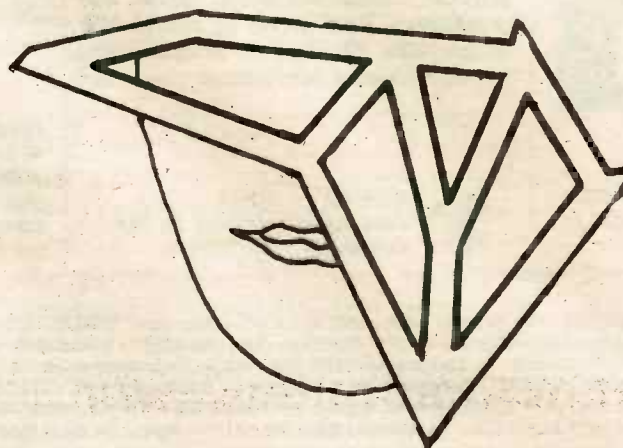
We need to teach children to verbalize and to negotiate their problems and their needs. Teach them to ask for support and to support others who need help.

We need to teach young men to respect themselves and others and particularly to respect the differences between themselves and young women.

We need to teach young women that good relationships are not based on dependency. That the possibility of being financially responsible for themselves and their families is very real, and that they should be prepared personally and through education and skill development for that possibility.

Battering is a brutal demonstration of power. Physical power. The stronger individual controlling another by brute force. Financial power. We will have little chance to support our families should that necessity be forced on us as long as we continue to be financially dependent, earning 65% of male wages, viewing ourselves and being viewed as a secondary labour force, filling traditionally low-paid, female job ghettos in clerical and service positions.

It is an issue of socialized power, handed down through the centuries; entrenched in attitudes too long gone unchallenged. Supported at first by inadequate laws and presently by inadequate interpretation or enforcement of the laws.



**AT THIS MOMENT, SOMEWHERE  
IN NORTHERN ONTARIO THERE  
ARE WOMEN BEING BATTERED**

We are trying to turn that socialization around. Broadcasting messages once a day at best, speaking to community groups, classes and conferences whenever we can, forcing the issue before the press and into women's magazines. And while we labour, another country or rock song hits the air waves reinforcing the traditional male role and undervaluing women's worth. Another million violent war or space toys are produced, and another million pornography magazines roll off the presses. And so what do we do?

I think we use the power that we can access effectively. The collective power of women and community groups speaking out against violence, lobbying for change, and supplying the kind of protection transition houses afford.

We must use the power within the law to demonstrate that assault is a crime. Batterers must be made to understand that a criminal act involves a social and public consequence.

Men are used to power. Men respect power. The power that they respect must carry the message that violence against women is unacceptable. You will remember that it was only a few short years ago that men who were perceived to be leaders and have political power saw the situation of battered women as humorous. They have feverishly tried to make amends for that insult to women, pouring millions of dollars and resources into prevention and support systems for battered women. It is not enough.

We need their voices. Not only an apology and support to women, but man to man and men to men that battering is not condoned and that men will use their power to stop it.

We need the voices of industry, employers and union leaders reiterating that the degradation of women and boasts of physical control and punishment of their female partners is not considered appropriate or heroic lunch room conversation. The message must go out across this country that "real men" don't beat women.

**IF WE DO NOT ADDRESS THE  
BARRIERS WE WILL CONTINUE  
TO SEE OURSELVES AS  
FAILING IN HELPING**

Simplistic in its approach, this is the type of public education that batterers, steeped in years of stereotyping and attitudes, will understand.

There are many women that we, as a society, have failed. At this moment, somewhere in Northern Ontario there are women being battered. There are many women trying to recover from violence, trying to understand, trying to cope, trapped in situations which they see no answer to. But we need to hope that we will succeed.

continued P6

I want to tell you about Carol. Carol's referral to a transition house came from the manager of her husband's company. They want her to be safe. They want her to choose the direction of her life, independent of the fact that they have referred her husband to a mental health worker, and are allowing paid time for his appointments.

I want to tell you about Jean. Jean called a transition house - terrified, desperate - with no money, needing to flee a small town. When the shelter worker went to arrange the pre-paid bus ticket, the agent by-passed the agent and the station in the woman's town and arranged with a trusted driver to pick up Jean, who never believed until she reached the transition house 60 miles away that she would escape alive. A system of caring people is beginning to work.

I want to tell you about Marion. Marion arrived at the transition house from a distant Reserve, Beaten for years, without money or resour-



ces, she brought five children, one of whom was handicapped and required special education. Marion is receiving social assistance. She has a subsidized unit in a new complex across from a recreation centre. Her special child is enrolled in the necessary school. Her other children are involved in all sorts of groups, sports and recreational activities. Marion is active in the native community in her new city and is going to take some college classes this

fall. Marion is never going to be beaten again. She says so every day.

There is hope.

There are messages in this presentation. It is not that we have to work harder to support victims. It is that battered women are facing barriers and if we do not address the barriers we will continue to suffer ourselves as failing in helping. The message is also that power is not always bad. It is how it is used that can make it bad. Battered women are strong; they have survived incredible circumstances. They need to be empowered to take control of their lives.

Each time we, as women, learn a new skill or new knowledge, each time we access new resources, each time we feel the strength of sharing in a collective effort, we become more powerful. Each barrier we take down for ourselves, we take down for our sisters. Each time we celebrate our strength in unison, we give strength to other women. Each time we feel hope, we give hope. Keep on keeping on.

### A Collection of Films Dealing with Women's Well-Being

## THE WOMEN'S BODY POLITIC

#### D.E.S.: An Uncertain Legacy

55 min. 1985  
Between 1941 and 1971, a synthetic estrogen, diethylstilbestrol or D.E.S., was prescribed to pregnant women to prevent miscarriages. This practice resulted in numerous cases of reproductive and genital abnormalities. This film looks at the development, marketing and medical consequences of D.E.S.

#### The Best Time of My Life: Portraits of Women in Mid-life

58 min. 1985  
Reflecting a wide range of income levels, lifestyles, careers and backgrounds, ten women in their middle years share their experiences of menopause.

#### Is It Hot In Here? A Film About Menopause

36 min. 1986  
One of the least understood and most universal of women's experiences is menopause. This film is an informative and sometimes humorous look at contemporary social attitudes, symptoms and treatments relating to menopause.

#### Abortion: Stories from North and South

55 min. 1984  
Of the estimated 30 to 50 million induced abortions performed annually, more than half are illegal, and an estimated 84,000 of them result in death. Filmed in Ireland, Japan, Thailand, Peru, Colombia and Canada, this film is a survey of the realities of abortion.



#### Spirit of the Kata

28 min. 1985  
Five women, all black belts of world-class calibre, discuss how an ancient martial art has transformed their lives.

#### Turnaround: A Story of Recovery

47 min. 1984  
Five women were brought together by a common illness - all had a dependence on alcohol, prescription medication, street drugs, or a combination of these. Living in Aurora House, a residential treatment centre in Vancouver, these women are learning to face painful truths.

#### The Recovery Series

Related to *Turnaround: A Story of Recovery*, this series of four films focusses on individual women who are recovering from drug or alcohol dependency.

#### Debbly and Sharon

15 min. 1985  
Recovering alcoholics, two sisters talk about their battle to shake alcohol and drug addiction. A factor contributing to their sense of self-worth and helping to maintain their sobriety is a renewed commitment to their Native Indian culture.

#### Delia

12 min. 1985  
Delia spent years counselling women to confront their alcoholism and drug addiction while ignoring her own alcoholism. Finally she quit her job and sought the treatment that enabled her to gradually build a new life for herself and her son.

#### Lorri

14 min. 1985  
Humiliated by her inability to control her drinking, and feeling confused and suicidal, Lorri committed herself to a psychiatric ward of a hospital, where she recovered.

#### Ruth

14 min. 1985  
At 14 years of age and in search of an escape from painful memories of childhood physical, mental and sexual abuse, and prostitution, Ruth turned to alcohol and drugs. After 18 years of addiction she joined Alcoholics Anonymous.

#### The Next Step

A series of three films that deal with the nature and scope of woman-battering and the support services victims need to rebuild their lives.



#### Sylvie's Story

28 min. 1985  
Sylvie recreates her experience as a battered woman seeking help at a Montreal transition house. This film emphasizes the importance of women speaking out and points out the role of the transition house as a safe place for sharing experiences, obtaining support and counselling.

#### A Safe Distance

28 min. 1985  
Filmed in Thompson and Portage La Prairie in Manitoba, and West Bay Reserve in Ontario, the film looks at providing shelter and services for battered women in rural, northern, and native communities.

#### Moving On

28 min. 1985  
A co-ordinated effort by police, lawyers, doctors and social workers has resulted in an effective response to woman-battering in London, Ontario. Services for victims and therapy for offenders are part of this city's attempt to break the cycle of violence.

These films are available for free loan in 16 mm from all National Film Board offices in Canada. Video rental, in VHS format, will also be available from NFB offices as of March, 1987. For more information, contact the NFB office closest to you.



National Film Board of Canada Office national du film du Canada

#### NFB Offices in Canada

Hallfax: (902) 426-6001 — Sydney: (902) 564-7770 — Saint John: (506) 648-4996 — Moncton: (506) 857-6101 — St. John's: (709) 772-5005  
Corner Brook: (709) 637-4499 — Charlottetown: (902) 892-6612 — Montreal: (514) 283-4823 — Chicoutimi: (418) 543-0711 — Québec: (418) 648-3176  
Rimouski: (418) 722-3086 — Rouyn: (819) 762-6051 — Sherbrooke: (819) 565-4915 — Trois-Rivières: (819) 375-5714 — Toronto: (416) 973-9093  
Ottawa: (613) 996-4863 — Hamilton: (416) 572-2347 — Kingston: (613) 545-8056 — Kitchener: (519) 743-2771 — London: (519) 679-4120  
North Bay: (705) 472-4740 — Thunder Bay: (807) 623-5224 — Winnipeg: (204) 949-4129 — Regina: (306) 780-5012 — Saskatoon: (306) 975-4246  
Calgary: (403) 292-5338 — Edmonton: (403) 420-3010 — Vancouver: (604) 666-0718 — Prince George: (604) 564-5657 — Victoria: (604) 388-3869

# Update

●●● Women on the Move could be considered our theme this winter, as Women's Centre, the Journal and the Northern Woman's Bookstore have all re-located to 184 Camelot St., just two blocks from our former quarters. We're now at the corner of Camelot and Water Sts., just opposite the Bus Depot, with a nice view of the Lake. The new space is great and thanks to everyone who helped move, renovate, decorate, etc. — but especially thanks to Rose and Mary Ann whose carpentry skills are much appreciated. A celebratory opening will be held in the near future.

Decade Council also has a new home, at 905 Tungsten St. (corner of 10th St.) Decade's new phone number is 623-7556.

And the Immigrant Women's Centre also has new quarters. You can find them at 217 Van Norman St. ●●●

●●● Can you imagine getting a phone call telling you that you will receive \$100,000 — yes, \$100,000 — from the provincial government? Well it happened to Women's Place Kenora. We understand they are still in shock. Anyway, we think it is great — and there is no group in the country that deserves it more! (see article this issue for details) ●●●

●●● Women's Health Information Network has had an active spring. WHIN has received funding for their Sharing The Information Skills (SIS) project. A mini-conference was recently held in Nipigon, and future conferences are planned for Kenora and Marathon. Board development is also planned as part of the project. WHIN says "We are at a stage in which the board wants to grow and increase its skills. Since two of our board members have recently left, there are a few openings of the board. If you are interested in joining a dynamic group of women and interested in women's health issues...let us know. WHIN's board is a regional board looking for more regional representation."

The Health Network also hopes to prepare a booklet to Assist Women Who Must Travel Out Of Their Own Community To Give Birth. If you would like to share your story regarding this issue please write WHIN, 8A N. Cumberland St., Thunder Bay, P7A 4L1.

Locally WHIN sponsored D.E.S. Awareness Week with comprehensive media coverage and the distribution of an information package to many health care professionals. D.E.S. Awareness week was very important in focussing attention to this urgent issue. "We've had over a dozen responses from across the area" Heather Woodbeck stated. "We've established for certain that D.E.S. was used in several communities. People have described to us classic symptoms that read like a pamphlet."



D.E.S. Awareness week, which was held across the country, coordinated by D.E.S. Action Canada, is necessary as thousands of Canadian men and women between ages 16 and 46 still may not know that they were exposed to the drug.

D.E.S. (diethylstilbestrol), a synthetic hormone, was supposed to help women with a previous history of miscarriage, carry their babies to term. The drug was used around the world, in Canada between 1941 and 1971. It has been estimated that between 200,000 and 400,000 Canadian women were given the drug. When D.E.S. first appeared on the market, it was touted as a wonder drug. Both doctors and expectant mothers used the drug in good faith. The story of D.E.S. does point to the larger issues related to the pharmaceutical industry and drug approval in general. Although early studies did link D.E.S. to cancer in laboratory animals, testing during the 1950s indicated that it had no measurable effect on carrying babies to term; the drug remained available until a direct link to human cancer was made. Even then, D.E.S. was only banned for use by pregnant women.

D.E.S. is still used as a Morning After Pill and as a treatment for various types of cancer. Although the drug is now rarely used at all in Canada, it continues to enjoy widespread use in under-developed countries.

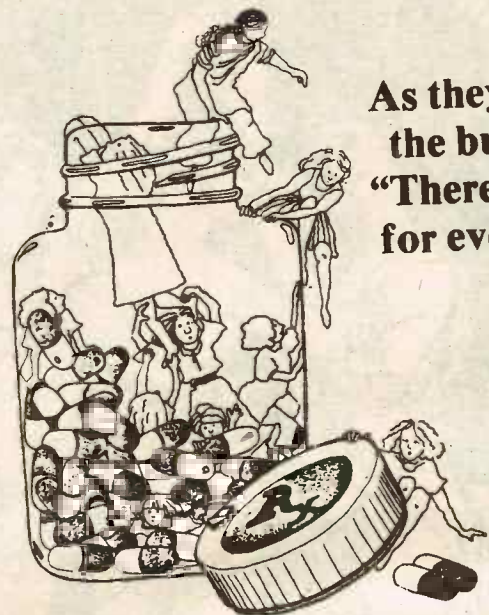
For those who were directly exposed to D.E.S. while in utero, the effects range from the benign to the severe. These complications tend to concentrate around the reproductive organs. Daughters may develop a variety of uterine and cervical abnormalities. Most of these are benign, although they result in significantly higher rate of fertility problems and miscarriages than those faced by unexposed women. The most dangerous among these problems is the greater risk of ectopic pregnancies. A rare form of vaginal cancer has also been linked to D.E.S. exposure.

Sons are also more prone to benign cysts and abnormalities, as well as fertility problems. The high incidence of such complications has prompted D.E.S. Action to produce a Fertility Guide for children exposed to D.E.S. Finally, the women themselves who took D.E.S. run a higher risk of developing breast cancer in their later years.

Many of these complications will respond to treatment, particularly if caught early and understood to be related to D.E.S. exposure.

What should you do if you believe you have been exposed to D.E.S. Daughters need the special D.E.S. examination. Contact the Obstetrics and Gynecology department of the nearest hospital or D.E.S. Action Canada for a referral. Sons should see a urologist if they have problems. Mothers should tell their children so they can get the medical care they need. They should also take care of their own health by examining their breasts every month and getting a professional breast exam once a year. Contact WHIN for more information. ●●●

●●● Still on health concerns a new national organization Dalkon Shield Action Canada has been formed. This organization provides information and support to the victims of the Dalkon Shield. They publish a newsletter and maintain a national registry of lawyers with experience in Dalkon Shield cases. For more information contact Dalkon Shield Action Canada, c/o Vancouver Women's Health Collective, 888 Burrard St., Vancouver, V6Z 1X9.



As they say in the business, "There's a pill for every ill!"

Other useful information from Women's Health Interaction. The Report to the Health Protection Branch of the Regional Meetings on Fertility Control which received many briefs on Depo Provera has reported at last. Regional meetings were organized in response to pressure from groups across the country, although advocacy groups had demanded open public hearings prior to the approval of Depo Provera. The major difficulty with the report is that it did not propose clear cut recommendations on the use of Depo. Groups like Women's Health Interaction are concerned because there haven't been open hearings and so consumers have not had a chance to express their concerns about the drug.

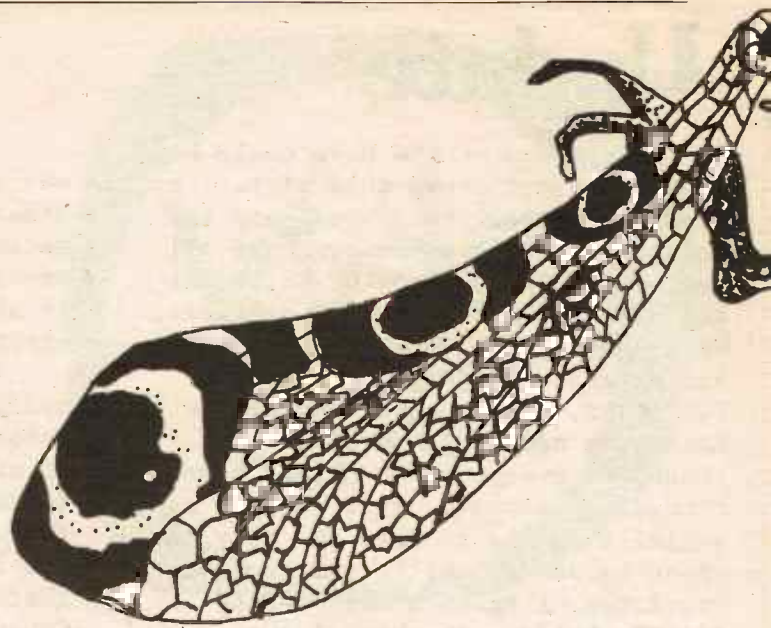
We understand the government plans to decide on the future of Depo without holding open public hearings. You can help by writing your MP or the Minister of Health and Welfare Jake Epp and asking for open public hearings. If you want to be involved or receive more information contact: Madeline Boscoe, 304-414 Graham Ave., Winnipeg, R3C 0L8.

WHI also reports that the drug Flagyl contains metronidazole. As early as 1983 warnings were issued that metronidazole had caused cancer in test animals. Yet the drug has not been banned. Flagyl is prescribed for vaginal infections caused by trichomonas. Extreme care must be taken that Flagyl is used only when the infection is proven to be caused by trichomonas and not by the more common yeast infection. Even then it is questionable that the benefits outweigh the risks of using Flagyl. ●●●

●●● A woman's group and legal fund are using the Charter of Rights to challenge the Ontario government in court, over the exclusion of domestic workers from the Employment Standards Act.

continued on P12

# POETRY



Amazon

I.  
Visions of cambric  
in autumn winds

full blown  
woman

II.  
The drape of the dress  
caress  
breasts  
thighs  
sighs

III.  
Mesmerized I stare  
at the speaking stone  
Those are the words  
I always wanted to say

IV.  
voyages  
virtue  
burning emblems

V.  
Bound to her father's spear  
she was hurled  
across rivers and oceans

Arrow straight  
to another shore

VI.  
Without sisters  
I will wither

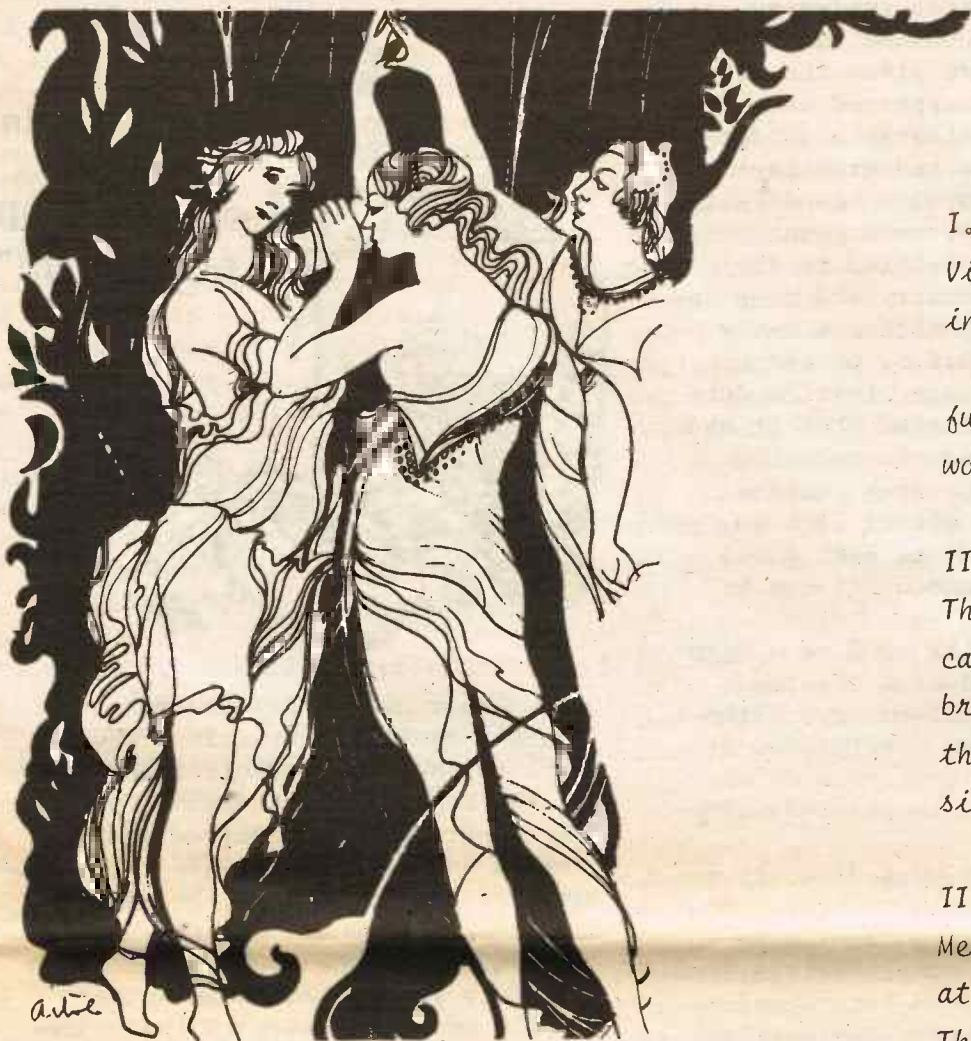
VII.  
We are all archers  
Artemis

Don't make me your  
Because then I have  
And make it worth  
If I don't have to  
You won't find me

You want me to be  
You say, and I believe  
Though the effort  
To learn and be an

I know you can have  
You can choose and  
But don't make me  
Don't cripple my  
I'm not strong enough  
But maybe  
Sometimes

We can hold hands.



## Festival Women

Songs of love and friendship  
are the rhythm of peace  
the beat of a collective drum  
resonant in the sunlight  
the sound of a guitar strum

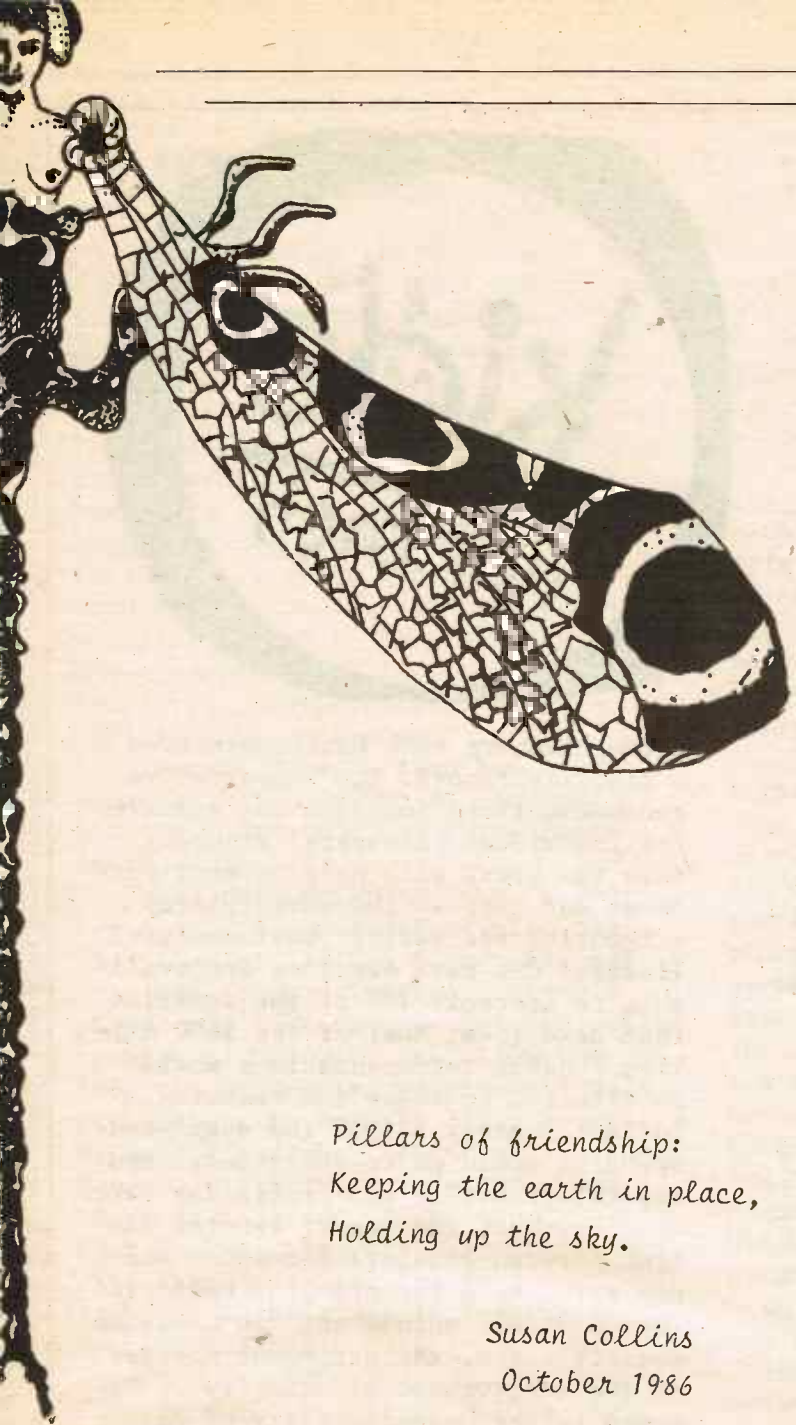
Admiration flows through  
every lyric of every song  
survival is the theme  
in a world with so much wrong

Festival women  
sing a woman's song  
celebrating each other  
love is the fabric  
to bring us together

Rosalyn Taylor

S. Barry  
Bridgetown, N.S.





*Pillars of friendship:  
Keeping the earth in place,  
Holding up the sky.*

*Susan Collins  
October 1986*

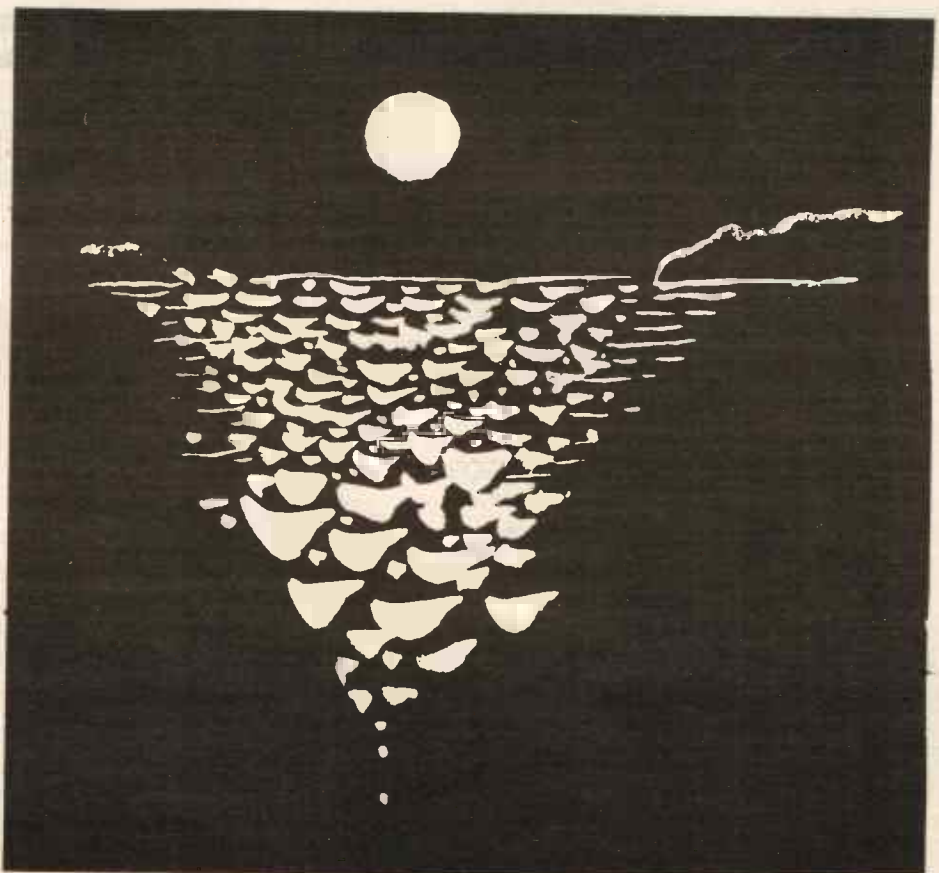
*Change is opportunity, rites of passage  
for the shaping of a soul.  
I hold nothing back, not even time  
for I have caught the rhythm in my teeth  
that moves me into each new metamorphosis.  
I have used up the meanings of each role  
as a preparation for the next change.  
Yet all my life has been in chrysalis  
I have only changed within the cocoon  
of man's desires for his own property.  
The roles were traditional as women's are  
to be everything for everyone on call  
within the family parameters.  
There are things that one must do sometimes  
nature demands it, your spirit obeys  
you have no choice, the chrysalis throws  
you out of its cocoon and Lo you have wings.  
You are both more vulnerable and stronger.  
There are things to do and you must do them  
things to see and you must see them  
ties to break and you must break them  
Was I all those things that never ending  
cycle of selflessness, My crone self marvels  
This final change to the essential me  
who remains a virgin because there is a part  
of me untouched by male persuasion.  
This is the sum of my changes, my wings  
are folded, I speculate on a closing circle*

*Gert Beadle*

*on for living  
give you a life  
time  
you  
appointment.*

*can  
it  
be mine  
w.*

*ife  
me choose to share it  
reason for living  
ith your needing me.  
or both of us*



*Collins  
mber 1986*

# DAY CARE NEWS

By MARGARET PHILLIPS

Lots happening on the day care scene -- unfortunately not all of it is positive.

First the good news. The Northwestern Ontario Regional Day Care Forum re-convened April 24/25, bringing together day care parents, workers and advocates from across the region. This was a high energy weekend with delegates sharing information and planning strategy for the next six months. Northwestern Ontario day care people are determined that our day care services are going to survive and grow. Efforts will focus on pressing the provincial government to provide direct grants to all non-profit day care centres to ensure that quality services are maintained and parent fees kept affordable.

Another positive development is that day care is a high priority with the Ontario Federation of Labour. The O.F.L., in conjunction with the Ontario Coalition for Better Day Care, has been holding forums across the province, from which they will develop recommendations they will make to the Ontario government. Forums were recently held in Dryden and Thunder Bay, and again day care people presented briefs explaining Northwestern Ontario concerns: the crisis experienced because of the elimination of the indirect subsidy; the need for secure funding; the desire for a comprehensive system to meet all families needs; and our opposition to commercial day care.

Commercial day care has become one more issue that day care advocates have to address. Earlier this winter the Hon. John Sweeney, Minister of Community and Social Services, indicated that he is considering providing direct grants to for-profit day care centres (which contradicts

the long held Liberal policy of support to the non-profit sector). Government funding of the commercial sector could set day care in Ontario back years. While the commercial issue has not been a significant factor in Northwestern Ontario - as less than 3% of our day care is commercial - we do NOT want it to become a factor in this region. Thus, we must add our voice to provincial and national advocacy groups to oppose any provision of public dollars to for-profit day care. All evidence points out that in commercial centres quality and standards - not to mention staff wages and working conditions - are inferior to non-profit care. In Alberta, where commercial care dominates, horror stories abound. We don't want this to happen in Ontario. Children are not a commodity from which profit should be made! (for more detailed discussion of this issue see insert below.)

A video tape on this issue has been produced by the Ontario Coalition for Better Day Care which is an excellent information vehicle which groups could use to raise awareness in their communities. To rent/borrow this video contact N.W.O. Regional Day Care Committee, Box 144, Thunder Bay, P7C 4V5 (leave message at 345-7802).

On the federal scene day care problems accelerate. The long-awaited report of the Special Committee on Child Care was released the end of March and, - as was feared - their recommendations will do nothing to produce the comprehensive day care system needed in Canada.

The Special Committee report - it should be noted - is a report of the Conservative members of the committee, the N.D.P. and Liberal com-



mittee members each having produced a minority report. The Conservative recommendations focus on tax measures for individual taxpayers (assuming this tax break will help parents purchase day care in the marketplace) - ignoring the reality that quality, licensed day care services are available to scarcely 10% of the families that need them. Most of the \$600 million funding recommendations would be directed to these tax measures. In fact, barely 13% of the suggested spending would go to operational and capital grants to non-profit day care.

Further, the report ignores the link between equality for women and day care. As a Toronto Star editorial (March 31/87) points out "In Canadian society today, the paramount barrier to the achievement of equality by women is the unavailability of day care for their children ... Unfortunately, that issue was scarcely recognized by the special parliamentary committee on child care in its 160-page report tabled yesterday. By trying to be all things to all people, the Progressive Conservative majority on the committee proposes scattering \$600 million of the federal government's scarce resources so thinly as to be utterly ineffective in solving the basic problem, which is an acute shortage of day care spaces. ... By

## CHILD CARE FOR-PROFIT: WHY WE OPPOSE IT

Over the past decade, childcare advocates, women's, religious, and voluntary organizations, labour groups and many others have developed a consensus around a future direction for childcare in Canada.

*"we feel that the Canadian family must have a childcare system which ensures accessibility, quality, affordability, parental involvement, provider direction, good sponsorship, adequate wages and working conditions"*  
 - Manitoba Home Economics Association

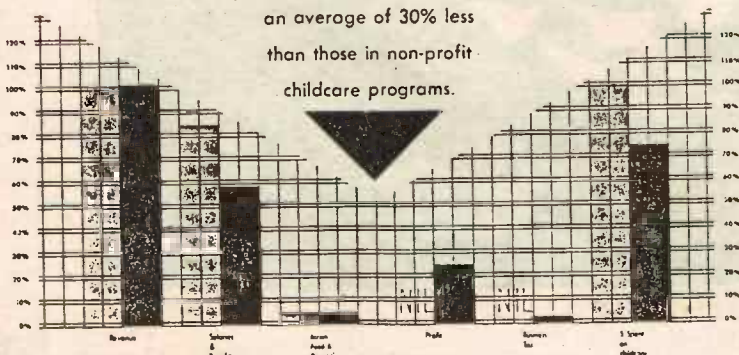
Many of those who have advocated for high quality childcare believe that public funds should not be used to support for-profit childcare.

### WHY?

#### WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

Profits can be increased by reducing salaries and operating expenditures.

Salaries in for-profit centres are an average of 30% less than those in non-profit childcare programs.



COMPARISON OF NON-PROFIT AND FOR-PROFIT CENTRES

FOR-PROFIT some size some fees  
 NON-PROFIT some size some fees

## WHERE WOULD A DIRECT GRANT GO?



In a non-profit program, all income - from parents' fees and public funds - is used for childcare.  
 In a for-profit program, a portion of income - from parents' fees and public funds - goes to the owners, and is lost to childcare.  
 Even with a direct grant, in a for-profit program, less money would be spent on the childcare program, and salaries would still be considerably lower than salaries in a non-profit program.

THIS IS A POOR USE OF PUBLIC DOLLARS AND POOR PUBLIC POLICY.

### How does a for-profit sector affect the quality of childcare?

- All evidence indicates that the for-profit sector is much less likely to provide high quality care, and much more likely to provide poor care than the non-profit sector.
- The for-profit sector, in Canada, and in other countries, has actively worked to reduce childcare standards, and has lobbied against improvements in regulations and financial accountability.
- Improved public funding for for-profit childcare, particularly in the form of capital or direct grants, will allow the for-profit childcare sector to expand to dominate the field and determine the quality of care. In Alberta, this has resulted in an erosion of childcare standards.

### What can you do?

- 1 Oppose any federal or provincial moves to improve public funding to for-profit childcare owners
- 2 Phone, write, or visit your federal and provincial Members of Parliament or provincial legislature
- 3 Contact your provincial Minister in charge of childcare and the federal Minister of Health and Welfare
- 4 Ask other individuals and organizations to do the same

THE CARE WHICH CHILDREN RECEIVE IN THEIR EARLY YEARS, IN THE FAMILY AND IN ALTERNATIVE SETTINGS, IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE. CANADA NOW STANDS AT A WATERSHED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC POLICY WHICH WILL OFFER FAMILIES A RANGE OF OPTIONS TO HELP THEM PROVIDE THIS CARE. LET'S BEGIN TO BUILD THE SERVICES WHICH WILL DO THE BEST JOB, AND MAKE THE BEST USE OF PUBLIC FUNDS... ACCESSIBLE, AFFORDABLE, HIGH QUALITY, AND NOT-FOR-PROFIT CHILD CARE.

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:

National Action Committee on the Status of Women ..... 416-922-3245  
 Canadian Day Care Advocacy Association ..... 613-594-3150  
 Ontario Coalition for Better Day Care ..... 416-535-4188

# HERizons Laid to Rest

by JOAN BARIL

HERizons has suspended publication. The last issue came out in March.

HERizons started out in Winnipeg as a newsheet staffed by volunteers, a typical feminist alternative newspaper. But five years ago when it went national and moved to a glossy format it made an immediate impact. At the time it seemed everyone was getting a subscription. It was praised, not only for its professional polish but for its up-to-the-issue content.

However from the beginning HERizons had two disabilities to overcome.

First it was Canadian, one of the few Canadians braving the mass market publication ocean--an ocean owned and operated by American products. It is a sad but true fact that 95% of the money spent on magazines in Canada goes to American publications. A quick glance at any news stand will tell the tale.

The major magazine distributors, the ones who stock your local supermarket, the corner newsstand and the mall book chains, give priority to American publications with the exception of our two tokens--Maclean's and Chatelaine. Other mass market Canadian magazines are classed as "alternatives." "Alternatives" get a rough time. They are displayed irregularly, given a short shelf life. One month they show up at your corner store, and the next month not at all. Its no way to build a newsstand readership.

HERizons would be classed as an alternative by the distributors. Even Saturday Night is classed as an alternative! This is one of the most prestigious magazines in Canada, 100 years old this year. Next time you are at your corner stores, give the magazine rack a quick nationalistic eyeball to check if Saturday Night is available.

## DAY CARE

adopting ... a scattergun approach, the report fails women. 'Child care is a ramp that provides equal access to the workforce for mothers' wrote Judge Rosalie Abella in 1984. This report is mighty weak material for ramp-building. The government ought to think twice before implementing it."

The Special Committee report can only anger and frustrate the Northwestern Ontario day care community. Much time and effort was expended by many people in preparing and presenting briefs to the Committee's 1986 hearings in Dryden and Thunder Bay. Although the Committee listened to us, obviously they didn't hear us. Not one of the over 30 NWO submissions recommended tax measures. What we, and most other Canadians, did call for was a comprehensive day care system with high standards of quality care; a wide spectrum of services to meet families varying needs; a recognition - through appropriate wages and benefits - of the value of child care work; the

HERizons' distributor serviced the "upscale" bookstores across the country. It's a wide distribution but narrow and in many centres the magazine was never available to the general public.

Nowhere was this more noticeable than when HERizons did a lead cover article on Thunder Bay rock star Lauri Conger of the group "Parachute Club."

Conger is extremely popular in her home town. People line up for her autograph whenever she comes home for a visit. It should follow that a magazine with her picture on its cover could expect huge newsstand sales in Thunder Bay. Yet, except for the Women's Bookstore, not one issue of HERizons could be found on any display rack or in any bookstore in Thunder Bay.



provision of direct grants to non-profit day care. We asked for VISION in the development of a quality system. We didn't get it.

So the struggle continues. Across the country day care advocates are mobilizing to oppose the Special Committee's recommendations, and to state again our need for a comprehensive, quality day care system.

## Addendum

As we go to press we learn that the Ontario government's White Paper on day care policy has just been released. While there has been no opportunity to study/analyze this document, the public announcements suggest that the government is taking the first step to remove day care from its present welfare context. The provision of direct grants to non-profit centres is a positive move which we applaud. Mr. Sweeney's June 4th announcement is the first good news day care has received in many years.

We all know it takes years before a new magazine makes a profit--most people in the business say ten years. The news sheet U.S.A. Today, which has all the advantages of nationality and distribution, just announced it first profit exactly at the ten year mark. So HERizons, like many another Canadian publication had to fill in the gap with government grants.

In Canada, there are grant-supported magazines by the dozen, most with very thin subscription lists--trade mags, academic journals, health news sheets, poetry publications, literary efforts, architectural glossies--all dependent on the Canada Council, or a provincial arts council or a government department. HERizons, which was seeking a mass market, had to lean on something called LEAD (rhymes with "weed"), a program of the federal department of Employment and Immigration.

To get LEAD (Local Assistance and Development) a venture has to "demonstrate financial growth" and continue to demonstrate it each year. And every year HERizons sailed through the financial hoops. Each year of publication showed a solid advertising revenue and a subscription increase. (Their most brilliant stroke was to buy the Ms magazine subscription list and canvass Ms' Canadian subscribers. Subscriptions jumped.

As everyone knows, you can't publish a quality magazine for peanuts. LEAD invested \$900,000 in HERizons in total--the amount decreasing every year. The HERizons administration estimated it would take another \$500,000 to carry them through to the ten year self-sufficiency mark.

Yet LEAD and the federal government decided to axe HERizons. Why? As usual, when dealing with the bureaucracy, the truth has been buried in the bushes. At first officials stated that LEAD had a policy of only funding a venture for five years and no longer. This statement is misleading and untrue. Next LEAD said the magazine had not "demonstrated financial growth" and would never become self-sufficient. Also misleading and from all indications untrue. Finally there is the question of pressure from the anti-abortion organizations which had publicly announced their intent to pressure governments to cut off funding to any groups which support the women's movement. The minister, Benoit Bouchard, admitted he had received "a number of letters on the subject." Although he labels the material in HERizons as "controversial", he also claims the letters were "not a factor in the decision to discontinue funding."

Whatever the true reason, LEAD led HERizons down the garden path, into the woods and just before it had come to a break in the trees, turned and destroyed it.



continued from Page 7

Intercede, a domestic workers' rights group, and the Legal Education and Action Fund want the government to demonstrate the exclusion of domestic workers from the provisions on grounds other than cost to employers. Judith Ramirez, spokesperson for Intercede, described the challenge as "a simple and clear cut issue of social justice".

Domestic workers, many of whom are women and immigrants, are excluded from the hours of work and overtime provisions of the Act. Many women work from dawn to dusk for families while also being expected by Canadian immigration to use this time to demonstrate their eligibility for life in Canada, by improving their education, becoming involved in community groups, and saving money. (from BROADSIDE) ●●●

●●● Five half hour videotapes examine the 17 year period of the abortion rights movement in Canada from the liberalization of the abortion law in 1969 until today. The tapes present the abortion rights issue in an overall political context and cover: the history of the movement since 1969; access to abortion and family planning across Canada; the history of the movement in Quebec; the impact of the economic recessions; and Dr. Morgentaler's challenge to the abortion law from 1983-1987.

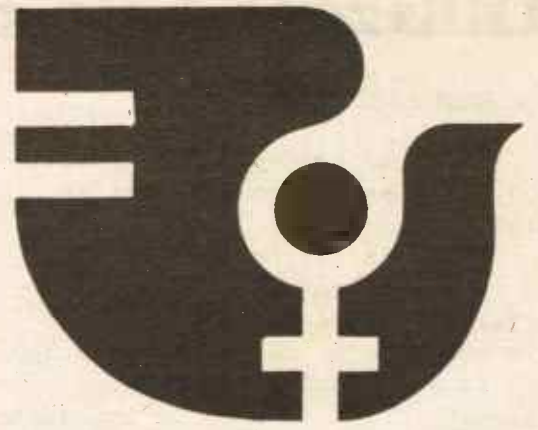
"The Struggle for Choice". written and directed by Toronto video artist Nancy Nicol, raises a number of questions: Why is there a crisis to access to abortions today, although Canada has a so-called liberal law? How is women's reproductive freedom affected by the economic recession? Why is there a persistent and on-going oppression of women around this issue? Why the reemergence of anti-abortion forces today? What

are the major gains the struggle for abortion rights has achieved and how were these gains achieved? What is the history of the movement in Quebec and how is it different from the history in the rest of Canada? Who are and were the women and men involved in the struggle?

Placed in an overall political context, the history of the pro-choice movement reveals the commitment, strategies, and dedication of individuals and organizations to the struggle for free abortion on demand.

For information about "The Struggle for Choice" write V/Tape, 183 Bathurst St., Toronto, M5T 2R7. (from BROADSIDE) ●●●

●●● Over 200 pro-choice supporters attended a meeting in late January to discuss plans for opening a free-standing abortion clinic in Vancouver. The first item of discussion was whether to establish a free-standing abortion clinic similar to those in Ontario and Quebec or to establish a facility called the Women's Community Health Clinic which would provide other services such as birth control and pre-natal counselling as well as abortion. Those who supported the more comprehensive clinic said that it would have a broader based appeal for fundraising and that it would be harder for government to attack. Supporters of the free-standing abortion clinic argued that a comprehensive clinic would require much more energy and money, and it would be seen as an abortion clinic anyway even if it offered other services. A resolution was adopted that women's reproductive health clinics be established throughout the province which will include abortion services funded by provincial medical services plan, and that, in the meantime, an abortion clinic be established in Vancouver, with the goal to have this clinic established within a year. (from IMAGES) ●●●



●●● A belated but none the less sincere congratulations to the women who organized International Women's Day (Week) activities. It was the most ambitious celebration of IWD in Thunder Bay to date. The week's activities included a film showing at Women's Centre of Desert Hearts and Lianna. The Congress of Canadian Women sponsored 'Towards the Year 2000: Without Nuclear Weapons' with women peace activists Elena Kemenetsky of the Soviet Union and Connie Van Prate of the United States. The Canadian tour of these two women symbolizes the hope of peace groups to unite us all in the movement for peace. Lakehead University Women's Centre held a day of workshops and events, and Women's Health Information Network led a PMS seminar. As well, Decade Council organized a two-day Conference of Transition Houses and Family Resource Centres. Northwestern Transition House workers deeply appreciated the opportunity to share information, build links with other houses and reduce the isolation and burn out they often experience. The week culminated with a wonderful Women's Party where the Company of Sirens performed the Working People's Picture Show. This performance, along with the traditional IWD pot luck, music and dancing was greatly enjoyed.

**DON'T CALL US...**

COME AND VISIT INSTEAD!

POTLUCK AND REBIRTH SHOWER AT THE CENTRE

WEDNESDAY JUNE 24 at 6:30 p.m.

Gift suggestions include: garbage bags, toilet paper, and ecologizer, toys, filing cabinet, welcome mats and ???

## Famous Foes

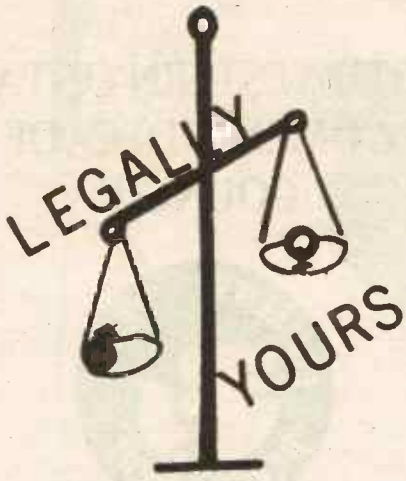
by JOAN BARIL

The woman and her adversary, now and through history. Match them up.

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1. Margaret Sanger       | a. Napoleon  |
| 2. Nellie McClung        | b. The Roman Empire                                |
| 3. Emmeline Pankhurst    | c. Henry II, King of England                       |
| 4. Madame de Stael       | d. The British War Office                          |
| 5. Florence Nightingale  | e. Prime Minister Mackenzie King of Canada         |
| 6. Boudicca              | f. Ovid  |
| 7. Caroline Norton       | g. Premier Rodmond Roblin of Manitoba              |
| 8. Fanny Kemble          | h. Norman Mailer                                   |
| 9. Mary Wollstonecraft   | i. Anthony Comstock and the Comstock laws          |
| 10. Eleanor of Aquitaine | j. Pierce Butler                                   |
| 11. Rosa Parks           | k. Premier Maurice Duplessis of Quebec             |
| 12. Christine de Pisan   | l. Jim Crow  |
| 13. Margaret Atwood      | m. George Norton                                   |
| 14. Emily Murphy         | n. Jean-Jacques Rousseau                           |
| 15. Therese Casgrain     | o. Prime Minister of Great Britain Herbert Asquith |

answers on Page 15

# Family Law \* Reformed Again



by LYNN BEAK

## THE ENFORCEMENT ORDERS

For many women, it took a long, painful time to obtain a child support order. Further disappointment occurred when their ex-husband did not pay the order, because they then discovered the protracted and often unsuccessful process called "Support Order Enforcement".

The fact that an order for child support has been made by a Judge does not mean that the father will pay it.

Most support orders are unpaid or in arrears. Women were shocked to discover that they must act as a collection agency, often with limited assistance from the Family Court.

However, there are changes to the law that are intended to assist women to enforce support orders against fathers and husbands who will not pay. Both the federal and provincial governments have recognized that the present system does not work and have developed new systems which are intended to provide real assistance.

In Ontario, an act called the Support and Custody Orders Enforcement Act was proclaimed in 1986. Its purpose is to establish regional offices whose sole function is to enforce support and custody orders, and separation agreements which have been filed in Family Court. Any orders which have been filed in the Family Court for enforcement will be moved to the Enforcement Office when it opens.

The office will have the power to obtain information as to the place of employment, address or location of the debtor from any person or public office in Ontario. They will have the power to check federal records and those in other provinces in some situations.

The Enforcement Office for Northwestern Ontario will be opening on July 2, 1987 and will be located at 430 Waterloo St. South, with phone number 623-7327.

For those women who already have support or custody orders they will be invited to file their order for enforcement. Filing will be voluntary, and the Toronto office staff anticipate a large demand for services.

There will be a public information campaign once the office is open, and they will have an 800 line telephone for long distance calls. They anticipate that the staff will be busy locating debtors and their assets, and bringing them into court to explain their default in paying.

Although this new government service will assist many women to obtain their support payments, there are some words of warning. For debtors without assets, or those who have hidden them cleverly, an enforcement hearing will not bring any money to the woman. Also, if the woman is receiving welfare or single parent benefits, any support payments received will be fully deducted from the benefits.

Despite these limitations, I hope that the new Enforcement Office will assist women by obtaining for them the support payments that the courts have ordered and thus decrease the number of women-headed families that live in poverty.

## initiatives '73-'87

Compiled and edited by Fiona Karlstedt, NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO STATUS OF WOMEN INITIATIVES 1973-1987 is nearing completion. Commissioned by the Northwestern Ontario Women's Decade Council, the document traces the ebb and flow of the women's movement in Northwestern Ontario, identifying trends and processes that contributed to the increased social, economic and political equality of women in Northwestern Ontario. In all over 75 conferences, action research projects, studies, workshops, political action committees, self-help groups, feminist services, lobbies and other actions are considered.

Historically, support for and advancement of women's rights have occurred only during periods of economic prosperity and generalized social reform. The present political and economic climate is depressing. The emergence of groups like R.E.A.L. women is synonymous with the times—closed minds accept myth most easily, but a frightened society seeks it actively. If we are to rationally anticipate the future, we must understand how the present has grown out of the past. If we are to continue developing strategies which will enable us to move on together as a movement, we must draw on our experiences and enormous skills. Clearly, an understanding and appreciation of our own history is essential to that process.

Although not an exhaustive account of developments in the region over the past 14 years, NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO STATUS OF WOMEN INITIATIVES does reflect, in whole or in part, the experiences of many of us. It records not only what Northwestern Ontario women have done, but also what they tried to do—the motives and goals that impelled them to strive for some-

thing better. It is a record not only of achievement but potential. It validates the contributions women have made and attests to their credibility as decision makers, organizers and negotiators. Obscured from public view, women's social and political participation is often seen as inconsequential. In mirroring our visibility and collective strength, NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO STATUS OF WOMEN INITIATIVES sets the record straight.

### If the Government in Ottawa gets its way, they may take this magazine right out of your hands

*The Great Depression; two world wars; a small, spread-out population; recessions; inflation; overwhelming competition from the U.S.—none of these could kill Canada's magazines...*

*...but the current Government in Ottawa just might.*

The Government is considering demolishing the delicate structure of postal, tariff and tax-related incentives that helps keep the Canadian magazine industry alive. If this happens, many Canadian magazines will die.

Those that survive will cost more to readers and publishers and will be more vulnerable than ever to competition from foreign magazines that have the advantages of huge press-runs and lower per-copy costs.

Those that survive will be less profitable and, therefore, more likely to succumb to adverse economic circumstances in the future.

**CANADA'S  
MAGAZINES**

*...a voice of our own*

CANADIAN PERIODICAL PUBLISHERS' ASSOCIATION,  
2 STEWART STREET, TORONTO, ONTARIO M5V 1H6

## BOOK REVIEW:

reviewed by MARGARET PHILLIPS

**OTHER FIRES** Short Fiction by Latin American Women, edited by Alberto Manguel, Lester & Orphen Dennys, 1986.

**OTHER FIRES** is a selection of short fiction by Latin American women, edited by Alberto Manguel, a native of Buenos Aires, who now teaches at York University. Manguel advises that while interest in Latin American literature has flourished in North America since the 1960's all the translated authors were male, while " ..so many of the best untranslated books from Latin America had been written by women." **OTHER FIRES** gives us a taste of this excellent talent. Although I did not find the stories equally interesting, even the less impressive ones sparked a desire to know the writer better. As these writers are, in the main, novelists, I sincerely hope their longer works will also be translated.

In the forward to the anthology Chilean writer Isabel Allende says "In this selection I feel interpreted as a Latin American woman. These writers of diverse Latin American countries have expressed our fears and hopes, our delicate ceremonies, our secrets and rebellions, our love and rancor. They are feminine voices trying to interpret the hidden meaning of the sexuality, the power, the ambition, and the injustice of the macho world where they must live. This anthology demonstrates that Latin American women have their own vision of the world and know how to express it in their own personal, irreverent, furious, fantastic, ironic, and poetic language. They tell of the multiple forms of violence they suffer and, in doing so, violate the first rule imposed upon them since birth: the rule of silence. They do not accept it; they do not bow their heads; they do not resign themselves; they are not silent. These stories were written with tears, blood and kisses."



RFR

**OTHER FIRES** is an impressive anthology, and the diversity of the stories will make the book attractive to readers with varying tastes. "Magic realism and political realism are the two main currents of Latin American literature" Manguel tells us. Readers who tend toward magic realism will be more than satisfied. Given my own bias I would have welcomed more political selections, however, those that are included are indeed fine. The Guerrillero, by Albalucia Angel (Columbia), the shortest story in the book, is a truly remarkable self-dialogue of empowerment and courage; while The Stolen Party, by Liliana Heber (Argentina), defines most powerfully the awakening of a young girl's class consciousness.

One story that will stay with me for a long time is Ines Arredondo (Mexico) The Shunammite, which is perhaps the most subtle depiction of the multifaceted violence of a patriarchal society I have read.

It's The Fault Of The Tlaxcalteca by Elena Garro (Mexico) I plan to read again and again in the hope of truly understanding it. I am interested in learning Garro's heritage. The story suggests to me Indian heritage and I'm continuously fascinated by the universality of themes and images in native writing - north or south.

The women contributing to this book are established writers in their own countries. They are middle aged or older, the youngest being 44 and the eldest 87, and much of the work was first published 20 or more years ago. With these writers as role models and given the expanded publication of women's writing in recent years, we should assume there are also many new young women writers who are augmenting the scope and excellence of Latin American literature, and we can only hope that their work will also be available to a Canadian readership.

## WHAT'S NEW in the BOOKSTORE

Now that we are moved and settled in our new home, our efforts are re-focused on ordering new books - and wonderful, new women's books continue to pour off the presses. The Bookstore expects new shipments weekly - so drop in regularly. New titles that may interest you include:

**HEAR THE SILENCE: Stories** by Women of Myth, Magic and Renewal, edited by Irene Zahava. "Some of these stories can be easily identified with the broadest definition of spirituality. Others are so subtle that you have to look between the words to see that slight shimmer of cosmic consciousness. All of them have the potential to reveal another truth, one which lies just beyond the surface of our daily lives."

**DZELARHONS** by Anne Cameron. The long awaited successor to Daughters of Copper Woman.

**BAKE FACE and OTHER GUAVA STORIES**, by Opal Palmer Adisa. "Bake Face and Other Guava Stories brilliantly captures the complexities of our island homeland, Jamaica .... (Adisa's) stories chart the experience of island women ... with a deep understanding and compassion, and a true sense of their terror and pride, the ghosts that dog their tracks, the dailliness of their lives." (Michelle Cliff)

**RAPUNZEL'S REVENGE: Fairy Tales for Feminists.** "Rapunzel's Revenge is a feminist re-writing of fairy tales .... revealing that Snow White organized the seven dwarfs into a trade union, .... exposing Cinderella's prince as a foot fetishist, and .... showing that feminist fairy tales can be written in fairy tale language."

## NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO WOMEN'S DECADE COUNCIL



- Supporting individual women and organizations as they work together for equality for women in education, employment, the home and community.
- Working to eliminate the barriers that prevent local and regional women from reaching their full potential.
- Lobbying on issues to improve the quality of women's lives in Northwestern Ontario.
- Providing resources to existing and emerging status of women's organizations.
- Networking area women's organizations to share ideas and concerns.

*Decade Council meets bi-monthly with representation from many regional communities. Our activities and priorities are designed to reflect the issues presented by Northwestern Ontario women.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:

**NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO  
WOMEN'S DECADE COUNCIL**  
905 TUNGSTEN STREET  
THUNDER BAY, ONT. P7B 5Z3  
807-623-7556



**WOMAN OF POWER** magazine. Issue 5's theme is Healing, and Issue 6 is Art As Activism.

**NO FAIRY GODMOTHERS, NO MAGIC WANDS: The Healing Process After Rape**, by Judy H. Katz.

**CANADIAN JOURNAL OF WOMEN AND THE LAW**, Vol. 1 #2, Women and Reproduction. "This issue highlights the theme of male control over women's reproductive capacities and activities - a theme that pervades the seemingly disparate issues of abortion, sexual ideologies, reproductive ethics, artificial insemination, "surrogate" mothering, prenatal screening techniques, the pharmaceutical industry, reproductive hazards, eugenics and lesbian mothers."

And for Heather Bishop fans, Heather's newest release - **A TASTE OF THE BLUES** - both record and cassette.

# Upcoming Events

From August 14-21, 1987, the CANADIAN WOMEN'S WRITING RETREAT will be held at Far Hills Inn, Val-Morin, Quebec. Women writers of English fiction, poetry, plays, non-fiction prose, and translators working from French to English, will be able to take intensive workshops. Well-known Canadian women writers will conduct morning writing workshops and afternoon discussion groups. There will also be a panel discussion led by representatives of the Canadian publishing industry.

The Retreat will not be devoted solely to work. As well as the readings over the week, there will be time for recreation. In the Laurentians, the well-appointed inn offers hiking, swimming, boating, tennis, squash, billiards, and just plain relaxation.

For further information, please contact Debra Martens, c/o Centre for Continuing Education, Dawson College, Victoria Campus, 485 McGill St., Montreal, Quebec, H2Y 2H4, phone 514-931-8731 local 6102; or call Greta Hofmann Nemiroff at 514-931-8731 local 6075.

**SOLSTICE CELEBRATION!** Saturday, June 20, 8:30 - ?. Port Arthur Prosvita Hall, 540 South High St. \$5.00 at the door. For women only. Call Women's Centre 345-7802 for more info.



The 12th MICHIGAN WOMYN'S MUSIC FESTIVAL takes place August 12-16. The Festival "is a gathering of mothers and daughters for womyn of all ages. We come together to celebrate our common experiences and unique strengths as womyn - to celebrate our culture, our similarities and our diversity." Brochures with full info are available at the Bookstore.

The Third Annual KINGSTON WOMYN'S MUSIC FESTIVAL will be held July 24-26, 1987. The Festival began as the vision of two womyn, Georgia Ferrell and Merri Macdonald. In 1983 Georgia bought a large area of undeveloped land on a lake north of Kingston. She bought it to live on, but also to provide womyn with a place to come together, to celebrate nature and each other. The Festival with musicians from Ontario, Quebec and the U.S., along with workshops and crafts, will provide a great weekend. For more information contact GAIA, Kingston Womyn's Music Festival, P.O. Box 1792, Kingston, Ont. K7L 5J6. (Brochures available at Northern Woman's Bookstore.)

A Peace Festival is happening in Thunder Bay on Saturday, August 8th. If you would like to sing, dance, sell food or crafts, read a poem, show a picture, or share ideas and energy call Tanya at 622-1416.

POT LUCK at Women's Centre, Wednesday, June 24 from 6:30. Housewarming gifts that would be useful include - garbage bags, paper towels, toilet paper, soap, herbal tea and a filing cabinet.

## ANSWERS to FAMOUS FOES

1--i. Sanger, American birth control pioneer, repeatedly defied Comstock and the Comstock laws which defined information on birth control as obscene.

2--g. The Premier of Manitoba was a staunch opponent of women's rights. Nellie used all her organizing ability and her famous wit against him, even caricaturing him in a "Mock Parliament".

3--o. Through political maneuvers and lies, Asquith was determined to prevent women's suffrage. He encouraged street violence against the women, had them arrested on trumped up charges and later set up the policy of force-feeding. He hoped the movement would give up. It didn't.

4--a. Madame Germaine de Staël, prominent political thinker and writer, supported the ideals of the French Revolution but turned against Napoleon when he made himself dictator. Forced into exile she continued her opposition.

5--d. Nightingale fought a life-long battle with the war office to improve hospital conditions for troops.

6--b. Boudicca rallied the tribes of southern Britain in a revolt against the Roman Empire, killing as many as 70,000. Defeated she took poison.

7--m. Norton left her brutal husband but the laws of the time did not allow her custody of her children. Her public agitation resulted in the passing of a custody bill. When her husband seized her money she worked for the successful passage of a bill to allow a married woman to own things.

8--j. After her marriage to a wealthy man, Kemble, a famous actress, discovered he owned a southern plantation. He thwarted her efforts to help the slaves and refused to allow her to publish her book about slavery on threat of taking her children. Eventually he did take them and she did not see her daughters until they were adults.

9--n. It was in order to refute and counter the misogynist ideas of Rousseau that Wollstonecraft wrote her famous 'Vindication of the Rights of Women'.

10--c. Eleanor led a revolt against her husband and landed in prison for fifteen years. Released by his death, she consolidated the kingdom for her son Richard the Lion-Hearted and went on to make her Duchy of Aquitaine a centre of literature and learning.

11--l. Jim Crow was a system of laws and customs which oppressed Blacks in the southern States. Parks, coming home on the bus tired and with sore feet, refused to obey the driver and move to the Black section of the bus. This refusal touched off the Atlanta bus boycott and fueled the civil rights movement.

12--f. De Pisan, the great medieval writer, was angered by the hatred towards women shown in the works of Ovid and other writers. She wrote 'The Book of the City of Ladies' in 1405, the first treatise on women's rights.

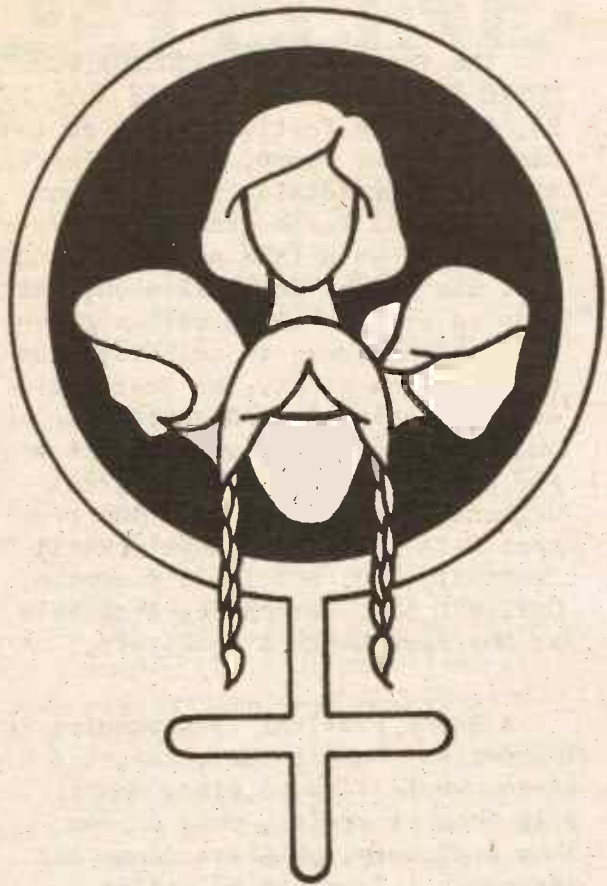
13--h. When PEN, the international writers organization held a congress in New York in 1986, Atwood was one of those who protested to American branch president Norman Mailer about the small number of women writers on the panel. Mailer refused to agree claiming that the women writers he could have invited were mediocre.

14--e. Prime Minister King gave plenty of lip service to the idea that Canada should have a woman in the Senate and that the B.N.A. Act should be amended so that Canadian women could be declared as persons and therefore eligible to hold a Senate seat. However he did little to help Murphy and four companions (the Famous Five) steer the case through several court battles. However when they won he acted in typical male political fashion. He did not give the first Senate seat to Murphy as was expected but to a woman who had no connection with the long struggle but who had worked for years for the Liberal party.

15--k. Duplessis, an unswerving opponent of women's suffrage was premier of the province from 1926 to 1940. Women's groups worked hard for his defeat and in 1940 won the vote at last.



Women and Environments



# **CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

**THE NORTHERN WOMEN'S CENTRE**

**THE NORTHERN WOMAN JOURNAL**

**&**

**NORTHERN WOMAN'S BOOKSTORE**

**Are pleased to announce**

**their new location at**

**184 Camelot St., Thunder Bay P7A 4A9.**



**We have a spacious new storefront facility.**

**Why not drop in?**



MAIL TO:

# INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- p2 DATELINE KENORA/YOUR VOICE
- p3 REBIRTH
- p4 A COLLAGE OF BARRIERS
- p6 NFB FILMS
- p7 UPDATE
- p8 POETRY
- p10 DAY CARE
- p11 HERizons
- p12 FAMOUS FOES
- p13 FAMILY LAW/INITIATIVES
- p14 REVIEW/BOOKSTORE NEWS
- p15 UPCOMING EVENTS

**WORKERS THIS ISSUE:**

CAROLYN GREENWOOD  
 MARY-ANN KLEYENDORST  
 MARGARET PHILLIPS  
 ROSEMARY PITTIS

MAIL TO:

---



---



---

**RETURN TO:**

THE NORTHERN WOMAN  
 184 CAMELOT STREET  
 THUNDER BAY, ONTARIO  
 P7A 4A9

Return Postage Guaranteed

### Don't forget to renew your subscription!

#### Here's my sub:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

(postal code)

individual \$ 5

institutional \$10

\*\*\*\*\*  
 \*IS THERE AN ASTERISK ON YOUR LABEL ?  
 PLEASE RENEW YOUR SUBSCRIPTION  
 \*\*\*\*\*

## Northern Woman Journal

184 CAMELOT STREET  
 THUNDER BAY, ONTARIO  
 P7A 4A9

(FOUR ISSUES)  
 \$5.00  
 \$10.00 Business or Institution

