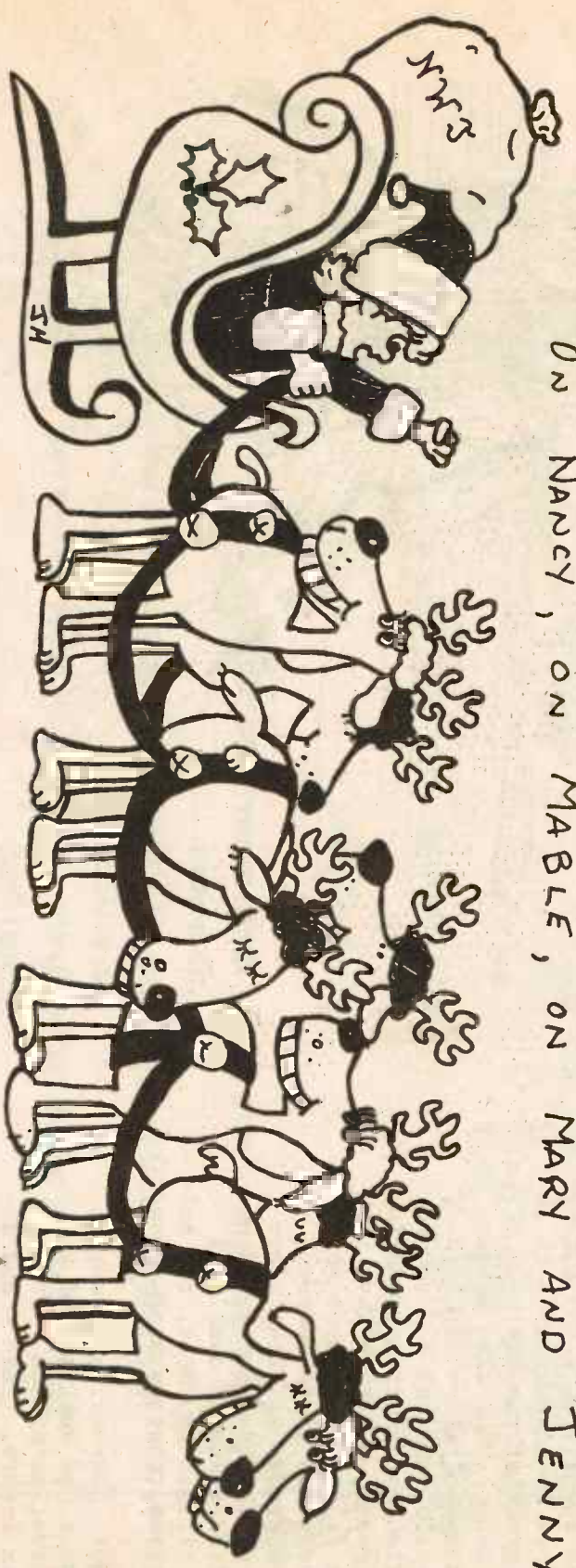


Northern Woman Journal

December 1988, Volume 11 No. 4 Thunder Bay, Ontario

\$1.50

ON MARTHA, ON INGRID, ON KERI AND PENNY!
ON NANCY, ON MARBLE, ON MARY AND JENNY!



EDITORIAL

As we emerge from the despair evoked by the federal election result it is important to understand that the election success of the Conservatives will have consequences immeasurably beyond just the disastrous effects of the free trade agreement. It is hard to think beyond the trade deal implications. When the sovereignty, the identity, of the country that you love is given away - to appease the greed of the business elite - you may wonder what else matters. But the Americanization of Canada will be subtle, gradual - - and we may be lulled by the misinformation that will continue. If we love this country it is incumbent upon us to support the grass roots movement against the trade deal and foster awareness of the true implications of the Mulroney-Reagan deal. (It will be a citizen movement, not political parties, that we must depend on.)

We must, however, also mature our awareness and analysis of the full Conservative agenda - social policy, tax reform, trade - and determine what is in store for us in the next four years. Behind the mask of free trade lies a neo-conservative agenda (which would not on its own be risked) that will devastate the vulnerable in our society, will erode the modest gains that women have made, and will set back the cause of social justice and equality for a decade.

It is a frightening picture. We can anticipate an intense and sustained backlash against women. Our energies will be spent protecting what little we have, and mitigating the hurt that will be inflicted on the most vulnerable of us.

What lies ahead?

SOCIAL PROGRAMS

The threat to social programs was a significant focus of the election campaign. Unfortunately, the opposition politicians failed to make clear to many voters the true ramifications of the trade deal in respect to social policy. The Conservatives and their business allies spent millions of dollars reassuring us that medicare, old age security, and other social programs are unaffected by the trade deal.

It is instructive to note that immediately after the election this same business lobby are calling on Finance Minister Wilson to decrease the deficit by cutting social programs. Both the Canadian Chamber of Commerce and the Business Council on National Issues advocate decreased social spending, while business reporter Peter Cook (Globe & Mail Nov. 23) states the government must "... (reduce) the federal deficit and (be) willing to make unpopular cuts in programs that subsidize middle class Canadians." (emphasis added)

There is no doubt that universal social programs are at risk. Not from the trade deal itself, perhaps, but from the mentality that says the market must prevail (and the people be damned). The Conservative ideology does not support the concept of universality. Universal social programs have not been implemented by a Conservative government, they were legislated by Liberal governments under pressure from the CCF/NDP.

Medicare and pensions will not disappear overnight. Rather, they will be chipped away little by little. The business lobby has always opposed universality, has opposed any improvement of social benefits. The big business community (and their American owners/counterparts) are the dominant influence on our present government, and will not be satisfied until social

programs have been eroded beyond cognition.

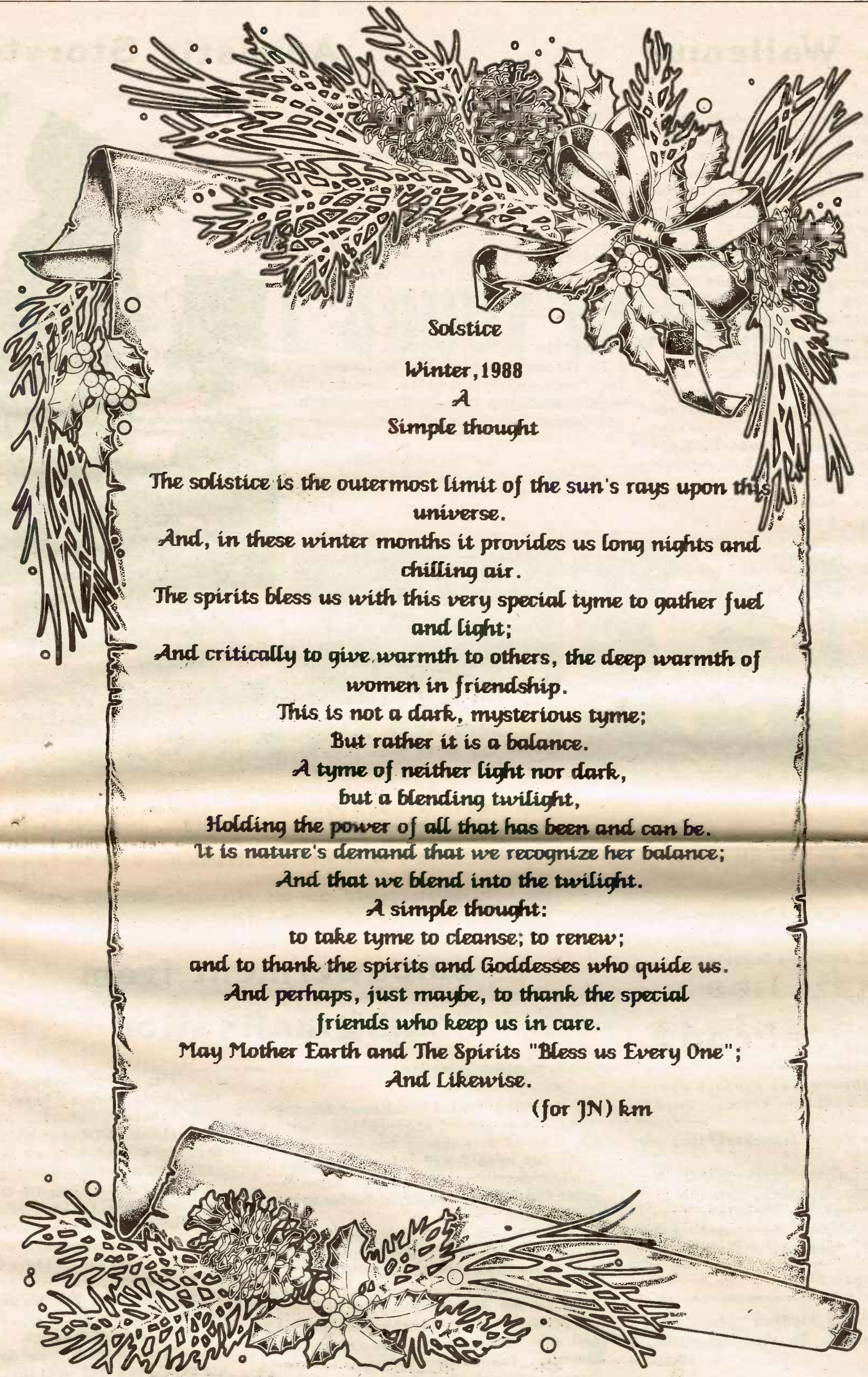
It is not as though our system was ideal. Many existing programs are inadequate. Other universal programs (eg dental care) are a absolute necessity. Remember the promise to implement pensions for homemakers? It seems to have evaporated. With a protracted struggle to retain what little we have, the hope of improving social programs comes a mere fantasy.

PRIVATIZATION

The flip side of the free coin is privatization. Privatization is the transfer of ownership, deregulation, financing or decision making from the government sector to private hands. Privatization can take several different forms including selling of crown corporations and government agencies to the private sector; contracting out through bilateral agreements with employees being replaced by contracted out work; deregulation and removal of legal constraints; franchising and commercial enterprise; use of volunteers; and user fee implementation.

continued on





Solstice

Winter, 1988

A

Simple thought

The solstice is the outermost limit of the sun's rays upon this universe.

And, in these winter months it provides us long nights and chilling air.

The spirits bless us with this very special tyme to gather fuel and light;

And critically to give warmth to others, the deep warmth of women in friendship.

This is not a dark, mysterious tyme;

But rather it is a balance.

A tyme of neither light nor dark,

but a blending twilight,

Holding the power of all that has been and can be.

It is nature's demand that we recognize her balance;

And that we blend into the twilight.

A simple thought:

to take tyme to cleanse; to renew;

and to thank the spirits and Goddesses who guide us.

And perhaps, just maybe, to thank the special

friends who keep us in care.

May Mother Earth and The Spirits "Bless us Every One";

And Likewise.

(for JN) km

Happy Solstice

from

The

Northern

Woman

Journal

Josie Wallenius

Acoustic Storyteller

Josie Wallenius has developed a repertoire of "stories" that she performs in artist-run centres and community gathering places. These stories are acoustically punctuated as she strikes on a six-foot cross-cut bush saw with a piece of rusted iron...or a rock...or a wooden spoon. Her sound stories talk of racism, sexism, poverty, struggle and Peace. They relate to everyday life and speak to and for the people who have trouble surviving each day -- the ones who will make the change.

She came to Thunder Bay from London, England in 1978...later giving up her full-time job as a registered nurse to become a full-time unpaid peace worker. Josie is a grassroots activist in her own community, and in:

December 1988:

Performed at Medicine Hat, Alberta, Peace and Justice Centre

November 1988:

Performed at Macalester University, St. Paul, Minnesota, Peace action Coalition Conference.

October 1988:

Performed at Project Ploughshares Peace group, Salem, Ontario.

August 1988:

Performed at the International Women's Peace Conference, Dallas, Texas

June 1988:

Performed at the Canadian Labour Congress School, Lakehead University.

May 1988:

Performed at the Women's Interfaith Network Spirituality Conference, Kitchener -Waterloo

Opening performance at Project Ploughshares National Conference, Toronto Ontario

Mother's Day Peace Demonstration, Wisconsin,

Guest performance, "Speaking Out" A-Space/MAYWORKS, Toronto, Ontario

Opening performance, "Souvenir from the Northern Front, The Funnel, A-Space/MAYWORKS, Toronto, Ontario

February 1988:

Performance with Nipigon Nylons, Definitely Superior, Thunder Bay, Ontario

1987:

Canadian delegate to the International Women's Conference, Moscow, USSR

Canadian Delegate to the Libyan Peace Conference, Libya

1986:

Worked at support camp at Big Mountain, Arizona during the Navaho Hopi struggle against re-location

Worked with the Canadian Electrical Brigade in Nicaragua

1985:

Worked with the Greenham Women investigating microwave radiation of Peace Women

1984:

Participated in the ten-day action at the Greenham Common Peace Camp in England that coincided with NATO's 'Operation Lionheart'

An article written by Josie for W.I.L.P.F. (Women's International League for Peace and Freedom) in 1987 has now been translated into Italian, Danish, and German.



Frightened is it You Are

by Josie Wallenius

Frightened is it you are with a bit of trouble with the police
Frightened is it I am of Cruise Missiles

Frightened is it you are of hurting someone's feelings
Frightened is it I am of talking and saying nothing

Frightened is it you are to say we are racist
Frightened is it I am that Africa will no longer forgive us

Frightened is it you are of communism
Frightened is it I am that El Salvador will no longer forgive us

Frightened is it you are of losing friends
Frightened is it I am of burning children

Frightened is it you are of a bit of trouble with the police
Frightened is it I am of Cruise Missiles

empowerment from marginalisation

Josie Wallenius October 1988

Having experienced over the last year the power of storytelling and writing as a means of empowerment, both for myself and for other women, I will describe how I first experienced empowerment BECAUSE I was marginalized.

I was, and still am, a global woman working for Peace. Three years ago I was asked to go with a male activist to a local meeting of citizens in our community to explain our position. I was a better speaker, and had more knowledge of the issues than the man. Imagine my surprise (I was very innocent) when I found out that there was only time for one of us to speak, and the man was chosen. I should not have been surprised or upset, because, of course, in a mixed audience especially, a man always has more credibility.

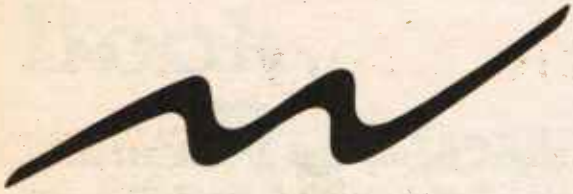
The next week I spoke to a mixed group, and explained this phenomenon before I started. I asked the men to forget I was a woman, to see if they heard me more by forgetting this. This introduction worked. It turned out to be the most productive part of the debate afterwards. The tactic worked.

I'm not interested in things that don't work anymore.

I have a favorite picture over my desk—an old print by a Dutch master. It's a picture of two women sitting at a table, leaning towards each other, ENGROSSED in their talking. What they are talking about who knows. Perhaps their husbands or lovers. Perhaps an unwanted pregnancy, making ends meet to feed the children, what cargo is coming in at Rotterdam, who is ruling Holland. Who knows. All I know they look a lot happier than women watching television.

This is what I am doing with my storytelling and writing. Proving that our stories are more riveting than the soaps, our lives more important to the world than the lives of those that rule us, and our experiences as women the most likely to save this earth from destruction, as long as we start telling them.

I will do performances, but the workshops will be participatory and empowering to the women who attend. The instruments (the drum, cymbals, tambourine, dulcimer, etc.) are there for the people to use as they tell to the group, a story of their own.



Ontario
Women's
Directorate

BULLETIN

FROM WOMEN'S PLACE, KENORA

RAPE CRISIS CENTRE FUNDING CRISIS

Historically the Solicitor-General's office of Ontario has funded the operational costs of Rape Crisis Centres (R.C.C.'s). Although they fund each centre differently, they will pay for rent, telephone lines, pagers and transportation. However they have refused to fund salaries or honoraria for RCC volunteers.

In April 1988, the Ontario Coalition of RCC met with the present Solicitor-General, Joan Smith requesting funds for staffing costs, since many RCC's were in crisis operating without secure staffing and with exhausted volunteers. Joan Smith established an Ad Hoc committee to meet with the coalition and in June 1988 the coalition submitted a proposal for 5 year funding for RCC's. The meetings also resulted in emergency funding for several shelters (including Women's Place - Kenora) to cover staffing costs.

After several extensions, it has been announced by the Solicitor-General's office that emergency funding will continue until March 1989, and that they will not let any more centres close until year end, although they will not be able to respond to the funding proposal this year.

If you are in support of adequate funding for RCC's please send a letter to: The Solicitor-General the Honourable Joan Smith, 25 Grosvenor St., 10th Floor, Toronto, Ontario M7A 1Y6 with copies to your local MPP and Women's Place, Box 687, Kenora, Ontario P9N 3X6.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

NOTICE

Directory of Northern Women's Organizations will be ready for distribution by the end of December. Thanks to those groups who took the time to answer our questionnaire. You will be receiving your complimentary copy soon. If you know of anyone who might be interested in receiving a copy please call 345-6084 collect.

UPCOMING EVENTS

COUNTDOWN TO IMPLEMENTATION

Conference opportunity for employers, employees and bargaining agents to learn more about the "how to" of pay equity implementation.

Valhalla Inn, Thunder Bay, Ontario
February 9, 1989
Registration forms at Northern Office of Ontario Women's Directorate

THE GEORGE BROWN ASSAULTED WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S ADVOCATE/COUNSELLOR PROGRAM AND REAL EYES: THE VISION PRESENT

Workshops with Sandra Butler
January 17-23, 1989
Toronto, Ontario

Healing the Healers - Jan. 17-18

Personal Disarmament - Jan. 19-20

Women, Sexual Terrorism and the State - Jan. 21

Our Search for the Mothers - The Journey Home - Jan. 22-23

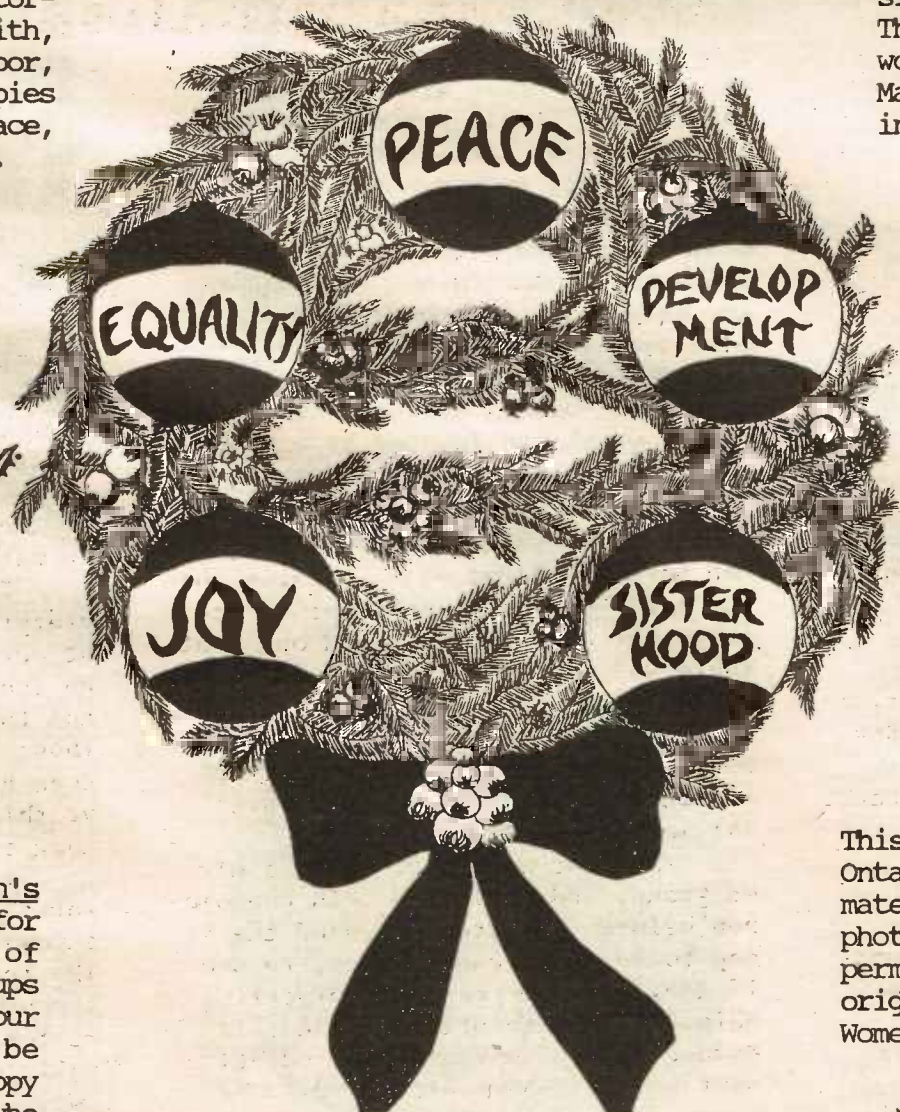
For more information call -
(416) 654-2206

FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION MONTH - ACTIVITIES

Several activities produced by groups in Northern Ontario who received funding from the Directorate took place:

Public Forums (Beendigen, Northshore Family Resource Centre, Sioux-Hudson-North Women in Crisis) Comite. Contre la Violence Faites aux femmes presented the play "Marc et Julie" followed by a discussion period.

The Interagency Response to Wife Assault/Abuse group produced a brochure which has been distributed to hospital emergency departments and clinics in Thunder Bay.



This month's graphic courtesy of Concetta

IMMIGRANT WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

"MAKING CHANGES"

On December 25th & 26th, 1988 the first Immigrant Women's Conference was held at Ramada Inn Hotel.

The theme of the conference was about the most important problems of immigrant women:- learning English and training and education programs to prepare women for entry into the workforce.

The first workshop of the conference was the presentation and discussion of immigrant women's problems. At this time, many of the immigrant women presented their speeches prepared by themselves. They analysed causes and possible solutions.

After this two interesting panels took place, one about E.S.L. programs. It was very important because in it was discussion about the possible deficiencies and problems of these programs.

The other panel, about training and education programs for immigrants was the most important, because immigrant women questioned the policies of Canada Employment and Immigration regarding training and education programs for immigrants and they discussed their reasons for change.

Then the women worked in small groups to make recommendations for improvement of their situation so that they can integrate into Canadian society and contribute to the development of that society.

The conference also gave great moments that the participants enjoyed. The program included cultural activity that presented folklore music and dance of Central America.

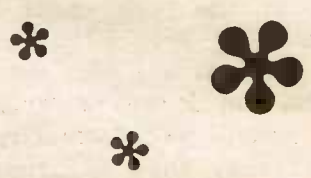
Childcare was provided for all participants who needed this service.

After the November conference immigrant women will continue to work together to improve the situation of all immigrant women of Thunder Bay. If you are an immigrant woman and want to be involved call Maria Albizurez at 345-6084 for more information.

Maria Isabel de Albizurez

CONGRATULATIONS

- Decade Council New Executive
- Co-Chairpersons Gloria Harris
Brenda Cryderman
- Secretary Roseann Perron
- Treasurer Jan Owen



This page is sponsored by the Ontario Women's Directorate. The material contained on it may be photocopied and distributed without permission, but with credit to the original source or the Ontario Women's Directorate.



Update



LESBIAN WRITERS!

Women's Press is looking for manuscripts for a second anthology of writing by Lesbians about Lesbian experience. They welcome fiction, non-fiction, poetry, experimental work, erotica etc. Deadline is mid-January 1989. Contact Women's Press, Lesbian Manuscript Group, 229 College St., Toronto M5T 1R4

The National Association of Women and the Law (NAWL) has just come out with a new Publications List describing their excellent research papers and briefs in areas of feminist legal concern such as abortion rights, affirmative action, reproductive technology, child care, prostitution, divorce, child custody, pensions, pornography, sexual aggression against women and children, and unemployment insurance. Most recent publications are on the Constitutional Accord, survivor's benefits under the Canada Pension Plan, and benefits for part-time workers. The NAWL Publications List is available through the NAWL National Office at #400 - 1 Nicholas St., Ottawa, Ontario, K1N 7B7, (613) 238-1544.

A GUIDE TO FIGHTING SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN THE WORKPLACE by Bonnie Robichaud is part of a major public education initiative by the Ontario Women's Directorate. Through her own successful case against the Department of National Defence, Robichaud has become a symbol to all who oppose discrimination in the workplace.

Of benefit to victims and advocates, this informative booklet is available for \$3.95 (postage included) from the Bonnie Robichaud Defence Committee, P.O. Box 149, Osgoode, Ontario, K0A 2W0; (613) 826-2150. Do contact the Bonnie Robichaud Defence Committee if you would like to receive their Newsletter or would like to make a donation to this precedent setting case.

Arizona Gay Rodeo Association News Release: January 13, 14, & 15, 1989 are the dates for the 4th annual Arizona Rodeo. The Arizona and the New Mexico Gay Rodeo Assocs. are working together to produce the ROAD RUNNER REGIONAL RODEO. This year the name is new and the rodeo arena is newly enlarged just for A.G.R.A. Visit and stay awhile! Make plans now to be in Phoenix this January for the fun of your life. Call or write: Rodeo Hotline. P.O. Box 16363, Phx., Az. 85011, (602)938-3932.

New Video CREATING LESBIAN MEANING Excerpts: anglophone lesbians at The III International Feminist Book Fair. This video is available in a global four-hour version or a complete version of each specific theme: memory, power, feminist and lesbian political strategies. Among the women featured are Anne Cameron, Sheila Jeffreys, Sonia Johnson and Mary Daly. For more information contact Réseau Vidéo-Elle, 4013 des Érables, Montréal, Qué., H2K 3V7.

The Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Issue may be changed to a "Women and Sport" issue if the members of Athletes for Equality have their way. The organization is working to obtain fair and equitable coverage for women in sports, according to President Beverly Smith. "We are concerned that there are many gifted and dedicated female athletes who are not getting the coverage they deserve", states Smith. "We are also concerned with the presentation of female athletes as sex objects, as we feel that this trivializes their accomplishments, and leads to many misconceptions about women in sports." These include the myths that women do not take athletics seriously, and that women are more concerned about their appearance than about their abilities, explained Smith. Athletes for Equality, which was founded by a group of female athletes at the University of Massachusetts, welcomes others with similar concerns. Athletes for Equality works as a clearinghouse for sexist sports articles. These are distributed to members, who are encouraged to write to the publishers and/or advertisers.

One of Athletes for Equality's main targets is the magazine Sports Illustrated. From January to April 1987, this magazine allocated only 5% of its total sports coverage to women. In addition, for professional tennis, collegiate basketball, track and field, swimming, golf, horse racing, and skating-sports with widespread female participation, only 13% of the magazine's coverage dealt with women. In addition, ex-

plained Smith, when Sports Illustrated does publish a story on a female athlete, they often do so offensively, either blatantly emphasizing her sex appeal, or trivializing her commitment to her sport.

An obvious focus is the Swimsuit Issue. In 1987 it features 42 pages of models in provocative poses and minimal-coverage swimsuits. "For serious female athletes who train long hours to excel at their sports to be upstaged in a sports magazine by models chosen for their appearance (not their athletic ability) is an insult to women," stated Smith. "In addition, the context of the photographs in this issue may be considered pornographic in their depiction of power, with nearly naked women posed with fully-dressed men." Smith also pointed out the captions accompanying the photos: "Kathy is the catch of the day" and "Kathy... makes the Dog course...look very inviting." "These give men the false message that women encourage and enjoy ogling and harassment. These types of pictures in a sports magazine encourage men to look at female athletes as sex objects, by giving the impression that, for example, women who run marathons do so to be attractive and sexy."

Sports Illustrated sold 5 million copies of its Swimsuit Issue last year, and flooded television with advertisements. As yet, the magazine has been unresponsive to requests to cancel the issue or change it to a "Women's Sports" issue. Athletes for Equality is urging people to write to Sports Illustrated corporate sponsors, asking them to stop supporting Sports Illustrated. Advertising provides approximately 95% of Sports Illustrated's financial support. Some of the major advertisers include Ford, Chevrolet, Nike, Wilson Sporting Goods, and Eastern Airlines. Athletes for Equality is also initiating a petition drive directed at the magazine itself. Petitions and addresses can be obtained from Beverly Smith, at 98 Spring St., Amherst MA 01002.

C.C.A.F.T.

"We're not through yet" declared Peggy Smith, coordinator of Thunder Bay Citizens Concerned About Free Trade. The local group, along with the national organization headed by Saskatchewan farmer David Orchard, are committed to "building a grass roots organization whose goal is Canadian independence". The national organization plans to embark on a cross-country tour to develop public awareness of what the trade deal truly means, and to encourage the continuation of the fight to stop the deal.

During the fall Smith has travelled in the Maritimes and eastern Canada organizing Orchard's speaking tour. Smith, and other volunteers, left their jobs or studies and dedicated two months to spreading the message about the trade deal. Her car has become

continued on page

L.U. FIGHTS HARASSMENT

by MYRNA HOLMAN

On Tuesday October 25, 1988 Lakehead University was visited by Marilyn McKenzie, Sexual Harassment Investigator for the University of Manitoba. Ms. McKenzie was here to conduct two training sessions for employees who have been designated as contacts for people with complaints of harassment. A two hour information session for senior administrators was also completed.

Ms. McKenzie dealt effectively with several myths surrounding the issue of harassment. She clearly indicated that releasing a policy and improving the profile of the policy will not result in a deluge of false complaints. People will however, be more comfortable coming forth with their concerns. She agreed with the Lakehead approach of instituting an informal process where people can talk about their experience without having to sign a complaint or "officially" deal with the alleged harasser. At the informal stage, the contact person dealing with complaint will be able to make suggestions, offer support and give direction. If the informal

process does not produce a satisfactory result, the complainant will be encouraged to make the complaint formal. At this stage, an investigation into the complaint will be completed and the alleged harasser will be made aware that a complaint has been lodged.

Ms. McKenzie's visit coincided with the release of a brochure outlining the Lakehead University Personal Harassment Policy which deals with all forms of harassment covered in the Ontario Human Rights Code. The Personal Harassment Brochure is hard to miss. The bright orange cover poses the question, "Who Can I Talk To?" Inside, there are examples of situations that might happen to staff, faculty or students. The brochure goes on to define harassment, outline suggestions for dealing with possible harassment scenarios, define the University stance on the issue and, identify three contact people who are trained to help. The contacts are, Myrna Holman, Human Resources Officer, Dave Parsons, Professor of English and, Joy Lawson, Director of Student Services.

As well as releasing the brochure and providing training, several other initiatives are in the process of being implemented. A special project, funded by the Secretary of State has resulted in the hiring of project co-ordinator, Jane Livingston. Jane has recently designed a great poster which is prominently displayed throughout the campus indicating that harassment is offensive and unacceptable. She is also about to conduct a survey of staff, faculty and students to assess the incidence of harassment on campus. Jane will also be designing a career strategy project for female students. This project will start in January. Jane can be reached at 343-8022 and will welcome any suggestions or assistance you may have.

Things are looking up at Lakehead!

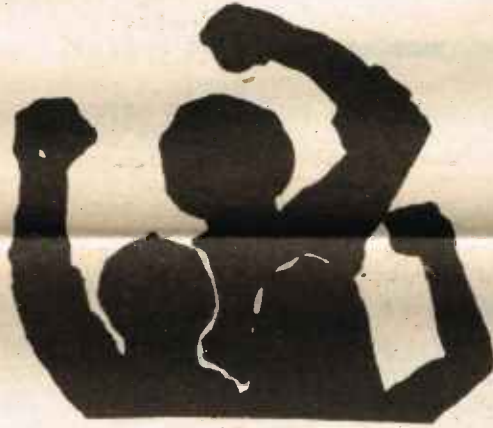
C.C.A.F.T. cont'd.

O.A.I.T.H. Lobby

by LENI UNTINEN

On November 28, 1988 the Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses carried out their annual lobby of members of the provincial government, on issues of concern to battered women and to shelters. Hopefully, political response to this action was more attentive than was the press. A prime concern of shelter boards and workers was the proposed funding formula for Transition Houses and Family Resource Centres. The inadequacy of the formula in terms of staff ratios, wages and definition of shelter services is a major barrier to shelters being able to provide safe, accessible, quality services in keeping with the increasing demands. This, however, was not the only issue addressed. Press reports of the lobby could have better served battered women by covering other major issues such as the push by O.A.I.T.H. to force to parliamentary committee Bill 124 addressing access by non-custodial parents.

Advocates for battered women have major concerns on the implication of this legislation for families where there is a history of violence. There must be an opportunity for public input and sending the bill to committee is the only avenue which allows this to take place. O.A.I.T.H. received commitment from opposition caucuses to such action.



Other issues addressed concerned services for immigrant, Native and Francophone women; the threat to services for battered women by either free trade or for-profit privatization; inappropriate sentences afforded perpetrators of violence against women; and the demand for the release of a report compiled regarding the instances of police pressing charges in cases of wife/woman assault.

The lobby organizers are to be commended for their efforts coordinating the focus of the 73 shelters and 6 organizations represented by O.A.I.T.H. as well as for their strong demonstration of unmet needs, lack of emergency beds and houses. Shelters were able to accommodate 8221 women and their children in the past year, but unfortunately were forced to turn away and refer elsewhere, 7594 women, approximately one for one. The lobby committee prepared huge scrolls with the names of 7594 women and called upon MPP's to address their responses to these women.

While the earth did not move because of the lobby, the government did not commit to open either the public purse, their hearts or their minds the voices of advocates were heard, and the pain of women experiencing violence at the hands of their partners, was felt.

Stop The Deal Mobile, easily recognized with its bilingual signs of Save Canada - Stop Free Trade.

"The response to our tour was incredible" Smith says. "All along the way new volunteers joined to help the tour. And we take credit for the dramatic drop in PC popularity in the Maritimes." Smith believes that if their (unfunded, volunteer) organization had had the time to travel the country the election results would have been quite different. She uses the election results in Saskatchewan as another example of the organization's effectiveness. CCAFT was founded in Saskatoon in 1983 and has been holding educational meetings and debates throughout the province in the last three years. The opposition vote in Saskatchewan was 62% and Ray Hynatyshyn, former Minister of Justice, and MP in Saskatoon, admitted his defeat was a result of the strength of the anti-free trade movement.

CCAFT are extremely angry that the Liberals and the New Democratic Party appear to have given up the fight against free trade. They point out that 53% of voters chose the Liberals and NDP, while only 43% voted Conservative; that over one million more Canadians voted for the parties opposed to free trade than for the trade deal Tories; that this election was essentially a referendum on free trade and the majority of Canadians clearly voted against it.

The Thunder Bay group have already met with MPs Iain Angus and Joe Comuzzi, urging the MPs to give leadership in fighting against the trade agreement. As well as lobbying opposition members, CCAFT members are calling and writing Senators to ask them to block the deal.

Thunder Bay CCAFT will be meeting regularly to plan local activities and cooperative action with the national organization. For more information contact Peggy Smith, 301 Cameron St. Thunder Bay, P7C 2H1, phone 623-1120.



WOMANPOWER

(for M/A)

I toil along weighed down within my earthly body,
Tired spirit searching for the well-worn path and cliff beyond:
Some strength inside remains to push me ever upward
Through the dense and hostile bush,
Til I can stop and rest in that clearing
Where Hope hangs warm and musky in the air.

(As I climb, the Power grows gradually stronger)

She is in the warmth of the sunlight that glides outside
a cloud and ripples along my crouching back.

She is in the cool damp earth that I grasp beneath
my scrambling hands.

She lilts her sweet siren sounds through the panting
of my labour, and from the cliff above me.

I see her in the rich soft browns of Mother Earth
that surround and encompass me.

She is playful in the small-animal sounds
that crackle around me.

(As I reach the top, the Power grows more confident, comes nearer)

She interlaces lightly with my trembling fingers.

She is softly on my parted lips like a gentle wind.

She sweeps through my tired veins and grows
strong and confident in the warm inside of me.

Silly, she cavorts on that plateau and draws me laughing
to the final step.

(I feel the primal call begin to gather deep within)

I raise my arms made strong high above me,
Firm palms outspread with welcome,

To invite the body-searing joy to join
and strengthen me.

From deep inside and all around
the primal Power gathers forth Her final burst.

The hills, the white-light sky, the sparkling emerald land
flash with my energy

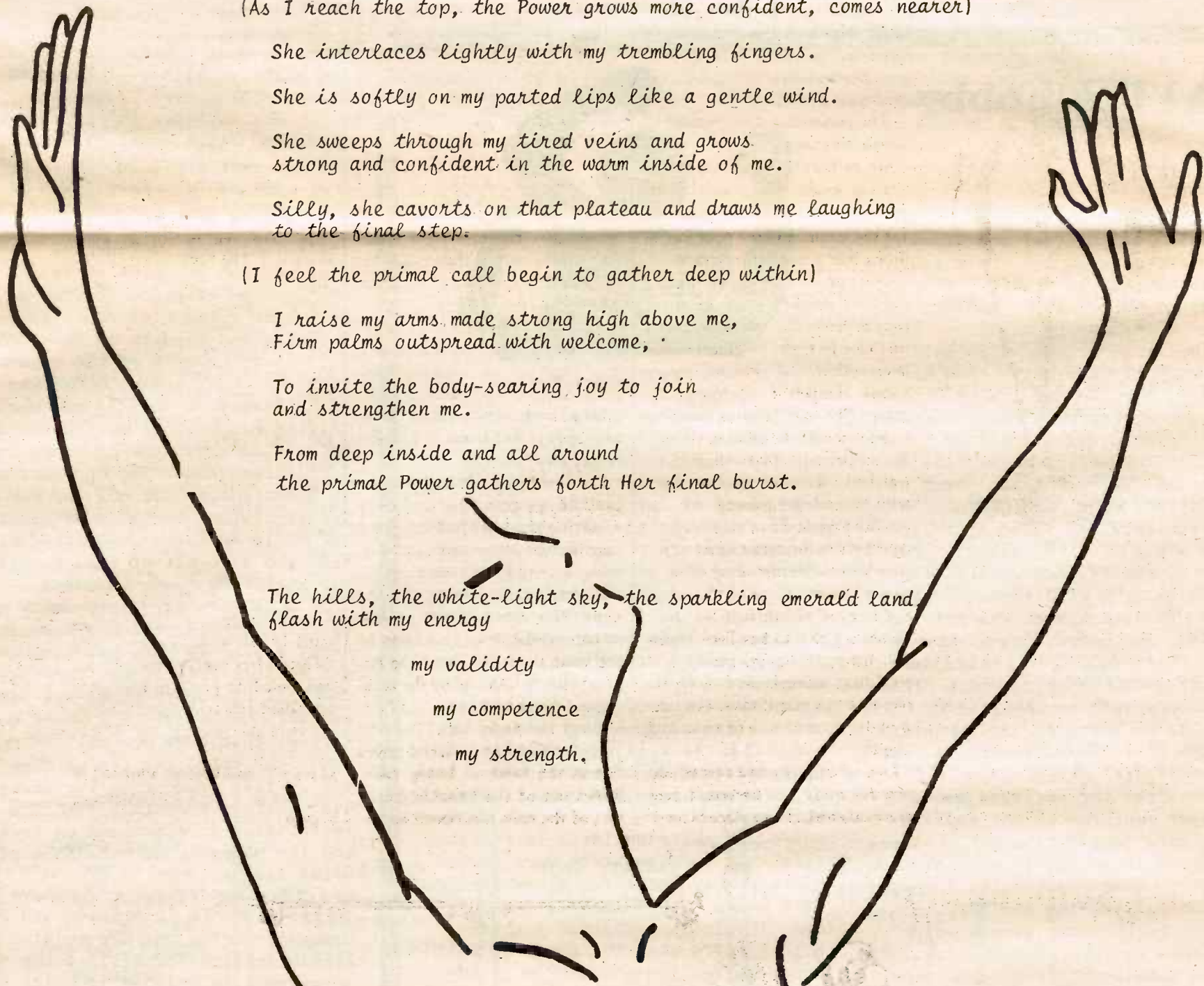
my validity

my competence

my strength.

I, strong flowing, gather up my earthly parts,
Head down the path once more.
Sweet song upon my lips, sultry smile within my throat,
To float above, and then to mesh with time
Until I need again the well-worn path and cliff beyond.

R.P.





WORDS WE LIVED BY..

The following is excerpted from the *Ladies' Guide*, a popular reference book of the 1890s.

EFFECTS OF SOLITARY VICE IN GIRLS

The victim of this evil habit is certain to suffer sooner or later the penalty which nature invariably inflicts upon those who transgress her laws. Every law of nature is enforced by an inexorable penalty. This is emphatically true respecting the laws which relate to the sexual organs.

Wide observation has convinced us that a great many of the back-aches, side-aches, and other aches and pains of which girls complain, are attributable to this injurious habit. Much of the nervousness, hysteria, neuralgia, and general worthlessness of girls originates in this cause alone.

The period of puberty is one at which thousands of girls break down in health. The constitution, already weakened by a debilitating, debasing vice, is not prepared for the strain, and the poor victim drops into a premature grave.

SIGNS OF SELF-ABUSE IN GIRLS

Mothers should always be on the alert to detect the first evidences of this vice in their daughters, since later nothing but almighty power seems competent to loosen its grasp. The only positive evidence is detection of the child in the act. A suspected child should be watched under all circumstances with unceasing vigilance.

[But] aside from positive evidence, there are other signs which may lead to the discovery of positive evidence.

• *A marked change in disposition.* When a girl who has been truthful, happy, obliging, gentle, and confiding, becomes peevish, irritable, morose, and disobedient, she is under the influence of some foul blight.

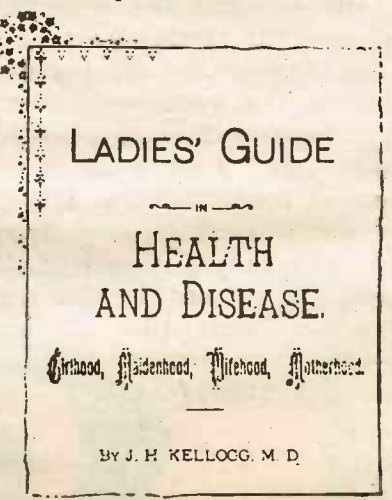
• *Loss of memory and loss of the love for study.* The nervous forces are weakened, giving place to men-

tal weakness and inactivity.

• *Unnatural boldness in a little girl.* If she has previously been reserved, this is just ground for the suspicion of secret vice.

• *A forward or loose manner in company with little boys.* Girls addicted to this habit are guilty of the most wanton conduct.

• *Languor and lassitude.* In a girl who has possessed a marked de-



gree of activity and energy, this should give rise to earnest solicitude on the part of the mother for the physical and moral condition of her child.

• *An unnatural appetite.* Sometimes children will show an excessive fondness for mustard, pepper, vinegar, and spices. Little girls who are very fond of cloves are likely to be depraved in other respects.

• *The presence of leukorrhoea.* Self-abuse occasions a frequently recurring congestion of the parts, together with the mechanical irritation accompanying the habit.

• *Ulceration about the roots of the nails.* This especially affects one or both of the first two fingers of the hand, the irritation of the fingers being occasioned by the acrid vaginal discharge.

• *Biting the fingernails.* The irritation of the fingers, which gives rise to the habit of biting nails, grows out of the irritable condition of the nails mentioned above.

• *The expression of the eyes.* The dull, lusterless eye, surrounded by a dark ring, tells the tale of sin.

• *Palpitations of the heart, hysteria, nervousness, St. Vitus's dance, epilepsy, and incontinence of urine, giving rise to wetting the bed.*

HOW TO CURE VICIOUS HABITS

The habit of self-pollution is one which when thoroughly established, is by no means easily broken. The victim of this most terrible vice is held in the most abject slavery, the iron fetters of habit daily closing the prisoner more and more tightly in their grasp. The effect is to weaken the moral sense perhaps more rapidly than any other vice, until there is little left in the child's character to which an appeal can be made.

The mother should first carefully set before the child the exceeding sinfulness of the habit, its loathsomeness and vileness, and the horrible consequences which follow in its wake. But in most cases, the evil is not so easily mastered. The little girl should be kept under constant observation every moment of her waking hours. Care should be taken that the child does not feign sleep for the purpose of gaining an opportunity to avoid observation.

It is much more difficult to cure this soul-destroying vice in girls than in boys. They are seldom as ready to confess their guilt as are boys, and then are less easily influenced by a portrayal of its terrible consequences. Sleepless vigilance must be coupled with the most persevering patience.

In obstinate cases, severe means must be adopted. We were once obliged after every other measure had failed, to perform a surgical operation [clitoridectomy] before we were able to break the habit in the case of a girl of eight or ten years who had become addicted to the vice to a most extraordinary degree.





The past four years of Tory rule has demonstrated an unprecedented move toward privatization, with the resulting loss of jobs in the public sector, and contracting out to non-unionized agents (where women workers earn barely the minimum wage). With the right of national treatment and the right of establishment provisions of the trade agreement, American pressure will reinforce the already odious privatization of the Tories.

With increased privatization everyone suffers. We are not simply talking about selling Air Canada. We are talking about the privatization of services -- health care, social services, education, day care. Workers will suffer job loss, lower wages, decreased benefits, inadequate health and safety workplace conditions. Consumers will suffer because the quality of service will decrease.

JOB

Thousands of Canadian women will lose their jobs in services, manufacturing and agriculture because of the trade deal. The majority of women are employed in the service sector and their jobs will be threatened as restrictions on the provision of services from outside the country are removed. Just about every type of service can be traded internationally, including banking, data processing, telecommunications, computer services and culture.

In the manufacturing sector it is women's jobs that are most at risk ... eg textiles, clothing, food processing, electrical and electronic products, and other consumer goods. It is speculated that in Thunder Bay some 200 manufacturing jobs will quickly disappear -- jobs held primarily by immigrant women.

WORKING CONDITIONS

Free trade is about "competition". To be competitive Canadian workers (women and men) will be under assault. Wages, working conditions, health and safety standards will all be eroded in the name of competition.

On average, Canadian workers enjoy better employee benefits, more regulated health and safety standards, than do American workers. But as Ralph Nader said you never harmonize up, you only harmonize down. As with social programs, worker benefits and protection will be eroded. This erosion will affect non-unionized workers (the majority of women) first, but even organized workers will be pressured to give up hard-earned gains.

EMPLOYMENT EQUITY/PAY EQUITY

We will be lucky to retain the concept of 'equal pay for equal work' much less advance the concept of 'equal pay for work of equal value'.

Pay/Employment Equity is not addressed in the trade agreement. It doesn't need to be. It will be the business lobby that will demand the government backtrack on its (inadequate) commitment to employment equity for the disabled and visible minorities, to pay equity for women. It will be too "expensive", just not "competitive" to ensure justice and dignity for disadvantaged Canadians.

DAY CARE

With a majority government the Tories doubtless will reintroduce the equivalent of Bill C-144, the disastrous Child Care Act, that died when the election was called.

Two things should be kept in mind regarding this child care legislation. Firstly, the promotion of the Tory plan is a fine example of the newspeak the government is capable of, when declaring the proposed child care act "will encourage economic justice and development by giving many more mothers a chance to join the workforce" (CJ July/88). The legislation does no such thing. Rather this new bill will restrict the expansion of day care spaces. Remember that 1,000,000 new day care spaces are needed today to even approach the needs of Canadian families. Under the existing Canada Assistance Plan it is projected that 300,000 new spaces would be created in seven years, but under the new act a limit of 200,000 new spaces



will be imposed. This is regressive legislation which will only worsen the day care crisis that already exists.

The second thing to remember is the refusal of the government to consider the advice of child care experts (who unanimously condemn the plan): "Why should I listen.." Brian Mulroney arrogantly replied during the TV leaders debate. Since the Tories are not listening to the child care community, we must ask just who they are listening to.

Consider the links to free trade. Bill C-144 would give unprecedented tax support to commercial day care operations. The doors will be open to American day care chains... with their history of exploitative wages and poor working conditions for staff, and lack of quality care for children (never mind the indoctrination of American culture on three year olds).

Commercial day care has never been a problem in Northwestern Ontario... we must recognize that the influx of American day care chains could destroy the quality day care Northwestern Ontario communities now take pride in.

ABORTION

What will happen here is not so easy to read. There are, of course, significant numbers of anti-choice Tories and Liberals. The Conservative Cabinet yearns for a "compromise" solution, but given the abortion legislation exercise witnessed last summer, a simple compromise seems unlikely. One suspects that most Tory men would like strong anti-choice legislation, but their legal experts caution that such would not pass Supreme Court scrutiny. About the only safe presumptions are that (1) abortion legislation will not be introduced early in this government's term; (2) that anti-choice crusaders will increase their efforts to influence parliament, and (3) that the pro-choice movement still has many years of hard work ahead.

continued on p14



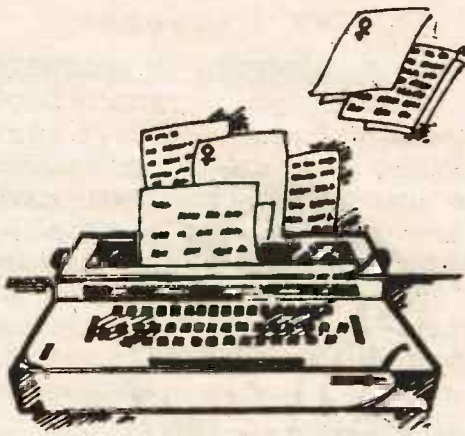
Carol A. Simpson ©1984

Book Review

Reviewed by Kit Minor

A Passion for Friends: Toward a Philosophy of Female Affection.
Janice Raymond. Beacon Press,
Boston, 1986.

I found this one of the most moving texts that I have read in many months. It definitely should be on every Feminist bookshelf. The New York Times states that Raymond provides "an unsentimental, playful yet sobering look at female friendship through the ages." She begins the book with an intriguing and informative look at the origins of female friendship and the roles which they have played through the centuries. She develops terms such as Gyn/affection for those tremendous bonds that bring women together. She is clear and well documented in her analysis of the myths that have been perpetuated concerning women and our role in hetero-relations, i.e. the wide range of effective, social, political and economic relations that are ordained between men and women by men.



Raymond particularly attends to two groups of women, nuns and the Chinese marriage resisters, to emphasize the characteristics of female friendship and also points out clearly the struggles which these two groups have had to endure to retain the friendship and the chosen lifestyles. Although these two groups offered to women a community, Raymond is careful to point out that this does not necessarily mean a Feminist community. She cautions, "feminists can learn that when a movement or women's community becomes hardened into rhetorical positions, when the language of thought and cliches begins to prevail, there is no genuine feminist movement." (pg. 111)

The obstacles to female friendship which Raymond introduces are indeed thought provoking and, indeed, she does challenge some of the "gi-

vens" within a feminist perspective. One of these areas is the "personal is political". To this Raymond asks do we really want to publicize our personal lives. She supports the need for private space and time while living in the world as opposed to dissociation from reality. She points out that if we are not in reality we may well become ignorant of the real conditions.

The part of *A Passion for Friends* which had the greatest affect upon myself was that of victimism. "Women's primary female or feminist identity seems to be grounded in women's shared state of having been victimized by men" (pg.181). We then take on the traits of the victim and begin to centre our friendships along common lines of that victimism. Our friendships result out of how we feel as victims. The result is that we fall into the tyranny of therapist, where feminists feel that we are not completely whole unless we search deep into our souls and spirits and pull out every dark shadow. The reality here is that after we have done this we very often end up in worse shape than when we started. Raymond also challenges the tyranny of tolerance where we as feminists put up with incompetence among other women because we tolerate the situation and silently

Music Review

by JANE SAUNDERS

The women's music industry which has been in existence for 15 or more years, has evolved into a major facet of women's culture. The number of artists and the quality of production has greatly increased. Two recent albums from a couple of women's music regulars are Deidre McCalla's *WITH A LITTLE LUCK* (Olivia Records 1987), and Heather Bishop's *A TASTE OF THE BLUES* (Iceberg Records 1987).

Deidre McCalla has been on the women's music scene for many years, touring, and playing small clubs with mixed audiences. In the last few years she has really come into the limelight with her debut album *DON'T DOUBT IT* (Olivia Records 1985). *WITH A LITTLE LUCK* is very similar to *DON'T DOUBT IT* with its' dancable, energetic style. Both are very professionally produced by long-time women's music singer and songwriter Teresa Trull. *WITH A LITTLE LUCK* has all of the qualities which make women's music great. It is womanly, loving and reflective with strong personal and mildly political views.

Deidre's voice weaves through the ballads *TOO GOOD*, *MAMA'S LITTLE BABY GIRL*, *AND WAIT UNTIL MORNING*. Then there is the 'hot' Teresa Trull duet *WOULD YOU LIKE TO DANCE*, and the punchy, upbeat blues tune *THE CAT SONG* (for those who have lived with other peoples cats). Also, there is the upbeat dancable pop style *ALL DAY ALWAYS*.

*tea, conversation, relaxation, work, help, community
a sense of belonging, an organization as needed
a place of equals where all were welcome
a middle point equally distant from all sides
a place where all sides were allowed their focus*

*seriousness and frivolity
reach out and allow to be reached
the embracing of ideas, of spirits
a sense of belonging, political if the need was there
a sense of sisterhood regardless of politics*

*my focus
her focus
our focus*

*no longer a community, a meeting place
no longer equally distant from all sides*

The album has a well-rounded variety of rock, blues and country/folk. It is a successful follow-up to her smash first album. Deidre McCalla is a very popular women's music entertainer who is energetic, personable and very professional (and woman produced and managed).



Heather Bishop's *TASTE OF THE BLUES* is a continuation of the stylish trends apparent in her previous album *I LOVE WOMEN WHO LAUGH*, and blends with her older music as well. This album contains rock influences, discusses lesbian/feminist politics and portrays women as strong builders and healers. Those women's music connoisseurs who know Heather will not be disappointed (and for those less fortunate, there is no better place to start).

My personal favourite on this album is the cute, stylish and humorous *SEDUCED*. The new upbeat sound of *ON THE RUN AGAIN* is typical of Heather's new style trend. *IF YOU LOVE FREEDOM* is destined to become a political anthem, and the blues tune *TELL ME MORE AND MORE* must be heard. Heather also pulls out and revamps some 'oldies'

ranny of therapist, where feminists feel that we are not completely whole unless we search deep into our souls and spirits and pull out every dark shadow. The reality here is that after we have done this we very often end up in worse shape than when we started. Raymond also challenges the tyranny of tolerance where we as feminists put up with incompetence among other women because we tolerate the situation and silently accept it. It has become unfeminist to speak out against a woman, particularly a feminist, even when the woman is incompetent, manipulating and may well damage the movement. "The tyranny of tolerance deprives not only the individuals but also a political movement of its capacity for discernment. It gaps a moral passion and purpose from feminist politics" (pg.171). These obstacles, to female friendship (and these are just a few of the many which Raymond points out) keep us from the true power and caring which happens when women come together. The obstacles hasten us towards hetero-relationship and silence within the world. And yet, as Raymond points out Gyn/affection "has given us an understanding that a life of mere survival is insufficient for the spirit" (pg.200).

In a vision of a female friendship Raymond points out that there is no magical formula, nor should it be taken for granted that women have a natural possession of virtue. "Rather it is anchored in the historical, cultural and material bonds that women have created for ourselves, in spite of the 'State of Atrocity'" (pg.218). She encourages the reader to vision and to develop "thoughtful theory - one that restores the thoughtfulness to thinking. Or better still, thinking is the theory, thoughtfulness

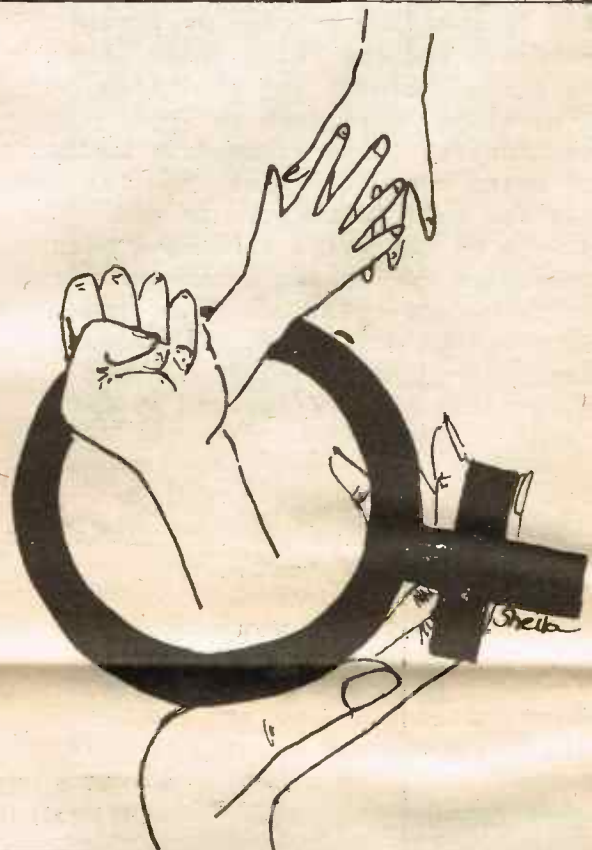


the practice" (pg.218). She encourages us to include passion within our friendships but points out that time is a critical factor. Friendship takes time, thoughtful passionate friendship takes more time, thought and caring, and commitment from both. Friendship is a togetherness journey.

I obviously enjoyed this book immensely. In fact I read it twice. It is one book that I know I will reflect back upon and will want to reread every so often. At times the book is painfully truthful, and then Raymond has a wonderful gift of being able to see through the pain to a vision of truthful friendship; however somehow through the writing the reader begins to form her own idea of friendship. Raymond asks some hard questions, which most feminists are just too polite or silent to ask, but she asks so gently that the reader gets a sense of having gone through the struggle, feeling good about that struggle, and thinking a lot more about thoughtful, passionate, caring friendship with women, and taking the time for those friendships to grow.

such as Joan Armatrading's TAKING MY BABY UPTOWN and a sultry version of Leslie Gore's YOU DON'T OWN ME. On the heavier side is the song DADDY'S LITTLE GIRL; similar to Lucy Blue Tremblay's VOIX d'ENFANT (A CHILD'S VOICE) it decries the horror of incest. Rounding off the album is Heather's classic SPIRIT HEALER. A TASTE OF THE BLUES captured the vocal power of Heather Bishop's singing exactly as I heard it on her spring of '87 album tour. This album is a must for Heather Bishop fans.

These albums and more will soon be available in the Northern Women's Bookstore. Watch for advertisement in the Journal or contact Margaret Phillips at the Bookstore.



Word Search

Women Authors

J Y K S N E L F R A S E R S S W D
 E I A R E V L I S N O S T A W H L
 C U L L E T O N S G I E M I T A A
 N N A E R C U N X O N O S Y O R N
 E A W E S T G I O M H E M M O V O
 R M U N R O H G F T M S R O F O D
 U K F B B U T A L A L L C R R R E
 A I T K E N O N N I E O N A A N C
 L N N O C R N A P G N O T N B W T
 M A R L A T T P N N S W R N E D E
 W I L S O N E E E I O U Y I A W R
 B S B A R R B L L O B S N E D A W
 G R S O J R L L D L P Z R D L R R
 A E A A E C A L L A W S N E E L R
 U B C N N N I F G E S Y N A D A A
 L K G A D D S E I C O N W A Y N C
 T B E I L T O G B R O S S A R D A

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Aitken (Johan Lyall) | Harvor (Elizabeth) |
| Allison (Gay) | Jiles (Paulette) |
| Alley (Jennifer) | Laurence (Margaret) |
| Anderson (Doris) | Lenskyj (Helen) |
| Atwood (Margaret) | Marlatt (Daphne) |
| Barfoot (Joan) | Meigs (Mary) |
| Barr (Elinor) | Moran (Mary) |
| Beadle (Gert) | Munro (Alice) |
| Bersianik (Louky) | Naubert (Yvette) |
| Bertell (Rosalie) | O'Connell (Dorothy) |
| Blais (Marie Claire) | Oughton (Libby) |
| Brand (Dionne) | Page (P.K.) |
| Brossard (Nicole) | Roy (Gabrielle) |
| Burnard (Bonnie) | Sand (Cy-Thea) |
| Butala (Sharon) | Silvera (Mikeda) |
| Carr (Emily) | Slipperjack (Ruby) |
| Conn (Jan) | Smyth (Donna) |
| Conway (Shelagh) | Swan (Susan) |
| Crean (Susan) | Thomas (Audrey) |
| Culleton (Beatrice) | Wallace (Bronwen) |
| Danys (Milda) | Warland (Betsy) |
| Decter (Ann) | Warren (Dianne) |
| Donald (Christine) | Watson (Sheila) |
| Engel (Marian) | Weinzweig (Helen) |
| Finn (Geraldine) | West (Ann) |
| Finnigan (Joan) | Wilson (Ethel) |
| Fox (Bonnie) | Wiseman (Adele) |
| Fraser (Sylvia) | Yanz (Lynda) |
| Gadd (Maxine) | |
| Gault (Connie) | |
| Gotlieb (Phyllis) | |

APOLOGY

THE NORTHERN WOMAN JOURNAL

APOLOGIZES ABJECTLY

TO

PHOTO ARTIST

RUTHANN TUCKER
OF TORONTO

FOR FAILING TO CREDIT

HER WITH LAST ISSUE'S

COVER PHOTO.

From the National Film Board of Canada

**250 VIDEOS
AND FILMS
FOR**

ALL ABOUT WOMEN

- WOMEN'S AND OTHER COMMUNITY GROUPS
- HOME VIDEO VIEWERS
- PROFESSIONALS (NURSES, TEACHERS, AND SOCIAL WORKERS)
- PUBLIC LIBRARIANS, COMMUNITY WORKERS
- MUNICIPAL, PROVINCIAL AND FEDERAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Choose from our collection of short and long documentary, fiction and animated films and videos that inform, entertain, and promote discussion on a wide range of subjects.

HEALTH, WELL BEING AND FITNESS



- Pregnancy
- PMS
- Menopause
- Aging
- Disabilities

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES



- Family violence, rape, incest
- Abortion
- War, peace, disarmament
- Working mothers, childcare
- Single mothers, divorce, women in poverty

WOMEN WHO LED THE WAY



- in sports, the arts, religion, politics and the feminist movement
- in rural and native communities, unions, the armed forces, business and non-traditional jobs

RENT

**RENT A VIDEO
OR FILM!**

VIDEO: \$2 EACH DAY

16 mm: \$4-\$8 service charge, valid for five days (excluding time in transit)
Available for pick-up or by mail from all NFB libraries in Canada.

BUY

Buy a video for as little as \$29.95; film prices start at \$72.80.

Members of the NFB's Women's Market Development Group are located in NFB offices across Canada. They can help you select films and videos for your group or event. See "National Film Board" listed under the "Government of Canada" section in the blue pages of your telephone directory.

I'd like to know more about NFB films for women .

- Please add my name to your mailing list announcing new releases and send me a copy of your video rental catalogue.
- Please send me your new catalogue of films for women (available in early 1989).
- Please send me the new publication *Women Breaking Through*, a 28-page audio-visual guide for secondary schools.

NAME _____

INSTITUTION _____

POSITION _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

PROVINCE _____

POSTAL CODE _____

MAIL TO:

National Film Board of Canada,
Women's Market Development
Group,
D-5,
P.O. Box 6100,
Montreal, Quebec
H3C 3H5



National
Film Board
of Canada

Office
national du film
du Canada

CANADIAN CULTURE

With good reason, Canadian writers, artists, musicians, have been amongst the most passionate opponents of the trade deal. This article cannot begin to address the issues surrounding our cultural industries, except to note that - despite government rhetoric - Canadians, indeed, should be fearful for the future of our cultural industries.

We need also to make a distinction between cultural industries and culture. We must understand the threat to Canadian culture, as expressed by Martin F. Katz in the November issue of Quill and Quire. Katz states "Culture is that bedrock of shared beliefs and understandings that allows Canadians to exchange ideas, feelings, and priorities about business and poverty and the role of the military and social justice and the environment and gun control and equality, for example. This bedrock of understanding - of common or similar goals and principles - constitutes the foundation of our culture... To the extent that the trade deal will import into the Canadian cultural bedrock some of the basic and fundamental economic principles of American life, it will subvert or alter the development of this culture. Once we accept, for example, as we have in the trade deal, that regional development programs distort "free trade" while military installations that brings jobs and prosperity to the communities in which they are established do not, the way we think about government spending, among other things, changes. This kind of change in our thinking means that our culture will be affected by the trade deal."

FEMINIST LITERATURE

Over the past decade the growth of feminist literature - the heart, head and soul of the feminist movement - has been phenomenal. Hundreds of new Canadian women writers are published each year, women's presses have developed, and feminist bookstores have sprung up across the country. The contribution of this surge of writing - both creative and theoretical - is immeasurable. But if the Conservatives have their way this continued growth of feminist (and alternative) publications will be hampered, perhaps killed outright.

High on the Tory agenda is the implementation of tax reform which would replace the federal sales tax with a new broad-based, multi-stage tax which would apply to books. (At present books are not taxed.) It is projected that this new sales tax would add a tax of between 17% - 20% on all reading materials. (Your \$9.95 Almanac will become \$12, your \$22.95 Our Bodies, Ourselves will be \$27.50, even the least expensive paperback will increase \$1 or more.)

The end result will be that many small Canadian presses (which, in the main, are the publishers of new women writers) will go bankrupt. Most of the independent bookstores in Canada will close. Most Canadian women writers won't get published. Our words will not be heard.

Periodicals will be likewise affected. And the "unfair subsidy" issue of the trade deal may come into play. Most Canadian literary and special interest magazines now receive government subsidies, and their future is in jeopardy. The demise of HERIZONS and Newsmagazine for Alberta Women is fair warning of what happens



when subsidies are withdrawn. (As the Northern Woman Journal does not accept government funding we may survive the fate of subsidy-dependent magazines. But we, like every periodical in Canada, enjoy a postal subsidy, which most likely will disappear, thus the Journal may have to pass resulting cost increases on to our readers.)

If we want to continue to have a choice beyond Cosmopolitan or Hustler, we must all join the DON'T TAX READING campaign presently being organized by Canadian publishers and booksellers.

It is particularly ironic that the government proclaims to be supportive of programs that address the problem of illiteracy, at the same time it plans to impose a tax on reading.

Misinformation Campaign

The federal election is over. The Conservatives waged (at taxpayer expense) a misinformation campaign about free trade, a misinformation campaign about their child care strategy. We can expect a similar misinformation campaign about tax reform and other new policy initiatives.

The Conservatives do not have a mandate for their agenda (57% voted against the Conservatives, 43% for). They do, however, have the power to impose their agenda as they have the majority of parliamentary seats. They have the power to destroy the modest reforms the feminist movement created. The power to destroy our culture, our identity, our country. We must not let this happen.

Now more than ever, we must advance a feminist agenda of the future. We do not have the financial resources of government - of big business. But we have our commitment. It is our future that is at stake.



**NORTHERN
WOMAN'S
BOOKSTORE**
184 Camelot St

DATE BOOKS

EVERYWOMAN'S ALMANAC

HERSTORY

PEACE DATE BOOK

WE'MOON ALMANAC

WOMEN ARTISTS DATEBOOK

WOMEN WRITERS

Calendars

AFRO-CARIBBEAN CALENDAR

CARRY IT ON .. PEACE CALENDAR

**CAT LOVERS
AGAINST THE BOMB**



**1989
CALENDAR**

NEW SOCIETY PUBLISHERS

CHILDREN OF THE WORLD

MOON CALENDAR

LET NICARAGUA LIVE

CRYSTAL CALENDARS

LUNAR CALENDAR

PICTURE A WOMAN

CONTEMPORARY WOMEN ARTISTS



**Thursday & Friday :
11.30 - 600**

Saturday: 11.30 - 4.30

Ferron

Concert

Planned

By Donna Koivisto

"We love you Ferron!" a female voice cries out from a back row. There is some applause and a few whistles.

Ferron puts her hands on her chest, lifts her eyebrows as if to say, "Who me?" Then she leans close to the mike and says softly, "I love you too."

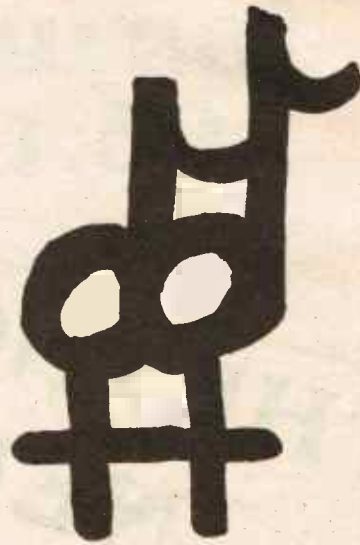
The intensity and poetic magic of Ferron's music has earned her acclaim across the world. It is in this spirit that Kamazon Productions is proud to present an evening with Ferron, tentatively scheduled for February 14, 1989.

Originally from Vancouver, B.C., Ferron has progressed from coffee houses to sellout crowds in 2000 seat venues. Her two albums, *Testimony* and *Shadows on a dime* have sold more than 80,000 copies. However, despite success Ferron has maintained a low centre of gravity and an interview with her would more likely focus on the metaphysical, dreams or the mystery of songwriting than on tour schedules or record sales. She is, in fact, an intimidating figure to unenlightened reporters. "I'm a spirit who became a person." She said in a recent interview. This philosophy is not conducive to mainstream news reporting.

But her substantial talent, wisdom and compassion have brought her above the need for media categorization, yielding fans who have remained unshakably loyal to the feminist/lesbian bard.

Perhaps Ferron's hardest task was becoming the self-assured performer she is today. "When I was younger I was so afraid of the audience, because I needed their love so much," she says, "It took me a long time to realize they did love me."

This bond of love between Ferron and her audience evolved because she is simply herself. Amid the strength of her poetic words the audience senses her vulnerability and honesty. "They honour me and I honour them."



*But I don't forget about the
factory,
I don't expect this ride to
always be,
Can I give you what you want
to see?
Can we do it one more time?*

Tickets for Ferron will be available soon. For more information phone Kamazon Productions at 344-4811.

Bookstore News



Let's start with fiction this month. Heading the list of course is Margaret Atwood's new novel *CAT'S EYE*. (McClelland and Stewart). I've been saving it as my Christmas treat to myself, as I'm told once you start it you can't put it down.

Of particular interest to Northwestern Ontario readers will be Ruby Slipperjack's *HONOUR THE SUN* (Pemmican), a first novel which gives us a glimpse of growing up in an isolated native community on the CNR line. From the eyes of a 10 year old girl we see the beauty, the pathos, the joy, the despair of coming of age in an alienated community (so familiar to Northern Ontario). *HONOUR THE SUN* is not a gentle book, yet it is told in such a gentle voice, I'm left with a sense of awe.

Several new titles from the small Saskatchewan publisher Coteau Books who in the past have given us such impressive books as Sharon Butula's *QUEEN OF THE HEADACHES*, and *THE WEDNESDAY FLOWER MAN*. This year they give us two short story collections that sound great: *WOMEN OF INFLUENCE* by Bonnie Burnard, and *BEST KEPT SECRETS* by Pat Krause.

The most powerful indictment of violence against women I've ever read (and I've read many) comes from the novel *WOMAN AT POINT ZERO* (Zed Books) by Nawal el Saadawi, (translated from the Arabic by Dr. Sherif Hetata). el Saadawi

is Egypt's foremost novelist. Her prose is magnificent but it is her passion that makes her books exceptional.

We are very happy to find a number of great books back in print. Three of Margaret Laurance's early works - *THE TOMORROW TAKER*, *THIS SIDE JORDAN*, and *THE PROPHET'S CAMEL BELL*. And finally I've had the chance to read Marian Engel's *THE GLASSY SEA* - a very, very fine novel. Also *PATIENCE AND SARAH* by Isabel Miller, considered by many to be the best lesbian novel ever published.

Turning to non-fiction, a title we mentioned last issue but one that bears greater description, *THE COURAGE TO HEAL* by Ellen Bass and Laura Davis (Harper and Row) is a guide book for women survivors of child sexual abuse. This is a practical and healing guide covering Recognizing, Coping, Breaking silence, Trusting Yourself, Grieving, Anger, Self-Esteem, Feelings and much more; as well as guides for supporters of survivors. *THE COURAGE TO HEAL* is proving to be a vital resource to survivors and counsellors.

Two new books on date rape, both useful healing and prevention resources. *I NEVER CALLED RAPE*, the Ms. Report on Recognizing, Fighting, and Surviving Date and Acquaintance Rape by Robin Warshaw (Harper and Row), and *WARNING! DATING MAY BE HAZARDOUS TO YOUR HEALTH!* by Claudette McShane (Mother Courage Press).

Following in the path of the essential health book *OUR BODIES, OURSELVES*, comes an equally important resource for midlife and older women, *OURSELVES, GROWING OLDER*, by Paula Brown Doress and Diana Laskin Siegal and the Midlife and Older Woman Book Project (Simon and Schuster). This is the only book I've found that gave me useful information about a recent health concern, I'm sure this comprehensive book will be equally welcomed by other mature women.

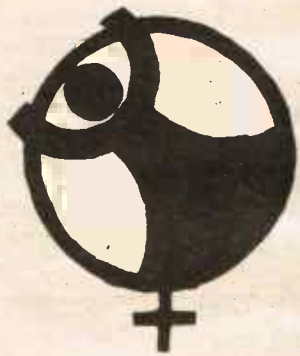
Another new health book is *ALIVE AND WELL*, a Lesbian Health Guide, by Cuca Hepburn, Ph.D. with Bonnie Gutierrez, R.N., CPNA (Crossing Press). "...a well-informed, loving guide to lesbian health, both mental and physical. Rather than to prescribe specific health care, the goal is to present a range of health care options for lesbians to consider."

Finally, for last minute Christmas shoppers some gift ideas: *Motherpeace Tarot Cards and/or Playbook*; records/cassettes by Kim Erickson, Karen Howe, Cathy Miller, Heather Bishop; posters, or any of a wide variety of calendars and date books. Or, if your imagination falters, give a gift certificate to the Northern Woman's Bookstore.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!
Margaret Phillips

THE NORTHERN WOMAN NEEDS YOU!

ARTISTS



Share your innovative and original expressions with all of us --- same deal!

hi-tech

YES INDEED

Our subscription lists are now on computer. We can be more accurate and up to date with our mailings. Please check your label to see if your address and expiration date is correct.

THANKS.

WE NEED TO KNOW YOU'RE OUT THERE

We haven't heard from some of you in a while. Many of our subscriptions have expired. Have you moved and we aren't reaching you? Do we no longer meet your needs? Complain and keep subscribing. If you already have a subscription - introduce the NORTHERN WOMAN to a friend.

WORDS WANTED

REWARD

For any unsolicited copy - original articles, stories - that we use you will be given a free one year subscription for yourself or a friend.

WE'VE MOVED

Please send all articles, graphics and subscription requests to:

NORTHERN WOMAN JOURNAL
P.O. BOX 144
THUNDER BAY, ONTARIO
P7C 4V5

HERE'S MY SUB:

Name _____

Address _____

Individual \$5

Institutional \$10

The NORTHERN WOMAN JOURNAL is a vehicle to encourage a feminist awareness of the situation of women in our society and to provide an alternative to the patriarchal media. We speak to women fighting against sexism, racism, homophobia and heterosexism. Striving to be a communication link between women in Northwestern Ontario, in addition to articles of global and national concern. We also seek material of particular relevance to Northwestern Ontario women.

All material selected for inclusion will be chosen by the consensus of the collective. All original submissions are reviewed. It is preferable that the author do any content editing required, but the collective will edit with the author's permission.

Producing a newspaper by volunteer labour and without funding is an enormous task. Feminist newspapers throughout Canada are constantly struggling to survive. The NORTHERN WOMAN JOURNAL has survived longer than many and with your support we will continue to grow.

There are many ways that you can assist the JOURNAL. Original articles, reviews, graphics and literary contributions are always welcomed. News items about district women's issues, concerns and services, not otherwise widely publicized are important. Locating distribution points in regional communities, and encouraging subscription purchases would really help.



RETURN TO:

THE NORTHERN WOMAN JOURNAL
P.O. BOX 144
THUNDER BAY, ONTARIO
P7C 4V5

Return Postage Guaranteed.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- p2 EDITORIAL - ELECTION RESULT
- p3 SOLSTICE THOUGHTS
- p4 JOSIE WALLENIUS: PERFORMANCE ARTIST
- p5 ONTARIO WOMEN'S DIRECTORATE
- p6 UPDATE
- p7 L.U. FIGHTS HARRASSMENT
OATH LOBBY
- p8 WOMANPOWER
- p9 WORDS WE LIVED BY . . .
- p11 BOOK AND MUSIC REVIEWS
- p12 WORD SEARCH

Collectively produced

CAROLYN GREENWOOD-MARY-ANN KLEYNENDORST
JONI MACE-KIT MINOR-LORETTA PAVAN-
MARGARET PHILLIPS-ROSE PITTIS-CYNTHIA STOLZ

Northern Woman Journal

P.O. BOX 144
THUNDER BAY, ONTARIO
P7C 4V5

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

