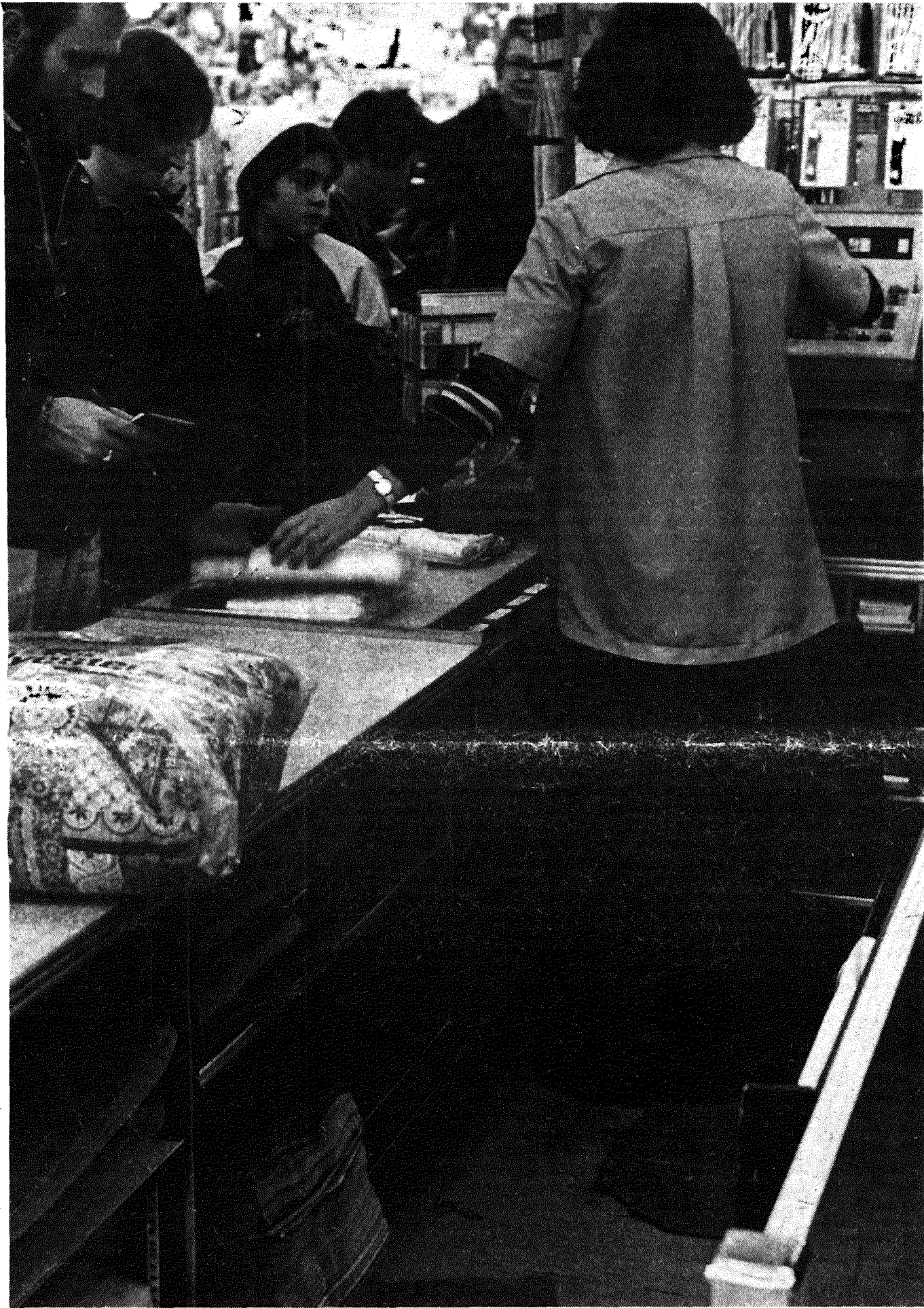


UPSTREAM 25¢

VOLUME 1 NO. 2

AN OTTAWA WOMEN'S PUBLICATION November 11, 1976



Women strike K-Mart-Kresge boycott called

by Jane Mingay

OTTAWA — Workers at two Windsor K-Mart stores are into their twenty-second week of a strike over their first union contract with the company, and the Ontario Federation of Labour (OFL) has called a province-wide boycott of K-Mart and Kresge stores.

The 150 workers, almost all women whose average age is 55, belong to local 725 of the Canadian Food and Allied Workers (CFAW). Mainly clerks, they are now involved in a bitter struggle with the multi-million dollar Kresge empire, owners of K-Marts.

Strikers' main concern is union security, but wages, health and welfare and job security are also at stake.

Before workers struck they were subject to changes in their shifts and working hours with no notice, arbitrary transfer from job to job and firing without due cause or process, said Dennis Sexton, secretary-treasurer of CFAW's Ontario retail council.

Sexton said in a telephone interview he feels if workers get union security everything else will fall into place.

The real issue, at least as far as management is concerned, seems to be unionization itself. The Windsor stores represent two of 3,000 Kresge and K-Mart stores in North America. Sexton says he knows of only one other store, in Sault Ste. Marie, which is unionized.

"They don't want a union... If we're successful in Windsor this could well be the start of something," he said.

Of two Ottawa K-Mart managers contacted for their reaction to the strike, one commented, "It's a touchy subject... To be perfectly frank I'd rather not say anything at all about Windsor."

When Ontario Federation of Labour president David Archer spoke to pickets in Windsor he said, "It'd like the industrial revolution all over again."

According to Sexton, Archer meant that, now that most heavy industry is unionized, service industries are the new frontier. He said this was an attempt to bring unions to people who have never before been exposed to them.

The Windsor strikers are depending on the public to show support by not crossing picket lines. But while management is remaining close-mouthed, an OFL press release says Windsor K-Marts are offering what they call "inflation-fighting specials." For example, says Sexton, cigarettes are sold for a bargain \$4.99 a carton.

Workers and labor leaders see this as an attempt to lure customers across picket lines, especially since similar specials are not being offered at other K-Marts in the area.

Letters have been sent to unions and labor organizations in Ontario, through the OFL, to ask for a province-wide boycott of K-Mart and Kresge stores. The Canadian Labour Congress will be approached regarding a country-wide boycott, Sexton said.

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- Joyce Wieland's Canadian dream see p. 10



CURRENTLY

Friday Nov. 12

The Ottawa Women's Centre is having an evening of Women's Poetry and Music starting at 8:00 pm at 821 Somerset St. W. If you would like to read some of your own writing please call Joan at 234-4525 any evening after 6:00 pm.

Monday Nov. 15

The National Council of Women will hold its monthly meeting at 1:15 pm in the Museum of Man Auditorium, McLeod St. Call 233-4953 for details.

Tuesday Nov. 16

The One-Parent Families Association will meet at 8:00 pm in the Overbrook Community Centre, 171 King George St. For information call 746-3745.

Pianist Angela Hewitt will be the guest artist with the Ottawa Symphony Orchestra in the NAC Opera at 8:30 pm Brian Law will conduct a programme of works by Mercure, Chopin, and Shostakovich.

Wednesday Nov. 17

Lina Wertmullers *The Seduction of Mimi* will be shown at the Towne Cinema, 5 Beechwood, at 7:30 and 9:30 pm.

Friday Nov. 19

Dolly Parton and the Statler Brothers will be performing their country music in the NAC Opera at 6:30 and 10:00 p

The Ottawa Women's Centre is holding a Lesbian Drop-In at 8:00 pm at 821 Somerset St. W. For information call 233-2560 or 235-4035.

Saturday Nov. 20

England's contemporary singer, Tina Charles, is appearing in the NAC Opera at 8:30 pm.

Sunday Nov. 21

Ella Fitzgerald, Oscar Peterson, and Joe Pass present a Jazz Festival in the NAC Opera at 6:00 and 9:00 pm.

Tuesday Nov. 23

The National Film Theatre is showing Nelly Kaplan's *La Fiancée du Pirate* and Anne Claire Poirier's *Le Temps de L'Avant* as part of its Women's Films Series at 7:30 and 9:30 pm at the National Library, 395 Wellington St. Memberships are \$3 at the door; admission is \$1 for students and senior citizens, and \$1.50 for others.

Wednesday Nov. 24

The Single Parents Association will meet at 8:00 pm in the Westboro Community Centre, 411 Dovercourt. For more details call 829-1706.

Thursday Nov. 25

La Galerie Nationale du Canada presente *La femme chez Klimt*, une causerie par Louise Coutu, a 20h00.

Canadian Mothercraft begins its 4-week Couple's refresher Course, a pre-natal course for couples with children. For information call 233-5605.

Friday Nov. 26

The Ottawa Women's Centre has arranged a Lesbian Drop-In at 8:00 pm at 821 Somerset St. W.

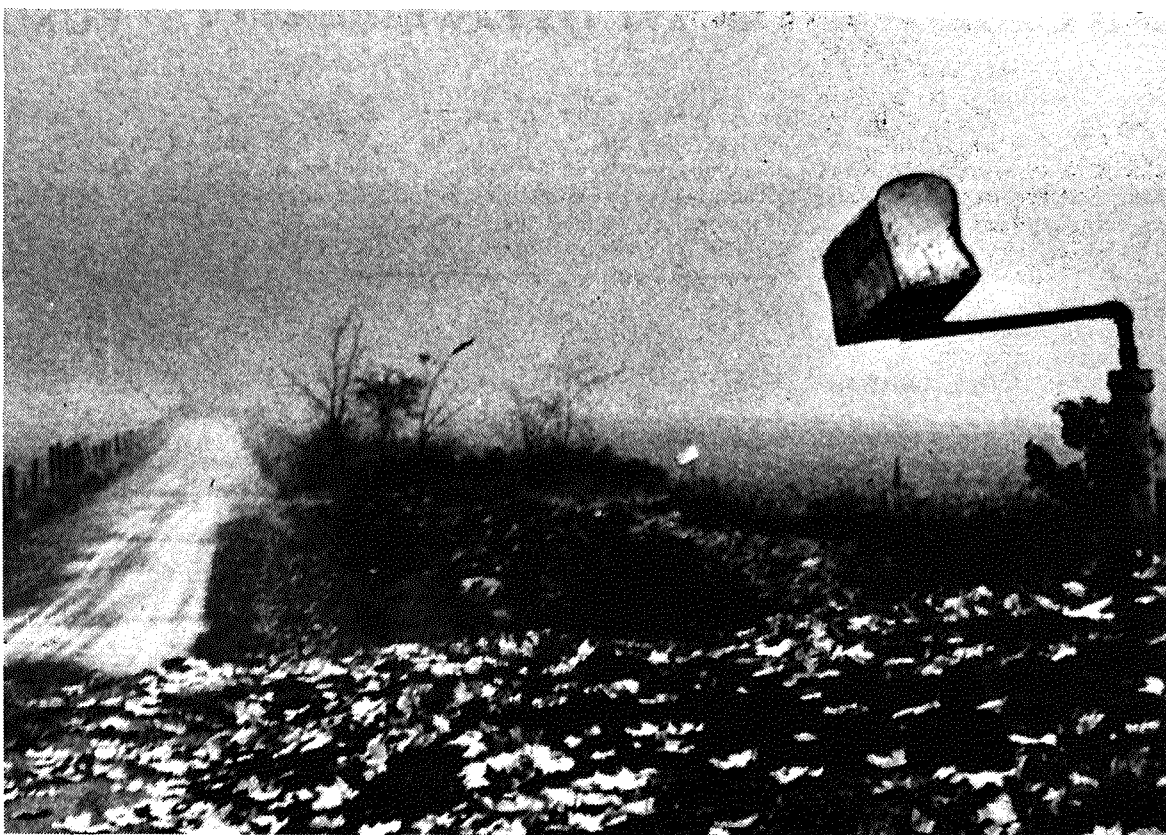


Photo by Carol Gibson

Nov. 26, 27, 29 to Dec. 4

Orpheus presents the musical adaptation of L.M. Montgomery's *Anne of Green Gables* by Donald Harron and Horman Campbell, at the High School of Commerce, 300 Rochester St., at 8:00 pm with a matinee Dec. at 2:00 pm. For tickets and information call 729-4318.

Saturday Nov. 27

The Ontario Registered Music Teacher's Association is sponsoring a free piano recital at 8:00 pm in Theatre A, Loeb Building, Carleton University. Suzanne Chapin will play works by Ottawa composers Anne Eggleston and Sandra Coupal.

Monday Nov. 29

The Ottawa Women's Centre is holding a general meeting at 7:30 pm at 821 Somerset st. W. All women are welcome to attend. For further details call 233-2560 or 235-4035.

Tuesday Nov. 30

L'Histoire d'Adele h, directed by Francois Truffaut and starring Isabelle Adjani, will be shown at the towne Cinema at 7:30 and 9:30 pm.

The National Film Theatre's Women's Film Series presents Joan Micklin Silver's *Hester Street* at 7:30 pm, followed by several shorts, which include Deepa Saltzman's *At 99*, at 9:30 pm in the National Library, 395 Wellington St. For information call 238-7865.

November

The Women's Coalition - Coalition-Femmes is offering 5 day-time courses for women in French and English. The average run is 7 weeks, 1-2 hours a week, and baby-sitting is available. The courses listed are:

- a) swim and gym - 1 hr./wk., followed by coffee and discussion.
- b) education - discussion of the educational system in Quebec.

- c) women's studies - examining women's literature.
- c) women's studies - different perspectives of today's woman.
- d) book studies - examining women's literature.
- e) political action - how women can be influential and involved.

For more details call 684-3144.

The Beehive is a French and English co-operative daycare centre run by the Women's Coalition. It is open from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at 161 B Main St., Aylmer (northeast corner of the Redemptorist Fathers' Monastery) and takes newborn infants to preschool toddlers on a part-time basis only. There is a fee of \$1 per hour for parents not participating in the co-operative care. Call 684-3144.

The National Museum of Man is presently featuring an exhibition of fabric works by Beulah Baldwin. It will continue for 1 more week in the third floor lounge, south end of the museum. Call 996-9281.

The Women's Poetry Workshop needs new members. If you write and would like to join, please call Joan at 234-4525 any evening after 6:00 pm.

Women trading trades. If you are a woman who has knowledge, equipment, talent, time or whatever to trade in return for knowledge, equipment, talent, time, or whatever, call Rose Stanton at 238-1794 after 5:00 pm.



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Post-secondary education:

Barriers to women still strong, student says

by Pat Daley

Barriers to women entering post-secondary education are far from breaking down, according to Carleton University social work student Dorothy Kent.

Student resource person at Carleton's National Student Day workshop of women November 9, Kent said women are still grossly overrepresented in arts and humanities and underrepresented in science, architecture and engineering.

About 35 to 38 per cent of full-time undergraduates are women as are about 40 per cent of part-time students, Kent said in an interview.

Moving into graduate school, faculty and administration, these numbers drop rapidly, Kent said.

English professor Barbara Lecker says Carleton has never produced a status of women report, so the exact figures on the position of women in the university are not available.

But, one problem Lecker says is obvious is the lack of role models for women students. There are so few women faculty, she said, that students get the impression anything beyond undergraduate studies is in a man's world.

Because of their small numbers,

female faculty feel emotionally and intellectually alienated in their own departments, Lecker said.

Both Lecker and Kent agree one of the major problems for women students is the lack of day care

facilities.

"There is room for about 50 to 60 children on campus at Carleton," Kent said.

"But, there is nothing much for children over three years old.



Human rights code ignores gays again

by Joan Shields

By refusing to include 'sexual orientation' in the proposed Canadian Human Rights Act, the federal government has come under severe criticism from gays across the country.

The National Gay Rights Coalition, representing 33 gay groups in Canada, has been lobbying for over a year to have protective legislation for homosexuals included in the Act.

"Gay people are being discriminated against every day for no good reason. We deserve and demand protection under the Canadian Human Rights Act," says Coalition coordinator David Garmaise.

The legislation creating the Canadian Human Rights Act was first introduced last year and prohibits discrimination on the grounds of race, national or ethnic origin, color, religion, age, sex and marital status.

Last month's Throne Speech revealed that the legislation was to be reintroduced. The Coalition was disappointed to learn that the government was again refusing to include sexual orientation in the Act, despite numerous representations made by gays across Canada.

"Government condoning discrimination"

"By leaving sexual orientation out of the Act, the government is refusing to recognize the rights of Canada's homosexual minority. By excluding legislation on this vital and crucial issue, the government is in effect condoning discrimination," Garmaise says.

In July 1975 Otto Lang, then minister of justice, told the Coalition

that sexual orientation had been left out of the original human rights legislation because "it was desirable for the new Commission to be working in areas where a considerable body of precedents already exist." This statement was in reference to the fact that sexual orientation is not found in any of Canada's existing provincial human rights codes.

However, a number of precedents in the area of gay rights have been set since Mr. Lang's statement. The British Columbia Human Rights Commission, acting under a section of its Code which prohibits discrimination "without reasonable cause," ruled that the refusal of a Vancouver newspaper to print an advertisement for a gay alliance in the city was illegal. This ruling was subsequently upheld in the B.C. Supreme Court last summer.

Ottawa recognizes gay rights

In another case, the City of Ottawa became the second city in Canada, following Toronto, to prohibit discrimination against homosexuals in municipal employment.

"Many gay people in the public service are open about their homosexuality; it should not be a factor in their jobs and it usually is not a factor. They put in a day's work just like everyone else," explains Garmaise.

Support for the inclusion of sexual orientation in the Ontario Human Rights Code has been given by the Ontario New Democratic Party and Dr. Stuart Smith, Ontario Liberal Party leader has also indicated his party is in favor of the addition.

"Existing human rights codes —

with the partial exception of the B.C. Code — do not protect gays from discrimination and the only recourse open to gays who want to fight is through costly and lengthy civil suits in the courts," says Garmaise.

Anti-gay attitude widespread

"Anti-gay attitudes are extremely widespread. An RCMP spokesman was recently quoted as saying that prospective officers were investigated for possible 'character weaknesses' — including alcoholism, homosexuality, and traits such as extreme dependence on one's mother. It is absurd that we should still have to refute suggestions that homosexuality is a character weakness," he says.

"Because agencies like the RCMP persist in treating homosexuality as an illness or character disorder, they can, in total secrecy, deny security clearances and, therefore, promotions and jobs to gay people," says Garmaise.

When asked why the legislation protecting homosexuals was not included in the proposed amendments to the Human Rights Act, an official for the department of justice said the Act would "only include the traditional grounds of discrimination."

The spokesperson failed to mention that in last month's speech from the Throne it was decided to add physical handicap to the list of prohibited grounds of discrimination. As in the case of homosexuality, physical handicap is not included in the original Bill of Rights legislation, nor is it found in any provincial code.

There are no babysitting services for students who have just one or two hours of class a day and nothing at all for night students.

"People with children either have to work to get enough money for day care or stay at home," Kent said. "They're not going to come to school."

Many women do not even have a chance to get to university because of the cost, Kent said.

"Student aid is based on parental contribution," she said, "and parents are more likely to spend

money on a son's education than on a daughter's."

Women are less likely to get summer jobs and, when they do, earn far less than men, she said.

Loans available to students are also a deterrent, she said, because women do not earn as much as men when they graduate and do not want to carry the burden of a large loan.

"As long as financing a university education is up to the individual," Kent said, "the number of women is not going to increase."

Board of education

No fringe benefits for support staff

by Karen Fish

Part-time women maintenance employees of the Ottawa Board of Education (OBE) have yet to receive fringe benefits won in controversial negotiations involving the board's status of women committee last year.

Insurance companies say part-time workers are more of a liability risk and payments for men would have to increase to provide the 480 Category One women with the same benefits, according to separate school board trustee on the OBE Gerry Trudel.

"You can imagine the resentment among the men," Trudel said in an interview November 4.

"Traditionally the women would back down in the face of this resentment and say they were happy with what they had. The board can then say hey, hey, hey they didn't want any of those benefits anyway."

"We have a male bastion of the worst order here," Trudel said.

Although last spring's maintenance strike resulted in the fringe benefits, an 11 per cent pay hike (later 'rolled back' by the Anti-Inflation Board) and disability pension, there was no alteration in part-time status.

"Every year these women are given severance certificates and sent down to the office of unemployment insurance," Trudel said.

"There's no way they could legally claim UIC because the first question they're asked is 'are you looking for work?'"

"You don't fire teachers for the summer so why do you fire these people?"

During the strike, both negotiating teams received a report prepared by the board's status of women committee.

The committee was set up in the fall of 1974 in what Trudel called a benevolent move by the board and a token of support for International Women's Year.

Originally it was made up exclusively of teachers who gathered together to discuss the problems and issues that faced them.

Trudel suggested representation on the committee for the Canadian Union of Public Employees and unallied staff members. Chairperson Florence Strong resigned over the issue and was replaced by Trudel and Helen Slater.

In June 1975, the committee met to analyse the contracts of School Board employees for dis-

crimination against women and, within six months, put together a draft report.

It revealed that benefits were weighted heavily in favor of secondary school teachers. Going down through elementary teachers, secretaries and maintenance workers the benefits decrease.

Salary increments and maternity leave were just two points of contention. The report recommended that all benefits be consistent throughout the four categories because pregnancy and illness are common to all women.

While secondary and elementary teachers were given professional development days, there was no language training for the mainly immigrant women in maintenance or upgrading courses for office staff.

"Women who had worked 14 or 15 years in the maintenance division were making the same as some shmuck who had just come in off the street," Trudel said.

"The system wasn't fair." Contracts for maintenance workers came up for negotiation in April 1976 and, for the first time in Ottawa, the status of women was the major point of contention in a labor dispute.

It became obvious during negotiation that the women's demands were not going to be met. As a gesture of protest, 900 Category One workers left their jobs March 22 to join the labor demonstration against wage and price controls on Parliament Hill.

They returned to work the next day to find themselves locked out.

"Some of the board members feel that we (status of women committee) were the reason for the strike, that we disturbed all those happy little chars," Trudel said.

"The board wanted them to hurt," Trudel said. Knowing there was no strike fund "their attitude was to keep them out for a while."

Scabs were brought in and the status of women committee dissolved.

Trudel was heavily criticized by the board during that strike.

Now, after being a separate school trustee for 22 months, she has been informed by the Ontario Ministry of Education that she is ineligible for re-election because she is Protestant.

Trudel's husband is Catholic, her children attend a Catholic school and they pay separate school taxes.

News Briefs

Women's resource book out soon

A resource handbook for women, prepared by the Ottawa Women's Centre, will be released November 30.

The handbook is a compilation of the referral information used by the Centre in its four years of operation. It contains a listing of local groups and organizations that provide services for women and also self-help recommendations.

The topics include accomodation, welfare, rape, education, sports, health, law and housing. Each section is introduced with a

discussion of women's rights or their absence in these areas.

"The problem is that, while we have a complete list of resources available to women, this list is far from adequate," said Diana Pepall, staffperson at the Centre. "We receive more than 100 calls a week for such information. There is a demand for more services."

Although the handbook will be sold, the incoming revenue will only cover the cost of production.

"Our purpose is not to make a profit but to make this information available to all women," said Pepall. "However, it will not replace the referral service provided by the Centre."

A plan for distribution in Ottawa has not been finalized, but copies will be available at the Ottawa Women's Centre, 821 Somerset Street West. For more information call 233-2560 or 235-4035.

Salary cuts for nurses?

"If we believe in the free enterprise system, when we have a surplus of nurses, why aren't starting salaries reflecting it?"

"If we reduce the price, then we can raise the number of people employed, the overall price remains constant."

— Ontario health minister Frank Miller in an address to University of Western Ontario students October 14.

Lawyers under MLA's gun

VANCOUVER(CPA-CUP) - Many lawyers are no more than hired guns of the capitalist system resisting the forces of change, BC legislative member Rosemary Brown told 100 law students here October 29.

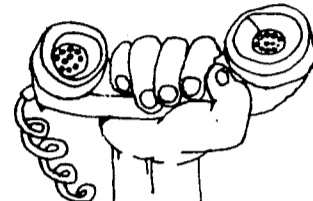
"In legitimizing the status quo lawyers are the servants of capital... they act as guerrilla warriors against the forces of change," the New Democratic Party MLA said.

But lawyers are usually the first to "colonize" areas of hard-won change and use them to make business, she added, challenging law students to examine where they will fit into the legal system

"There has always been a minority of lawyers dedicated to helping others," but only, "a small number of lawyers involve themselves with the real world, with prisoner's problems and the rights of native Indians, women and blacks," she said.

During a question period students protested that the necessity of articling with large law firms restricts them from playing socially conscious roles.

Brown agreed, saying, "The dilemma you have between making money and changing the social system is something only you can solve."



Women Helping Women

by Rosemary Billings

Women who 'come out' as feminists are constantly asked "What is women's liberation, anyway?"

There is no 'holy writ' in the women's movement. It relies instead on the shared personal experiences of women as primary source of its analyses. This is both a strength and a weakness in wuch situations as that described above.

The collective sharing and analysis process of the women's movement (called consciousness-raising) ensures that we all develop our understanding of feminism at the same pace as the others in our c-r group. And the incredible energy and joy generated by the process means that we never, but never, forget the value or lessons of those first shared fumbings towards sisterhood.

Thus, ideally, the women's movement lacks hierarchies. There's no Grade 9 versus Ph.D. status game going on between the woman who's just joined the movement and the one who's been in it for ten years; there's no class rivalry since women's common experiences cut right across class lines.

C-R has taught us the absolute value of each other's experiences as an opportunity for learning and developing our understanding of the how and why of, and what-to-do-about, women's oppression. All that varies is the number of experiences shared and thus the depth and breadth of the analyses held. "The personal is political" is one of the greatest truths of the feminist movement.

This is why it is so difficult to argue with the book-learning types. Most women don't join the women's movement from poli-sci classes or Marxist study groups. We join out of sheer, desperate personal need. Through sharing these common needs with other women, we develop our increasingly sophisticated analyses.

This process is so exciting, so vital, so immediately true at the gut level, that sitting down with some vast tome to puzzle out its contribution (if any) to solving our political problems seems by comparison as useless as bailing out a boat with a teaspoon.

Nevertheless, the book-learning types expect us to be able to argue from these tomes. And there is some justification to this. The texts are, after all, to some extent the theoretical bases of society - either present or 'after the revolution'. If we can't prove our familiarity with these theories, they argue, our credibility as a movement disappears. We should go back to keeping the books for the C.L.M. or holding bake sales for the Tories. And, most important, back to listening to them.

We women (well, the writers of this column, anyway) are as impressed by textbook erudition as the next person. It's really very easy to give up at this point and say "Shoot, the evergy's just not worth it to argue with this person, let's go elsewhere." Or else to shut up about your commitment to feminism until you've read their precious texts and are able to argue in their book-learning terms.

Giving up this way really isn't necessary. The personal is political. Tell your questioner that your gut-feelings (and his or hers) are far more valid starting points for your discussion than all the texts ever printed (though these can be useful later - we don't want to be too anti-intellectual after all).

Suggest that you return to your original topic and discuss that in terms of the personal experiences you and your questioner have had or shared with other. Analyse those. Many women start getting interested at this point. Many men back off short; talking about personal feelings terrifies them; admitting they haven't got any shared experiences means facing a void they've never seen before. Discuss that perhaps. Or ask why the reliance on 'holy writ' is so important. And watch the tables turn.

"What is women's liberation, anyway?" Well, we still haven't answered that question. Maybe we'll try in another column if anybody asks.

Upstream is available in the following places:

Parent Preschool Resource Centre
173 Dalhousie
Mike's Place
Unicentre, Carleton U.
Residence Store
Residence Commons, Carleton U.

Le Disque
1385 Woodroffe Dr.
(Algonquin College)
Britton's Smoke Shop
848 Bank
Somerset Pinto
Somerset & Bronson\$
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210 Laurier E.

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- Place Bell Canada
- 171 Slater
- 128 Bank

Leo's Smoke Shop
Place de Ville
Dan's Smoke Shop
3 Nicholas
Ottawa Women's Centre
821 Somerset W.

Univ. of Ottawa Women's Centre
85 Hastey
Commoner's Press
432 Rideau

Interlude Cafe
209 Belmont
Sunnyside Groceteria
379 Sunnyside

Harry's Confectionary
549 Gladstone

Party Palace
252 Elgin

Briarbowl
Place de Ville

Comerford's Smoke Shop
118 Bank

Sunnyside Books
113 Murray

Carleton u. Women's Centre
Rm. 504, Unicentre

Wildflower Cafe
160 Chapel

Variety Store
Unicentre, Carleton U.

Octopus Books
494 1/2 Somerset St. W.

Sunshine Trading Co.
590 Bank St.

Bell Confectionery
199 Bell St. N.

The Book Bazaar
781 1/2 Bank St.

350 Elgin
Union Smoke Shop
310 Rideau
Benson & Hedges Smoke Shop
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Family law reform

Property to be divided equally: McMurtry

by Susan Wisking

Two weeks ago the minority Conservative government of Ontario introduced changes to family law which, according to the attorney general, Roy McMurtry, "sweeps away centuries of legal tradition and provides entirely new measures in their place."

More than two years have gone by since the Law Reform Commission of Ontario recommended overhauling the family law statutes. McMurtry, aware of this, said that there was no longer time to waste on discussion papers, so the bill was drafted. But, the public will be able to present briefs to Queen's Park standing committee on justice before the bill reaches final reading in the Houses.

The government is presently drawing up a handbook on the new law which it will distribute free of charge.

The date of completion is not known.

Essentially the bill aims at re-defining property rights, support obligations, marriage contracts, common law spouses, and family court.

Under the new legislation, family assets such as the car and house would be shared equally by both spouses. The attorney general explains that the Bill "confers no privilege and imposes no disability on either men or women as a group but rather takes account of the individual situation in each matrimonial dispute."

Homemakers, who he said have been "taken for granted and undervalued," will be automatically entitled to part of the matrimonial estate, even if they have never, as in the case of Irene Murdoch, contributed actual capital towards the purchase or upkeep. Homes that are registered in only one name will be viewed in case of a marriage breakdown as joint property.

According to the Globe and Mail, "The legislation will end the possibility of a wife being forced to move out of a home after a marriage breakdown, when her husband sells their home."

McMurtry admitted to the Globe and Mail that the proposed property legislation "would limit the right of one spouse to place the home in the other spouse's name when there is a fear of bankruptcy." Homes placed in the wife's name would be threatened because under the new act creditors would have some rights to the bankrupt party's share.

Support laws have also been revised with the emphasis placed on each partner's economic capabilities. Children, whether born in or outside of marriage, would have to be supported until the age of sixteen.

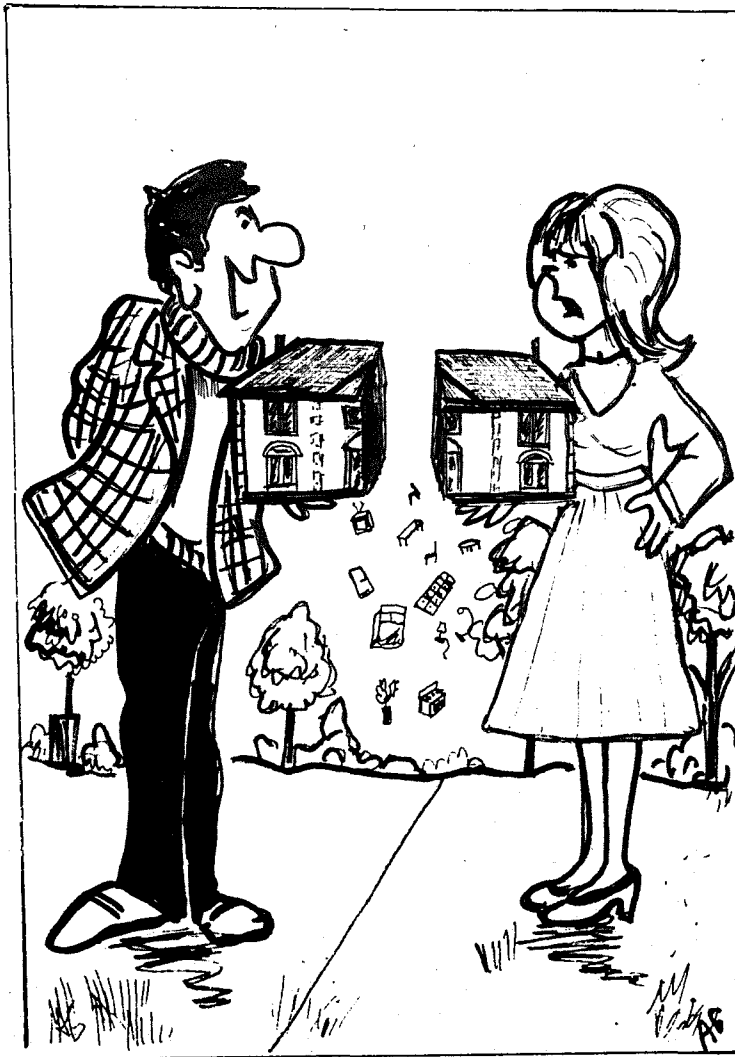
This concept of support has been extended under the act to cover common law spouses, who after two years of cohabiting, or less if children were involved would be liable for support.

McMurtry explained that placing the burden of the individuals involved would help to reduce the drain on the welfare rolls.

Unlike their married counterparts common-law spouses would not be automatically entitled to property, nor would they be able to draw up contracts limiting their responsibilities.

The attorney general says the withholding of such benefits will induce people to legalize their union. By imposing support obligations on common law spouses he said "we will be removing the financial advantage of a common-law union over a legal marriage."

The maintenance of children is an integral part of the new proposals governing common-law unions. The attorney general is, according to the Globe and Mail, considering means "to abolish once and for all the status of illegit-



imacy for all purposes of Ontario Law."

He also commented that he was "considering proposals for legal means of ascertaining the parentage of children born outside marriage, a procedure to appoint a guardian for one's children by will, independent legal representation for children in family disputes and guidelines for a court in making decisions on custody in accordance with the best interests of the

child."

A large portion of this new bill is directed towards marriage contracts. Details are not yet forthcoming but, according to the Globe, "marriage contracts would allow spouses to outline their respective rights to property, support, custody and education of the children."

McMurtry commented that "a marriage contract could prevail

over any provisions of the act except where it limited a spouse's rights in the matrimonial home, reduced a spouse to dependence on welfare of included provisions contrary to the best interests of the children of the marriage."

The new act outlines structural changes in the courts. Plans have been drawn up to unite all the different jurisdictional controls. The attorney general's long term plan is for a Unified Family Court which he says "unifies the exercise of family law jurisdiction in one court instead of the four different courts that have jurisdiction now."

The reformation of family court will begin as a three year experimental program in Hamilton and, if successful, be extended throughout Ontario.

A new role for this court will be counselling, which McMurtry said is being organized "to assist the parties in resolving their problems short of taking the case before a judge."

One of the most perplexing problems with the present court system has been its inability to enforce settlements. By amalgamating, the new court should be able to take up where persuasion and reason fail. The existing court is so fragmented that, as McMurtry pointed out, "often spouses must start proceeding in different courts and go through two or more trials before all the issues in their disputes are finally laid to rest."

With so many details still locked away in Toronto it is too early now to speculate on the potential success or failure of this complex piece of legislation.

Ontario residents need more time to determine if the bill does, as the attorney general says "abolish the last remnants of the married woman's inferior status and guarantee to both spouses a fair share of matrimonial property if their marriage breaks down."

Making history:

Clerical worker is new ombudsman for Newfoundland workers

by Sandra Schofield LeGroulx

Cynthia Wishart has become the second woman in the history of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) to move from the union's clerical unit to a staff representative position.

On October 18, she assumed the position of ombudsman to management, representing 50 per cent of all CUPE locals in Newfoundland.

Many women have moved from the clerical into the administrative unit, but only one of the seven other women in the more political staff representative end came from clerical.

Although there is no legal barrier to the move, Wishart said there is little encouragement.

"Sometimes we tend to build our own barriers because of our own personal insecurity," Wishart said in an interview October 15.

"I know that when I decided to apply for a staff representative position, although I felt that I had some of the qualifications necessary, there was also the fear that I was going to be laughed at by other people from other units and that they would say things like 'who does she think she is?' — 'what right has she got to apply?'"

Wishart emigrated to Canada from Scotland in 1971 and landed her first job as a secretary.

"I felt terrible. I didn't like it," she said.

"I was supposed to work a 40 hour week and I ended up working a 48 hour week and even more sometimes.

"I was treated the way most people in non-union offices are treated. You come in each day and hope that you have your job.

"I know what the grievances can be and I know why people should organize and become members of a trade union. There are some very real problems."

Wishart said medical and legal office staff are examples of a group who must go "cap in hand to ask for a salary increase."

Their employers earn about \$40,000 a year, but the staff can be paid between \$6,000 and \$7,000, just above the minimum annual salary in Canada and very near the poverty line, she said.

Wishart is also concerned with the wage disparity between men and women which, she said, is not being helped by the federal government's anti-inflation program.

"There is still job ghetto-ization of women in Canada," she said. Women are paid less than men in

the allowable increase under the anti-inflation board, of \$8,000 is less than eight per cent of \$10,000, she said.

"So the gap between the lower paid worker and the higher paid worker is always widening and we all know that women are paid at the lower spectrum of the scale."

Wishart was a CUPE research assistant before becoming ombudsman and is eager to begin her new job.

"It's very exciting. It's very frightening. It's very challenging.

"But I think that it's something that we have to do. If we want to grow as women, as people in this community lifestyle, then we have to take challenges like that."

Wishart said she was inspired by people like Grace Hartman who came from a small CUPE local and is now national president, who "has worked hard to get to that position and is fulfilling it in an exceptional way. Watching women like Shirley Carr (Canadian Labour Congress vice-president). It's the same kind of thing.

"For too long we women have sat back and allowed our male brothers in the union movement to speak for us and I think that it is time that we spoke."



Cynthia Wishart: "working conditions are just as important as wages"

EDITORIAL

It was disappointing to learn that the Ottawa Board of Education did not attend the conference on women's studies, as our centrespread article explains.

The OBE is obviously in need of some education on the status of women itself. The article about maintenance staff still not receiving fringe benefits brings back memories of last year's OBE maintenance strike and the frightful action of the board in dissolving their own status of women committee because of its chuminess with the union.

The disparity within our schools in financing physical education for boys and girls is still obvious. And schools have still not managed to do away with courses in cooking, sewing and personal grooming.

There is a need to provide courses for the students themselves. We have an article on the problems of women in the job market and another on problems in post-secondary education. Neither of these areas will change until girls are taught in elementary and secondary schools that they too are important individuals and have a choice in what they want to do with their lives.

Every skill and every job is worthy of respect, but people should not be streamed into areas they do not want by our school system.

This will continue until our schools begin to examine the disparities and discrimination evident in our society, the roles many people are forced into and the outrageous conditions in which they are forced to work. They must teach students that these things can and must be changed.

But the Ottawa Board of Education will never do it on its own. It is up to parents and students to start pushing for changes in the curriculum in order to provide courses on women and changing roles in our society.

Elections are coming up soon. Women's studies courses and the enlightenment of the board regarding the working conditions of its own employees should be major issues.

by Pat Daley for Upstream



LETTERS

Bring labor coverage closer to home

Dear Upstream,

Congratulations on the first edition of *Upstream*! The amount of effort and enthusiasm that went into its making is much in evidence. I was particularly impressed with the variety of interests reflected in its content. From the expected - information on local events - to the totally unexpected - the article on carny women was a delight! - reading *Upstream* was an exciting and informative experience. In addition, I was pleased to see *Upstream's* potential as an alternative source of information demonstrated in the first issue by the interview with Iona Campagnola, a more "in-depth" article than any I have seen in either of the Ottawa dailies. And, Oksana Shewchenko's fascinating account of Agnes Campbell Macphail - little more than a name and a reputation to most of us - was indeed a step in the direction of uncovering the history of Canadian women "we have still to find, interpret, and write".

I would, however, like to offer some (constructive, I hope) critic-

ism regarding one aspect of the content. As a native-born Ottawa, I was very surprised at the overwhelming labor orientation of the first issue and the comments regarding the recent Day of Protest (October 14). Not that labor and wage and price controls are not properly the domain of a women's publication, but rather, the sort of labor problems with which an Ottawa woman can identify were not adequately represented and developed in these articles (Women Protest, Wage Controls Cripple, Price Controls Not Working).

Whether we like it or not, Ottawa is still a "civil service town", with less than 10% of its labor force (male or female) engaged in industry. The average woman in Ottawa is either a housewife or a civil servant - or a nurse, or a salesperson (non-unionized). The inside of a factory is about as remote to her as a sugar cane plantation or a salt mine! As a white-collar or a non-unionized worker, therefore, she cannot be expected to be fired with enthusiasm over the fact that "unions

with high percentages of members include the national Federation of Services Inc., the Service Employees International Union..., the International Ladies Garment Workers Union (???)..."

And, while the Day of Protest may have been hailed by the executive vice president of the CLC as a "fantastic success", it is a moot point whether this was the consensus across Canada, and it is a fact that the day passed all but unnoticed in Ottawa. And so, I would like to make three points.

First, since the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) represents an overwhelming majority of Ottawa's unionized women workers, more time might have been devoted to the opinion of some of its members - particularly those who ignored the Alliance's injunction and observed the Day of Protest.

Second, it would seem to appear that Ottawa women's interest in wage and price controls focuses on the "price" rather than the "wage". The woman in the picture on the front page is protesting as a *consumer* and her concern is pro-

bably representative of the concern of the majority of women in Ottawa.

And, third, there is a local labor element which, I feel, merits the attention of a local paper more than the international and national unions, a labor element which goes largely unnoticed by the majority of Ottawans. Unskilled, poorly-paid, and generally non-recognized, these are the women who perform the behind-the-scenes "service" functions that native-born Canadians are loath to fulfill - clean office buildings, supply chambermaid service, perform unskilled hospital or computer related tasks, etc. Mostly first generation immigrants, and unaware of their rights, these women are particularly susceptible to exploit-

ation; also, due to language barriers, cultural barriers, and a lifetime of conditioning in the traditional mold, they are isolated from the mainstream and the forces of change. I wonder how many - if any - of them were able to protest on October fourteenth. It would have been interesting to find out.

And so, while I thoroughly enjoyed the article on Agnes Macphail, acutely identified with the article on discriminatory employment practices, was fired up by the article on women and the law, and heartily lauded the one on the healing arts, my comment on women as organized labor is **bring it closer to home, Upstream!**

Hope Cadieux

Reader points out paper inaccuracy

Dear Upstream,

Congratulations on your first edition and thank you for the article on Interval House.

There is one inaccuracy, however, which I would like to correct - the L.I.P. grant provided us with funds to hire four unem-

ployed young women to staff the house. Renovations were paid for from the voluntary contribution fund plus the labour of participants in the Regional Work Activity Program.

Jean Grant

Upstream is a fortnightly newspaper published by Feminist Publications of Ottawa. The staff is a collective with departmental co-ordinators. *Upstream* subscribes to Co-operative Press Associates (CPA), a national labor news service. We solicit readers' views and opinions. All correspondence should be addressed to *Upstream*, 227 Laurier Avenue West, Suite 207, Ottawa K1P 5J7. Phone 232-0313.

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We invite our readers to participate in discussion of the ideas and issues presented in this newspaper.

Letters for publication in *Upstream* should be signed, and typed double-spaced and should not exceed 300 words. A name will be withheld at the author's request.

THANK YOU!

We would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to the Samuel and Saidye Bronfman Foundation for their generous donation to Feminist Publications of Ottawa.

The funds were used to publish the first issue of *Upstream* and, consequently, made the continued publication of *Upstream* possible.



Law For Women

by Shirley Greenberg

Women have very great need of assistance from the laws if their legal status is to improve and if their interests are to receive the protection that is due.

But will the legal profession be ready to assist them? Bias is evident in the legal profession itself. A predominance of males indicates that women have been excluded or effectively discouraged from participating, especially in private practice as opposed to government work.

The clientele of lawyers is largely male, reflecting the distribution of wealth in society among males only (with some exceptions). Women generate a large volume of legal business in the family law area, through separation and divorce or custody actions, but this kind of practice is not challenging to lawyers: it is emotionally draining, tragic for both spouses, and seldom does anyone come out of it happy; it is a no-win process. The financial rewards do not make up for a lawyer's trials and tribulations as in other kinds of law practice.

But women are changing and recognition is spreading throughout our society so that the legal framework will also change as a result. The double standard and the prevalence of sex stereotyping will have to go. To this end, women are more interested than ever before in learning how to improve the laws and how to make them work to benefit all people in our country.

Preventative law

Many problems and crisis situations can be prevented if you are prepared in advance. The prudent woman will spend a little time to become informed, and find that it really pays off. Some of the areas in which women are continually being harmed are listed below to give you an idea of

how you can put knowledge of the laws to work. Today it is a matter of knowing that there is no legal protection, so that you have to protect yourself.

For example, to marry blindly is to invite disaster. You cannot be sure that your romance will last a lifetime, and the increasing frequency of divorce tells us to plan for the possibility of termination by divorce.

Irene Murdoch of Alberta showed the world that a wife who contributed back-breaking work can go without recognition or reward if she doesn't protect herself, and that nothing will prevent a husband from locking his wife out of her home and depriving her of a share in the property built up after twenty years of marriage. While he got the ranching property, worth over \$200,000, she got \$50 a week, after fighting the case through several courts, all the way up to the Supreme Court of Canada. (Three years later, Mrs. Murdoch did get a share of the property as part of her divorce settlement.)

Mrs. Murdoch's case hit the headlines three years ago and women immediately responded, outraged. But the decision of the Supreme Court of Canada merely reflected what was and is the law. Women just didn't know about it before; they didn't know they had no legal rights, that the law protected husbands, not wives.

Today we are still without a law that ensures tangible recognition of the contribution of the homemaker. And marriage is definitely not recognized as a partnership of equals. The homemaker has no social security and no pension in her own right. She is frequently only one man away from welfare. And homemakers are the poorest people in our society in terms of income, usually having none and no right to any.

If a woman separates or is deserted, she has an additional problem getting support for herself and her children, since hus-

bands living apart seldom feel they need keep up support payments and in most cases they just stop. A woman dependent on this income is in an immediate crisis, but enforcement of payments is difficult.

In Ontario we have a system more effective than elsewhere, where the court keeps track of payments and will subpoena a defaulting husband to court to show cause why he is not paying. In the meantime, welfare will keep a wife and children from starving. But this is a very unsatisfactory situation for wives and one which grows out of lack of recognition of their work and consequent dependence on a man.

Lack of anti-discrimination legislation at the federal level, and restricted application of the legislation at both federal and provincial levels, leaves working women without protection from sex discrimination in pay and opportunity.

Self-help

A little knowledge is sometimes dangerous, and those who are serious about protecting themselves will go to more trouble to get the right information.

This is extremely important in legal terms because the unique facts of each situation make the treatment different in each case. You can't generalize. This means that for complete protection you are dependent on your legal advisor. But in the meantime there is much that you can do to help inform yourself and assist your legal advisor to help you most efficiently.

Inexpensive books available at your library, women's centre or bookstore:

The Law is Not for Women Caldwell and Zuker, Pitman, Toronto 1976

Marriage & Family Law in Ontario Ruth Davidson, LL.B., Self-Counsel, 1975

Law, Law, Law Clayton Ruby, Paul Copeland, Lynn King, Greg King, Anansi, Toronto, 1976

L'egale Purchase from Canadian Council of Social Development, 55 Parkdale Avenue, Ottawa. Inquiries: P.O. Box 6471, Station "A", Toronto, Ontario, M5W 1X3.

Resources contributed for workshops, seminars, general information and a variety of pamphlets are available on topics of special interest to women, by members of **Women and the Law Association**. In Ottawa, contact through the Women's Centre or at the Faculty of Law, Common Law or Civil Law Section, University of Ottawa, 57 Copernicus Street, Ottawa.

Ontario and federal Law Reform Commissions have done a great deal of research, accompanied by field studies, on conditions and history of our laws. Working papers and studies have been issued and are available through Supply and Services at the federal level, or from Queen's Park, Toronto, for a price. The federal Law Reform Commission booklets are very readable, on divorce, maintenance on divorce, family property, for example. The provincial government has issued material on change of name and credit guidelines. The women's bureaux of both federal and provincial governments, operating out of the Labour Ministry or Department, have done excellent work on women's working conditions and prospects for change.

Shirley Greenberg is a law student, articling with a local law firm. She is also an active member of the Ottawa chapter of the Women and the Law Association.

The Healing Arts

by Beatrice Baker

This is the first of two feature articles about gynecology. The second will discuss gynecological examinations and what constitutes a good examination.

"The frequency of intercourse depends entirely upon the male sex drive ... The bride should be advised to allow her husband's sex drive to set their pace and she should attempt to gear hers satisfactorily to his. If she finds after several months or years that this is not possible, she is advised to consult her physician as soon as she realizes there is a real problem."

Novak's Textbook of Gynecology by Novak, Jones, and Jones, 1970

"If like all human beings, he [the gynecologist] is made in the image of the Almighty, and if he is kind, then his kindness and concern for his patient may provide her with a glimpse of God's image."

The World of a Gynecologist by Russell C. Scott, 1968

These are two examples, cited by Diana Scully and Pauline Bart, of male bias in gynecology textbooks. Their study is called, **A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Orifice: Women in Gynecology Textbooks**.

The quotes are outrageous enough to cause one to believe that they deliberately singled out the two weird, out-to-lunch authors in a field of normal, knowledgeable gynecologists, all of whom have read **The Joy of Sex**, Kinsey, and Masters and Johnson. By the evidence of the study, however, that, unfortunately, would be wishful thinking.

Scully and Bart obtained a complete listing of gynecology textbooks published in the United States since 1943. They read 27 of the 32 books and divided them into three periods so that they document over time the incorporation of new information

about female sexuality. The obvious time periods were: pre-Kinsey, post-Kinsey but pre-Masters and Johnson, and post-Masters and Johnson.

In 1953 Kinsey published **Sexual Behaviour in the Human Female**. His findings challenged the notion, prevalent in medical textbooks, that women are "Almost universally generally frigid", in fact, that they dislike sex. He also presented a revolutionary finding: that women are multiorgasmic.

But the texts written since 1953 ignore women's potential for sexual pleasure and still insist that the male sex drive is stronger. They also persist, with three exceptions, in teaching gynecologists that there are clitoral and vaginal orgasms and that vaginal orgasms are the mature, adult response to sex. This is in spite of evidence that nerve endings and sensation are located in the clitoris and orgasms cannot be distinguished as clitoral or vaginal.

Besides basing their medical advice about sexuality on misinformation, the majority of textbooks indicate that gynecologists are supposed to be able to deal with psychological problems and base those portions of their books on male bias. In a 1971 text: "The traits that compose the core of the female personality are feminine narcissism, masochism, and passivity."

The evidence is there: gynecologists, over 90 % of whom are men, are taught, by men, a male perspective of who and what women are, how they think and feel as well as how their bodies function. As a consequence, women are advised to subjugate their sexual inclinations to their husbands, to take orgasms ("innocent simulations"), to seek their fulfillment in their ultimate function: children, and not to worry their "pretty little heads" about medical matters.

It is quite reasonable to assume that we

do not accept everything our teachers try to teach us. Especially among the younger doctors (who undoubtedly have read **The Joy of Sex**) one could expect to find a much more enlightened outlook and a more responsive treatment of women.

But, unfortunately, even out of medical school, doctors are barraged by misinformation and male oriented opinions. The drug companies, which have extensive interests in birth control methods, spend millions of dollars preparing promotional material that masquerades as educational literature.

Ortho Pharmaceutical, whose logo is: "Devoted to research in family planning", puts out a pamphlet called, **Once a month the egg travels...** This pamphlet is distributed to physicians in bulk to be given free to patients.

Ortho manufactures birth control pills, an intrauterine device, and contraceptive foam, cream, and jelly.

Their discussion of the pill says of side effects only: "These usually occur during the first month or two of pill taking and are seldom serious." There is no mention of the careful medical history that should be taken before pills are prescribed because, in fact, there can be serious side effects if there is a family history of a variety of illnesses.

The potential pill user, whose body will be physically affected by it, is simply told: "Always look to your doctor or other qualified people for advice on the method best suited for you." The doctor most certainly should make the medical facts clear to each woman, but the decision is, after all, hers to make in light of that medical information, her own lifestyle and the type of risks she is willing to take; either with possible side effects or with the degree of effectiveness of the method.

When giving information about the degree of effectiveness in preventing pregnancy the Ortho pamphlet is less than

completely honest. It says that the pill is effective from the first tablet taken. On the contrary, every woman would be well advised to use a back up method of contraception during the first month of pill taking.

It also gives effectiveness figures that indicate it is safer to use foam alone than to use condoms. However, in information put out by Planned Parenthood and in **Our Bodies, Our Selves**, among others, condoms are cited as being more reliable in preventing pregnancy than foam alone. In fact, Planned Parenthood lists foam with "The Methods That Work Sometimes... But You're Taking a Chance".

In school and out of school our doctors are being misinformed. Our doctors need to be reeducated. Give your doctor a break: for Christmas or Chanuka give him copies of these books. And give yourself a break: get them for yourself. (And read them!)

Birth Control Handbook by Montreal Health Press, Inc., P.O. Box 1000, Station G, Montreal, Quebec

Our Bodies, Our Selves by the Boston Women's Health Book Collective, New York, Simon and Schuster

Vaginal Politics by Ellen Frankfort, New York, Bantam Books

For inexpensive, well-researched pamphlets write to HealthRight, Inc., 175 Fifth Avenue, Room 1319, New York, New York 10010

Beatrice Baker is director of the Centretown Community Health Clinic and author of Health Hints, a regular column published in the Centretown News.

Readers are invited to submit questions and comments to Upstream's health and law columns.

High school women's studies

Ottawa Board of Education

by Donna Shugar

Three hundred Ontario educators attended a Toronto conference on women's studies last month, but the Ottawa Board of Education stayed home.

No explanation was offered by Ron Campbell, superintendent of schools.

"I don't recall knowing about it," he said in a telephone interview. The conference, which was co-

sponsored by the Ontario ministry of education and the Toronto School Board, brought together 300 teachers, principals, trustees, educational consultants, and people involved in teacher training

to "explore and develop procedures by which the study of women could be integrated in different subjects and grade levels," said Sheila Roy, a conference organizer.

Fifty-three Ontario school boards, including the Carleton Board of Education, were represented, she said, and others attending the conference reported meeting teachers from Manitoba, Newfoundland, and British Columbia.

Roy, of the curriculum development branch of the Ontario ministry of education, said that the conference was well publicized in advance. Last May, a brochure describing the conference was sent to every Ontario principal and every director of education and/or superintendent of curriculum in the province.

In September, a memo from the deputy minister of education was sent as a reminder. An article in the ministry publication, *Dimensions*, also referred to the conference, said Roy.

Dr. Hal Willis, assistant director of the Ottawa Board of Educa-

tion, wasn't aware of the conference.

"We receive information about 6 to 8 conferences every two weeks," he said. Attendance at conference depends on the specific interests of an executive or teacher. The status of women is a high priority, Willis said, and a "sizeable committee" is devoted to it.

But Gerry Trudel, board trustee and chairperson of the Status of Women Committee, has found her position somewhat frustrating.

"It's one of the most incredible situations," she said. "The entire system is perpetuating the traditional roles for girls."

A telephone survey of Ottawa high schools showed that few have courses which even touch on the subject of women and only one, South Carleton High School, offers a women's studies course. Most principals and teachers contacted were unfamiliar with the concept of women's studies and many felt that the subject of women is being adequately covered already.

But Nancy Graham, who teaches "About Women" at South Carleton High School, and who



B.C. and Manitoba nation in women

Women's studies is a serious educational issue, says Sheila Roy of the Ontario Ministry of Education and an organizer of a three-day provincial conference on women's studies held in Toronto last month.

But, said Roy in a telephone interview, the government sees women's studies courses as an "interim measure". The goal is a "balanced curriculum" in which the contributions of both men and women are discussed.

While some separate women's studies courses have been approved as experiments, the Ministry will concentrate on trying to convince individual teachers to integrate the female experience into their regular courses.

It does not want to see "just a unit plunked in," said Roy, "but you have to start there."

Margo Smith, one of the originators of the Women's Kit published by the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE), disagrees. There is a need for both separate courses and integration, she says.

Marnie Levitt, who started the course "About Women", now taught at South Carleton High School, shares Smith's view. Separate courses "tend to get a bit ghettoized," she says, "but how do you get teachers to put information about women into every course?"

Chauvinism on the part of male teachers is not uncommon, says Levitt.

"The girls can handle overt chauvinism, but the subtle negative approach towards girls is more dangerous, she said.

In a statement called *Changing Roles in a Changing World*, published by the Ontario Ministry and sent to every teacher in the province, teachers are told that it is a function of the school to lessen role stereotyping and are asked to

examine their own classroom behavior.

But the principal of Ottawa's Brookfield High School said this statement is offered as information.

"It is not a directive."

Ontario ranks about third in Canada in its commitment to providing non-sexist education for young people. While all provincial governments acknowledge the importance of this issue, most confine their activities to assuring that the content of their textbooks is non-sexist.

Doug Ledgerwood of the Alberta Department of Education said in a telephone interview that while his province has no women's studies courses and no intentions of implementing any, the Minister of Education held meetings with the Action Committee of the Status of Women Council to work out guidelines for the selection of non-sexist educational materials.

In a subsequent meeting with Canadian publishers, the province made it clear that it would no longer approve sexist materials for use in the schools.

Newfoundland, said a curriculum spokesperson, also "made its views known to publishers" and major changes have been made, particularly in primary readers. Concern about sexism in the schools has focused on the primary grades in Newfoundland.

An active role was played by the Status of Women Council which published a pamphlet on women in Newfoundland for distribution to all elementary school teachers.

The Quebec department of education is working on a document about sexism in textbooks, but PEI and New Brunswick do not see a need for this.

New Brunswick is "mindful of the dangers of stereotyping", says a spokesperson for the Department of Education, "but we have gon-

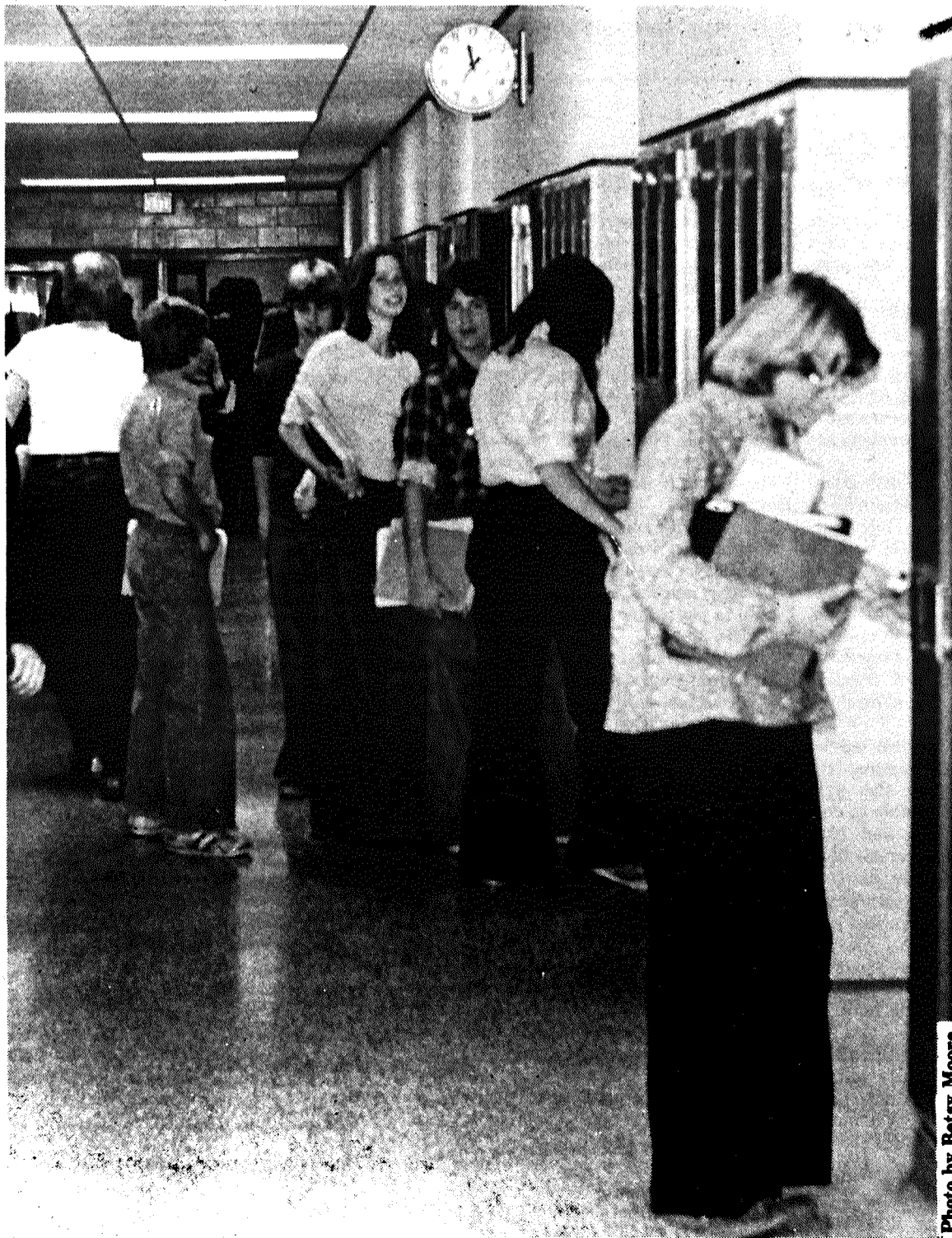


Photo by Betsy Moore

n moving slowly

attended the Toronto conference, sees a definite need for women's studies courses.

"Students are still traditional," she said. "They need to be made aware."

"About Women" has four parts - women in the work force, women as citizens, women as family members, and women in literature, the arts, and history. It is open to students of both sexes, but, right now, only female students have chosen it.

"The girls are starting to feel good about being a woman and a person," said Graham. "But they're having hassles because the boys are not being socialized at the same rate. We need to resocialize both males and females."

Plans to change the name of the course to "About People" may encourage more boys to take the course, Graham said.

The course is offered to grade 12 students, most of whom plan to leave school at the end of the year.

"They end up really involved," said Graham. "Some change their minds after taking the course and decide to take grade 13. They

become more assertive and many decide against having children. They tend to think longer about having permanent relationships and get interested in having a career."

But without school board guidance and interest, women involved in the area of women's studies remain isolated. Many who have field-tested the Women's Kit published by the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) have lost sight of it, allowing it to be swallowed up by school board libraries.

The board has no plans to coordinate the implementation of programming about women in Ottawa's schools and, says, Gerry Trudel, without parental pressure, it is not likely to change.

Even then, she says, "the board will be dragged screaming and kicking all the way."

Naturally, our telephone survey did not reach every teacher in the Ottawa area. If you are involved in a program about women in a local school, please write and tell us about it.



Photo by Betsy Moore

Manitoba lead in women's courses

along with the situation in an evolutionary way."

Neither PEI nor New Brunswick have any programs underway to deal with sexism in the schools, but both provinces "review educational materials with this in mind".

British Columbia and Manitoba stand at the forefront of programming about women in Canadian schools. Both provinces have been active in developing non-sexist materials.

The former NDP government of BC hired a "Consultant on Sex Discrimination in Public Education". She and her committee were given a mandate to develop a women's studies course for use in high schools. Shortly after the design was complete, the government changed hands.

In a purge which shook women's groups across the province, Julia Goulden was fired and her committee disbanded. Last spring, due to public pressure, she was reinstated, and now, after what she described as a "long struggle", the course has been approved. Nine thousand copies have been

published and provided to high schools by the government.

The course is "designed to provoke thought rather than establish a correct position." It contains units on images of masculinity and femininity, role conditioning, physiology, the family, the economy, history, politics, law, education, the arts, and women in other cultures. The course is flexible and can be used in a variety of ways, says Goulden.

"It can be used as a whole, broken up into units, or incorporated into other courses," she said.

Although it may be some time before it takes hold outside the Lower Mainland, Goulden expects that a great many schools will be using the course by January. She acknowledged that other provinces are not so committed to women's studies.

"BC is way, way ahead of anyone," she said.

It cannot be said, however, that Manitoba is very far behind. According to Claudia Engel of Special Projects in the Department of Education, Manitoba has taken a different approach.

Three years ago, the Department adopted a policy of fostering the growth of "school-initiated courses". Courses are "developed best at the local level," says Engel. "If you design your own course, you do a bang up job."

In keeping with its commitment to work in the area of bias, with particular reference to women, the province has supported its teacher-designed women's studies courses with resources and

consultancy, says Engel.

Her section is also responsible for the development of materials which are both non-sexist and have a woman's perspective, to be used as part of the regular curriculum. Several multi-media kits have come out of the department.

At the primary level, a social studies kit called "City Workers" presents both men and women of a variety of ages and ethnic groups at work at various jobs. Both

sexes are shown as farmers, truck drivers, and housekeepers.

At the intermediate level, a non-sexist kit on the "Family" portrays a variety of family styles, single parents of both sexes among them.

Engel's group is also working on a slide-sound presentation on Women in Literature for the high schools.

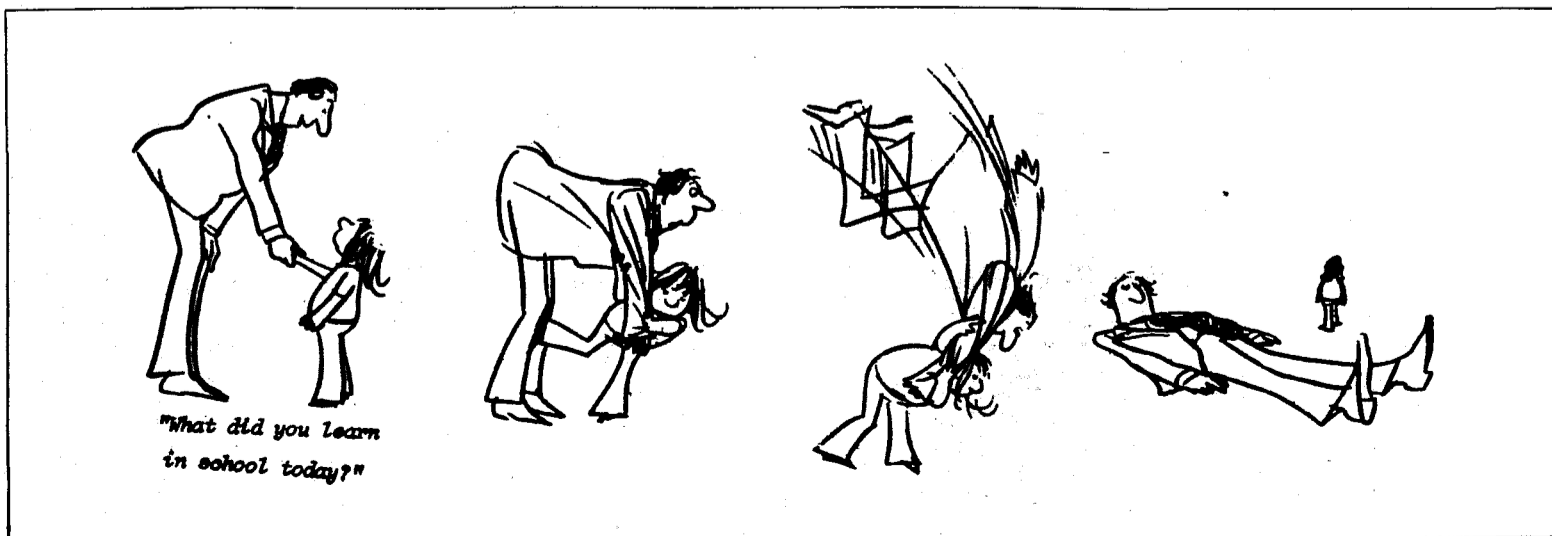
An exhibit on non-sexist books for children is touring the province and a handbook on eliminating bias in the classroom has been distributed.

But, says Engel, the women's studies course remains a necessity.

"No better way has been developed by anybody yet," she said. Although the goal should be to have women's content in all courses, separate women's studies courses are needed as a strategy for change."

Twenty kids take a women's studies course this year and, in a few years, maybe they'll be teaching in a non-sexist way, Engel says.

"It diffuses gradually. Maybe 20 years from now these courses will be obsolete, but now there's no alternative."



The Far Shore: Wieland's Disturbing Dream

by Nezi LeBlanc

The Far Shore is the first full length colour feature by a Canadian woman director to receive national distribution. It opened October 22 in Ottawa at the Little Elgin, and the manager predicted a two-week run. At that time it had been on for three weeks at Toronto's Towne. This means a better showing in commercial theatres than any other film, black or white, English or French, by Canadian women directors.

It is Joyce Wieland's Canadian dream, set in 1919, a film that dramatizes many of the themes that have preoccupied Wieland for years as an artist and experimental film maker. Though it is deeply flawed, **The Far Shore** deserves our attention and respect. It has some moments of intense beauty and conviction and if it is not totally satisfying, it is a certain promise of richer things to come.

The Far Shore became a reality almost seven years after Wieland's original 1969 film outline. Until November 1974, when shooting started, much of her time was spent seeking funds from financiers more interested in quick profits than a risky imaginative film about one artist's vision of Canadian reality.

Wieland also feels that many people objected to a woman having power over a feature production. Even after she and film maker Judy Steed formed **The Far Shore, Inc.** in 1972, it took two more years to raise the final budget of \$480,000 (\$200,000 from the Canadian Film Development Corporation, the rest from other Canadian sources including the Toronto Star, CTV and Famous Players Canada.)

The film grips us from its opening shot of a blue summer sky. That slow lingering shot seems to envelop the audience in light, and as the camera tracks down through trees and grasses we are caught in pure film magic: the kind of sensuous response only seasoned artists can evoke.

Wieland "drew" the film shot by shot, scene by scene, on four story boards. She had photographer Richard Leiterman study the works of Tom Thomson and other contemporary painters, some of whom later became the Group of Seven. The film owes its visual beauty to Leiterman's ability to carry out Wieland's concepts of colour, light, and texture.

Among Wieland's themes are her deep love for the land, the role of the artist in society, the possibilities for self-renewal through love and art. Bryan Barney's script is spare, his characters deliberate archetypes.

This is no limitation for the two leads, Cecile Lomez and Frank Moore. Both are gifted film actors, with the capacity to underplay stock scenes and suggest infinite subtleties where the script is lacking. Frank Benedict and Sean McCann are less fortunate as the

Later we discover she is a questing, adventurous woman willing to defy the social limitations imposed on middle class women in 1919. (Wieland said recently that Eulalie's character is partially based on that of her mother-in-law, who actually did elope to English Canada early in the century. Such unions of course were frowned upon by French and English bourgeois society.)

The theme of opposites continually in struggle is quickly established. The sunny Quebec wooing

life confined in passive dependence.

We see that Eulalie is potentially a creative person, but her music is not taken seriously. Nor is she permitted to forget the Puritan work ethic. A maid tells her "It's a working world, ma'm. Always will be!" Because of his caste and character her husband will never encourage her possibilities as a working musician. She is not living for herself, but for his use.

Mutual creativity, pleasure in art and an appreciation of the natural world gradually draw Eulalie to the painter Tom. Like many artists, Tom is at odds with the ruling class, yet dependent on its largesse: Ross is his patron. But he buys Tom's paintings as investments, not because he takes pleasure in them.

There are many loving details in Wieland's presentation of Tom. She wants us to see the artist as one very much in touch with the child in himself. She shows Tom clowning playfully with a friend in a store, annoying a staid shopkeeper. We see him dancing to country music in the morthwoods with people who are his good friends.

This artist does not reject the company of others; only those who would value him merely as a commodity producer. As Eulalie begins to spend long winter days with Tom in his cabin, Wieland superbly uses music and silence to depict their developing companionship.

Moore and Lomez are perfect as they suggest repressed tenderness and growing attachment. However, Eulalie's love is a challenge Tom cannot take up. She is unable to break through his need for solitude and non-commitment in order to do his work.

The film's pace quickens as Ross and Cluny go surveying in the north country. They take Eulalie. One day while canoeing they discover Tom sketching. Cluny and Ross decide to drive Tom out of the woods. Eulalie has a moment of decision. She leaps into the water and swims to the far shore to meet Tom.

At this point the film snaps, stylistically and dramatically. After using most of the film to depict a plausible heterosexual relationship suggesting equality and respect between the partners, she throws her lovers to the clowns. She builds up to a wilderness love story and then quite

literally turns on her audience and her characters.

They suddenly become cardboard puppets, running through the woods pursued by villains Ross and Cluny. The tone of old silents is carefully recreated with music, lighting, broad gestures, even the cute turnabout of bad-guy husband wearing a Mountie-like hat.

Sandwiched between all this self-indulgent nonsense is a long naturalistic love scene convincingly played in the water. This would make beautiful sense if Wieland had let us believe in Eulalie and Tom. But by now her viewers are so confused they are laughing.

The problem is Wieland's pukeish refusal to take her characters and her medium seriously. This seems strange, given the film's high production values and the time spent developing her main characters.

When the movie slips into the silent film mode Wieland is up to familiar tricks: using old forms for old ideas. In her 1971 National Gallery show **True Patriot Love** quilts were used to make political statements, along with post cards, photos, a series of personal lipstick imprints forming the words "O Canada"; ad infinitum. There is plenty of whimsy and charm and originality in this approach to ideas, but it has a disheartening tendency to destroy the underlying seriousness of her themes.

In fact, the formal confusion of styles is the ruin of **The Far Shore**.

The film ends with the murder of the lovers. The last shot of Eulalie's summer hat floating on the darkened water should be both banal and stirring, like Wieland's lipstick prints and political quilts. But the image is merely pretty.

Why does an artist work so hard to create something compelling and plausible, and then turn it into a bad joke? The answer may be found only in Wieland's personal contradictions about life and Canada and herself as a Canadian.

She spent several years in New York City in the Sixties before returning here permanently. She recently called Canadians "very cautious but strong, and extremely tenacious." Right now perhaps the first quality predominates in herself. This might explain the cop-out humour of **The Far Shore**. When she really believes (about herself and us) the latter part of her statement - perhaps we will see a film where the lovers will be winners, not victims.



villains, Ross and Cluny. Their roles are limited and they perform in a lumpish acting style, which could have been curbed by a firmer directorial hand.

Wieland's artist/hero is loosely based on the character and lifestyle of painter Tom Thomson. This painter of the north country is a natural man, at home with himself and wilderness, a creator and preserver. He is in opposition to the forces of rapacious capitalist development represented by Ross, the engineer husband of the film's central character, Eulalie.

She is a Glowing Quebecoise who falls into marriage with Ross, a cloddish WASP engineer visiting Quebec to make plans for a land development scheme. Her motivation for the marriage is not made clear in the beginning.

scene shifts to a nighttime arrival in rainy Toronto and the grim spaciousness of Ross's plush Edwardian home. To stress Eulalie's isolation Wieland shoots her from a high angle as she descends a long light-filled staircase after her wedding night. She enters a dimly lit parlour where Ross is discussing business with his close friend Cluny. Uneasy silence falls between the two men, and we perceive that Eulalie is a chatelaine and an ornament, not a person.

The film conveys a sharp feeling of the silent sensuous awareness of a woman's days. Time passes slowly. Eulalie thinks, observes, continually plays the piano. If the film is slow and passive here, it is very close to the turth of that un-lived life in many women: the

Women's Centre takes musical step to independence

by Rosemary Billings

They held a benefit concert for the Ottawa Women's Centre and everybody came. The concert was the Centre's first step towards financial independence. Six months of back-breaking work by the organizing collective, of bated breath and high hopes culminated October 27th. For \$4.50, you could support the Centre's efforts to control its own pursestrings, by simply sitting back and listening to some of the best musicians this town has heard in a long time.

A feminist duo from Toronto, C.T. and April, started the show. Many in the audience had first heard the pair at a Women's Music Festival in Michigan last August.

The cheeriness and gusto of their benefit performance warmed up the Ottawa audience too. With viola, acoustic Spanish guitar, and banjo, they worked through an eclectic repertoire of 'mood music', blues, jazz, bluegrass and flamen-

co. All stylings showed the impeccable timing and restraint of the musicians' classical backgrounds.

Their material is original and catchy. Days after, the delicate harmonies of *Silver Blue*, a fanciful song of strength, loyalty and love, were still floating through my head. A big favourite with the crowd was *Mother Mountain*, a song about a woman who yearns for and finally reaches the peace and joy of sisterhood.

Angele Arsenault, Acadian singer from P.E.I., was witty, challenging, acid, and jolly by turns.

Many of her songs underscored the tragic results of expecting people to limit themselves to choices based on sex-role stereotypes. In *Man Versus Woman*, for instance, she traced the inevitable disillusionment of a couple whose marriage is based on the traditional bargain of her services and perpetual beauty in return for his economic support.

Arsenault also had a dandy song about the woman who'd rather stay in her kitchen than listen to the male-bonding, jock-strap rap of cars, fights, and football going on in the living-room. I'll bet many of us can identify with that feeling.

Arsenault's music asserted her francophone and Acadian heritage. A song about Evangeline, Longfellow's mythic Acadian heroine, now reduced to a cola brand-name, was neatly set off by a song about the real Acadians in her P.E.I. home town. "They're all called Arsenault", she confessed wryly. *Les Heroines* tells about the great achievements of francophone women in the early days of Canada and should be a must in all school history courses. (Teacher's note: she's recorded it in both French and English.)

Arsenault's quirky melodic voice - sometimes husky, sometimes piercing - and her professional, energetic presentation made her easily the most engaging

performer of the evening.

Ellen McIlwaine wound up the bill. She is an inventive, eccentric musician given to such experiments as learning a song backwards (using a tape recorder), taping the backwards version, and then singing the backwards version forwards again. At the benefit, eccentricity got the better of inventiveness. Those of us who had come expecting to be treated to her usual virtuoso performance - exuberant vocals, meticulous slide guitar, thundering rock - were disappointed. We just got thunder.

To be fair, problems with the stage monitors contributed to the lacklustre performance. But that could not excuse the destruction on piano of Neil Young's classic *Helpless* ("Hopeless", muttered my friend). Infuriatingly, she even changed the line "a town in North Ontario" to "a place across the ocean-o". And I can't find too many excuses for guitar work that

was generally slap-dash and vocals that were careless.

I rather think that her new stage persona might have something to do with the deterioration in her music since I last heard it. When you're so busy putting across a sex-bomb 'machisma' image as rock 'n roll lady and "reggae woman", you don't have much energy to spare for musicianship.

Nevertheless, there were flashes. Parts of that wailing masterpiece *Losing You*, her "Duelling Guitars" instrumental, and the harmonica tour-de-force *Let's Go Down to the Ocean* were superb. It was enough to make you weep for what might have been.

Despite this lapse, the energy and joy generated by the benefit as a whole (and, one hopes, the money raised) should be enough to keep the Ottawa Women's Centre zinging for some time to come. I hope they do it again.

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Women's scene

Festival of festivals

by Bitsy Bateman

Shorts, documentaries, animation, features, fiction, producers, directors, camera women, sound women, actors, health care, unions, historical perspectives on women's lives, blood, birth, friendship, dialogue, skill sharing, Brazil, England, Norway, Denmark, Switzerland, housewives, mothers, workers, lovers.

The Festival of Festivals was an international film festival held in Toronto for the week of October 18-24. One of the special film areas featured was *Womanscene*, a program of films by women about women.

The organizer of *Womanscene* was Barbara Halpern Martineau, writer, teacher, and film maker. Ms. Martineau has done an outstanding job of collecting a powerful assembly of films from around the world, along with bringing to Toronto many of the most important women in film today.

These women discussed their work, their skills and the realities of dealing in a male dominated industry. *Womanscene* films were by far the most dynamic, stimulating and revolutionary components of the entire festival.

Jeanne Dielman, directed by Chantal Akerman from Belgium and *India Song*, directed by Marguerite Duras from France are two films that have not only broken from cinematic tradition, but have established a new film language. Both Akerman and Duras dispense with the common assumption that film is to entertain, and that the goal is to 'captivate' the audience.

These are demanding films to the extent that one must experience, not view passively. Each director abandons the arbitrary fragmentation of life in editing. Action is not falsely created by either the actors or the camera.

Jeanne Dielman sparks many sensations. The film is a 3 hour and 45 minute fictional documentation of three days in the life of a Belgian housewife. Akerman exposes the rigid compartmentalization of women in their daily home routines. The camera remains immobile except to follow Delphine Seyrig as she moves through the apartment. The long take becomes not only a technique, but the tangible perimeter of the character's existence.



The director does not compromise. By the end of the film one has come through involvement to identification. With this comes the beginning of an understanding of certain elements of women's experience.

Marguerite Duras' use of the sound tract in *India Song* is comparable to Chantal Akerman's use of the camera. Duras' muted, minimal action film has no synchronized dialogue, just a perfectly conducted and orchestrated symphony of voices offscreen. On one level there are the "circular voices" in conversations blended with the individual level of character voices. Duras has perhaps created the first true sound film.

The other feature films viewed were: *Lumiere*, by Jeanne Moreau, her first direction. The lives of four actresses (of whom she plays the oldest) are depicted in the well established style of contemporary cinema. Moreau's use of the camera is polished and the characters are believable, but the specific strength of *Lumiere* is the warmth, support, and caring that comes through in the friendships among these women.

Take It Like A Man (Denmark), directed by Mette Knudsen, Elisabeth Rygaard, Li Vilstrup is produced by the Red Sisters Collective. This film is an engaging comedy that uses role reversal to point

out the basic absurdity of customary role playing.

Adoption (Hungary) directed by Maria Meszaros was a film among the best shown, both at this festival and at Berlin, where it won the top award, the Golden Bear. The exquisite visual quality of this movie reawakened my sense of the particular beauty of black and white film.

The camera movement was clean, the images given with a simplicity that provided the foundation for the sensibilities of the film.

Adoption is the story of a friendship that brings comfort and stability to two women of different generations, Kata, a 42 year old widow, and Anna, a rebellious teenager in a reformatory. Anna becomes the child Kata's lover refuses to give her, yet what's remarkable about the film is the way Meszaros sidesteps the clichés towards which the story often seems to be moving. The film depicts with a rare honesty, the unlikely friendship between these two women, and shows liberation as a continuous, and often lonely struggle.

It is important to note that Meszaros has made nine feature films, an astounding number if one considers the output of the majority of women doing feature films.

Encarnation (Brazil) directed and produced by Rose Lecreta is a semi-documentary in which fantasy and reality weave an allegorical view of life that is obscure only to the extent necessary to pass Brazil's oppressive censorship. As Lecreta says of her own film, "*Encarnation* was shot in Bahia, where diamonds were abundant... which created the absurdity of a socio-economic-political universe when diamond diggers speak of a past and present in total opposition. The narration is surrealistic, in keeping with the subject of the film."

Canadian films screened during *Womanscene* are products of both a strong tradition of documentary cinema, and of women writers in Canada. *Ada* is an adaptation of one story in Margaret Gibson Gilbord's "Butterfly Ward" and *The Ottawa Valley* is based on a short story in Alice Munro's book "Something I've Been Meaning to Tell You."

Ada is directed by Claude Jutra for CBC's series of "Journalistic Dramas" and is his debut as an English director. The power of *Ada* is the result of extraordinary performances by Anne Anglin, Janet Amos, Jayne Eastwood and the rest of the cast. As the female counterpoint to *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* this film remains faithful to Gilbord's story in every detail.

The Ottawa Valley directed by Janine Nanatis and produced by Maxine Samuels, is another example of close visual translation of literary material.

Great Grandmother, directed by Lorna Rasmussen and Anne Wheeler, uses archival material, dramatic reenactments, and live interviews, to present a feminist history of pioneer women in Alberta. Rasmussen and Wheeler stand out as two important film makers to be supported by the Canadian public.

Women in Cuba, produced by Vivienne Leebosh and made by an all female crew, is an assembly in collage style of women of different ages and occupations working, singing, speaking about their lives in terms of the revolution.

Housewives is an animation short by Cathy Bennett. This is an unusual essay about a housewife's average day described without words but all the more pertinent because of the simplicity of presentation.

A very large round of applause goes to Ms. Martineau for her organization of *Womanscene*. In the preliminary planning stages of the Festival of Festivals, she experienced "some difficulties" in the importance of her program as a separate vision from the rest of the Festival. After no small battle she succeeded in engaging a separate theatre to project the *Womanscene* films.

In panel discussions involving many of the directors, producers, distributors and actors of these

films, it became apparent that each film maker's struggle to bring her film to life paralleled Ms. Martineau's effort to show them on their own terms. It is widely known that women work well on a shoestring budget, an ability which stems from household politics, and this ability is pursued in the making of films as well.

The films discussed in this review are but a sample of the many films shown and made by women around the world. We hope that Ottawa audiences will have the opportunity to see some of these films in the future.

special thanks to Alexa Dewiel and acknowledgements to excellent programme notes

Wells Gallery chooses and refuses art

by Lana Ritchie

As liaison between artists and the community, Barbara Ensor, director and owner of Wells Gallery, provides a valuable service to both.

Painters and sculptors need to display and sell their work. The public wants to view and purchase art at its convenience. A gallery brings the two together.

It is surprising, then, to hear Ensor say, "My heart just sinks when I see an artist walking in the door."

During the course of a week five to ten artists may visit the gallery asking Ensor to buy or accept work on consignment. Out of this number she might agree to take the paintings or drawings of one artist. If an artist is promising, but not yet ready, in her opinion, to exhibit, she may suggest continued work and returning at a later date.

"It is," she says, "so upsetting to see their hopes shattered."

While Ensor enjoys seeing the work of budding artists as well as that of the more established, many people who wish to exhibit do not meet the exacting requirements of the gallery.

"Some persons do three pictures and expect to have two of them hung in the gallery," she laughs.

The most painful task of an owner or director, according to Ensor, is telling someone who has a glimmer of talent their potential is not sufficient to merit the time and effort necessary to develop it.

The three main criteria the director uses to judge an artist's work are the quality of the drawing, of the design, and of the color sense. After that, she says, "I have to like it."

Another important qualification which she chides herself for frequently ignoring is the saleability of the piece.

Ensor says she is liberal in her artistic tastes and willing to be adventurous. She tells of holding a one-man show for an Edmonton artist whose paintings were so enormous they had to be uncrated outside the back door of the gallery.

None of the paintings sold, but Ensor explains, "one duty of my gallery is to show things I think

would help educate the general public as to what art is all about." The local reaction to that particular exhibition was to "come in, grunt, and say, 'What's this funny looking stuff!'"

In choosing work for exhibit the director prefers to show artists who are midway in their careers rather than those who are "safe". These people need encouragement and an opportunity to become known, she says.

The Wells Gallery has had many showings by female artists. Ensor says, "Women artists seem to be coming to the fore in Ottawa." She attributes this partly to the feminist movement because women seem now to be less hesitant to show their work and call themselves artists. Leslie Reed, Ann Orton, Jane Martin, and Jeri Gray are some of the women beginning to be recognized.

It is, nevertheless, still an uphill struggle for women in the art world.

"People tend to trust a male artist's work more. They feel more secure spending their dollars on a man's painting," Ensor says.

Visiting other exhibitions to discover new artists and maintaining contact with those she already knows are the pleasant duties of the director. Hiring staff, looking after accounts, preparing publicity, arranging the details of each show, tidying the premises, and trying to sell whatever is on exhibit, take up most of her time.

Setting up an art show requires a whole day, depending on what is being displayed.

"Hanging paintings in a gallery is an art in itself, a powerful painting placed beside a delicate one may completely destroy the effect of the other; when you hang a show it's not unlike designing a painting," Ensor says.

Owning and directing a gallery is a busy and exciting but not necessarily lucrative business.

CAR, Canadian Artists Representation, an organization which represents the interests of artists, recently criticized galleries for gouging artists.

Ensor admits some probably do take advantage of the naive but says, "Most galleries exist only because they like art and empathize with artists. Profits are minimal, if any."



BOOKS

Books for children:

You are what you read

by Joan Goodreau

With school under way, young school children are ready for new piles of books from the library. With so many books to choose from in the children's section, which books should you pick?

If "you are what you eat," then certainly bookworms are what they read. Books determine a child's viewpoint of the world she grows up in.

Most books tell about the adventures of boys and men. Even an animal story such as *Peter Rabbit* has a male as the main character. The girls in books are often passive rather than active. They watch the boys' exploits and seldom share the boys' adventures.

The reason behind so many stories about boys is the myth that although girls will read about boys, boys refuse to read about girls. This is refuted by children themselves, who are interested in a good story rather than who is the main character. Children read *Charlotte's Web* and *Winnie the Pooh* with equal interest because of the quality writing style and the entertaining plots.

Another myth is that boys' activities lend themselves to more exciting stories than girls' activities. This does not prove true in real life where boys and girls often do the same things such as: ski, play basefall, play house, run, climb trees, help their mothers, shop.

Here are some books you can find in the library that portray women and girls realistically and interestingly.

Ardizzone, Edward. *Lucy Brown and Mr. Grimes*. Lucy, independent and self-reliant, meets a rich, friendly old man who becomes her friend and guardian.

Beer, Kathleen Costello. *Bumble and Me*. Amply illustrated with photographs, this book tells about the adventurous friendship between a young girl and her horse.

Bemelmans, Ludwig. *Madeline and the Gypsies*. One of a series about a little French girl who travels and gets herself in exciting predicaments. In this book Madeline and her friend dress up as a lion who scares the countryside and winds up in the circus.

Brownstone, Cecily. *All Kinds of Mothers*. This book shows the diverse roles that women play in real life as working mothers and homemaker mothers.

Burton, Virginia Lee. *Katy and the Snow*. Unusual in children's books, a female machine named Katie saves an entire city.

Caines, Jeannette. *Abby*. Abby wants to know all about her adoption and won't accept her brother's statement that he doesn't like girls.

Freeman, Don. *Tilly Witch*. Ambitious Tilly goes back for a refresher course on scaring people.

Folt, Sue. *Rosa-Too-Little*. Rosa shows perseverance in learning to write so she can get her treasured library card.

Francoise. *Jeanne-Marie*. A series of picture books showing a little french girl leading an idyllic country life with her friends.

Gaeddert, Lou Ann. *Noisy Nancy Norris, Noisy Nancy and Nick*. Nancy is as ingenuous and adventurous as she is noisy. She portrays a real-life energetic girl.

Garber, Nancy. *Amy's Long Night*. Amy stays up all night on her sixth birthday with just her dog to help her brave it out.

Gill, Joan. *Sara's Granny and the*

Groodle. Sara's liberated granny devises an exciting imaginary trip for her.

Goodsell, Jane. *Katie's Magic Glasses*. Katie, who is five years old, discovers she needs glasses. Her adventures make anyone wish they needed glasses too.

Hochman, Sandra. *The Magic Convention*. Amanda wants to be a magician and gets to meet some, including a woman magician, at a Magic Convention.

Hoffman, Phyllis. *Steffie and Me*. This story describes a day in the life of a girl whose mother works and the imaginative things she finds to do.

Iwasake, Chihiro. *A Brother for Momoko*. With delicate water colours, this story explores the feelings of a young girl waiting for her new baby brother to arrive from the hospital. This book is one of a series about Momoko.

Klelin, Norma. *Girls Can Be Anything*. As the title says, Marina pretends to be a doctor, airline pilot, and other things that girls are not supposed to be.

Lindgren, Astrid. *Pippi Longstocking*. This series tells the escapades of an active, self-reliant girl who gets herself in and out of trouble.

McCloskey, Robert. *Blueberries for Sal*. Sal helps her mother pick blueberries and calmly meets a bear cub.

Phleger, Frederick. *Anne Can Fly*. An adventurous Anne tries flying a plane with her father.

Preston, Edna Mitchell. *Horrible Hepzibah*. A whimsical fantasy of the adventures of Hepzibah and her pet, the Horrible Ugly.

Rockwell, Anne. *Gypsy Girl's Best Shoes*. Maggi finds adventure in



the big city with her new pair of dancing shoes.

Shulevitz, Uri. *Rain, Rain Rivers*. Beautiful illustrations show a little girl watching the rain and planning to sail boats in the puddles.

Thompson, Kay. *Eloise*. The outrageous adventures of a precocious six year old who lives in the Plaza Hotel, New York.

Viorst, Judith. *Rosie and Michael*. A humorous story about how mutual respect builds a good friendship between a girl and a boy.

Wood, Joyce. *Grandmother Lucy and Her Hats*. One of a series of books about an eccentric, adventurous old woman, Grandma Lucy, and her granddaughter. This book

tells of secret, dusty treasures in Lucy's attic.

In your search for library books you will find that most animal stories have male animals for heroes. Here are some by Roger Duvoisin that have female animals for main characters:

Veronica and Our Veronica Goes to Petunia's Farm. These two books tell how Veronica becomes bored with lounging in muddy streams and goes off to look for adventure, first in the big city and then at Petunia goose's farm.

Jasmine. All the other farm animals have to accept Jasmine as a cow who knows her own mind and does not mind "not being like everyone else."

No revelations from Lady Oracle

Lady Oracle
by Margaret Atwood
McClelland & Stewart
\$45 pages
\$10.00

by Dorothy Elias

Margaret Atwood's latest novel, *Lady Oracle*, is a bit disappointing, especially if you have been waiting for a masterpiece, or at least a major revelation.

Like her first two novels, *Lady Oracle* introduces a young woman whose life has reached a point of crisis, whose selfhood is on the verge of being identified and acknowledged. Unlike the earlier novels, *Lady Oracle* deals with this theme against a backdrop of varied, complex, and truly ambitious dimensions. The cast of characters is satisfyingly diverse, though the relationships tend to remain hazy and sometimes unconvincing, particularly the one between Joan and Arthur, the heroine and her husband.

This isn't surprising, given the dubious bonds that hold the marriage together. Joan has several selves, and makes sure they are kept distinct and separate. The one Arthur knows is strictly limited.

"I didn't want Arthur to understand me: I went to great lengths



to prevent this... Arthur's tastes were Spartan, and my early life and innermost self would have appalled him. It would be like asking for steak and getting a slaughtered cow."

The reader is treated to the full spectrum of Joan's "early life and innermost self", essentially the core of the novel. Rather than being a "slaughtered cow", it is a composite of humour, psychological insights, and traditionally Atwoodian perceptions.

While it's true that much of the novel has to be read with a view towards deliberate overstatement and melodrama, Joan is portrayed

in a convincing and sympathetic light.

The spiritualist Leda Spratt, alias the Reverend E.P. Revele, is an alcoholic shadow who surfaces occasionally in Joan's life like a signpost pointing the way to the underworld. Arthur and his nationalist buddies are far more substantial, but are undeniably being lampooned from start to finish. They would remind me of deadpan stand-up comedians if they were not such obvious humourless zealots.

Atwood's greatest comic achievement in *Lady Oracle* is the figure of Chuck Brewer, the Royal Porcupine. This would-be poet, who freezes dead animals and wears pretentious costumes must be the most outrageous creation in the history of Canadian literature.

Joan's parents, on the other hand, have been cast within the more serious vein of the novel. As with Joan's psychological delineation, we are forced to accept her parents with a minimum of the tongue-in-cheek attitude that abounds elsewhere in the novel. If there is any humour in them, it is a most chilling sort, for they are too real, and too pathetic to be funny. Joan's mother is particularly convincing - a mixture of bitterness, frustration, and ultimately uncontrolled hysteria.

The structure of *Lady Oracle* is

a carefully composed series of flash-backs that take the reader from the present in Italy (Joan is hiding there after having faked her death in Toronto), to scenes from her obese youth and gradually lead into the absurd circumstances which necessitated Joan's escape by "suicide"

"My life was a snarl, a rat's nest of dangling threads and loose ends. I couldn't possibly have a happy ending, but I wanted a neat one. Something terminal, like scissors. I would have to die."

The flashbacks are interspersed with scenes from the Gothic thrillers Joan produces, first for her livelihood, but eventually for escape and emotional support. These bits of high romance parallel Joan's fantasy life, and as the novel progresses, we see them breaking down, beginning to echo the realities from which Joan can

no longer escape.

Facing reality is Joan's ultimate bugbear - she is seldom able to do it. Yet escaping it is the pitfall she must eventually learn to avoid. It is an interesting dilemma, and Atwood handles it very well, weaving an intricate network of reality and fantasy that results in a multi-dimensional novel.

The narrative tone of *Lady Oracle* proved to be the only stumbling block. Though Atwood is consistently witty throughout the book, a large part of it is written in a rather remote, objective manner occasionally bordering on flatness. Then, for about the last third of the novel, it erupts into an orgy of satire and runaway melodrama, somewhat disconcerting on a first reading. This abrupt shift adds another dimension to the novel, but at the same time can seem a bit incongruous.



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1894:

Ottawa women organize for social change

Liverpool, 1882: - A farewell reception for two leading American feminists decided that the founding of an international council of women would be an appropriate memorial to the 40th anniversary of the first gathering of American feminists in Seneca Falls, New York.

Although the United States alone had organized a National Council, twelve countries sent 200 representatives to the first meeting of the **International Council of Women (I.C.W.)**, held in Chicago in 1893. The small group of Canadian women attending mainly represented Ontario organizations.

At this time, **Lady Aberdeen** was en route to Canada where her husband was to fill the office of Governor-General. When they stopped in Chicago to visit a technological exposition, Lady Aberdeen attended the Council meeting and was subsequently elected the first President of the I.C.W.

Lady Aberdeen's reputation as a concerned supporter of women's rights was well-deserved and unquestioned.

In 1883 she had been publically sympathetic to a Private Member's Bill to enfranchise single women and was active in the **Women's Government Society**

which promoted women to election on county councils.

The meeting in Chicago had inspired many of the Canadian representatives to form local Councils.

In January, 1894, a circular letter was sent to all associations in Ottawa involving women. They were invited to attend the first executive meeting and were urged to affiliate with the **Ottawa Local Council**.

Although Lady Aberdeen presided over the Council for the first year of its existence, the creation of the first executive was not as simple as she had anticipated. She had hoped to include representatives from the major religious groups and French and English communities, thus fulfilling the ecumenical ideal she held to be so important in her work. She was able to achieve a non-sectarian balance in the executive but not in the membership at large.

The Roman Catholic hierarchy was reluctant to allow its women parishioners to join because of the presence of certain aggressive Protestant affiliates. Early meetings of the Council were also troubled by the issue of whether or not a silent (non-sectarian) prayer would begin regular meetings.

Such tensions undoubtedly

caused the decline of Roman Catholic representation. Yet, in spite of these difficulties, the first years saw the beginning of an evolution in the Council's orientation from a religious to a secular approach in solving social problems.

The founding years were marked by increased organizational refinement; the initiation of a number of lasting concerns such as the care of the mentally retarded; and the successful resolution of a number of Council projects.

Primary concerns of the decade were the establishment of an Association of Charities at the prompting of Mrs. E.H. Bronson; the establishment of a Free Public Library; the creation of the Victorian Order of Nurses; the introduction of Domestic Science in provincial schools; the appointment of a police matron; the appointment of women to school boards; and the improvement of working conditions for women in factories, workshops and retail outlets.

By 1898 many of these objectives were met. However, the drive for a Free Public Library failed its first political test and the appointment of women to school boards was forced to wait until the early 1930's.

Improving women's working conditions remained a lasting concern. However, the emphasis



shifted from labouring to professional as women moved into increasingly diverse occupations in the 20th century.

One major social issue of the decade did not elicit a significant response from the Ottawa Local Council: **Women's Suffrage**.

In her determination to avoid

divisive issues of either political or sectarian nature, Lady Aberdeen refused to display any public enthusiasm about the procurement of the vote. Her position as the wife of the Governor General, constitutionally a politically neutral post, necessarily reinforced her desire to avoid controversy.

The last decade of the 19th century was a significant period of growth for women. Although their stand on social and feminist issues was cautious and conservative, these councils were, nonetheless, an important step in organizing women in Canada toward a common goal.

Workers reverse corporate corset squeeze

Wage and Price Controls? - With wages at a few dollars a week in the 1880's, the captains of industry and government had little need of an anti-inflation program.

Just as opponents of wage controls today are counter-attacking with a demand for less government spending, so **The Palladium of Labor**, first published under the banner **The Labor Union** in 1883, clamored for the same justice.

Labor historian Martin Robin writes that this Hamilton weekly "pushed political and social reform as a prelude to Canadian independence on a thoroughly democratic basis of government, manhood suffrage... and the elimination of extravagance in administration."

In advocating these reforms, "Canada's Journal of Organized Labor" became a supporter of the American-based Knights of Labor, a union organization dedicated to unionizing all workers except "doctors, lawyers, businessmen and 'purveyors of intoxicants.'"

The **Palladium** ceased to publish after its March 1, 1884 issue but reappeared on April 12, 1884 as an "official organ of the Knights of Labor."

Up to three cents a copy from the original one cent, the weekly continued to offer its readers vituperative arguments in favor of all the reforms mentioned. Space was also devoted to the struggles of striking workers and a column called 'Work and Wages', listed available jobs.

As a Knights of Labor publication, **The Palladium** was more than ever devoted to the interests of workingwomen as stated in its masthead.

The Knights, who gained a foothold in Canada at Hamilton in 1881, state in their constitution (which publisher W.H. Rowe printed repeatedly) that one of their objectives was "to secure to both sexes equal pay for equal work."

Seldom failing to mix a little humor with **The Palladium's** advocacy of union organizing and the higher goals of political and social reform mentioned by Robin, Rowe often published anecdotes such as the following, entitled "A Chapter on Squeezing."

"Good morning ma'am. I'm canvassing for a patent corset; let me show you what

a splendid article - well its no use talking, it can't be beat," said a brisk little woman with bright, black eyes and white teeth...

Immediately I protested against losing time, as I wore only a neat-fitting, factory waist, and eschewed corsets.

"Don't wear corsets! I see; that accounts for your peculiar figure," she said, eyeing my well-developed form very critically... "You see, ma'am, once you get properly laced into this corset, you can neither lurch nor wrinkle - you're just as tight and neat as though you were done up in splints and plaster of Paris."

I suggested that in making my way through this world I might have occasion to stoop once in a while, and didn't quite see how I'd manage if I had to be done up like that...

"Oh, you mustn't stoop or bend, just sit; sit down low, or squat, you know."

"But," said I, examining the heavy invention of whalebone, steel and stout jean, "how ever do you get this to meet over a human body! There is no room for the hips here."

"Excuse me, ma'am, there are no hips worn; all straight down. Its old-fashioned to have hips. Ladies are not supposed to have any; it spoils the figure..."

"Well, don't you allow room for the abdomen?" The little woman here uttered a small shriek.

"Oh, my gracious no! The very thought makes me faint. You must, to have a perfect figure, have no hips, no abdomen, perfectly straight all round, with a big bustle in the centre of the back..."

"And then a special advantage in these corsets to ladies who are flat, they are made so you can have a thirty-eight or even a forty-inch bust by simply filling in these gussets with wadding."

"A dry look-out for the poor babies," I said, thinking of my thirsty little cub...

"Don't you think its a pity for a woman to be dragged to death with children, when she could have a nice tight pair of corsets like these, and dress up and go out, instead of loading herself to ill-health dragging them about."

"But I'm not in ill-health, nor am I going to be... I have five beautiful boys; nursed my boys myself, and never know what sickness means, and I'm sure if mother

had allowed me to be squeezed into an unnatural shape when I was a girl, I should have had a different tale to tell. I don't believe in tight squeezing of the waist. I..."

"Don't you! I do," said my husband, coming in quickly from the back door and clasping both hands tight around my waist, while I hastily shut the door.

"Yes sir'ee, I believe in tight squeezing so long as I hold the contract for the job myself."

"John! John! Don't be silly. Let me go."

"No ma'am. You don't get away till I tell you what has been done by squeezing. The company monopolists have been squeezing all the work they could get out of us for all these years, until we began to dread the idea of another youngster coming to our fireside, because there would be another mouth to feed off our already too small pay.

"Our grand combination squeeze has changed all that. The companies could hold out no longer, we have at last squeezed better pay for our work out of them.

"Bye and by there will dawn on their benighted vision the fact that the worker has not only a right to exist as a wealth-producing machine, but also a right as an intelligent-thinking being, to live and enjoy life."

"And also the right to give his children the very highest education the schools can afford, whenever their undoubted talents justify that course; the right to be in a position to save money in order to be independent in the day of old age; to be helpful to the unfortunate; to find his true level in the world, wherever that may be."

"Let go, John, let go. There's the baby," said I, and with a sounding kiss on my cheek he let me go. He is so excitable, John is, but its true, nevertheless.

by Ron Verzuh

Next issue: Organization our only hope - a Canadian girl speaks out on organizing a union in the wholesale clothing industry.

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SPORTS

Fitness becomes saleable:

Ottawa's Athletic Clubs

by Amy Chouinard

Fitness and sport participation has finally become saleable.

The All Season's Racquets Club plans to open its doors to members on December 1, the Ottawa Athletic Club entered the recreation scene last month and the Sportsplex, Recreation Association (RA), and the Rideau Lawn and Tennis Club are all anticipating expansion — chances are the array of recreation facilities and price packages will continue to mushroom.

A spokesperson for the West Ottawa Tennis Club noted that total income in 1970 was \$72,000, while in 1976 it was about \$45,000 — an increase that signals a profitable demand.

Brochures put out by many of the clubs are another signal of what's to come. One announces top facilities and accommodation for tennis will be the aim of its organizers, and another comments that its club is a "brand new solution to the shortage of facilities for Ottawa sport and fitness enthusiasts."

Shortage? If one exists, Upstream sport staff couldn't discover it in a survey of some of the facilities. Instead, a plethora of programs, equipment, and courses

was uncovered.

The problem is not shortage but decided which is the most suitable package or combination — the best value for the money.

The three most important considerations in shopping for recreation are probably personal convenience, interest, and cost. A person must be able to take full advantage of what is available and to afford it before a package is a bargain.

A lesson should be learned from bargain-hunting in other commodities. A list of what is desired in price, sports and fitness programmes, location, transportation, social activities, and babysitting will save dollars and avoid disappointment. An overview of some of the facilities, their dress requirements, and costs follows and should provide a basis on which to begin comparison shopping.

Carleton University [Colonel By Drive] Memberships, valid to August 1977, are part of student fees but are also open to non-students. Single adults pay \$110 and couples \$170. Special rates are given to students from other schools, Carleton alumni, and spouses.

Members can enjoy outdoor

tennis, squash, swimming, lounging in the steam room, sunroom, sauna, or whirlpool, or working out on weight training equipment. An inside track is also available, and cut rate fitness and swimming courses are provided. (Some courses are free, but one program, the post-coronary rehabilitation course, runs as high as \$45 for members and \$75 for non-members.)

The pool is 3 1/2 feet to 15 1/2 feet deep and is 50 metres long. Three diving boards and a 10-metre tower are included.

Outdoor tennis courts are open free to members, but no facilities exist for indoor tennis. Time on the four squash courts can be booked 48 hours in advance; court time costs 50 cents for each 40-minute period. Reservations are for single periods only.

Fitness assessment for members is \$25, for nonmembers \$45. All programs and courses are open to nonmembers, and dialy access to the facilities can also be purchased for \$2. Babysitting (at a price) is an added attraction for morning fitness classes. Running shoes are required in the fitness centre, and entry to the swimming pool is limited to participation in classes and/or public swimming hours.

All Seasons Racquets Club [2100 Walkley Road] Tennis memberships for adults are available to November 30 at \$96; at present, the club is accepting \$25 deposits for memberships and will require the balance only when the club is totally finished.

At the December 1 opening, four indoor tennis courts and two squash courts will be ready; no court fees will be levied until the club is fully operational, but when it is, court time will range between \$6 and \$12 an hour, and the adult membership fee will be \$110 for tennis and \$225 for squash.

Indoor tennis courts will number eight and squash courts, five. The fee entitles members to buy court time and use the club's other facilities. Court time may be booked permanently or on a casual basis, but no indication was given on the maximum number of courts that will be booked permanently.

Facilities are coed and include a universal exercise room, weightlifting equipment, ping pong and billiards tables, whirlpool, sauna, and bar. They will be open from 7:30 am to 11:30 pm, 7 days a week, and child care will be provided at no charge during the day.

Although jeans and cutoffs will not be acceptable dress, whites will not be required.

Sportsplex [1701 Woodroffe Avenue] No membership *per se* is available for the facilities at the Sportsplex, but annual swimming passes are open to Nepean residents for \$25 a person (maximum \$100 per family), and court passes, which enable the holder to buy squash time at reduced rates, cost \$50 for full season and \$20 after May 1.

Court time may be booked 24 hours in advance; passholders pay \$1 for a 40-minute period and others pay \$4. Racquets may be rented at 50 cents apiece.

There are four courts open at present, but four more will be operating before the end of the month. Admission to all facilities, including the gym, exercise room, swimming pool, and squash courts, is open to anyone at specified times and costs no more than \$1. Courses and programmes in fitness, badminton, golf, yoga, gymnastics, judo, ice skating, ballet and swimming are offered at various times throughout the year and range from \$10 to \$55.

Curling is also pay-as-you-play; with 10 sheets of ice open for play. Rates are either \$14 or \$16 per sheet depending on the time of day. Reservations for ice time must be made 48 hours in advance.

Coed volleyball and badminton are part of the regular fare.

Racquet rental is 25 cents and whites are required for badminton. Child care is available from 9 am to 4 pm and costs 50 cents a time (whether for 3 minutes or 3 hours). The swimming pool may be rented for \$35 an hour and lifeguards are available at a minimal fee. The pool is 50 metres long with three diving boards and a tower.

Ottawa Athletic Club [2525 Lancaster Road] Women's memberships range from \$100 to \$225, and the lowest price package is the "women's weekday special".

This fee permits a member to buy court time for indoor tennis (\$6 to \$10 an hour) and squash, handball, and racquetball (\$5 for a 40-minute period) between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm. (Outdoor tennis is \$25 extra per season). It also gives free access to two equipped exercise rooms, and indoor track, swimming pool, sauna, whirlpool, sunroom, toiletries, lockers, and babysitting services. A licensed dining room and a cafeteria under construction, when complete, will be catered by the people managing the Hayloft and the Sly Fox.

The swimming pool approximates 60 feet in length, is pentagon-shaped, and is 4 1/2 feet deep.

If a woman wants the next package it's \$50 more and extends her privileges to between 7:30 am and 11:30 pm, while another \$50 eliminates court fees for squash, handball, and racquetball. Full membership at \$225 means an individual only pays for indoor tennis court time. Eight squash courts, four handball/racquetball courts, 10 indoor tennis courts, and eight outdoor tennis courts sum up racquet sports.

Fitness courses are free to members, but fitness assessment costs \$45. Members have to pay for babysitting services after 4:30 pm and on weekends, but these services are free from 8:00 to 4:30. Women's and coed tennis leagues are open to members only, but tennis clinics will cost \$50 for members and nonmembers alike.

Although no public transport runs down Lancaster road, there is parking and the club is planning a noon shuttle bus to and from downtown. Exhibitions, which include a tennis show given by John Newcombe and Tony Roche

tonight, and a squash exhibition by the Kahn family tomorrow night, are open only to members.

Cutoff jeans and halter tops are not allowed for dress, but whites are not required.

RA Centre [2451 Riverside Drive] Memberships, which are \$1 a month for singles and \$1.50 for families, are limited to federal government employees, but all programs are open to nonmembers at a slightly higher fee.

Badminton (4 courts), bowling (10 lanes; coed and women's teams) curling, fencing, judo, ice hockey, skiing, and women's volleyball are some recreational activities under way. Courses include yoga, skydiving, golf, belly dancing, ballet, archery, and ballroom dancing. These range in price up to \$68 (skydiving) but most are under \$20.

Babysitting services are for morning badminton players, while badminton is thriving, but interest in the babysitting service has dwindled recently. No dress requirements, except appropriate gym shoes.

YM-YWCA [180 Argyle Ave.] Women may join the "Y" for \$90 annually, and the fee may be divided into regular payment over 30, 60, or 90 days. Other price packages are available for families. The fee entitles members to swim during recreational periods, participate in swimming and fitness classes, and play on sport leagues, including floor hockey and volleyball.

At no extra cost, they also may take courses in judo, fencing, weightlifting, gymnastics, and wrestling. Nonmembers may take courses but are excluded from "recreational sport". As well, the squash court, two racquetball/handball courts, and four badminton courts are open only to members. Indoor tennis is played in the gymnasium at certain times, and lessons are available. Squash courts must be booked 24 hours in advance for a 30-minute period.

Fitness assessment is \$10 for members and \$15 for nonmembers. Testing is carried out by a doctor of physical education. Babysitting services (\$0.75/hour for first child and \$0.60 for additional children) are available in the mornings for parents in classes. Jeans are not considered appropriate dress.

Rideau Lawn Tennis Club [Donald Street] Winter membership is limited to indoor tennis, and for women there are two options: daytime (8-4:30) \$50 and full-time (8-11) \$95 for the season (Oct 1-Apr 30). This fee entitles her to participate in round robin tournaments and league play. In summer, squash courts and a swimming pool are also available.

Ottawa Women's Athletic Club [1064 Wellington] For \$1 a season, women may join Sunday night volleyball, floor hockey, and basketball at the Ottawa West Community Centre. Sign up is before games (7:00 pm).

FITNESS

by Sandy Garland

This is the first appearance of a regular column which will appear monthly.

What is physical fitness?

Is it getting up at 6 in the morning and jogging to work? Is it playing squash 5 times a week and swimming on weekends? Is it trying to fit slim and trim classes between laundry and grocery shopping twice a week?

It could be, but basically physical fitness is just feeling good. It's waking up in the morning and really wanting to get up. It's getting through the day without having to take pills for headaches, indigestion, tension. It's going to sleep at night when you feel tired instead of tossing and turning for hours.

Keeping fit is often more of a problem for women than for men. Many of us haven't really used our muscles since we were children so getting started at any regular programme is difficult and often painful.

Time is a factor as well. Men can usually fit in an hour of jogging or calisthenics after work or at noon. Women always seem to have children to look after, meals to prepare and errands to run.

There are, however, some things you can do to improve your body's health with very little disruption of your daily routine.

1. Take 5 minutes to enjoy a good stretch before you get out of bed in the morning. Really extend every muscle and feel the energy flowing.
2. Try running for one or two blocks to the bus stop or to your neighbor's house for morning coffee.
3. Get outside for a while every day. Use this time to fill your lungs with fresh air by breathing slowly and deeply.
4. Walk as much as possible. For example, get off the bus several blocks before your stop and walk the rest of the way home or go with your husband (children) to walk the dog in the evening.
5. Take your children swimming or skating instead of to a movie on Saturday afternoon.
6. Go out dancing more often.

You will undoubtedly be told that even if you do all these things you won't become physically fit. That may be true if by physically fit you mean able to run a mile or do 50 push-ups.

But who wants to do push-ups? Increasing your activity level even a small amount can't help but do you good. Running, even only one block, will make you breathe faster, increasing your circulation, and getting more oxygen to your tissues.

Simple breathing exercises will also increase circulation and lung capacity. Regular exercise of your heart and lungs promotes alertness while reducing tension, and, in the long run, weight.

All this may not turn you into Chris Evert, but I absolutely guarantee that if you increase your physical activity in at least some of the ways I've suggested, you'll feel better, look better, and be happier about yourself.

The Wen-do way to women's self-defense

by Bertie Lawton

Wen-Do is sometimes called the womanly art of self-defense. Ned Paige, a black belt karate instructor and Toronto optometrist, developed Wen-Do which incorporates techniques from karate, jitsu, and other martial arts.

Based on surprise, circularity, smoothness, and self-trust, Wen-Do, which means "circular path" or "woman's way" was developed by Paige because he felt most women found they had neither the time or the money for existing self-defense courses. It may take two years to become proficient in the self-defense aspects of karate.

Not so with Wen-Do. Over thirty women attending a two day course in late October received seventy-five per cent or more of the self-defense instruction they will need in a life-time.

The course, held for women in Ottawa and surrounding areas was comprised of physical training, lectures, and discussion, for a \$12 fee.

Two types of Wen-Do are taught — soft and hard. Soft Wen-Do allows a woman to get out of physical advances gently or to eject an unruly drunk. Hard Wen-

Do can maim or kill and is used when soft Wen-Do proves ineffective.

Women sign statements testifying they will not reveal hard Wen-Do techniques to those people who have not taken the course. It is advised that women become proficient in two soft techniques and two hard ones in the beginning.

Surprise is the most important element of self-defence, and the wild cry of "HUT" at the critical moment adds to this effect. The attacker usually doesn't expect his 'victim' to fight back.

Circularity gives the woman the leverage and thrust necessary to break a hold, while smoothness of movement is necessary to prevent the attacker from recovering and fighting back. Because many women feel they must be passive, self-trust is the fourth element of Wen-Do.

Wen-Do instruction includes warm-up exercises, pushups, yoga, and zen meditation. The study of zen has physical as well as psychological effects.

Full attention is focused on only one moment — in self-defense that moment is all that matters. With a focused mind a woman can

use all her inner strength.

This was forcibly demonstrated at the end of the second and last day of instruction when several women, bare-handed, broke dressed pine boards one inch thick. Victors had their broken boards autographed by the instructors as proof of achievement.

Practice is advised to build and reinforce self-confidence and agility. Techniques taught include evasion from such holds as judo front choke, full nelson, and back knife thrust and choke.

Against a professional back choke, the victim raises one hand in a high block, pivots as hard as she can and throws her whole weight into the block. This should break the hold, but if the attacker is so flat against her that she cannot turn around, the victim must make things unpleasant for release.

One method is to drive a heel into his shin and slam it into his instep, jabbing an elbow into his solar plexus to break the hold and run.

This and other useful defence techniques are described in **Against Rape — a Survival Manual for Women** by Andra Medea and Kathleen Thompson. A paper-

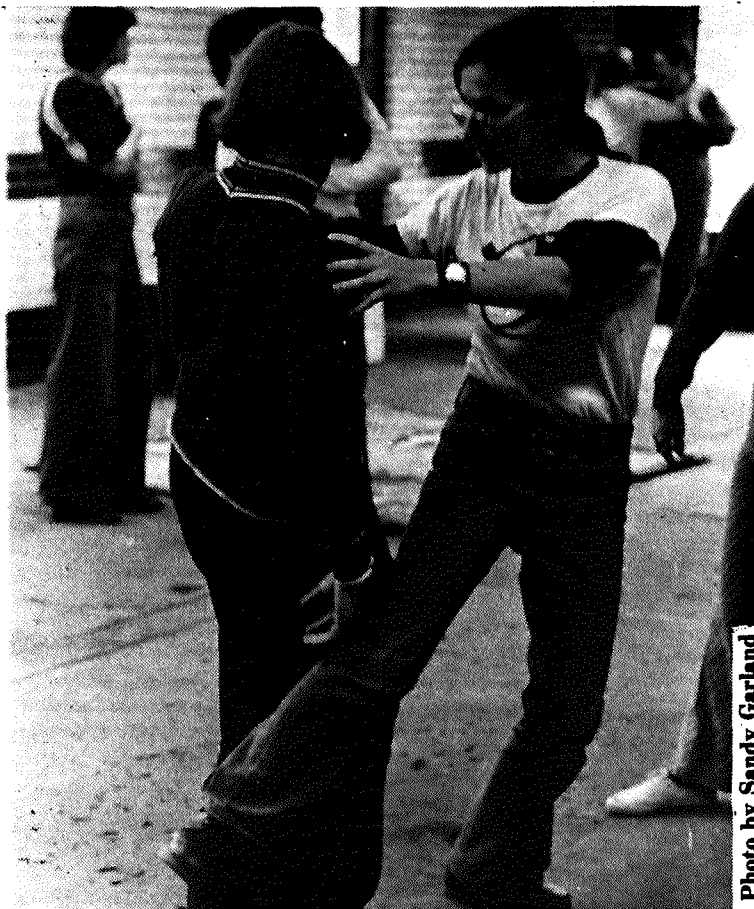


Photo by Sandy Garland

Margaret Telegdi demonstrates throwing an assailant off balance

back edition is published in Canada by Doubleday.

Future courses in Wen-Do will be taught when instructors are available. The courses are in great demand, and the volunteer instructors have extensive training

in advanced self-defense. Wen-Do may be repeated by participants at no cost. For information on courses in Ottawa, call the Women's Centre, 821 Somerset Street West, at 234-4035 or 233-2560.

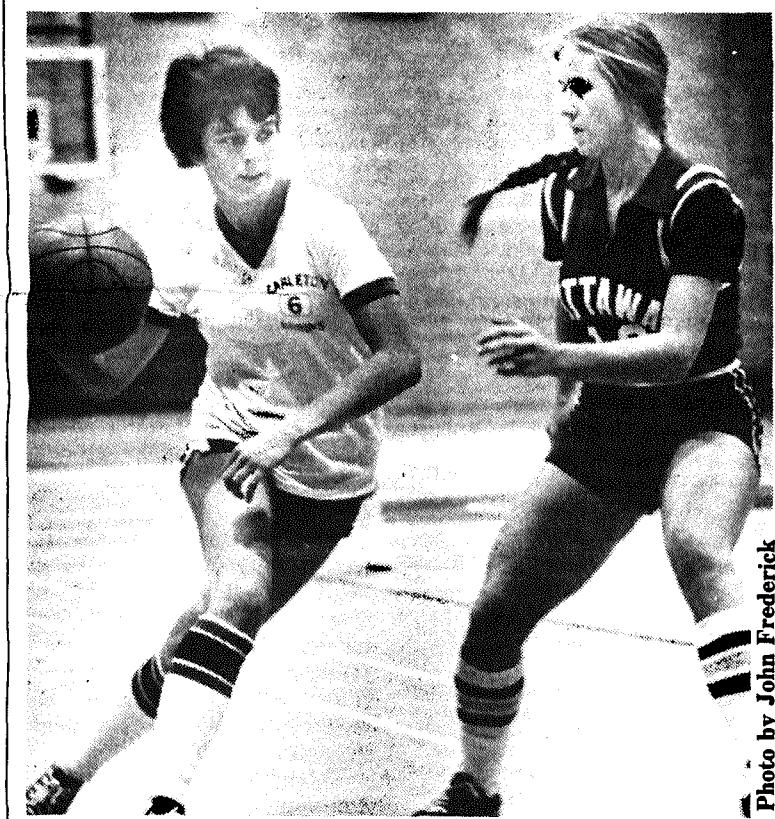


Photo by John Frederick

Cheryl Panghorn of the Carleton Robins evades an Ottawa U player

Women's amateur hockey nets the nation's capital

by Wayne Richardson

Over the years the Junior OHA and Central Junior A Leagues have been the talk of the Valley, and well they should have been with teams like the Ottawa 67's, Gloucester Rangers and Rockland Nationals dominating the local hockey scene.

On the other side of the fence, little attention has been paid to women's hockey pursuits in the Bytown area. Sure, 'shinny hockey' existed in the form of "community house leagues" and the junior/intermediate/senior ranks of the Ottawa District Girl's Hockey League for young women up to 18, but, when all that was needed was a pair of figure skates and a hockey stick to play the non-body contact game, it was hard to take girl's hockey seriously.

Today, the Junior A Leagues are still the talk of the Valley, but women's hockey is growing in popularity and organizational strength.

With the appearance of the Ottawa Capitalettes (now called the Travelways Capitalettes) under the sponsorship of Capital Travelways in 1973, women's hockey took a new and exciting turn in the Valley. The Capitalettes represented an opportunity for women 18 and over who had outgrown the junior ranks, participated in "varsity hockey" at the university level or were simply fans of the game — a chance to pursue a sport they had come to love.

The Rideau Ladies Hockey League (R.L.H.L.) consisting of teams from Kemptville, Brockville, Prescott, Spencerville and Ottawa (Capitalettes) was born! Strict adherence to CAHA rules and the introduction of body contact were the order of the day making the R.L.H.L. competitive with other women's hockey leagues across the province. In the interest of safety, "full equipment" was mandatory consisting of shoulder/elbow/shin pads, J-straps with cups, hockey skates/gloves/pants, CSA approv-

ed helmets and mouth guards.

For two years the Capitalette dominated the R.L.H.L. with consecutive League Championships leading fellow league members to believe that they would be better off or more competitive in a weaker Can-Am Girl's Hockey League bolstered with entries from Massena and Kanton. Consequently, the R.L.H.L. was dissolved and the Capitalettes were forced to depend on "exhibition games" with the Ottawa District Girl's Hockey League (which had by this time adopted full-equipment regulations and a more serious approach to game fundamentals) and minor bantam/bantam "boy's teams" in order to prepare for '75-'76 regional/provincial tournaments in Kanata, Picton, Brampton, and Kingston.

Three factors became relatively clear over the '75-'76 hockey season: (1) the Capitalettes needed regular "league competition" in order to remain a major "C" level contender in provincial engagements; (2) senior level participants in the Ottawa District Girl's Hockey League needed exposure to teams of the Capitalettes' calibre if they were to develop advanced skills; (3) inferior competition faced by Kemptville in the Can-Am Girl's Hockey League was hurting team and individual de-

velopment.

Consequently, the finest female organizations in the Ottawa Valley have joined forces in the '76-'77 launching of the Ottawa District Ladies Hockey League.

Participants are the Travelways Capitalettes, two year reigning champions of the R.L.H.L.; Kemptville, CanAm Girl's Hockey League champions; Bayshore Marine, finalists in the Ottawa District Girl's Hockey League (O.D.G.H.L.); and Webb's Motel Cardinals, a new team in Ottawa.

The League will officially commence regular season play during the second week of November. Play-offs will consist of a round robin "double knock-out" to commence the week ending February 19th and ending March 5th.

Upon completion of the play-offs, individual teams will be entering various tournaments across the province which will bring them into contact with some of the best female hockey organizations in Canada — the Mississauga Indians, Montreal Ladies, Kingston Barons, Burlington Bruins, Prince Edward Island Bells, Saskatchewan Queens and Brampton Capitalettes to name but a few.

On the Canadian scene, women's professional hockey seems a little premature. Shirley Peterson, varsity coach of the women's hockey team at the University of Guelph says "We've had organized women's hockey in Ontario for the past 10 years and even now we feel we've only about three teams who could be considered "A" calibre."

However, for the past year and a half, major efforts have been made to bring about the "Ontario Women's Hockey Association".

In view of the progress of women's hockey across North America, it is the overall objective of the Ottawa District Ladies Hockey League to develop a strong but enjoyable women's hockey program which will be a power to content with in future provincial play-offs.

Sports Calendar

Ottawa District Ladies Hockey League

- Nov. 9 Cardinals vs Capitalettes, Lions Arena, 9:30
- Nov 10 Capitalette vs Bayshore Marine, March Arena, 8:00.
- Nov. 13 Bayshore Marine vs Kemptville, Kemptville Arena, 7:00.
- Nov. 14 Kemptville vs Cardinals, Lions Arena, 9:30
- Nov 16 Bayshore Marine vs Capitalettes, Lions Arena, 9:30.
- Nov. 17 Cardinals vs Bayshore Marine, March Arena, 8:00.
- Nov. 18 Kemptville vs Capitalettes, Nepean Sportsplex, 9:00.
- Nov. 20 Cardinals vs Kemptville, Kemptville Arena, 7:00.
- Nov. 21 Capitalettes vs Cardinals, Lions Arena, 9:30.
- Nov. 24 Kemptville vs Bayshore Marine, March Arena, 8:00.

Ottawa Ladies Volleyball League

- Nov. 10 Eight games, Algonquin Lees Ave., 7:00.
- Nov. 15. Three games, Merivale HS, 8:00.

Nov. 17 Eight games, Algonquin Lees Ave., 7:00.

Nov. 22 Four games, Merivale HS, 8:00.

Nov. 24 Eight games, Algonquin Lees Ave., 7:00.

Varsity Basketball

- Nov. 19 McGill vs Ottawa U, Ottawa U., 8:00.
- Nov. 20 Vanier vs Ottawa U., Ottawa U., 12:30.
- Nov. 22 Potsdam vs Carleton, Carleton.

Curling

- Nov. 17 Mary Nicholson Bonspiel, RCMP Curling Club.
- Nov. 18 Granite Filly Bonspiel, Granite Curling Club.
- Nov. 18-19 City View Bonspiel, City View Curling Club.
- Nov. 20 City View Business Girls Bonspiel, City View Curling Club.
- Nov. 22-25 Hope and Beddoe Bonspiels Finals: Rideau Curling Club.

co-ordinated by Beth Glassford, 234-1170

Sports Directory

The National Capital Region Amateur Sports Council recently published a sports directory, which lists 36 sports, their governing bodies and contacts in the national capital region. Copies are available upon request from Bob Simpson, executive director, 729-5131.

“... They tell you the salesclerk is the most important person”

by Jane Whitelaw

“Work is effort directed towards the production or accomplishment of something useful. If the habit of thinking about work that way superceded the habit of responding to titles and monetary rewards, if education, instead of gearing people up to getting a passport to high-paying, important-sounding niches, developed an aversion to triviality as an affront to dignity, if the people in power looked at the working force as energy and talent to be applied to what needs to be done, it would become immediately apparent how wastefully fatuous the present system and projected policies are. The challenge is not to create a vacuous picture of prosperity. The challenge is to free the working force from the meshes of trivia and turn it towards the mountains of work that need to be done.”

- Suzannah Lessard, “America the Featherbedded”,
Washington Monthly

In 1974 Canadian women wage earners numbered 3,324,000. Of these, approximately 30 percent are employed in the sales and service sector of the economy.

According to James Bennett and Pierre Loewe in *Women in Business*, 55 percent of women in the work force are under 35 years of age, the average woman worker is 60 percent more likely to be single, widowed, divorced, or separated than her male counterpart, and despite the woman's movement, “Ghettoization” of women in poorly paid jobs has increased in the last ten years.

The average working woman makes just over one half the annual salary of the average male. (\$5,200 annually versus \$9,500 in 1972)

How do women in Canada's capital compare with the national statistics? According to Callwood and Zuker in *The Law is Not for Women*, 83 percent of female federal public servants are in low paying jobs and only 5.5 percent are in executive positions.

The government leads in anti-discrimination legislation. The outlook for the private sector is bleak indeed.

Darla Deschamps has been selling china in a department store in Ottawa for three months. Previously she worked for a year in a small exclusive china shop. She discusses and compares working conditions in both stores.

“I got into selling china quite naturally because my parents both deal in antiques. I'm trained as a graphic artist but those jobs are hard to find. Selling china was natural - well easy I guess. I have security now in this job, I mean I know I'm selling but if the opportunity arose to be a graphic artist I'd grab it. So I guess I'm here until I find my art job wherever it is.”

Do you find the work satisfying?

I enjoy china. If I think of it as an art form then I don't feel I'm losing my training as an artist. I do feel frustration though dealing with the public.

You have to suppress everything. You can't get angry at the customer. If a person is really upset I try to put myself in their shoes and see how I would feel. It's good to be calm. But if I have a day of people coming in where every third or fourth person is nasty, and you have days like that, I don't know how to release it. You either come home and take it out on the people around you or say oh well it was just a bad day.

I think we're all guilty of abusing people who work in public. I think the most important thing is to treat people how you like to be treated.

Is there a lot of pressure in your job?

There's no pressure to how much we sell. There is pressure in that appearance is very important and they review your work habits and tell you the things you're doing right and wrong. I have two supervisors and one or both of them are always on the floor so there is a bit of tension - a feeling always hanging over your head. You can't behave as you'd like to.

The other place I worked was more of a family. It was tinier and much friendlier but people were chosen as favourites and that's how you were treated. It was like working for a mother and I didn't like that too much. That's the reason I left - also the money.

The supervisor there would pass judgement on how you were living and who you were living with and if you did anything wrong that was the reason why. I was trying to be business-like but the whole atmosphere was emotional. If someone was upset it felt like an explosion.

At the department store it's bigger. If you're angry in one section you can move to another to cool off and no one knows. Besides there's no time for petty emotions.

It was shocking moving from the small store to the big one because here everybody pitches in. The supervisors do as much work as the clerks.

You mentioned wages...

Wages, yes. I know in a smaller store you get a smaller wage but I resented that there were no bonuses especially for the older women who had been there a long time.

I got \$2.65 an hour and a ten cent raise after one year. They asked me to do layouts for their other store and I asked how much I would make. He said how much are you making now and offered me another ten cent raise. I thought a display person would start at \$4.00 an hour at least. A friend of mine with no training was hired but she quit and he was offering me lower pay, plus I would have had to do sales work and overtime with no pay. He had started her at \$3.00 an hour.

There were no company benefits at that store. We got half an hour for lunch and no fifteen minute breaks. You would feel guilty if you took one because they were not designated.

In the winter we would eat in the little room in the store and if it was busy we were called out on the floor. But at the end of the half hour the next person would go for her lunch - whether you were finished or not.

But you know it's funny. People still work there. One girl I know feels perfectly content to work



there. Maybe they're afraid. To a certain extent that store is security. It's like a big blanket, and for the older ones there's the prestige of working there.

At the department store they start you at \$3 an hour and after a few months they review your work and give you a raise. Have you ever noticed the green name tags and the white tags? Well the white tags mean courtesy service. Those clerks have been tested. They have people disguised as customers who test you on your ability to sell, your honesty, and your general good treatment of the customer. A good sales person gets a white tag and other benefits - maybe taken out to dinner, something like that.

How do you feel about that?

Well if it was a nasty customer I might give bad service, like slow service or something but I generally try to treat people how I like to be treated. Then you have people coming back. They tell you in your training that the sales clerk is the most important person to the store and second is the customer.

They offer a pension plan, insurance, discounts after retirement - I think that's really good. They take complete care of their employees. I'm not really sure of all the benefits because - well - I hope I'm not planning to retire there!

For the first three months you get paid by the day. I think most department stores do this. So if you're sick you just lose the money. But it changes when you're full-time staff. Today was the end of my three months - my first day as full-time staff and today was my roughest day! I thought I wanted to quit. I was perturbed because my lunch hour was changed and now I have to work Friday nights instead of Thursdays. They say it's only temporary but I don't know how long that is. Plus I like to work in an organized place. I have new ideas for displays I'd like to try but there's not enough time to be a sales clerk and have all the other responsibilities - but I wouldn't want those responsibilities taken away!

Now I have an hour for lunch and two 15 minute breaks and they make sure you take them which is good.

You have to stand up the full day but at least you're working and not standing around waiting for things to happen. At the other

place you weren't supposed to sit down and if there was nothing to do you got panicky. I used to sit on the floor and clean cupboards. The supervisor couldn't really say very much because she was sitting most of the time.

Does all the standing bother you?

I started to be afraid of how my legs were changing, and the first week at the department store I was exhausted. I'd be in tears at night because my back hurt so much. I couldn't sit or lie down. I think it's because I wear high heels. The doctor said I should wear sandals but there's a dress code at the department store and sandals aren't allowed. If you wear pants they must be dress pants, not cords or jeans. Dresses can't be backless or have tiny straps and you have to wear nylons. I had a dress this summer that was backless and I was told indirectly that maybe I should wear a sweater with it. The girls in cosmetics wear fantastic outfits. They're selling cosmetics, they have to wear that image. I feel like a mouse beside them.

How do wages compare for men and women?

The starting pay for everyone is the same but right now the supervisor is watching me and another young lad and he's a faster worker so he'll probably progress faster than I will.

Note: Men are three times as likely to be chosen for upward mobility training programs. - Callwood and Zuker, *The Law is Not for Women*.

Last week the supervisor said I was slow. That went on my record. When I first went there the stock room was disorganized. I thought Christmas will be coming soon and if I can't find the stuff no one will be able to so I organized the stock room by grouping different brands. Well I'm no big man that can lug china quickly. It took me a month to move the heavy stuff and he used that as an example of how slow I was.

What is the ratio of male to female workers in the department store?

Well there are men in appliances, the men's section and china but I guess there are more women clerks. There are both men and women managers. That's one good thing. If a woman is doing a good job she's recognized and gets a

promotion. Most of the people working there are between 25 and 45 years old except the elevator girls who are much younger. They want a younger appearance in the elevators.

How do you feel about your job in general?

Well some people make me feel small and I think what the hell am I doing being a sales clerk. This is when I get angry. I think anyone can do it - push the stuff through the cash. It's very mixed because you're dealing with the unexpected and you think - oh this job - it's terrible!

When I was taking my art course the two things I never wanted to become were a waitress and a sales clerk. I thought it would be so boring. But it's different when you're in it. If it's something you enjoy it's okay for the time being.

Someone buying china is making a decision and it's usually an expensive decision. I can be most helpful by being honest with them. They're confused by all the different lines. I like to tell people the truth about the quality of the merchandise. A dishonest clerk steers you into the most expensive line.

There are times when I meet nice people and it makes my whole day. I - well I like to think I have - a little bit of knowledge about what I'm selling and it makes me feel important.

(Note: A woman asks for a leave of absence at Christmas to visit her dying mother in England. She needs the security of the job for both financial reasons and customs regulations. She is denied because the company doesn't hire in January.

She goes higher up and explains that they wouldn't be hiring her as she already works for them and there will be a vacancy in her department because a woman there is having an operation in January. She is denied because the company cannot make exceptions.

“They tell you that the sales clerk is the most important person but that sort of brings you down to ground level doesn't it?”

This is the first of a series of articles on women in traditional and non-traditional occupations in the Ottawa area.