

# UPSTREAM 25¢

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AN OTTAWA WOMEN'S PUBLICATION



December 2, 1976



## MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

# Candidates fuzzy on women's issues

Issues of particular interest to women in the municipal election December 6 have come into focus through interviews with candidates for mayor and Board of Control.

Almost all of the candidates expressed concern about the cost of daycare. Those most neglected, according to the candidates, are middle-income earners who can neither afford the cost nor be eligible for government subsidies.

General support for continued funding of services such as Interval House, the Rape Crisis Centre and the Ottawa Women's Centre came from most candidates. However, ideas about what the Women's Centre should be ranged from complete ignorance to Board of Control candidate Doug Payne's "it shouldn't be for the women's liberation movement" to mayoral incumbent Lorry Greenberg's desire to see a "people's centre".

In the interviews, candidates re-

vealed a general ignorance of the problems and concerns of women, who are, in a large part, directly affected by policies on housing, transit, city planning and daycare and other social services. Of those running for mayor, Mike Sammon showed the greatest understanding of these issues and their impact on women.

The lack of awareness came as no real surprise since most of the candidates are men with administrative and business backgrounds.

But that does not mean women should automatically vote for women candidates. There are two for Board of Control: Marion Dewar and Patricia Nicol. Both have expressed support for the need for women to have an equal voice in public affairs, however, a look at their actions in city government shows Dewar has consistently supported improved social services while Nicol has maintained a conservative stand.

Unlike other candidates who said the high cost of daycare is a prohibitive, Nicol said in her interview vacancies in daycare centres show many people do not want or need them.

Patricia Nicol also supported the attempt to dismiss unionized maintenance employees.

Although *Upstream* was not able to interview the large number of city council candidates, it would seem, reviewing the past two years, the kind of policies and programmes most beneficial to Ottawa women are going to come from the progressive people like Dewar and Ralph Sutherland for controllers, and councillors Brian Bourns, Rolph Hasenack, Trip Kennedy and Joe Cassey.

The people of Ottawa will also be voting for Ottawa Board of Education (OBE) and Separate School Board trustees December 6.

Many school board candidates have been concentrating on the

perceived need to return to the basics in education, although curriculum is not technically the board's responsibility. Other issues over which they do have control are being ignored.

There is still an inequity in funding girls' and boys' physical education. An article in the last issue of *Upstream* revealed the lack of women's studies courses, while another said the board's women maintenance employees still receive shoddy treatment in the area of wages and fringe benefits.

Of all the school board candidates, Gerry Trudel and Helen

Slater are most outstanding in their activity on the OBE status of women committee.

Ottawa women have a vested interest in ensuring the election of people who will push for fair and

equitable programs in the areas of education, housing, daycare, public transit and social services. All of these involve the municipality and school board. Those two levels of government may not be as exciting as provincial and federal, but they carry the responsibility for policies which affect the day-to-day lives of Ottawa citizens.

**What do the candidates think?  
p. 8-9  
Apologies to Don Reid and Bill Foster**

# CURRENTLY

## Thursday Dec. 2

Pianist **Janina Fialkowska** will be the guest soloist and **Franz-Paul Decker** the guest conductor with the N.A.C. Orchestra at 8:30 pm in the N.A.C. Opera. The programme will include works by Dvorak, Chopin, and Schubert.

## Dec. 2 and 3

The **Ottawa Film Council** will present a public screening of documentary films in the Ottawa Public Library Auditorium, Laurier and Metcalfe, at 8:15 pm. Admission is free.

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## Thursday Dec. 7

The **Business and Professional Women's Club** will hold its annual Christmas dinner and meeting at 6:30 pm, at Knox Presbyterian Church, Lisgar and Elgin St. Admission is \$4.00. For more information call 731-0700.

The **National Film Theatre's Women's Film Series** continues with the presentation of *La Femme de Jean* (Jean's Wife), directed by Jannick Bellon, at 7:30 pm, followed by Aviva Slesim's *Buenos Dias Companeras* (Women

in Cuba), at 9:30 pm. Both will have English sub-titles and will be shown at the National Library, 395 Wellington St. Call 238-7865.

The **One-Parent Families Association** will hold its meeting at 8:00 pm in the Overbrook Community Centre, 171 King George St. (at Quill). For information call 745-3745.

## Wednesday Dec. 8

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

**Lina Wertmuller's Swept Away**, starring Mariangela Melato and Giancarlo Giannini, will be shown at the Towne Cinema at 7:30 and 9:30 pm, 5 Beechwood Avenue.

## Thursday Dec. 9

The **Ottawa Crippled Children's Parents Association** will meet at 8:00 pm at the Ottawa Public Library, Laurier and Metcalfe.

The **Ottawa Public Library** is showing a feature film in its Auditorium at 8:00 pm, Laurier and Metcalfe. The title is to be announced. Admission is free. For further information call 236-0301.

## Saturday Dec. 11

The **Network for Action and Information on Behalf of Women [Réseau d'Action d'Information pour les Femmes]** is organizing a dem-



onstration march to object to the judicial persecution of Dr. Henry Morgenthauer. It will begin at 2:00 pm from the shopping centre, Les Galleries de Hull, and will end at the Sacre Coeur Hospital at about 4:00 pm. Similar demonstrations will be held simultaneously in 5 other Quebec communities. For details call 684-3144.

The **Towne Cinema** presents *Hester Street* by Joan Micklin Silver at 7:30 and 9:30 pm. 5 Beechwood Avenue.

## December

The **University of Ottawa Women's Resources Co-operative**, open from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, Mondays to Fridays, welcomes all women to drop in and get acquainted. The centre offers a referral and information service as well as providing a lending library. It is located at 85 Hastey, the University Centre, room 211 D. For more information call 231-6853.

The **Women's Coalition-Coalition Femmes** is looking for volunteers to help run the centre and its co-operative daycare unit. All interested call 684-3144.

The **Women's Coalition-Coalition Femmes** will begin its book discussion groups in French and English, to be held 1 hour every 2 weeks. For exact starting date call 684-3144.

The **Professional Women's Club of Ontario** has recognized the need for an **Ontario Women's Resource Centre** to serve as an information referral bureau and clearinghouse for women's activities, working closely with the multipurpose centres for women elsewhere in the province. The Metropolitan Toronto Central Library will be available in 1977 and would be the ideal location for this centre. If you wish to help bring this about, write to Ontario Premier Bill Davis, the Minister of Culture and Recreation, and your Local M.P.P. in support of this project. You may obtain standard forms to fill out and send from The Business and Professional Women's Club, 741-1898.



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## Free Morgentaler, repeal laws

# Nation-wide petition begins

MONTREAL — The recently formed, Montreal-based, Committee for the Legal Defence of Henry Morgentaler has inaugurated what it hopes will be a nation-wide petition in its attempts to free Morgentaler and have the abortion law repealed.

The petitioners have already gathered about 2,000 signatures in the Montreal area, and they hope to gain the support of students, labour unions, church groups and others across the country.

According to committee spokesperson Sally Mittag, the campaign has relied "more on good luck than good management so far, but we are now trying to organize more formally."

The committee has also been raising money to pay Morgentaler's legal fees and has raised \$15,000 through a benefit dinner and individual donations.

While the plight of Morgentaler is the main concern of the Committee at the moment, an emphasis is also being placed upon the repeal of current abortion laws and on the establishment of proper birth control clinics.

Patricia Willoughby, a spokesperson for the Committee said the Quebec government's decision to set a date (December 13) for a fourth trial for Dr. Morgentaler has intensified the committee's determination to raise funds for the legal defence and to fight for free, safe abortions for all women who want them.

### LAW DISCRIMINATES

"We know that the law discriminates against poor women, rural women and young women. Often they are forced to go to profit-making agencies who charge them three or four hundred dollars. A

desperate woman will do anything to try to raise funds, and failing that, will resort to back-street butchers or self-induced abortion," explained Willoughby.

The legal battles the committee is engaged in must be waged on several levels, according to Mittag. The Morgentaler case is primarily a provincial matter and encompasses two essential elements.

The first involves the protection of Morgentaler's civil right to a fair and speedy trial and the fact that the repeated trials represent persecution as opposed to prosecution.

The other concern is for the protection of the jury system which, until the Morgentaler case, meant that the decision of a jury is final and can only be appealed on the basis of improper trial pro-

cedures.

While these points come under the federal criminal code, the responsibility for administering criminal justice is held by the provincial governments.

The question of legal abortion has implications at both the federal and provincial levels, said Mittag. While only the federal government can amend the criminal code in order to legalize abortion, it will be up to the provincial governments to ensure that abortion services are readily available once this is done.

"There is no guarantee that after the law is repealed that services will be any better. The provincial government will have to step in and ensure that free abortion is a part of its health program."

According to Mittag this division of issues leads to a rather odd grouping of pro-Morgentaler forces: John Diefenbaker supports us

on the civil rights issue, but would rather die than support us on the abortion issue."

A part of the committee's strategy has been the pressuring of Quebec's Solicitor General Fernand Lalonde, the minister ultimately responsible for the manner in which the criminal code is exercised. The committee recently staged a demonstration during a campaign speech in his home riding of Marguerite Bourgeois.

Mittag explained: "We feel that public outcry has not been properly directed in the past. A particular target has not been chosen to direct our energies against. If nothing comes about in terms of dropping the charges against Morgentaler as a result of this election, then we will stick to the tactic of pressuring the solicitor general".

Those people interested in signing the petition can call the Ottawa Women's Centre at 233-2560.



## Gray demands tax changes

by Sandra Schofield LeGroulx

The Federal Government could and should alter its income tax policy to prohibit the tax deductible status of any "private" pension plan which does not provide equal benefits for male and female employees, according to Sharon Gray, vice-president of the Parliamentary Wives, November 15, 1976.

"There are still private company pension plans across Canada which discriminate against women, which set earlier retirement dates for them, and which give them less money at the end of their working careers, even though they have contributed equally with men", said Gray, the guest speaker at this year's bookfair luncheon held by the joint sisterhood committee at the Ottawa Jewish Community Centre.

Gray stated that the government has come to some conclusion about Canada Pension Plan (CPP) amendments which would provide recognition for "spouses working at home". One such amendment allows for the splitting of pension credits earned by both spouses during the marriage, in the event of marital breakdown.

The second proposal allows a CPP contributor to deduct absent periods (resulting from leave to raise children under the age of

seven) from the calculation of lifetime earnings for benefit purposes, she said.

"Most women (like most men) work because they have to, either as sole support of their families or to help supplement their husbands' incomes. For most women who work, choice is not the issue," she said.

For women fulfilling the dual roles of the career and the home, there is little time for involvement in the search of equality, she said.

"One thing is certain — they won't be concerned about how many women are in high positions in this country. It seems too remote to them, though they might be happy with the symbolism connected with it.

"They have to be convinced that if women were in positions of importance, things would be better for all of us," said Gray.

"So really your job is to go around talking to women's groups and convincing them that it means something to have other women do these things. I think that all issues are everybody's issues," Gray said.

Parliament may one day have a daycare centre so that women with young children could sit in the House of Commons, according to Gray.

"So far there are many male M.P.s with pre-school children and not one woman," she said.

## Questionnaire established

# Anti-abortionists lobby MP's

by Jane Mingay

OTTAWA — While anti-abortionists waged a well-organized lobby of MPs on November 18, people who believe that women should have the freedom to choose whether or not to have an abortion picketed on Parliament Hill.

Marg Turner, executive director of the anti-abortion group, Coalition for Life, said close to 300 delegates from across the country kept 114 appointments with MPs, who were presented with a statement of concerns and a questionnaire.

Registration for Coalition for Life delegates was at Christ Church Cathedral on Sparks Street. Outside there was no sign of action, no poster identifying the organization meeting inside.

At 11:30 there were about 40 people milling about the church hall, being briefed for their meetings with MPs and setting off two by two for the meetings. The average age of attending delegates was about 45 and there was a large proportion of men.

Meanwhile, about a dozen pickets, most members of the Canadian Association for Repeal of the Abortion Laws (CARAL), were carrying signs on Parliament Hill. They knew of the Coalition for Life lobby and wanted to have a small contingent there advertising their side of the abortion question.

Coalition for Life, centred in

Toronto, is the political arm of the pro-life or anti-abortion movement in Canada.

Group literature says it has no political or religious affiliation.

The group's statement of concerns says members feel abortion is murder. "Abortion is the killing of a living human being who would otherwise become a man or woman..." it says.

It also says society condones abortion rather than "reaching out a helping hand" to women who have unwanted children.

"We are willing that they kill their children so long as they don't bother us. It is so much easier, after all, than providing the help they need to have the child. We don't want to be bothered with day-care, maternal benefits, housing, illegitimacy, etc.," says the statement.

Pro-life people believe the word "health" should be removed from Section 251 of the Criminal Code. In this way, they say, abortion could be performed only if certified by a Therapeutic Abortion Committee if a woman's life is endangered by a pregnancy.

The statement containing these views as well as a questionnaire was presented to the MPs visited. Questions put to MPs were:

- Would you support the position that the child conceived but not yet born should be given the same protection provided by law

for any other human being?

- Would you oppose any widening of the present abortion law?

- Do you support the right of hospitals and medical personnel to refuse to perform or assist at abortions?

- Would you vote according to your conscience on any change in the abortion law even if your party imposed party discipline?

- Are you opposed to federal funding of agencies which counsel for abortion or provide abortion referral?

Coalition for Life plans to publish the results of the questionnaire.



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# Women Helping Women

by Rosemary Billings

The moving company's advertisement in the magazine shows a little verse written by a wife to her husband. He's just got a promotion and (surprise!) a transfer. The verse warns hubby that unless he "phones XYZ Moving tonight, your sweet little wife's gonna kill ya."

Sexist assumptions apart, it is more likely that the move will kill her (or at least depress her or make her hate where they move to).

Anne Martin-Matthews is a sociologist who wrote her M.A. thesis on adjustment problems faced by migrant families in Hamilton. While taking graduate courses in women's studies, she became aware that her discipline, sociology, treated women's perceptions of their experiences merely as a sub-category of men's experiences.

'Norms' for studies were male values. If women didn't conform they were discounted or regarded as unimportantly deviant.

She decided to review her thesis data, deliberately avoiding lumping husbands' and wives' statements together. She wanted to see if the sociological assumption that men and women see the same experiences the same way for the same reasons was correct.

Her study indicated that the assumption was not correct. The more successful the husbands were in their new jobs, the more positively they viewed the move. A totally different dynamic — one of power and powerlessness — affected the wives' perceptions. In their cases, the more control they had over the hows, whys, whens and where-to's of the original decision to move, the more positively they saw the results of the move.

This was apparently independent of their husbands' job success.

By this token, the woman in the moving company's ad is not going to be too happy in her husband's new job location.

Martin-Matthews' study needs replication and confirmation. Nevertheless, it has immediate applications for families, employers and social workers trying to cushion the inevitable shock and social disruption caused by a move.

Employers, if they are to preserve the mental and emotional stability of their employees' spouses, should incorporate them into the promotion/transfer process. Families should work out power-sharing arrangements to ensure that feelings of powerlessness are minimized.

Employers and community groups in the new job environment should set up confidence building and assertiveness training programs for the spouses of their migrant employees.

Most important, spouses who feel depressed or unhappy after a move shouldn't take agony columnist Ann Landers' advice that "the

trouble is you... Get some counselling and find out why you are so bitter and hostile...". Pace Landers, the trouble is not the woman but the powerlessness she feels in her own relationship with her husband and her resulting feeling of lack of control over her own life.

For women who are feeling this way now, we can't turn back the clock. What we can do is offer a list of Ottawa resource groups which can help us to feel OK about wanting, asking for, and getting some power in our family situations. So that the next time "hubby" gets a promotion/transfer, we won't feel this way again.

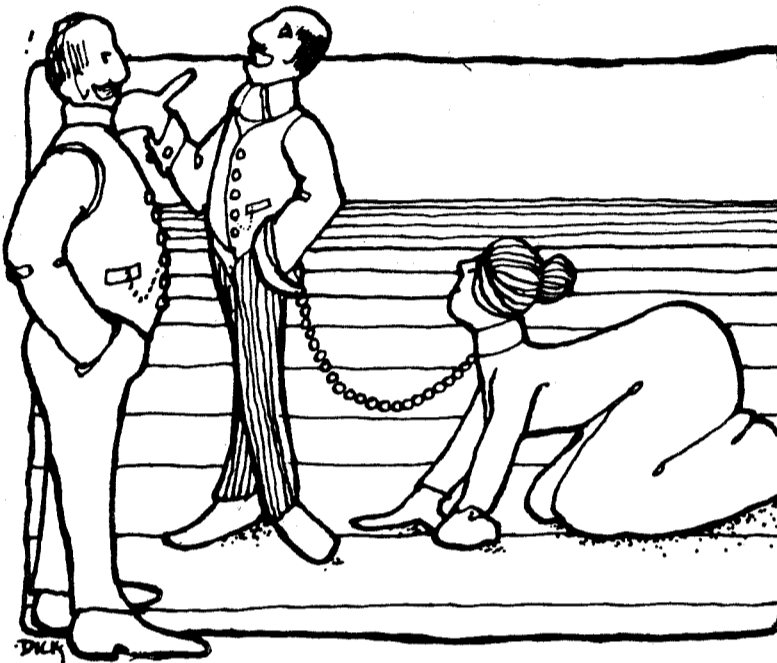
1. **Ottawa Women's Centre**, 821 Somerset St. West (233-2560) offers specialized consciousness-raising groups for women who've just moved to town following their husbands' jobs. Be prepared to commit yourself to 2 hours a week for at least three months.

2. **Feminist Counselling Service** (232-3045) offers supportive counselling to assist you (and your spouse) in working out the problems of shared power in a relationship.

3. **Focus for Women Program**, Algonquin College, offers low cost assertiveness training courses for women (how to ask for what you want, and say what you mean without feeling guilty).

4. **New Canadian Welcome Centre** offers orientation to Canada information for immigrants.

Good luck — and keep on moving!



## Swedes retire gradually

STOCKHOLM (CPA) - A pioneering pension scheme which allows employees to gradually retire from full-time work with little loss of earning went into effect this year in Sweden.

Starting in July, Swedish workers aged 60 years and over are able to cut back their work week to as little as 17 hours while receiving an income amounting to between 85 and 90 per cent of their regular pay.

The income comes in the form of wages paid by employers for hours worked, together with pension supplements funded by a tax on employers. Workers have the option of remaining in the labour force until age 70.

According to Kenneth Brathall of the Swedish government, the intent of the new pension scheme was largely social: "Doctors warned us that we mustn't chop people off suddenly from working life, and the unions were strong champions for giving people a chance to adjust."

But the resulting program is suited to labour force requirements as well as helping people adjust to retirement, since professionals and skilled workers in short demand are more likely to be in the labour force longer, officials hope, if they can work less.

So far, an estimated 10,000 workers have taken advantage of the plan, and it is estimated the number may triple by year end. One drawback to workers opting into the scheme is that employers are obligated to slot in "part-workers" once older employees reduce their work weeks by five hours.

# Gerry Trudel . . .

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## Marriage and careers

## Hartman discusses problems and benefits

It is not uncommon for men to move from their homes and families in order to pursue a career or particular interest. Such moves happen every day, and when they do relatives, friends, and acquaintances offer little criticism and pose few questions.

But what happens when a woman is forced to relocate? Is our society as willing to accept her move and what problems does it pose in a family situation where women have traditionally been expected to take charge of the family's welfare?

by Lana Ritchie

"If a happily married woman wanted my advice on whether she should accept a promotion which would require her to live apart from her husband in another city, like I'm doing, I'd have to ask, 'How much does your marriage mean to you?'"

Grace Hartman, president of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), has been living in Ottawa since 1967 when she was first elected as national secretary-treasurer of CUPE. Her husband, Joe, resides in Toronto.

"We have a good marriage. And of course we'd rather be living together," Hartman says, but because her position involves many evening meetings and out-of-town travel, including considerable time in Toronto, she and Joe agreed on the present arrangement. They see each other an average of two or three weekends a month and speak frequently on the phone.

"We spend more time with each other now than when I was in Toronto. Now when I'm home my time is my own," Hartman said in an interview.

"My husband could find a job here, and we have considered this but he would be away from all his friends and interests." However, if Grace had been forced to relocate in Vancouver or somewhere similarly distant, Joe would have gone also.

"Joe is not unwilling to move; it is just impractical," she said.

Although this lifestyle works for the Hartmans it could place a strain on even the most solid relationship and easily destroy a fragile one. Hartman suggests the decision to live in this manner must be mutual and based on a "clear understanding of what it will mean to the marriage."

Since her two sons were adults when she "left home," providing care for children was not a problem. Both sons sympathized with their mother's ambitions.

"It's a lonely kind of life," she admits. Even though she has numerous friends in Ottawa, Hartman misses confiding in her husband.

"Occasionally when I go home to an empty apartment I wonder if it's all worthwhile."

As president of CUPE, Hartman

must attend a number of social functions. Going alone is not always easy. It is at these social affairs that she feels people who don't know her may speculate on the status of her marriage.

A lack of trust or insecurity on the part of either spouse becomes magnified under such circumstances. Hartman describes her husband as "a confident, self-assured man, well able to look after himself." Joe always offered encouragement and support to his wife in her dealings with the unions. She recalls, "he was the one who urged me to fight the discrimination against women".

Because his wife is a high profile person Joe undoubtedly has a more demanding role than other men in the same situation normally would.

A month ago, the television show, W5, did an interview with Hartman. Isabel Bassett, the interviewer, persistently attempted to gain permission to interview Joe. The public relations people from CUPE finally inquired, "Would you be insisting on an interview with Grace if her husband was the president of CUPE?" The answer was no.

Nevertheless, when Hartman arrived in Toronto airport she was met by Bassett and a TV crew. Bassett grabbed the chance to question Joe who was awaiting his wife.

"How does it feel to be the husband of CUPE's president?" The reply was: "Proud".

Friends and relatives can be as insensitive as outsiders. Comments to Hartman such as, "I couldn't live like you," come from acquaintances but the brunt of the remarks are directed at Joe. At his job, fellow employees ask, "How does it work out?" Sometimes the implication is, "Why doesn't your wife look after you?"

When somebody says to Joe, "Grace is doing a great job," she suspects they would like to add, "And I'm glad she's your wife and not mine".

Initially when Hartman began commuting between Ottawa and Toronto, she said, she felt uncomfortable neglecting the traditional homemaking duties. Since the household chores were always shared by the whole family and

Joe proved adept at taking on the extra tasks, her guilt soon disappeared.

Men are often dependent on their wives to do the housekeeping and object to having this respon-

sibility thrust upon themselves. Hartman thinks many men, her own younger son included, would be reluctant to have a Hartman style marriage, partly because they dislike housework and see it as 'woman's work.'

"I can understand why my own generation feels the place of a woman is to clean, cook and look after a family," says Hartman, "but when young men tell me they wouldn't let their wives do this or that, it's depressing."

"Unless this sort of thinking changes it will remain a great stumbling block for future generations of women seeking equal opportunities for a career," she said.

In the course of her work Hartman hears complaints that insufficient women are being hired for certain jobs.

"For a position such as a field representative which requires extensive travelling, it is very hard to get women". She tells of one woman who was doing excellently but had been travelling a great deal. After six months she resigned. The woman said, "It's my marriage or my job, and I think I'll have to choose my marriage".

Many women like, or think they like, the traditional role and are quite ready to condemn and criticize a nonconforming lifestyle. "We are," Grace Hartman claims, "a long way from real acceptance by both sexes of this type of unorthodox marriage and lifestyle."



Grace Hartman, CUPE president, says a marriage must be strong before a woman can leave to pursue her own career.

## Voice of Women members unhappy with McEwan dismissal

by Maureen O'Hara

When Charlotte McEwan of Ottawa was ousted from the Voice of Women (V.O.W.) two weeks ago, V.O.W. National Coordinator, Donna Elliott said she was worried the real work of the national peace and human rights organization was being neglected because of this internal problem with McEwan.

Now more problems face V.O.W. since McEwan says she has decided to fight her expulsion and will continue to work in the name of V.O.W. while looking into the possibility of splitting the Ottawa chapter from the rest of the organization.

The unprecedented expulsion came after members at the national headquarters in Toronto sent letters and requests for votes to decide the issue to the consultative members, who act as contact persons for each chapter across the country. The vote in favor of expulsion was nearly unanimous.

Reasons given for the requested expulsion included that McEwan, throughout her 16 year association with V.O.W., has continually taken arbitrary action on her own in the name of V.O.W. without consulting other members.

"Charlotte has taken unilateral action over the years, stating her own opinions on issues that we haven't even discussed," said National Coordinator Elliott.

In the letter to members, V.O.W. said an example of "independent" action taken by McEwan concerned a letter McEwan presented to then Israeli Defence Minister General Allon and distributed to journalists at a news conference when he was in Canada in late September.

The letter constructed by McEwan demanded immediate release of Palestinian journalist Ramonda Tawil, under house arrest in Israel, and included anti-Zionist statements.

Although the national steering committee had decided to send a letter to Prime Minister Trudeau the night before McEwan's action, V.O.W. Coordinator Elliott said McEwan was not assigned to construct or deliver the letter.

Elliott also said McEwan included a statement that indicated Canadian V.O.W. women were marching and protesting in sympathy with women in the Galilee, who were protesting that day, September 28. The letter also demanded immediate dismissal of the Administrator of Arab Affairs in the Galilee, Yisrael Koenig.

"No one knew anything about protesting in the Galilee, what they were protesting, and certainly we never agreed that we would protest here... and some of us didn't even know who Koenig was..." said Elliott.

McEwan said she received the go-ahead from the national office in Toronto the morning before the presentation to Allon.

She said her anti-Zionist position is the real reason for her expulsion and that a "pro-Zionist power structure" at the national office "contravened every norm of democratic procedure" to mount a campaign against her.

McEwan said the same members who have been active in the move for her expulsion objected to a resolution approved at the national meeting in September to support inclusion of the Palestinian Liberation Organization as an essential

party to the negotiation of a full and lasting settlement in the Middle East.

"This is not the case at all," said Elliott. "No one on the steering committee is Zionist."

McEwan has arranged a meeting of Ottawa chapter members at the Public Library December 2nd to discuss the expulsion and possible strategies for dealing with it.

Local members objected to the manner in which the expulsion was announced to certain members and the public. Ottawa consultative member Marti Mussel said she was disturbed that Ottawa members didn't know about the expulsion until after the fact.

"We received no notification that the steering committee was going to meet and there was no formal notification before the press was informed that Charlotte had been expelled," said Mussel.

Mussel went on to say that, while she objected to the way the expulsion came about, she thought the anti-Zionist position of McEwan was not the cause for expulsion but merely one more case of McEwan's "refusal to recognize the boundaries of the group."

In spite of a possible split from the national group suggested by McEwan, Ottawa's Voice of Women seems to be crumbling.

The majority of active members, primarily the eight-member local steering committee, have said they will resign either in sympathy with Charlotte McEwan, because of disapproval of the approach taken by the national committee in the expulsion, or because of general frustration felt because of work being neglected because of the struggle.

KEEP HER WORKING FOR YOU

Vote  
Patricia Nicol  
Controller



December 6th, 1976

725-2173 745-7748

## Changing the brain's electrical circuits?

# Uses and abuses of mood-modifying drugs

by Lesley Newson

Mood-altering drugs all have uncomfortable or dangerous side effects and can be habit forming, but scientists still do not really understand how they work on the brain, according to Dr. Ian Henderson, a clinical pharmacologist at Ottawa General Hospital and chairperson of a Canadian Medical Association subcommittee on pharmacotherapy.

Health and Welfare Canada and the Ontario Addiction Research Foundation warn that convulsions, nausea, decreased libido and more can result from use or abuse of mood-modifying drugs.

Included in the category of mood-modifying are alcohol, barbiturates, amphetamines and many other prescription drugs.

And women are prescribed tranquilizers more frequently than men to the extent that advertisements in medical journals for tranquilizers show helpless or harried housewives, according to Carleton University psychology professor Dr. Eleanor Burwell.

A 1972 study by Ruth Cooperstock showed women are more likely to discuss their problems with doctors and doctors are more apt to prescribe mood-modifying drugs to women than to men.

Dr. Mary Brown, chief psychiatric resident at Ottawa General, will not prescribe tranquilizers or other psychoactive drugs unless she feels it is absolutely necessary.

"People will come and ask for Valium or something to 'pick them up,'" she said, "but we try to only prescribe medication if the patient needs help immediately or if their mental problems are chronic and appear to have a physical origin."

Most tranquilizers cannot treat psychiatric problems, they just relieve some of the symptoms, Brown said.

Once a mood-altering drug is swallowed, smoked, sniffed or injected, it is absorbed by the bloodstream but must come in contact with the nerve cells of the brain before having a pronounced effect, says Dr. Peter Fried, a psychology professor at Carleton.

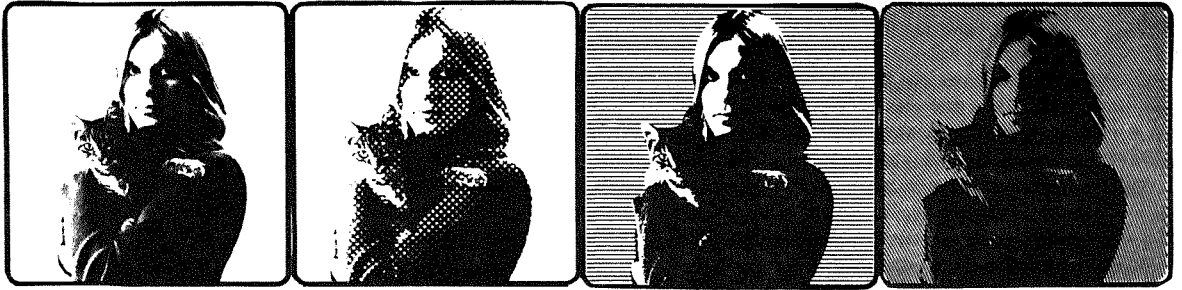
Mood-altering drugs appear to have their effect by changing the electrical circuits in the brain.

"Thinking is a connecting of neural pathways and drugs can form new connections or modify existing connections," Fried said.

Nerve cells are the "wires" that allow electrical impulses to be carried around the body and form the integrated circuits in the brain that enables us to "compute".

Nerves carry information from all parts of the body to the brain and transmit signals from the brain to the body. Within the brain electrical pulses are constantly travelling from nerve cell to nerve cell.

Some of the pulses are rhythmic and are called "brain waves". The pathway the electrical impulse takes around the brain is



somehow related to the way we think or feel, according to Fried.

Once an electrical impulse has travelled the length of one nerve cell, it must trigger a pulse in one or more surrounding nerve cells or the signal will not be transmitted. This triggering is done chemically.

When an impulse reaches the end of a nerve, the "nerve ending" releases a substance called a "transmitter" into the fluid-filled space between it and other nerves.

Contact between the transmitter and other nerves starts an electrical impulse in some of the nerves. Where the impulse starts depends on the type of transmitter released.

When a mood-modifying drug is floating around in the nerve ending or in the fluid surrounding the nerve ending, it can interfere with the transmitter substance.

For example, amphetamines interfere with an enzyme that breaks down the transmitter called "NE" (norepinephrine). This allows NE to build up in the fluid around the nerve cells and electrical impulses are started over and over again, creating a tendency to speed up thinking.

NE appears to be an important transmitter in determining moods, including happiness. Ampheta-

mines may cause happiness because they create an excess of NE.

Anti-depressants, prescription drugs found to relieve many types of depression, have also been found to increase NE levels in the brain, Fried said.

There is also some evidence that a lack of NE accompanies feelings of sadness. Suicide victims believed to be depressed before dying were found to have lower than normal levels of NE in some parts of the brain.

Dr. Henderson said alcohol also affects the release of transmitter substances. In some people, it increases the level of NE released by the nerve endings. These are the so-called "happy drunks".

Other people tend to become aggressive as they drink. It has been found that here alcohol is causing an increase in the release of another transmitter — "dopamine".

"Most drugs have more than one effect and depending on what you want, you can call everything else a side effect," says Dr. V. Hynie of Health and Welfare Canada.

Mood-altering drugs can also have physical effects. Many dieters know that amphetamines reduce or eliminate the desire for food. Listed among the side effects

of Valium, a popular tranquilizer, is "changes in libido", which is medical jargon for changes in sexual desire.

Alcohol is a very imperfect drug because it affects not only mood but also movement and thought.

Physicians and psychologists are now going so far as to say, for the long term, the "effects" of mood-altering drugs are as undesirable as the "side effects".

Dr. Henderson says individuals and the whole society are already too dependent on drugs.

A person who is unhappy with a job may ask a doctor for tranquilizers or self-prescribe alcohol rather than attempt to change the situation, he said.

"Society also finds it easier to treat unhappy people with drugs than attempt to remove the source of their problems, especially since their major problem may be that they can't adjust to our high-pressure industrialized society," Henderson said.

"There are many people who would be very happy working on a farm, and there is a great demand for farm workers, but there is no money in farm work so people must stay in the city.

"If farm work was made more economically rewarding, there may be some happy people working in the country, but the rest of us would be paying more for food."

The unhappy bored housewife is almost a cliché now, but many women still seek escape through alcohol or tranquilizers.

Dr. Burwell says, "You don't need a law degree to have an interesting life outside the house. Human contact is what is important."

"If a woman doesn't like being at home all day, she may prefer stuffing envelopes in an office. At least she'll be meeting people and having a change of scenery."

### Municipal Election Date Monday, December 6, 1976

All electors, however, if they find it to be more convenient, may vote at the advance polls which will be held at the following locations on Friday, December 3, and Saturday, December 4, 1976 with all polls open from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Please bring your card which designates your place of voting.

**Rideau Ward** No. 6 Fire Station, 405 MacKay St. at Vaughan St. and Overbrook Community Centre, 171 King George St.

**By-St. George's Ward** No. 3 Fire Hall, 179 Clarence St. at Cumberland St.

**Wellington Ward** Jack Purcell Community Centre, 320 Elgin St.

**Capital Ward** Ottawa South Community Centre, Formerly No. 10 Fire Station, Sunnyside Ave. and Abbotsford House - (Auditorium) 954 Bank St.

**Dalhousie Ward** No. 2 Fire Station, 280 Bay St. at Lisgar St.

**Elmdale-Victoria Ward** No. 11 Fire Station, 424 Parkdale Ave. (near Gladstone Ave.) and McGregor Eason Public School, 991 Dynes Road.

**Queensboro Ward** Ballantyne Building, 1447 Carling Ave.

**Britannia Ward** No. 12 Fire Station, 2576 Carling Ave. at Norton Ave.

**Carleton Ward** St. Michael and All Angels Church Hall, 2112 Bel-Air Dr.

**Alta Vista Ward** Pleasant Park School, 564 Pleasant Park Rd.

**Gloucester Ward** No. 8 Fire Station, 2355 Alta Vista Dr. at Randall Ave.

Electors are entitled to vote as follows:

#### FOR MAYOR

ONE to be elected by a general vote

#### FOR CONTROLLERS

FOUR to be elected by a general vote

#### FOR ALDERMEN

ONE to be elected in each ward

## Interlude Café

209 Belmont [at Bank] 235-0341

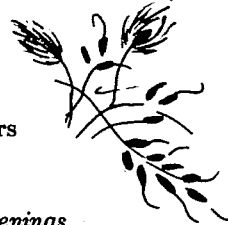
Open Mon. to Wed. 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Thurs. to Sat. 10 a.m. to midnight

Serving light lunches, dinners  
home made pastries, espresso coffee,

folk music

Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings  
from 9:00



## MARION DEWAR

Election Day...

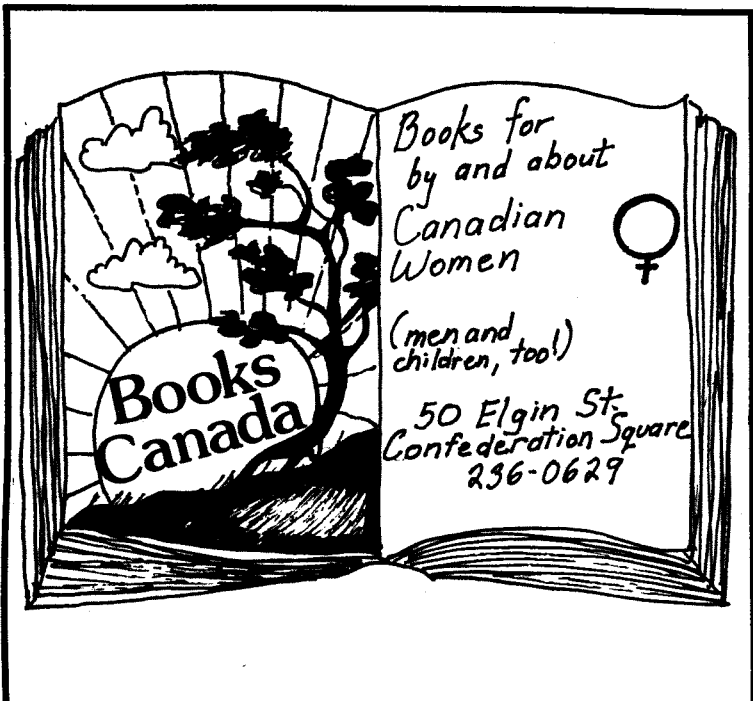
Monday, December 6th, residents of Ottawa will be determining the direction their community will take.

It is of critical importance to all of us that the hard work of Marion Dewar be included in Ottawa's future.

She has carefully established communication links between people and their municipal government. She has always remained accountable and available to her community. And most important, she has fought for our interests in every way she can.

On December 6th remember Marion Dewar. She hasn't forgotten us.

## CONTROLLER/ DEPUTY MAYOR



# Law For Women

by Shirley Greenberg

Ontario has a new proposal for reform of family law, just finished second reading in the legislature and on its way to the Justice Committee where briefs and submissions will be considered. Get your copy of the explanatory booklet **Family Law Reform** from the Attorney General at Queen's Park, Toronto, or your member of the provincial legislature, and exercise your critical faculties when reading it. This statute is redefining the position and status of women, and it's important.

One key proposal is the concept of property sharing it proposes for husband and wife. It does not include a fifty-fifty split, and not all property is shared. Basically, that property will be shared between the spouses which is in joint use by them: the matrimonial home (usually but not always), the car, furniture. The concept of "family assets" is used to describe this system but it is deceptive for not all family assets are included. What is left out is savings, investments, and the business of a spouse. Thus, Mrs. Murdoch would still not get a share of the farm, but only her share of the home and access to it. That is, unless judicial discretion was exercised in such a way that she got a full share of the ranching business which she undeniably helped to build up.

To help you in your reading, some critical areas are set out below, not exhaustively, and not necessarily in order of importance.

1. First of all, as suggested above, the concept of "family assets" is narrowly defined. It does not include savings, investments, a business but will include assets used in common with other family members, even family heirlooms inherited by one spouse. If one spouse saves and the other spends it on goods used by the family, the goods will be shared but the savings won't.

2. Where there is no family business but the wife nevertheless sacrifices her career opportunities in whole or in part by devoting herself to domestic duties and child-care, leaving the husband free to climb in his career, the wife shares only whatever property is included in "family assets" — unless judicial discretion is exercised in her favour. This is not recognition of the equality of the marriage partners.

3. Judicial discretion will apply to the division of assets in case of marriage breakdown. This will protect women and men against unfair claims of a partner who contributed little or nothing relative to the other. Thus, the fault concept is not entirely eliminated but a woman may not be forced to remain in the home because she cannot prove fault on the part of the husband — necessary at present in order to get support during separation. Today, even if a woman slaved for twenty years, she will get nothing at separation if she leaves without cause.

4. A big problem with support is that the spouse who leaves the jurisdiction makes

it very difficult to enforce payments. One method to help overcome collection problems is to permit attachment of wages (garnishment). Another improvement would be to get disclosure of address and employer from government departments. Can you think of other changes that would help?

Now, if family assets are left behind, at least half will belong to the spouse who remains, and possibly all could be awarded to him or her in a situation of desertion. Children are affected, too.

5. The new law would validate marriage contracts and the government is undertaking an education program to inform the public. This is important because spouses may not be fully aware of the meaning of the terms and their importance. Especially in the glow of romance one might put one's name to anything.

The customary kind of marriage contract in use in Quebec before 1970 took a standardized form and failed to give recognition to the individuality of the couple. How can this be prevented?

6. Will contracting out of the "family assets" regime mean that a lot of women who opt out get left out? It is important to consider the terms carefully before marriage, because afterwards it may be impossible to get agreement! On the other hand, what you promise when you're twenty years old may not be right for you when you are thirty or more. Renewable contracts may be preferable, but would they be legal?

7. Is judicial discretion sufficient without guidelines? Is the Government planning an education program that will reach judges too? We have ample evidence of bias prejudicial to women. The more subtle expression of bias is almost unconscious, being a product of simple misinformation and the effect of discrimination resulting from a particular view of women.

8. Note that the use of judicial discretion can override contracting out of the support obligation if, for example, one spouse becomes destitute as a result. One's private contract is not always safe from alteration.

9. Note also that persons living in common law relationships can become obligated to each other, especially where a dependency relationship has resulted, one spouse becoming economically handicapped.

Opportunity is now to send in your briefs and submissions to the Justice Committee of the Ontario Legislature. There is much more in the bill than appears above, and it is all important.

If readers have questions, please address them to this column and they will be answered in forthcoming issues.

Please remember that information here is general information and may not be applicable to the individual case. A small change in facts can sometimes mean a big change in the law that applies. Personal attention is always necessary to know one's legal position and the consequences.

# The Healing Arts

by Beatrice Baker

"Going to the gynecologist is a pain in the..."

This is how most women felt about gynecological examinations, at least until recently. Now there are a growing number of groups putting out literature designed to help women cure their own ignorance and their doctors' arrogance.

Women, and men, thinking of themselves as consumers, are looking at their health care are asking, "Are we really getting our money's worth? Is this first rate care? How do we know what should or shouldn't be happening?"

To help you decide whether or not you're getting the attention you ought to receive, here are some guidelines about gynecological examinations.

## General Medical History

Your first visit to a doctor should include a complete medical history. Besides informing the doctor of your present state of health, including such things as allergies and current medication, it should cover your past illnesses and whether or not there is a history among your immediate family of such illnesses as diabetes or heart disease.

This information is important because your body is an integrated system and a symptom or situation that seems totally unrelated could, in fact, be affecting the health of your sexual organs. For example, penicillin can help get rid of a bronchial problem but it can also affect the lining of your vagina and the bacteria in your intestines.

Likewise, if you're seeing a doctor for a particular complaint, don't hesitate to mention symptoms even if they don't seem directly related, such as headaches or tiredness. There is a possibility that they are related.

And of course your medical history can be important in determining what kind of birth control is suitable for you. For example, a family history of diabetes, heart disease or high blood pressure, among other things, may indicate that you should not use birth control pills.

## Weight and Blood Pressure

These should be measured each time you go to the doctor. Changes in weight or blood pressure can be indications of some-

thing wrong. Since high blood pressure has no symptoms, it is especially good to have it taken at each visit.

## Gynecological History

Besides a general medical history, detailed questions about your reproductive and sexual organs and functions should be asked. These will give the physician necessary information for diagnosing an illness or recommending a method of birth control. These are the types of questions you should be asked: Is your period regular? How long is your cycle? Has it changed lately?

If you can't answer these questions, get a small calendar and keep a record of your periods for several months, better still, unless you're regular as a clock, get in the habit of keeping a continuous record. It can be helpful information if you suspect that you're pregnant or if you're having difficulty with menstruation.

Is your period heavy, medium, light? There are two dimensions here: the number of days of flow and, on the day of heaviest flow, how often must you change napkins or tampons?

Do you usually have cramps or backaches? Are they minor or troublesome?

Have you ever been pregnant? Did you carry to term, miscarry, or have an abortion?

If the pregnancy ended in childbirth were there any complications, how large was the baby, was delivery early or late?

If you have had an abortion what method was used, were there any complications?

You do not have to discuss whether an abortion was legal or illegal or what the social circumstances were but the fact of having one, especially if there were complications, is important information that the doctor should have.

If you miscarried, at what month did you have problems and was the cause ever investigated? What methods, if any, of birth control have you used? Did you experience any problems? Are you using a form of birth control now? Are you having any problems with it? Have you had any diseases, infections, or operations?

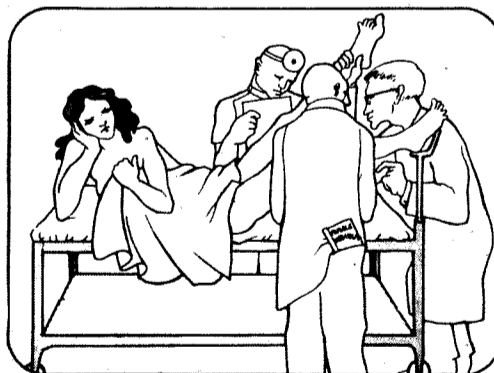
The general history, gynecological history and your weight and blood pressure measurements may very likely be taken

by a nurse or an assistant.

## The Physical Examination

If you haven't had a general physical in some time, you should have a routine check. That includes a look at your throat, ears, eyes, and a listen to your chest and heart. She or he should also feel the organs in your abdomen and so a breast exam.

Although the doctor should do a breast exam that does not mean that you should let that suffice for a whole year. Every woman should periodically examine her own breasts for soreness, lumps, changes, etc. You are more likely to know when there has been a change and to know it sooner than if you wait for your annual check-up.



## Internal Examination

The internal examination actually begins by the doctor looking at the external area of your genitals to see if there are any signs of infection, growths, or damage.

Then she or he uses a speculum (usually made of clear plastic these days) which can be comfortably inserted into the vagina and which will hold the walls of the vagina apart so that the cervix can be seen. If you don't know what a speculum looks like ask to see one and have it explained.

The doctor checks the color, general appearance and position of the cervix. He or she checks for signs of infection or abnormality. At this time they will probably take some smears for lab tests. One of these will be a Pap test for cancer. While there is some question now about how often Pap tests should be done, it is an inexpensive and quickly done pro-

cedure and will cause no harm if done yearly.

The other test smear is for gonorrhea. Very few doctors do this unless it is requested. However, since gonorrhea may show no symptoms in a woman, since it has reached epidemic proportions in Canada and since the test is inexpensive you should be tested routinely if you are heterosexually active.

Ask your doctor whether the test for gonorrhea is a gram stain or a culture. While the gram stain is a quicker test which doesn't require the "growing" time of a culture, it is not as accurate a test as the culture.

If you are having any problems or discharge the physician will probably also take a smear to examine under a microscope. Some of the commonest infections can be readily identified that way. He or she may also send a sample to a lab.

## The Bimanual or Two-Handed Examination

Lastly, with a sterile glove on, the physician will place two fingers inside the vagina and against the cervix and the other hand on your abdomen. Between the two hands she or he can feel how large the uterus is, whether or not there are any lumps, and whether or not there is any inflammation or soreness.

This is the end of the actual examination. Unless you know that your doctor will see you again after you're dressed, you should be sure to ask any questions you have during the exam. If you think you'll be too ill-at-ease to ask questions during the exam then say, firmly, as the doctor walks in the door: "Hi! I've got some questions before we get started..."

If you have a family doctor, a general practitioner or internist, with whom you feel comfortable there is probably no need for you to go to a gynecologist for a routine examination. Most of them include routine gynecology in their practices.

Being comfortable with someone is important... dispelling your own ignorance is important... retaining the right to make your own decisions is important...

Going to the gynecologist doesn't have to be a pain in the...

## CITY ELECTIONS

## Mayoral candidates discuss the

Interviews by Karen Fish, Susan Wisking, Patty Gibson, Jane Mingay and Kris Klaasen Alisa Photography

Ottawa residents decide December 6 who will manage and govern the affairs of their city for the next two years. Three major issues have been discussed at candidate forums to date: the impact of government decentralization, division of power between municipal and regional governments, industrial growth of the city and, the old perennial, taxes.

Several issues have been virtually untouched by the local press and at all-candidates meetings. Upstream polled the mayoral and Board of Control candidates for their opinions on the support and funding of social services particularly related to the needs of women, day care facilities and the lack of recreational facilities for children in housing developments in the city.

Running for mayor are incumbent Lorry Greenberg; local businessman Alphonse Lapointe, body rub parlor owner Bill Foster and Oc Transpo driver Mike Sammon.

We apologize to Bill Foster who

could not be contacted despite a concerted effort.

• Do you support funding of all or any of Interval House, the Ottawa Women's Centre and the Rape

Crisis Centre?

"We've done it. We funded them didn't we?" said mayor Greenberg.

Lapointe said, as an active member in several social service agencies, he was aware of the financial problems these groups have, adding that social services should be the priority area for municipal spending.

"They (women's centre) might start looking to other groups in the city as well," he said. "A lot of service clubs are looking for something to fund and this would be a good thing for them to support. Maybe the Lion's Club or something would be interested."

Mike Sammon was particularly concerned with the need for im-

proved services for rape victims.

"Greenberg hasn't revealed the number of women raped on Walk-a-thons," he said. "I haven't got the words to express my horror... the barbaric laws that the woman has to deal with."

He said services such as the Rape Crisis Centre deserve 100 per cent more funding.

• How would you define a woman's centre?

"That's the most ridiculous question I've ever been asked," Greenberg responded. "How do you define what these centres do? What does a Boys Club do?"

Greenberg said the issues surrounding funding of the Ottawa Women's Centre became too emo-

tional when council opposed what they saw as a pro-abortion stand and took offence to what they believed was a lesbian core of workers at the centre.

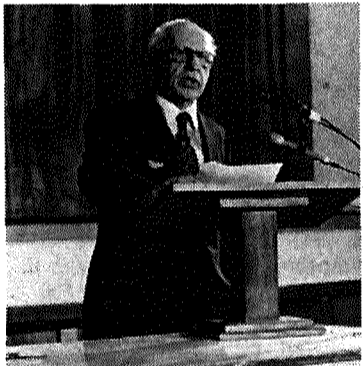
"I may not always agree with the purposes of the organization but that doesn't mean I won't fund them," the mayor said. "I don't agree with all these separate agencies. We need to train social workers better so they can handle all these problems in a People's Centre."

The YWCA is an important facility in the community, Alphonse Lapointe responded.

Women need a club of their own to help them get into professional fields, the police force or the fire department, said Mike Sammon.

## Two women run for Board of Control

## ERNEST BOUCHARD



Local businessman Ernest Bouchard has thrown his hat into the race for member of the Board of Control to lower taxes.

His knowledge of women's issues and general issues affecting women is sparse.

"I don't know how daycare is funded," Bouchard said in an interview. "Of course, I would find out if I was elected, but I know nothing about that sort of thing."

He said he had "funny ideas" about daycare.

"I was raised to believe that I must work very hard to keep my wife at home to raise a family properly," he said, adding that "some people really need it," but not many, and suggested daycare allowed husbands to "go off and have a good time."

As for supporting the Women's Centre, Interval House and the Rape Crisis Centre, he again said he needed more information about these organizations.

"I don't know anything about them. I am a businessman — an administrator. I would not be working alone, however, and would be willing to look into them," he said. "Good discussion on these matters should bring good results."

When asked what he thought a women's centre should do for Ottawa women he said he did not know enough about it.

"Maybe the services could be handled through the city," he suggested, "but I can't make a statement. I don't know."

Social housing is well underway in the City of Ottawa, according to Bouchard who noted almost \$4 million was spent on public housing projects this year. He said this is a good beginning and the city is doing

well in providing social housing. As to how these projects could be improved for women living in public housing, he had no ideas.

Bouchard was also unaware of the attempted dismissal of unionized employees working for the city. However he said he believed people should be paid union rates as long as it did not get to be too much.

"When wages go up, prices go up," warned Bouchard. "We have to be careful with the taxpayer's money."

"If people want more parks for children, they must be prepared to pay," Bouchard said when asked about indoor and outdoor recreation for children in housing developments. He said there were many parks already underway.

Bouchard is not satisfied with Ottawa public transportation. "Too many people are left waiting for a bus in outlying areas and night service is not sufficient," he said. He favors using small buses on a belt line system.

"You do not have to have big buses all the time. It costs a lot of money to pick up a small number of people," he said. "You can use smaller buses early in the morning and late at night. They cost less to operate."

Bouchard says the city must increase its bus service and experiment with various methods of supplying quality transit in the city.

## MARION DEWAR



Marion Dewar says she definitely supported funding of Interval House, the Women's Centre and the Rape Crisis Centre. But she said she doesn't know of a women's centre in the municipality in which all women feel comfortable.

This is in keeping with her philosophy of a women's centre. Dewar said it should be a place to keep valid information for women. Also, she said, women should be able to go to a centre and have their self-confidence and self-worth confirmed.

But Dewar says the feminist movement has been considered one of young women when older women have been oppressed for years. Therefore, she says, 60-year old women who have had marital breakdowns, as is the case with two women she knows, should be able to walk into a women's centre for help.

Dewar thinks single mothers should be a big consideration in public housing. Right now, she says, there isn't the physical shelter that is needed.

"Co-op housing is a real plus for women," she said. Single parents in co-op housing are part of the community, are considered equal partners and are much happier, she said.

"We are saying we want women in the work force. Therefore we have to provide municipal services," said Dewar. This applies to daycare where middle-income people are "priced out," according to Dewar.

She said a "finger in the dyke" measure for day care would be to put a ceiling on costs of private pay day care centres. People with more than one child in such a centre would then pay only up to a certain amount. Dewar stressed this was only a temporary plan, that pressure should be applied to the province to change legislation.

"I, as a municipal politician, think that children are a priority," Dewar said. She said the question of requiring new housing developments to provide adequate indoor and outdoor facilities for children was really a motherhood issue.

With regard to public transit, Dewar said she would like to see smaller buses in some urban areas where there is a lower number of users.

She is opposed to, and will continue to oppose, any raise in fare. She said when the city is carrying a \$14 million deficit a raise in fare won't do much to reduce it. People should not get upset at increased subsidies to public transit, she said.

## PAT NICOL



Patricia Nicol says her two year performance as a city councillor proves her support for such services as the Women's Centre, Interval House and the Rape Crisis Centre.

On the whole the Women's Centre is providing a necessary service by maintaining a place where "women can go and meet," she said.

In the future she would like the centre to initiate the establishment of a detoxication centre for alcoholic women, who are currently forced to dry out in the city jail, she said.

Nicol also suggested the centre could "get more involved in directly helping women to find employment."

On the subject of housing Nicol said she has always advocated the integration of the poor into existing neighborhoods. The present attitude towards assisted housing creates, she said, the ghettoization of the poor.

The existing recreational bylaws which demand that 5 per cent of the land in a proposed development be set aside for such facilities is, in Nicol's eyes, adequate.

If such facilities already exist the developer must give a lump sum to council which will be put towards areas built prior to this bylaw.

The present high vacancy rates in daycare suggest to Nicol that this service is not desirable to all women. Frequently, she said, only women entitled to subsidies can afford to place their children. As a mother of four she finds many women prefer to leave their children with friends or relatives where they are in a familiar environment and not as susceptible to germs.

Women who opt for this type of service should be compensated, she said.

While Nicol generally favours the existing transit system she said she would like to see more lanes set aside for buses. Only if the service is more efficient will people be encouraged to leave their cars at home, she said. Nicol said a subway is not economically feasible or warranted in a city the size of Ottawa.

## JOSEPH LOUIS PARADIS



Joseph Louis Paradis is not a newcomer to city elections. He has often run but has yet to be elected.

He says that services like the Women's Centre, Interval house and the Rape Crisis Centre are good for people who need them and that it is "a sad thing that people don't want them."

A women's centre, he feels, would be good for young girls who "get in trouble" and are unable to remain in the home.

From a large family in Quebec City, Paradis says the city continues to ignore the little people of Ottawa.

Low rent housing is, he said, dishonest. He suggested that many people who take advantage of such homes are earning good salaries and that some of these interlopers were on the payroll of city hall. According to Paradis, council said "We don't want all welfare cases in there."

He said council does not believe daycare services are feasible. The members, in Paradis' opinion, are afraid of being heralded as communists.

Daycare should be determined on a need basis and people who can afford it "should pay through the nose," he said.

Paradis also disapproves of the money some election candidates



# issues

He said there are many clubs in the city where men get together to discuss their common business or professional concerns, but no such organization exists to deal with the problems of women in the work force.

• **How would you change Ontario housing developments to serve the needs of the women who live in them?**

Greenberg pointed to his voting record in opposition to Ontario housing projects in the city.

"There will be no more of these developments while I'm mayor," he said.

The mayor said he supported small clusters of housing people on rent supplement programs, integrated with the rest of the community so people receiving subsidies are not recognized.

"There's motherhood and then there's motherhood," said Mike Sammon. He said many women in low rental projects want to be out working but can't because of inadequate daycare facilities.

Sammon said there are enough able bodies in housing developments who could organize and manage daycare centres assisted financially by the city.

Lapointe also supported the idea of rent geared to income programs which subsidize people rather than housing which ghettoizes low-income earners.

• **If elected, would you support a municipal by-law requiring all housing developments in the city to provide adequate indoor and outdoor recreation facilities for children?**

Housing developments for adults without children are self-controlling, Greenberg said. The city does not need to be involved because developers will build family housing if they see a demand, he said.

He mentioned the city's non-profit housing corporation which is helping bring families back to the city core. He said he would encourage family housing in the downtown area as a means of reducing crime there.

Lapointe argued that developers are "getting away with mur-



Mike Sammon

der" without municipal controls. He said the construction industry discriminates against families with children.

The city should intervene to restrict development of all-adult apartment buildings, according to Mike Sammon, because the amount of space reserved for children's play areas is below Ontario Housing Act regulations. He said single parents are particularly hard hit by the Ottawa housing situation.

• **How do you think daycare facilities could be improved by the city?**

The city should look at how daycare facilities can be operated more efficiently by looking at their locations and how they reflect the needs of their area, according to Greenberg.

Lapointe said too many women are forced to stay at home because they cannot find daycare facilities within their financial means. "No taxpayer would object to increasing the subsidies to daycare centres," Lapointe said. "We need some places set up where children can be cared for, for say a dollar a day."

Mike Sammon objected to the hierarchical structure of daycare

which results in middle income centres for children from middle income families and heavily subsidized centres for children from lower income families.

He also suggested that workers in day care centres are inadequately trained.

• **How would you improve the present transit system to make it more efficient?**

The mayor said the transit committee report he helped implement in 1971 has improved OC Transpo efficiency.

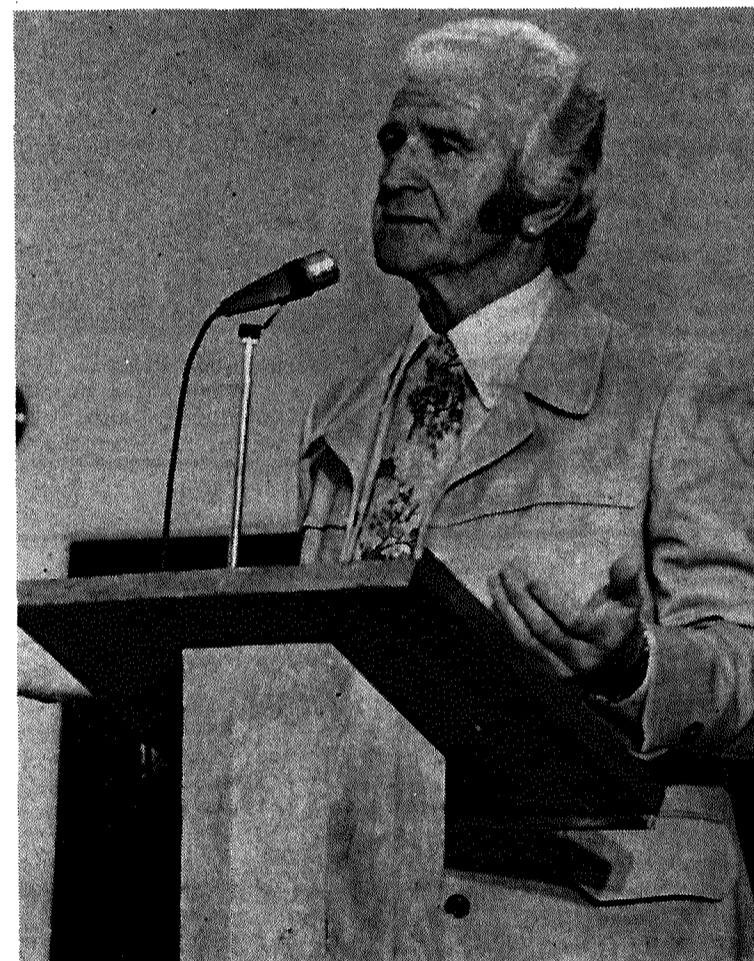
Although he doesn't want the city to grow to a size which necessitates a high concentration transit system, Greenberg says improvements can be made within the present structure.

Lapointe says the centre median on the Queensway could be used as an express bus lane, that senior citizens should be given free bus passes, and the city should lobby with the federal government to remove taxes on gasoline used by OC Transpo.

OC Transpo driver Mike Sammon would eliminate Teletranspo in order to improve rush hour service. He agrees with Lapointe that senior citizens should have free access to city transportation.



Lorry Greenberg



Alphonse Lapointe

spend. He said "to run in the city of Ottawa you have to spend a lot of money. I wouldn't do that".

## DOUG PAYNE



"The Women's Centre shouldn't be for the women's liberation movement in any way, shape or form, according to Board of Control candidate Doug Payne.

Instead it should be of assistance to all women says the 48-year old political newcomer.

The former senior organization and methods officer and acting

director of information and public relations at City Hall says he supports "any service that has wide application to the community" such as Interval House and the Rape Crisis Centre. He admitted he was "not as familiar as I should be with the Women's Centre."

Since daycare is "supposedly educational, it should be more accessible to the middle income groups who are paying for it," says Payne.

Currently only those on state subsidies or those who can afford it are using the city's daycare centres he says. He contends daycare should become part of the educational curricula.

Payne said he is uncertain how the city could ensure daycare accessibility for middle income earners.

While he "doesn't want to be given a socialistic leaning on this," Payne is in favor of abolishing bus fares in the city.

"I'd like to have it looked at," he says, pointing out that any increase in fares would decrease passenger loads. He points out a free system would reduce administrative overhead and save natural resources.

Payne is not aware of any problems in social housing for women.

He says he agrees with demanding developers to provide set amounts of recreational areas in new developments "but it depends on the extent."

"I'm not willing to comment on the extent," he says.

## RALPH SUTHERLAND

Board of Control candidate Dr. Ralph Sutherland's philosophy of government is built around "making decisions after you are aware of all the concerns and no decisions until the people affected are deeply concerned."

The 51-year old University of Ottawa health administration professor has two short term priorities he wants studied in Ottawa's transportation system: the abolition of fares and bus stop/parking lot areas so commuters could drive part of the way to work and take buses to

the downtown core.

Sutherland points out that over a third of OC Transpo's \$36 million budget is publicly subsidized. He says a no fare system would increase the use of public transportation, cut administrative costs and relieve downtown congestion.

The two-time political candidate in a federal and provincial election stresses the need to integrate development in the community. "Recreation and social services are far too broad a need to think they can be built into any specific unit," he says.

"What you do when you demand certain amounts of recreation space is ghettoize the development... I look at the whole community rather than isolating it."

The big problem in Ottawa daycare facilities according to Sutherland is "still the lack of access by the middle income earner."

"If we believe in the equality of women then we have to allow them access," he said.

This access, he says, could be increased by adopting a fee formula scaled to net family income.

He suggests the city should give first class support to the Ottawa Daycare Association and that it should be sensitive to the fact that daycare is a municipal responsibility.

Sutherland says he "never thought of social housing as an area that discriminated against women". He added that the needs of any special group have to be met and that he is against "discrimination of access."

He gives "support in principle" to Interval House, the Rape Crisis Centre and the Ottawa Women's Centre, saying a prerequisite for their funding is that "they are under good, open community control". If a "closed shop atmosphere" prevailed he would not support those agencies.

Sutherland says the Ottawa Women's Centre should act as "primarily a resource centre in a whole variety of legal and personal areas."

# ARTS

## Hedda Gabler: Journey towards disaster

by Trudy Gahlinger

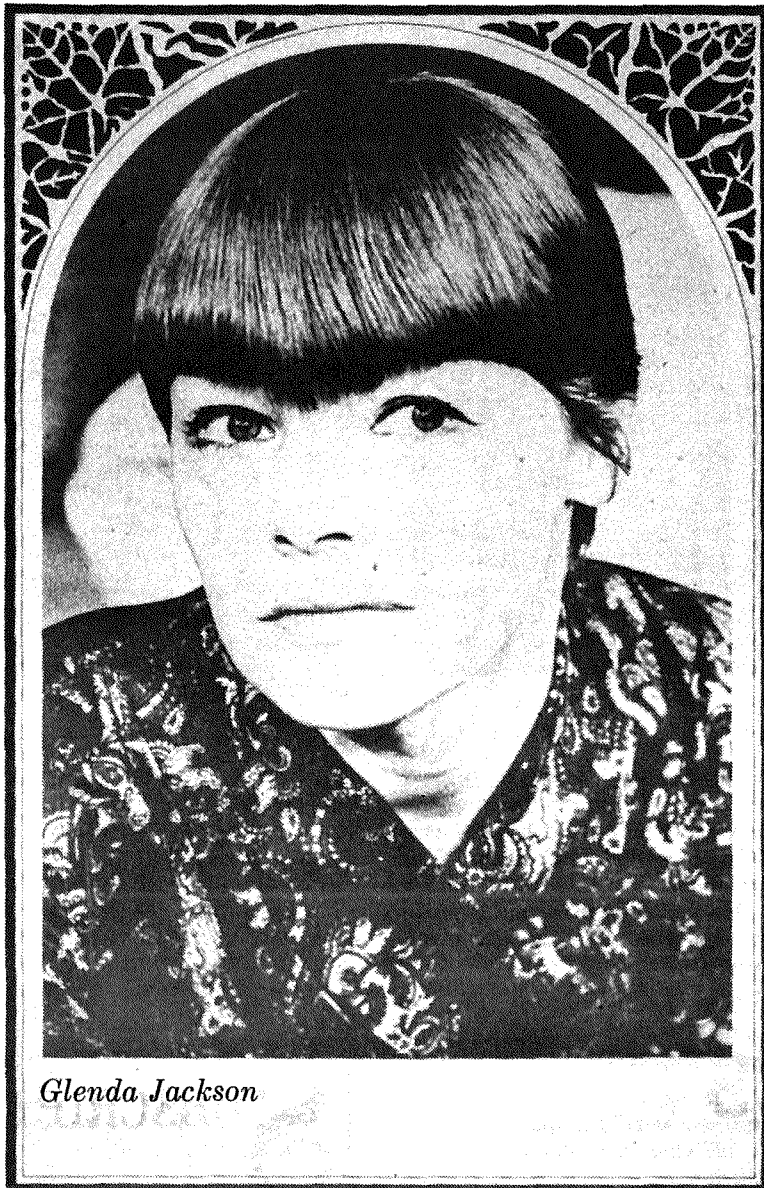
*Hedda Gabler* seems as alive today as when it was first published in 1890. What is amazing about this play is the particular relevance of its theme to the present concern with women's roles. The character of Hedda fits unmistakably into contemporary society.

The Royal Shakespeare Company, with Trevor Nunn as director, has adapted the play to film; called simply *Hedda*, it features Glenda Jackson in the title role in a production which proves to be highly competent.

Hedda is the prototype of the woman as victim. She is victimized by her society, which decrees that a woman of twenty-nine has no other option before her but marriage. She is victimized by her husband, who values her as a prize won over other suitors. She falls prey to Judge Brack, who schemes to control her world. Finally, she is the victim of her own cowardice, desiring to experience life at its fullest, but content to remain only a spectator.

*Hedda* is the story of a journey towards destruction, beginning in despair and ending in death. This mood is accentuated by the setting sun which opens the film and the darkness of evening which ends it. Appropriately, Hedda's dress changes from decorative white to simple brown to sombre black.

Trapped by a prescribed manner of behaviour for a woman of her position, Hedda's attempts at freedom serve only to strengthen the walls of her prison. Ibsen had the entire action of the play take place in two rooms: the large



Glenda Jackson

drawing-room and the smaller music room. In the film, Nunn has taken the liberty of showing Hedda outdoors, and it has the effect of emphasizing her confinement.

The audience sees landscape, the road leading away from the home, the open doors, and watches as others come and go, while Hedda clings to the house, closing the curtains to the sun and fresh air.

She paces about the room continually, the tension in her body concentrated in her clenched fists. Her area of motion becomes even more restricted at the end of the film when Tesman and Mrs. Elvsted take over the drawing-room for their work.

The environment's oppression is repeatedly stressed. Hedda is often shown in full view, framed by the curtains separating the two rooms. Before her death, she will at last close the curtain and shoot herself within those four walls. Objects dominate the setting and our attention is focused on them: the fireplace, indicative of the fire raging within Hedda, and the mirror, symbol of the search for identity.

Most important is the portrait of General Gabler, who represents order, convention and propriety. Hedda's concern about her reputation is exploited by Brack when he blackmails her with the threat of publicizing her connection in Lovborg's death.

Similarly, the composition of the frame illustrates Hedda's increasing loss of influence over her surroundings. She craves power over others, and in the beginning,

she has it. Therefore, she is usually filmed standing between characters, at the centre of the action.

In one scene she tells Mrs. Elvsted, who has moved to sit beside Lovborg: "no, I want to be in the middle." By the end of the film, the balance has been upset. Now she moves about at the edge of the room and the edge of the frame, watching Tesman at work and avoiding Brack, in a last desperate attempt to assert her authority.

She is ignored. The shooting is not seen, and when her body is revealed, her face is obscured by a pillow. Brack's comment on her death adds to her insignificance and degrades the event: "People don't do such things."

It's difficult to imagine another actress playing Hedda. Glenda Jackson is perfectly suited for the part. This is the type of role at which she is best: tense, aggressive, sarcastic. Not surprisingly, Jackson overpowers the other actors with the strength of her performance, for Hedda demands attention like a spoiled child.

Peter Eyre makes Tesman a credible figure, avoiding the caricature which the part invites, and Timothy West is excellent as the calculating Brack in black who comes in the back.

The tragedy of Hedda is her refusal to react against the stifling forces around her. She chooses stagnation over evolution, and it leads to paralysis. In the very bleakness of her story, Ibsen challenges women to demand and seek a more fulfilling life.

The alternative can only be, as for Hedda, an end.

OTTAWA WOMEN'S

RESOURCE HANDBOOK

produced by Ottawa Women's Centre

available Dec.1

\$1.00



## People transformed to sticks and stones

by Lana Ritchie

"What are people made of? Sticks and stones, feathers and bones. They are tied and bound with beautiful thread until their minds and their limbs are numb." This feeling is in the works of Erica Van Meurs, Ottawa weaver, sculptor, and textile artist.

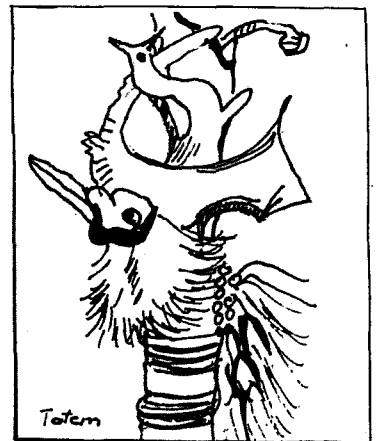
Under her eye the downtrodden are captives in a world of plenty. By combining stones, papier mache, bones, wood, fabric, wool, colored thread, feathers, saran wrap, cord and other household odds and ends she creates dramatic wall hangings and sculptures in which animal-like humans flourish.

These satyrs are usually constructed of sienna papier mache. Each torso is individually bound, cocoon fashion, in ochre or red silken thread, cord or rawhide. Occasionally Van Meurs binds an entire group together, on a black plywood cube base.

In other constructions she attaches the armless bodies to partially stripped tree trunks which she describes as totem poles into which forms suggesting birds and animals are carved.

Van Meurs has successfully incorporated the figures which she refers to as "monsters" into her weaving to produce striking yet primitive wall hangings.

As a successful teacher of textile art at the Ottawa Municipal Centre and Algonquin College she was



able to attend workshops in Guatemala in 1974, 1975 and 1976 where much of her work was inspired. While there she studied the Indians' primitive method of waving on the Backstrap Loom.

It was this exposure that led her to begin experimenting with papier mache and the creation of the "bound" bodies which seem to be now almost a signature in her art.

Later she enrolled in a Master's Program in Anthropology at Carleton University.

"Crafts are only one aspect of a society and there are greater issues with which to be concerned," she says. To be only involved with handicrafts, she adds, is a "luxury".

Erica Van Meurs has had a recent successful showing at the Robertson Galleries and will exhibit at Algonquin College in December.

# NFT offers exciting film variety

One of the best buys in town is a three dollar membership in the **National Film Theatre**. With a new programme series every two months, it is possible to see an excellent double bill almost every second night for only \$1.50. (Cost of your first showing is included when you pay your membership at the door.)

NFT is the exhibitions arm of the **Canadian Film Institute**, a non-profit, chartered organization founded 38 years ago "to encourage and promote the use and study of film in Canada." Government grants from **Canada Council** and **Secretary of State** help to fund the NFT and such CFI publications as the **Yearbook of Canadian Film**.

Some titles from programmes since last November suggest the exhilarating range of NFT showings: *Japan*, *History Through the Cinema*; *Hitchcock*, a retrospective; *the Blues in Cinema*; *Kelly and Garland*; *Cinema in the Third Reich*; *Garbo/Dietrich*.

Canadian films have been shown almost every Tuesday night this year in such series as *New Canadian Cinema*, a Gilles Carle retrospective, *Eroticanada* and *Canadian Award-winning Films*.

Of special interest is a series of eight films by eight women directors, shown on consecutive Tuesdays. The series began November 23 at 7:30 pm with *La Fiancée du Pirate* (known in English as *A Very Curious Girl* or *Dirty Mary*) — the story of Marie, a young gypsy suspected of witchcraft.

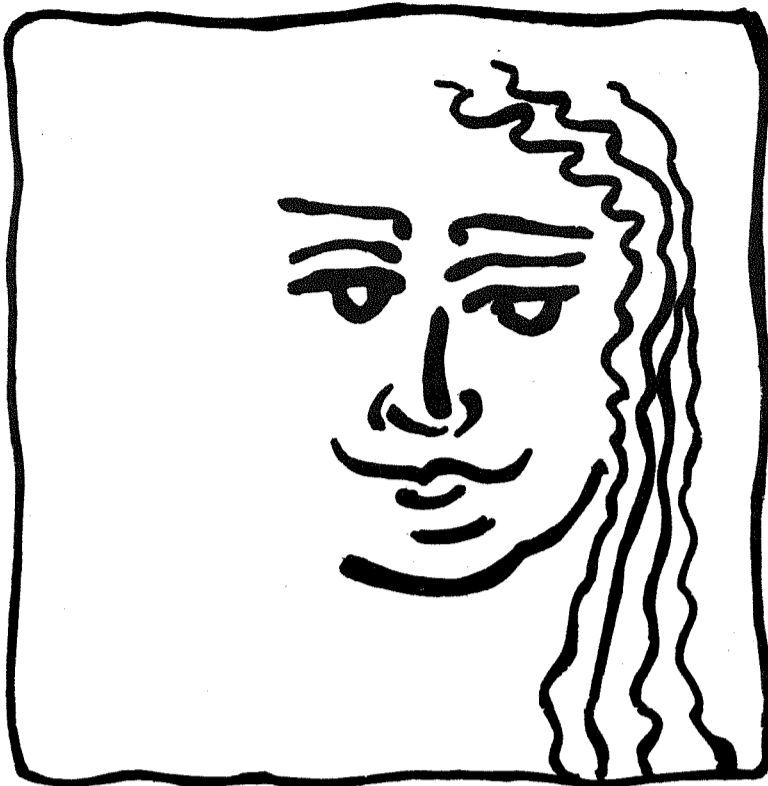
French director Nelly Kaplan made this first feature in 1969 after several years' work at short films on art and artists. She won a Golden Lion at the **Venice Film Festival** with *Le Regard Picasso* (*The Picasso Look*, 1967). Picasso described *La Fiancée* as "insolence raised to a fine art." No subtitles.

Screened on the same programme was *Le Temps de l'Avant* (*Before the Time Comes*), made in 1975 by Quebecoise director Anne-Claire Poirier.

Since 1962 Poirier has worked on shorts and longer documentaries for the National Film Board. This full-length feature is about a middle-aged couple with three children confronted with an unwanted pregnancy. The heroin explores the question of abortion with her husband, sister and friends. The film was shown with English subtitles at the Woman-scene section of the recent Toronto film festival.

Joan Micklin Silver's *Hester Street* was shown November 30. Despite an established reputation as a writer/director, Silver could not sell this script to any Hollywood producer. She and her husband finally raised \$400,000 and produced the film independently to international acclaim in 1975.

It is the story of young Jewish wife who comes to America during the Large Jewish emigration from Europe in the late 19th century. When her husband Jake becomes intoxicated with new-world freedom and another woman, Gitl overcomes her traditional at-



Cuban revolution. (English subtitles)

*La Vie Revee* (*Dream Life*) on December 14 at 7:30 pm is by well-known Quebecoise director Mireille Dansereau. Trained at the London School of Film Technique, Dansereau won an award and stirred up discussion with the two films she made there in 1968 and 1969.

*La Vie Revee* (Quebec, 1972) is a witty film about the disparities between women's dreams of men and the blunt realities of inadequate relationships. Dansereau says "I wanted to show that... friendship could take the place of love. Great friendship between women can exist, so that for a time at least, you can have so much out of that you don't need men."

*Re-grouping*, at 9:30, is a more radical response to the problem presented in *La Vie*. Director Lizzie Borden has filmed the efforts of an American women's collective to liberate themselves from reliance on men. Where Dansereau deals with personal friendship and escapist fantasies, Borden shows collective friendship and explicit affection between her women. (Lizzie Borden is an actual person, not a name for the collective.) All four programmes are at the National Library and Public Archives Building, 395 Wellington Street. Information for notes from Women and Film International Festival, 1973, Toronto; Sharon Smith, *Women Who Make Movies*, N.Y. 1975, NFT and NFB.

titudes and finds her own freedom. She divorces Jake and prepares to start life on her own as a shopkeeper.

*At 99*, an account of the daily life of an aged but lively woman — a Canadian film made in 1974 by director Deepa Saltzman, was also shown that evening.

*La Femme de Jean* (*Jean's Wife*) on December 7 at 7:30 pm is about a woman facing a familiar contemporary situation: to be or not to be alone after the end of a marriage. French director Yannick Bellon

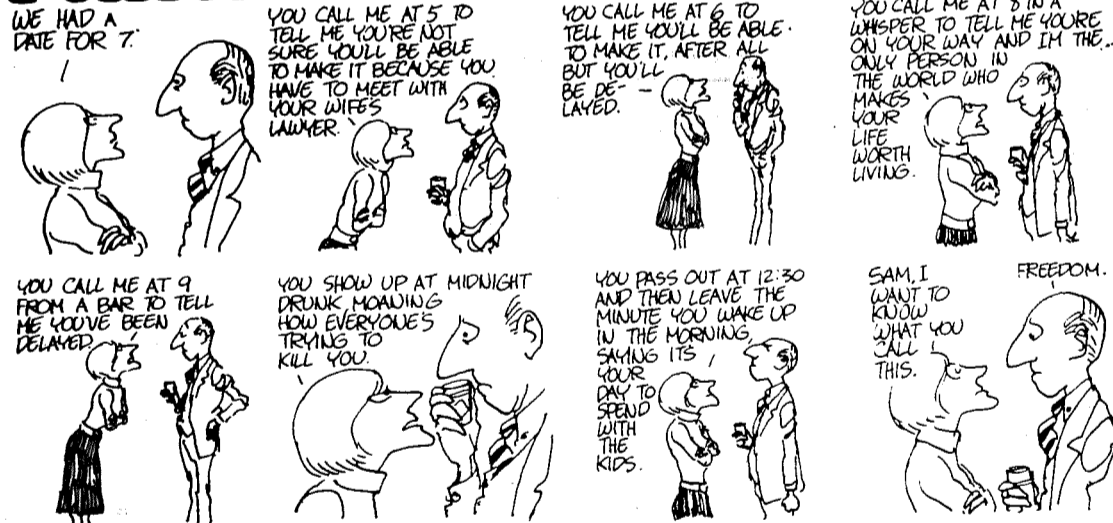
has been successful since the late forties as an editor/director of short films. But it wasn't until 1974 that she got enough backing to make her first feature film. (English subtitles)

Showing at 9:30 is *Buenos Dias Companeras* (*Women in Cuba*), filmed in Cuba in 1975 by director Aviva Slesin and an all-woman Canadian crew.

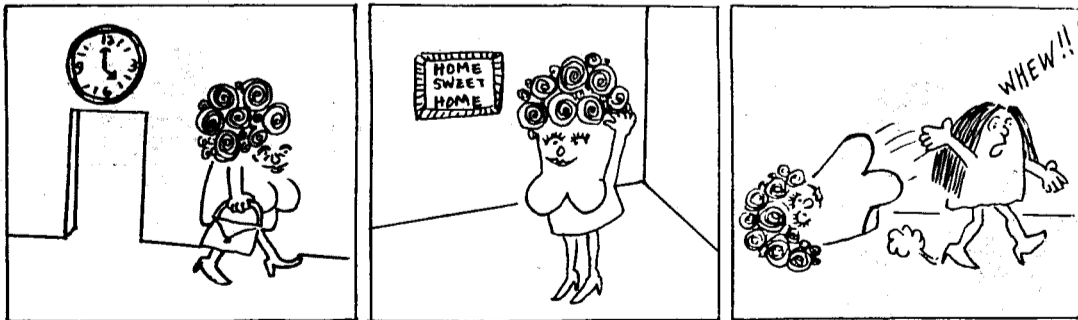
The film shows a variety of Cuban women talking about their work, families, feelings and the fulfillments possible since the

## Feminist Funnies

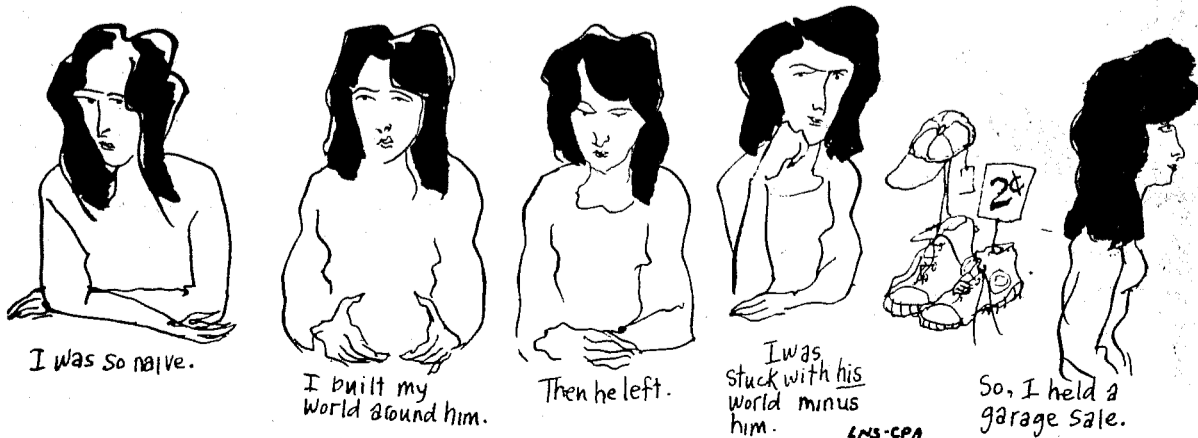
### Feiffer



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# BOOKS

## Brian Moore: the male sex symbol

**The Doctor's Wife**  
Brian Moore  
McClelland & Stewart, Ltd.  
\$8.95, 277 pages

by Dawn Amott

Sheila Redden, the heroine of Brian Moore's latest novel, *The Doctor's Wife*, is, as well as a doctor's wife, the mother of a teenage son, Irish, cultivated, travelling alone in Europe, a lapsed Catholic and almost six feet tall.

Her husband Kevin, who was supposed to accompany her on her trip, is vastly relieved when his medical duties justify his remaining behind in troubled Belfast. That situation makes it possible for Sheila to fall passionately and deeply in love with an American ten years younger but somewhat taller.

The book ends with her working in a dreary job, in a dreary London, living in a dreary room, having abandoned both family and lover. Her course of action baffles everyone involved — including the reader — except Sheila, who shows little sign of intellectual engagement at any time in the book. If she thinks, she keeps it to herself. It is unfortunate that Brian Moore's heroines, as they theoretically become more cultivated and prosperous, become less interesting.



Fallen housewives probably have a great deal in common, and the adulterous housewives of literature — with the notable exception of that throbbing Earth-Mother, Molly Bloom — can scarcely avoid being typecast.

Their creativity, or implied creativity, has been bowed by the matrimonial yoke. Their wretchedly repetitive lives have been spent oiling the wheels of the vehicles of masculine advancement with little reward. Such ladies, and ladies they frequently are, are ripe for a tumble from the pedestal into the hay.

Twentieth century women of impeccable virtue and great so-

phistication recoil from the mirror that Flaubert holds before them in his silly, romantic Emma Bovary and recognise how society ground down Tolstoy's Anna Karenina. Sheila Redden will not produce the same response because Moore has simply not brought her to life.

In the first place, the intellectual and emotional focus of the novel, the dilemma of a married and, what used to be, respectable woman falling in love with a man ten years her junior whom she has only known for two days, is not explored. The emphasis is on the covering of physical distances, whether by plane, phone, telegraph or foot.

The book concerns action, not contemplation, and the actions are often presented as a short cut, a substitute, for situation or character development and plain exposition. The cause or nature of Tom Lowry's love for Sheila is not divulged. It is supposedly enough that he flew from Paris to Villefranche to find her.

Except physically, the love affair neither waxes nor wanes, while the lover scurry hither and thither trying to avoid confrontations with husband Kevin and other exponents of social respectability. When Sheila deserts her lover at the airport it is simply another action, unsupported by evidence or justification.

The book is certainly not dull. Its lack of depth and subtlety is at least partly offset by its pace and

vigor, and a number of explicit sex scenes will ensure its commercial success. In most of these, Sheila is dazzled both by Tom's expertise and by his operational apparatus, the like of which neither she, nor probably any of us, are likely to encounter outside Aubrey Beardsley's *Lysistrata* illustrations and Mr. Moore's pages.

Come and worship, ladies. Read about the transports of delight that flow from Sheila's hitherto pure chalice as a result of the ministrations of Tom's much-vaunted — in every sense of the word — phallus. It all sounds very much like a combination of machismo and the great female sexuality syndrome which has been keeping so many psycholog-

ists well-heeled and so many earnest students breathlessly titillated in the last few years.

One must ask, though, whether Brian Moore really believes that great sex is equivalent to great love, rather than an expression of it. There is more than a suggestion in *The Doctor's Wife*, as there was in *Mary Dunne*, that, given a good lay, a woman will soon forget all her little problems and cleave otherwise undemandingly to her lover. Such a view gives little credit to women, or to sex, or to Brian Moore.

*The Doctor's Wife* would be less disappointing if it had not been the work of a man who, in the past, has demonstrated near-greatness as a writer.

## MacNeil affirms feminist spirit



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The *Women's Press* is now offering *Born a Woman* at a new discount price, for women's groups only. The cost has been reduced from \$5.95 to \$3.75, and with an additional discount to orders of 5 copies or more, \$3.50. All orders must be pre-paid, and include a postage/handling charge of 25 cents a copy.

International Women's Year may be over, but the songs of Rita MacNeil are alive and well!

Through her songs of celebration, anger and nostalgia, Rita MacNeil reaffirms the spirit of the women's movement. *The Rita MacNeil Songbook: Born a Woman*, is a very special book.

## Middewatch studies loneliness and fear

**Middewatch**  
Susan Kerslake  
Oberon Press (Ottawa)  
133 pages  
hardcover \$8.95  
softcover \$4.50

by Alice Brodie

In a time when most analysis comes ready made, it is refreshing to read an entertaining book that doesn't slight the reader's powers of interpretation.

Susan Kerslake's first novel, *Middewatch*, provides such an opportunity. It skillfully reveals just enough about its characters to make the reader think, and its haunting mood is achieved mainly by what the author leaves untold.

*Middewatch* is a sensitive story about a young orphan girl who is raised in the wilderness of the North by her brother, Sibby, "A cold white woman picked the name Sybil out of a ledger and put a little bracelet on the baby girl's wrist", has only fleeting contact with other people or with a world outside her own. Her brother, Jason, is a good provider but he seldom shows any emotion and whenever Sibby is lavished with affection by another person he jealously lures her away.

The two children settle in a makeshift cabin in the woods where Jason tends sheep. Sibby is plagued with loneliness and doubt as her brother draws within himself and fails even to acknowledge her presence.

One day a school teacher from the nearby village discovers the girl naked, beaten and tied to her

bed. He brings her to live with him at the school, to the terror of the townsfolk, and slowly gains her trust. It is an agonizing process but the man is peculiarly obsessed with Sibby and each effort she makes to communicate, however feeble, fills him with joy.

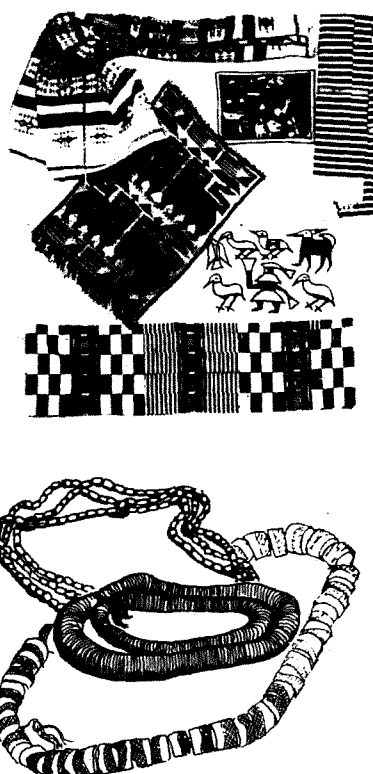
Although the plot is simple the characters are realistically complex. Jason is proud and strong, yet at the same time he is selfish and insecure — denying his sister the love he and his mother had shared. He is disliked in the village for his "strange ways" but he maintains enough rapport with the townsfolk to sell his wool.

Morgan, the teacher, is an outsider as well. He came to the small town from the city and makes only token attempts to mingle with his new neighbours. Sibby is afraid but not defeated by the strangeness of her life. She suspects that there are such things as warmth and love but only when she meets Morgan are her suspicions confirmed.

Many questions are left unanswered. Who assaulted Sibby (and for those with a morbid curiosity, in what way?) Was it Jason, or a gypsy from a nearby camp, or one of the men she innocently sought for friendship when Jason's silence grew too painful to bear? Why was Morgan so obsessed with the girl? Indeed, why did he come to teach in such an obscure little town? These puzzles encourage the reader to look between the lines, although the narrative rests comfortably on its own merits.

*Middewatch* is ultimately a

very personal book. It will not please everyone. It is a sensitive and perceptive study of loneliness and fear, and it is skillfully written. But whether *Middewatch* can compete with the less demanding novels on the shelves today remains to be seen.


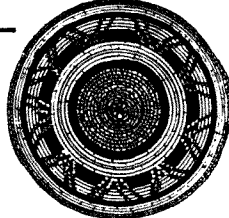


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# Ms. Ishbel Marjoribanks Gordon

by Alma Norman

Ishbel Marjoribanks Gordon is better known as Lady Aberdeen, founder and first president of the National Council of Women. She would have been indifferent, if not displeased, at the feminism implied by the label "Ms.", for Lady Aberdeen was not what we would call a feminist. Yet for her time and in her way she was a forward looking woman whose achievement laid the groundwork for later, more fundamental changes.

Born in 1857 to a family of wealth and distinction Ishbel soon learned what it meant to 'grow up female.' She was the only daughter in a family of boys and was greatly concerned about her appearance (although she was in fact a very handsome woman).

"Few would guess the miseries of those years," she wrote, "... the fear of always being wrong, the conviction that I was too naughty, ugly and 'potatoe-nosed' to be cared for."

A bright child, she learned to read before the age of four. But when she was discovered studying mathematics with her brothers her mother immediately put a stop to this "unsuitable" activity. Later, when Ishbel was offered the opportunity to study at Girton College, the newly-opened school for women at Cambridge, her father refused his permission be-

cause a girl need do nothing but "come out".

Her relationship with her mother was always tense and distant, although she "worshipped the ground she walked on". It was only late in her adult life that Ishbel realized her mother loved her.

Indeed she always had difficulty establishing close rapport with women.

"My mother did not encourage me to make friends with girls," she wrote, "and though I knew several well, they all told me of their affairs and I never seemed able to speak to them about myself."

This discomfiting feeling remained with her throughout her life. Although she was regarded as a leader among women, Ishbel herself was always more at ease with men. Men were encouraged to develop wider interests, while women limited their activities to social functions.

Writing of her "coming out" dance, she said "... I did not find where the wonderful attraction lay in hopping around a room, talking about the floor, the weather and suchlike."

In 1877 she married a man 10 years her senior, with whom she lived a rich and fulfilling life for over 50 years until his death in 1934. They had five children.

Her marriage seems to have

been a rare and lovely partnership among equals. Each supported and encouraged the endeavours of the other. Secure as a person in her marriage, she was able to devote her abilities to work with and for women as a whole.

Very much a woman of her time, Lady Aberdeen had a strong sense of *noblesse oblige* and deplored the fact that "many of the best people withhold from what they feel is the contamination of politics" instead of coming forward "as a duty, mixing with the working man, fighting their battles, leading them in the right way."

It was a duty from which she did not shrink. Though the battles she fought and the "right way" she led were never radical nor meant to challenge the fundamental assumptions of society. They did lay the groundwork for later, more basic changes. Moreover, her leadership encouraged women to organize themselves and develop their own programmes and strategies.

As early as 1888 she had helped organize the first conference of women workers. The three day conference was a resounding success, a fact noted with some surprise by the male press who reported that it had been accomplished "without the slightest assistance from the sterner sex". The brief speeches were described as "often racy, never wishy-



washy".

When the National Council of Women was established in Canada in 1894, it was natural that she be elected president because of her undoubted ability as well as her position as wife of the Governor General.

Her work in Canada had another facet of great importance to the thousands of women living in remote and isolated farms. The Lady Aberdeen Association for Distribution of Literature to Settlers in the West arranged, with the co-operation of the railways, the free distribution of parcels of books, papers and reading matter of all kinds to western settlements.

With this imaginative gesture she earned the lasting gratitude of women who found such otherwise unavailable material a boon for themselves and their children during the long lonely winters.

For the urban working woman she felt a practical concern, noting that while "work is ennobling" and "we are all bound in a sisterhood of work", there is "a sort of work which is shorn of much of its dignity because it is wedded to conditions of life unfit for human beings".

She was aware of the terror of unemployment, poverty-stricken old age and wageless periods of illness, and urged Canadian working women to form "co-operative benefit societies" through which women could help one another by softening the blows of a period without income.

Perhaps mindful of her own difficulties in relating easily to women, she noted that women were reluctant to work co-operatively for such ends and speculated that "it seems to arise from the slowness of women to understand the advantages of joining together for any object".

One burning question which Lady Aberdeen approached with reserve was that of suffrage.

Ishbel Marjoribanks's gift was her ability to get women to work together, albeit under her leadership. Not that she sought the role of leader. It was usually thrust upon her. She performed so well that she remained in the role year after year until her death at age 82.

Mackenzie King said of her, "She was a true leader, always ahead of her time in her ideas — ideas afterward accepted by all."

A different and perhaps more accurate view is that expressed by a working woman who, as a child, had met Lady Aberdeen: "You treated me as your equal, as a girl likes."

## "A Canadian girl" on Organizing

*These men told us... how for long days of dangerous toil they earn 11 to 12 shillings a week; how their wives and daughters, when working from early morn to late at night, can make from two shilling and nine pence to six shillings a week. And they told us how, while they are starving, their employers are pocketing millions. One of these employers alone, Earl Dudley the imbecile husband of a "notorious" wife, takes out of these mines one million pounds per annum.*

It wasn't often that the editor of *The Palladium of Labor* printed such an impassioned comment by a woman on the front page. Perhaps the title of the article offers a reason for doing so. It was called "Karl Marx's Daughter — Her letter from London: The Crisis in England, France and Germany."

By 1894, the Socialist movement in Ontario was building, but in the 1880s, *The Palladium* was certainly acting as a forerunner of the Socialist cause.

Eleanor Marx Aveling ended her letter with a call to North American Labor to take up "that old watchword of Karl Marx, *Workers of the world! Unite!*"

And *The Palladium*, aware of the teachings of the spiritual father of the modern trade union movement, urged workers to organize.

Not only did W.H. Rowe, the publisher of the labor weekly, want workers to organize, he counseled them to see the political light. He saw the Knights of Labor as the torch-bearer which would show workers the road to democracy and encourage them to vote against the Whigs and Tories.

The Knights, he wrote on December 5, 1885, "ought to destroy the pigheaded and unreasoning partyism which has so far prevailed among the working people... time and again the interests of Labor have been subordinated to those of tricky politicians and ringsters who court the working man's vote only to betray him."

The views of Karl Marx' daughter were right in keeping with those of the editor of *The Palladium* and it wasn't the first time he had published such comments by a woman.

On September 29, 1883, the article "Organization for our own good" appeared with the sub-heading "Canadian girl to the front." Part of the text follows.

*I have it from first-class authority that, assisted by our fathers, brothers and friends, we are going to organize. And none too soon say I, for the wholesale clothing manufacturers still continue to "do" the continent at our expense.*

*Every "splurge" to Europe, the North-west or the Pacific Coast; or a princely donation to a mission or charity, means another "grinding" of the operatives.*

*"If you don't like the wages don't take the work. I can get plenty to take it," says the charitable cloth king.*

*Of course I know that, and I also know that organization is our only hope. Nothing else can prevent the still greater reduction of wages, for our employers have no conscience. They are all 'gall' and avarice.*

*Our employers are organized for the purpose of keeping the selling prices up and the manufacturing costs down, and we ought to accept the assistance and invitation of our gentlemen Knights of Labor and organize. We should remain no longer strangers to each other, but combine and protect ourselves to some purpose.*

*There is another class of girls which I hope will join the union as soon as it is formed, i.e. the dry goods clerks, for they are if anything worse off than we are.*

*If your readers knew the magnificent wages paid by a certain James St. dry goods dealer to her girl clerks it would not only astonish them, but would also send many of them elsewhere to make their purchases.*

*Surely no workingman's wife or daughter could be contemptible enough to patronize such vampires if they knew that the girls who so patiently wait upon them are on their feet 71 hours per week. And they scarcely receive sufficient wages to buy butter and bread, saying nothing of the clothes and the thousand-and-one little nothings a girl needs.*

*Now sir, as the boys say, "how does that strike you." It strikes me that such*

*extortionists are a disgrace to the community. Their pretensions to Christianity are a blasphemy; their attendance at divine service a mockery; their donations an advertisement, or as they would be pleased to term it a "masterly stroke of business."*

*Such as they have no souls to speak of, certainly none worth saving, for the God they worship is pasted on their windows. His name is 'spot cash', any other has no charms for them.*

*The woman who spends the workingman's dollar with them after knowing the truth ought to have no money or husband to earn it.*

*There is little sense in preaching that dealers and manufacturers cannot afford to pay more than they do. The fact of their becoming immensely rich in a few years is sufficient proof that such reasoning is nonsense. The fact is they can make the prices what they choose.*

*Sir John A. Macdonald protects them from the outside, and their organization from one another, so that they have nothing to fear from competition.*

*Neither is there any argument in the musty cry that there are too many girls takes to sewing. "You would be far better off in service, my dear," says the sympathetic dowager. Where would we find service, for the supply is far greater than the demand.*

*But as this letter is already the right length, and the domestic service question one of considerable dimensions, I will leave it over till my next. I will show the readers that the ordinary domestic is like the tailoress and the clerk, an underpaid, and in many instances underfed "drudge" that perhaps would be more benefitted by organization than either of the others.*

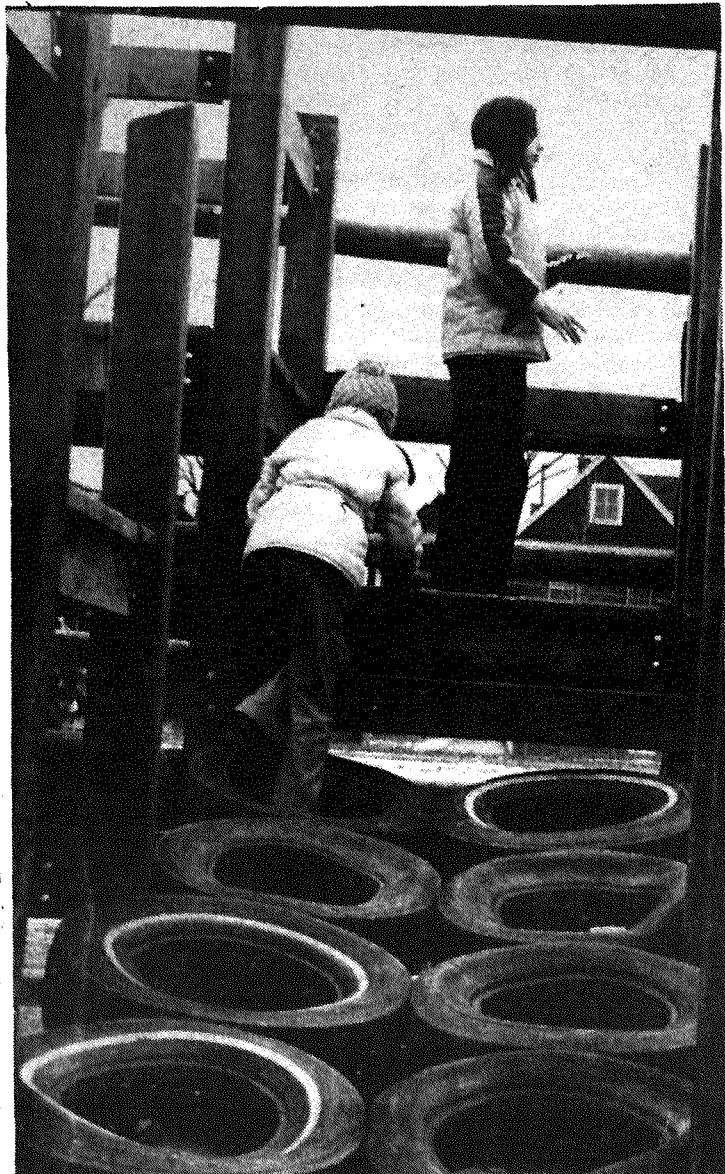
*I will not apologize for my grammar, or rather lack of it. Hoping you will assist us all you can in our new departure, I remain a Canadian girl.*

by Ron Verzuh

Next issue — A look at the poetry of working people published in *The Palladium*.



# SPORTS



*Are our children fit?*

## Schools respond to public concern

by Sandy Garland

Physical education is alive and well in public schools and improving, though slowly, every year. Interviews with gym teachers and a principal in three Ottawa schools showed programmes differ drastically, but aims and philosophy are similar.

Schools, in general, are responding to increased public concern over fitness by increasing the amount of time children spend in gym and by providing more and better extracurricular programmes for those who are interested in team sports and gymnastics. All three schools had activities before and after school and at noon.

### *Fitness levels*

At Glashan, an intermediate school, Ms. Munro's goal is to involve as many people as possible in physical development programmes. The physical education is organized to coincide with O.B.E. tournaments. Cross country running, for example, is started early in the year so that children are ready for the annual cross

country races that took place at Vincent Massey Park last month. Other sports emphasized include soccer, volleyball, basketball, track and field, baseball and gymnastics. Folk dancing, rhythmic exercises and jazz dancing are also taught.

Munro would like to raise her students' fitness levels as well as teaching skills in sport. She is currently giving health and welfare fitness tests to each child.

Students are encouraged to use the exercises included to improve their level at home or in the school gym before or after school hours. The tests will be repeated in the spring and crests are awarded to those who have done well.

### *Integrated classes*

Although Munro thinks integrated gym classes would be a good thing, Glashan does not have the necessary facilities. She says often both sexes feel cheated when they have physical education together. The boys miss out on wrestling and the girls miss jazz dancing.

Competitiveness is high among the boys at Glashan. It is a school that has a reputation for winning and winning is stressed, often to the extent that top athletes are on several teams while interested boys who are not quite as skilled don't get to play at all.

The emphasis among girls' teams tends to be more on playing and less on beating the other team.

At Fielding Drive school (grades K to 8) all gym classes are integrated. Marilyn Logan, Pyhys. ed. teacher, believes this system works very well. Having boys in the class keeps the girls more interested. There is a tendency for girls to become more passive as they get older but this doesn't happen in mixed classes.

Each class has both a male and female instructor. All activities are the same for boys and girls. They learn football skills, soccer, volleyball and gymnastics.

Extracurricular activities play a big role at Fielding. The gym is in use all day, every day. All grades are given the opportunity to use facilities outside of school hours. In-house leagues can be all boys, all girls, or mixed.

Logan says there is room for both. In interschool games teams must be segregated. Logan says integrated leagues should be organized as well, not instead of, separate leagues. If all teams were mixed, they would soon become weighted in favour of boys.

Cardiovascular development is also stressed at Fielding. Logan is proud of the fact that most of her students can easily complete a 12 minute run. She hopes to raise the running time to 16 minutes by Christmas and to 20 by spring.

Cambridge school teaches kindergarten to grade six. At this level most Ottawa schools do not have a phys. ed. specialist. Gym is taught by the regular grade teacher and all classes are mixed. Children usually have two 30-minute periods a week.

This was increased to three this year. Principal Esdon is interested in increasing physical fitness in his school. Last year he began a jogging programme with the children at recess time.

There are opportunities for extra activities at Cambridge too. An athletic club meets at 8:30 am, a floor hockey league plays at noon hour and gymnastic equipment is well used. All of these are available for both boys and girls.

Esdon says a mixed programme is "highly desirable" but we still need boys vs. boys and girls vs. girls.

### *School's role*

It seems more children are getting involved in all forms of physical education. But are they really? The average number of hours per week spent in gym classes is still only one to one and a half. Abby Hoffman in *About Face*, a report on women and sports, recommends 30 minutes a day minimum. The extracurricular activities are available but are they being used? Probably not by the children who really need them.

Children in grades one to six, at the age when positive attitudes towards fitness and physical activity should be developed, are being instructed, with few exceptions, by teachers without special training.

Should the schools be responsible for raising the fitness levels of our children? People interviewed think they should. Are they doing it?

## Sport Speculum

by Amy Chouinard

What is a sport speculum? Well, this column's writers have liberally defined it as an instrument for viewing sport more clearly, although you may know it as a medical instrument for inspecting organs — ear speculum, nasal speculum, vaginal speculum, etc. Last month the focus was football and team play; this month, diving, and individual effort.

□

The lure of the diving board. It's very subtle and if a pool is crowded, you may not feel it at all. But when the crowds have gone home and you've had your fill of swimming lengths, you may find you are being drawn irresistibly toward the diving board.

Don't resist; it's much simpler than you might think.

The key is concentration, and it begins approximately five normal steps from the end of the diving board. This is the point at which you start your approach.

What is an approach? It consists of three (or more) steps and a jump called a hurdle: it serves the same purpose as an airplane's trip down the runway. You build momentum with each step and "take off" with the hurdle. Your arms, shoulders, entire body should be thrown in to the liftoff.

You should make a few dry runs before attempting a dive, but with practice, you can learn to take full advantage of the spring provided by the board. You will develop your own style, but you should try to enter your dive at the peak of the lift.

If you convert too soon, your legs will flop over as you enter the water, and you will end up about 10 feet away from the board. If you wait too long, you won't be able to finish your dive and you may not clear the board. But beginners tend to rush into dives, not to hold back.

There are five basic dives: forward, back, reverse, inward, and twist; fancier dives are just combinations of these. Flips (somersaults) are extensions of any of the basic dives, because diving is a circular process. Most dives may be performed in one of three positions — tuck (fetal), pike (triangular, hands on ankles), or layout (prone). In diving competitions, the "degree of difficulty" of a dive includes the number and order of combination and the position assumed.

In forward somersaults, tuck position is the simplest; in fact, it's so simple, you may even see kids doing flips from the side of the pool, although, without the lift from the diving board, they can never straighten out before entering the water.

And entry into the water is the last important element of diving. You should be completely straight, legs together, when you hit the water. This is true whether you are going in head or feet first. In the former case, your arms should be outstretched above your head to break the water and lessen the impact on your head. In the latter case, arms should be at your sides.



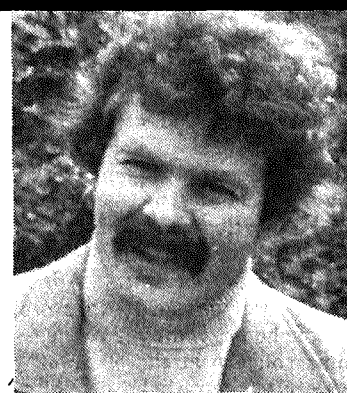
## Trip Kennedy

Trip, Queensboro's full-time alderman for two years, has supported:

- improved daycare
- the Centre Town Plan
- controlling Ottawa's rate of growth
- co-op and non-profit housing
- direct community participation in decision-making
- better public transit

As a member of the city Advisory Committee on the Status of Women he supports full implementation of the Status of Women Report at both city and regional councils.

*Trip's Queensboro Ward Report will be delivered door-to-door before Nov. 30th. If you are missed, call 729-3515 to get a copy.*



Trip Kennedy was an Ottawa high school teacher until he resigned in 1974 to be a full-time alderman for Queensboro. He was a founding member of the Westboro Community Association and its first president, from 1972-1974. Trip lives on Tweedsmuir Avenue with his wife Susan and their two young children.

Queensboro



# Schools segregate sports

by Amy Chouinard

The way to integrate girls into boys' competitive sport teams is to test the legality of their exclusion and of absolute segregation, according to Gerry Trudel, Ottawa Board of Education (OBE) trustee.

In a recent soccer tournament, organized by the Ottawa Public Schools' Athletic Association (OPSAA), Marion Black, of Glashan Public School's soccer team, was benched. Black was expelled from competition by Hubert Sargeant, OBE physical education consultant, in compliance with a board regulation which stipulates girls shall play with girls and boys shall play with boys.

OPSAA president Gladys Walker said the policy is "historical", but claims things are changing. To entrench that change, Walker is seeking members to propose a constitutional change, to be followed by an experimental desegregation.

Trudel insisted changes could be instituted more quickly. A member of the board's status of women committee, Trudel pointed to a legal investigation undertaken by the North East Ontario Amateur Football Association (NEAFA) two years ago in the Ottawa area.

At that time, girls wanted to participate in tackle football. The league executive sought medical and legal counsel, finding no physiological or legal basis for excluding girls from competition.

Trudel called on the Status of Women Council or other women's rights pressure groups to pursue the matter further. With or without such legal action, according to Trudel, the policy could be changed through pressure from the parents' advisory council to the board.

League officials have encouraged member schools to set up house leagues within their schools, which are not governed by OPSSA regulations. Therefore, many existing house leagues have co-education teams. Walker argued that such teams maximize use of expensive facilities and participation.

Further, Walker said, "Because of diminishing numbers of children in schools, often there are not enough members of each sex to run bona fide (segregated) house leagues."

Walker's reservations about integrated competitive sport teams included male domination of coaching positions resulting in fewer role models for female athletes, and the dominance in skills by one sex or another in a given sport.

Trudel added boys and girls should be acquiring skills in lifetime sports like fencing, golf, tennis and cross country skiing,

and that these sports can be totally integrated throughout school years. She also concluded that team effort could be incorporated into these sports with a little imagination.

However, Trudel argued that before adolescence, boys and girls are not all that different in terms of grace and strength.

## Ski Marathon organizes cross-country event

by Beth Glassford

The Canadian Ski Marathon is organizing a special 50 kilometer cross country event on January 30, 1977. The event will be timed and prizes will be awarded.

While applications for the Marathon itself are rapidly approaching the cut off mark, entries for the 50 km event will be accepted until January 3 or until 1000 are received. Participants are expected to be able to finish the course.

For more information contact the Canadian Ski Marathon office at (613) 236-3342 or P.O. Box 315, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 8V3.

Susan Sharp, a CSM staffer, says "We really want women to take part in this event."

# Phys ed courses expand

by Beth Glassford

At least two high schools in the Ottawa area are satisfied with the physical education programs offered their female students.

Both Ridgemont in the Ottawa Board of Education and Gloucester under the Carleton Board agree on the direction of their physical education programs: to expose the students to as many sports and activities as possible, and to teach positive attitudes toward exercise and diet.

Margaret Little, a physical education instructor at Gloucester, may have summed it up best when she said, "I'm happy if they learn enough skills, at volleyball for example, to be able to enjoy a game and play it confidently."

Ontario curriculum requirements do not require physical education to be taught, and few schools offer any courses in the field for the senior students.

Gloucester and Ridgemont follow that model, but participation rates in the two schools for grades nine to twelve inclusive indicate a good proportion of students, male and female, opt for physical education courses voluntarily. At Gloucester, 58% of the girls and 69% of the boys are enrolled in the course; at Ridgemont the figures are 70% and 76% respectively.

As well as physical education courses, including health instruction, the departments at both schools offer students intramural and interscholastic competition in various sports. Ridgemont principal, W.J. McCarthy, said the physical education program, including competitive programs, is at the center of school spirit. Administrators and physical educators at both schools, however, expressed some concern at the 30 to 40 per cent of students who do not participate.

Ridgemont physical education instructor Donna Donisteel recommended compulsory programs, at least through to ninth grade, explaining that students who had been turned off physical education at the public school level might never opt for the course at the high school level unless it was required.

Principal McCarthy also desired compulsory programs for economic reasons. Unless physical education were a compulsory course, according to McCarthy, expensive facilities would not be used to their maximum capacity.

Although "forcing people to do something" was not entirely acceptable to Gloucester's vice-principal E.T. Robillard, he said "Phys. ed. is valuable and no one should miss it."

Robillard suggested that co-educational classes might make physical education classes more attractive, and Gloucester student Tish Hannon agreed. "Working with guys can give a wider variety — they play a different game," Hannon said. She added that co-ed classes could tend to discourage girls not skilled in any given sport.

McCarthy pointed out girls' superior skills in some sports, and suggested the less-skilled of both sexes might be discouraged by co-ed classes.

Assuming girls do have more 'natural talent' for certain activities, they haven't had much opportunity to display it in last year's Ottawa Board interschool leagues. Exclusive participation in any sport by girls was limited to one activity — cheerleading.

On the other hand, boys participated in six sports where competition was not available to girls — football, soccer, wrestling, hockey, rugby, and golf.

Total numbers of participants in Ottawa Board interschool competition show 5,133 boys involved, to 3,547 girls. The apparent dichotomy dwindles, however, when figures were computed for only the 11 sports in which both boys and girls competed. In these sports, girls comprised 47 per cent of the total number of competitors.

Despite an apparently equal interest in sport, fewer sports continued to be offered to girls, because money and coaching are not allocated to them, according to Bonisteel.

While the school board has not been forthcoming with greater funding for girls' sports, female students interviewed did not feel

expensive boys' leagues should be cut to fund them. Both Hannon and Jean MacEwan, a grade ten Ridgemont student, opposed such an evening out process. Hannon felt that if 30 boys wanted to play football they should have the opportunity to do it. Principal Robillard felt one team shouldn't be cut to make room for another.

Instructor Bonisteel said she would be happy to see expensive sports like football cut, but wanted savings re-invested in physical education and intramural programs, rather than in further interschool competition. McCarthy predicted the disappearance of costly sports, and the expansion of those sports programs requiring little funding or equipment.

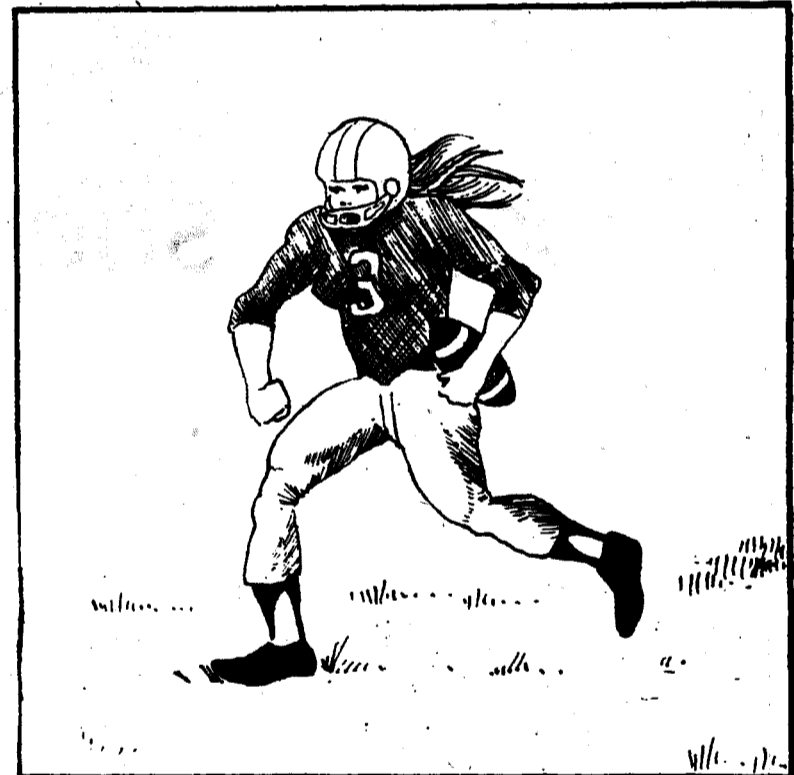
McCarthy continued, "I would hate to see (interschool) sports disappear, but I think (they) will be vastly curtailed. It's just too expensive." Robillard expressed a desire for prominence for intramural sports, because they allow more students to participate for the same investment.

Arguing for interschool competition, Little pointed out this program allows more skilled athletes to participate at a more sophisticated level than intramural competition could provide. Both teachers and administrators agreed the school has some responsibility to the more skilled athletes.

Instructor Bonisteel said, "It's something individual physical education teachers and coaches do." Administrator Robillard agreed that there is an obligation to support and steer skilled athletes.

## 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.



## Sports Calendar

### Ottawa Ladies Volleyball League

Dec 6 Six games - Merivale HS 8:00

Dec 8 Eight games - Algonquin Lees Avenue 7:00

Dec 13 Two games - Merivale HS 8:00

Dec 15 Three games - Algonquin Lees Avenue 7:00

### Curling

Dec 7 Ottawa Curling Club Ladies Invitational

### Ladies Metro Curling League

Dec 3, 10 & 17 Curl-o-Drome 9:30 am

### Varsity Basketball

Dec 4-5 University of Ottawa Invitational Tournament (Hamilton, St. Mary's, John Abbott, Ottawa)

### Ottawa District Ladies Hockey League

Dec 4 Capitalettes vs. Kemptville Kemptville Arena 7:00

Dec 5 Demptville vs. Cardinals Lions Arena 9:30

Dec 7 Cardinals vs. Capitalettes Lions Arena 9:30

Dec 8 Capitalettes vs. Bayshore Marine - March Arena 8:00

Dec 11 Bayshore Marine vs. Kemptville - Kemptville Arena 7:00

Dec 12 Bayshore Marine vs. Cardinals - Lions Arena 9:30

Dec 16 Kemptville vs. Capitalettes Nepean Sportsplex 9:0

Dec 18 Cardinals vs. Kemptville Kemptville Arena 7:00

coordinated by Beth Glassford 234-1170

## A teacher who enjoys her job

# "I feel that I've really done something"

*"Most jobs designated as 'women's work' stress either the beauty image, such as actress, model, secretary or the servant image in jobs of nurse, teacher, social worker... Both these conceptions of women emphasize behaviour that is dependant, 'other oriented', passive and non-assertive. When these behavioural roles are reinforced in the socialization society imposes from childhood, a self-fulfilling prophecy develops. Children are reared to behave as the stereotype requires."*

(Dian Cohen, "The Professional Working Women", To See Ourselves)

by Jane Whitelaw

Even in the professional occupations female concentration of job ghettoization occurs. In 1971 there were 458,685 women in the Canadian labour force, 60% of whom were in three professional groups: school teachers and instructors, graduate nurses, and nurses-in-training. Only 2% of all professional males were to be found in these groups.

176,105 of these women were in the teaching profession, yet they still did not fill the top level jobs.

According to Zuker and Callwood in *The Law is Not for Women* there were 463 women principals in Ontario in 1970. In 1974 there were only 280 women principals and of these only nine were among the 600 principals of the more prestigious and better paying high schools.

Eileen is an elementary school teacher in Ottawa. She is a resource teacher for nine children in the morning and in the afternoon she teaches a mixed grade three and four.

□

"In the morning I have nine kids altogether. The first two need help in spelling and reading comprehension. They're at the level of very factual things, otherwise they can't cope. They have no problem-solving skills.

The next group of four is in a program for poor readers. It is really programmed. There's no time for creativity but then I guess there can't be creativity if you don't have the skills. The look on this one boy's face when he makes a mistake really gets to me. I have to correct him but I don't want to discourage him.

In my regular class he always has his hand up to read. I don't know what to do. You have to ask him sometimes. Either he's a real masochist or else he's thinking this time he's really got it right!

After recess I have a girl from Lebanon. When she came she spoke almost no English. The New Canadian classes were filled to capacity and I guess it would defeat the purpose if they were overcrowded. The first day I took her through the schoolyard and had her repeat simple things, sand, tree — she's very bright. I think by the end of the year she should be at her grade level.

Today we looked through a magazine and she asked me the questions. Now I know how she's felt because she didn't always know the words so I couldn't always understand what she was asking me. I really like to be with her because she's smart and always, something new pops up. She's doing well, and if I tell her, she gets this big smile on her face...

Next I have two boys for a word-attack skills program. You're really busy while you're there but there's not a lot of preparation. It's all laid out for you. You know you're not going to make mistakes and that's good for a reading program because somewhere along the line someone has made mistakes, otherwise they wouldn't be here.

In the afternoon I have the grade three and four for language, art, music, physical education, and science. I spend so much time on the basics there isn't much time for activity centres. I think I work them harder now that I have two grades. I guess I think they'd waste time if I left them on their own. I'd like to be in a bigger classroom but not in an open area. In the morning I teach in the library and as soon as I think there's someone there I find it hard to talk. It makes me nervous."

### HOW DID YOU DECIDE ON TEACHING AS A CAREER?

I always wanted to be a teacher. I really did. I guess because I always liked school. I was a fairly good student and I had a lot of teachers I liked.

I think teaching is an interesting career. In the future I can see myself specializing in an area like special education, that's the course I'm taking now, and working with children who have learning disabilities or are mentally retarded, and then moving on to another situation.



A teacher's job isn't perfect, but it's pretty good.

I have no desire to be a principal or a superintendent. Most principals really lose contact with the kids. To me, being in the classroom is more interesting than ordering books and going to meetings. I wouldn't want to be the one to tell people they were losing their jobs. "You're out on your ear lady!" I'd probably lie and say "Oh that's not bad" even if her teaching was terrible!

I can't see going back for my Masters. Now I'd like to take some interest courses, yoga, carpentry — something to develop you as a person. I'm really glad I'm out of the pressure of exams. I always worried too much. I say, well, there's not much point in my getting a Masters or a PhD. if I'm going to stop for a few years to have a family. This sounds awful I guess but the only other career I want is motherhood. Most people don't think of it as a career but I think it is if you do it properly.

*"Since women often receive little motivation or incentive to pursue a career, they frequently use marriage or maternity as excuses for abandoning it. This practice again perpetuates the self-fulfilling prophecy that women really would rather remain at home than pursue a career. Society does not even acknowledge that being a wife and mother is in itself a career."*

"The Professional Working Woman"

### WHAT ARE WAGES AND BENEFITS LIKE IN THE TEACHING PROFESSION?

I make about \$11,000 a year. I like to be at the school by eight in the morning and I usually stay until five at night, plus I work at home and on the weekend from early morning until around noon. In teaching that's one thing that's very fair. The salary is the same for everyone with the same experience, although I think men tend to become principals and vice-principals more than women.

That could be because they want the position of authority but they may do it to make money for their families. A lot of women teachers have husbands who work

*eer, and consequently few opportunities for a career are afforded to them. ... The belief that women do not want careers then becomes a reality. Women perpetuate the prophecy because they can see few role models of women who have successfully achieved or managed a career combined with motherhood.*

The Professional Working Woman

The benefits include a dental plan, group insurance and adequate sick leave. They can let you go twice a year, giving you notice November 30th for December 31st and May 31st for June 30th. All the teachers belong to the Teacher's Association. Each school has a representative who negotiates with the board for salary and leave, but I don't know how much input they have. They do have women high up in their executive.

### WHAT IS THE MALE/FEMALE RATIO AND AVERAGE AGE OF TEACHERS AT YOUR SCHOOL?

At 24 I'm the youngest teacher there. The other teachers are in their late thirties and forties. We have six women teachers and two men. One man is the principal and the other is the vice-principal. They both teach, though, which isn't usual. Last year the grade one teacher was a man. I think it's good to get men into the primary area. Male and female team teaching in a kindergarten area would be interesting.

### DO THE CHILDREN RESPOND DIFFERENTLY TO MALE AND FEMALE TEACHERS IN MATTERS OF DISCIPLINE?

I think the type of discipline depends on the person more than whether they're male or female. Last year one parent told me his son failed because I was a female and he needed a male. I told him he could try the test with the man across the hall if he thought he could do better. The male teacher really played on it too which made me angry. I don't think he would have done any better with a man.

### HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT TEACHING NOW?

I find teaching satisfying. I enjoy my job. I enjoy it more maybe because I had a job at Statistics Canada once. It was just working with numbers. There was no meaning to it. You never had any work to do at night or on the weekends but during the day you went bananas! Now it's the other way around. You're active all day but you're also busy at night and on weekends.

You're at your job so long you have to do something you enjoy.

Of the parents — well — you have parents think you're God. You can do no wrong with their kid and that's sort of scary too.

I feel good at the end of the day. I feel that I've done something. You just watch them grow. You can see progress.

It can be frustrating sometimes. You get kids whose personality and yours don't hit it off. You have to try not to let personality influence you. Last year I had a really good student. She could do everything and it was hard not to ask her to do everything because you knew it would be done properly. You have to let the poorer kids do things or they'll never learn.

You try everything you can think of to teach them. Soon you say — what's wrong? Maybe it's because I'm not experienced enough — but some days the kids aren't paying attention and that could be the problem that day. That's really irritating. But it's like that in any job. I don't think any job is perfect but this is a pretty good job.

It's funny when you come back and they tell you about the supply teachers. Oh! They tell me everything they say and do. When I come back and they say — boy did we work! — I keep that one in mind!

Eileen is one of the rare lucky ones who is doing what she always wanted to do. Unfortunately, for every Eileen there are ten others who got into teaching because they didn't want to be nurses and — "what else is there for women to do?"

so there's not as much pressure for a high salary.

**Note: Approximately 43% of working women must work to support themselves. In 1974 50% of working wives had husbands earning under \$8,000 per year. Often the working wife's income is the sole family income because her husband is a student, an invalid, or unemployed.**

The Law is Not for Women

You can make a fair salary if you've been teaching a number of years. You get an automatic raise every year and a promotion by going back to school. That brings you up levels. That has nothing to do with whether you're male or female but as I said before, more males do get promoted. Before you get a permanent certificate the principal writes a report on you. The principal I had last year wasn't around the school very much. He gave me an A but I wonder if the principal I have now knows what that means. It's all very subjective.

If a woman is pushy enough, if she wants a promotion badly enough she can get it but a lot of women just aren't that ambitious. It depends on how good a principal you want to be — a 9 to 5 principal or one who devotes everything. I want to have a job and a family. For me it wouldn't be worth it to give up that much of my time.

*Because of society's definition of work as a masculine pursuit, few women seek or adequately prepare for a meaningful car-*