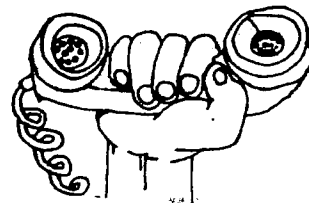


Union Fights Bell and AIB



by Pat Daley

There is a good possibility that Bell Telephone operators will go out on strike if "the telephone company doesn't see fit to stop sheltering under the anti-inflation board," according to a union leader.

Mary Lennox, who has been Ontario and Quebec president of the Communications Unions of Canada "for about 28 years," says the big issue in current negotiations is money.

Telephone operators in Toronto and Montreal earn \$179 a week, she said in an interview April 7, "and you know what the prices of apartments are. It's

immoral."

The operators should receive special consideration from the AIB, Lennox said, because they are one group who signed their

last contract before October 1974. She said they need a "very substantial" catch-up because they had a capped cost-of-living allowance and then a "reasonable" wage increase.

"If collective bargaining is still alive in a free country, then we should be allowed to bargain what is right and proper and just and then the company should be allowed to go to the AIB and say what they did," Lennox said.

She said one example of the "pettiness and chauvinistic attitude that men can show at the bargaining table" is the response to a union demand for maternity changes.

While bell operators do receive payment for pregnancy-related illnesses, Lennox says they could be getting more. According to government legislation, women are allowed 17 weeks pregnancy leave and can collect unemployment insurance during that period.

The problem with Bell Canada, Lennox said, is that women are allowed to accrue their seniority for only one month of that 17 weeks. She said this means un-

necessary suffering for the woman, but Bell will not change its policy "because they don't want to be too far ahead of the legislation. Legislation is always minimal. Collective bargaining is supposed to make it better. Yet those men sit there and deny it."

Bell Canada operators have the highest productivity of any telephone operators in the world with 5.9 operators for every 1000 phones, Lennox said. "In British Columbia, where they make the highest wages in Canada, it's eight."

She said Bell controls 62 per cent of all telephones in the country, wholly or partially, and has \$6 billion in assets and "we're fighting with words and facts and a strike vote."

Union members, numbering about 8000 women, voted 90.5 per cent in favor of a strike in mid-March. Lennox says they are the "most militant group of people in Bell Canada because they've been educated along those lines."

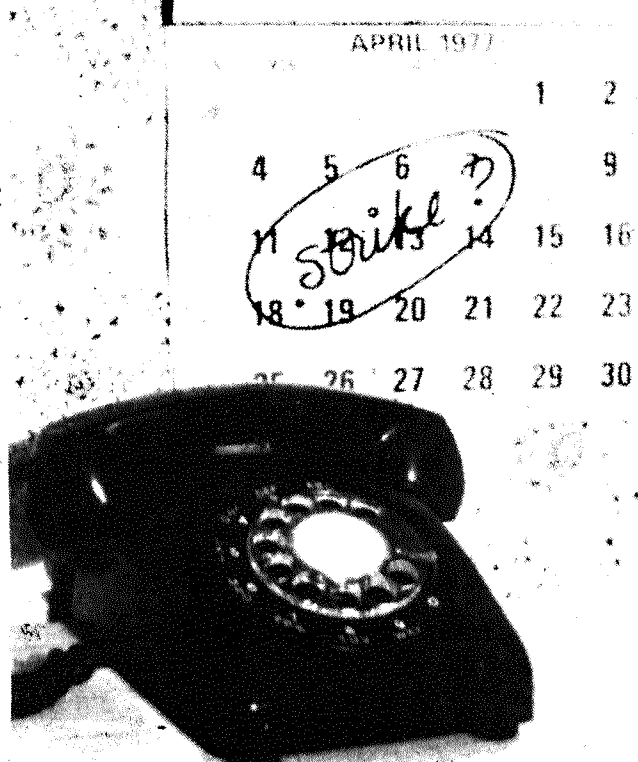
She said she deplores the "chauvinistic and paternalistic attitude of Bell Canada" and as

far as the taboo that women won't stick together goes — "You can shoot that one down the bowling alley. And it's simply astounding what they can do."

But some members are too militant for the union. Operators in Montreal recently went out on a 24-hour wildcat strike. The union did not sanction the action, Lennox said, because they could not.

"I think there is a group of radicals who are taking advantage of the political situation in Quebec right at the moment and are being encouraged to do that by another group in the labour movement," she said. "It's completely unheard of. It sickens me."

Lennox and other union officials are negotiating right now with Bell with the help of Pierre Dufresne, a special commissioner appointed by Labour Minister John Munro. But if negotiations are not successful on "the really crunchy things" — money, the scope of agreement, technological changes — Bell operators could be out on the first legal strike in their history.



Alisa Photography

UPSTREAM

Budget Ignores Women's Economic Problems

by Jane Arnott

On March 31, 1977 finance minister Donald MacDonald delivered the budget speech for the upcoming year.

The primary aim of this budget is to keep inflation under control while encouraging growth in the economy, providing jobs and reducing the high level of unemployment. It recognizes that policies designed to expand productive capacity could also stimulate a rate of growth that would be fast enough to regenerate inflationary pressures. The rising prices of food and energy, and the general price increases that result from the decline in the exchange rate also present serious hurdles to the maintenance of a lower inflation rate. With these hazards in mind, MacDonald presents a number of measures aimed at achieving a type of balanced growth.

Unemployment is increasing. Quebec and the Atlantic provinces are experiencing greater unemployment than the other areas of the country. For young people and adult women the unemployment rates are 14 per cent and 7 per cent respectively. However, for adult men the rate remained well below 5 per cent. The document issued by MacDonald accompanying the budget points to certain structural problems, particularly the influx of young people and adult women into the labour force, indicating that they aggravate the unemployment problem.

The budget proposes to increase the dividend tax credit in order to stimulate equity (i.e. shareholder) investment. In the information provided with the budget it states that the progressive nature of the credit will

give "relatively more benefit to lower-income taxpayers," but it could be questioned just how much low income people will accrue through this credit, given their limited financial resources.

Canadians will face a price increase for domestic and imported oil as the government has indicated that the program of subsidizing the consumer can only be temporary and will be gradually withdrawn. Heavy incentives are given the investors in frontier oil

this credit at the federal level favours larger families with moderate incomes. Through the new federal-provincial fiscal arrangements, an extra 9.143 personal income tax points have been transferred to the provinces, for the financing of higher education and health. The federal tax will be reduced so that the provincial tax increases indicated by the transfer need not raise the total tax burden.

Non-budget measures influen-

flation.

The tax revenue from the corporate sector foregone by the government in the first full year will amount to roughly one billion dollars while the revenue from the personal income tax measures will amount to about 390 million dollars.

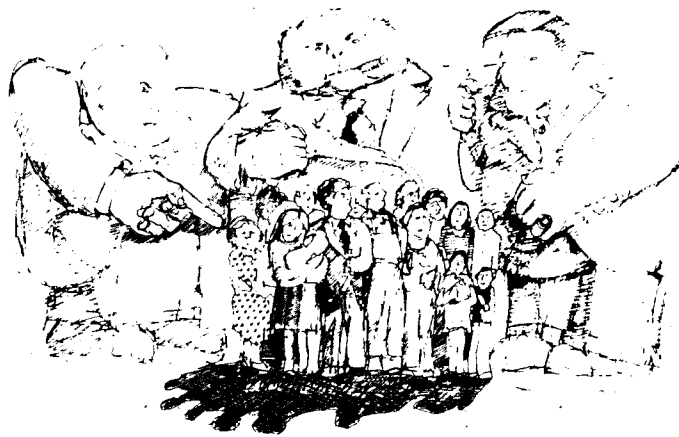
A large part of government anti-inflation policy is directed toward restraining federal government expenditures. The results of government restraint are now evident, as in 1976 total federal government expenditure declined as a percentage of GNP for the first time in many years. Three ministries (finance, secretary of state, and national defense) account for 57 per cent of the gross government budgetary increase of \$3,632 million. The gross increase through the government of 4,225 person-years (The usual term is man-years which is implicitly sexist) is offset by the 2,144 person-year reduction in certain ministries, yielding a net increase of 2,081 person-years. Seventy-two per cent of the gross increase in credited to solicitor general (including an 800 person-year increase to the RCMP), post office and public works.

The 7.4 per cent increase in the Main Estimates is small compared to previous years, but the new fiscal arrangements with the provinces account partially for the relatively small magnitude of the increase. Taking the new arrangements into consideration, the increase in government expenditures would be 9.8 per cent. The curtailing or delaying of many programs accounts for much of the success of the government restraint in its expenditures.

MacDonald feels that the controls over prices and incomes that were introduced in October 1975 have helped to reduce inflationary pressures, and that the process of phasing out the controls should not be initiated prior to October 1977. The recent initiatives by business and labour groups suggest that a program of voluntary restraint is possible but, until such time as firm agreement is reached, the country should expect the controls to continue for some time.

The accompanying document points out that average real wages increased by more than 4 per cent in 1976, and that real personal disposable income per capita increased by 3.7 per cent. Whether these increases in real incomes and wages were experienced by all wage earners or whether they were felt only by those groups that suffered least by the controls is not discussed in the budget documentation. Controls that will continue to increase wage differentials between lower and higher income groups (an 8 per cent increase on \$7,000 is \$560 while an 8 per cent increase on \$30,000 is \$2,400), combined with rising food and energy prices and the general price increases that will result from the decline of the Canadian dollars means harder times ahead for the low income wage earners.

Yearly the budget addresses what the government sees as serious issues facing the Canadian economy. Increasing wage differentials and the high unemployment rate are two among the many issues ignored by this budget. For yet another year the economic oppression of women has not been addressed.



exploration through tax concessions, and the government continues to encourage households and businesses to reduce consumption. Sales tax exemptions on various energy conservation equipment will be continued and extended.

The personal income tax measures include an increase in the maximum employment expense deduction. Providing for a general deduction of 3 per cent of wage and salary income, the limit has been increased from \$150 (3% of \$5,000) to \$250 (3% of \$8,300). The federal tax credit is enriched with a \$200 minimum and a \$500 maximum, and a \$50 deduction for each child, so that

ing disposable incomes include the reduction of personal income tax through indexation and the reduction of unemployment insurance contributions that has been made possible because the more stringent eligibility requirements will reduce the number of successful claimants.

The budget also seeks to expand productive capacity by encouraging investment in the private sector and by removing certain disincentives to growth. Through a variety of tax measures incentives to invest are provided, companies are encouraged to expand; and an adjustment in the inventory valuation is given that will offset the effects of in-

"Feminine Hygiene" Ads Protested

NEW YORK — The national advertising division of the Council of Better Business Bureaus has been swamped with letters — more than 4,700 — since "Dear Abby" suggested in her advice column that people send in their complaints about "feminine hygiene" TV advertising.

Advertising Age reports that this is a record number of com-

plaints on a single subject sent to the ad complaint centre.

Feminine hygiene products have been big time advertising since 1970. Profits hit an estimated \$53 million in 1971, and today a reported 24 million women use vaginal deodorants. Most complaints questioned the propriety of TV advertising of the "myna-cosmetic" which the ads

call "a 'now' solution to that age-old female problem."

Safety was another issue. When the spray first surfaced, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) classified it as a cosmetic and therefore extensive testing for safety was not required. Questions were first raised in November, 1970 when a Montreal gynecologist reported in the

Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology that he had treated about 20 to 25 patients with itching and burning in the vulva area. All used the sprays daily.

As the irritation reports increased, the FDA began to look into the matter and pinpointed hexachlorophene as the cause. That chemical was eventually eliminated from vaginal sprays, but the sprays are still on the market and still causing irritation.

"Some women spray these deodorants directly inside the vulva or on menstrual pads or tampons instead of the surface of the genital area," writes Carol Horos in

her book Vaginal Health.

"Spraying any chemical on the vaginal area's fragile membranes can cause irritation and inflammation of the vulva. Swelling, itching or even allergic skin reactions are typical problems...If a woman uses the spray before sexual intercourse, the chemicals may irritate the male genitals as well.

"If undocumented reports that the propellant in the spray will on roach true," continue might do better on kitchen floor."

Liberation News Service



Nancy Rudge

OTTAWA — April 2nd — An estimated 250 people demonstrated on the Hill to protest the racist and repressive measures of Bill C-24, an outgrowth of the Green Paper on Immigration. The Bill, which has passed second reading in a joint parliamentary committee, gives Immigration officials virtually unlimited arbit-

rary power to detain, deport, or arrest without warrant any immigrants suspected of being "likely" to engage in illegal activity. Unlike the current policies, the Bill does not provide immigrants with the right to appeal deportation orders, or even the right to be informed about the charges held against them. It also contains "designated area" and "pass law"

clauses resembling the apartheid system of South Africa. This means that new immigrants would be required to live and work in unspecified "designated areas" with heavy penalties for leaving the area or changing jobs without permission. Carrying a "pass card" with a photograph and fingerprints would also be mandatory.

Back in the Stirrups Again

Dr. Henry Morgentaler has reopened his abortion clinic in Montreal with assurances from the Quebec justice minister that doctors performing good abortions will not be prosecuted.

He has begun to bill Quebec medicare for the expenses of his patients. As yet he has received no indication that the bills will be paid.

Morgentaler has stated that he intends to train doctors in his clinic and has also offered his

facilities as a training centre to the minister for social services.

Speaking at the annual meeting of the Canadian Association for the Repeal of the Abortion Law (CARAL), Morgentaler said that federal abortion law is dead in Quebec and the findings of the Badgely Commission suggest that it should be dead in the rest of the country.

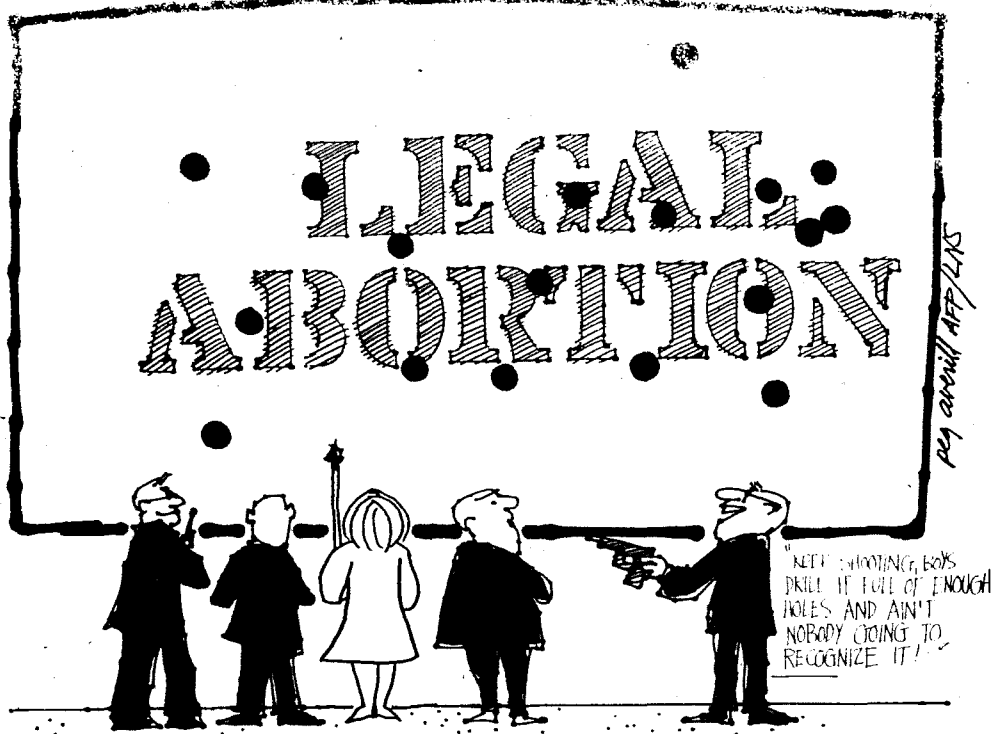
He said that "the federal government has sacrificed the interests of women on the altar of political expediency."

We Goofed

Lucy Giroux, formerly of Saskatoon, has informed Upstream that, contrary to an article in our last issue, Regina's rape crisis line is not a first for Saskatchewan.

Giroux was involved in setting

up a rape crisis centre in Saskatoon in November 1975. She says the line, run by a group of women, was located in the Women's Centre and has now moved to the community aid centre there.



Saskatoon Women Call for Gov't. Resignations

SASKATOON — Saskatoon Women's Liberation has called for the resignations of the provincial ministers of health and social services following their recent statements against abortion.

The statements followed federal justice minister Ron Basford's announcement that he would be meeting with provincial

governments to discuss more equitable abortion policies as a response to the Badgely Report on the operation of the abortion law.

"If the opportunity isn't there for abortions to be had, that's fine...and I would do nothing to make it more equitable in that sense," the minister of health said.

But the women's liberation

group said the "callous dismissal of the rights of women in this province to safe, legal abortions is truly shocking."

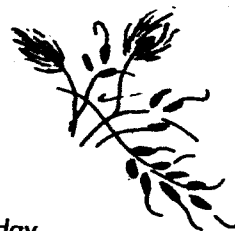
"As responsible cabinet ministers, it is their duty and obligation to make sure the laws of this country are carried out fairly and equitably. Their biased statements have made it apparent that they have no intention of doing so."

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Native Women Fight Unique Battle

by Karen Fish

"The struggle for equality among Canada's native women has been to date a futile effort. Left without due recognition of the contribution we can make towards solving native problems, we have found ourselves neglected, unheard and put down on all fronts."

With these words, Margaret Thomson, then president of the Native Women's Association of Canada, opened her address to the Standing Committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development, on May 25, 1976.

Indian women face obstacles in their struggle for change that the white middle class women's movement has never had to deal with. Indian women are discriminated against because they are Indian, because they are women, and more than either of these, they are discriminated against because they are Indian women.

In their struggle for equality, Indian women have begun to organize themselves in opposition to one isolated section of the In-

there are women of 100 per cent Indian descent considered to be non-Indian.

Although it is left to the discretion of the Band Council to decide who will remain on the band list and on the reserve, regardless of legal status, the law supports a council decision to deny an Indian woman the rights she was born with if she chooses to marry a non-Indian.

Indians who have been stricken from the band list are forbidden by law to live on the reserve where they were born, and where their relatives still live. They are forbidden by law to inherit reserve property left to them in a will, and they are denied Indian rights to which they were born.

The non-status Indian is not represented by either the Indian Act or the National Indian Brotherhood.

Barbara Wyss in her paper **Native Poverty — Specifically Native Women** says:

"Without the reserves to go to, when their husbands did desert them or died, they remained in



"The Lavell case served to unite Indian women and awaken us to the injustices suffered needlessly."

dian Act, Section 12 (1) b), which discriminates against women in its application of Indian and non-Indian status.

The status system, as defined by the Indian Act (1970) gives Indian status to all members of nuclear family units who have patrilineal descent from members of chartered Indian bands. By this legislation, the male is designated the head of the household and all members of the nuclear family inherit the status of the husband-father.

Indian women who marry non-Indian men lose their status and the status of their children where

Indian women who marry non-Indian men lose their status and the status of their children whereas non-status women gain Indian rights by marriage to a status male.

This piece of legislation has led to a strange paradox. Under Canadian law there are women of 100 per cent European descent considered to be Indian, while

the towns. Without education, special skills or training, they did domestic services and the unfortunate ones became prostitutes and dregs in skid row areas in towns and cities."

The new Canadian Human Bill of Rights refuses to recognize discrimination on grounds of sex for Indians by making natives a special case outside the jurisdiction of the bill. The National Action Committee, the Advisory committee on the Status of Women and the Women and the Law Association have voiced their opposition to the exclusion of native peoples.

In its recommendations to the federal government, the Advisory Committee on the Status of Women states, "To be effective, Human Rights legislation must have the scope to prohibit discrimination on the grounds of sex and marital status in all areas. The current exclusion of Indian women from this protection is unjust. The ACSW can under-

stand the general exclusion of the Indian Act which may be objectively viewed as a special arrangement designed to prevent disadvantages for a particular group at risk. However, it can neither understand nor condone the lack of action to repeal section 12 (1) b) of the Indian Act."

In 1975, a collective of status and non-status Indian women organized around this issue, incorporating as the National Committee on Indian Rights for Indian Women. Their demands fall in three stages.

First of all, they ask for recognition of women's stake in reserve land claims. Secondly they want input into the joint National Indian Brotherhood — Cabinet Committee that is presently reviewing the Indian Act and is the sole mechanism by which any federal policy in regards to the status Indian is drafted.

Finally, they ask for removal of section 12 (1) b) from the Indian Act.

In the interim, the organization has called for a Cabinet Order-in-Council that would "prohibit the removal or addition of any names (upon marriage) from the Band and general list until such time as a new Indian Act has been accepted by the native people of Canada."

A Supreme Court decision of 1974 brought home the severity of the present position of Indian women in Canadian society when it refused to end the sexual discrimination that had deprived Jeanette Lavell of Indian status upon her marriage to a non-Indian.

Lavell's lawyers fought the case on the grounds that section 12 (1) b) of the Indian Act was contrary to the intent of the Canadian Bill of Rights which states:

"It is hereby recognized and declared that in Canada there have existed and will continue to exist without discrimination by reason of race, national origin, colour, religion or sex, the following human rights and freedoms...the right of the individual to equality before the law and the protection of the law."

The decision of the court was that the Indian Act (1869) preceded the Human Bill of Rights and was therefore beyond the jurisdiction of the Bill.

Margaret Thomson, in her pre-

sentation to the Standing Committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development, commented on the implications of this court ruling.

"The loss in court of Jeanette Lavell was a set back for all native women...the Lavell case served to unite Indian women and awaken us to the injustices suffered needlessly over the last century; a struggle that will continue until women are given their rightful place in Indian and Canadian society."

Although the case sparked some recognition of an out-dated law, to many Indian women, who felt threatened by a change in legislation that could potentially alter the character of their reserves, the final decision in the Lavell case was a victory.

dog."

Because Mary Two-Axe Early took a stand in defiance of the law, she has been given an eviction notice. The case has yet to be settled.

Indian Rights for Indian Women argue that culture and heritage can not be removed by legislation. They say that the term Indian itself is a case of mistaken identity of a European who was looking for India.

The Indian heritage is one in which women played an important political, economic and social role. The Iroquois, Mohawk and coastal tribes of B.C. were once matriarchal societies, run by clan mothers who elected their chiefs.

Barbara Wyss writes "The first Europeans were, in the majority, men. They took and used Indian women as toys. Very

"As a result of the legal system I am denied the right to live in my community."

Douglas Sanders, in an article published in the **McGill Law Journal** 1975 says:

"The Lavell case did not simply deal with the legal definition of membership, that is, the definition of the persons able to live on a reserve. The case was seen by status Indians as dealing with the maintenance of their communities whose boundaries were established by the Indian Act membership system...status Indians feared that white men, as husbands of Indian women, would come onto the reserves and take over. White wives of status Indian men were not seen as posing the same threat to the Indian reserve communities."

A similar conflict situation exists today on a reserve near Montreal. Three or four women between the ages of 60 and 70, who married non-Indians years back, were told they had no right to inherit land despite the fact that they had lived most of their lives on the reserve, and no right to be buried on the reserve with their ancestors.

"And yet," says Mary Two-Axe Early, one of the women involved, "there is a dog cemetery on the reserve where anyone from Montreal can bring their

few men married them or stayed married to them. Liquor was one of the most successful means of inducing the Indians to allow their women to be ravaged. A myth developed, and it became real enough, that the reserve must be protected from tribal white men who married Indian women to take their lands."

Indian women involved in the fight for equality and the fight to regain their heritage are opposed by their own people — by the all male, status National Indian Brotherhood and by status Indian women who have a stake in the status quo.

Their support is unorganized and splintered, and they have had to create a political pressure group from this base. The first steps have now been taken, however, and there is no turning back.

In the words of Jeanette Lavell, "I am, and my people have always been, Nichnawbek. As the result of the foolishness of the legal system, I am denied, along with all the other women in my position...the legal right to live in my own community, among my own people. Where else in the world does such a situation exist?"



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Career Counselling Gets Reprieve

by Lucie Sawczenko

The Women's Career Counselling Service has had a last minute reprieve. This Canada Manpower "Outreach" project has been granted funding for six more months as of April 1, to allow the Manpower review board time to complete its delayed evaluation of the centre.

According to Helen Doyon, one of the centre's counsellors, there is a good possibility that the evaluation will be a positive one which would mean another six month extension until April 1978.

Their budget has been increased by 6 per cent but this is actually a cut of 2 per cent, given the official 8 per cent annual increase of the cost of living. WCCS, however, will continue to provide individual career counselling as well as support groups and workshops for women seeking employment.

Of the four groups available, Career Orientation is the main one. Here one is given a picture of the labour market in the Ottawa area and is taught techniques of self-assessment for determining career plans. Home management is discussed as well as how to interpret "housebound years" into marketable skills and aptitudes such as basic book-keeping, mechanical repairs, decorating, organizing and planning, etc. Information on available training at all levels is provided.

Most important, it helps build self-confidence and self-esteem.

The group usually runs from six to eight weeks but Pat Hacker had a group that lasted for six months because nobody wanted to leave.

"They're all out in the community now doing super things", she adds.

In the Resume Writing and Interview Techniques workshop women are shown how to list their skills, counteracting the "But, I haven't got anything to put in a resume" syndrome. They are familiarized with the types of questions likely to be asked at job interviews and spend time acting out hypothetical interview situations.

The Job Hunting Club is essentially a support group for women who know what they want, have the necessary skills, but who might get discouraged with a prolonged lack of success. It is also a swap-shop of ideas and contacts and a place to share interview techniques.

For women who are currently working but who feel that they are in a dead-end job, that they are not working to capacity, or that they are being under-valued or under-paid, there is the group for Under-employed Women. Although this class of women is not part of the WCCS's mandate, Doyon says that there should be some service provided.

The group meets in the evenings and is a support and exploration workshop. Skills and interests are reviewed, resumes are revamped and some assertiveness training is included.

The service is housed on the second floor of a comfortable older apartment building at the corner of McLeod and Elgin. Crossing the threshold feels as if one were entering the home of welcoming friends where you can chat with ease over a cup of coffee or cocoa. The casual atmosphere is enhanced by a busy collection of home-grown plants and well-stuffed couches and

armchairs.

Although the four full-time workers at the WCCS, three counsellors and one office manager, have a diverse background of qualifications, the essential quality they all share is a genuine commitment to helping women and knowing how to do so. They work as a collective — all receive equal pay and have an equal say in matters. Helen

Doyon is quite adamant when she says "We try to integrate everything we're pushing out there, here."

Provided the WCCS' funds are extended until next April, a "mini" review will then determine whether the centre continues or not for yet another year. And so with bated breath we will keep our fingers and toes crossed.

BEFORE...



AFTER...



BADGLEY REPORT

CARAL Fights "Benign Neglect"

by Patty Gibson

The general attitude of the government and the Badgley Commission is one of "benign neglect," on the issue of Canada's inequitable abortion law, say representatives of the Ottawa chapter of the Canadian Association for the Repeal of the Abortion Law (CARAL).

"The Commission's data is at odds with its conclusions," charged Chapter secretary John Baglow in a recent interview. "The findings of the Badgley report show overwhelming evidence that the abortion law is not operating equitably across Canada, but opinion surveys included in the report do not support that evidence."

The federal government's fact-finding study, carried out by the Badgley Commission, was conducted "to determine whether the procedure provided in the Criminal Code for obtaining therapeutic abortions is operating equitably across Canada." The Commission's report was released recently and information included is based on several surveys and site visits.

Baglow and CARAL chapter president Ruth Miller said opinion surveys should not have been included in the report, and seriously question some of the survey's results. Not only are they contradictory to the Commission's evidence, they said, but they are contradictory to other general opinion polls conducted in recent years on the question of Canadian abortion laws.

A 1974 poll, for example, showed 62 per cent of Canadians favouring freedom of choice while one Badgley survey shows only 46 per cent.

"Already the right-to-lifers are

using this study's conclusions on public opinion," said Miller.

"Who cares if some people think abortions are too easy to get," she said, referring to another Badgley survey. "The evidence shows they are not too easy to get. In some provinces abortions are almost impossible to secure, and, where abortions can be obtained, a woman waits an average of 8 weeks."

CARAL says the Canadian people have the evidence and their elected representatives should act upon it.

"But they won't," said Miller, "because the MPs are chicken-hearted. They don't want to offend anybody."

Baglow and Miller told Upstream several members of parliament have said they know the majority of Canadian people are in favour of changing the abortion laws, but they only hear from a vocal minority.

"They cling to public opinion when they admit they are hearing from a small percentage of Canadians who would not permit abortion under any circumstances," said Miller. "This group is taken equally seriously by Parliament."

Miller says many Canadian people are not against freedom of choice but are not willing to campaign for it. Why? "Because many people think it's not their problem," said Miller.

"I've heard some older women say 'Sure, I agree. But I'm past that stage' Past what stage? The stage of caring about civil rights and human decency", she said.

Baglow believes the Badgley Commission should have been allowed to address itself to some of the problems within the abortion law. "For example, one of the

criteria for obtaining a therapeutic abortion is based on the woman's health," he said.

There is not a standard definition of 'woman's health'. Some doctors define it only on a physical plane, others use the mental and emotional," he said.

If there is not a standard definition of health, he questions how there can be a standard of equity in carrying out the abortion law.

CARAL is a national organization, created two years ago, to lobby the government to repeal the present abortion laws. The organization boasts more than two thousand members, and several affiliates, including the National Association of Women and the Law and the National Action Committee.

CARAL believes that a woman should be able to have freedom to choose whether or not to continue an unwanted pregnancy, and that the restrictive abortion laws are far from solving the abortion problem, but are "merely making it worse."

"Not enough has been said about the whole basis of a law like this," said Miller. "It is a law that allows other people to make decisions about women's lives."

She said no other operation is performed on this basis, and the decision should only be between the patient and her doctor.

"When people understand the concept of being in a position where a committee, made up of perfect strangers, could make a decision about their lives, they support freedom of choice," she said.

She said if we care about life, we must care about the quality of life.

"I'm in favor of big healthy babies who have a good start in life. I do not favor abortion as a means of contraception. Nobody does. But I favor freedom of

choice in planning one's family," she said.

Miller said pro-life groups who do not support freedom of choice to end an unwanted pregnancy do not support contraception.

"You can't be pro-women's liberation and not allow freedom of choice," she said. "If you do, you are willing to sacrifice women for an abstract ideal. But life is real living people, with real living problems, that need real solutions."

Baglow and Miller urge people to write their members of Parliament in support of freedom of choice. Because quality of life is everyone's issue, they believe everyone must take a responsibility in expressing their views whether or not they are in a situation to be affected by the present abortion law.

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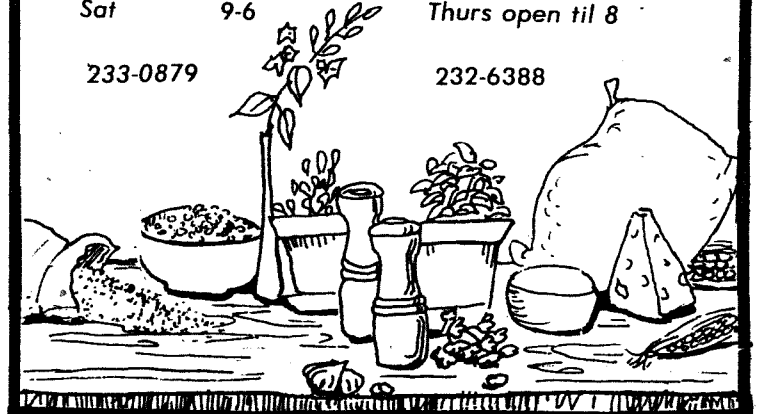
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Waitresses Present Brief on Possible Wage Differentials

"The good 'waitress' is a mother, hostess, saleslady and 'public relations agent' all in one. She must be a happy person herself, she must like people. She must be service-minded. She must have developed social skills, 'plain good manners' if you please. Her personality must emanate charm, friendliness, and genuine desire to please. She must have a high degree of selflessness."

— from a brochure sitting on every table in a Toronto chain restaurant.

And she must be willing to work for low wages which could get lower still.

At a meeting of the Ontario Motel Association in last November, minister of industry and tourism in Ontario, Claude Bennett from Ottawa, suggested that the tourist industry's problems may be solved by instituting a differential of up to 50 cents an hour in the minimum wage for all employees who earn tips in restaurants and hotels.

There is currently a 15 cent differential for those serving alcohol; they receive \$2.50 an hour compared to the general minimum of \$2.65 an hour.

Now a group of Toronto waitresses, some from Wages for Housework and other individuals, have submitted a brief protesting the proposed new differential to Bennett and labour minister Dr. Bette Stephenson.

The group says they were unable to receive a confirmation or denial that the proposal is being considered but have learned that another submission will be made by Tourism Ontario, an umbrella organization for the tourism industry.

"Contrary to many of our communications with the government, the issues appears to be far from dead and we must therefore assume that the Labour Department is considering and/or planning an increase in the minimum wage (or 'tip') differential," the brief says.

The rationale behind minimum wage differentials is that workers in the service industries earn large tips which supplement their wages.

But, "those workers who are on the bottom of the tipping scale, and who already make close to the minimum wage, will be in serious jeopardy," according to the brief. "Those affected include:

- most waitresses, including most older women, who work in family restaurants and lunch counter where alcohol is not served and consequently receive much lower tips,

- chambermaids, most of whom are immigrants and older women, whose tips have always been low and are dropping even lower as room prices rise and people tip less,

- coat checkers, who often don't make even minimum wage because they must 'rent' the concession from the hotel or restaurant and often depend solely on tips/'donations' because they are not allowed to charge for the service,

- busboys, whose wages are 'plumped up' by a cut of the waitresses' tips in some cases, or who receive no tips at all,

- bellhops, doormen, barmen, etc."

The brief says the tourist industry claims tipping keeps prices down, subsidizing the user

and not the industry. But, these waitresses say instead that it keeps wages down. They say it is no guarantee of a decent wage, only a payment for service.

"My salary is never consistent. One day I'll make good tips and the next I'll lose money," says Heather Chetwynd of Toronto. "Then there are the low months after New Year's where each day I make less. I still have to work as hard but I just don't receive any tips because people are saving their money again."

Besides having to rely on an inconsistent source of money to receive a decent wage, the brief says there are many kinds of "hidden" work which further cut into salaries. These include having to "parade one's body in front of the manager" to get and keep a job, spending time and money on appearance, working overtime without pay to set-up and clean a section, holding responsibility for customers who walk out without paying, working as a cashier on top of serving, and having to give a percentage of tips to the maitre d'hotel, hostess, busboys and others.

"One place I used to work, besides the normal duties required of waitresses, they expected the women to go into the 'ladies' room' and clean up the vomit when customers got sick," says Marilyn Aikman. "At this same place, the waitresses were told to clean the gum from underneath the tables and to get down on our hands and knees and wipe down the table legs."

"I often wondered if I'd been hired as a waitress or a janitor on that job."

The Toronto group is asking for support for their demands



that:

- the current lower minimum wage for alcohol servers be raised and no new differentials be introduced;
- that payment be made for hours currently worked without pay setting-up, cleaning and working through breaks;
- that workers currently receiving a cut of waitresses' tips

receive a higher wage in order to stop the cuts and that grievance procedures for this area be established;

- that waitresses be given legal protection against employers who force them to pay for customers who walk out;
- and that management and not waitresses be legally responsible for who is served alcohol on their premises.

National Action Committee

Full Year Ahead for Lobbyists

by Pat Daley

The film "How to Say No to a Rapist And Survive" and any federal agencies purchasing and showing it have been censured by the National Action Committee on the Status of Women.

At its annual conference in Ottawa March 18-21, NAC said the film "is both sexist in its portrayals of males and females and filled with errors in the information it gives about rape."

The conference also recommended that federal funds and services be made available to people working in the field of women in crisis, through Interval Houses, Transition Houses and Rape Crisis Centres, for research and education.

The NAC proposals came out of four conference workshops on women and family law, money, social development programs and employment.

Several recommendations were made in the area of the Divorce Act, mainly concerning "no-fault" divorce. Delegates disagreed with the proposition that no-fault divorce will destroy the institution of marriage, saying "marriages break down independently and irrespective of any given system which recognizes the breakdown legally. In addition, the present adversary, fault-oriented system of divorce not only discourages reconcil-

iation, but also foments bitterness and unnecessary feuding."

In order to break down assumptions about male and female roles in marriage, NAC says legislation purporting to do away with sex-stereotyping "must stipulate that all previous law case history should no longer apply." Delegates said the law should be drafted on the principle that marriage is an equal partnership with equal rights and

obligation.

Delegates also said the law should include the obligation of both parents to care for their children and "that the best interests of the child be the only criterion for awarding custody, and that neither the sex of the parent nor the fact that one of them supposedly 'broke up the home' should play any part in the award of custody."

As well as equal rights in mar-

riage, the conference was concerned with equal rights in the work force and passed a resolution recommending that the equal pay for work of equal value provision in the Human Right Act be strengthened with limited exceptions.

Another recommendation suggests that the bill be changed to read "employed by the same employer" rather than "employed by the same establishment" and that the Human Rights Commission "be empowered to determine that more than one establishment is controlled by the same employer where devices such as the corporate veil, differing business names and other mechanisms, are used for the purpose of avoiding compliance with the spirit and intention of the ACT."

NAC was concerned that women have equal opportunity in job training and recommended that Canada Manpower:

- undertake the training of their counsellors in non-sexist, non-stereotyped vocational guidance;
- improve coordination of their special training and orientation courses for women, to eliminate regional disparities and to improve program development;
- conduct evaluation of all their programs for women, and make these evaluations public and available to women and women's services involved in furthering the educational goals for women;
- promote more equal access to Industrial On-the-Job Training

for women to enable them to train for and enter the higher paid male-dominated fields;

- extent the 52 week limit for academic upgrading;
- through its Apprenticeship Training Branch conduct aggressive outreach and counselling, encouraging women to enter apprenticeship training;
- should not launch any new pilot projects for women until evaluation of current ones is carried out and made public;
- provide statistics regarding training and employment of women at the local Manpower Training Centres;
- must improve the quality of training received. It is a pointless task to win financing for training that reinforces sex-stereotyping and the feeling of second class citizenship.


In the area of day care, NAC said that universal free day care is their ultimate aim, but urged now that parents pay according to their ability and that no parent pay more than 50 per cent of the cost.

"This would prevent the current ghetto situation in which the middle class cannot afford to use day care, thus causing day care to be seen as another form of welfare," the resolution said.

As a result of its conference, NAC will be lobbying federal and provincial governments in the areas of Canada Pension Plan for homemakers, anti-inflation regulations and abortion, among others.

40% OFF

Women of Canada



40% OFF

Libertas, Aequus, Sororitas

40% DE RABAIS

Les Femmes du Canada

40% DE RABAIS

This 40 per cent discount voucher was distributed by the National Action Committee on the Status of Women at its annual conference her March 18-20. It was suggested that women include it with payment of all bills and income tax returns. Because women earn about 57 per cent less than men, they should be able to pay less for goods and services, NAC says.



Betty Williamson (above) and Nancy McDonald, founders of the Irish People's Peace Movement will be visiting and speaking in Ottawa April 23 and 24. The trip is being sponsored by the Ottawa Learner Centre who are also looking for donations to help cover the cost of air fare. A location for the talks has not yet been found, but details will be available at 238-4659. Wyn Jordan

Canada's Day Care Spaces Decreased Last Year

reprinted from the Toronto Clarion

The number of daycare centres sponsored by parent co-ops declined sharply in 1976, and the rate of increase in places available is down from 1975, according to statistics recently released by Health and Welfare Canada's national daycare information centre.

The centre noted that in 1976 there were places for 83,520 children in daycare centres across Canada, a gain of 19.4 per cent.

"This is a significant increase," the study said, "but is substantially lower than the rate of increase in 1974 (106 per cent) and somewhat lower than the rate in 1975 (26.77 per cent.)."

The number of spaces available in daycare centres sponsored by parent co-ops declined by almost 42 per cent, a net loss of 2,384 places. They also declined

in 1975.

Some of the loss can be attributed to reclassification, the study said. Co-ops added enough people to their boards to become a "community board operated" centre.

"However, the overriding factor has been the increasing costs of daycare centres," the study comments. "This has resulted in fewer middle-income families being willing and/or able to afford the full fee for the service... a significant portion of the group who had sufficient time and skills required for the organization and maintenance of a co-operative centre were no longer available."

But, publicly owned and operated daycare centres drew 51.72 per cent, more than those run commercially or by community boards. It is not clear whether a new trend is developing, because only two provinces are signifi-

cantly involved in public daycare centres, say the authors of the report.

More children six years old and over are using day care centres, 52 per cent more than last year. The after school and lunch hour programs showed an increase of 56.37 per cent.

The daycare information centre concludes that "field observations suggest that the rate of growth in daycare in 1977 will be significantly lower than in 1976."

Daycare centres continue to provide service to only a small percentage of working mothers, the study shows. Only 18 per cent of three to five year old children of working mothers are enrolled in daycare. For those under the age of three the figure is 4.3 per cent, while for those over six, a mere .4 per cent of children whose mothers work were enrolled.

Trade Union Women Meet

Red Deer, Alta. [CPA] - "As our numbers increase, so does our determination to have equal access to jobs, promotion, training and a place in society."

That statement from Clare Booker, assistant education director of the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC), set the tone for a meeting of 180 trade union women, sponsored by the Alberta Federation of Labour (AFL) recently.

Delegates from across the province gathered to demand paid educational leave for all employees in order to upgrade their skills or retrain for better jobs.

Booker, the keynote speaker at the conference, said she was delighted at the response of the women to demands for better opportunities in the job market.

Women are sick of being stuck in dead end jobs and denied

promotions on the basis of sex, she said. Discussions took place on up-grading skills and providing equal access to careers for women.

Other workshop resolutions presented to the conference included a demand for more male participation in day care and a call for further women's conferences sponsored by the trade union movement.

Further conferences, the delegates said, should be open to all women — not only those in the trade union movement.

Delegates from the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees, the Canadian Union of Public Employees, the Canadian Brotherhood of Transport and General Workers and several industrial unions were present.

The conference was open to men. Resolutions passed at the conference will be presented to

the human rights committee of the Alberta Federation. If the human rights committee passes them, they will be presented as resolutions at the Federation's annual convention in May.

Booker said the CLC is beginning to plan a national women's conference to be held in late fall or early 1978.

She said she was pleased at the results of the Alberta conference, and especially the resolution on opportunities for working women. That was one of the issues covered at the last CLC convention, she said.

CLC policy currently favors paid educational leave and all efforts to improve job skills, retrain workers for better jobs and learn labour history. She said the CLC will push for such measures in collective bargaining and through legislation.

Dallas Women Fight Rape

DALLAS — Taking dramatic action against rape, the Kitty Genovese Women's Project here has handed out 25,000 copies of a newspaper which contains not only articles on how to avoid rape, but also a list of the 2,100 names of every man who has been indicted for rape in Dallas since 1960.

A spokesperson for the group said response to the newspaper has been good and bad. She said their research led to the arrest of

Dallas' so-called "friendly rapist." Police recently arrested a local advertising executive charged with over 50 counts of rape.

But, a man who spent time in jail for eight counts of rape said, "I've served my time. It's not fair to print my name on that list." Deputy district attorney Doug Mulder said, however, the publication of the names is perfectly legal since they are a matter of public record.

Earth News

STARTING A BUSINESS

Where Does the Money Come From?

by Lana Ritchie

This is the first in a series of articles which will outline how to set up different businesses. Each article will deal with a specific business and will be directed toward women who are without previous business experience. The first article will discuss "Sources of Financing for the New Business".

"Money makes money" would seem to be the rule when it comes to raising 'seed' money for a new business. In other words, if you haven't got any you aren't likely to get any.

There are several sources of funding available, such as your own savings, a direct loan from relatives or friends, a secured or an unsecured loan from a chartered bank, a loan from the Federal Business Development Bank or a combination of any or all of these.

A personal loan from a member or members of your family is probably the easiest resource for most women. An alternative to borrowing is the sale of shares in the business to friends or interested investors. This may mean, however, that decisions about your enterprise will be subject to the approval of the shareholders, depending on your arrangement with them and how many shares are retained by yourself.

In seeking a loan from a bank

go armed with a financial statement listing all personal assets, namely cash, stocks and bonds, life insurance policies, any real estate holdings, model and year of your automobile, and annual income, if any. A resume of previous job experience, education, or community activities, if you have not been employed, is important because the loan officer or bank manager makes an assessment of the character and maturity of the applicant.

S/he particularly considers age of the applicant and their practical knowledge about the intended business. For example, have you worked as an employee in this sort of business, or are you able to demonstrate a solid understanding of the machinations of the business? Do you have such specific information as where to contact potential suppliers?

The manager will expect to see a complete breakdown of the projected expenses of the business: leasehold improvements, rents, salaries, insurance, utilities, cost of merchandise, depreciation of fixtures or equipment. You must also anticipate what your daily, monthly, and yearly sales will be in order to pay these expenditures and what your break even point will be.

The bank manager is, above all, concerned with your ability to repay especially if it is an un-

secured loan, supported only by the signature of the applicant. To this end s/he will carefully scrutinize your proposed budget for unrealistic estimates of income and expenses, and evaluate your personal capacity to manage the business properly.

If you have little or no money to invest in the enterprise but the manager feels the proposed business is a good risk s/he may accept a personal guarantee from a friend or relative who is a property owner or has a better than average income. This person then becomes liable for your debt if you are unable to repay the money. The spouse is generally requested to co-sign the loan if the borrower's income is insufficient. If both spouses have low incomes another guarantor will be required.

A woman with a good credit rating, and securities of value such as savings bonds, blue chip stocks, or real estate can obtain a secured loan which has a lower interest rate than an unsecured one. The commercial prime rate of interest, accorded to well established large businesses, is presently 8 3/4 per cent, while the rate for an unsecured loan is the prime rate plus 2 1/2 per cent.

Mortgaging your home is one other way of providing collateral for a loan. However, this should

be a last resort as failure of the venture may lead to the loss of your house.

Finance companies are a possible but not attractive source of funding. They too require security but will make a loan considered too risky by the banks. Unfortunately, their interest rates are prohibitively high and would place an untenable strain on most new businesses.

Another agency to contact is the Federal Business Development Bank (FBDB). The FBDB, a government agency, established to promote the growth and development of business in Canada by providing financial and managerial assistance, is as reluctant as charter banks to make loans to people who have little or no investment capital. According to Kurt White, a FBDB Management Services Officer, the FBDB feels that persons who have little or no money to invest in their own business may have a lesser commitment to the success of their business. Mr. White claims the FBDB occasionally makes exceptions to this in special circumstances.

In applying for a loan from the FBDB, an applicant must present the same sort of market survey, budget forecast, personal financial statement and curriculum vitae as for the banks. The Federal Bank, while it stipulates investment capital on the part of

the borrower as a qualification for assistance, is mandated to "supplement conventional lenders by making funds available to small businesses where they are not available elsewhere on reasonable terms and conditions".

The financing of the FBDB is flexible in that it is obtainable in the form of loans, loan guarantees, equity funding (buying shares in your business) or by a combination of these methods depending on the needs of the business. The interest rates are comparable to those of the chartered banks but the repayment terms may be more favourable inasmuch as repayment can be extended over a longer period.

Where equity funding is involved the Federal Bank normally takes a minority interest and is prepared to have its investment repurchased on suitable terms.

The FBDB will provide loans ranging from several thousand dollars upwards. The amount of the loan depends on the borrower's ability to satisfy the requirements of the Federal Bank.

Money may be the root of all evil but a young business is certainly bedeviled without it. Lack of adequate funding to provide a cushion for unexpected outlays plus operating capital may lead to the stillbirth of the venture.

Equal Opportunities Series

Office Monitors Status of Gov't. Women

by Beatrice Baker

"There is discontent among working women in Canada, far wider, more intense, more wasteful and potentially more harmful than many organizations imagine." This is the conclusion of James E. Bennett and Pierre M. Loewe who researched and wrote **Women in Business**, subtitled: "a shocking waste of human resources".

To the discontent among the over 3½ million Canadian working women must be added the anger, fear and hopelessness of countless numbers of women who need and are unable to get

jobs.

Admittedly times are tough for everyone. But the old saw, save the jobs for men who have families to support, no longer reflects reality: some 43 per cent of working women are single and, increasingly, not only their own sole support but the support of parents and/or children. In addition, a large percentage of married women in the work force have husbands earning under \$8,000 a year.

Women need, and have the fundamental right, to work. They also need and have a right to equal access to jobs, of all

types and at all levels. In 1975 the federal government, employer of over 270,000 persons, strengthened its commitment to equal employment opportunities for women.

With the assistance of the Office of Equal Opportunities for Women, Public Service Commission, **Upstream** presents a five part series on women and public service employment: the impact of policy on hiring and promotion, how to get in and move up, and the obstacles women face — those created by others and those planted in themselves by socialization.

means an easy job: staff must sift through many cubic feet of tables, figures and statistics assessing a department's situation and needs and evaluating the practicality of its proposal.

It is a task which requires patience and an ability to foresee what abstract, generalized figures will ultimately mean to specific, individual women.

STRUGGLING WITH THE INTANGIBLES

Thoughtfully, but without hesitation, Johanna Hickey, director of the EOW office, names their biggest obstacle: "Of course it's our current economic condition. Jobs are scarce — for everyone."

Job scarcity doesn't apply to every occupation, but, unfortunately, most of those occupations with openings have been "traditionally male" jobs with few or no women even applying for them. In many cases advanced education or special training or an apprenticeship is required.

Because of the requirements

involved, an early start may make for a better entry into the job market. So the EOW office has prepared a series of pamphlets for high school girls, encouraging them to think about and investigate careers such as veterinary medicine, auditing, and computer sciences.

Another reason for attempting to reach women long before they're ready for the job market is the necessity of changing the socialization that has typically denied women the confidence and assertiveness necessary to actively compete for high-level, high-paying jobs.

The staff of the EOW office are as aware of intangible, unquantifiable variables, such as attitudes, as they are of the quantifiable, so-called "hard data" of statistics. In the first instance they often must try and prove the existence of these variables, and in the second, they must often guard against their overuse and abuse.

Getting equal job opportunities for women is no easy job.

By the terms of the Public Service Employment Act, the Public Service Commission is responsible for ensuring that positions in the federal government are staffed "according to merit, with fairness and without discrimination on grounds of sex, race, national origin, colour, religion, age or marital status."

Today most Canadians accept this principle without question as if it were some kind of longstanding, natural law. But in fact it has been only ten years since the prohibition against discrimination on the basis of sex was added to the Public Employment Act.

During that single decade several commissions, committees, reports and studies on the situation and status of women in Canadian society were initiated and completed. While some people may view such work with cynicism, convinced they are more show than go, the results are gradually beginning to show.

One of those results is PSC's Office of Equal Opportunities for Women; born, in 1971, of the combined impact of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women Report, the Judek Report, the Archibald study: "Sex and the Public Service", pressure from women's groups, a major policy statement by Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau in response to the Royal Commission Report, and the initiative of PSC commissioners.

The EOW Office is charged with monitoring the status of, and stimulating equal opportunities for, women in the employment policies, procedures, and practices of the Canadian public service. This mandate translates into a plethora of day by day activities for the EOW staff.

TRANSLATING PRINCIPLES INTO PRACTICAL PROCEDURES

Gathering information, whether through original research, compiling and analyzing statistics, or surveying the current literature on women and work, is an important activity, for it forms the basis of planning.

The information gathered is distributed in various ways including: an annual data package prepared specifically for government departments; **Interaction**, a quarterly newsletter for general distribution; **EOW News**, a monthly one-sheeter for departmental EOW co-ordinators to bring them up-to-date on the latest developments in training courses, bibliographies and other aspects of the equal opportunities area; and a resource library, suitable for researching a variety of topics concerning women and work, which is located in the Ottawa EOW offices and open to the public.

Besides providing information the EOW staff are available to assist government departments

and act as resource persons for the seven regional PSC offices. To date, three of those regional offices have part-time EOW personnel.

Evaluating and assisting with some of PSC's training programs is another EOW function. One of these programs is Career Assignment which prepares potential candidates for entry into executive positions. The EOW office maintains a list of eligible women and encourages them to apply for the program. Another program, the Special Officers' Development Program, is designed to prepare women in administrative support categories for possible advancement to officer level positions.

The encouragement offered women is not infrequently a lengthy women-to-women chat with one of the EOW officers. They are sensitive to those intangible, non-quantifiable obstacles women often face: fear of failure, lack of self-confidence, uncertainty.

With regretful or even wistful looks, staff say that the personal contacts are coming to an end. Paper work is on the rise; paper work that in the long-run will help greater numbers of women than the one-to-one contacts.

THE FIVE YEAR PLANS

In 1975 a study, commissioned by the Advisory Council on the Status of Women, showed that while the number of women working for the public service had increased, the percentage of women working in administrative support (clerical, secretarial) positions had also increased. In 1972 women made up 68.2 per cent of the employees in the administrative support category; in 1974 they constituted 76.4 per cent.

It was clear that while efforts were being made to hire more women, they were not filling the professional or officer categories, and hence, the higher-level, decision-making positions of the civil service. To step up the pace of change the Treasury Board Secretariat joined the Public Service commission in setting out a new policy and guidelines concerning job opportunities for women.

In November of 1975 the Honourable Jean Chretien, President of the Treasury Board announced the intentions of the new policy: "It is our objective that within a reasonable time, the representation of male and female employees in the Public Service will approximate the available proportion of interested and qualified persons of both sexes. Such representation is to be reflected in all departments and within all occupational groups and levels."

The teeth of the new policy are its guidelines which call for each government department to submit detailed action plans to the Treasury Board for review and

approval. The first plans were implemented just about one year ago. This spring departments submitted five-year plans for review.

It is the review of these plans, done jointly by the Treasury Board and the EOW office, that accounts for much of the increased paper work. It is by no

Health Ministers to Meet

Justice minister Ron Basford and health minister Marc Lalonde intend to meet with the provincial governments to discuss changes in application of the abortion law. However, as was pointed out in the press conference given by the Canadian Association for the Repeal of the Abortion Law (CARAL) on March 1 in Ottawa, it is unlikely that they will meet with much support.

Ontario, as yet, is the only province to set up a committee to study the implementation of the law. Quebec says the law is enforceable and will not set up any such committee, and the Saskatchewan government is unlikely to make changes in admin-

istering the federal law to make it easier to obtain legal abortions.

CARAL spokesperson John Baglow suggested that the provinces won't touch the issue until abortion is removed from the

Criminal Code. CARAL members said the provincial consultations are stall tactics on the part of the federal ministers. There is apathy on Parliament Hill. Baglow explained, because most MPs are men and view abortion as a woman's problem.

Nuns as Priests?

A group of Adrian Dominican nuns in Michigan is organizing an unprecedented petition campaign asking the World Synod of Bishops to consider ordaining women into the Catholic priesthood.

The sisters are buying ads in the **New York Times** and the

National Catholic Reporter newspapers which will ask concerned Catholics to sign a petition calling on the bishops to place the women's ordination question on the agenda for their meeting this fall.

Earth News

CAN RAPE EXIST IN MARRIAGE?



Australians Think So

South Australia - Legislators here are debating a new law which not only expands the state's definition of rape and revises other laws on sexual offenses, but also makes provision for a husband to be indicted for raping his wife.

The controversial bill has sparked lively debate with churches, the legal profession and other conservative groups objecting that the law would be impossible to enforce, and "an unenforceable law is a bad law"; that it would destroy the institute of marriage by bringing the law into the bedroom; and that it would place a powerful wea-

pon in the hands of "a vindictive wife".

Then two houses for battered wives released a list of case stories of the women who had come to them for shelter. They told of being raped in front of their children, being violated with broken bottles, having carrots pushed up the anus and being beaten with broomsticks.

While the bill's opponents said the new law would not protect these women, feminists responded that proving rape in marriage will be no easier or harder than rape anywhere else, illustrating the limitations of tackling rape just as a matter

of law.

In passing the bill, Conservatives in the upper house amended it to say a rape-in-marriage charge will lead to trial if actual force to the victim, her relatives or children is involved. The amendment does not apply to oral or anal rape.

South Australia has a history of pioneering reforms. It was the fourth place in the world to enfranchise women, the first with the secret ballot, court arbitration for industrial disputes and foster homes instead of institutions for orphaned or abandoned children.

Street Rights for Women OR

by Trish Balmer

Picture a woman, walking down the street on a sunny day. It is warm enough to have just a shirt and pants on. With her hands in her pockets she ambles along, enjoying the day. Turning a corner she comes upon a group of men passing the afternoon together on one of the neighborhood porches. Taking in the situation she continues on — hoping to get past without an incident. But no — that seems to be too much to ask — a whistle or two and a, 'hey babe' are thrown at her from the porch.

Now the scene is set, how does she react? She has the choice of ignoring this intrusion on her privacy, or reacting. In either case her main objective is probably to cut the comments to a minimum. Tension, frustration, anger, a feeling of being controlled, a wish to lash back, but the knowledge that it would make matters worse. These and other feelings are experienced by a woman faced with a "street-hassle". How exasperating it would be to go through repeated confrontations like this one, in a day!

Women know this is no isolated incident. They are hassled on the street every day. Many times a day. Nor is it new. Women have put up with this kind of insult from men all through history. In 1914, Abraham Flexner commented on police treatment of men and women. "It is indeed one of the queer features of all police dealings with prostitution, that whereas solicitation by a prostitute is an offence, accosting by men is, unless outrageously flagrant, quite overlooked."

The street-hassle has been around as long as streets have been. Women have had to put up with the humiliation, but the reverse is not true, and when a woman does hassle or solicit a man she is much more apt to be punished for it.

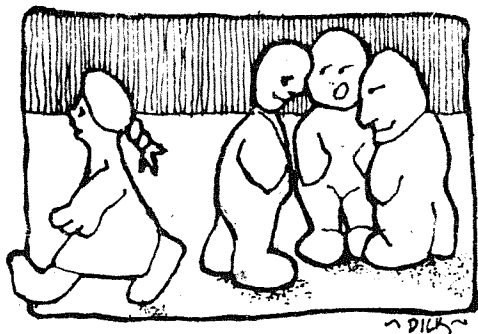
A street-hassle is one way that a woman's dignity is attacked. This was one of the responses that came from interviews with a number of women in the Esplanade Laurier in Ottawa.

What is a street-hassle? It can be many many things. It is when you walk down the street to go to work or shop and men grunt, whistle, or make kissing noises at you from cars, buildings, sidewalks, as if they were tossed into some kind of demented sexual ecstasy by your mere passing.

It is when men stamp their feet and wink lecherously at you. Or when they use their hands to poke and prod you to such an extent that women have renamed a downtown shopping area "The Sparks Street Maul".

One Ottawa woman interviewed, when asked how she felt about being hassled on the street, said, "It makes me feel dumb, pretty low, stupid. I do not feel like you can speak back — it makes things worse". Her solution was not to go out at night alone; she did not feel safe on the streets.

We asked another woman what a street-hassle was to her. She responded, "It's when anybody you don't know bothers you on the street, and you feel like you can't do anything about it". Asked how she felt when passing men on the street, she said, "Oh, one is O.K., but especially in the summer time, when there are line ups of them, they're just like little animals waiting to jump on you".



Another woman's response was, "I hate it. I don't feel unsafe, just nauseous and dirty". For her it was the way it was done, not so much what was said, and she said, "I usually just ignore it".

A man's perception of street-hassles is also informative. One man who was asked about women being hassled said, "I don't hassle or hussle women on the street, but I'm sure it happens all the time". He continued, "Yes I can see why women would feel unsafe on the streets. I don't see hassles happening because I don't look for them, but I know they happen".

Often it is a small (but infuriating) comment, nudge, or look; an insinuation made as much from the nonverbal part of the communication as from the verbal. And in situations like this, other passers-by on the street do not notice, or they tune it out.

Another point he made was that Ottawa has a high proportion of women to men. During the day women are all over the streets, but at night there are very few to be seen. Where do all these women go at night? He thought they were either at home or being escorted somewhere in a car, or a cab. They were not out walking independently.

This supports what the women interviewed said about feeling safe on the streets. If women felt safe they would be around after dark. There must be reasons for the lack of women out in the evening. A couple of women expressed the feeling that men control the streets, and most of what they said reinforces the idea that the street is a man's space not a woman's. A woman would not feel uncomfortable or tense and wary if she felt it as her space too.

The street (if anywhere) should be a neutral space. Men, women and children — everyone uses the street, and everyone should have the right to move about without feeling intimidated.

Women and men both know street-hassles occur. There are different theories as to why.

Do women ask for it in the way they dress, or act on the street? Are they subtly encouraging this kind of attention from men because it is flattering? There are both women and men who believe this view. They look at women as a temptress, as somewhat of a devil — manipulating men.

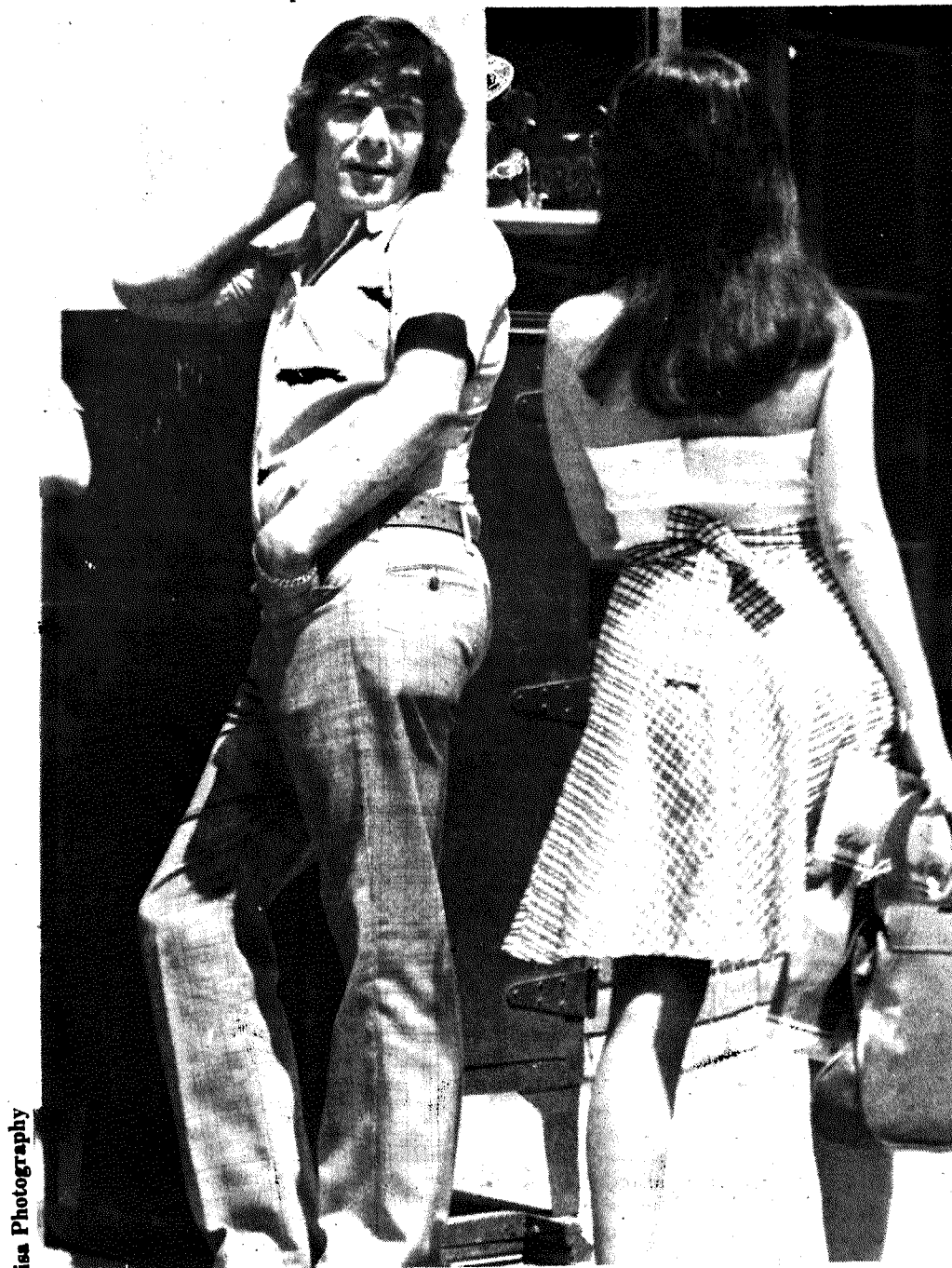
There are other women and men who believe the theory that women consciously or otherwise encourage sexual attacks (be they rapes or street-hassles) is one which crumbles under feminist analysis. The idea that a woman gets hassled because she is sending out signals requesting harassment sounds very strange to feminists looking at their own feelings and experiences. Women know that they are mostly smaller and weaker than men. Therefore they are hardly going to walk around daring men to hassle or rape them. Nobody wants to be raped or hassled. So it is more likely that women are trying to elicit some other kind of behaviour from the male 'environment'. But what?

If you are smaller than someone else, you know the bigger person can help you or harm you, depending on how he feels about you. Women want men to help them — when they are alone — by leaving them alone. They are unlikely to broadcast aggressive, hostile signals. They usually do not have the muscle to back them up. Most women do not want to go around being aggressive and hostile.

So instead they choose signals designed to make that bigger person feel good about them. Not "like me" or "go away or I'll hit you" but "Like me. Please don't hurt me. I'm a nice person".

There is something else supporting the theory that women do not ask to be hassled. Most women do get hassled, no matter how they dress or how they act. It is a generalization to say women like being hassled and that they take it as a compliment. A small minority may enjoy it, but that minority is not the norm.

From the interviews done for this article, and from the amount and strength of the material written on street-hassles, it is more accurate to say most women do not enjoy being harassed on the street. Actually being harassed has been known to be an imposition on their privacy, as degrad-



Alisa Photography

Hey, baby, where ya goin', whatcha doin', what's happenin'? Ya lookin' good, sugar. Nice ass. Looka them legs. Wanna give me some? Mama. Hey, look at those. Where's your bra, honey? Don't they get cold that way? I'll keep 'em warm. What have you got there? What a nice piece. Wanna drink? Where ya goin' so fast? Can I come too? Ha, ha, ha. Ain't ya goin' ta talk to us? Ain't ya even gonna smile? Whatsa matter with you? You stuck up, or something? Think you're too good, huh? Ugly bitch anyway, fat legs . . . Hey, wanna come up ta my house? Show ya a really good time. You got real nice legs, honey. Got anything between 'em for me? . . . Hey, look at that one. What a peg . . . Hey, you. Your blouse is undone. Whoooooeee. Ain't ya gonna give me a peek? Bouncy, bouncy, bouncy. Doin' anythin' tonight? How much? Huh? How much for it? Ten bucks? Five? Hey, whatsa matter with you? I'm just trying to be friendly.

from Against Rape

ing to their character (some men would not treat their dog the way they treat women on the street) and as generally very unpleasant.

A question that is often asked of women who are angry about and react to such encounters is "Where's your sense of humour?" Men are not aware of the effect these interactions have on women — they do not need to be aware — because it does not happen to them every day. Women feel the potential there all the time and the constant anticipation can be quite exhausting. O.K., so you say, do not anticipate. That might leave a woman wide open to trouble.

In **Radical Feminism**, Meredith Tax says, "Women are hyper-aware of their surroundings. They have to be. Walk down a street without being tuned in and you're in real danger; our society is one in which men rape, mug and murder women whom they don't even know, every day (not to mention general harassment). You'd better keep track of what car is slowing down, and of who is walking up behind you".

Any man who says women make too much of street-hassles, or get too uptight, is saying so because he doesn't experience it day in and day out. He can't imagine how it feels.

But to get back to why women get hassled on the street — maybe some women don't resent and even welcome the attention we have labelled harassment.

But street-hassles are too common a phenomenon and too often directed at women who are unresponsive to such attention to consider them a responsive, not an offensive action.

We live in a male dominated society. Women are taught how to dress, how to act, and what is feminine and correct — by the patriarchy. Then they are told that by dressing and acting this way they are "tempting" men and bringing trouble on themselves.



R Walking the 'Maul'

Somehow this doesn't make sense to women who have thought about their own behavior and experiences — they have stopped accepting the blame.

Patriarchal society determined how women should dress and act — and then it decided how they would be treated. This is not meant to sound like a quick conscious decision. It was a very gradual process that developed as the patriarchy developed.

One of the reasons why men still treat women in this derogatory way is because the pattern that was established years ago has never been shaken. It has perpetuated itself because women have allowed it to (and because men haven't changed).

Women have been brought up (in many ways, unconsciously) to accept this kind of treatment.

In *Against Rape*, Andra Medea and Kathleen Thompson discuss what they call 'little rapes' or the general kind of harassment that does on on the street. "In themselves these incidents are disgusting, repellent — in fact, intolerable. Acceptance of them as normal is dangerous. This is one of the many ways in which women are prepared to be victims.

"Learning to avoid being hassled in the street is as much a part of living in the city as learning to cope with public transportation. To see a black man in the South (or in the North) subjected to this kind of abuse would make one sick. It would be painful to watch him as he lowers his head and tries to get past a group of whites unmolested. Today blacks are no longer expected to 'know their place', although deliberate humiliation and discrimination against them still exists. But *women* face this same kind of badgering and taunting, and accept it. They have come to think of it as an unavoidable part of life".

They go on to say that the reasons for this are complex. One is fear of actual physical attack, but there is also something more subtle. Early in life there is instilled in us a desire to please, or at least a desire not to offend. "This is not part of our nature; it is drilled into us from the moment we are dressed in pink booties. And it is done well. We reach maturity with a sometimes pathetic desire to please others. Even when we have otherwise overcome our rigid stereotyping, we have this need for approval. It can be debilitating, and can twist our lives in undreamed-of ways.

"And so we think we have to be pleasant to the man in the street who approaches us. We have been taught not to displease anyone".

The threat of physical attack may be there or may not. Often it is minimal, but still a woman might not be aggressive in her rejection of the approach. A woman isn't always comfortable drawing attention to herself — because she won't get any support — she and not the man is the one looked at as being crazy. So she keeps it to herself and tolerates the advance, sometimes to a dangerous point.

Accepting this kind of behavior as normal and acting accordingly perpetuates it. One way to change the action is to change the reaction. "We create each other" (Marge Piercy).

A woman has the right to her own time, her own privacy, and her own life, just as a man does. She has the right to say no to any man who hassles her or tries to talk to her on the street. She has the right to say "leave me alone, I don't want to talk to you". She doesn't need to please a stranger, and just realizing this can help the situation. Responding to wise cracks and obscene comments in an assertive way is one step. Don't just "take it", and thereby reinforce the aggression.

Street-hassles are just a part of a larger problem that has developed in our capitalistic and patriarchal society. A lot could and should change on many levels of interaction. But these uncalled-for interactions on the street are something everyone can and has to deal with every day.

The politics of the street is by its nature, immediate, and therefore potentially a way in which men and women can together transform the energy of the street-hassle confrontation into a mutual positive human exchange.



"...whereas solicitation by a prostitute is an offence, accosting by men is... quite overlooked."

A way to start this change is for women to react more assertively on the street and thereby alter the interaction that now occurs. Here are some tactics.

A long low stare is a good one. One woman walks boldly up to a winker and inquires about the health of his eye. Repeatedly and loudly asking obscene mutters what they said produces very good results. Divide and conquer: "Is your friend crazy? He said x, y, and z to me. Don't you think he's nuts?"

The point of such action is to reverse the macho lift that a man gets when he hassles you successfully (i.e. when you hurry away and try to forget it, he remembers and tells his friends). Make him remember you as a painful episode for the next time he has the urge to hassle a woman. He'll wonder if she might be the same kind of "crazy lady", and maybe he'll

leave her alone.

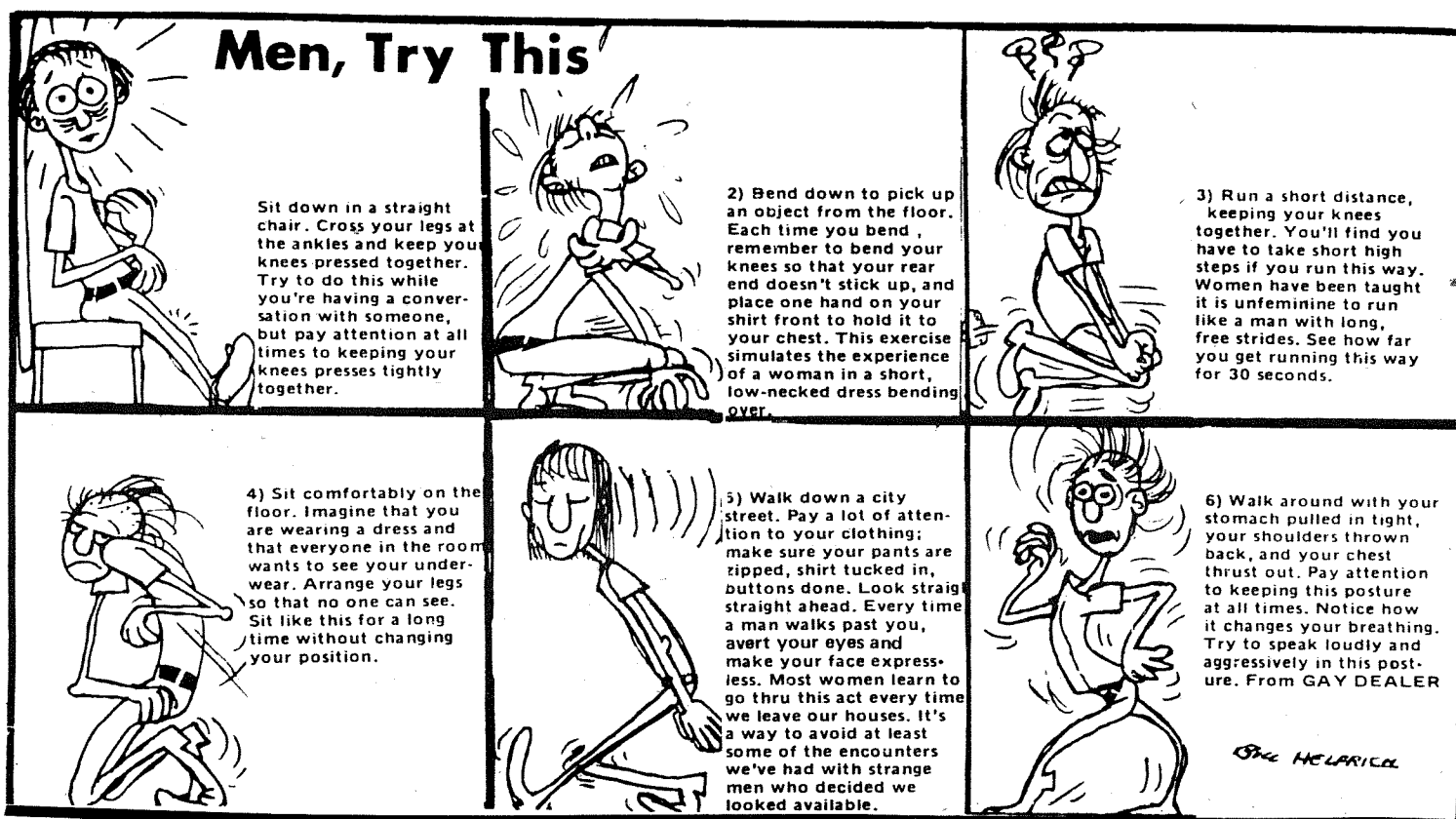
There are other ways of responding too — although sometimes the best response is no response at all. The point is to become aware that you have the right to react and respond in a way that will cut down on such hassling. If women reject street-hassles, men will, hopefully, have to question their behavior.

If begun in the street, perhaps women and men and their children could carry his human consciousness to the roots of a system which at present supports an outrageous inequality of resources and opportunities.

Medea and Thompson put it this way, "It is time for women to take their lives into their own hands and start fighting for their self-respect, not only because this is the best way for any human being to live, but also because to live any other way is

damned dangerous. Women accept too many things as simply 'the way things are'... All the daily encroachments on their existence as human beings, whether subtle or blatant, prepare them to be victims of rape (or some lesser form of abuse). Even men on the street expect them to be soothers and ego-inflaters and fantasy objects. If they refuse they're man-haters. But what if they play the game, placate every stranger, and learn to accept the role? What if they become what men want them to be? With that image of themselves, how are women to act when the game gets pushed a little further, and further still: when it becomes rape?...

"The time for a woman to start fighting is before she gives it all up — fighting for the right to herself, her pride, her body, her time."



EDITORIAL

The Badgley Commission has assembled a massive amount of evidence which demonstrates that Canada's abortion law is unworkable and discriminatory. At a cost of three quarters of a million dollars, what else is new?

Under the current law a woman can obtain an abortion only with the approval of a hospital's therapeutic abortion committee (TAC). The first inequity in this system is their scarcity: only one fifth of all Canadian hospitals have TACs.

Those women who do have access to TACs face further discrimination: each committee sets its own criteria for deciding who shall and who shall not be permitted an abortion. Moreover, there is no appeal from a negative decision. In addition, once granted permission, she could still be prevented, by court injunction, from having the operation, as happened to an Ottawa woman in 1972.

A woman who has successfully threaded her way through the cumbersome bureaucratic procedure demanded by law may have waited as long as eight weeks for the operation. These red tape delays force women to have second-trimester abortions, which call for more complicated techniques.

There have been many monstrous injustices under this current system. One example occurred in a Toronto hospital where abortions are not permitted after the fetus has passed a certain weight limit. In one instance a scanning device showed that a woman was carrying a headless fetus. Her request for an abortion was turned down. The reason? If the fetus had had a head, the committee argued, its weight would have exceeded the limit set by the TAC.

But, in claiming that such gross injustice has nothing to do with the law itself, the government is lying. And the Badgley Commission is evading the implications of its own evidence. No law with the built-in ambiguities and essentially intimidating nature of this one can be administered equitably. TAC members are as anxious as anyone else to avoid the criminal taint, and they can be subject to considerable legal pressure, as we saw when Otto Lang was justice minister. Individual doctors are equally unwilling to involve themselves with an operation which is subject to the guidelines of criminal law. In addition, without a legal definition of "health", TACs are forced to make their own definitions. Consistency across the country is impossible.

Canadian women, denied their rights by TACs and unable to afford the trip to New York, will continue to risk injury and death at the hands of quacks and butchers. The government has not shown an appropriate concern. As usual, women are expendable; saccharin is more important. One can be certain that the fortunes and affairs of diet drink manufacturers will be more effectively represented than the interests of women.

Politicians will shrug and smirk, hospitals will waffle and fidget, doctors will stick their heads in the sand, and women will die.

Upstream urges everyone to work for the repeal of this unworkable and discriminatory abortion law. We can suggest at least two possible actions: 1) support CARAL — the Canadian Association for the Repeal of the Abortion Law — with your time and or money, and 2) write your M.P.; don't give silent consent to these injustices.

On any day ...



On pay day ...



Any contributions to the literary section of Upstream will be considered for publication. If you want the manuscript returned please indicate this and enclose a self addressed stamped envelope.

LETTERS

Paper Improving

Dear Upstream,

The paper really is getting better and better. The separate cultural section is a good idea and gives the paper a more cohesive and manageable format. I found the article on Prairie women enlightening, and now feel a burgeoning interest in Canadian feminist history.

Chris Hanrahan
Toronto

Dear Upstream,

I thoroughly enjoyed the informative article in your last issue on single parents. I was, however, surprised, that in a newspaper which is working to reinforce a sense of women's identity and dignity, that the single mothers in this story were referred to throughout by their first names, whereas the single father was referred to by the honorific "Mr." followed by his surname. Click?

Rosemary Billings

P.S. suggest the collective follow Canadian Review and even (sob) Ottawa Citizen lead and drop honorifics altogether, referring to people only by full name for the first mention and surname after that.

Defend Middle-Class, Middle-Aged

Dear Upstream,

I enclose a cheque for \$4. This is conscience money. A copy of Upstream comes into my place of work, and I read it thoroughly each time. But I feel guilty every time I remember how thin you're stretching the shoestring you publish on.

So I enclose the price of a subscription. But don't send me Upstream. I'll continue to read the one at work — with a clear conscience.

I confess to having misgivings about Upstream at first. I'm a former journalist, and I am constantly appalled at the sloppiness of thought and production that is allowed. Upstream, I am pleased to see, does not indulge itself in this way. It adds to your credibility, disarms your critics and pleases the sensibilities of this graduate of the old school.

What would please me even more — and it may already be on the drawing board — would be a regular assessment of the performance of local women in public office. You did it for the municipal election, and I found it enlightening. And I'd be thrilled to bits if someone would come to the defence of the middle-class middle-aged woman. Nobody likes being stereotyped, whether it's by Judge MacEwan or an otherwise open-minded publication.

Elaine Lund

An Invitation:



Dear Sisters,

Are you concerned about women's health care? Will you be in the New York City area on Sunday, May 22nd? Would you like to meet Barbara Seaman, Phyllis Chesler, Shere Hite, Doris Haire, JoAnne Fischer Wolf, Judy Horsigian, Sharon Lieberman, Denise Fuge, Betty Friedan, Fanette Pollack and others interested in women and health?

If so, you are invited to a party/benefit sponsored by the National Women's Health Network. We would like to bring together about 200 health feminists to meet each other and to support the projects of the NWHN. These include: 1) A women's Health information clearing-house; 2) Monitoring FDA and Congressional Hearings on health; 3) Speaker's Bureau; 4) Federal health policy's impact on women's health services; 5) Reproductive health projects on patient's rights and informed consent.

To receive your invitation, please write to: National Women's Health Network, PO Box 24192, Washington DC 20024.

Hope to see you there!
In sisterhood,
Belita Cowan

FORUM

"Beyond Sisterhood" A False Picture

Shirley Greenberg

A false picture of the women's movement was presented in this article in the April 2, 1977 edition of **Weekend Magazine**. This is partly because reliance was placed on interviews with drop-outs or women at the periphery rather than women actively involved in the movement.

You must be actively involved to know what is going on. The media are not reliable, as the example of this article in **Weekend Magazine** shows. If women's movement news is reported at all, it is almost inevitably distorted.

Many women are actively involved in the politics of being women which requires that they confront sexist attitudes or deal with them rather than ignoring them. No dichotomy exists between activity directed to changing the sex role stereotypes and pressure to get equal rights. It's all part of changing the pie, that is, changing our social structures.

Sexism still permeates our society, attitudes as well as laws, and these two are mutually reinforcing. Sexist laws also give us daily sexist justice, as women discover every day to their dismay. We pay a heavy price for not writing our own laws, not protecting our own interests. It costs women literally thousands of dollars each year, not to mention untold suffering and misery.

Shifts in emphasis from rhetoric to meeting women's needs leaves the dilettantes behind. They drop out, back to their nests and their safe marriages. But the women's movement was not as it was when they left it. It does not stagnate, but changes and evolves, and their confusion shows that they have been left behind or lost touch.

Commitment and stamina characterize those who stay and keep the projects going, for they surely are not profiting in a monetary way. No one gets rich, except in the sense of contribution to a vitally important goal, and in finding good friends who share the burdens and joys.

Energy is consumed not only in the politics of the women's movement — in the removal of the causes of discrimination and harassment — but also in meeting practical needs, needs that used to be ignored or denied or swept under the rugs of countless urban and suburban cottages: ministering to abused wives and children; counselling women in search of self respect and a place in society where they can contribute and be valued for it; attacking sexual victimization and assisting those who could not escape it, the rape victims; agitating against laws upholding forced pregnancy.

A great deal of energy is consumed in keeping these projects going. No one gets paid for merely being a feminist. Almost every group is short of funds, in fact it has any at all. The poverty of women means that support must come from other sources.

Not only is immediate aid administered, but preventive programs also are available through various community organization associated with the projects mentioned above. Two of them draw on newly acquired skills of women professional in law and the health fields. Pamphlets are written and distributed, speakers' bureaux set up and speakers attend at small neighbourhood groups as well as teaching in formal community-oriented programs, all geared toward helping women develop controls that will allow them to improve their lives.

All women's groups grapple daily with the problems arising out of women's extreme poverty. No group in our society is poorer in terms of income or property or job security than the married woman. The women in the paid labour force are known to be paid half the wage a man gets, even when they do similar work, but the married woman at home gets nothing at all, and is characterized as performing "non-work". By marriage, under our laws, a woman is taken to have chosen a life of service in expectation of no return whatsoever, only for room, board and clothing.

Mary Annester

Strength in



"Women only"

The need for an autonomous women's movement is becoming more widely recognized. Women have begun to gather, discuss, and define our oppression in groups independently from men. How, then, does culture relate to the more narrowly defined "political" forum? This issue came to life with a concert of the three-woman Belle Starr Band given in the Main Hall at Carleton University on March 29. This "Evening of Women's Music" organized by the Ottawa Women's Music Collective, was open to women only.

Accusations of discrimination and sexism, and questions such as "Why women only?" and "Is women's music different from men's music" were directed towards the concert's organizers. A consideration of the political significance of musical expression sheds a new light on these objections and questions.

Feminist music or "women's music" is a consciously political phenomenon. Women who have become involved in the production of women's music have done so through a recognition of the denial of women's cultural self-definition within the male-dominated music industry. As women, we must take control of our music as a means of defining our reality, validating our experience, and thereby strengthening the women's movement. Having enough control to fully express a women's consciousness through music means gaining control over all aspects of the production of the music, from the writing to the performing to the technical production to the critical evaluation. The Belle Starr Band concert was just such an occasion — a totally woman-produced event.

The importance of a women only audience can be appreciated on the same grounds. Performer-audience interaction exerts a profound influence upon the development of musical culture. A feminist concert, in particular, attempts to minimize the alienation between performer and audience; audience response becomes even more central to the experience. If women's music is to develop as a reflection of women's reality, we must create situations in which we as women can learn to detach ourselves from male-defined cultural values and begin to create our own. During a women-only concert, the musicians sing for and are responsive to a female audience. They as performers and we as audience learn to take control of one aspect of our cultural lives.

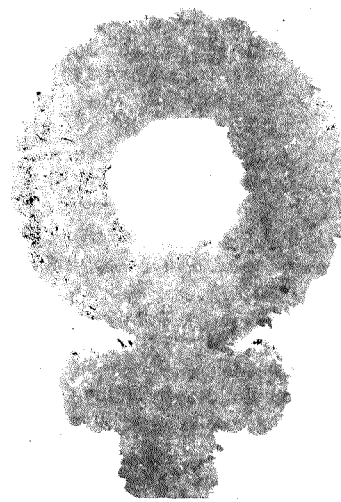
A women-only concert is a political cultural event, feminist in content and purpose. Supporting the concept of women-only concerts does not imply the belief that all concerts by women need be women-only. It simply acknowledges the particular importance for women to learn to redefine their cultural values, and the necessity to create situations in which this can happen. The question of discrimination takes on an entirely new slant when viewed from this perspective. An all-women concert is not anti-male. It is a totally pro-female event, one step in our movement for liberation.

All these operations take place in the "climate of hostility" mentioned in the article, but that won't deter the women who are willing to put their time and effort where their mouths are. Extreme forms of hostility characterize the attitudes of students in professional schools, since women are regarded as invading a precious male preserve and those women who in addition are dedicated to upsetting the status quo are doubly threatening. Nevertheless women not only survive but thrive, and come out of it with renewed dedication resulting from confirmation of their worst suspicions of at least some men.

Why did the writer of **Beyond Sisterhood** miss all this? Is it because of the media's perpetual trick of providing entertainment in the guise of information? Is it because the purpose of media entertainment is to divert energies to safe channels that don't disturb our social structure? Certainly the women she chose to interview will not, by their activities, pose any threat at all to the status quo.

If the writer of **Beyond Sisterhood** has wanted to present an accurate picture, she could have telephoned any of the women's centres or the women who run the projects and who are not unknown. If the telephone book doesn't yield the information, the local Women's Centre will, for it is the repository of information on community services and resources, as well as the place where women first come to get involved in practical efforts to improve women's position and conditions of life.

The subject of women's victimization and their poverty is not one which lends itself to flippant or flamboyant treatment, and thus it is not entertaining. Maybe this is why the issues were so carefully missed. What better argument do we have than this example of the need to actively support our own women's newspaper or newsletter?



Upstream would like to provide this space for reader debate of issues they see as important.

The Healing Arts Estrogen: the Rewards and the Risks

BY Beatrice Baker

The March issue of **McCall's** magazine features an article on estrogen: "Estrogen to Help You Look and Feel Younger, How Dangerous is It?" The topic is timely. For close to 40 years doctors have been prescribing estrogen as a remedy for certain menopausal symptoms. How it is suspected of being a causative factor in uterine cancer.

The article, by Paula Weideger, presents a balanced, reasoned approach to the subject, giving the pros and the cons their due. It purports to be "...an up-to-date report on what doctors know and don't know about this powerful sex hormone — and how women can decide whether or not to use it."

Weideger quotes several knowledgeable and expert sources

whose comments frankly point out that there is more "and don't know" than "know" available. One, Dr. Lila Nachtigall, even offered a reason for the appalling lack of research into menopause and the role of estrogen: "It is partly because menopause is a problem of women, and menopause is not a life-threatening disease." Dr. Louise B. Tryer went even further in her answer to Weideger, "Congressmen are male and elderly and they want to fund research into the disease that affect them — heart attack, cancer and stroke."

Besides offering the reader a fair amount of information and a sample of expert opinion, the article gives what must be the soundest advice under the circumstances: "Never use anything you don't need or that isn't doing you any good." and, "Consult your doctor and then, if you decide to take estrogen replacement therapy, use the lowest

possible dose for the shortest possible time."

All right: the article is informative, reasonable, well-written why am I being so brudgin about it? Why is my nose wrinkled, my forehead creased in disdain?

There are two reasons for my distaste; neither of them directly concerned with Paula Weideger and her article but rather with the editors of **McCall's** magazine.

It is usually the editors who set the headlines, teasers and subheads. So it is more likely that they are to fault for the subtle slant of the article than the author herself. The "slant" I refer to is in the cover headline: "Estrogen to Help You Look and Feel Younger", and in the inside teaser: "...what doctors know and don't know about this powerful sex hormone..."

Yes, estrogen is a powerful hormone; all hormones are. Yes, it is involved in a woman's reproductive cycle. But so are several

other hormones; each one just as necessary as estrogen. Estrogen, progesterin, FSH and LH, among others must work in balance with each other for a woman's menstrual cycle to function properly.

McCall's, hand in hand with North America's destructive emphasis on youth, fashion-model beauty, and Cinderella romance, has participated in encouraging the abuse of estrogen treatment by misleading women into thinking that estrogen would help them "Look and Feel Younger".

During the sixties **McCall's** was among the many magazines which ran enthusiastic articles on the new "miracle" drug for women. Desperate to slow down the clock because they live in a society which denigrates age, society which denigrates age, particularly for females, women rushed to their doctors and asked for estrogen. many of them had no medical need for it at all.

Estrogen has two main effects.

It reduces hot flashes and eases the drying out of the vaginal surface. When these two symptoms of menopause are painful, annoying and dysfunctional, then women should be able to get some relief. But women were led to believe that the "powerful sex hormone" would have other effects.

They believed fairy tales. Estrogen will not make any of us look younger. It will not stop the aging process. Like a placebo, if you believe it will make you feel younger, you may.

The article in the March issue of **McCall's** is sound; its setting is misleading. The title above the article itself reads: "Estrogen: the Rewards and the Risks". Medication is not a "reward". It is a treatment to ease pain, correct dysfunction."

McCall's has almost atoned for its part in the possibly dangerous proliferation in the use of estrogen. Almost. But not quite.

OCCUPIED

"Much more important is the stereotype's detrimental effect on women's careers. It works to exclude them from "men's jobs" at every stage of the employment and advancement processes, from seeking out candidates to making the final decision."

"The final prong of the attack on job access and other attitude-based problems is aimed directly at changing attitudes themselves. Here, the best approach is to ensure that several highly effective women occupy previously segregated positions, so as to provide a role model for other women and to demonstrate to men that women can competently perform a traditionally "man's job"."

**Women in Business —
A Shocking Waste of
Human Resources**
James E. Bennett
& Pierre M. Loewe

by Sandra Schofield LeGroulx

Cecile drives taxi. She has been doing so for the last three years. Wednesday evening, April 6th, I spent an hour and a half with Cecile and her two children in their home to discuss her career life, both past and present.

"Well we're self-employed. I'm using my own car. But I work under the company Blue Line. I use to be with Queensway taxi." (Queensway sold to Blue Line approximately last June.)

How did you decide to drive taxi?

I just followed my husband's footsteps. You see we had a type-writer business...and when we shut down, he went to drive taxi. He had some friends who were in the taxi business. So he went first and I stayed home to completely shut down the business. And in the meantime I went to apply for my licence.

First you have to pass a test and they ask you over a hundred questions of the city; where such and such a building is; which way would you take to get from one destination to another. You have to know the city in order to pass the test. You need about 50 (per cent) to pass...some of them (questions) are pretty hard. But you use your own judgement.

What driving experience did you have and what other working experience do you have?

Would you believe three days. My husband taught me how to drive and it took me six hours to learn. I passed my test and I went to get my taxi licence.

I waited a couple of weeks so I could finish the business. Then I started taxiing and I've been with it ever since.

I worked as a clerk at Freimans in customer accounts (1969). I worked for about three or four months. When I went on my honeymoon I got a bad cold and I never went to work for two more days. (She was married on a Saturday. She usually worked Friday nights but not Saturdays.) I got the weekend off. (Cecile didn't call in sick.) But in the morning I usually have trouble speaking. There was no use going in if I couldn't talk to the customer...so I stayed in bed. Wednesday I was feeling better and I could at least talk. I went back Wednesday morning.

When I went there was already somebody sitting at my desk. I said to her: "Can I have my desk back I'd like to go back to work." My boss came in and said: "Well I'm sorry, we needed help right then and now." He didn't let me down hard. He just said: "We needed somebody right then." We couldn't wait, things were piling up. And everything was all over with so I said: "Thank you very much." I picked up my cheque and I went home.



"Oh My God, a Woman Taxi Driver"

Did you know your rights?

It wasn't worth it. Because I had my kid in December, three or four months after. So it wasn't worth it. I got another job right after. Right after I had my son. I went down to be a barmaid.

We needed the money. At the time we had financial problems because we had just closed the business. Plus our ordinary bills for our furniture and everything else, plus the business bills. Well you know we needed the money to come in. So I went out to work for the extra money. It worked out pretty good.

I worked at the Terrace du Portage in Hull. I stayed there a year and a half. I got fired from there too, would you believe!

You see it was the boss' birthday and before I finished my cash he said: "Punch out a bottle of champagne." So I brought out the bottle of champagne, punched it into the cash, did my cash and he went downstairs with the bottle. He was the assistant manager, I think. So I finished my cash, brought the cash upstairs to the secretary and then I went downstairs and there wasn't enough champagne left so he asked me to go upstairs and get another bottle. So I went upstairs unlocked, got a bottle, locked up, and came downstairs to give him the keys. But I didn't punch the bottle in because my cash was already done.

A couple of days later — it never crossed my mind to punch the bottle in, he accused me of stealing the bottle. (There was mention of the assistant manager having stated: "As soon as I find something to pinpoint on her, I will." for reasons not specified during the interview.) And that's how he fired me over a stupid bottle of champagne.

It's not a bad field. I'd really like to go back but it's just the fact that I don't want to work nights. I got tired of working nights. I wanted to work days and spend the evenings with the kids doing homework and playing and teaching things.

What is the male/female ratio for taxi drivers?

Well there aren't too many women. There's about ten women I'd say and I may be over exaggerating. They don't stay very long. I know a couple of girls they came on and a couple of days after they quit.

I know that Blue Line has three. (women) I think they use the company cars.

I want to drive and nothing else but. I like it enough to keep going at it. But not to dispatch, answer the phones, or work in the office — no. I like it. I can't stand being cooped up between four

walls. Like the government, half the time they don't have anything to do, so I hear. I like to keep busy.

Taxi seems to be the best place for me because you meet a lot of people. You make a lot of friends and some enemies — but not too many of them. I enjoy it, really.

What hours do you work?

My hours aren't definite. They vary. Some days I work, some days I don't. I have a lot of freedom. I have the whole evening to my self. Sometimes I have the whole day. If I don't want to work, I won't. I work maybe three days a week or sometimes five. It all depends on finances. It depends on the weather. Tomorrow morning I'll see if it's snowing outside. If it is I'll go out because it will probably be busy.

These days there's just not the business. It's not the same since the government cut back and everything. It's been pretty lousy. If they take the government away and if we had house calls only, we wouldn't survive on taxi. Since the government cut-backs, I think it was a year ago or so, business went dead. Almost to a dead stop.

They're saying that they are going to be using shuttle buses for DSS (Dept. of Supply and Services) for Place du Portage and for Transport (Ministry of Transport) as soon as they move in. They won't be able to take taxis unless it's urgent.

(The federal government grapevine seems to be quite alive in Ottawa. They usually use taxi service...) when they have to go from one meeting to another, or one building to another. Especially on rainy days well they don't take the bus or they don't walk. So they usually take the taxi. Messengers take taxis if it's a long run or if it's out of their way to walk.

Have you had any problems with co-workers?

Some of them are very jealous. They say that I'm being fed (taxi language for favoured with calls). Just because when I go to work I don't take hours off for lunch or for coffee breaks. I pick up something really quick and go out. And I eat as I drive. But some of them they take an hour off for lunch, fifteen - twenty minutes for this, talk with some of the guys. When I work, I work. I go straight through. That's how I make my money. I don't sit in one corner. I drive all around. If I have a pick-up (someone hailing a taxi) I'll take it.

On some days there's this guy who dispatches. I've never seen him before. I don't even know what he looks like. He has the habit of calling me 'dear'. And

drivers take it for granted that he's feeding me. And I keep telling him: "Don't call me dear, please. It creates problems between the drivers and me."

A taxi driver who goes bowling with us said: "Oh I see you got fed again today." But the thing is that I work harder than they do. I just don't sit around. And the fact remains that if they call for an area and I'm booked in another, I'll go for the area they're calling, while they'll (the other drivers) will stay where they are.

How do you get booked to an area or a call?

Let's say I'm starting in the morning, well I'll say: "Book me for Centretown." Meantime if he calls Sandy Hill because he has no cars there, I'll move.

All companies book differently. Blue Line has a system which is going to change because they are going onto a computer system. They're going to start computerizing as of this summer. They're going to try it out on two or three cars. If it works they'll keep adding a car a day. Since I'm privately owned I might have to pay \$1600 to buy the computer.

Are there any job related pressures?

You get to be a nervous wreck. Because you never know if somebody's going to hit you on this side or that side. You know how people drive these days. You have to keep your eyes open. It's quite nerve wracking sometimes. That's the only pressure I find; the other people driving. I don't worry about my driving. I know that I drive all right.

How's the pay?

I really haven't figured it out. Every year we go to UIC and they assess what the taxi driver makes a year. That's what we go by.

You figure out all your expenses, your insurance and your gas. And you subtract that from

the amount you make in a day. Whatever you have left is your profit. It's self-employment.

What education and/or qualities do you need?

As long as you know the city that's all they ask. You have to have your chauffeur's. You have to be friendly because when somebody is in a bad mood you try to cheer them up a bit. Usually if you are very nice to a customer they'll change moods and be happier when they leave the car. So I keep that attitude. Some of the drivers are really rough with their customers. They really speak foul language.

I don't often get mad at a customer. The only time I get mad is when he's drunk. I've only had one. I had to have somebody else remove him from the car. he wouldn't get out. He didn't pass out. He paid the fare and opened the door, but he wouldn't get out. You can smell booze a mile away.

Is taxi driving a good area for women?

If business picks up it will be fine. If they have shuttle buses and...they're even talking about scooters for messengers. That's going to cut out fares. Business won't be there.

As long as women know the city, they're all right. It's a nice job to be in. It's not hard. You just drive customers around.

It doesn't affect it (the family) at all because when I'm working my husband is at home taking care of the kids and when he's working I take care of the kids. I work days. He works nights. So the kids are all right, really. They're with either one of the parents.

Do you wish to remain driving taxi?

What I want to do is take the summer off. Because it's not really worth driving taxi. (the weather is too good) And then I can do something like Pink Lady part-time. We have bills and things have to be paid. These days a woman can't stay at home. But I work because I want to work. Because I can't stay cooped up for hours a day.

I look at it day by day. I don't live for the future. If there's something in the future for me I don't know what it is. Because I don't want to look for it. Life is short enough as it is without having to look into the future. Oh! What am I going to be doing twenty years from now. If you live day by day there's no problems.

Do you feel satisfied?

I do...They say: "Oh my God, a woman taxi driver." And I keep driving.

It's an achievement really. I've said I'm going to be a taxi driver and I'll drive and I won't have to hear people say: "Ah, there goes another woman driver." I drive fast but safe. When I drive, I drive! I just don't go twenty miles an hour!

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Law For Women

by Shirley Greenberg

Whether one is being abused or just wants out of a marriage for any reason, no law requires that you stay. But if a woman has no good reason for leaving—such as her husband's cruelty, adultery or behaviour that amounts to desertion—she will lose any right to a claim for alimony.

A right to support applies if a wife has been a good wife, committed no adultery or cruelty; is she in need and unable to support herself, and if the husband is able to pay. If a husband is willing to pay, that will make it easier, for she will not have to hire a lawyer and go to court to force him to pay.

But few wives these days qualify for support, because they can usually support themselves. Many wives have nothing to lose by leaving a marriage, and if they are being abused, they may have much to gain.

Wives will not get any reward for having contributed domestic services in a marriage, whether it was ten or twenty or more years of devoted service. The criteria she must satisfy are need and good behaviour, and then she qualifies for support only.

SEPARATION AND DESERTION

To be in desertion, you must leave without cause and without consent of the other spouse, fully intending separation and severing all services and well as putting some geographical space between you. However, you can be in desertion even if you remain in the same house. The same criteria apply: intent to separate, no cause or consent, and physical separation plus severance of services.

To leave a house does not mean you are deserting, if the conduct of the other spouse drove you out. It is the other spouse who is in desertion in such circumstances; it is referred to in law as "constructive desertion."

If a woman is deserted or neglected she can immediately apply to Family Court for support for herself and her children, and she will not necessarily need a lawyer. If quite a bit of money and/or property is involved, she should see a lawyer and apply immediately for interim alimony as she will probably be in need—unless she has a paid job.

If a couple separates by mutual consent, there is no desertion. In such cases the two usually come to some agreement as to division of property, support, custody of children, and preferably the terms are embodied in a separation agreement, with the help of independent legal advice for each. This contract may be with them for the rest of their lives, and it can be very important. It redefines their relationship.

SEPARATION AGREEMENTS

To be legally valid, agreements must be signed voluntarily, preferably with full disclosure of essential facts. Thus, each must sign willingly, and if you cannot get your spouse to sign it, it is worthless.

The separation agreement is as binding as any commercial contract. However, a wife may not be permitted to contract out of her right to support, as it is the policy of

our society that a wife not go on the welfare rolls as long as her husband remains obligated to support her. The same applies to the children, for which each parent continues to be responsible until they are 16 or 18 and in full time attendance at school.

The date of your separation is when you actually separate, not the date of the separation agreement. This could be important when you petition for divorce on the basis of three years' separation.

Clauses in a separation agreement decide support, division of property, custody of children, among other things. Basic decisions that husband and wife must make at separation are about children and money. If you have neither, then you probably don't need a separation agreement.

Whatever you do, don't draw one up before you actually separate. It would be unenforceable in court.

PROPERTY

Property ownership should be regarded separately from marriage and from the support obligation. As between husband and wife, the same property law applies as between strangers, generally. The basic rule is that property belongs to the one who paid for it. A wife has no right to any property or income by virtue of being a wife or of working in the home for so many years—under laws that exists as of this late anyway.



Because you own what you pay for with your own money, the dependent wife will own nothing, unless she acquires something by inheritance or by gift. She may be called upon to prove that a gift was meant to be for her alone, if someone disputes it. That can be difficult if she has shared the property with her husband.

Your name on the title to real estate does not necessarily mean that you own that property, because some people hold land in trust for others. If you paid for it, you will own it. If not, another person

could claim that you are just holding it in trust for the one who paid for it. If you received real estate as an outright gift, as usually happens with property held by husband and wife as joint tenants, that is likely to be as much yours as it is the property of the other joint tenant.

But if a wife has a paid job, but spends her money on groceries, she will end up owning the groceries and her husband will own the valuable property. Except, when by buying the groceries she enabled him to save and purchase property, then she will get a share of that property too. If he could have done it without her, she'll get nothing.

New legislation is making changes. A spouse will be a half-owner of the family home and any other property used jointly by the family. This will not be a fixed rule, and if one spouse was a "drunken bum" or otherwise contributed nothing to the marriage, it could be that he or she would end up with nothing. Many changes will be made with new legislation.

DIVORCE

If you have proof of cruelty or adultery, you can get a divorce quickly. Cruelty usually exists in any marriage, so we come quite close to no-fault divorce even though it is not in effect legally. This means that if one spouse wants a divorce, there is literally nothing to prevent it as long as the legal criteria for cruelty are satisfied.

Cruelty required to be proved for a divorce is behaviour that makes living together intolerable. It is a subjective test, which means whatever causes serious distress to the petitioner must be serious enough to satisfy the judge. Mere incompatibility is not enough. And also, if you remain in the company of the offending spouse, you obviously do not find his or her behaviour intolerable and so—you'll not likely convince the judge either.

Cruelty and adultery or other matrimonial fault can be forgiven, which reinstates the offending spouse. But if a pattern of cruel behaviour continues, that can give grounds for divorce. One physical beating of a wife may not be enough, especially if she returns to him.

Several other grounds are available under the Divorce Act, so please refer to it for further information, or consult a lawyer.

LAW REFORMS

Reforms are underway in the areas of family law and divorce as well as property law affecting husband and wife. A wife will soon be obligated to support herself as well as her husband and any children and her parents, the same as a husband. If a wife becomes incapacitated to earn her own living because of marriage, she will be entitled to claim support sufficient to get on her feet, but no more. Many judges are applying law very similar to this already.

The wife who will suffer most is the one whose upbringing prepared her for a career as wife, but who finds herself without a husband when he finds another woman or otherwise leaves her. However, she will qualify for support if he is able to pro-

vide it. Even then she will be expected to "rehabilitate" herself if that is at all possible. Men object to paying support for a lifetime, especially if they are receiving no services. They do not realize that their money pays for a system of wife-dependency, not services.

A wife will be able to claim a share of family property under the concept of "family assets" which decrees that all property in joint use by the family is owned jointly. This will apply to the home, car, boat, cottage, dishes and furniture as well as family heirlooms, for example. But it is subject to judicial discretion, and if one spouse has behaved very badly so as to disentitle her or himself, he or she may be cut off without property.

Under the new laws (yet to be in effect), if one spouse saves all earnings and buys investments or places them in a separate account, there will be no sharing.

Matrimonial fault will be de-emphasized in the new laws, as it is now under the Divorce Act is respect of claims for support. This means that one indiscretion after a lifetime of domestic service will not cut out a wife entirely from a claim to support. A husband too will be able to claim support from a wife. This has happened under the present Divorce Act.

THE VALUE OF THE HOMEWORKER'S CONTRIBUTION

No government of any province or at the federal level shows any signs of willingness to recognize what the law calls "mere housekeeping duties"—the services supplied by the full-time homemaker, whether she is a ranch wife, a diplomatic corps wife, or a wife in the suburbs coping with a child or more. The homemaker is still characterized as performing non-work (Are you at home or do you work?), and only a miracle will change this, it seems.

Thus the married woman who permits herself to become dependent will have nothing when her marriage breaks up. Under the new laws she will even have the obligation to support herself, if she can.

The lesson to be drawn is that marriage is a very high risk for women who make it a priority. Better would be preparation for independence, with the possibility of marriage to the extent a sharing relationship is possible.

The advent of marriage contracts under the proposed Ontario legislation will make it possible for husband and wife to define their own roles and the structure of their relationship. They can break the pattern of the past where the husband automatically ruled, and the power, wealth, and status was all his. But a little education is necessary. Stick with us and we'll provide it.

WARNING: These comments are too brief and space does not allow even the most important rules to be considered in proper detail. Use this information for general guidance only, not for application to individual cases. Remember, a small change in facts can mean a big change in the law that applies. Sometimes there is a lot at stake.

Women Helping Women

by Rosemary Billings

Discrimination. The **Ottawa Women's Resource Handbook** defines it as "distinguishing unfavourably between groups of people on the basis of the real or imagined qualities of any shared characteristics. You name it," says the **Handbook**, "there's a bigot for it."

In this column, we're going to run over just a few of the more recent and glaring examples of discrimination against women (sexism) that readers have brought to our attention. (If you think of any more, just drop a line!)

Our glorious leaders in the House of Commons, for example, have voted eleven times this session to cut off pensioners' spouses' allowances if, when the pensioner dies, the spouse is under 65. Things being the way they are, most of the surviving

spouses hurt by this undue and unexpected economic hardship are elderly women.

On two occasions after such votes (November 17th and March 8th), the very next motions passed in the House were ones congratulating the winners of female beauty contests. It will not escape the keen-eyed reader that March 8th is International Women's Day. But of course, the House isn't interested in the welfare of women with crowfeet if there are sex objects around to fawn over.

Local police, schools and libraries continue to distribute and show a film about rape called "How To Say No to a Rapist and Survive". This film has been condemned by such prestigious organisations as the federal Advisory Council on the Status of Women, the Ontario Council on the Status of Women, the National Action

Committee on the Status of Women (this latter representing over four million Canadian women), and the U.S. National Organisation of Women (N.O.W.). Imagine the situation in which a 'pro-Black' film produced by Whites is opposed by every Black group seeing it. Would not the motives and 'anti-racist' claims of those Whites who continue to show and promote the film in the face of such opposition become highly suspect? It is a measure of the discrimination which women face that their opinions are being ignored and this film on rape is still being shown.

Walking through a government department a million miles away from Revenue Canada, one sees name plates on officers' desks reading "J. White", "P. Leblanc", "M. Pusolinsky". One then comes across a little huddle of desks where the name plates read "Beverly", "Debbie", and

"Susie". Guess who types for whom? All the Government's mouthings about "equal opportunity" come to nothing if female employees in traditional jobs are not regarded as worth being identified by two names.

And what about the Unemployment Insurance Act provision that says women (just women) are ineligible to receive benefits unless they have arranged for child-care for their under school-age children?

Not to end on too bleak a note, however, let's return to the House of Commons where on March 21, David MacDonald protested eloquently against the use of sexist language in the government's immigration bill. One feels that one should not have to be grateful for this sort of thing—but it is a relief all the same.

SPORTS

Pointers for Pedalers

by Berti Lawton

Bicycles are a healthy and inexpensive solution to the transportation problem now that spring is here. If you can walk, you can ride a bike — it only takes a couple of hours' practice to become reasonably proficient. Ottawa has miles of bicycle paths through and surrounding the city. On Sunday mornings the Western Parkway and Colonel By Drive are closed to motorists so cyclists can enjoy the scenery.

With the hundreds of bicycle models on the market, it's important to know what to look for. Bicycle stores seem to charge slightly higher prices than department stores, especially when the latter have special sales. However there are many advantages in specialist stores — they provide an expertise usually not available at stores stocking a wide range of merchandise and they can usually repair a bicycle in the shop if it fails under warranty.

The three types of cycle to consider are general-duty, touring, and racing. General-duty are relatively inexpensive, heavy, and durable. They're excellent as a child's first bicycle, take a lot of knocking about, and can be left out in the rain.

Touring bicycles weigh about thirty pounds and cost from about \$90 to \$200. They won't take the punishment a general duty bike will, but you will probably want a touring bicycle if you intend to travel any distance. You might think that when you're looking for exercise the heavier bike might be better, but you just won't be able to keep up with your friends if they're on touring bicycles.

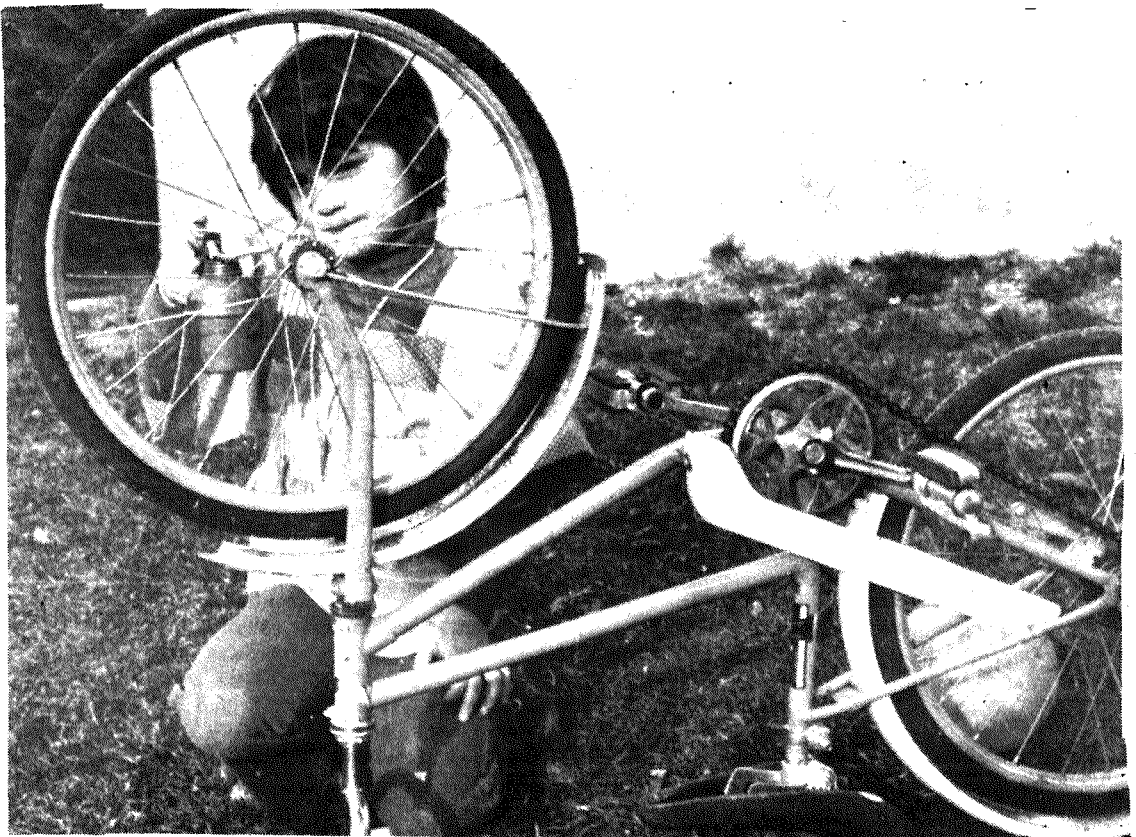
Racing bicycles are designed for strength and can weigh less than twenty pounds. They are considerably more expensive than the other two.

Your bicycle should be the correct size. Frame size and reach are the two basic dimensions to consider. The frame size ranges from 19 to 24 inches and is measured from the centre of the chain wheel (the axis the pedals are on) to the top of the seat post

(the shaft holding the seat). The distance from the front of the seat to the beginning of the handlebars is called the reach.

The seat can be raised and lowered and moved backward or forward for final adjustment. When you buy a bicycle try to have the seat centered — if it's completely up or down you may find when you get it home you want to adjust it in the direction you can't adjust any farther. When you sit on your bike you should be able to touch both toes to the floor: if you can stand on the floor the bicycle is too short and if you can't touch the floor it's too large. Both are potentially dangerous.

Usually general-duty bicycles



have pedal or coaster brakes operated by back-peddalling, whereas touring bicycles are equipped with hand brakes. Hand brakes are mounted on the handlebars, one for each wheel. When you squeeze the lever against the handlebar the brakes are activated and two brake shoes press against the wheel rim. Be careful to press the lever controlling the rear brake first to

avoid being thrown forward.

Speed changers vary the gear ratio between the pedals and rear wheel and are not essential. Hub changers are usually found on two and three speed bicycles. Derailleurs can be recognized by the five sprockets on the rear hub. Two chain wheels are used for ten gear changes and three chain wheels for fifteen. If you are a weekend cyclist you will

want a lower gearing ratio than a more active cyclist. Also, the hillier the terrain, the lower the gearing ratio.

Choose upright or racing (dropped) handlebars as you prefer; the racing handlebars are considered faster and more comfortable for long distances. You may prefer a crossbar — it adds strength to the frame and will give you a wider selection of bicycles.

Ottawa Squash Team: Third Time Champs

by Amy Chouinard

The five-woman team representing Ottawa and district in the Ontario Squash Team Tournament served up a victory for the third year running in a series that this year went right down to the wire.

The tourney, which was held in Toronto April 1-3, hosted 12 teams across the province and because of its format offered players a chance to play as many as 25 games. In the first round robin of play, the six winning teams qualified for championship competition and the six losing teams entered consolation play. (Wins were decided on the basis of individual play — each team member competed against an equivalently ranked player on the opposing team; the player who chalked up the best of five games scored a match for her team and the team accumulating three or more matches scored a win.)

Ottawa and district team members were Penny Glover, playing number 1, Evelyn Hustwit, Susan Carey, Lyn Noel, and Pat Marks. In the finals against Toronto Squash Club, Glover

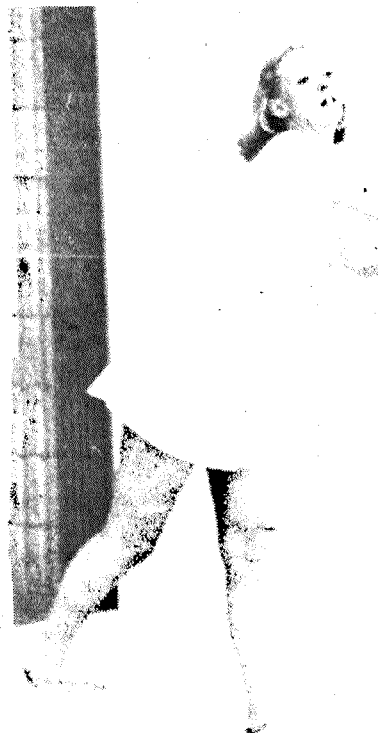
downed Shelagh Murray handily with three straight wins, but that was the only sure thing of the afternoon.

In fact, it looked pretty bleak at one point when Carey and Noel lost their matches, and Marks went down two games to one. She pulled it out, and left

does a lot of squash coaching clinics around Ottawa."

Glover, who was upset recently for the top position in Canada, also noted that competition has improved remarkably in the last couple of years as the sport widened its base of competent players. "It's booming," she said and reeled off a quick list of Ottawa sports clubs that are expanding or introducing squash courts. "It's such a convenient form of exercise; it takes as little or as much time as you want to spend, and it's perfect for our

Glover, who is in her twelfth year of squash competition, was on the team that made the trip to Australia and at the time was on a strict training schedule. She was running about 12 miles a week, doing knee pushups and other drills for strength, and working on her stroke. Since then she has dropped the schedule but runs regularly and tries to get a few games of squash in every night — enough to stay close to the top.



Pat Marks

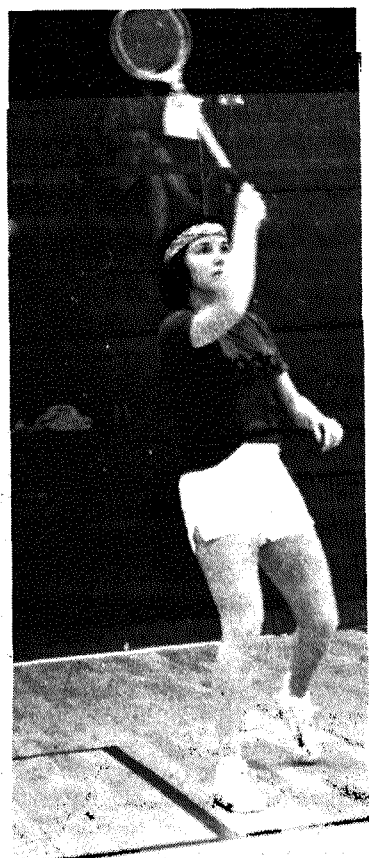
North American climate because it's an indoor sport."

"The Ontario Ladies' Squash Racquets Association has been trying to develop younger teams; they have started 'under-23' teams that have really raised the level of play. This year there are some younger women in competition, especially around Toronto."

But, according to Glover, the base of players in Australia, Britain and New Zealand is much larger and the competition much better. She recalled last summer's trip to Australia for the world championships — a competitive first for Canada — when none of the group made it past the first round. "We have a lot of catching up to do on the international level, but next year we will be sending a team of six women to Britain, and that will give them some training for the next world championships in 2 years."

Hustwit to decide the outcome of the tournament. Hustwit also dropped behind two to one and fought back. When it was all over, the championship rested on a slim 9-7 margin.

Afterwards, Glover said in an interview that both Marks and Hustwit "have beautiful racquet handling skills. They are both top tennis players...and Evelyn



Lyn Noel

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Season Opens With Splash

by Amy Chouinard

Ottawa River Runners couldn't be contained any longer as they broke through icy currents on the Mississippi and Carp Rivers last weekend.

After a false start the weekend before when high winds forced them to cancel a trip down the Jock River, the group needed no egging Easter to start the season.

It was the first of approximately 25 white water trips the club will take between now and fall, and the schedule promises a few camping trips and courses suitable for the novice and the expert. According to club president (and founder) Andrea Bernolak, there will be a number of surprises in this year's fare.

Bernolak, who boasts almost perfect attendance for last season's events, says that by introducing subtle changes into the schedule, the club manages to keep things interesting within a 100-mile radius of Ottawa.

They travel logging roads into the bush and make their way down waterways like Moira River, Mississippi, Opeongo, etc. They move in a caravan of kayak and canoe-bonneted cars, sharing a bond with each other and the wilderness. Says Bernolak, "If we suspect that somebody might get into trouble, the last car will be watching. We have never left anyone in trouble on

the dirt roads, and there have been problems — stalled cars, stuck in the sand, and so on. We time our trips so that we are all out of the bush in daylight hours."

Asked how she got into white water running, Bernolak speaks of her childhood in Hungary and rowing on the Danube. Although she admits her early experiences were a far cry from white water, they taught her to love getting out on the river. When she came to Ottawa, she missed her scull and found being a landlubber was not for her. She realized that rowing here is a dangerous sport unless there's a coxperson, so she invested in a kayak. "And then," she says, "I found out what a fantastic toy it is — you can roll it and right it — and I knew by the end of that first year that we needed a club to go on."

So Bernolak and a few other white water enthusiasts in the Ottawa area pooled money and efforts and founded the Ottawa River Runners. That was seven years ago; today the club has more than 100 members and is the second largest in Ontario.

But, says Bernolak, only about a quarter of those members are women. "When it comes to dangerous, aggressive, expensive sports, Canadian women have not really come out yet. I would say they are in the first stage of athletic expression — cross country skiing, badminton, tennis, etc., but in conquest sports,



Andrea Bernolak, Ottawa River Runners president, checks flotation backs before taking her craft out this season.

they are not yet represented as much as they should be. But I do believe it's coming."

The introduction of lighter craft has speeded up the process slightly, she says. At one time, the heavy boats deterred women who had to carry their own weight in portaging. Another deterrent has always been fear of the powerful rapids, but Bernolak insists that, with practice, a paddler can outmaneuver the rapids and strength is secondary to quick reaction and endurance. In fact, she says, there is a

15-year-old girl from Toronto, Cindy Kerckhoff, who can hold her own easily with boys her age and with many of the more experienced men.

The sport's true drawback, according to Bernolak, is its cost, especially when broken equipment, car repairs, and gas are figured in. Most craft are made from fibreglass and when the price of oil went up, so did its derivatives.

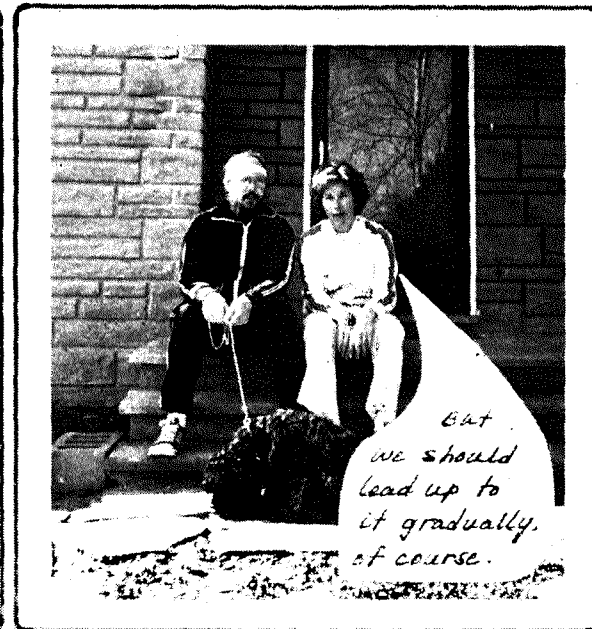
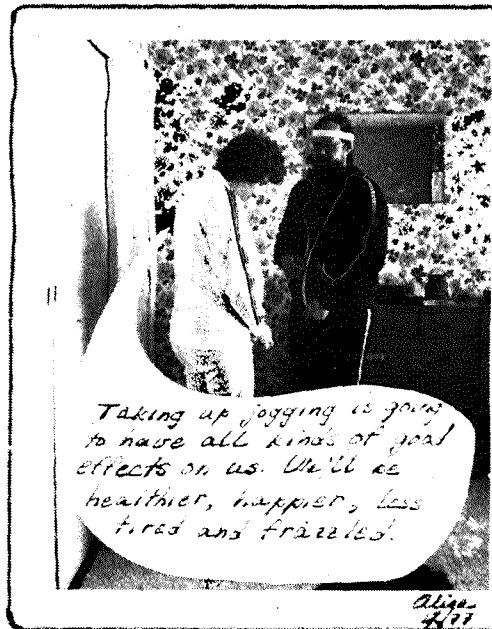
In three years, the price of boats has doubled, says Bernolak, and "under the present circumstances with the expensive

boats, I don't think I could have organized this club; I don't think I would have had the financial resources to do it.

How does one go about joining

the sport? "Shop for a boat, be able to drive a car, take the clinics we offer (a pool clinic at Carleton U. just ended Apr. 2), and come with us. The club has training sessions in which the better-trained members teach others free, and we import teachers once in awhile, but like everything else that's expensive."

mappin's rag



Sport Speculum

by Amy Chouinard

You know the water is icy cold because of spring runoff so you're mentally prepared for that, but, as you survey the white water to decide the best place to go in, you begin to feel queasy and wonder what you are doing here anyway. No, you're not contemplating suicide; it's your first experience in white water running.

In this sport you will be wrestling the elements; you will be trying to outmaneuver the currents and sometimes you will fail. That's why wet suits and helmets are almost standard equipment along with tennis shoes, paddle, life jacket, boat, and waterproof spray skirt (a

skirt that fits snugly around your waist and fastens around the cockpit to prevent water from entering). And that's also why you should know artificial respiration and techniques for righting an overturned craft, ejecting from a close-fitting cockpit, and swimming to shore in different currents.

Before you take the first step into your kayak or closed-hull canoe, you should remind yourself of the craft's instability, bend your knees to lower your centre of gravity, and use your hands to balance your weight.

Once in, you should practice ejecting. Capsize the craft, stay calm, hold onto your paddle, and reorient yourself. With one hand, pull on the tab to release the spray skirt from the cockpit;

lean forward, relax your legs, and push yourself back and out. When you resurface, keep the hull upside down to prevent shipping water, and pull the craft to shore.

The mechanics of naddling are simple. The closer the blade to the gunwale, the greater the forward motion; the farther out to the side, the greater the rolling motion.

This is the principle on which the Eskimo roll is based. As its name indicates, the roll was devised by Eskimos who needed a quick answer to a capsized kayak. The roll takes little effort when the technique is mastered and should be learned along with the basics of paddling and getting in and out of the craft.

Different variations are the short and long rolls, and a roll without a paddle, a boon to those who break or lose their means of propulsion. The last roll, however, is limited to relatively calm waters, and not usually the turbulent waters of rivers, which must make their way around rocks and logs, through wide and narrow passages, and around bends. You, the white water runner, must be prepared for eddies

(rotating currents), holes (surface depressions), boils, and upwellings.

Some general basics are to prefer the mainstream current (the darkest water) through boulder-filled channels, and the outside bank around bends in the river.

White water touring trips often mean hoofing it part of the time and hauling your craft — portaging. After long hours of paddling, it can be a welcome change, an opportunity to see the wilderness from a different vantage point, but you should remember, when planning the trip that the bare essentials inside your craft will imperceptibly

gain weight from the time you leave home till you hoist them onto your shoulders.

Safety precautions in planning trips are to map out plans on a large-scale topographic map (1:50,000) and discuss alternatives in case of emergency. Each paddler should have clearly defined duties in case of upset (a roll of wide waterproof adhesive tape is great for quick craft patching), and as you move down the river, the first and last in the group should be experienced paddlers.

For more information on white water running and touring in the Ottawa area, contact Andrea Bernolak 753-3566.



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CURRENTLY

April

Instruction in the Yogic sciences and meditation is being provided by the agency of Ananda Marga as a social service. The class instruction and personal instruction is free of charge. For more information and class pre-registration, phone 235.3637.

The *Yoga of Childbirth* — *Pre-Natal Yoga Classes* which include special exercises, breathing and mind control techniques to help give women a more positive birth experience. Includes information on diet; childcare; herbs; personal body care; nutrition; and home as well as hospital delivery preparation; massage; and post-natal care. For information call 521-6658.

One of the aims of the Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women is to coordinate and facilitate research into women's experience in Canada. The major research area of initial interest to the CRIAW is "women and work" interpreted very broadly to include economic, social, psychological and physical aspects of everything from volunteer work to housework and paid work. The task the Institute has set itself is to poll all groups deemed to have an interest in the area and to publish an inventory of research already underway on aspects of the theme. All women's organizations are asked to:

1) indicate the areas your group would like to have investigated within the theme "women and work."

2) provide names of people, groups or organizations already working on aspects of the theme "women and work".
3) send information to Susan Trofimenkoff at Suite 415, 151 Slater St., Ottawa, K1P 5H3.

April 15

Women in Transition at 7:30 at Ottawa Women's Centre, 821 Somerset W.

The exhibition *Photographs from the Collection* organized by James Borcoman can be seen at the National Gallery until April 17.

April 16

Last night for the **London Palladium Show** at the National Arts Centre. Matinee at 2:30, evening performance at 8:30.

April 18

Film on women as single parents at the Ottawa Women's Centre, 821 Somerset W. 7:30 pm.

When We are Married directed by Peter Dews opens at the national Arts Centre for three weeks. Three Yorkshire couples meet to celebrate their silver wedding anniversary 25 years after a triple marriage ceremony. The festivities soon turn into comic disaster.

April 20

Assertiveness self-help group meets at the Ottawa Women's Centre, 821 Somerset W. 7:30 pm.

April 22

Women in Transition 7:30 pm and **Lesbian Drop-in** at 8 pm at the Ottawa Women's Centre, 821 Somerset W.

April 23

Womancraft, a sale of crafts by women, will be held at the Jack Purcell Community Centre, Elgin at Gilmour. The sale is sponsored by Upstream and the Ottawa Women's Centre. Phone the Centre for details at 233-2560 or 235-4035.

April 25

Women and Alcohol, a discussion at the Ottawa Women's Centre, 821 Somerset W., 7:30 pm.

Canadian Mothercraft Preparation for Childbirth classes begin. Please register now by telephone at 233-5605 or in person at 450 MacLaren (corner of Kent).

April 27

The AMIT chapter of Ottawa-Hadassah Wigo is sponsoring a **rummage sale** — clothes, household items, delicious baked goods. All proceeds go to charity. At 276 Bank St. between 10 am and 6 pm.

May 2

Tell Me Where It Hurts, a film at the Ottawa Women's Centre, 821 Somerset W. 7:30 pm.



Alisa Photography

T.V. HIGHLIGHTS

Women Watch

by Maridee Winter

TV Ontario (ch. 24, cable 7) Fridays, 10-10:50 pm. "Helen: a Woman of Today", began Mar. 18, continuing April and May; factual but soap-operish British series about the legal and emotional problems of a woman divorcing and facing life as a single parent.

More interesting is the series following each episode of "Helen," "Women of Ontario," 5 minute cameos of women of varied backgrounds who reveal their problems, hopes, and goals.

Two excellent series of PBS (ch. 16, cable 4) throughout April

and May: (1) "Documentary Showcase: Woman Alive" begins April 8, 10 pm with "Job Discrimination: Doing Something About It" and promises defense strategies; April 15, "A Time of Change" — interview-format, impact of women's movement in the U.S.; April 22, "Men, Women: What's the Difference" — based on Marris Poll of sexual attitudes; April 29, "A License for Violence: the Tragedy of Battered Wives." (2) The "Woman" series (Sun., 1:30 pm) has interviewed such notables as Simone de Beauvoir; April 17, "Women's

Astrology"; April 24, "Age is a Woman's Issue"; also watch for the repeat of Jeanne Moreau discussing production of her film "Lumiere."

Three cultural treats on PBS: April 13, 9 pm: dancer-choreographer Twyla Tharp's controversial work "Sue Leg," set to the music of Fats Waller; April 16, 9 pm: Eve Le Gallienne in a recent production of Ibsen's *Hedda Gabler*, highlighted by a photomontage of famous actresses in this role; April 30, 9 pm: Chekhov's *Three Sisters*, with Eileen de Beauvoir; April 17, "Women's

The Hill: by Susan Wisking

With Margaret Trudeau back at home Jack Horner (PC) has bounced into the media limelight. Rumour has it that the Chief's one time pick for leadership of the progressive conservative party will, to the tune of *Lonesome Cowboy*, defect to the liberal camp.

It is common knowledge that Mr. Horner has never liked riding side saddle for the foreman, Mr. Joe Clark. In fact Mr. Horner made an all out effort to head Mr. Clark off at the pass during last year's leadership convention. Notorious for his strident criticism of bilingualism, Mr. Horner, with the Chief in tow, nevertheless threw his support behind Mr. Claude Wagner. Alas, the coup failed and that upstart, young Joe Clark, took over the reins.

Now a little over a year later Mr. Horner feels threatened by redistribution of his *Crowfoot* riding. Says in fact that his leader refuses to protect him from competition.

In the face of a possible renom-

ination defeat at the hands of some unknown this 19 year parliamentary veteran and diehard Tory has taken to knocking on the Grits' back door. Only to have it left ajar by the prime minister himself. As Mr. Trudeau well knows, the secret of any marriage rests in compromise.

☆

In case you didn't know, **International Womens' Day** was not ignored by parliament. In recognition of the continuing struggle for equality and respect unanimous consent was given to the motion of congratulation for the new *Miss Teen Canada*.

Between chords of *you've come a long way baby* every MP in attendance contributed, largely through indifference, to this historic event. Women across the country must be gratified to learn that federal politicians, regardless of sex or party, continue to endorse great achievements by contemporary women.

☆

In March the prime minister and his cabinet aired suspicions about the infiltration of **Radio Canada** by separatists.

At the personal request of the PM, the CRTC has agreed to investigate and report back with its findings in July. According to Mr. Trudeau the CBC in Quebec is not fulfilling its mandate to promote national unity. In fact, he said, some **Quebeckers** are convinced they are destroying it. What a relief to know the CBC is doing something, somewhere.

The **English networks** may not do much to promote national unity either but that will not be determined by this witch hunt. Excuse me, investigation.

Many Canadians believed that CBC only had a mandate to promote mediocrity at the national level. What do you know, it is not a one dimensional corporation after all.

☆

The **Badgley report** on abortion, which made no recommend-

ations, was tabled last month.

MPs courageous enough to refer to the committee's findings generally contained their remarks to the actual cost of the report or to specific statistical data on the number of abortions performed.

The study reiterates what women have known all along — that abortion, like marijuana, cannot be legislated out of existence. It all depends on your contacts and your economic situation.

The real issue — **legalization** — remains untouched. Politicians in every party are afraid to publicly admit their stand on abortion. Few felt compelled to tackle the issue, preferring to sweep the whole matter under the carpet.

An open discussion on abortion is long overdue. **Italy**, one of the **Catholic church's** last strongholds, now has more liberal abortion laws than **Canada**.

☆

During March economic policy

and the **Canadian Transportation Act** occupied much of parliament's time.

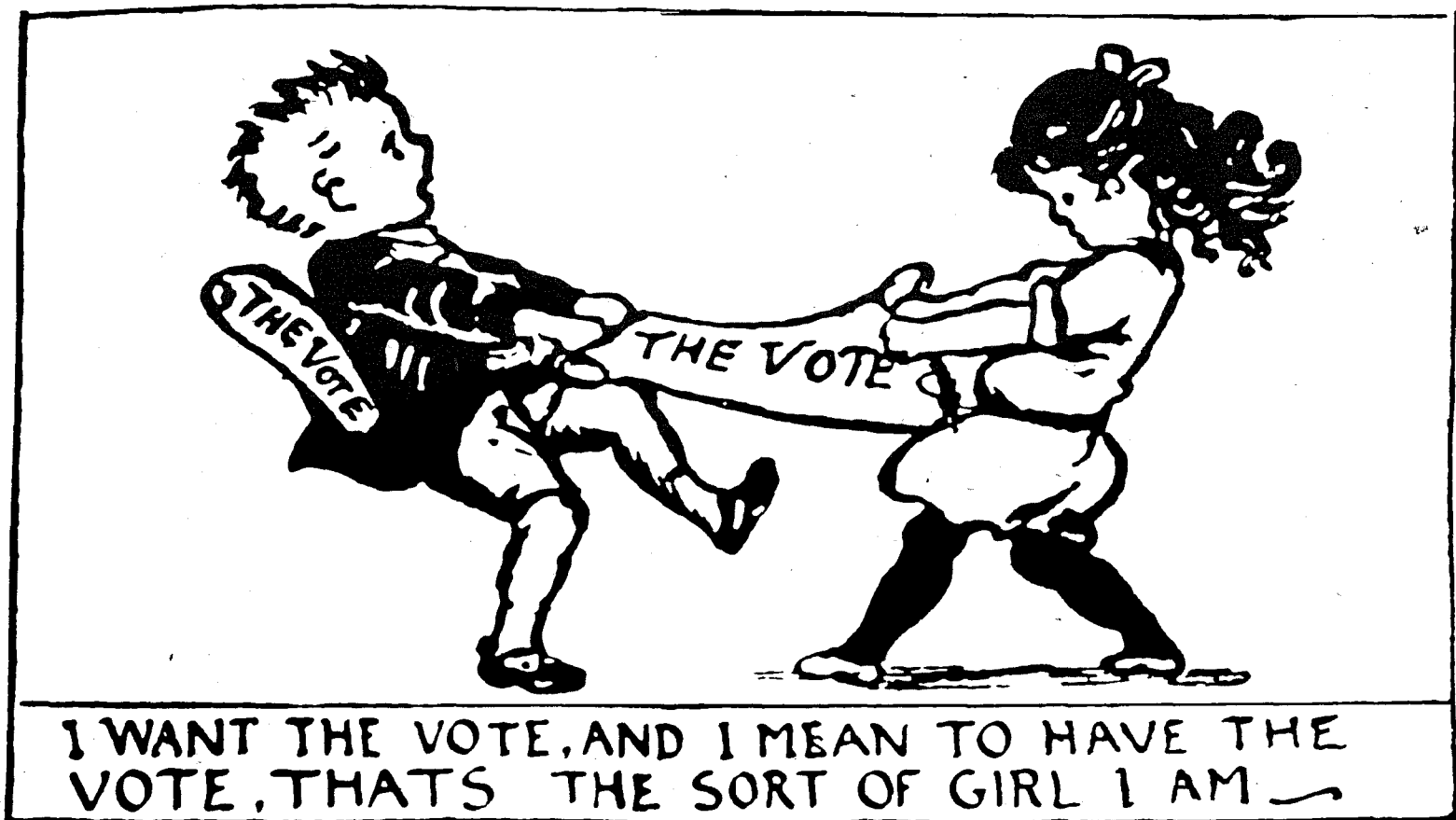
To the dismay of the United States and people with a weight problem and/or diabetics everywhere, saccharin was banned after being linked with bladder cancer in second generation male rats.

Unemployment and inflation were both discovered to be on the rise.

Bud Cullen, minister of manpower and immigration, gave signs he was weakening on his new **unemployment legislation**. He said the twelve week qualifying period for benefits could be kept at eight weeks in areas with a high rate of unemployment. Which is just about everywhere.

The month drew to a close with the presentation of the budget. **Donald MacDonald**, wearing old shoes and without a budget party for the second year in a row, could offer little relief to Canada's slump.

☆



Grain Growers Guide Promotes Suffrage

by Alma Norman & Jane Mingway

In 1908 the Grain Grower's Association (GGA), official organization of Prairie farmers, published the first issue of a paper they called, appropriately, the GRAIN GROWERS' GUIDE. The paper, a weekly, had a circulation by 1914 of over 35,000 readers. By 1914, too, Prairie farm women had formed their own organization, the Women Grain Growers' Association (WGGA), parallel but quite separate from the men's and the Guide served as their paper as well.

The importance of such a paper to women living in isolated homesteads is obvious. We can easily see the role it would play in presenting information facilitating exchange of views, and in general raising women's consciousness. Through the pages of the GUIDE between the years 1909 and 1916, when the vote was won, we get a multifaceted picture of the interests and concerns of Prairie women.

The GUIDE'S Editor-in-Chief was a man, George F. Chipman, himself a firm supporter of women's rights. In an early editorial he states:

Theirs is the harder part in the pioneer struggle necessary to develop the country and up to date theirs has been the smaller share of good things in return. Today more than ever before the men are recognizing that the women should be placed up in terms of equality with themselves, not only before the law but in everything that pertains to citizenship... The GUIDE will aid them in every possible way.

One way was to appoint Frances M Beynon, an ardent suffragist, as women's editor. She had at her disposal two women's pages. Called at first, "Country Homemakers" and the "Sunshine Guild" these originally largely reflected women's traditional interests — homemaking, children, embroidery patterns and the like, although from the start "Country Homemakers" offered more varied fare — an editorial by Beynon and letters from readers on a variety of topics.

By the end of 1914 however, the emphasis changed. "Sunshine Page" became "Farm Women's Clubs," and dealt with organization, aims, and activities of the increasing numbers of such clubs. The WGGA by this time had 35 locals.

Editorial comment and readers' contributions became increasingly important.

As might be expected some contributions reflected concerns of a limited, though practical, nature: A Remedy For Sore Breasts ("Boil 1/2 cup of brandy with a little sunlight in Royal Crown soap shredded fine, and whilst warm lather... with it..."); for Home Remedies for Bugs "The Cure was gasoline".

Much bitter correspondence was generated by the unfairness of the homestead system, which denied homestead rights to Prairie women. Under this system the

government issued a man a "patent" on a quarter section of land which, providing he met certain residence and cultivation requirements, became his at the end of three years. But for women the situation was different as Isobel Beaton Braham wrote to the GUIDE in 1909:

Miss Georgina Binnie-Clar, an Englishwoman of moderate means... on behalf of herself and numbers of her single countrywomen similarly situated, came in the summer of '06 to experiment in farming in the Canadian West. Her first move was to interview the Dominion government to secure a free homestead. She had references to show that she had means to prosecute farming successfully, should she be entrusted with a free farm. The Government was obdurate. She could get nothing... Undaunted... she bought outright [from a discouraged farmer]... and continues to make a brilliant success of it. Women have the right to homestead if they desire to do so. Have they not helped to develop this western country...

In more satiric vein the GUIDE unfolded the sad story of Jenny and John Tightwad, in 5 installments, suitably illustrated. Jenny, after 15 years of marriage discovers, to her chagrin, that her position in the home "had been that of unpaid domestic". Furthermore, since her husband alone owned all they possessed, she had no recourse when he ran off with a wealthy widow, "having sold farm, house, stock and furnishings to a wealthy American speculator", but to get "a little house in town and a few pieces of furniture and... take in washing for a living." Thus she could support herself and her 6 children — in whom she hadn't even a legal share.

But anger was not reserved for injustices to farm women, nor even to housewives. A writer in 1913 remarks on glaring inequalities of men's and women's wages. Women earned \$21.75 in the manufacturing industries, men, \$38.33. The writer dryly points out, however, that such munificent wages, made possible by a protective tariff ensured only that "millionaires and multimillionaires may be created..."

An article entitled "Women's Sphere In Life and Labour" sounds a depressingly familiar note:

A woman may leave a houseful of children behind her and go out all day, to a factory, to a washtub, to a sewing machine, to a scrubbing, to anybody's kitchen, to manual labour of whatever weight or physical excess; she may become idle, giddy and spend seven days a week at bridge or dance... Dr. Armstrong sees no loss to the... 'functions of womanhood'... But let a handful of brainy women go out in the same way for a few hours daily, to earn their livings in chemistry, in modern languages, in electrical engineering, in mathematics, where the work is light, the hours short, the pay big, and behold, women are thwarting nature — they are behaving very unbecomingly and are 'dragging men with them to destruction.'

Suffrage, of course, was an early and increasingly burning issue. In 1909 we read that:

The object of keeping the franchise from women is political. The men who mold public opinion are afraid the laws which women would make would not be to the liking or the interest of the men who now dominate legislation. Most men who deny the right of voting to their wives and daughters would have as cheerfully denied it to their hired men, and for a similar reason.

In 1914 the GUIDE declares:

Without doubt the democracy of the twentieth century demands the wisdom and insight of women for its full development, and Canadian women cannot set themselves too soon to the solution of the problems now affecting the economic and social well-being of the Dominion. Most men are free to confess that they have made more or less of a botch of trying to run the government by themselves. We look for a new moral impetus, a more sane outlook and wider human sympathy to enter into the settlement of our public questions with the advent of women into public affairs.

We do not know if these views were expressed by men or by women, but clearly they represented the woman's point of view.

Inevitably as the pressure of larger events, including World War I, grew, women's interests broadened and their perceptions of themselves changed. Many women found themselves faced with the sole responsibility of running the farm while their husbands were overseas. They were informed about the numbers of urban women who had left their domestic life for factory work, entering a field until then unthought-of for women.

"Today we no longer fold our hands in mute resignation; instead women everywhere are saying, 'From all these evils we are the greatest sufferers therefore we are going to fight them.'"

"The generation of women who took their positions ready made from their husbands is passing and making way for the new woman who, when she desires to know the rights and wrong... uses her own God given brain..."

Unfortunately, although we have been using "our own God given brains" we have advanced little beyond the goals set by women 60 years ago. Perhaps the most instructive thing the GUIDE can do for us is to help us see just how little we have advanced.

We can substitute 1977 for one of the earlier dates: Are not most housewives like Jenny, still "unpaid domestics"? Did not the N.A.C. on the Status of Women point out in March 1977 that women in Canada earn on an average 57 per cent less than men? Are women really protected by marriage and family law? Has a woman the same opportunities in choosing work or profession as men have?

Francis Beynon, writing in the GUIDE in 1914 was surely also speaking to us today:

Links are of no use when separate, but when formed into a chain what limit may be put to its use? The women of Canada may, by linking themselves together... form a chain the beauty of which will be ever increasing and whose strength will be enduring."

UPSTREAM 2

April 1977

✦ "If I am to keep on as I have begun [in public life] that means one unending struggle... However, for me, more pleasure will come going upstream than down, but believe me it is no enviable position."

Agnes McPhail - 1922-

ARTS

A Growing Vision

by Wendy Marrow

If the women's movement is to succeed, we must create new images for ourselves, as we live in a highly visual world."

Like the women's movement, to which Aline Lapierre is committed, her work has progressed through a series of changes. This input of changing concepts and innovative forms is necessary to Lapierre, both in her art and in her environment. For her, personal and artistic growth results from the shedding of stereotyped concepts.

The images Lapierre has created in her subtle watercolours are warm and almost surreal. Her paintings are full of familiar subjects. The viewer's first impression is of people, landscapes and foliage juxtaposed in fluid pastels. The foliage, which is abundant in her work, is lushly reminiscent of Rousseau. The simplicity of her compositions is startling and deceptive.

In the gouache entitled *Eight Women*, female heads peer out reflectively from tall grass. The faces are clearly defined and the bodies unresolved, forcing the viewer to look again. This treatment evokes a dream-like mood,

yet has a sense of resoluteness and order.

In the watercolour *Three Lonely Hearts*, three rosy Valentine hearts have been placed in glasses of water and sprouted roots. Soft pastel colours add to the magical quality of the work.

Not all Lapierre's compositions are whimsical. In direct contrast to *Three Lonely Hearts* is *Lies...* The artist has superimposed gossamer-textured rice paper over a hand-written script. The rice paper is delicately inlaid with ferns, which are interspersed with miniature portraits of elegant Victorian women. The script describes the artist's painful struggle for self-liberation, written with candour and emotional depth. Consequently, the viewer is moved not only by the visual delicacy of *Lies...*, but also by the compassion.

Her two month stay at the Los Angeles Women's Centre last summer was a turning point for Lapierre. Funded by an Ontario Arts Council grant, she attended workshops created to provide instruction and guidance for women in the arts. It was in Los Angeles that Lapierre began to explore the question of a specific female sensibility in art.

Another major influence was Judy Chicago's book *Through the Flower — My struggle as a woman artist*. Chicago, with two other artists, started Woman House, out of which evolved the expanded Women Centre. In the feminist studio workshops, women work collectively. As a result, prejudices break down, when co-operation, not competition, becomes essential.

Exploring the feminist role, Lapierre evolved her own philosophy: "If I don't trust my own perceptions, how can I create my own artistic visions? I want to understand the contemporary woman's role. All along, we've been dealing with our social conditions. We must go beyond the negative aspects, and solve the problem."

Of her work, Lapierre says "I don't want to create a perfectly executed composition which is devoid of meaning." A year ago, she decided to paint full-time. Since then, she has had successful showings in Los Angeles and recently, at the York Gallery. Her imaginative insight and flair for her medium have earned enthusiastic responses from critics. At the age of 30, Lapierre has successfully established her artistic identity.



Wendy Tighe

Lapierre — changing concepts and innovative forms.

WIZARDS:

Comic Book S & M

by Dawn Amott

Wizards, described as "an epic fantasy of peace and magic", is a full-length cartoon about war and technology. Ralph Bakshi, of Fritz the Cat fame or notoriety, by the simple expedient of having had our world destroyed by mutation and deformity causing nuclear blasts in the remote past, is able logically to combine all possible horror/adventure comic book characters in one time and place. Set far in the future, the world of the film has monsters of all kinds, fairies of all kinds, hideously deformed human beings, and remnants of aggressive and inevitably macho human tribes such as Vikings.

While the earth generally seems rather different from what it does now, things are much the

same for women. They are still, alas, regarded as property and tend to keep a low profile. Princess Eleanor, the Queen-to-be of Fairyland, is different. Scantly clad, voluptuous and petulant, she keeps a profile only slightly less high than her bustline. She is much indulged by her menfolk, but steps out of line on a couple of occasions and finds herself, on the first, shackled at all four corners to some kind of whipping frame and, on the second, cowering and cringing before the threatened blows of her protector. It is all comic book S&M and is rather what one would expect in the Fritz the Cat world of definitions.

The film is about gods and heroes, and it is based on one of the oldest and most powerful myths in the world, the struggle between the powers of light and those of darkness. It therefore

does merit the term of epic. A certain queen of the fairies, not Eleanor, gives birth to twins, sons, of course. One is a child of light and love who grows up drinking Scotch and looking a lot like any one of the Seven Dwarfs.

The other, a mutation with no more than shreds of flesh clinging to the bones of his arms, is all bad. He leaves Fairyland at the first opportunity and goes to rally the monsters and mutants to his cause, which, familiarly enough, is to rule the world.

Battles ensue. The mutants ought to have won because they were big on technology, and the fairies were armed only with bows and arrows. For some reason, the film presents these as not being real weapons at all, rather than as weapons at a less advanced stage of technology, but it makes no difference because the



fairies always won. The mutants, it seems, got fed up and went home almost immediately battle had commenced.

Then things change. Unknown to Avatar, the good wizard, his wicked brother has found a way of projecting scenes from Hitler's Germany on to the sky. In time of battle, just as the mutants are losing interest, an awe-inspiring, if terrifying, *son et lumiere* display of Nuremberg rallies, Deutschland Uber Alles and so on stimulates them to return to the fray. For reasons which remain obscure, it has the opposite effect on the armies of light who become paralysed with bewilderment and fear. It looks as if, in this bitter and ultimate battle, the powers of darkness will win.

Avatar, in one last desperate attempt, rides into his brother's territory and succeeds in defeating him man to man — not by superior display of magic, nor by that good old American standby, the handgun. By shooting him through the heart, Avatar has restored peace and prosperity to that brave new world.

The ending to the film may be supposed to be funny. If so, one wonders why it so pretentiously claims to be about peace. Visually, however, it is all very impressive.

When a woman artist positively identifies herself to us through her work, she commits a courageous act of self exposure, because her contribution has neither spoken to nor been understood by the mainstream of the culture, and the content of her art has been bypassed by interpretations which could not reveal it. Thus a woman's saying, 'I am, I know myself, and I feel a fundamental optimism — a grasp upon my own survival as a model for human survival', is saying something which challenges the prevailing world view. If consciousness is the content of feminist art, this level of human responsibility and hope is the content of consciousness.

Arlene Raven

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Belle Starr Band Exhilarating

by Dorothy Elias

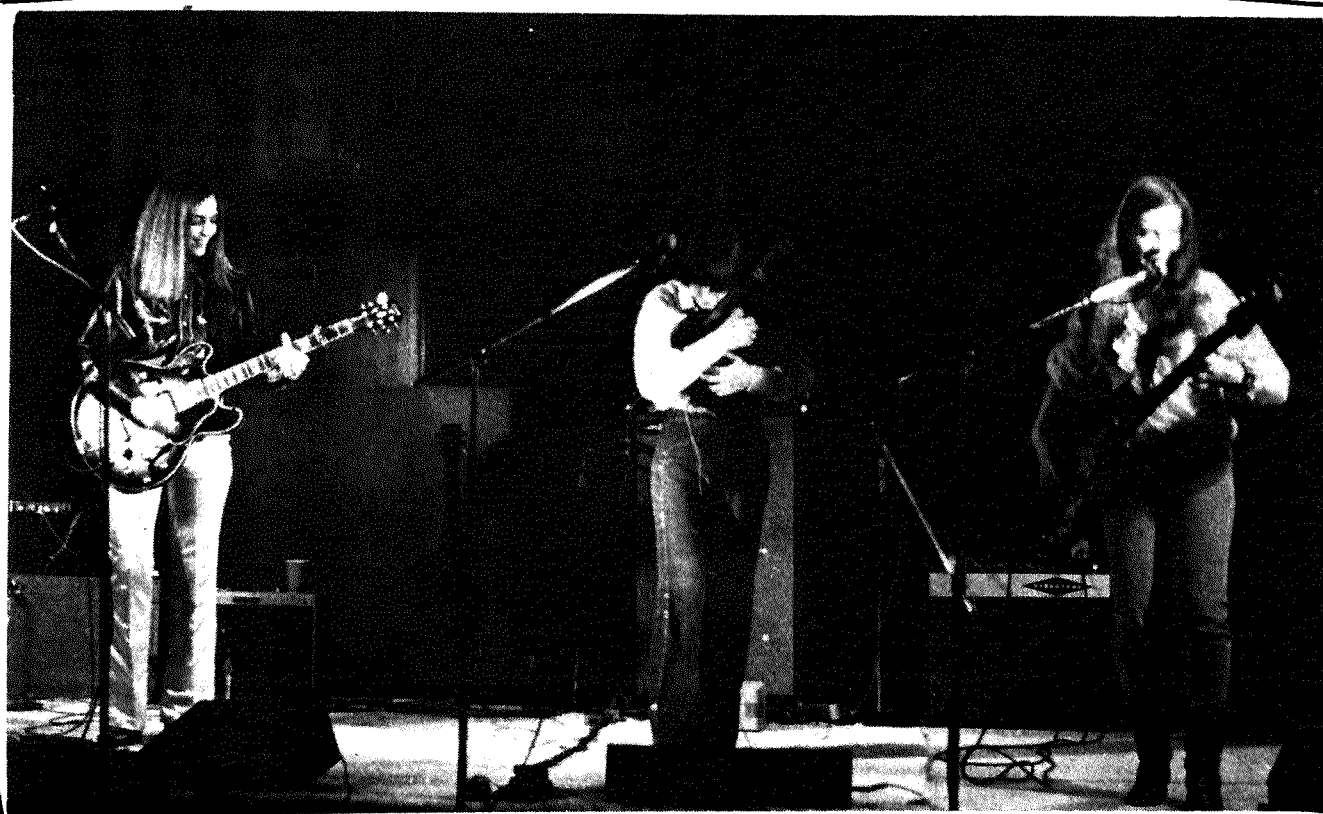
Some concerts provide the audience with the opportunity to hear their favourite performer or music. Others, notably the Woodstock Music Festival of the late sixties do much more than this. They foster an atmosphere in which the individual members of the audience are drawn together by the shared musical experience, but also find a rapport with each other that extends beyond the confines of the concert hall. At Woodstock, the much-touted qualities of the "Age of Aquarius" were manifest in the exhilarating sense of unity and universal peace.

A concert by the Belle Starr Band held at Carleton University recently achieved a similar effect, though on a much smaller scale and with a clearly specified political direction. Billed as "An Evening of Women's Music", the concert proved to be a strongly feminist experience on several levels — all of them exhilarating. Music by and about women, performed for an all-women audience by 3 highly talented and versatile women couldn't be anything but the source of a palpable sense of community and shared purpose. For many women in the audience, the concert provided a unique experience. Here was feminism come alive — off the pages of countless books and into the world of actual events and impressions.

The concert was divided into the standard two sets, with the first half devoted primarily to songs by Casse Culver, the lead vocalist of the group. "Three Gypsies" and "Good Old Dora", two of her most famous songs, are indicative of the variety in her music and lyrics. "Three Gypsies", the title cut from Casse's album, is an introspective and lyrical self-analysis, while "Good Old Dora" is a lively song of exultation with a rousing sing-along chorus. Other songs of the set dealt with love (what else?), an old woman, the freedom of the road, and the political implications of prostitution (Don't put her down, you helped put her there).

The second half of the concert was for dancing. The music of this set showed the influence of Deadly Nightshade, a women's rock band, two of whose members, Helen Hooke on lead guitar and fiddle and Pamela Brandt on bass, now make up the rest of the Belle Starr Band. The set was divided fairly evenly between early sixties rock 'n roll and foot-tapping country music. Helen's fiddling was the backbone of the set, and kept most of the audience hopping. The atmosphere of the second set of the concert was vibrant and alive with the sense of sheer enjoyment that is all too often out of place in the more political arena of the women's movement.

In this sense, the Belle Starr Band concert was more than an evening of fine music. It was evidence that women together are strong, and that we in Ottawa have just begun to experience and understand the importance of creating and sharing our own culture.



Alisa Photography

The Belle Starr Band: Helen Hooke, Casse Culver, and Pamela Brandt.

Casanova: a Vapid Monstrosity

by Martha Lemieux

In *Casanova*, Federico Fellini gives us a humourless and pious sermon on sin and decadence. In several of his earlier films, most notably *La Dolce Vita* and *Satyricon* we were exposed to variations on this same theme. However they were executed with greater panache and some comic relief was provided. Fellini on this occasion has created a masterpiece of boredom. Perhaps this was his intention? His main lesson, sex without love which ultimately leads to exhaustion and a lonely old age, is over worked to the point of being stylized.

We are warned about this deadly vice for three solid hours

in a surrealistic fashion. We traverse through fantastic sexual fantasies: a fornication contest, an encounter with a lascivious nun and ultimately copulation with a life-size wooden puppet.

That we can tolerate this film for three hours is largely due to the dazzling production design. Here Fellini and Danilo Donati display artistic genius. Our eyes are accosted constantly with fantastic images starting with the carnival scene and ending with the image of Casanova dancing across the ice on the Grand Canal with a life-size doll. All the sets are artificial and are eye-popping creations. The landscape is as barren and ugly as the interior landscape travelled by Cananova himself.

Fellini's baroque treatment of the settings, costumes and wigs matches magnificently the artificiality and shallowness of the emotions displayed. In fact both converged in the final scene where Cananova becomes as wooden as the puppet with which he dances.

Donald Sutherland is cast in the leading role. His facial features have been re-ordered to suit Fellini's vision of Casanova. However, when he opens his mouth he sounds like a Bay Street banker and this contrast

proves to be terribly irritating. Even in the acts of copulation Sutherland gives the impression that he is in a YMCA gymnasium doing push-ups. When he makes love to the wooden doll in the denouement of the film, the impact is lost; all the passion that preceded this was too mechanical.

As the film draws to a close, one is dismayed by the fact that a man of Fellini's stature has wasted so much energy in creating this vapid monstrosity.

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Send me tulips



Send me tulips
for when I wake
from the ding-a-ding ding ding
of the bell gonna swallow me up

She waits on the windowsill
getting older
Something about losing her shadow
about the dots moving on the floor
too quickly

She waits in silk
smoking by the glass
From the clothesline
an empty sleeve
waves at her

Send me tulips
for when I wake
And give me back my morning
give it back.

-Susan Dambroff

LITERARY



No one watches

Awkward
my body
rolls itself out
Like in high school
locker rooms
trying to slip on my gym suit
without taking off my shirt
This time
no one watches
the curtains draw dull light
around me
With my brown body
shy by the mirror
I sneak a glance
at my breasts
the left is smaller than the right
My hands fall across my belly
it seems to hang all over me.
I pull my flesh
with my eyes
till I am a picture
of a tall lean woman
neatly carved
wearing herself
pink.
And when I find myself again
still standing
uncovered
unfolded
in the light
I pull the blanket
over me
and allow
my cautious hands
a touch

-Susan Dambroff



Looney Tunes

Oh hail Minnie full of grace blessed art thou among
Women

What I want
to know is how you Minnie Mouse
tap-tapping
in your clog dancing heels
kept such a
super-star like Mickey
in your grip.

Minnie mounts the piano, faces the spot, and sings:

I keep my figure slim
keep my flower on my hat well-watered
keep my lipstick in a grin
and at night:
I untie Mick's tail
from my waist
and slip away to entertain
the cat with gold eyes
with my tap-tap dancing
Out-back-down-step-change
and one more time
No super-star me
Just a hoofer
in a red skirt short
to please the crowds
and keep the cat from our door.
Now down off the piano,
off the spot
in the dark Minnie says
Don't tell Mickey about the cat
He'd just have to punch him in the whiskers
to prove he could
And then where'd we be

(Flash fang, precision claw
Mick's bowels splashed)

Me left with this dark
warm mouse hole alone.
We don't speak of old gold eyes,
but Mick guesses who
keeps him amused
and away from our door
to save this soft moist hole of
mine.

P-p-petunia be m-m-mine
I'm th-th-thine.
Petunia powders her pout in the mirror.
P-p-petunia, you're mine
Petunia kisses her snout in the mirror.
"I'm mine.
That's all folks."

Lead on Little Lulu
lead on — smash
the "Boys Only" club h
just like Sister Carrie w
The boys aren't thi
Only just drinking
And it's time to stop the
and deal Lulu in.

Lead on Little Lulu sm
the Boys' only club h
and in its place
raise a circus tent that p
like a parachute
floating down to earth
dropping bundles to th
Pay your clowns the sa
whether they please or i
And anybody who want
can walk the rope and f

Hello Daisy
This is Minnie
Mickey's left me
After all these years

Poor dear. Nothing
but a rat
he is
I'd give him
a few quacks
I would. Make him i
may through the tail.
We'll start a new life, s

I Can't swim.

You've got to help your
No one likes a loser.

Well thanks for the tal

Anytime, say what are
going to do now?

Oh I'll pack up my tap
Won't need them now
Walk out the opening c

Chat with the Cat
No need to entertain ol
gold-eyes now.

And I'll take my blesse
damp hole with me
saved for me alone.

Joan Goodreau



Lulu
ash
y" club house
Carrie with an axe.
aren't thinking
drinking
to stop the game
in.
Lulu smash
club house
e
lent that puffs
te
to earth
dles to the waiting crowd.
ns the same
please or not
who wants to risk the fall
ope and fly the trapeze.

ne
years
thing

him:
he tail.
ew life, swim a lot

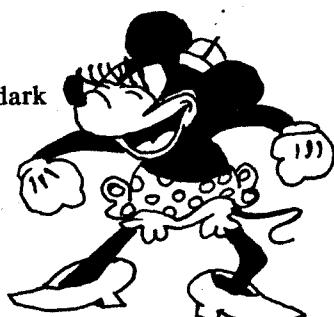
help yourself.
loser.

or the talk.
what are you
w?

p my tap shoes
em now
opening of my hole

Cat
ertain old
now.
my blessed dark
th me
lone.

reau



Carnival day

raisin-faces
jiggle old jaws set
eighty years hard
this year's afro
grows from heads
fast balding
some faggot
holds his fruit
tight
in those
nice-cut
get-me-later-in-the-park
jeans

no fruit
this one's tasting
too sour-slimy
with those juices
everything's clear
on first day
spring carnival

old hawkers
on the street
selling
what you can't see
for only a dollar

those civil servants
wandering lost
through old rubby bodies
their fruit
never ripens

no one hears
this song
this fruit
spreading warm
and sweet
under pale blue light
catching those rays
breaking golden
off corn silk hairs

no one hears
this song
all the dykes
and in netherland
and my song
is hit
by this rust salt world
breaking
black powder

answers these
red lung words
unspoken

won't you take
just a chorus
a line
my sharp hooks
pierce your shell

but the rides
spin on
the coloured lady dances
the crowd looks
only backs and hats
dead peach pits
rattle
in those cotton-candy
heads
staring orphan annie
sending death
on this first carnival
spring to the rhythm
blind day chorus
echoing flat

kate middleton

Wednesday night

I watched a baseball game
the other night
not being an aficionado,
I found the whole thing
quite amusing.

The manager and the ump
were standing
nose to nose
in some inverted mating ritual
I'm sure.

Nothing happened
just a few manly obscenities
mouthed before millions
eventually
I fell asleep.

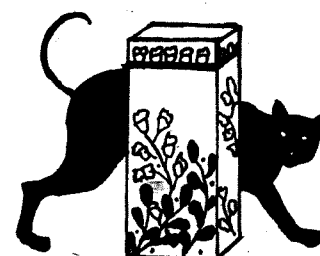
-Susan Bristow

Cat

I searched in vain
for a Grenache box
for you,

So you do a vanishing act
into the little Bick's
box I came home with,
one ear cocked,
periscopically, to catch
the strains of feline
inspiration.

Kathryn Murphy



Sleep

Singing myself to sleep

Too old to hold anymore,
I'm no longer running
with blood down my hair
from the cop's club.

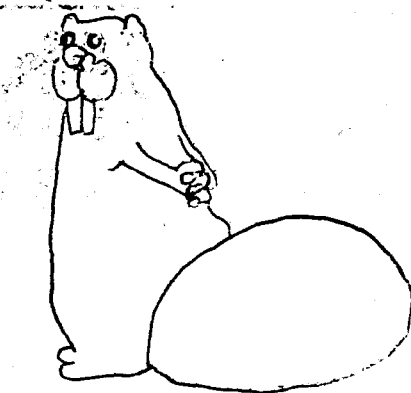
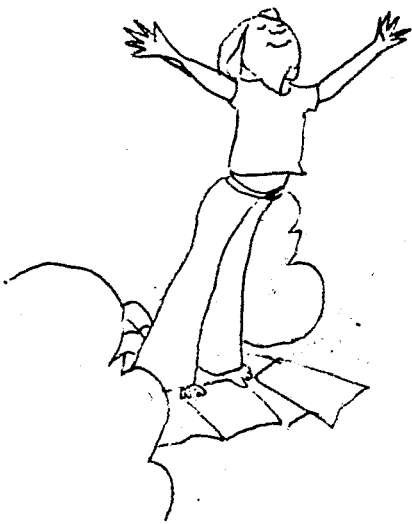
These days I'm transplanting
into new pots
spider leaves,
macramé dream nets
entrap my hands.

I paint my lips 70's style.
I cross arms around my shoulders,
hug myself until my fingers
meet behind my back
hug myself until my fingers
meet behind my back.
Hands in hand-cuffs
no longer reach out
too old to hold anymore

I sing myself to sleep.

Joan Goodreau

Book Adventures



by Joan Goodreau

One of the most common themes in children's literature is the theme of the run-a-way who returns home sorry, but wiser, and promises never to leave again. With the expanding feminist publications, this theme is being ignored, modified, and even reversed.

Look at any book counter in a large store. There are always several books about the misadventures of a little girl or animal (kitten, chick, turtle) who wants to see the world outside her own house or barnyard.

These travels, however, are always doomed. The girl gets scared, the chick gets cold, or the kittens get lost. They return home to scolding mothers who forgive them if they promise never to stray again. Promise they do, and they are poor examples to young readers of what happens to you if you break away from your own community and routine to find out what the rest of the world is like.

Besides breaking down sex stereotypes, the Canadian Women's Educational Press is also breaking down the myth of the prodigal daughter.

In *Mandy and the Flying Map*, Mandy just flies over the trite run-a-way plot. She wants to take a trip on her magic map, and enjoys the entire trip while she refuses to be "rescued" by well-meaning adults. She returns home when she wants to, not because she has to.

Far from being discouraged by her adventure into staying timidly at home, Mandy is planning another trip at the end of the book.

The *Travels of Ms. Beaver* tells about the exciting things Ms. Beaver does "when she had a wandering in her." She forsakes her Ontario lake home and family and joins the hustle and bustle of a Toronto park. She even helps out by building a dam and creating a lake for people to enjoy.

After all this, she is not content. At the end of most animal adventures, the main character gets home-sick and decides that home is the best place after all. The bird returns to her nest, lion cub to the jungle, the calf to the barnyard, the pig to the mud. But not Ms. Beaver. She's not restless for home, but for new adventures and places. So at the end, she's leaving her friends in Riverdale.

"Where are you going" they all asked.

"This time" she answered, "I'm off to see the world."

The reader hopes that there will be another adventure for Ms. Beaver and another flight for Mandy published soon by the Women's Press.

Survivors and Small Ceremonies



with Carol Shields

interview with carol shields
by Lucie Sawczenko
and Claire Harrison

I wanted to write about a survivor, a woman who didn't have a nervous breakdown, someone who lived an average life, got a cold and had the flu."

- Carol Shields, Ottawa author

Like heroine, like author — Carol Shields is herself a survivor and a successful one. She is a novelist, poetess and short-story writer as well as wife of Prof. D. Shields and mother of 5

children ranging in age from 9 to 18. Having recently completed her M.A. in English at the University of Ottawa, she now teaches a course in Creative Writing there, and is working towards a Ph.D.

Carol Shields is a delicate, soft-spoken woman in her 40's. We met in her home, a large, pleasant house on the Driveway, to discuss her background, her works and her ambitions. Her career as an author has been a slow but steady success story in keeping with her air of calmness.

But, surprisingly, like an actor before a performance, she finds each blank sheet a cause for stage fright. "The first few minutes of writing are frightening," she says. "When I'm writing I wrote daily and try to do 1 or 2 hours before lunch to get myself over the hurdles —

Although interested in writing from an early age, Carol Shields' career as author did not get underway until completion of a B.A. in English at Hanover College in Indiana, marriage to Canadian D. Shields, and the birth of her first child, Robert.

Her first publication caught her by surprise. After taking a creative writing course at the University of Toronto, she and her family moved to England. There, she discovered her former teacher had sold one of Shields' short stories to the CBC.

While her family grew by two more children, her literary productivity was slow. "In retrospect," she says, "during this time of my life my energies were more involved with small children than writing."

She did, however, become interested in poetry, and was particularly influenced by the work of the English poet, Philip Larkin. "He uses language with wit and a certain toughness that I like," she states. "There is a total lack of sentimentality. He is a despairing poet, very cynical, and yet, there is a surging optimism beneath this despair."

This optimism as well as the occasional toughness is characteristic of Carol Shields herself and is reflected in her writing. Her style combines a quiet humour, a thrifty turn-of-phrase and an introspective view of everyday life.

When her family returned to Canada, she entered a CBC Young Writer's Competition in 1965 and was one of the winners. Short stories and poetry occupied her creative time. She had also begun work on her M.A. and her family had increased to 5 children.

As Shields developed her own style, she set herself a goal to write 100 poems and eventually these were published by Borealis Press of Ottawa in two volumes; *Others*, 1972 and *Intersect*, 1974, both well received by critics. The

poems are short and compact with striking images of family, friends and daily occurrences.

In the early '70's Carol Shields decided to try a novel. her first effort, although unpublished, gave her valuable experience for the second one. *Small Ceremonies*, published in 1975 by McGraw-Hill Ryerson, Ltd., was selected Book-of-the-Month Club Alternate in the summer of 1976, and was well received here, in Great Britain and the United States. A Bantam paperback edition of the novel is to be released later this year.

Small Ceremonies is the story of 8 months, September-April, in the life of author-biographer, Judith Gill, wife of English professor Martin Gill, and mother of two teen-age children. As the "clockwork" pattern of Judith's life unfolds, the novel portrays the complex relationships of her family and friends.

"Nurtured on the jointed avenues of Scarborough," a Toronto suburb, Judith's greatest fear as a child was that her boring childhood would never end. How living in her own suburban home with Eaton furnishings, she is faced with a gnawing doubt and guilt as to whether she is truly successful as wife, mother, person and author. From time to time depression afflicts her as she ponders over her pleasant yet unimaginative and predictable existence.

The novel is about the "watchers" — for Judith is a watcher, a full-time voyeur of life. Carol Shields originally entitled her book *Privileged Children*. These words, taken from Al Purdy's poem, "Observing Persons," represent the spectators, who although caught up in the curiosity and mystery of life, remain outsiders. They choose not to participate and yet their lives are enriched by what they observe.

The book is also about the small ceremonies of life — the daily rituals that we all depend upon to varying degrees. As Shields states, "There's a lot of sustenance in daily ritual. It glues us together to a certain extent although it can become tedious. It's very subtle where ritual begins to enclose you. But on the whole, I think it is meaningful to have islands of safety."

Although Carol Shields denies that Judith is based on herself, there are similarities between author and heroine. Both are writers, wives of professors, and conscientious mothers. Both are interested in the 19th century Canadian author, Susannah Moodie — the subject of Judith's biography and the topic of Shields' M.A. thesis. And as Shields herself freely admits, both she and Judith are watchers and probers.

Small Ceremonies is a well thought-out and tightly-written novel. Only twelve words were changed by the editors. Serene and cerebral, it is enlivened with a wry humour and vivid imagery. The style is reminiscent of her earlier poems.

Although writing poetry was once very important for Shields she now finds novel writing much more satisfying. "A novel is such a big, loose form to wander around in," she says. "There is so much room for experimentation." She has already completed a second novel which will be available from McGraw-Hill August 20th of this year.

The Box Garden, the title of this second novel, is the story of Judith Gills sister, Charleen. She is a divorced woman, who goes back in her life to patch up old relationships and take on new, riskier ones. "The book is about what I think is important," says Shields, "8 that most people need one continuous, meaningful relationship."

Although Shields has not written anything new for over a year, a third novel is now under way. She intends to take a break from studying and teaching and devote the coming year to writing.

When questioned about her preferences in Canadian authors, she said that she enjoyed Margaret Laurence, Alice Munroe, and especially the humour of Robertson Davies and Richard Wright. "They're all careful writers and I appreciate that," she says.

Carol Shields is herself a very careful writer. She is also a careful person, a private person and like her heroine, Judith, prefers to listen rather than disclose her personal thoughts. "Sometimes," she says, "there is too much communication."

An interview with: Dorothy Livesay

by Betsy Struthers

Dorothy Livesay was born in 1909 in Winnipeg. Her first book of poetry, *The Green Pitcher*, was published in 1928; her latest book, *Ice Age*, appeared last year. In between are 13 volumes of poetry, including *Collected Poetry: The Two Seasons*, one book of memoirs, *A Winnipeg Childhood*. As well, Livesay has edited two collections of women's poetry: *40 Women Poets of Canada*, published in 1972, and *Woman's Eye*, in 1974. She received the Governor General's award for poetry in 1944 for *Day and Night* and again in 1947 for *Poems for People*. In 1947 she was awarded the Lorne Pierce medal for her significant contribution to Canadian literature.

At present, Livesay is Writer in Residence at the University of Ottawa. She is also editor of a quarterly magazine of poetry and criticism called *CV II*.

PART I: EARLY LIFE & THE THIRTIES

When you were young, did you plan to become a poet?

I began writing as a child, telling stories to my mother, who was a writer, and my father, who was a journalist. So it never became an issue at all, everyone in the family seemed to be writing and I wrote too.

Did you expect to be publishing books when you grew up?

No, I don't think this ever occurred to me. When I got to be 12 or 13, going to high school, my mother discovered some of my poems which I'd been writing more or less to myself but sometimes to a close friend at school. She sent them off to the Vancouver Province and they published one or two. I got a cheque for \$2 for the first one when I was 13 and I suppose that gave me the idea you could earn a living by poetry. By the time I was 19 I had enough poems that my parents thought they'd show them to Macmillans who agreed to publish them. The book got good reviews in the newspapers and I was hailed as a coming young bud. So then I had another one ready which the Macmillans took without any interference from parents. But by this time, I'd gone to France as a graduate student and got involved with politics, unemployment, fascism, and the anti-war movement. I was not really interested at all in the second book.

That was *Signpost*?

Yes. Published in 1932. It had all been written by a different self.

Were you in Paris at the time of Joyce, Hemingway, and all the rest?

No, the twenties had passed. We didn't meet any of those people — they'd all gone home, I think. We knew a totally different crowd of French writers whom we went to hear and listen to, like Henri Barbusse's League of Revolutionary Writers. We were far too unknown, just students busy at the library. No, I had none of the life Morley Callaghan describes and also Glassco.

When you returned to Canada, you studied social work?

When I came back there were no jobs for people who knew French and Italian and that was

all I had to offer. No one would dream of saying, come on do an M.A. and we'll give you a job — none of that! So I decided to go into social work because it would show me the other side of the picture, how people were having to live. Not the well-to-do middle class people I knew and my parents knew, but the other side of the fence.

So it was the year in France that really politicized you?

Yes. Well, we had a professor of economics at U of T who held seminars and informal parties with fourth year students and I was in on that. He was a very delightful, interesting man. He was very pro-Soviet and gave us books to read of all kinds including contemporary poetry — Otto van der Sprekel. He became a famous linguist in Australia but when we knew him he was a Marxist.

I think he sent along the lines so that when several of us went to Paris we were ready for studying the theory of socialism. We read Marx and Engels and so on.

The depression caused your disillusionment with art and the artist's role in society.

Oh yes, very much so. When we got back to Toronto, there were all kinds of activities going on in the cultural field on the left. When eight communists were put in jail in Kingston without proper trial, a play was written by a group of young, unemployed people called *Eight Men Speak*. It described the whole trial and so on in very stark terms and in a kind of Brechtian fashion. This caused great excitement because the mayor banned it, the police banned it in several cities and this only made it of greater interest. A whole movement started of Progressive Arts Clubs and a magazine called "Masses" in which I have things. They've just brought out a book of the plays from that period called *Eight Men Speak — Eight Men Speak and other plays from the Canadian Worker's Theatre*, edited by Richard Wright and Robin Endres, New Hogtown Press, Toronto. I have a little play in it which I wrote for children, a play called "Joe Derry". It's very crude but I didn't mind it being reprinted.

Who were the people who wrote and acted these plays?

We formed an organization across Canada called the Progressive Arts Club and in every city we did cultural things on behalf of the unemployed against war and fascism. What we called "agit prop" — agitational propaganda. The kind of thing the women's movement is doing now. I don't think anyone but the women are doing this sort of thing. The Nellie McClung play is the sort of thing we were doing — satiric and witty.

But then I discovered the whole area of contemporary poetry in England.

The Auden and Spenser revolutionary poetry?

Yes, poetry that was connected with the living political times just as you'd find in Quebec today. Poetry is very political because the times are.



Johanna McDuff

You see then a role for propaganda in art?

Well, it goes in cycles. When the social situation is tense, or there's a war or an enemy or a struggle between classes. All artists have always lined up — I mean, some just retreat but Beethoven or Wagner, or Wordsworth, they were all in these movements at the time. You identify emotionally with what's happening and so, if you're a writer, you write about it. And there were painters painting about it. But more often there were dramatists. I guess the only area we didn't touch was music. We had dance groups though.

I think it's perfectly normal. I object to people who say, "You shouldn't republish your 30's poetry". That's ridiculous. That was a phase of my life and of Canadian life too.

Margaret Atwood doesn't mention you in *SURVIVAL* at all except for one short line.

Yes, Milton Acorn and I just don't exist because we're internationalists, she says, we're not Canadians. If there's anything more ridiculous than my not being Canadian! I've never lived anywhere else for any long period of time and all my poetry is rooted in this geography, this climate, and this history.

Was there other revolutionary poetry being written in the thirties, or was your writing like *DAY AND NIGHT* an exception?

In the forties this poetry of social commitment was being written and satire, very much so. But in Toronto and when I went out west in 1936, there was no tradition like this.

You must have felt very alone then.

Yes, because Raymond Knister had died — he drowned in 1931 — and Robert Finch remained completely out of it. These were the two Toronto poets that I knew. I identified with a group — we started a

writer's group in Vancouver in an old bath house and then developed a whole Progressive Arts Club there so there was a group to whom one read this sort of thing. I was editor of a magazine which started in 1936

— *New Frontier* — so we were all writing for that. Things improved before the war. I helped start *Contemporary Verse* in 1941. But the climate was utterly different in the 40's.

Part II in next issue

i
When she entered into marriage
the gates closed behind
she became a wall within that parish
mainstay against the grind

When it was time, she did produce
a child a nursemaid and a truce
when it was crisis she appeared
a smiling help as electioneer

When she was given a candle flame
she set fire to her gown, her shame:
Now walking naked in the streets
she photographs her innocence.

ii
The gates were wide when she grew tall
there was no sin, no guilt at all
exploring all the city's crimes
she sorted nickels, shuffled dimes

Her heart turned white, her blood ran cold
man wriggled in her finger hold

Margaret and Margaret thinking twice
meet at the gates and throw the dice.

Dorothy Livesay
(Writer-in-Residence
English Department
University of Ottawa)

AN OTTAWA WOMEN'S PUBLICATION

UPSTREAM

25c

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April 1977

The Power of the Long Distance Operator

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ALSO

• Native women's battle for rights

• What is a street hassle?

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