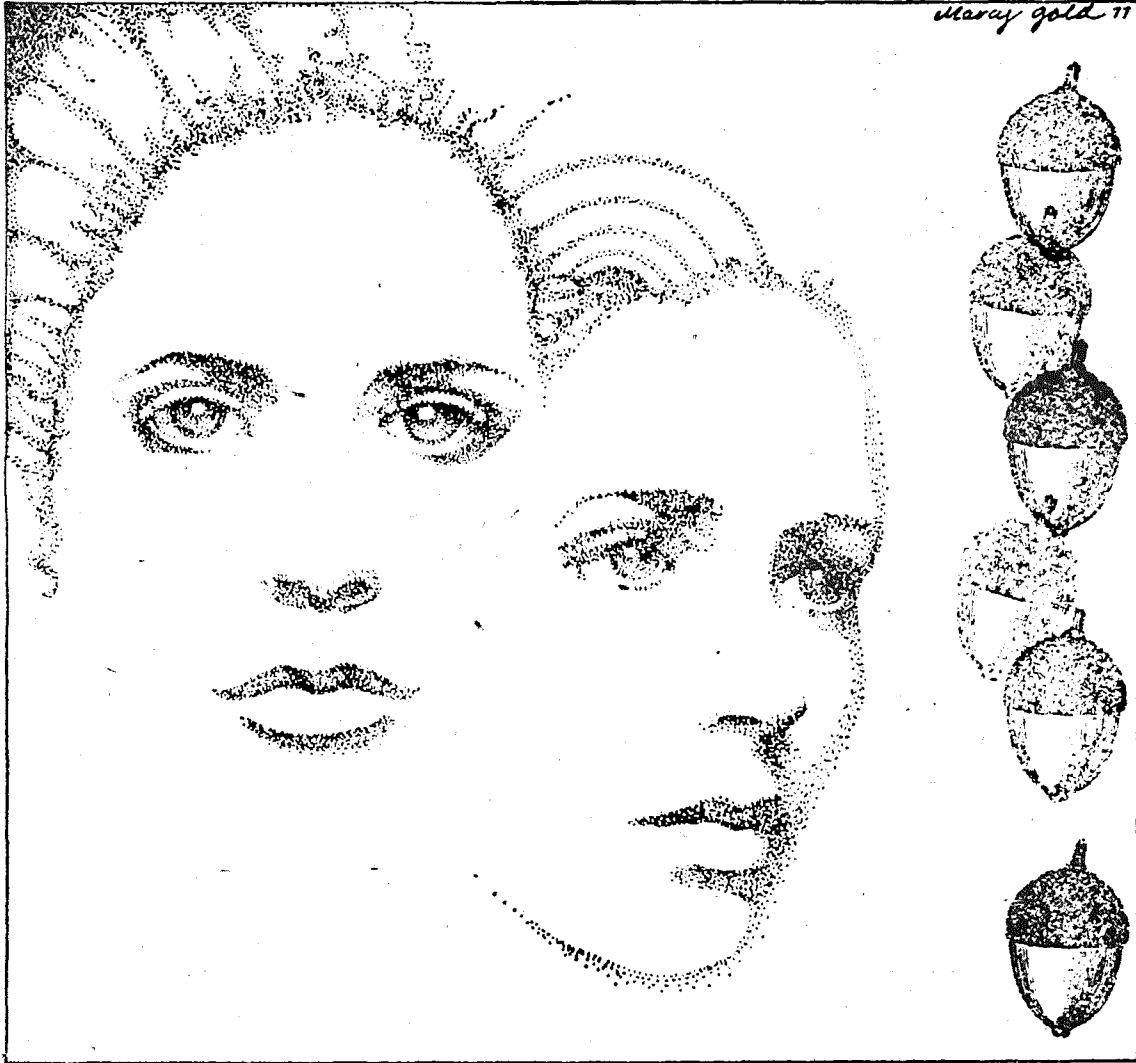


Fostered star mentality, critics say



Marcy Gold

by Pat Daley

Take 50 supposed experts on "Canadian women," \$16,700 from the Secretary of State Women's Programme, and some futuristic thinking and you're supposed to end up with a view of the status of women in the year 2000. But the Western Women's Conference, held in Ottawa at the end of May to plan strategy for the future of the Canadian women's movement, left more than one delegate disappointed.

"The purpose of the conference was to bring together 50 of the top women experts on women from across the country in a think-tank situation to look at the future of women," said conference chairperson Eileen Hendry in an interview from Vancouver.

It was the first national conference organized by the seven-year-old Western Conference Opportunities for Women Committee. The Committee, which is unstructured, without a society or membership, has held three previous conferences in the western region.

"We meet and decide what we think needs to be done next," Hendry said.

Women attending the conference were not representative of groups but were hand-picked by the organizers for their presumed abilities in a think-tank situation. The conference was closed to everyone else.

When word of the conference got out, some local women were disturbed about the structure and the use of government funds.

"We don't think that the Women's Programme should be investing money encouraging a star mentality in a grassroots movement," said Sheila Gilhooly of the Ottawa Women's Centre policy committee. "Even if we should be allowed to share the secret contents of the conference, we are not sure we would feel particularly interested or informed because it represents only the findings of a bunch of middle-management women."

"People can criticize us, but those were the terms of our conference," Hendry said. "We were looking for women who had been in the business of working for women for a number of years and had expertise." She said they were drawn from government, industry, the private sector and women's groups, with an attempt to get someone from every province.

"If other women want to put on a conference that's representative, they can do what we did." What they did was get a grant of \$16,700 from the Secretary of State Women's Programme.

Hendry said discussion on the most recent gathering started "well over a year ago" when they realized that the United Nations decade for women was coming up and "a new initiative needed to come up."

There was a fear, she said, that because women have too much work to do on a daily basis — getting caught up in issues like day care and rape — that "unless we start imagining what life is going to be like in the year 2000 we might get left behind."

Women's Programme director Sue Findlay said she wasn't bothered that women attending the conference were not representative of women and women's groups in Canada.

"They were invited on the basis

of their long term involvement, particularly in the areas of planning and policy making," she said. "That's why it included quite a few women from provincial governments and advisory councils."

"I think there's room for both kinds of conferences. It depends on what you want to accomplish. The Western Conference group wanted it closed to have it as a working session."

Although Findlay attended the conference, she would not discuss it saying, "It's not up to us to comment on whether the money was used effectively."

In fact, finding out exactly what went on at the conference was almost impossible. Monica Townson, chairperson of the federal Advisory Council on the Status of Women, joined Findlay in not commenting.

When asked what was decided, Eileen Hendry said she didn't feel she could answer "because there might have been 80 items that were all important and we didn't have time to make them priority issues."

Stating that "the implication that Canadian women's lives are being planned is too grandiose an idea," she said no policy was decided.

"What we tried to get to was strategies to get it done. We'll have to wait until we sift through mounds of material to see if there was a new direction."

She said a report on the conference is being written and will be made public so women can learn about the process of a conference that was not organized by government or anyone else but women.

"What was new was that this was a conference put on by women for their own initiative. Instead of looking at the result of the conference, look at the whole concept." But the search for results continued.

Nola Landucci of Ottawa said she found the conference disappointing.

"I was on a personal and on a feminist level really pleased to see a lot of people that I know and meet, a lot of people whose work I was impressed with," she said. There appeared to be a consensus on the strategies to take, but "I was very disappointed that it didn't seem able to bring it together."

Stating that she thought many women left the conference feeling frustrated, Landucci said, "I don't think that there will be much come of it. On an individual basis, great things could come of it. But I don't expect that an awful lot will come of the conference. It wasn't really able to harness those people and their commitment into any long term stuff."

Another word on the Western Women's Conference comes from Esther Shannon, active in many feminist services in Ottawa. "Eileen Hendry says we should be glad that women are initiating these things. Indeed we can be glad. But it is worth considering that if the output of this initiation is denied to women as a whole then we are in a peculiar situation. We find ourselves running about full of gladness, yet we are without the least idea in the world of why we are glad, or to what ends our gladness serves, or whether we should indeed be glad, or maybe gladder, or perhaps even gladdest!"

UPSTREAM

JULY 1978

Feds should cancel bank note contract, CLC v-p says

CLC Executive Vice-President, Shirley Carr said last month she would press the federal government to cancel its contract with the British American Bank Note Company after an arbitrator decided against 24 women who had fought a landmark equal pay strike against the company.

Under the new federal human rights legislation, the government can terminate contracts with any company refusing to give women equal pay for work of equal value.

The women, members of local 31 of the Ottawa Steel Plate Feeders and Examiners Union, struck the company last year demanding salaries which reflected their skills. They are employed as examiners to detect flaws in the printing process, a job reserved for women only.

Under their old contract, the women were held to a maximum \$5 per hour, while male floor sweepers could earn up to \$6.46 per hour.

The union, after conducting its own job evaluation study, proposed a wage hike to allow the women \$8.81 an hour. The women agreed to end the strike and submit their demands to compulsory arbitration last December.

The arbitrator, Owen Shime, blamed the union for losing the arbitration, since, he said, the union had signed earlier contracts which kept the examiners' maximum wage below the floorboys. Shime awarded the women the

13 per cent increase contained in the company's final offer, but the Local said it may still appeal the decision.

Carr criticized the Ontario labour ministry for not living up to the spirit of its Employment

Standards Act. The ministry had claimed the Act did not apply to the bank note examiners since there were no men doing the same job.

reprinted from *Canadian Labour Comment* June 16, 1978.

New coalition plans pro-choice demo

The newly formed Ottawa Coalition to Fight Sexism and Sexual Repression in its first political action is organizing a demonstration at the "Birthright Celebration" June 27, 7:30pm at 75 Laurier East in Ottawa.

The organization of different community groups came together in April to plan a strategy for protesting Anita Bryant's planned visit to Ottawa.

When Bryant cancelled, the coalition decided to stay together and organize around other issues or events that promote sexism and sexual repression.

The anti-abortion organization Birthright in conjunction with its counterpart Actionlife will be celebrating their six years of service to the Ottawa community.

In a flyer advertising the demonstration, the coalition expressed its concern about growing conservative forces threatening legal rights for women wanting abortions.

The flyer refers to the recent decision of the Canadian Medical Association to allow doctors to

refuse a woman an abortion referral. Until recently, doctors who did not want to perform abortions were compelled to give referrals.

Another threat to abortion rights referred to is the appointment of Ottawa lawyer, David Dehler as "advocate of the unborn" at the Civic and Riverside hospitals. Dehler is now asking the Ontario Supreme Court to prevent these hospitals from offering any more abortions on the grounds that the fetus has no opportunity to be heard.

"Women should have the right to choose," the flyer states. "The fact that they don't illustrates that humans in our society are not allowed to control their own lives, both sexually and economically.... We believe in a non-sexist, non-homophobic society organized around equality and human needs instead of around sexism and economic exploitation."

The Coalition invites anyone interested in joining the group to attend the next meeting July 13, 8pm at 378 Elgin Street.

"We need a union"

Nurses Strike at Washington Hospital Center; First Nurse Strike in D.C.

by Elizabeth Brady,
Peter Gribbin and Teddy Price
Liberation News Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. (LNS)—"We need a union," striking nurse Betsy Mewshaw told LNS, "because otherwise we couldn't really talk to them with any real power. It's basically an issue of who controls us, the administration or us. It's about time we have control."

On Saturday, May 17, nurses at the Washington Hospital Center (WHC)—the area's largest private hospital—went on strike. Their key demand is for a closed union shop, meaning the administration would recognize their union and all workers would be required to join it.

Although negotiations had been continuing for almost a year and a half, the nurses finally decided to strike when the administration withdrew recognition of the nurses' bargaining agent, the D.C. Nurses Association. The administration's claim that the D.C.N.A. is not representative of the nurses flies in the face of a recent vote showing the nurses' overwhelming support for the D.C.N.A. by a 147 to 47 margin. The state chapters of the American Nurses Association have negotiated contracts for about 100,000 of the country's 1.1 million registered nurses.

The striking nurses, who have been picketing the hospital center around the clock since the strike began, initially thought they would be on strike for just a few days. But they quickly learned that the hospital administrators were adamantly opposed to meeting any of their demands.

"We were pretty naive about it when we first walked out," said one nurse on the picket line. "We thought they would lose money and we would be out only a few days. But now we realize how much money they do have."

"Last year they made a \$1.4 million profit and they're projecting to make as much this year...so they can afford to hold out and that is what they are doing."

Additional Demands

Other demands—all intricately connected to the nurses insistence on a union shop—revolve around the poor working conditions at the hospital.

- The nurses are demanding permanent work shift assignments with preferences given on the basis of seniority. The current staggered, rotating schedule which arbitrarily assigns nurses to a night shift one week and a day shift the next has been a major cause for the ailing physical condition of many nurses. And as a consequence, argue the nurses, the quality of health care at the hospital has deteriorated significantly.

- The union has demanded that maternity leave, which the administration has granted at its own discretion, be a right of all nurses. At present, a nurse stands to be terminated the day after she leaves to have her baby.

- The nurses want a recourse to complaints issued by supervisory nurses who have been staffing offices and are unfamiliar with what takes place on the hospital floor from day to day. The nurses are demanding the right to appeal performance evaluations to an outside arbitrator. A progressive alternative that many nurses described to LNS was the peer evaluation.

Running throughout all these demands is a common theme that better working conditions will further their goal of better health care.

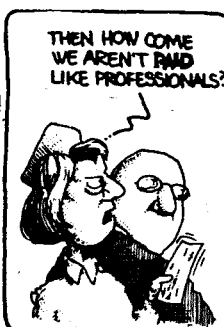
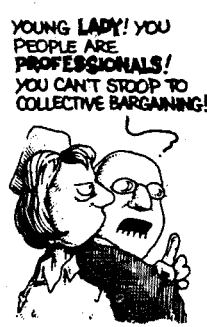
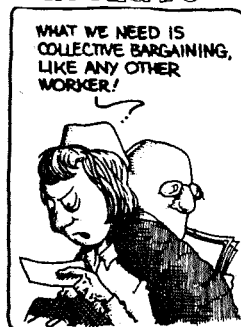
Administrative Intransigence

But the administration has not budged. Richard M. Loughery, head administrator at the W.H.C., says that all of the above demands were previously settled. Anne Hartzell, spokesperson for the striking nurses, has called Loughery's statement a gross "distortion."

According to nurses on the picket line, this is just one of several distortions the administration has given to the press to mask the effect the nurses' strike is having on the W.H.C.

Chief among the administration's tactics is its report that out of the approximately 125 nurses on the day shift, 97 stayed out and 28 reported in-to work. Thus they claim that only about 60 percent of the nurses support the strike. What the administration does not say, however, is that of these 28, 22 are either supervisory nurses who side with the administration and

WHITCAPS



would not strike anyway or temporary nurses hired from anyone of a number of private agencies. All told, close to 400 of the 525 registered nurses support the strike.

Another distortion centers around the economic effect of the strike. W.H.C. administrators have minimized this aspect. But eventually, the virtual halt in the lucrative area of surgery may force doctors to put pressure on the administration to give in to the nurses' demands. The center is now operating at less than 50 percent capacity; the 911-bed hospital center has only about 350 patients.

The administration has also attempted to turn people against the striking nurses by circulating misinformation about the effects of the strike. The administration claimed, for instance, on television news that if strikers' demands were met, the hospital would be forced to charge patients an additional \$13 to \$15 per day.

"What the hospital said about the \$13 to \$15 per day increase in patient cost is a bunch of melarky," said one angry nurse. "The hospital is trying to get the public on its side and wants them to think, 'oh those bad nurses are trying to hurt the patients.'" Moreover, an economist aiding the striking nurses stated that the projected cost increase would amount to no more than 17 cents per day.

But the administration's opposition to the nurses' demands does not stop here. It was learned on June 2 that the administration is attempting to blacklist striking nurses to prevent them from finding temporary employment while on strike. Hospital Chief Loughery, for example, asked the director of Howard University Hospital not to hire any of the striking nurses. The administration's blacklisting directly violates section 883 of the National Labor Relations Act which prohibits discrimination against employees or potential employees because of union activity.

Since the nurses' union is new, it has no strike fund to help alleviate the current hardship. The nurses, therefore, must find alternative ways to support themselves. By blacklisting the striking nurses, the administration has made it clear that its primary goal is to break the strike.

Another indication of the administration's policy toward the nurses was revealed when it hired more than 80 security guards at \$8 an hour to police the hospital grounds after the strike began. Three years ago when a nurse was raped on hospital grounds, nurses demanded that the administration hire more security guards. The administration refused.

The administration is trying to circumvent strikers by hiring non-union drivers to deliver supplies to the hospital. However, nurses picketing at the three entrances to the W.H.C. have been taking down the license plate numbers of those trucks which enter and reporting them to Teamster officials who say they will honor the picket line.

Community Support

Community support for the strike and morale along the picket line remain high. Many nurses stressed to LNS reporters the importance of the strike as a precedent-setter in Washington for nurses as well as for other labor organizations. As one nurse put it, "Washington is not a union town." A strike headquarters—the "Pink Balloon Express"—was donated to the nurses by a reverend of a church in the area.

Sympathetic truck drivers have brought coffee and doughnuts to the picketing nurses and motorists passing by repeatedly honk their horns in support. Health workers have set up a support committee which is calling on all health care workers to boycott the hospital and its emergency rooms. Off-duty nurses at Prince George's County hospital in Maryland and at Fairfax hospital in Virginia have joined nurses on the picket line.

Striking nurses are still trying to convince the "scab" nurses to stop crossing the picket line and join the strike. They are prepared to stay out until their demands are met. □

* * *

(Protest letters can be sent to: Richard M. Loughery, Administrator, Washington Hospital Center, 110 Irving Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.)

For much-needed support, write to Aid to the Strike Fund: W.H.C. Staff Nurses Association, 6100 Westchester Park Drive, College Park, Md. 20740.)

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Interval House still struggling

by Pat Daley

Interval House, a refuge for battered women in Ottawa, has provided shelter for 420 women and their children since it opened two years ago, but still must struggle to keep its doors open.

To operate without debt this year, the House must raise \$20,000 says board of directors member Judy Richardson.

"The fact that Interval House is struggling to keep its doors open is an indication of how seriously government takes violence against women," Richardson said in an interview. "Every feminist organization is struggling. Absolutely no priority, no consideration is given to women. We're the last item on any government pole."

The House receives a \$13 per diem for every woman and child staying there. But, it still has fixed costs such as rent, hydro and heat.

"If we have a full house we still can't make ends meet," Richardson said.

Fundraisers have yet to hit the \$10,000 mark. A tea held June 10 at the home of board member

Shirlet Greenberg brought in about \$1400 when about 75 of the 1300 people invited turned out. Earlier this year a letter campaign, which is still bringing in money, was initiated and a raffle was held.

But, said Richardson, "women don't have purse strings to loosen anyway. Women are probably pennypinchers because we've had to be." She described meagre household allowances with which women have to work wonders and the added expenses of working outside the home.

Richardson said Interval House is not eligible to join the United Appeal because it has not been in operation for three years. Even so, she said, there are pros and cons to joining.

"If we had a tea such as this," she said, "we would be expected to give a portion of the funds back to the United Appeal."

And the House needs all the money it can get.

Richardson said the long-term goal is to buy a house instead of renting, but right now any money raised must go to operation expenses rather than a down payment.

Meanwhile, Interval House has been able to hire three new staff through a one-year Canada Works grant. Sue Goodman, one of the three, acts as an advocate for residents. She researches and

records information about housing, family law, child custody, welfare, and day care, as well as alternatives to Interval House for women with special problems.

Goodman also accompanies women to appointments with people such as lawyers and welfare officers if that support is requested.

"We tell the women what to expect and encourage them not to feel intimidated by the system," she says.

Joanne New recruits and develops training programs for volunteers to assist permanent staff. She is also developing a follow-up program for former residents and speaks to community groups about Interval House.

Gisele Sadik develops programs for the children staying at Interval House and provides parental guidance to their mothers.



Sue Goodman researches resources available to women staying at Interval House.

Law Reform Commission:

Working paper a step in the right direction

Whether a sexual assault involves penetration or physical or psychological harm to the victim should be dealt with through sentencing procedures rather than law, according to the Law Reform Commission of Canada.

In a working paper on sexual offenses, the Commission differs from the recently tabled Bill C-52, amendments to the Criminal Code, in the scope of changes and procedures.

While both the Federal Justice Department, responsible for Bill C-52, and the Commission agree that rape should no longer be separated from sexual assault as a crime, the Justice Department has recommended two types of sexual assault. Bill C-52 makes provision for indecent assault and aggravated indecent assault "where the indecent assault results in severe physical or psychological damage."

The Law Reform Commission, on the other hand, recommends one offense of sexual assault and adds that "in determining the sentence of a person convicted under this section the judge shall consider all of the circumstances and consequences of the assault including whether there has been penetration or violence."

In its response to the working paper, the Ottawa-Hull Rape Crisis Centre said it is encouraged by the Commission's statement that "sexual contact and penetration without consent are considered assaultive acts with sexual connotations rather than 'illegal' sexual acts."

However, centre co-ordinator Esther Shannon criticized the commission for failing to attempt a definition of consent in regard to sexual assault.



sections protecting children and special groups, the Commission decided that many offenses currently included in the Code will be dealt with by the proposed sexual assault offense.

"For the most part," the working paper summary says, "offences under this general heading deal with situations where sexual activity results from non-violent yet coercive situations. Mostly these offences result from situations where the victim and the offender are in a dependency situation."

It tentatively recommends the removal of incest from the Criminal Code, stating that "the present offense of incest in the Criminal Code does not recognize the realities of the problem and may often create problems where none actually exist. The Commission thinks that the new reformulation of the code which would protect young persons between the ages of 14 and 18 years who are in a dependency situation, which it says will encompass more situations where sexual activity is procured on the basis of a dependent relationship than the current section on incest."

Finally, the Commission recommends that offenses under the general heading of Common Bawdy-House, Procuring and Soliciting apply to men as well as women.

The Commission is seeking public response to its working paper throughout the summer before the final report is prepared. Comments should be directed to:

Secretary
Law Reform Commission
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130 Albert Street
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Italian abortion laws liberalized but still under feminist fire

NEW YORK (LNS)—As of early June, Italian women can get legal abortions for the first time since 1930. The new law legalizing abortion, passed May 18 by the Italian Senate after 3 years of political strife over the issue, is one of the most liberal in the West and yet to many Italian feminists and progressives it is a flawed one.

The new law grants state-subsidized abortions practically on demand for any woman 18 years or older during the first 90 days of pregnancy if she thinks that childbirth would endanger her physical or mental health or create financial or social problems. And though Article 5 of the law says the father can be consulted with the woman's consent, the final decision for an abortion rests solely with the woman.

Yet the relatively liberal legislation has not been won without compromise. The final watered-down version worked out in Parliament between the anti-abortion Christian Democratic Party and the members of the Communist and Socialist parties supporting the law has left the Italian women's movement and non-parliamentary left profoundly embittered.

In fact, many Italians active in the battle for abortion on demand opposed the bill because of the loopholes it includes. Many of these people, according to the French leftist daily *Liberation*, called for a less-restrictive abortion law to be enacted through a popular referendum. Politicians of the Christian Democratic, Communist and Socialist parties feared the consequences of such a referendum, and are

glad to be spared a bitter battle which would have upset their current policy of mutual collaboration.

Restrictions on Abortion Rights

The compromise legislation as it stands raises the minimum age for abortion without parental consent from 16 to 18, though it has a provision allowing the 18-year old minimum to be waived in certain cases. Critics point out that of all the abortions that have been conducted in the years that abortion has been illegal (according to estimates the number of abortions may match the 7-800,000 live births per year in Italy), the majority are performed on women 16-18 years old and younger.

"The greatest number of women who die from back-alley abortions or commit suicide out of shame are the youngest ones," a feminist legal specialist told a woman reporter for the *New York Times*. "...What are they going to do now, go back to parsley?" (Parsley is used in strong infusions by women trying to abort themselves and a parsley sprig worn in the hair has become a symbol in Italian pro-choice demonstrations as the coat hanger has in the U.S.)

The law also requires any woman who wants an abortion to go before a medical commission that in many cases will try to convince her otherwise. Only if she has not changed her mind after a required 7-day waiting period is the abortion performed.

After the first 90 days of pregnancy, abortion is permitted only if the pregnancy or childbirth threatens the life of the mother or if birth defects are a risk to the mother's physical or men-

tal health. Doctors must have 5 years of practice to perform the procedure.

Women fear that in practice the law may not actually produce a significant reduction in the number of illegal abortions. Since doctors can register as "conscientious objectors" to performing abortions and since the majority of Italian hospitals are run by Catholic religious orders, women wanting legal abortions could be turned away for lack of available staff or facilities. Many of the state-run clinics where women would get the first required consultation do not exist, especially in rural areas. Feminists also fear that the law could invite government repression of the many self-help clinics established by women's groups throughout the country.

The new law replaces a section of the fascist-era penal code that outlawed abortion as a "crime against the integrity of the race" and provided for punishment of up to 5 years for both the woman and the abortionist.

Feminists are now promising to focus attention of their movement, which mobilized demonstrations of as many as 15,000 people in the streets of Rome in weeks preceeding the vote and has forced the Communists and Socialist Parties over time to adopt more liberal stands on women's issues, to make women aware of their rights. They intend to see that the new law, however flawed, is enforced and that women wanting abortions are not turned away at hospital doors.

(Information for this article comes from Off Our Backs, People's Translation Service, *Liberation*, the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*.)



Vancouver Status of Women operation grant chopped

This year, Vancouver Status of Women will be operating on less than half of our necessary budget. Although many of our services will have to be cut, Kinesis will survive.

B.C.'s Provincial Secretary, Grace McCarthy, allocated this group only \$75,000 for the coming fiscal year. Describing her grant as "generous," she offered the following excuses for partial funding: "Your request for full funding is not justifiable as a number of your activities are in

part duplication of government services." She does not provide specific examples.

Here's how Grace McCarthy spends her share of government money:

\$1000,000 for five cars on the Royal Hudson (train promoting tourism)
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\$60,000 tourist Counsellors for the B.C. Ferry Fleet
\$1.6 million to promote Captain Cook
On the one million women of B.C., she spends \$75,000.

reprinted from *Kinesis*

"Poor have positive ideas": NAPO president

Board members of the National Anti Poverty Organization expressed concern over the deepening state of poverty in Canada at the 1978 annual board meeting held this month in Ottawa.

The board was concerned that NAPO and its provincial affiliates are unable to respond effectively to community needs due to a lack of funds. The board's main concern is to enable the disadvantaged to have a meaningful role in the development of poli-

cies and programs that effect them.

"We believe firmly that the disadvantaged and poor of this country have positive ideas for the creation of new enterprises which will mean more jobs and considerable reduction of the dependence of the poor on Canada," stated Mrs. Susan Talbot, NAPO's newly elected president from Nelson, B.C. "Give us the tools and your confidence and we'll create the solution," she stated.

WOMAN
(collective cartoons)



woman
confused



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Persuading Parliament

by Marie Hart

Every party needs a pooper. But before pooping on the biggest party of the year—the government's \$4.5 million Canada Week—let's backtrack a bit.

Prime Minister Trudeau has repeatedly refused to keep his promise of establishing a guaranteed annual income program. It would cost too much. These are times of restraint.

Agriculture Minister Eugene Whelan has often refused requests to establish a nation-wide school milk program for children. It, too, would cost too much. And, yes, these are times of restraint. That goes for reinstating the subsidy on skim milk powder, too. So there.

Welfare Minister Monique Bégin repeatedly rejects pleas to end the gross practice of cutting off spouse's allowance from women (aged 60 to 65) when their husbands die. Prohibitive costs, says she.

Defence Minister Barney Danson brushes off appeals to save

\$2.5 billion by cancelling plans to buy new fighter aircraft. After all, peaceniks are certified members of the lunatic fringe. Aren't they?

Treasury Board President Robert Andras nods no to requests for new money to celebrate the United Nations Year of the Child. Not even for a symposium on child abuse or a couple of one-day crafts fairs the kids have organized? No, no, no.

Indian Affairs Minister Hugh Faulkner says yes, he would like to improve the substandard housing and sewage (so-called) systems on certain Indian reserves in Saskatchewan. But there is not enough money in the budget, says he. Not yet. No, not next month; no, maybe even not next year.

Employment Minister Bud Cullen says he has to draw the line somewhere on make-work programs and job training. \$438 million this year. Yes, with one million unemployed men and women across the country.

Maybe we do need a party after all!

Of course we didn't need a party, government said, two years ago when the fireworks, the cultural exchanges, musical extravaganzas and July 1 Parliament Hill bash were cancelled in the name of—you guessed it—spending restraint.

The subsequent election of René Lévesque's Parti Québécois changed all that. The national unity revival has been underway since the November 15, 1976 Québec election.

"Canada Week should be fun with an end in view—the promotion and strengthening of Canadian unity." —G. Hamilton Southam, head of Festival Canada, the government agency in charge of the affair.

Plans for the 111th anniversary of Confederation events got off to a rocky start when Southam could produce his scheme in English only at a Commons committee meeting. Translation into the other official language was to come later.

Then, Québec singers Robert Charlebois and Diane Dufresne rejected offers to appear at the

grand finale on Canada Day (nee Dominion Day) at Parliament Hill because they did not want to endorse the federalist cause before a national television audience.

Meanwhile, even the likes of Ottawa Mayor Lorry Greenberg (not the type to turn down celebrations of any kind) warned the Liberal government that birthday parties, even along with constitutional reform, will not be enough to unite this country.

Anti-party poopers, of course, argue that grassroots participation which emerged for the celebration is enough to justify a \$4.5 million spending spree under a unity banner.

About 1,000 communities across the country had something special planned and were permitted to cash in on the federal fund. Not to mention the \$356,000 televised performance under the Centre Block Peace Tower, including less political Québec entertainers René Simard and Jean-Pierre Ferland. Stompin' Tom Connors wouldn't be there but Tommy Hunter would, along with



blues singer Salome Bay, folk singer Murray McLaughlan, the Irish Rovers, opera star Maureen Forrester, among others.

Politicians would kiss babies. Trudeau would make a bilingual tv pitch. Gov.-Gen. Jules Léger would make a speech.

\$4.5 million? Let them eat hot dogs!

Is there a future for the Prison for Women?

by Susan Hopkins

Spring is here, but whether it is winter or summer, rain or sun, it really doesn't matter. The fun and games are always here.

Inside the prison, we don't have the chance to walk along the creek beds of water and squish the mud through our toes as we did on rainy summer days as children. Here we only have to hop out of bed and step into the water and mud as it comes seeping through the tiles on the floors of our rooms where we sleep and live. So we have an out-door climate in-doors. The only problem is that we aren't issued rubber boots. In mid-winter some women were awakened to the tune of, "Rain Drops Falling on My Head," and then walked out of their rooms and faced "The Great Flood of '77." The tiles floated off the floors and were finally replaced in the spring of '78, even though they were warped and discoloured from the flood.

If a woman happened to miss the flood in the Wing she could not help miss the loss of heat or hot water when the pipes broke over a weekend. At that time everyone was involved in boiling kettles for a few inches of bath water (two kettles to fifty girls) and putting on sweaters, coats, blankets and moving around quickly to keep the blood circulating.

Even the staff were leaving their post to grab their winter jackets or blanket, but at least they could go home after their eight hour shift and get warm again. In the meantime, someone came to their rescue with an electric heater to keep their tootsies warm. We who live here twenty-four hours a day can't go home to get warm or even sit in a closed office with an electric heater at our feet.

You have to admit there are not too many places where you have the advantage of the outdoors and indoors; we don't have to go far to

get both, but there are also the disadvantages.

There are women who are sick, smothered in colds and flu and the women who suffer with arthritis, to name a few problems. Great conditions for the health of these individuals to live under. The majority of the year even in summer when it rains the floors are wet or damp and musty.

What comes to mind for many are the recommendations to the Solicitor General of the Parli-

mentary sub-committee for phasing out the Prison for Women and Mr. Blais' response to the recommendations about the progress on the proposals. How can they be phasing out when the architects are now planning for construction of an activities building which will run the tax-payer \$2,000,000???? They've also put new lights in throughout the institution, painted most of the building (on top of the other coats of paint, at least nine coats since I've been here

and who knows how many before); painting does have to be done every year, because if you hit the walls hard enough, it chips off in chunks. Some floors have been newly tiled but only the offices for staff not for the areas where the women live.

We do need the lights to see better as in another month or two, along comes another fun game, ducking the spiders that hang by the hundreds throughout the building. They out-number the inmates. Never mind the lonely days try the sleepless nights as you lie there and look up to see one coming at you; you jump up, scream, do a war dance to kill it, lie down only to have another one come trucking across the ceiling ten minutes later to keep you company. (I could think of better company!)

The spiders are not the only thing that out-number the inmates. In the Prison for Women, there are approximately ninety-five inmates from all over Canada, as there is only one Federal Penitentiary for the female offenders. To keep the Prison for Women open and running at present the total number of staff working here full-time is one-hundred and fifteen — included are Administration, Custody, Classification, Hospital, instructors for the programmes offered (which are limited), Kitchen Stewards and other staff, secretaries, clerks, et. al. This is not including the winter works program and students on assignments. The full-time staff alone out-number the inmates by 12 per cent. The winter works program consists of twenty-three men and women they find jobs for at a certain time of the year, every year. This is the entertainment side of the day; supplies to the kitchen are brought on a cart by three men; one to push, one to watch and one to carry the extra load that won't fit on the cart. This might be a couple of tins of honey or juice, (this is all done

with work gloves on, must not get our hands dirty). Also don't ask them to lift the hundred pound bags of sugar, potatoes, carrots, or boxes of meats weighing one hundred to two hundred pounds. That's the women's job; the men they might hurt themselves. When I look around here, I always wonder why they call us the weaker sex; somewhere, someone made a mistake.

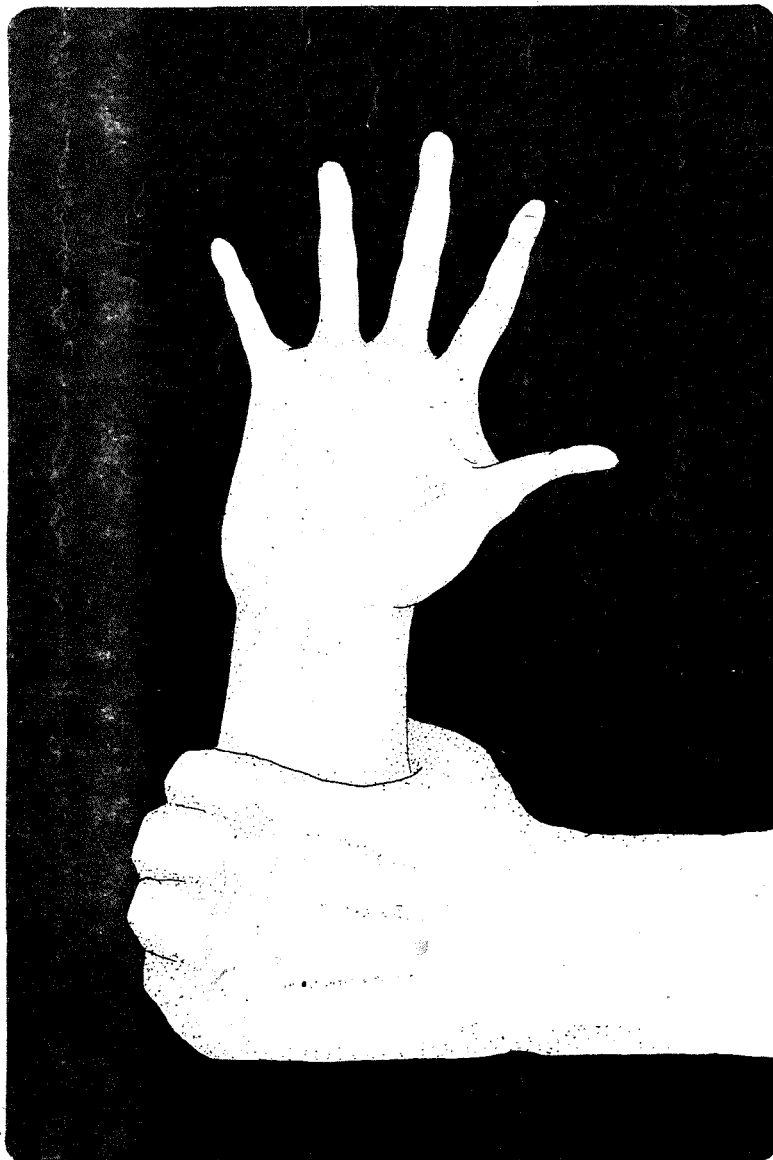
As of December 9, 1977 the inmate count was one hundred and twenty-seven women. The breakdown is as follows:

Location of Residence Dec. 9, '77	
Newfoundland	2
Prince Edward Island	0
Nova Scotia	4
New Brunswick	4
Quebec	12
Ontario	55
Manitoba	3
Saskatchewan	3
Alberta	14
British Columbia	17
Yukon	0
Northwest Territories	0
Outside Canada	9
No Permanent Residence	4
Total	127

Most of the women except Ontario are thousands of miles from their homes. Any women from out of the country are totally isolated from their families, parents, children, husbands, et. al. If and when all of these women ever get a visit which is seldom, it costs their families a lot of money. The majority never see their families 'till they are finished their sentence.

There are passes, but they are also seldom granted out of the province of Ontario, unless it's for illness or a death in their families. The majority even have trouble getting their paroles home due to the lack of halfway houses for the

cont. on p.27.



OKSANA SHEVCHENKO

Participer au pouvoir: Assemblée Annuelle du CCSF

Participer au pouvoir

La trousse a été rédigée à l'intention des femmes qui sont conscientes de certains changements et qui veulent mettre en oeuvre des moyens d'action efficaces. Participer au pouvoir a pour objet d'aider les organismes féminins à mieux comprendre le régime dans lequel nous vivons.

Participer au pouvoir explique comment

- exercer des pressions (lobbying)
- rédiger un mémoire
- organiser des ateliers
- recourir aux médias
- se porter candidate et mener une campagne.

Toute organisation peut, sans frais du CCSF, en obtenir un exemplaire qu'elle pourra reproduire à volonté.

par Janick Belleau

La cinquième assemblée annuelle du Conseil consultatif de la situation de la femme se déroulait à Ottawa les 13 et 14 juin. La séance s'est ouverte sur le rapport verbal de chacun des membres du Conseil. La trousse Participer au pouvoir semble avoir été l'instrument de prédilection de plusieurs représentantes provinciales.

Raizel Macklovitch de Montréal insiste sur la nécessité de conscientiser les groupes-parapluies. Selon elle, des "organismes sophistiqués mais a tendance naïve gagneraient à s'intéresser davantage aux questions politiques et à la condition de la femme." D'accord avec elle, Dorothy Holme de Colombie-britannique déplore la facilité des femmes de faire du bénévolat un art. "On ne leur donne pas d'autre choix," explique-t-elle. Sur le plan politique, Holme ressent le patronage des dirigeants qui encouragent, semble-t-il, les "dames" à faire de la politique; "c'est peut-être la raison, ironise-t-elle, pour laquelle il n'y a pas beaucoup de "femmes" candidates. Visiblement dégoû-

tée, elle termine en alléguant que "la prochaine élection fédérale est une cause perdue pour les femmes."

A 3,500 milles du pessimisme holmien, Lilius Toward d'Halifax oeuvre pour l'éducation de la masse. "Il s'agit," soutient-elle "de cultiver et de récolter plus tard." Ann Dea d'Edmonton, la désillusion se lisant sur son visage, rétorque qu'en Alberta "on cultive plusieurs graines mais on récolte des cailloux". A preuve, les dispositions du gouvernement albertain prises con-

surpris personne.

Quoi qu'il en soit, au Québec ça bouge: les Montréalaises veulent certainement participer au pouvoir mais à la manière masculine il n'en est pas question. Une solution s'imposait: regrouper les femmes sous une même bannière nonobstant leur appartenance politique. C'est fait! Le Regroupement des femmes québécoises se veut un mouvement politique de pression, féministe et autonome.

Selon Blanche Bourgeois, les femmes du Nouveau-Brunswick

lic. Son homologue masculin, Henry E. Karpus de Toronto, souligne que "les femmes commencent à influencer le contenu des annonces publicitaires parce qu'elles commencent à avoir un certain pouvoir". Il établit un parallèle entre les relations Noirs/Blancs et femmes/hommes: "des études américaines ont, explique-t-il, démontré que la tension entre les deux races se relâche considérablement, surtout avec les enfants entre eux. Toujours selon le publicitaire, l'industrie cinématographique

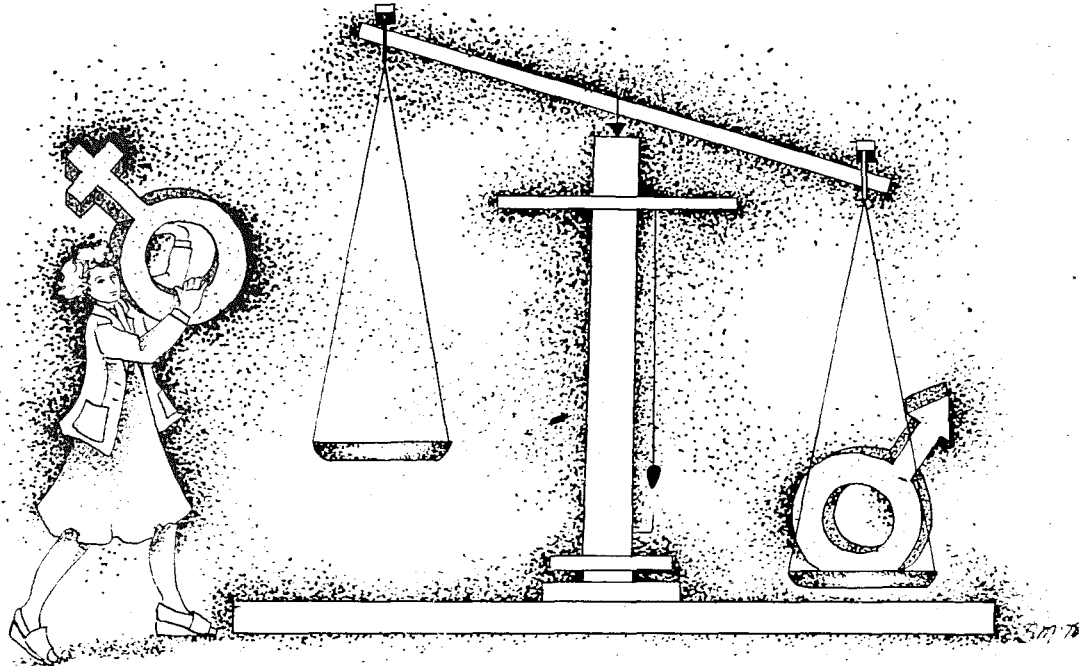
vernement canadien

- d'instaurer des garderies
- de permettre aux femmes au foyer de contribuer au Fonds de Pension du Canada
- de créer une réserve de fonds gouvernementale pour les pensions alimentaires
- de prévoir que l'allocation que reçoit un bénéficiaire de la pension de vieillesse pour son conjoint, qui n'a pas encore 65 ans, continue à être versée au survivant en cas de décès du pensionné.

Elle termine son exposé en supposant que "bien sûr les mesures que nous proposons pour instaurer l'égalité économique des femmes représentent des déboursés pour le gouvernement canadien mais, l'unité canadienne, l'armement aussi coûtent cher. C'est une question de principe; il y a trop longtemps que l'amélioration de la condition féminine est le premier item budgétaire qu'on sacrifie quand les cordons de la bourse se resserrent. Il est temps qu'on en fasse une véritable priorité! Si ce n'est pas par conviction, qu'on le fasse donc par électoralisme ce sera très rentable de ce temps-ci".

Le mot de la fin

Il est bien évident que ce n'est pas seulement les structures qu'il faut changer mais d'abord et surtout les mentalités. Il est d'autant plus évident que ce n'est pas seulement les mentalités qu'il faut changer mais aussi le vocabulaire. Je cite un exemple qui peut, à première vue, paraître banal mais sûrement pas à la seconde — surtout si l'on se souvient qu'il s'agit d'une réunion du Conseil consultatif de la situation de la femme. Combien de fois n'ai-je pas entendu au cours de la séance des représentantes anglophones dire, en s'adressant à la présidente "chairman" au lieu d'utiliser l'appellation reconnue "chairperson". Si le terme leur déplaît, je leur concède volontiers "chairwoman" mais certainement pas "chairman."



tre les personnes (des femmes en général) recevant des prestations du Bien-être social. Les bénéficiaires jouissent d'un long trois mois pour se trouver un emploi; après, le ministère leur coupe les vivres. Dea prévient son auditoire que le ministre est censé administrer cette loi avec compassion mais "elle est déjà appliquée avec rigidité", conclut-elle.

A l'est du pays, les mentalités sont spéciales, les questions différentes. Wendy Williams de Terre-Neuve nous apprend que "les droits de l'homme sont plus discutés que ceux de la femme". Cette déclaration n'a toutefois

ne perdent pas de temps non plus. A la suite du succès de Conférence des femmes du Nouveau-Brunswick 1978, les organisatrices ont décidé, de pair avec les participantes, de former un groupe semblable à celui de leurs consœurs québécoises.

Il ne faut pas croire que les représentants ontariens sont demeurés cois au cours de la séance. Audrey Shepherd de Scarborough a loué enthousiasme avec lequel les médias ont facilité la propagation de la trousse. "Une entrevue à la radio et une apparition d'une minute et demie à la télévision" ont permis d'atteindre massivement le pu-

graphique fait plus que toutes les lois votées en faveur de l'égalité des races". Il espère que, média aidant, "les nouvelles relations hommes/femmes aboliront les préjugés phalocratiques".

Rapport de la présidente

Les vues d'Yvette Rousseau, dans le cadre des perspectives d'avenir pour le Conseil, m'apparaissent raisonnables et tout à fait naturelles. La présidente soumet des moyens visant à solutionner quelques problèmes qui retardent l'égalité économique de la femme.

Son Conseil propose au gou-

Sponges vs. Tampons

by Ann Riddle

The history of catamenial devices (tampons) on the market in the United States begins around February 9, 1887 when a medical tampon was patented, and called alternately a pessary, capsule, or suppository.

A sponge is first mentioned in 1927. Various designs have been developed, and have experienced different degrees of acceptance by women, who can determine through buying power what is to be available on the market.

The patent describing essentially today's tampon of pressed cotton with a draw string was granted July 26, 1956. Lubrication was added in '59 by researchers for Kimberley-Clark, and Vitamin A (controversial now and said to cause more bleeding) in 1967. Scent was introduced in 1973.

Men have dominated the field of developing women's products but it's a heartening sign that women's self-help clinics are emerging and expanding, and that women are beginning to take an interest in our very own bodies.

I first read about using a sponge for the menstrual cycle in

a publication called Southern Cal Women's Almanac for Winter and Spring of 1974. In curiosity I have written to women's centers to learn something more about sponges and have come up with this information.

Synthetic sponges are said to be harmful, in that they may irritate the delicate mucous membranes in the vagina, they may disintegrate with use, and they may contain chemicals incompatible with the body, particularly if they are bleached. Most women who responded to my letters recommend using natural sea sponges. I have been using a polyurethane sponge for about a year now, and have noticed no ill effects.

Sea sponges are also known as wool sponges, silk sponges, or elephant ear sponges. They can be purchased to natural body and bath shops, or at art stores, or ceramic stores. Boiling the sponge for about two minutes, no longer than ten or fifteen as it will shrink, serves to sterilize, soften, and moisten for use.

A sponge the right size may be found, but more than likely experimenting with cutting to the right size is in order. Anywhere

from the size of an apricot to that of a lemon is suggested. Some women attach a string or dental floss to ease extraction, although fingers work very well. Squeezing the sponge, and running it under water will cleanse and renew its original shape to be reinserted.

One woman suggested sewing a cloth casing over her sponge. A cloth bag is a clean, dry, airy place to store a sponge between cycles. Some women carry two sponges to ease with cleaning at a convenient time or place.

A pH balanced or non-detergent soap should be used if at all. Vinegar may be used in the final rinse for a subtle, clean smell.

The following solutions may be used for lubrication or a rinse: herbs, lemon juice, peroxide (mild), limewater, acigel, K-Y jelly, thuja, golden seal ointment, or chlorophyll.

Sponges are soft, recyclable, cheaper than other methods comfortable, and ecological. They represent a chance to come to know your body better, and to monitor your health.

The information in this article was obtained by letter from the following sources, to whom I extend thanks:

Womancare, Inc., San Diego, California

Herself Clinic, Los Angeles

Womenspace, Santa Monica

Susan and Ardy, formerly of Malibu

Medical Self-Care Magazine, Inverness

Berkeley Women's Health Collective

Santa Cruz Women's Health Collective

HealthRight, New York, New York

New Moon Publications, The Monthly Extract, Stamford, Connecticut

Feminist Women's Health Center Tallahassee, Florida

Boston Women's Health Book Collective, Boston, Massachusetts

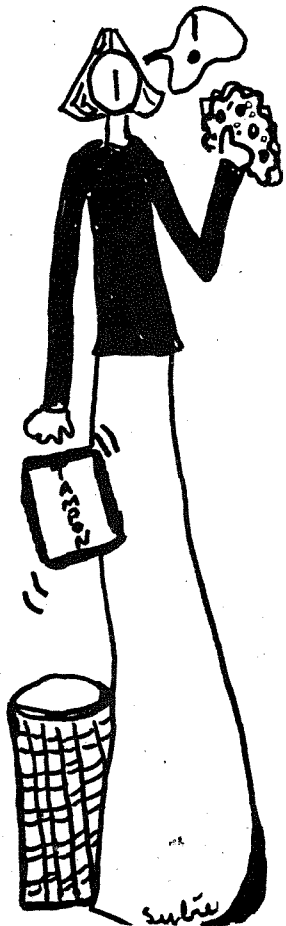
Breakthrough, Houston, Texas

Houston Women's Health Collective

Aradia Women's Clinic, Seattle, Washington

Ottawa Women's Resource Center, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

Women's Report, London, England.



EOW series

Myths and realities of working

This is the fifth and final article of a five-part series about women, work, and the public service sponsored by the Office of Equal Opportunities for Women, Public Service Commission of Canada. Reprints of previously published articles on the functions of the EOW Office, getting a job in the public service, and how to seek promotion, are available from the EOW Office, Esplanade Laurier, 15th floor, Ottawa.

by Beatrice Baker

The "you've come a long way Baby" atmosphere currently in vogue may lull many into believing that everything is quite all right for women these days. "Job discrimination? It's illegal, isn't it? So what's the problem?"

The problem, as is usual in trying to effect social change, is less a matter of what is or isn't permitted by law, but rather a matter of what goes on in people's minds: their attitudes. Men have been brought up with certain stereotypes about women and work. These stereotypes greatly affect women's work experience, often negatively.

For example, many men still believe that women don't have to work. Or, if they do (until they get married), that they don't need as high an income as a single man of the same age who, after all, will be preparing to support a wife and raise a family.

It ain't necessarily so! In ever increasing numbers women need to work. More women are their own sole support for longer periods of time and more and more the sole supporter of children or parents. Yet this misconception may bias a manager's decision to hire or promote when faced with two comparable candidates, one male, one female.

As valid and compelling as the economic and statistical reality is, however, it must not be overlooked that women, as persons and citizens, have a right to equal access to jobs, careers, and promotions.

Another commonly held myth is that women are not career oriented whether their supposed lack of motivation is future marriage and family plans of their unwillingness to take on the stress and strain of managerial, executive or officer positions. It is a myth which goes hand in glove with the automatic assumption that all men aspire to careers replete with constant striving for promotions. Today women frequently desire and actively seek life long careers and steadily advancing positions while it is not uncommon for younger men to question the automatic imposition of a role they may not, by personal inclination, want to accept.

Management should be willing to assess without bias each employee's aspirations by direct examination, observation or work evaluation. Hiring or pro-

moting the most capable and willing person, man or woman, is, after all, in management's self-interest.

Limited mobility is another rationale men use to explain their reluctance to employ women. It is a pervasive belief that women will not be able or wish to relocate. Again this is something that is changing rapidly. Single women are evincing similar reactions to job relocation as are single men. And it is no longer unusual for couples to change cities because of a shift in her occupation. Some men are seriously trying out the role of house husband, others are opting for location flexible occupations, still others are working out commuting arrangements with their spouses.

A particularly damaging attitude still very relevant is the "little woman" syndrome. According to this line of thought the "little woman" is too helpless to do business with aggressive, shrewd, wheeler-dealer businessmen. Yet that same "little woman" is expected to manage a household in a time of extreme inflation, handle prima donna repairmen, irate clerks, pushy salesmen, and incorrect bills spewed out by misprogrammed computers, juggle timetables, transportation arrangements that would boggle a travel agent, and deal with all the thousand details that comprise running a modern household.

Male managers often fear to

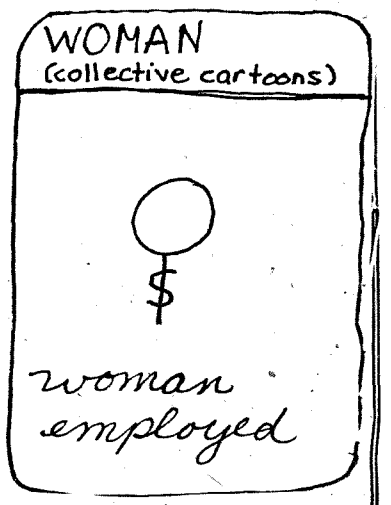
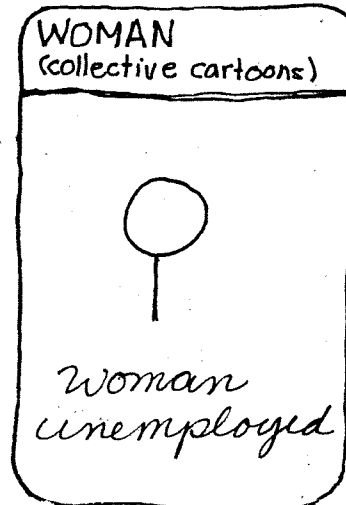
send women employees to conventions. Yet women rather than being helpless and at the mercy of mercenary males are more likely to be sharper and more on their toes than male colleagues who traditionally equate convention time with party time.

Despite evidence to the contrary, people still cite higher absenteeism as reason for devaluing women's career aspirations. Somehow it has become firmly fixed in many people's minds that women will miss more work time than men. Yet in spite of greater child care responsibilities studies have shown over and over again that female employees have the same, or even lower, absenteeism rates as male workers.

That women quit their jobs more frequently, and hence are a poor risk for trainee programmes or executive positions, is another stereotype which must be faced.

In fact, anyone who is career oriented will follow a pattern of seeking a better position or promotion by moving on to another branch, department or occupation. One no longer settles down for a 25 or 35 year hitch with the same company or department. Recent studies of CBC and government employees shows a slightly higher retention rate for females, especially in higher positions.

The list of myths, misconceptions and stereotypes about women and work is still quite lengthy. And unfortunately attitudes are not easy to change nor do they change quickly. However, with continual attention to self-education and education of colleagues and management, women will continue to make progress toward total equality of opportunity in the world of work.



Comment s'en sortir

Mieux divorcer

par Lucie Masson

A la suite des nombreuses demandes reçues à Action-Femmes, service d'information du Conseil du statut de la femme du Québec, cet organisme a récemment publié une brochure simple et pratique à l'intention

des femmes qui envisagent un divorce ou une séparation.

Les femmes sont généralement les plus démunies et les plus désarmées face à une telle situation, bien que dans la majorité des cas ce soient elles qui en aient fait la demande. Au Québec, en 1976, sur 18,000

demandes de divorce, 69% étaient déposées par des femmes. La brochure Mieux divorcer-conseils pratiques aux femmes du Québec leur est donc spécialement destinée.

Cette brochure vise d'abord à redonner confiance aux femmes et à les aider à ramener à ses

véritables dimensions un divorce qu'elles ont trop souvent tendance à percevoir comme un échec, celui de leur mariage et même celui de leur vie. Pour ce faire on met entre leurs mains dans un vocabulaire simple, les détails juridiques inhérents à toute demande de divorce ou de séparation légale. Tous les aspects sont envisagés: les motifs invoqués, les motifs de refus, les documents nécessaires, les frais, la garde des enfants, la pension et les recours. Dépendant du type de contrat qui la lie à son conjoint et de sa situation particulière, chaque femme peut ensuite, armée de ces connaissances, prendre les décisions qui s'imposent.

L'aspect humain, le plus important sans doute et malheu-

reusement le plus négligé, est pris en considération dans l'étude de chacune des étapes. La brochure est également parsemée de témoignages de femmes ayant eu à affronter des situations semblables. Ces témoignages, souvent d'une franchise brutale, n'en demeurent pas moins sous le signe de l'optimisme: "Et pourtant, malgré ces épuisantes luttes, pas un seul jour je n'ai regretté d'être partie; ...Je sais qu'à long terme, je suis gagnante..." A leur lecture on ne peut s'empêcher de penser qu'il est possible de "réussir" son divorce.

*Mieux divorcer — conseils pratiques aux femmes du Québec
Conseil du statut de la femme
1978*

Epouse violée

ADELAIDE (Reuter) — Un Australien âgé de 37 ans a été condamné hier à 33 mois de prison pour avoir violé sa femme.

L'homme, dont l'identité n'a pas été rendue publique, est la première personne reconnue coupable aux termes d'une loi adoptée en 1976 par l'Etat d'Australie méridionale.

Au moment des faits, le couple était séparé depuis 11 mois. Le juge a déclaré à l'accusé: «En vertu de la loi, votre épouse bénéficie de la même protection que toute autre femme. Le fait que vous êtes mariés ne vous donne pas le droit d'avoir des relations sexuelles avec elle contre son gré.»

Selon, l'accusation, l'homme avait menacé sa femme de la tuer et, craignant pour sa vie, elle lui avait cédé.

[extrait de *Le Droit* du 27 mai 1978]

Pour commencer, parlons — en

par Lucie Masson

Au Québec, en 1976, un tiers des demandes en divorce invoquaient la cruauté physique, il allait donc de soi de publier, conjointement avec la brochure Mieux divorcer, une autre brochure portant sur la violence au foyer.

Les statistiques sur le sujet sont difficiles à trouver car trop souvent il est tabou. Par honte ou par crainte des représailles nous

nous taisons; de peur de s'immiscer dans la sacro-sainte intimité familiale amis et parents en font autant. La première étape vers une solution au problème est donc de briser ce silence complice.

C'est ce que le titre de la brochure Pour commencer, parlons-en..., et les graphiques qui l'illustrent, laissent supposer. Le reste du dépliant est également axé sur ce thème, car il semble malheureusement qu'à l'heure

actuelle il s'agisse là de l'une des seules solutions au problème. C'est en parlant de notre situation avec des personnes-ressources: avocats, médecins, aides sociales et surtout avec d'autres femmes, par l'intermédiaire de centres de secours comme Interval House à Ottawa, que nous trouverons des solutions.

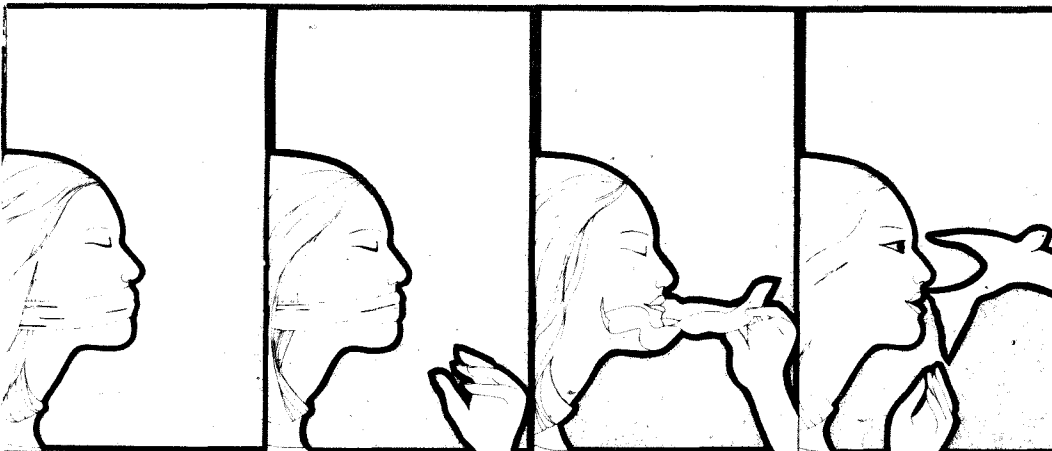
C'est en rendant publique la violence tant physique que verbale (injures, menaces) dont nous sommes victimes que nous réussirons également à élargir le cadre des législations. Jusqu'à maintenant le viol par le conjoint

n'est reconnu comme tel dans aucune loi et pourtant il existe; à nous de le dénoncer.

C'est le message contenu dans Pour commencer, parlons-en... disponible gratuitement ainsi que Mieux divorcer au:

Conseil du Statut de la femme
Service Action-Femmes
700, Boul. St-Cyrille est
16ème étage
Québec, Qué.
G1R 5A9

1-800-463-2851 (sans frais au Québec)



Motherhood —

looking for credibility:

Childless by choice

by Marg Emery

"Women don't need to be mothers, any more than they need spaghetti. But if you're in a world where everyone is eating spaghetti, thinking they need it and want it, you will think so too."

Whether or not one accepts those words of New York psychiatrist Richard Rabkin, it is a fact that more women in North America and Europe are overcoming the societal pressures and opting for a childfree lifestyle.

Changes in women's attitudes make another baby boom unlikely.

An instructor at the University of Toronto's faculty of social work, Benjamin Schlesinger, reported in 1977 that Canadian women are currently reproducing at a rate which will bring zero population growth within 50 years. And in Austria, Great Britain and the two Germanys, there are already more deaths than births.

The "baby bust" is a 1970s reality, brought on in part by the economic and environmental uncertainties of the age. There are other factors: the separation of sex from reproduction, thanks to highly-developed birth control technology; the weakened permanence of marriage; the shrinking influence of religion; and the growing independence of women.

The director of the Office of Population Research at Princeton University, Charles Westoff, notes the "very real changes" in women's attitudes toward work, marriage and child-bearing. Although he acknowledges that genuine economic equality between the sexes, for example, is "probably generations away," Westoff feels the changes are great enough to make another sustained baby boom an unlikely prospect. Given the prevailing trends, he says it is not difficult to imagine a society in which as many as one-third of the women never have children.

The speculations of psychiatrists on the reasons for nonmotherhood make it sound like a disease.

Research into the phenomenon of voluntary childlessness is still scanty; there isn't a complete profile of who selects this option and for what reasons.

A 1972 study by a sociologist at the University of Western Ontario, Jean Veivers, suggests that five per cent of the male population don't wish to become others. An American study by Robert Prentiss, published a year later, puts the figure at nine per cent.

The incidence of childlessness among Canadian women who have ever been married (ages 15 to 44) was 14 per cent in 1961 and 18 per cent in 1971, an increase of 25 per cent. But the key breakdowns are in the 20-24 and 25-29 age categories, where the increase in childlessness is well over 50 per cent.

These statistics may be partially rationalized by a tendency to postpone starting a family. However, such a postponement

too often fosters a lifestyle that will ultimately result in a decision, conscious or unconscious, to remain childless.

This idea is supported in another study by Veivers of 52 childfree couples. Only one-third of the women entered marriage

hood is de-stigmatized and accepted as a dignified lifestyle.

To help in removing the stigma, the National Organization for Non-Parents (NON), was launched in 1972 by Ellen Peck, best-selling author of *The Baby*



Holly Nicol and Mark Inglis: There are so many kids around that I don't feel the need to make my contribution. I don't feel guilty.

with a resolve not to have children, while the remainder kept putting it off until they decided they didn't want any.

Why is self-realization by way of work or career inferior to self-realization by way of motherhood?

Susan Bram, a social psychologist, has noted that it is typically the wife who, after three or four years of marriage, first grapples with the realities of how parenthood would impinge upon personal freedom and career advancement.

The speculations of psychiatrists on the reasons for nonmotherhood usually make the selection of such an option seem pathological. (Rabkin, quoted at the beginning of this article, is an exception.) They cite such negative reasons as narcissism and selfishness. Few see the woman who prefers nonmotherhood as strong, autonomous and able to resist the pressures applied by advertisers, friends and relatives to have children.

Jessie Bernard, a leading American authority on family relationships and herself a mother and grandmother, asks, "Why is self-realization by way of work or career inferior to self-realization by way of motherhood? What is so sacred about self-sacrifice?" She argues that those who want children as a guarantee of immortality; to preserve the family name; to care for them in old age; for "self-fulfillment" or "just for the experience" are as narcissistic and selfish as those who choose childlessness for hedonistic reasons.

She also asserts that there will not be total freedom for women until nonmother-

hood is de-stigmatized and accepted as a dignified lifestyle. She is a mother of four, the youngest of whom is 16. When asked for her comments on childlessness by choice, Redmond said she thought it was often a case of "childlessness by choice by fear," but then added that that was "legitimate in this society" because of pollution.

Redmond didn't think a greater incidence of childlessness would necessarily mean a reduction in child abuse. She mentioned a study of 300 battered children in California, and said that 95 per cent of them were "wanted."

Was caring for four children a burden for her personally? "I didn't think about it. There were times, 'oh God I wish they were older!' but I didn't feel trapped. You can grow with them if you don't get caught up with trying to be perfect."

There won't be total freedom for women until nonmotherhood is de-stigmatized and accepted as a dignified lifestyle.

Motherhood may be great, but so is nonmotherhood. Both have their rewards and problems. The former has always been sanctioned (indeed, practically incapable at one time), while the latter is still struggling for approval. One day, perhaps, childlessness will be as acceptable as...eating spaghetti.



Shirley Masuda

do we "need" it?

Kids — pro and con

by Jean Frances

This conversation was recorded recently at the UPSTREAM office in connection with Marg Emery's article on Childlessness. One of the women is the single parent of two preschool-aged children, and the other is a career woman who, along with her partner, has decided not to have children. They prefer not to be identified. To make reading easier I have called them Susan and Linda.

Susan: You decided not to have kids at all, eh? Was it a conscious decision or did it just happen that way?

Linda: So far it's been a conscious decision but it's not a forever decision. John agrees with it, he goes along with it, but I would have made the same decision if he weren't there.

Susan: If you made a conscious decision there must have been conscious reasons not to.

Linda: The main reason is that I'm trying to develop a career. I feel that having a child would inhibit my career in some way — delay it, or put a wrench into it for a while. That's what a lot of people tell me.

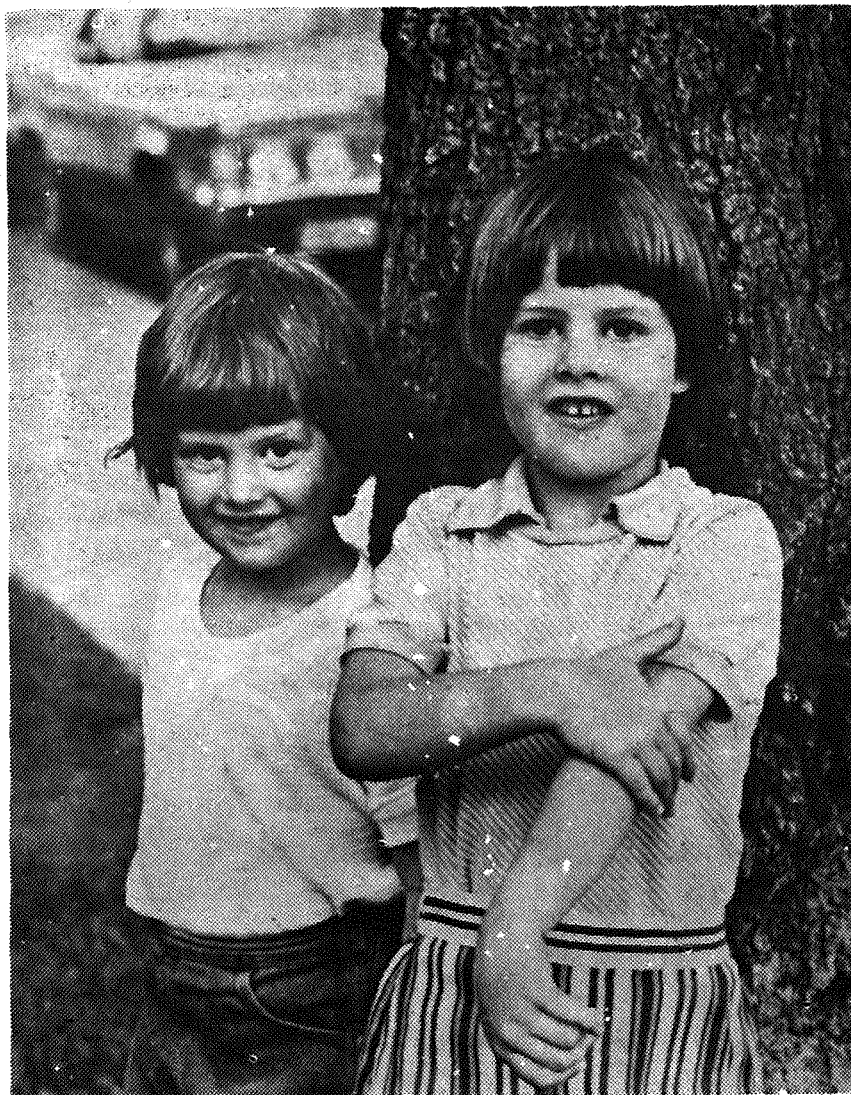
Susan: It's true!

Linda: One reaction I get from people when I give that reason is that it's a selfish reason. Because I'm a woman I'm expected to have children.

Susan: Do you think you're selfish?

Linda: On bad days I agree with them, bad days being days when I don't feel so strong, but generally I don't think it's selfish. I think it should be my right to have a career and develop my life.

Where I work there's an assumption that



Once you've got kids you just do what you have to to survive.

Shirley Masuda

I won't be making a career like the man who sits next to me. He's expected to be there for the next twenty years, but for me as a woman, they're assuming that I'm there fishing for the right man. For example, our pension plan. Men have to sign up as soon as they start working. But for women it's optional until age twenty-six. Even if you start working there at eighteen, the assumption is that you'll get married or get pregnant and leave. It's one of society's values. It's an accepted thing, having children. It's a general pressure rather than from any one person.

Susan: So you don't get particular people saying to you that you should have children?

Linda: The only person I could pin that on would be my own mother. And it's more that she wants a grandchild than that she wants me to have a child. The pressure that I feel is not that I should have a child, but that I'm wrong to have decided not to have one. There is a distinction between the two, and it gets back to that selfishness thing.

Susan: The whole thing that a woman is not supposed to be selfish for any reason.

Linda: It's part of our nature to be altruistic even to the extent of having children.

Susan: The whole motherhood mystique. Have you ever wanted to have a child?

Linda: No. I have friends who have children because they wanted the experience of carrying a child and childbirth and when they describe it there's a magical

tone to the whole thing. I feel that it's a myth. I don't have that urge that seems to come to some people. John and I were talking about it recently and I said that, and when he heard it he grimaced and said, "that's not a very good reason." All of a sudden when he had to justify not having a child that didn't seem to be reason enough.

Susan: I don't know if you can speak for him — has he ever said why he doesn't want children?

Linda: I think it's more a case of him going along with my decision. He has said that if I ever have a child he would take care of it. He would be the homemaker. Then at other times he's said that it would have to be a fifty-fifty proposition. I know that I would be really upset if I had to stay home, but I also feel that if I had a child it's one hundred per cent my responsibility, even if I'm living with him or any other person.

Susan: Even when I was living with the kids' father that's the way it was for me, not especially because I wanted it that way, but because he really didn't want to be involved with them. It turned out to be just as well, because when we split I didn't have to do too much adjusting. I'm their "principal person" and they know that.

Has anyone ever suggested that, instead of being selfish not to have a child, it's selfish to have one if you've already got a career and other things to take up your time? I think it's the very opposite of selfish not to bring a child into a situation where it would be resented.

Linda: Some women have said that, but

I'm thinking of, for instance, co-workers and older people that do have families, and they always laugh and say, "Well, you'll change your mind." They think it's just a phase. When I say that it's not a forever decision I don't mean I might change my mind next year; I'm 99.9 per cent sure. But I do allow for changes in my life, however improbable.

Susan: Have you ever considered sterilization?

Linda: Oh, yeah, I've considered that. I decided to postpone doing anything about it for a few years — until I'm thirty, if not before. People say that doctors won't sterilize a woman under thirty, anyway.

Susan: It's true. I knew a woman who had made a very firm decision at the age of about twenty-two or twenty-three not to have children. She started to make the rounds of the doctors and clinics and no one would touch her. I'm thinking seriously about it myself — I certainly don't want any more. I can barely manage as it is.

Linda: How do you survive?

Susan: That probably is the closest you could come to it. I survive; I get by. I'm on Family Allowance while I go to school, so my kids are in daycare. It's a hand-to-mouth existence that I sometimes feel really badly about. I mean, we get by — we're still alive — but we're so far below the poverty line we can't even see it when we look up. But once you've got kids you just do what you have to to survive. That's all there is to it. Now that I look back I realize that it was a very selfish thing for me to have done to have my first one.

Linda: Why do you say it was selfish?

Susan: In the end my reasons for going ahead with it were that I wanted the experience. I wasn't thinking of the child I was bringing into the world at all. I wasn't thinking in terms of, "This is a twenty year commitment."

Linda: But in the end, your life is not that bad, nor is hers.

Susan: Things are the way they are, and we cope with things because we have to. If nothing else, I discovered in myself a strength I never thought I had. But if I had it to do over again — no, I wouldn't have kids.



EDITORIAL

It was a great relief to learn through Pierre Trudeau's United Nations address that Canada is moving away from the insanity of nuclear weaponry. But we have to stop and consider some of the glaring contradictions the Trudeau government is guilty of in regard to the "disarmament" stand as well as their more subtle implications.

The biggie being the billions of dollars plugged into the jacked up defense budget. A rather odd method of approaching disarmament.

It is impossible to conceive of how the government can justify spending literally billions of our dollars on these frighteningly dangerous toys for a few power crazy generals to play and plan war games with.

Education has become inaccessible because of government cutbacks. Social service cutbacks have wiped out vital services as well as putting hundreds of people out of work — mostly women. Health care clinics like Centretown and Dalhousie are going under.

While millions of people in this country are out of work, the priorities of this government are out of whack.

Basic human needs of many Canadians are not being met yet the government is bowing to international pressure to build up the military. NATO, the Warsaw Pact and other individual countries and alliances are on a mad journey renewing the cold war mentality of the fifties and sixties. It was frightening then and it is no less frightening today.

It is absurd that taxpayers are paying for what is essentially anti-life imperialism. It is absurd that people endanger their lives in order to eat and have a roof over their heads by extracting and processing uranium and plutonium

which will be used to kill people.

Can we only have peace through military threats? That's certainly the line that is fed out around the world. But think how far that money could go if humanistic values replaced the monetary and power values of the government.

You might be shaking your head or rolling your eyes at the suggestion of such idealism. Of course the government isn't going to turn of its own volition to more ethically correct priorities. It is our

responsibility once we have set our focus to lobby government, applying pressure to force more responsible activity on the part of the government.

We can't expect society to really change by asking the government to divert money from military uses to necessary social services. While that is important for the sake of world safety and well being, we must also look at who really has power internationally.

World-wide unemployment

keeps corporate profits healthy. Poverty keeps corporate profits healthy. Military spending keeps corporate profits healthy. Corporate health keeps governments in power.

Lobbying the government for more responsible activity will be serious work because we have to fight the great corporate lobbies which uphold the status quo.

But we can do it. And we will. We're talking about our lives.



Tom McDonald

LETTERS

Dear Upstream,

I'd like to comment upon last month's editorial. The last sentence reads "We have to convince people that a society based on trust, on equality between sexes, between races, and between classes is a real possibility...."

Equality between classes? That's a contradiction in terms.

An unfortunate and unintentional choice of words perhaps. But implicit in a phrase like that is the liberal ideology that if we're all kind and just to each other everything will be O.K.

Not equality between classes. No classes at all.

Marilyn Fuchs

Dear UPSTREAM,

At last a Canadian feminist publication with its head on its shoulders, its feet on the ground and its heart in the right place. It is a pleasure to subscribe. I am also willing to help pay support staff, on the basis described in your notice on the subject, to the best of my ability.

Florentia Jansor

Dear UPSTREAM team,

Please send me a year's subscription to UPSTREAM.

I enjoy reading your paper, particularly articles on women and the law, art psychology, sociology, history of women, and upcoming events. You are doing a good job of helping women cope in today's world. Keep up the good work!

Yours truly
Patricia Turk

To the UPSTREAM staff,

Thank you all a lot for your inspiring publication.

I really enjoy the way that you handle Sisterhood with the intention of ongoing equality among people.

Keeping up-to-date on women's rights will always be of importance to me.

Good luck in keeping up the good work which I'm sure helps many women besides myself.

Peace in Sisterhood.
Roisin Hanlon

Notice to our subscribers

During last month's mailing we mislaid some address labels. If you didn't receive the June issue, let us know and we will send it along.
Sorry!

Dear UPSTREAM

I would like to reply to your article "Anon. Report Reveals P.S. Sexism" which appeared on page 3 of vo.2 no.1 UPSTREAM of April, 1978. I am concerned that this article appeared as it did as it presents a one-sided version of the study, and appears to be based on an isolated and out of context quote from the Ottawa Journal.

I have always been most supportive of UPSTREAM, as you well know, and I am rather sad that UPSTREAM did not see fit to contact me for my side of the study. I would be only too happy to meet with one of your reporters for a discussion about Equal Opportunities for Women in the Federal Public Service.

Thank you very much.

Yours sincerely,
Johanna Hickey,
Director,
Office of Equal Opportunities
For Women.

FORUM

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

End prison construction, group says



What is the Moratorium Committee?

A national organization of citizens and groups opposed to the Federal and Provincial Governments' prison construction plans. The Moratorium Committee has been formed as a vehicle to lobby against the expansion of the prison system.

What are the Prison Construction Plans?

The Solicitor General of Canada plans to open 29 new Federal prisons within the next five years. The program will involve the construction of more than 5,000 new cells. The capital expenditure to build these prisons will cost over \$500 million of our tax dollars.

But aren't our Prisons Overcrowded?

On November 1, 1977, the Federal prison population totalled 9,413. Available bed-space totalled 11,280. There were 1,867 empty beds.

But isn't the Solicitor General Talking about Replacing the Old Prisons?

There has been some discussion of gradually phasing out three prisons (Dorchester, Laval, and B.C. Penitentiary). For this reason there is a general impression that it is a replacement program. However, there has never been a firm commitment to close any prison. If the history of the Kingston Penitentiary or the

Prison for Women is any example of the "phaseout" plan, prisons currently in use will remain in use.

But wouldn't these new Prisons Help Reduce Crime?

There is no evidence that an expansion in prison capacity has any effect on crime rates. For example, there has been a 250% increase in the budget of the Canadian Penitentiary Service since 1970 (from \$70 million to \$256 million). Nevertheless, there has been no decrease in crime. Crime is much more closely associated with socioeconomic conditions which prisons cannot change. The root causes of crime are social policy issues which our government chooses to ignore (unemployment, economic disparities, racial discrimination, alienation, etc.)

But don't Prisons Provide Treatment and Rehabilitation?

Prisons don't rehabilitate. For the past 150 years prison construction and reform have been justified by the notion that improving prison facilities and programs will have an impact on the number of persons returning to crime and to prisons. In fact the brutal and inhumane conditions of any prison serve as breeding grounds for crime.

But aren't our Prisons protecting us?

The Law Reform Commission of Canada

has demonstrated that 80% of prisoners are in jail for non-violent offences. Current cell space is more than adequate to contain the relatively few dangerous and violent offenders.

Who would Benefit From the Prison Construction Program?

We can only guess. It appears that the Government is attempting to make political gain by creating the impression that something is being done about the crime problem. The construction program is also being put forward as a means of stimulating the economy, despite the fact that the number of jobs created would be negligible and unproductive. As well, an increase of over 4,000 Canadian Penitentiary employees to staff the new institutions will serve to continue the expansion of the already massive correctional bureaucracy, which presently has over a one-to-one staff to prisoner ratio. The budget for the Canadian Penitentiary Service for 1978-79 is \$338 million, an increase of 25% over last year.

What does the Moratorium Committee Stand For?

We believe:

—There should be an immediate halt to the construction of new prisons (both Federal and Provincial).

—That tax payer's money should not be wasted on the expansion of a bureaucracy from which there is no positive return to society. The construction costs of each new prison cell would be approximately

\$80,000. Estimates run over \$25,000 per year to keep someone behind bars, in addition to the cost of maintaining the prisoner's family in the community.

—That the Solicitor General of Canada should begin working to decrease our prison population by using more economical and humane ways of dealing with offenders.

—That the government must begin to recognize the relationship between socioeconomic conditions and crime, and stop responding to social problems by taking more repressive measures.

How can I Help to Stop Prison Construction?

By joining the Moratorium Committee you can help to create a strong citizens' movement to lobby against it. We are asking for donations of at least \$2.00 from each member. This will enable you to be a part of a movement for social change. We will keep you informed of the progress of your Committee. Express your dissatisfaction to your political representatives. Write to the Solicitor General demanding an immediate halt to the prison construction program. Work in your area to promote support for the Moratorium.

Moratorium Committee on Prison Construction
Box 2175 Station D
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 5W4

Moratorium Committee Position Paper

PETITION

The night of April 24, 1978, Dalila Zeghar—Maschino, an Algerian woman, was drugged and kidnapped from Montreal by her older brother, Messaoud Zeghar, and other members of her family. She was flown, against her will, to her native village in Algeria where she is now being held incommunicado. She will soon be forced to remarry.

Dalila had married Denis Maschino in March 1975. In August 1975 they came to Canada as landed immigrants, and have ever since been living in Montreal. Dalila's family never recognized the marriage and have already made several attempts to get Dalila back.

In face of the violence and injustice committed against Dalila, we must publicly demonstrate our solidarity with her. We are aware that, unfortunately, this is not an isolated occurrence. Daily women are humiliated and deprived of their most basic human rights. These women are beaten, mutilated, raped and forced to marry. Today Dalila is threatened with the worst of these crimes. It is vital that we all support Dalila in her just struggle to regain her freedom. In doing so we are showing our solidarity with millions of other women who are similarly oppressed and humiliated.

We, therefore, publicly demand that the Canadian government take immediate and effective action toward the Algerian government to obtain the LIBERATION OF DALILA MASCHINO

We ask that the above be circulated as a petition and sent with letters of support to the following people:

A letter to
Mr. Pierre Elliot Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
House of Commons
Ottawa, Canada

A letter to President Houari Boumedienne
Palais du Gouvernement
Place de l'Afrique
Alger, Algeria

Photocopies of this should be sent to
Mr. Don Jamieson
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Sussex Drive
Ottawa, Canada

and to
M. Marc-André Bédard
Minister of Justice
National Assembly
Quebec, Quebec

A telegram to
Madame Helve Sipila
Assistant Secretary General
Center for Social Development and
Humanitarian Affairs
United Nations Building
Room DC 1022
New York, N.Y.
U.S.A.

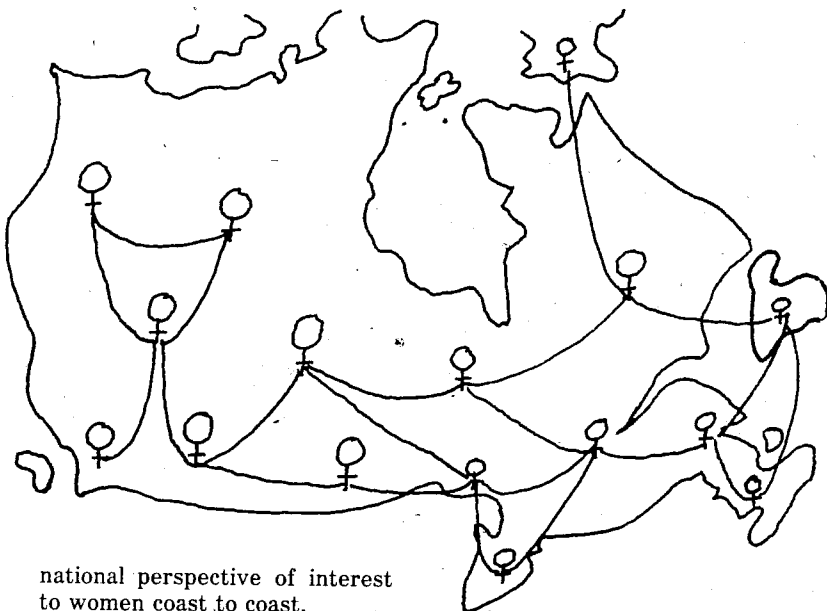
Please, it is important that copies of the above be sent to
Conseil du Statut de la Femme
c/o Marie Hélène Côté
1255 Philips Square NO.401
Montreal, Quebec
Canada
Tel: 514-873-8348

UPSTREAM geos national — Optimism or what?

UPSTREAM is becoming a national newsmagazine. Jannette Hofstede, Jean Frances, Sylvie Groleau, and Nancy Rosenberg are working through the summer to make it happen. The women are making contacts and doing research necessary to develop a nationwide distribution and promotion system. To ensure the success of the national project, women across the country are being approached to work with the paper. Some women are now taking responsibility for contacting distribution points and will contribute articles from their regions.

The process is a gradual one. This issue was distributed in Halifax, Calgary, Vancouver, Montreal and Toronto. The next issue will have increased distribution in these cities and initial distribution in new centres.

The format will also change as more women contribute regularly from other regions. Eventually, UPSTREAM should contain news from all areas of the country and articles with a



national perspective of interest to women coast to coast.

As a national newsmagazine, UPSTREAM hopes to be an effective means of communication that will keep women in touch with each other. Such a magazine can promote concerns and co-ordinate action; keeping Canadian women's groups aware

of each other's struggles.

Much work, determination, and patience is required for the project's success. Womens support and help everywhere is needed if UPSTREAM is to become an effective national newsmagazine.

Law For Women

by Shirley Greenberg

Ontario's new family law, which came into effect March 31st, 1978, is a profound break with the past. It recognizes that dependency does not automatically go along with being female. A dependant spouse can be either husband or wife.

The new law also recognizes dependency in either a legal relationship or a common law relationship. Support obligation arises when dependency results, not when one is innocent and the other has committed some matrimonial fault.

Husband and wife are obliged to support each other as well as themselves, so that even if dependency occurs a spouse will be expected to become self-supporting as soon as possible. Indefinite support will not continue should the marriage or common-law relationship break down.

What are the objections to this new set of obligations?

First, the property subject to an application for equal sharing is restricted to assets used by the family. An application can be made only on breakdown and only for those legally married. This means that during the currency of the marriage no sharing at all occurs, by law, and property continues to belong to the one who paid for it or received it as a gift or inheritance, as it did before the Act.

Nor is there any sharing at death unless the Will provides for it, although a dependant can always make an application for an income or settlement from an estate.

Another objection is that the property to be shared is restricted to family property, excluding business or investment property. However, the Act does permit this property to become subject to sharing on certain conditions, as when the division of family property creates an inequitable situation, or when a spouse has contributed money or work directly to property, or helped to maintain its value.

Nevertheless, many of the handicaps due to sex have been eliminated. The spouses are put on a more equal footing, relative to each other, as far as the law goes.

Applying the law

Because of many new provisions and unfamiliar complexities, it is very import-

ant to get individually tailored advice for each particular situation. But for general purposes, the following will provide a rough guide to those who have a general interest in the legislation.

First, be sure to keep the property division strictly separate from support obligations. The division of family property is a right of all legally married persons (but not those living common law), and the general rule is that the division be 50-50.

Second, be aware that this new law applies to all existing marriages as well as those occurring in the future, and it is also applicable, for support purposes, to couples living common law.

Third, the law applies to all who reside in the Province of Ontario, no matter where they are married.

Property division

Those who are legally married, but whose marriage has broken down and has no likelihood of coming together again have a right to claim up to 50% of family property, including the family home, car, boat, furniture, etc.

If this division results in one spouse being better off than the other, and the inequity can be traced to the division of functions in marriage, then that spouse can further apply for a share of property other than family property—if there is any.

If a direct contribution of work or effort has been made to business property, an application can be made, and this can happen even after divorce and regardless of whether the matter was previously adjudicated upon.

Support

It is unnecessary to wait until the marriage has broken down before making an application to court for a support award. This applies to those persons living together in a relatively permanent relationship, without legal marriage—if certain conditions are met.

To qualify for a support award, one spouse must prove that he or she is in need and the other must be capable of paying an order. Need is relative to one's accustomed standard of living.

Factors considered when the size of the

award is being decided include loss of such benefits as pension or annuity, and the effect on capacity to earn according to responsibilities assumed during the marriage. Misconduct can affect the size of an order, but only if it is extremely serious.

An order is unlikely to continue indefinitely because the spouse recipient has the obligation to become self-supporting as soon as possible.

Financial disclosure

In the past it was extremely difficult to discover what a spouse was worth, yet without that information it was impossible to know whether one's decision to settle was wise. Now the Family Law Reform Act provides that each party file a sworn financial statement with the court and serve it on the other party, once an application is made to court.

The family home

The family home is subject to the 50% sharing provision, but also both spouses have equal claim to possession of the home, regardless of ownership.

To get exclusive possession upon marriage breakdown, it should be clear there is no suitable alternative breakdown, or that the children's interests are best served by remaining in the home. This applies to mobile homes and rental units as well as condominium units.

Children

Parents obligations and the law on custody of children are essentially unchanged. Both parents have equal rights to custody and equal obligations to support their children until they are eighteen or sixteen if they have withdrawn from parental control. An obligation to support can arise to a child who is treated as a member of the family, not only one born to the spouses, and includes an illegitimate child.

Parents can make arrangements for custody in a separation agreement but any arrangement can be set aside by a court because the court always has the final say in deciding what serves a child's welfare.

Domestic contracts

A properly signed contract will override

the provisions of the Family Law Reform Act excepting support, possession of the family home, or custody of children.

The first decision must be whether or not the Act applies at all, but if a contract is decided upon, it can be drawn up before or after marriage, while living together or when separating. If nothing is done, the law on the books will apply.

If income and investments are to be shared, they must draw up a contract in writing then have it signed and witnessed. If this is properly done, it may be possible to split income and lower one's tax rate.

Divorce

The Divorce Act is federal jurisdiction and has not yet changed. The grounds established in the 1968 Divorce Act still apply and fault (misconduct) still plays a part.

A judge in divorce court cannot make a property reallocation but can make an award for support and for custody which may or may not override a written agreement like a marriage contract.

Once a divorce petition is filed, it puts a stop to proceedings begun under the Family Law Reform Act (which is in provincial jurisdiction).

Avoiding the Family Law Reform Act Provisions

As mentioned above, the most obvious way is to draw up a contract which sets out one's preferences rather than leaving the new Act to apply. There is no contracting out of the support obligation for dependants and no spouse can be cut out of the right to exclusive possession of the family home. And a court always can decide what is in the best interests of a child.

Another way to avoid this law is to not live in Ontario. Or if you did not become legally married, you would only be subject to the support obligations but not the right to claim a share of property.

Another option is to have a happy marriage, so that no changes in property ownership occur.

So far the loopholes have not become too obvious because only a few decisions have occurred under this legislation, but these decisions have been quite favourable to wives. We shall report from time to time as events develop.

Women Helping Women

In Winnipeg, the City Police Commission is asking city council to ban hitch-hiking. In 1977, six of the city's 45 reported sexual assaults involved hitch-hikers. At the same time, Manitoba's Conservative government has cut subsidies to public transit systems and Winnipeg bus fares are rising by 40 per cent. Similar actions are occurring in other Canadian cities.

The logic of this is questionable. For Canada's large student, unemployed, and low-income groups, hitch-hiking is a fact of life. Increased bus fares in a time of economic hardship mean that the number of people travelling by thumb will rise, not drop. Thus, banning hitch-hiking is not likely to stop it. Such action will only ensure that hitch-hikers will suffer even more than at present from the charge of having "asked for it" if they are injured. And, as usual, those most affected by such censure will be women.

Instead of banning hitch-hiking, people should help to establish it as a legitimate supplement to existing public transportation systems. Making it respectable would end the stereotype of the hitch-hiking woman as a sexual risk-taker. The fact that a rape victim was hitch-hiking could no longer be offered as proof that she invited assault with improper behaviour.

While Canadians are outlawing hitch-hikers, some European countries already

have established innovative programs to make hitch-hiking not only respectable but safe. Prospective passengers and drivers register centrally. Travellers then exchange I.D.s at the beginning of each "lift." At its end, the passenger gives the driver a receipt for the ride. Each year, the driver with the highest number of "lift points" gets some type of civic recognition.

Concerned feminists might well decide that this is an issue to organize around in your community. Meanwhile, if and when you hitch-hike:

- Learn self-defence techniques you can use in a car.
- Don't accept a lift if your intuition says "no." Check out the car and its occupants. Are the inside door handles intact? Where's the ignition? The emergency brake? Is there a smell of alcohol or dope? Are you outnumbered by men?
- Travel with your dog.
- Give lifts to other women.
- If a woman in a car ahead of you appears to be in trouble, follow, get the licence number and report to the police and the rape crisis line.

Thumbs up!

Carleton University Women's Centre

announces its July Hours:

2-7 pm, Monday to Thursday

feel free to drop in

Open House

Wednesday, July 12, 1pm

refreshments, all welcome

call 231-3779 for information

504 Unicentre

SPORTS

Shopping for a sport club

by Havi Echenger

When it comes to value for your sport club dollar, there is good news, not so bad news, and, of course, bad news.

In a survey of four private sport clubs whose doors are open to anyone who can pay to get through them, UPSTREAM found that discrimination goes on and on.

The good news is found at the Ottawa Athletic Club, 2525 Lancaster Road.

Membership fees for men and women allow access to the same facilities and programs; for example, a summer membership allows access to squash and handball courts, and outdoor tennis courts, without court charges.

The really good news at this club, though, applies only to their full memberships, which vary in price depending on which facilities the members wish to use.

The price is generally lower for women, by about fifty dollars.

When a spokesperson for this club was asked the reasoning behind the lower prices, she replied, "People around here seem to think women don't generally get paid as much as men in the working world."

The athletic centre at Carleton University offers a fair deal to men and women. One hundred and twenty dollars buys access to all facilities.

Then comes the not so bad news. The YM-YWCA offers an annual individual membership to men and women at \$148 per year.

A spokesperson at the 'Y' said this allowed equal access to all facilities and programs.

When questioned about health club facilities, including whirl-

pool and sauna, the spokesperson said the health club was open only to men, but membership in this club raised their annual fee to \$250.

"They've been talking about building one for women for a while now," she added, "but I don't know when that will get done."

Still, you get what you pay for. Except in our bad news case.

The All-Seasons Racquet Club, 2100 Walkley Road, offers a full membership to men and women for \$225 per year. This allows access to squash courts and tennis courts, with court fees applying only to the latter.

When asked if men and women had equal access to all facilities, the club's spokesperson said yes.

When asked about whirlpool facilities, however, she changed her reply.

There is a sauna each for men and women, she explained, but there is only one whirlpool, and that was restricted to men.

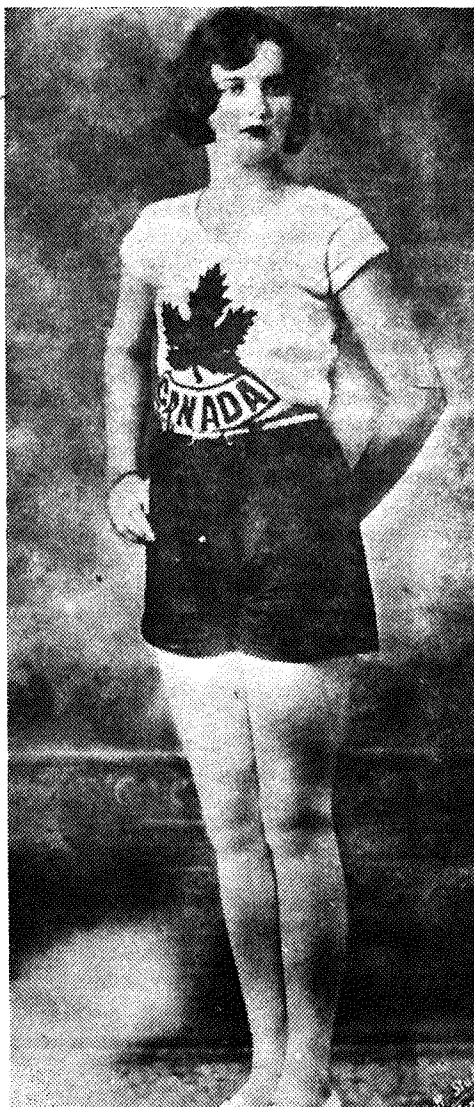
When asked how the club justified this policy, given equal membership fees, she replied, "When people join this club, they join for tennis and squash, not for the whirlpool and sauna."

When asked if the All-Seasons club anticipated a change in policy to make membership fees reflect services received, she replied, "Not yet."

Note: UPSTREAM was notified of this discriminatory policy by a reader who had occasion to use the All-Seasons Racquet Club, and who likes whirlpools. If you run across similar situations, please let us know.

sporting herstory:

Saskatoon Lily



Public Archives of Canada

Against the wishes of the Pope and the founder of the modern Olympics, women in 1928 were first allowed to compete in Olympic track and field events.

Canada's delegation exhibited the skills and talents that made such a decision a fortunate one for sport spectators.

Saskatoon high jumper Ethel Catherwood and Toronto's relay team of Fanny Rosenfeld, Ethel Smith, Florence Bell and Myrtle Cook, took Amsterdam by storm.

Catherwood, fondly known as Saskatoon Lily by Amsterdam spectators and Canadians following her progress at home, broke the Canadian and world records in high jump. She sailed easily over a 5'3" bar to take the gold home for Canada.

Smith, Bell and Cook entered the 100 meter sprint. All but one placed and three made the final round.

But the big news came with the 400 meter relay.

In trials, the group broke the world record, and set a new one of 49.4.

The next day, in the final race, the women beat their own new record by a full second, to set yet another world record, and to take home the gold for Canada.

Their efforts did not go unnoticed on the homefront, where they were met by parades, city tours, city officials, and gifts including silver tea services.

All were multi-talented athletes, with secondary skills in baseball, javelin and basketball. All brought home gold.

All made their mark in a way Canadian women have not been able to match since.

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Lauriene "Fordie" Ford:

Ottawa Valley Junior coach



by Rose Jones

If anyone were to mention the name Lauriene Ford while talking "softball," most people would probably say, "...who?" However, if you were to mention a woman called, "Fordie," not only would the name be familiar in the softball scene around Ottawa, but throughout Ontario as well!

Fordie was one of the original organizers to establish a women's softball association for Eastern Ontario and is past president for the league.

Fordie has been coaching the Ottawa Valley Juniors (OVJ) since 1975. Last year was a memorable one, as the OVJ won the Junior Ontario Softball Championships, giving the team the right to represent Ontario in the Canada Summer Games, held in St. John, Newfoundland. The team placed 3rd bringing home a bronze medal.

How long have you been involved with softball?

Since 1955, first as a player (catcher). Then in 1971 I started coaching teams.

How did you get into softball?

I've always liked the sport, but when I worked in the service as a

recreational specialist, I continued to stick with it.

Could you expand on the team you're coaching now?

I've been coaching the Ottawa Valley Juniors (OVJ) for the last three years. We are called juniors because everyone on the team is under 20 years old.

Why have you chosen to coach that age group?

First, because the kids are really keen and eager to play and have a competitive attitude. Secondly, they are all at the high-school age, therefore are more teachable.

Also, the kids are easier to handle when it comes to getting to bed at a decent hour, when you have to play early the next day, whereas players who are older, don't like having curfew set.

How has the team done in tournaments this year?

We haven't played in any yet. Right now we're preparing for the regional round tournament of the Junior Ontario Softball Championships being held in Oshawa, June 23 and 24. From there, the top four finalists, go to Burlington, July 1, 2, and 3 to compete for the title against other teams from the regionals.

The calibre of play in your tournaments is top in Ontario, therefore the pitchers your team players have to hit against must be fast. What advice do you give the players when it comes to hitting?

Well, I just tell them to relax when they're in the batter's box and to watch the ball. Also, when you are up to bat, you can't be thinking of other things, other than concentrating on what you're trying to do.

Is there any basic strategy you tell the team when playing?

Strategy only starts when a runner gets on first base. As for when the team is in the field, there is no special defensive play. Try your best to put the other team out, but at the same time enjoy the game. The kids don't need the pressure at this point.

How often does the OVJ practice?

Every weekend, for about four hours. Then there's the regular season schedule which includes two or three games a week.

At the practices, do you have set drills?

The team always has fielding and batting practice. Then comes

the extra things that have to be worked on, which are determined previous to practice. For example, we might spend a session on learning how to slide, etc.

What about the team's travelling expenses? Who foots the bill?

Well, the team travels all over Ontario, so each trip roughly costs about \$500. We're known as an unsponsored team. We have gone to firms, but the majority will not sponsor a women's team, no matter how good they are! However, our search wasn't a complete waste because there are a few faithful firms that give us money every year — Ault Ltd, Computer Systems Ltd, Rich Whan Insurance Ltd, and last year the merchants of Smiths Falls got together and gave us \$750.

Plus, the team players worked together off the field and raised a hell of a lot of money on their own.

Is the competition in Ottawa strong for the OVJ, or is it just in tournaments the team meets its match?

No, the calibre of play in Ottawa is strong and very competitive.

What province would you say has the top women's softball teams?

Has to be Ontario.

Why?

Because, Ontario has the largest number of participating teams playing softball, of any other province in Canada. Furthermore, Ontario is the only province not allowed to choose an all-star team to represent them in national tournaments, whereas the other provinces can do this. So, really it's all a matter of interest — and it shows because since 1974 when the Junior Softball Championships first started, a team from Ontario has always won it! As, well Ontario is the only province with its own Women's Softball Association.

Is the saying true, you're only as good as your pitcher?

No, I completely disagree because softball is a team sport. If you have a good pitcher, but no one to back her up when the ball is hit, then you'll lose.

Is there any one trait that makes a good, all around softball player?

Just need the desire to do well. And secondly, which is import-

ant, is to be able to get along with other team players.

Do you think some people are only cut out for certain positions?

No, anyone can play any position providing there is no mental block. With exception to pitching, which requires a certain amount of natural ability.

What would you say is the hardest position to play in softball? Why?

I would have to say short-stop because the player has to have speed and agility because of all the covering she does. As well, she has to have a strong, accurate throw.

Have you noticed many changes in women's softball over the years?

Not many, except to say that the speed of the game has picked up considerably because pitchers are really learning to develop their pitching techniques.

Have you come across many biases because you're a women's softball team?

Other than getting firms to sponsor us, no. The team has first class umpires in Ottawa, as well as the best softball diamonds.

What is the fan support like?

It's poor in Eastern Ontario, when compared to Southern Ontario where people of all ages come out to watch the games.

Why, in Eastern Ontario?

Maybe because there are too many things to do around the National Capital region, that people are participating more than watching — which is a good sign.

Is there any one aspect as a softball coach you would like to emphasize?

Well, if a person is going to coach, make sure they're doing it for the right reasons, not for their own personal glory and winning. They should help develop their team members as players and as people.

Lastly Fordie, what has motivated you over the years to stay with the game?

I wonder? I like the sport, but you know, if I had to put it down, to one reason, I suppose it's because I like people.

list continues next month

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340 Laurier W
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Cara
181 Bank (Esplanade)
Ottawa, Ont.

Union Smokeshop
310 Rideau
Ottawa, Ont.

Ernie's Gift and Smokeshop
785 Bank St
Ottawa, Ont.

Dan's Smokeshop
3 Nicholas St
Ottawa, Ont.

Britten's Smokeshop
848 Bank St
Ottawa, Ont.

Hill Books
1142 Bank St.
Ottawa, Ont.

Fraser Merchandising
200 Elgin St
Ottawa, Ont.

Tony's Smokeshop
233 Elgin St
Ottawa, Ont.

Olympia Gift
168 Elgin St
Ottawa, Ont.

Walt's Smokeshop
283 Elgin St
Ottawa, Ont.

Esquire Smokeshop
241 Bank St.
Ottawa, Ont.

Stevensen Drug
350 Elgin St
Ottawa, Ont.

Sandy Hill grocery
280 Osgoode
Ottawa, Ont.

Paul Sundries
1581 Bank St
Ottawa, Ont.

Kilborn Confectionary
1793 Kilborn
Ottawa, Ont.

U of Ottawa Bookstore
85 Hastey
Ottawa, Ont.

Pinto Somerset W.
675 Somerset St. W
Ottawa, Ont.

Denmarc Smokeshop
355 River Rd
Ottawa, Ont.

Bell Deli
199 Bell St.
Ottawa, Ont.

Laroque Brothers
233 Dalhousie
Ottawa, Ont.

Leo Gallien
2642 Marble Cr.
Ottawa, Ont.

George's Gift Shop
McArthur Plaza
Ottawa, Ont.

Forbes Smokeshop
526 Montreal Rd.
Ottawa, Ont.

Quennswood Variety
3022 St. Joseph Blvd
Orleans, Ont.

Reading & Greeting
2339 Ogilvie Rd
Ottawa, Ont.

Top's Tabacco
2269 Riverside Dr.
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1233 Colonel By Dr.
Ottawa, Ont.

Carleton U. Variety (Unicentre)
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Ottawa, Ont.

Smoker's Nook
1910 St. Laurent
Ottawa, Ont.

Pinto
2919 Innes Rd.
Ottawa, Ont.

Pinto
62 Hwy. 7
Bells Corners, Ont.

Bayview Grocery
2910 Carling Ave.
Ottawa, Ont.

Pinto
1989 Merivale Rd.
Ottawa, Ont.

Westboro Smokeshop
314 Richmond Rd
Ottawa, Ont.

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Ottawa, Ont.

Pinto
373 Poulin St.
Ottawa, Ont.

Melham Cigar
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Ottawa, Ont.

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1125 Meadowlands Dr.
Ottawa, Ont.

Pinto Rideauview
1430 Prince of Wales Dr.
Ottawa, Ont.

Pinto
2 Woodfield Dr.
Ottawa, Ont.

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Why don't you stop into one of these stores and ask for your UPSTREAM? Let the distributors know that UPSTREAM has an interested readership!

career:

Now she's cooking — for a living

This month UPSTREAM interviewed Dorothy Anne, a cook. At the moment she is unemployed and is presently looking for another cooking job. Following is a description of her last job at a well-known Ottawa restaurant.

by Jean Frances

What got you into cooking for a living?

I enjoy cooking. It seemed like a marketable thing for me to do. I've had experience as a short order cook. It's nice to be paid for doing something you like to do. I took this job because I had the skill and I needed the money. Mostly, I needed the money.

What was your rate of pay?

They paid me \$3.75 an hour. I figured I could live on it. I worked about 28 hours a week so it worked out to about \$90.00 a week.

You were working part time?

Yes.

What were your duties?

They have a menu that was mostly hamburgers and french fries, fish and chips, soup and salad, you know, things you can do in five minutes. I had to prep everything, keep an eye on the stock, do dishes—fortunately they had a dishwasher. I had to look after that, the prepping of the food and the cooking of the food. I generally stuck to that.

What was your job title?

I was a cook.

How well defined were your duties?

Fairly well. They had a job list of things to be done. Mine were fairly reasonable. The other cook—he worked during the week, I had the weekend—half the time he wouldn't bother.

With what kinds of things?

Mostly cleaning.

Did that mean that you got stuck doing what he should have done?

Sometimes. There were a few things they asked me to do like empty the garbage in the basement. The way the manager presented it to me was, "Would you empty the garbage in the basement, no one else does." So of course I didn't. I'm not going to empty the garbage just because no one else does. There were things like that. They would tell you to do a bunch of cleaning things that were kind of absurd just to have you doing something. In which case most of the time I'd do something else that I thought was more valuable.

How did they take that? Was the idea that they were only trying to keep you busy and if you were doing anything it was okay?

I thought it would be but a lot of the time it wasn't. Once I was asked to clean out the back room—which had nothing to do with me. It didn't even have a floor, just dirt. I wasn't about to go messing around in the dirt, especially since it was just about the dinner hour. I had some prepping to do so I did it, and then they wanted to know why I hadn't cleaned out the shed.

So your job was not all that clearly defined. It sounds like your employers would just ask you to do things which you would do if you felt like it and if they struck you as being reasonable.

Were you in danger of "getting into trouble" if you didn't?

Yeah. That's about it.

You as a woman and a part time cook—did you notice any difference in the way you and the other cook, who was male and full time, were treated?

Well, they had him working the weekdays and me working the weekends and a couple of evenings. It was a shitty shift. On Monday nights when I came in he would still be on for another hour, but he would just sit around and relax. They'd let him, because he'd been going nuts at lunchhour with all the business from Tunney's Pasture.

With me, I had a real busy time too, but if I tried to take a break after it slacked off they'd come up and bug me with something.

Because of basic irritations they were on my back a lot. They'd ask me to bake a cake right in the middle of the rush hour, for instance. It was absurd! We may have needed the cake but I couldn't do that, and prep and cook orders, and do dishes, all at the same time. So there would be a hassle about it.

Did they give you a reason for doing that?

No. They always do it—policy, or some such thing. But my first pay, which was supposed to be for ten hours, turned out to be for nine and three quarters. So I asked why, and he said "We'll go over it sometime." I said that I wanted to go over it now. I had arrived early and even worked a few minutes later than I needed to and I couldn't understand why I was docked fifteen minutes pay. I never got a straight answer out of the guy. After that he didn't do it again. I found out that he was doing that to several of the waitresses, who hadn't said anything. When they found out that I had spoken up about it they did too, and that aggravated things.

So these irritations were caused mainly by your sticking up for what you felt were your rights and trying to work out problems?

Yes. The manager was no good at all at talking things out. I'd have to deal with these men pouting all the time. That was their reaction, particularly the manager.

They were always asking for suggestions, too, about how they

passed the suggestion on to the owner.

When you started that job did you intend to stay for awhile?

Oh, yeah. Actually I was hoping that after I'd been there for some time and got worked in, I could talk them into giving me more hours.

I'm aware that you're no longer doing that job. What happened?

It has to do with the non-communication between the manager and the owners.

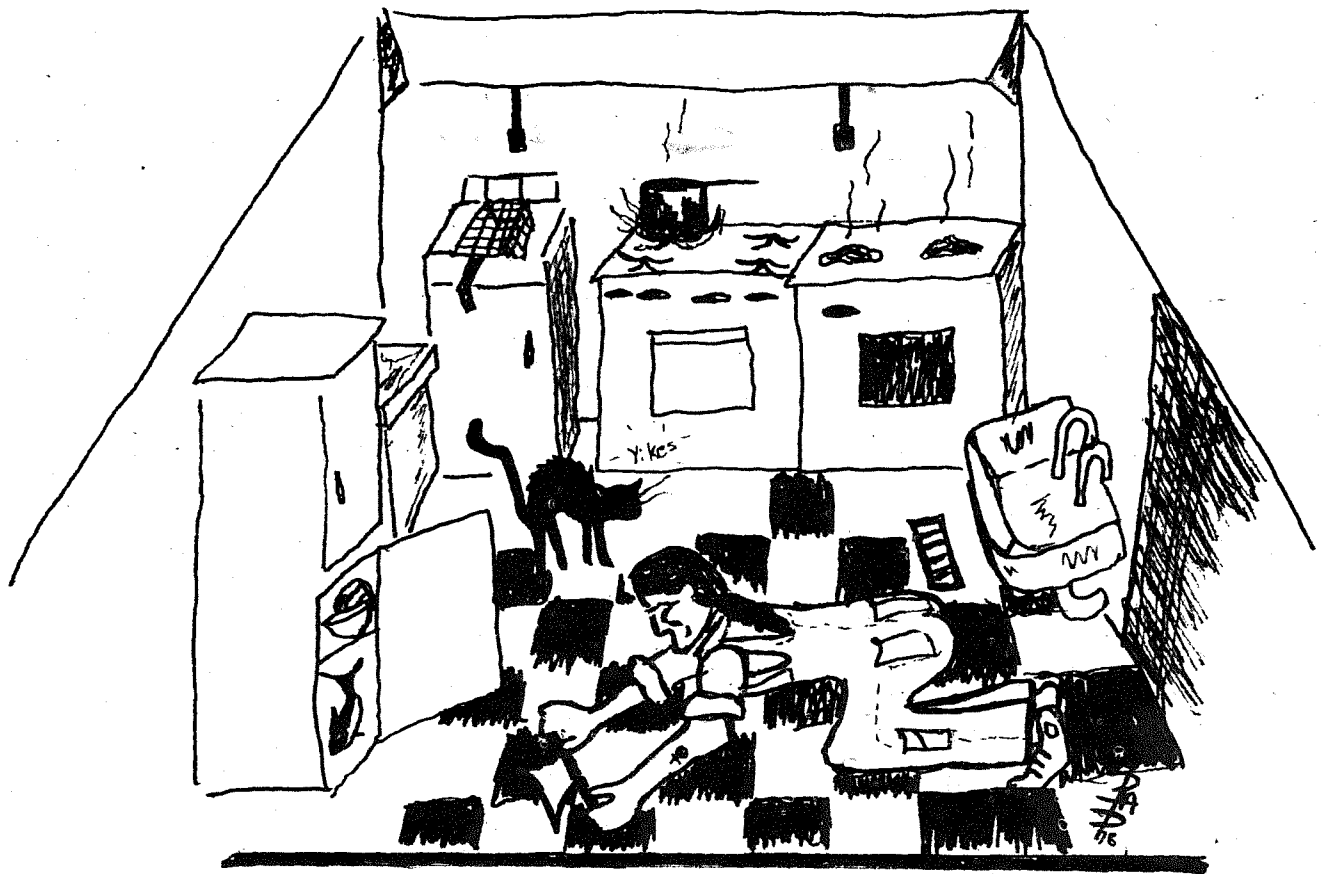
The manager wasn't there on the weekends, so I would work with the owners. At one point they wanted to change my hours—which I thought was a good idea too. I thought I should be working later. So the manager called me one Friday and asked me to work later hours. I said I thought it was a good idea but I couldn't do it that weekend because I'd already made plans; but I'd do it any other time. He didn't bother to tell the owners, who were the ones who were going to be there. It seems they had all gotten together and decided on the change and I was just to have been informed. So when I walked in on Saturday

It came up last Saturday when they fired me. The owner waited until I was almost finished my shift and then he told me that my hours weren't flexible enough. I said that that wasn't the problem, because I'd said I could work when they wanted to except for that one weekend. It was just that no one had told anyone else what was going on! But he said my hours weren't flexible and they'd decided to try another cook.

Was it merely a matter of non-flexible hours?

Well, no. I think what they meant by "flexibility" was willingness just to hang around in case they needed me. They never came out and asked; I just felt that it was expected of me. But I wasn't about to come out and offer to do that without being asked. Also, the manager was the one who did the pays. If I worked more than I was supposed to I would have no guarantee that he would know about it. I really stuck to my guns about it.

Also I would talk to the other employees about not putting up with crap—because they all did. I'm sure the word got around—in a small place like that it travels



We're out of hamburger, again!

You talked about basic irritations. What did you mean by that?

Well, a lot of things just seemed to happen. For instance, in the beginning—the kitchen was very small, and the manager used to hang around in the doorway. It really bugged me, so I thought it would be a very mature thing to do to tell him that it did. But he just pouted for days. He couldn't accept it.

He also was the one who did the pay. They withheld my first week's pay, so my first paycheck was for ten hours' work.

could improve things. So I would make some—about stock they might want to try, things I'd seen done in other places. But they never listened to me. The way they handled their hamburger was really close to the line, too. The refrigeration was poor, and the other cook used to leave the hamburgers out on the counter all day. But when I suggested keeping them in the frig, or making the patties from the fresh hamburger and then freezing it, they said "Oh, yeah, sure," and never gave it a second thought. The manager never

morning the owner said, "What are you doing here so early?" So then I told him that I couldn't stay late that weekend. He said, "Try and stay a bit later anyway." I told him I'd see what I could do but I had to be somewhere at eight. I'd planned only to work till seven which was my regular time. When quarter after seven rolled around I told him I had to go, and since he didn't say anything I just left.

The same thing happened the next day with the other owner. Not even did the two owners, who live together, tell one another what was happening.

pretty fast.

There's not much security in any kind of kitchen job but particularly in a part time restaurant job you really have to keep your mouth shut and do what they tell you or else you're out on your ear.

I know you're looking for other cooking jobs. Do you think you'll find one you'll be able to hack?

I'm always optimistic. I always go in with the hope that at last there'll be someone I can work with, communicate with, work things out with. I like the work and I want to stay in this line.

a pleasure trip into the Canadian bush

By Alma Norman

In the last issue of UPSTREAM various women recounted their experiences while travelling through Canada, depending upon their own resources. Such self-reliance and ability to cope is not, however, a recent phenomenon for women travelling in Canada. The article which follows is based on a diary kept by one such woman, known only as N, Davenport, who in 1871 journeyed with her husband from Quebec City to Lac St-Jean, a distance of about 100 miles, in 17 days. This diary, and an equally interesting account of another journey written by Theresa Gowanlock in 1885, are reprinted in *Privilege Of Sex*, edited by Eve Zaremba. This article begins with Zaremba's own introduction to these diaries.

"...Gowanlock and Davenport are not female imitations of the usual Canadian wilderness hero...

The accepted standard in these matters calls for a muscled male who fears nothing, slaughters red skins, wrestles grizzlies, and singlehandedly saves the garrison.... Neither Gowanlock nor Davenport is anything so silly. But in their own way and time they seem just an improbable.

...there could have been no practical or psychological preparation for the types of experiences described in these...narratives. The nineteenth century ideal of lady-like gentility was far removed from the real world, to begin with: on the Canadian frontier it was ridiculous.

...even today it is harder for women to deal with physical danger. Neither the necessary practical skills nor the expectation of having to use them are part of our training and socializations. Nineteenth century women led even more limited lives and generally had even more limited expectations of themselves. Yet under pioneer conditions far removed from the safety of male-protected households, they managed.

What Gowanlock and Davenport demonstrate in their different ways—and they are very different personalities—is women's capacity to respond to real challenges with existential alacrity. Although brought up to dependence and passivity, they appear to have little trouble discarding these "feminine" virtues. When the issue becomes their own self-preservation, their tenacity and will power gave the lie to the stereotype of Victorian womanhood.

Little is known about either woman except what can be gathered from stories. ...Thereas Gowanlock's husband is killed in a massacre during the Northwest Rebellion of 1884 and though she grieves over the death of her "Natural protector" she wastes no time pondering its implications. ...she works hard at staying alive and unharmed—and succeeds.

We do not know Davenport's first name, she gives only an initial. But we know from her story a great deal about the sort of woman N must have been. On her catastrophic trip over a non-existent road from Quebec to lake St. John—a matter of some 100 miles—she is decisive and

resourceful. She handles...assorted dire circumstances with a healthy self confidence. Although obviously in no way prepared she has a proper sense of priorities in the bush and, like Gowanlock, will not be distracted from survival."

Source: *Privilege Of Sex: A Century of Canadian Women.*
Eve Zaremba, Anansi.

the leaves and the murmuring of the brook that ran close by."

Unfortunately, day two was less happy. It rained, as it was to do during many of the days following. More ominous were indications that the good road upon which they had hoped to make their 100 mile journey might be less than adequate, if indeed it existed at all. Early signs were not promising: they

continuously by mosquitoes and flies. They were even, on one memorable day, chilled through by a snowstorm and battered by hailstones while crossing a lake in an unstable overloaded canoe.

For several days the party was separated, Johnson, some guides and the horse having lost contact with N, her husband and Honoré, the chief guide. Without horses each of them including N herself

repair her tattered clothes.)

At one point, when the Indian guide suggested they stop at dusk, "I entirely lost my temper as I thought they were keeping me back on purpose. I told them that if they did not go on, I would." The party continued. When darkness at length compelled them to stop for the night, N describes them as all looking "perfectly hideous from the fly bites." As to her own condition, she recorded that "besides feeling great pain my head and neck were so swollen I could not lie down but had to remain in a sitting position."

Things got worse. N's boots wore out completely and she finished the journey wearing a pair of Indian mocassins, far too large for her. Moreover, the unaccustomed exertion of carrying the heavy loads over treacherous terrain so strained her back that on the morning of the eighth day she felt "I had broken my back as I could not raise myself from the floor on which I had slept." With her husband's help she managed to get to her feet and, scarcely able to walk continued the march.

Food supplies dwindled and eventually ran out. By day ten there was none left. They subsisted on tea, having no luck in catching fish. In order to travel lighter they had also abandoned the tent. The rain continued and the party was almost constantly soaked.

The end was in sight, however. On the Fourteenth day they reached a lake "so lovely to well deserve its name, "Lac la belle rivière," and there, at last, they found a solid well made road. After 14 days of slogging through undergrowth, sinking in bog, scrambling over and under fallen trees and massive rocks, they were able to walk with some comfort to the home of a M. Tremblay—all except N whose legs could no longer support her, and who was carried on a make-shift chair. The Tremblays provided luxury of warm dry lodging, food, and washing facilities. From Mr. Tremblay they also learnt to their consternation, that they were "the third party he had rescued from starvation in trying to reach the lake by that road."

Two days later they were on the steamer "Union" bound for Québec City and home. They arrived on the afternoon of September 7, 17 days after leaving for their "pleasure trip."

"It will be some time," N's diary records, "before I go again in the Canadian bush."



The preparations made by the Davenports for their "pleasure trip" to Lac St-Jean seem extraordinary today: horses for N and her husband, Malcom; a horse to draw the cart carrying provisions for beasts and people (there were ultimately six men and one woman in the party); their coachman, an Indian guide and helpers, and a cartman. They left their home near Quebec City on August 22, 1871, planning to follow the road to Lac St-Jean, headwaters of the Saguenay, camping in route, either in their tent, or in shanties they might happen upon.

Day one passed propitiously and N recorded that "We passed through lovely country the first 18 miles, found a good camping spot for the night and after a supper of fried ham and biscuit I rolled myself in my blanket and was soon asleep, only aroused now and then by the rustling of

traversed swamp in which the horses sank up to their knees and the "only apology for a road was trees laid across the swamp." Men working on the road assured them, however, that there was only 18 miles more of this "blazed track" after which the good road started. The assurances proved less than accurate.

For nearly two weeks the party slogged through swamp, bog, and undergrowth, broiled by the sun or drenched by rain, and plagued

had to carry a heavy load through the bush. "We fought our way," wrote N, "almost torn to pieces by the trees and brushwood, there being neither path nor blaze to guide us." When at length they reached the river, "nothing was to be seen...neither flowers, birds nor insects save flies and mosquitoes; my habit was torn to pieces, my boots soaking wet." (Fortunately, however, she noted that she had carried a sewing kit with her, which enabled her to

UPSTREAM 2

JULY 1978

"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

BOOKS

source book:

Woman and religion

Unwholly Woman
by M.L. Janz

a very different kind of book...

- A history of woman as a religious symbol; as reflected in religious writings and analyses of religion.
- A sourcebook for the study of women and religion that draws from a variety of areas: poetic, religious, feminist and scientific.
- An art book of calligraphy (fine hand lettering or "scroll writing") and illumination (decorated letters).
- An experiment in symbolism where the artist/editor has written only a few notes,

attempting to convey her message associatively by her choice of quotes, their sequence, her illustrations and lettering.

- A project for women: Unwholly Woman is being distributed by the Waterloo Regional Rape Distress Centre as a fundraising effort.

Softcover on parchment.
\$4.00 plus .19 postage and handling from:

Calligraphics
c/o Waterloo Regional Rape
Distress Centre
Box 675
Waterloo, Ontario
Canada

Belle et intelligente—

Flore Cocon,
Suzanne Jacob
Editions Parti-Pris, Collection
(SIC). \$7.00

Par Marie-Claude Hecquet

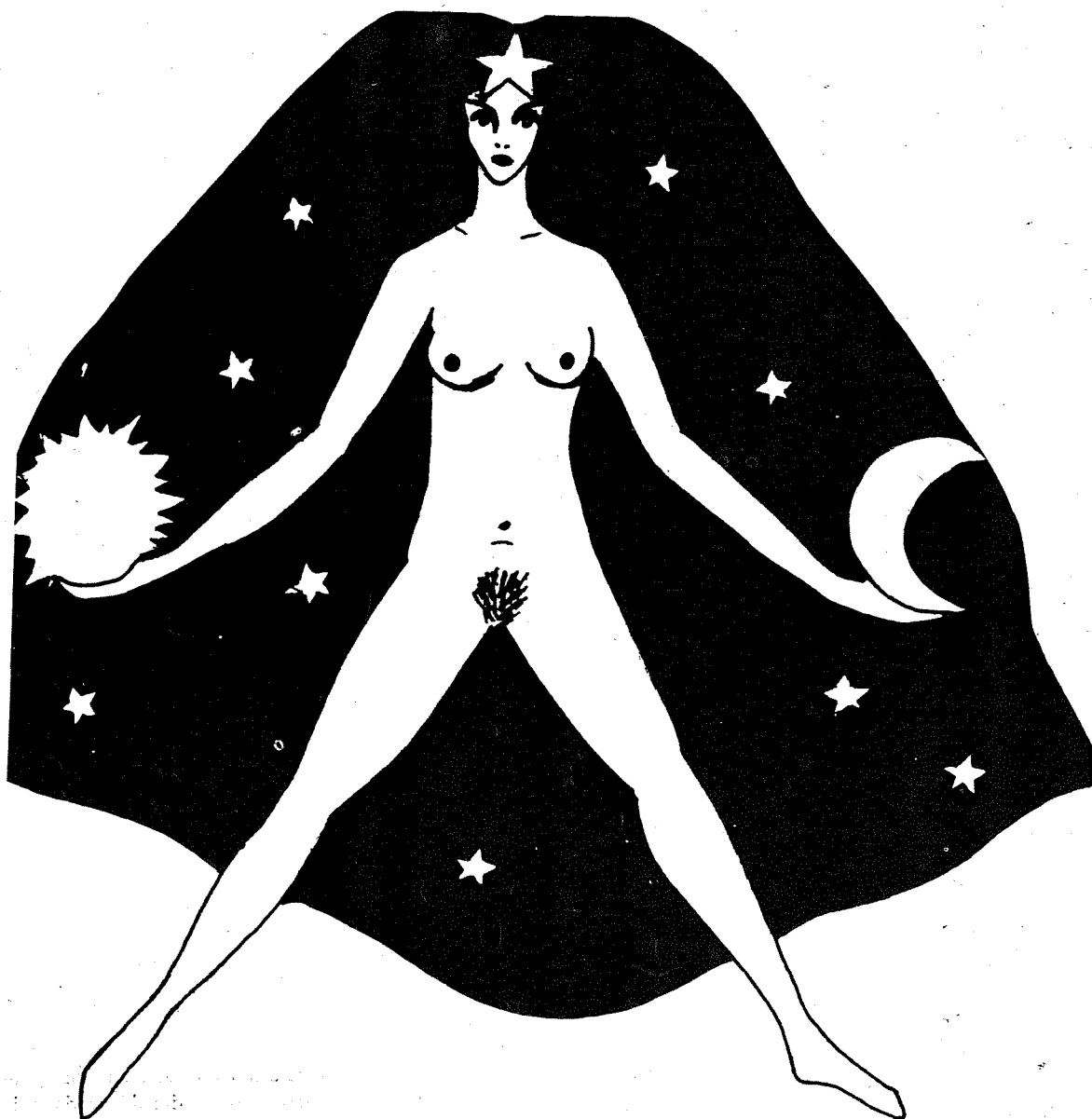
On connaissait déjà Suzanne Jacob par ses chansons. La voici qui nous livre l'histoire de Flore Cocon dans un style émouvant et très personnel, dosage parfait de la poésie, de l'humour, du rêve et de la folie. Un auteur à suivre...

Flore Cocon est un être qui essaie de vivre sa marginalité malgré la vie, les gens et plus encore elle-même. Flore est trop belle et pour éviter les concessions où pourrait l'entraîner cette trop grande beauté, elle a choisi d'être serveuse dans un restaurant. Dans la fumée des cigarettes elle vit ses désirs et ses fantasmes.

Flore n'a de comptes à rendre à personne. Elle se découvre au fil des jours. Heureuse et horrifiée d'être si différente des

autres. Elle s'arrête parfois et essaie de se retrouver, auprès de Louanne par exemple, belle et secrète mais dont la tendresse n'est pas suffisante pour la retenir. Une escapade à Paris au printemps, et c'est la tentative de la re-rencontre avec l'enfance. Mais Pierre a vieilli. "Il y avait un Pierre, dans le monde. Il est entré au jardin anthropologique. C'est normal que nous nous voyions à travers des barreaux".

De déconvenues en espoirs déçus, Flore se recroqueville un peu plus sur elle-même, son cercle de vie se rapetisse. Qui la sauvera, qui lui fera toucher terre? Peut-être Laurent, rencontré par hasard? Même pas... Flore a 30 ans. Elle abandonne tout, puisque la réalité n'est plus à la hauteur de ses rêves et, bottes de caoutchouc aux pieds, au petit matin, elle reprend sa longue marche. Sa marche à elle et à personne d'autre et, nous laisse à la fin du roman, pour s'en aller avec deux clowns blancs.



Une mosaïque sur la folie—

**Te prends-tu pour une folle
Madame Chose?**
Editions de la Pleine Lune,
Écrit par un collectif de femmes.

par Marie-Claude Hecquet

Recueil de textes, poésies, collages et dessins, ce livre a été réalisé avec le concours du Ministère de la Santé et du Bien-Être Social du Canada; il se présente un peu sous la forme d'un catalogue. On y trouve des textes de Micheline Adam, Louky Bersianik, Denise Boucher, Thérèse Dumouchel, Laure Cloutier, Suzanne Lamarre, Céline

Lapointe, Libertaria, Louise Normandeau, Marie-Madeleine Raoult et Marie Savard.

Le thème de cet ouvrage, comme son titre l'indique, est: la femme et la folie. L'aliénation de la personne de sexe féminin, par les hommes, par la banalité et la monotonie de la vie quotidienne, pour toutes celles qui ont "choisi" le doux état d'épouse-et-de-mère. Afin de dénoncer la fausse béatitude de cette réalité, chacune des femmes du collectif apporte son propre témoignage sur la folie des femmes, selon sa perception imaginaire de la chose ou son expérience vécue.

Les textes bien sûr sont inégaux, il y en a de bons et de moins bons; on passe du délire lyrique: "L'Echourie" de Libertaria, au texte médical: "Les Préjugés devant les Problèmes Psychiatriques de Femmes" par Suzanne Lamarre.

Il se dégage de tous ces textes une grande sincérité, une sensibilité à fleur de peau et surtout un merveilleux humour féminin tout en demiteintes et subtilité...

Success for Thunder Bay women

Our first collective venture in alternate funding, Salt and Yeast has become a thrilling success story. The support of our readers and of the general public, the women's groups across Canada who responded to our efforts and in so doing shared the profits have convinced us we should be looking forward to similar ventures.

Gert's poetry has unloosed the creative energies of many of our readers and we are in receipt of many fine poems which we have difficulty finding room for in the journal. We are seriously considering doing an anthology of collected poems—send in submissions before February 1979. We invite women to participate. The final selection is that of the Journal collective. No funds will be involved. Send releases with material and stamped addressed envelope, if you wish your poetry to be returned. Address all submissions to the Northern Woman Journal, 316 Bay St., Thunder Bay. P7B 1S1.

reprinted from Northern Woman Journal

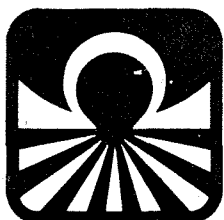
CANADIAN
WOMEN
AND THEIR
SEGREGATED
WORK
**THE
DOUBLE
GHETTO**
PAT ARMSTRONG
HUGH ARMSTRONG

you are
invited
to a
discussion
with the
authors

Thurs., July 13, 7:30

Octopus
Books

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236-2589

When God Was a Woman finally available

When God Was a Woman

Finally, Stone's popular book on the Adam and Eve myth has been published in paperback. Interweaving archaeology, mythology, and history, Merlin Stone debunks the basic Judeo-Christian belief in the "myth" of Adam and Eve in a study that documents the existence of a female deity thousands of years before the Old Testament.

Merlin Stone has taught art and art history at the university level and from 1958 to 1967 worked as a sculptor, exhibiting widely and executing numerous sculpture commissions. She became interested in archaeology and ancient religion through her art and researched this book for more than ten years. She currently divides her time between the United States and England.

When God Was a Woman is available from:

Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Inc.
General Books, Department
10-CB
757 Third Ave., N.Y., N.Y. 10017
Catalogue number 6-961585
\$4.20 (U.S.)



"Some American Feminists"

National
Film
Board



Some American Feminists
National Film Board
Kathleen Shannon, 1977

Kathleen Shannon and crew have probed the minds of various American women writers to glean a diversified view of American feminist philosophy. The film emerges a potpourri of political statements and her-story. Margo Jefferson, Kate Millet, Lila Karp, Ti-Grace Atkinson, Betty Friedan and Rita Mae Brown all appear intermittently with news clips and street interviews about feminism.

Some American Feminists suffers a major weakness. Only Rita Mae Brown escapes a very static setting. Although the viewer is not affected by this initially, the film becomes very boring strictly as a result of poor staging. The women interviewed are all interesting. Unfortunately seeing them minute after minute in the same room, under the same light, they become a monotone pattern of colours and actions.

Betty Friedan, for instance, is filmed sitting on the same ornate red couch, using the same gestures, interrupted at regular intervals by similar news clips. Her whole interview becomes reminiscent of a claustrophobic déjà vu, a scene repeated again and again with little progression.

The only benefit of this film technique, bereft of style, emerges as a concentration on the personalities of the writers.

Margo Jefferson is an animated conversationalist who chops the air with her hands when making a point. She is portrayed as a fighter, pushing concepts and politics swiftly into the consciousness of the viewer.

An opposite to Jefferson, mythical Kate Millet is a mystic, sitting cross-legged on the floor in India whites, speaking slowly, oblivious to the shock of hair hiding half her face. Millet is not articulate, and at times gropes for words and images. She does not approach the interview as an informer but rather as a feminist reminiscing and slowly digesting events she has spoken about many times before.

Ti-Grace could have used a bit of Millet and Jefferson in her sections. She is clearly the analyst, the arm-chair strategist, cool, clear and cutting. Her lack of emotion causes her to appear very cold. This coldness does not sit comfortably with her words and recollections which are very hot, very emotional. This constant contrast between her words and her personality, makes it very hard to digest the importance and wisdom of what she is actually saying.

The saving grace of the film is Rita Mae Brown. Lean, lanky, with a mischievous smile, she beams at the interviewer and

gesticulates as they walk out of doors. She states, and the film attempts to pick up on her lead, that "Feminism is diversity... we have to have a higher form to take on." From there she describes her childhood, her involvement with the New York feminist movement, her rejection by that movement when she openly announced her lesbianism, and where she found herself after the ruckus subsided.

For some reason Brown seems more alive and far more effervescent than the other women. Her apparent comfort with herself and the interviewer lends itself to a far more effective presentation.

Some American Feminists has a lot to say about feminism and our society. Unfortunately, it requires a viewer have a great deal of interest in basic her-story in order to sit through the whole film. A good representation of a diverse movement also requires diversity in film technique. Try again Kathleen, the audience is waiting.



Pour les féministes et les autres

par Janick Belleau

Some American Feminists
Office National du Film
1977, couleurs
55 minutes; version originale
recherche: Nicole Brossard
entrevues: Luce Guilbeault
montage: Margaret Wescott

Dès le début du film, les réalisatrices québécoises préviennent leur auditoire que "Some american feminists" ne prétend pas être un bilan du mouvement féministe mais se définit davantage comme un document. Le film relate les expériences, la philosophie et les sentiments de quelques féministes étasuniennes, quelles soient noires ou blanches, lesbiennes ou hétérosexuelles, révolutionnaires ou libérales, ces femmes livrent toutes un même message: celui de la solidarité des femmes entr'elles. Pour y parvenir, nous devons nous regrouper et faire cause commune afin de combattre l'ennemi numéro un, le Gouvernement. Néanmoins la réussite ne sera garantie que si nous évitons le piège tendu, i.e. appliquer au féminin les concepts masculins du pouvoir.

Cette production de l'O.N.F.

permet aux Canadiennes un contact plus intime avec les protagonistes du mouvement féministe américain. Laissez-moi vous énumérer cinq bonnes raisons d'aller voir le film: comprendre la mystique de Betty Friedan qui changera votre vie; chevaucher avec l'amazone Ti-Grace Atkinson à travers une certaine odyssée; ignorer Sida grâce à la politique sexuelle de Kate Millet; convenir avec Margo Jefferson que "black is beautiful," et vous promener dans la "Ruby-fruit jungle" en compagnie de Rita Mae Brown.

Personnellement, j'ai savouré le caractère intime des rencontres prévues par Nesya Shapiro à la caméra. La plupart des entretiens se déroulent dans le salon des invitées. De plus, la discrétion de Luce Guilbeault, journaliste improvisée, m'a charmée. Elle sait s'effacer afin de laisser la parole aux Américaines. Toutefois, malgré les efforts louables de la technicienne du son, j'ai perdu, à quelques reprises, des propos de Ti-Grace Atkinson (heureusement que j'étais ma propre projectionniste).

Les réalisatrices du film ont eu l'ingénieuse idée d'inclure des scènes rétrospectives de manifestations (entr' autre "New York Times," 1968, "Women Power," 1971-72, marches gay à New York en 1971-74) qui ont modifié le cours de l'histoire des droits de la femme. Ces événements ont aussi façonné la "seconde révolution américaine," comme le remarque justement Betty Friedan.

"Some american feminists" est peut-être un document mais c'est aussi la référence canadienne la plus complète du féminisme étasunien. Je le conseille fortement aux néophytes qui (comme moi) veulent parfaire leur éducation et aux féministes chevronnées qui veulent se rappeler une décennie de souvenirs.

Avant de terminer, je laisse à Luce Guilbeault le soin de vous expliquer pourquoi le film est dans la langue de Shakespeare. "Nous aurions voulu faire le film en français mais on a été bloqué du côté de la production française. C'est pour ça et parce que nous avions vraiment envie de le faire que nous nous sommes tournées du côté anglais" (Cinéma Québec, No. 55).

Ce film, ainsi que plusieurs autres, peut-être visionné à la cinémathèque de l'O.N.F. par toute personne ayant fait la demande [sans frais] d'une carte de membre. Il suffit de réserver la salle et le film, un jour d'avance, entre 9:30 et 16h00 au numéro 996-4861, et de se rendre à l'heure choisie seul[e] ou avec des ami[e]s au 150 Kent à Ottawa du lundi au vendredi de 8:30 à 16h30.



Joan Armatrading

by Dorothy Drinkwater

Joan Armatrading, the British recording star, stepped on the stage at the Civic Centre to a roaring crowd. When the cheers died, she told the audience she had a cold and couldn't hear well so if they wanted her to hear, she said, "you'll have to overdo it." Happily, she returned the favour.

The audio needles probably popped off the end of the VU meters as Joan and the band started with "Down to Zero", and "Help Yourself", the first two cuts on her third album. Armatrading played mostly from her third and fifth albums, "Joan Armatrading" and "Show Some Emotion," as well as a few from her second, "Back To The Night."

There seemed to be little stage communication between Armatrading and the other five musicians (sax, drums, lead guitar, bass guitar, and keyboards), except for the synthesizer and keyboard player who looked like a character out of "Lord of the Rings." The lead guitarist seemed to think he had to look bored, but the sax player wasn't afraid to really get into it. Joan herself displayed her inspiration and talent on guitar during her solo performance of "Stepping Out." She wears her guitar low and rests her arm on top during pauses so unobtrusively that you hardly notice she's stopped playing. She makes chord changes quickly and with the ease of a slide guitarist, and hits the

ARTS

strings on the up-swing, rather than the natural down-swing which lends a dramatic and unusual rhythm sound to the usual progression.

There is no label for the type of music Joan Armatrading plays except Armatrading. She sets up rock-style but the sounds come from folk, blues, and jazz as well.

Armatrading obviously was lacking some animation because of her cold, but managed to keep some stage presence with a few stories. Unlike some performers who tell what happened to them and then sing the same story they just told, Armatrading's tunes often come from something that happens to inspire her to write a song saying entirely something else. For example, "Help Yourself," a song that comes out to be for a lover, was inspired by a frustrating set-up session with some technicians before a concert. Joan told the story behind "Water with the Wine," which followed the plot-line of the tune of a pick-up and drunken seduction, but quickly pointed out that really she had only invited "Donald" in for tea and apples, and had really kicked him out before "it was too late." Most of her song themes are universal and are rarely burdened by descriptive or possessive pronouns. She mostly uses "you" as in "seems you have trouble helping yourself," or the understood you in "just make love with affection."

Despite her bronchial affliction, Armatrading sang well, remarkably so for the song, "He Stole My Heart," during which she held each word of the title dramatically, while her voice resonated like a synthesizer. The audience called her back for more during which time, an enthusiastic woman-fan presented her with a bouquet of flowers. I just stood there sending imaginary dozens of roses up to the stage.

A familiar face to Ottawans, Dave Bradstreet started off the evening, and for those like me who haven't seen him for awhile, he now has a well-co-ordinated back-up group behind him. The performance was tight and turned out to be a good introduction to Armatrading since Bradstreet also tends to write on universal themes. He too was called back on stage, to my disbelief, but then where else but Ottawa would you find an audience that encores the back-up group?

PAS
DE
DEUX

hand-made
romantic
clothes
for
discriminating
damsels
byward market
Cover~looking
the flowers

will be
closed
August
1st-14th
x x x x

54 1/2
George
St.
233-0960



A Quebec ont sait faire!
Lezzie-faire—savoir faire
Who could care?

Meanwhile back in Ontariario
—That is Toronto—
They're screaming
"Holy fellatio"
Let's continue to support our american noses
And bring in the hose of all hoses
Anita—Chicita Orangea
To dictate peace, love and no brother / sisterhood
For that is too immoral
That I love my neighbour
She's a woman
What have I done?
Anchored the Florida Sun
My way—
Just because I'm gay
Doesn't mean I need someone
To tell me that it is not God's way.
Did the anti-gays
Ever try and figure out
The fact that Adam and Eve only had two sons
—My goodness, incestuous thoughts
Masturbatory plots
HANDED
To us on a silver platter
But what could be the matter?
Had they had two daughters
The bible would have stated
That woman was the ruin of all man'
Cus' it was up to Adam to propagate
An incestuous, oedipal, asking for it mate.

Oh, I'm so pleased to be a dyke
Don't make life so difficult to like
Give me the gay city
With our own gay team
The Holy Roller Derby Queens
I'll show you a show
That Barnum and Bailey couldn't top
My God the roller coaster wouldn't stop
The children of Hamlin
Pied Piped dreamed in
The existence of Utopia
A land of magic and fairies
Pan and the boys
Sappho and the girls
All trying to be
Without humility.

Nicole

Rocking dancers
Hazy in the strobing light
Waiters rushing
Clinking glass
We sit drawn apart
in stoned stillness
Tripping on a quiet glow
I watch your profile
I follow your gaze
To understand the thoughts
Of the present
Then you come back
Wanting to touch
To pleasantly weaken me again.

Nicole



LIT

The order of the wor

To bed early, my lov
Dawn the dusk of yo
Quickly free me from
No torch giving us tir

Seek awakening, r
Place my words betw
Believe again in my I
Breathe the crazed tl

Just to work upon yo
I am tired from the w
Taking earth beneath
Carve you out of mys

Not to cease mouldir
You become me, my
Live beyond me in st
Weigh upon me all d

Peel your scales from
As the hour is waste
I can hear you my m
Chant your derelict s

Distant cries and fres
Are described on you
To approach you, to
Like an animal cagec

In the forest you fell
In the desert I burn
In the country you ha
All the strangers I an

To sleep later, my lo
Cut the fire from my
Softly heap on me bli
Open midnight to ligh

jackie d'am

lightning strikes—
 through the haze of exhaustion
 it looks violent
 but dull—
 far away in the soft darkness.
 the pain delayed like thunder
 crashes through me
 as i waken with the morning
 standing on the edge of a precipice
 feeling the strength
 of its deepness
 pulling against mine.
 clowns dance around me
 laughing lovingly
 as they extend their hearts
 to my abandoned sanity...
 while my insanity
 let lose
 screams

trish



TERARY

Sometimes I feel like the returning hero
 sitting in the convertible
 in the ticker tape parade down Main Street.
 I have struggled so hard to be happy with myself,
 That now that I am,
 I seem only to brush the hands of
 pseudo-admiring people
 Who'd rather see me dead than view their own weaknesses—
 And I shall continue brushing hands
 To be stopped one day by a fast hold,
 To once again return in that parade
 To be held again
 Until I die.

Nicole

the world....
 A night at home

my love
 of your eyes
 from darkness
 us time

ing, my wife
 between your thighs
 my hands
 zed thoughts of trance

on you
 the world
 death fingers
 f myself

building clay
 e, my rival
 in stone
 all day

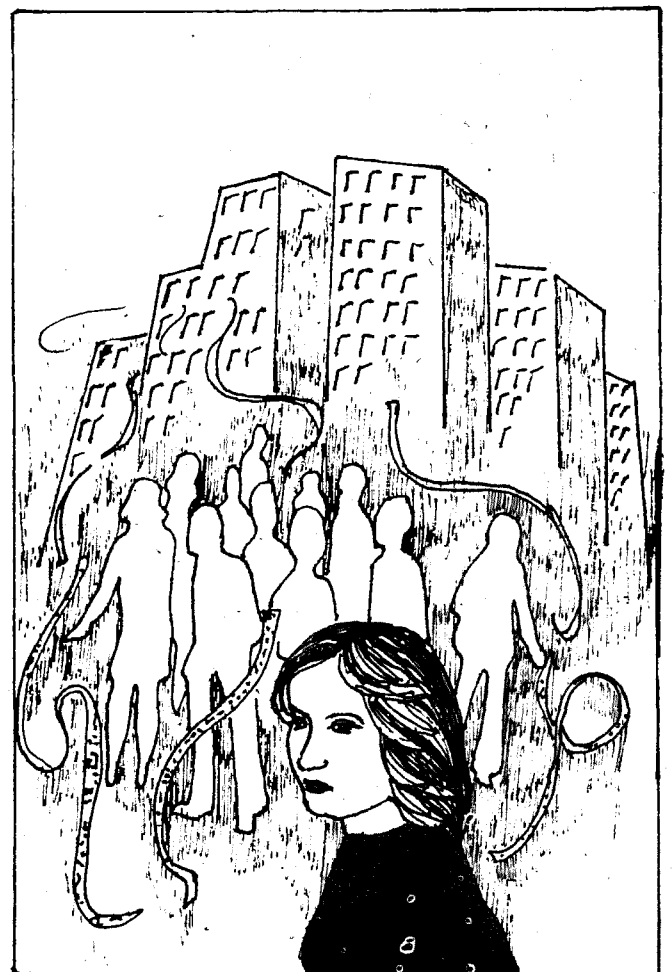
s from my body
 wasted
 my mermaid
 ict selves

d fresh tracks
 n your throat
 u, to leave you
 aged

i fell me
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 i I am

my love
 i my sight
 e blindness
 o light

d'amboise



graphics by Ana Guzewski

all material copyright by the authors

Powerhouse Gallery:

Stepping stone for women's art

by Alexandra Hewton

Powerhouse Gallery is the only cooperative Canadian gallery administered by and oriented towards women.

Following unsuccessful attempts to engage a Montreal gallery to put on a group show for women, eight professional women artists founded Powerhouse in May, 1973.

Most commercial galleries consider women artists a poor commercial risk. Powerhouse provides encouragement and space to exhibit a variety of highly professional artwork without pressure of conformity and saleability.

Besides encouraging women to work in their art-expression, the Gallery is a place to meet, to discuss ideas and to share skills with fellow artists. It provides information and assistance for exhibitions, plus an opportunity to evaluate one's work. By getting to know other women artists and gaining media exposure women are finding a road into the art world.

During the first eight months of operation, Powerhouse was funded by donations from various women, members, exhibitors and individuals. Volunteers did renovations, publicity, jurying, hanging of shows and kept Powerhouse open at standard gallery hours.

In January 1974, the Gallery received a six-month Local Initiatives Program Grant which paid for rent, some art supplies for classes and workshops, and salaries for five staff members. These women co-ordinated gallery activities and everyday operations. The Gallery now runs on a salaried/volunteer basis.

In September of 1974, Powerhouse relocated to its present

space at 3738 St. Dominique in the artist-oriented area of St. Louis Square. This has enabled the gallery to respond to the many requests for classes, counselling, discussions, exhibitions and community activities. It also promotes the sale of women's art works through a slide collection and portfolios.

Artfemme '75 — the largest collection of mixed media Women's art ever organized and exhibited at one time in Canada — ran for three weeks in April at the Gallery in co-operation with the Saidye Bronfman Center and the Musée d'Art Contemporain. More than 2,000 works were submitted by 300 artists. It was a stepping-stone for women's art and the gallery itself. And it was proof that women could produce their art while earning a living, raising a family, or running a household. Artfemme and Powerhouse offered help to the women but, most of all, it recognized their dignity and integrity as artists and human beings.

The main gallery on the second floor consists of about 1300 sq. ft. of wall space. Paintings, photo constructions, fibres, photographs, sculpture and floor pieces are exhibited. The smaller gallery exhibits only unjuried works.

Powerhouse is one of the few galleries which relies on the votes of all its members to choose future exhibitions. The membership consists of about 25 artists working in all mediums. A two-thirds majority vote is required to approve a show. Any Canadian woman artist of any medium is invited to submit to the jury which sits three or four times a year.

Finances have always been a problem with the gallery. But it makes do with a budget of approximately \$3500.00 per year. While reliance on individual

grants, volunteers and donations has been heavy, the recently achieved charitable status has allowed Powerhouse to approach the bigger companies. (After all, women have been supporting detergent companies, perfume and make-up companies for years. Isn't it about time that they started to support us?) Presently, we are holding a mass fundraising drive with a target of \$17,000.

What does the future hold for Powerhouse? Right now, members are organizing a National Women's Film Festival scheduled for mid-October. Documentary, comedy, animation, drama, and

other films may be submitted. They must be 16mm and presented as soon as possible.

Powerhouse opens each new season with a member's group exhibition and this year is no exception. In September, "Self-Portraits" will be the theme. Other upcoming shows include: Nomi Kaplan, photographs — Renée Fredette, drawings — Diane Quakenbush, mixed media — Alexandra Hewton, photographs — Vivian Proust, drawings — Nell Tenhaaf, mixed media and Bé van der Heide also mixed media.

Powerhouse members are

proud of what they have been able to achieve. Public response has proved its objectives to be valid. A feeling of warmth, companionship, understanding and comradeship pervades the whole gallery whether it's vernissage (show opening), a workshop or a group discussion. Powerhouse existed before International Women's Year, during it and will continue.

The members of Powerhouse are excited about their ideas and making others excited about them too.



Large Gallery: installation shot of exhibition by Kay Aubanel

Sandra Hewton

Prison for Women

cont. from p.5

female offenders, but more to the fact that they have no means of making contacts and plans for their paroles and release.

For the women out of the province it usually runs anywhere from four years and up before they see their families, which is a long time to be separated from them. Their children at times don't even remember them and the adjustments for all concerned are very hard.

The Prison for Women is classified as a maximum security prison, therefore all women who come here regardless of their crime have to live as maximum security prisoners...even though only about 10 per cent of the women are considered dangerous enough to society or to themselves to be classified as maximum. The women have no opportunity to work their way down to medium, minimum, or annex as the men do.

In September 1973 after a protest by the Prison for Women inmates, an annex was opened across the street as an experiment for minimum security women. Eighteen months later it was closed. It was doomed from

the day it opened, as in the end they sent only inmates with six months or less. They had nothing to work for, they really didn't care as they would soon be free. They should have sent inmates who had longer sentences and something to work for.

The inmates put a lot of work into planning the peaceful sit-down. But it seems the Administration and Ottawa planned even better. Their plan seemed to include undermining the experiment from the start.

In 1974 there was a Federal-Provincial agreement that let women transfer but a majority returned because the Provincial jails had no programs or facilities to deal with any kind of prisoners except minimum ones, and even then program and facilities were limited.

As a result of the Parliamentary sub-committee report, Ottawa is now working out a new provincial-federal agreement to deal with transfers.

The first word was that Ontario would be first to sign the agreement and women would be going to the Vanier Centre. At this time the latest word is Vanier

will be turned into a co-ed jail and men will be filling the empty spots instead of Prison for Women. So if Ontario can't even come up with something, what will happen with the rest of the provinces????

Also at the Federal-Provincial Conference held in Ottawa to discuss the agreement on prison transfers the Maritimes didn't even bother to send a representative. This is consistent with the Maritime's record of giving young first offenders sentences over two years for minor offences, such as breaking windows, so that they will be sent to Prison for Women and there will be one less problem for them to deal with.

If the Prison for Women is to be phased out, then why waste two million dollars of the tax-payers money on an activities building when it can be put to better use in the way of going ahead on the Parliamentary sub-committee's recommendations of small cottage type institutions or village clusters in at least three regions of Canada. This seems more feasible as I am sure the two million dollars would nearly cover

the cost and everyone would benefit.

As for the controversy about whether the Prison for Women should remain open, the question should really be what are the alternatives? Too often people jump to the easiest solution to try and solve a problem with quick answers to get it out of the way. The deep problems are overlooked and new problems created. And as usual the Prison for Women ends up on the bottom of the barrel with all the bureaucratic red tape thrown on top and the problem filed under "G" (for garbage)!!!!!!

reprinted from *Tightwire*

Tightwire, the inmates' publication, is available for \$3.00 a year from Box 515, Kingston, Ontario K7L 4W7



The Women's History Research Centre announces that its major collections are now available on microfilm: HERSTORY (women's serials from the U.S., Canada and abroad), WOMEN & LAW, and WOMEN & HEALTH-MENTAL HEALTH. Petition your library to write to the Centre: 2325 Oak Street, Berkeley, California, 94708. We need your support to ensure that everyone everywhere has access to these unique collections.

Canadian Women's Studies: An Educational Forum is soliciting articles, graphics and line drawings for upcoming issues. Manuscripts should not exceed 2500 words, typed, double spaced with an abstract attached. The themes for the next two issues are the work force and women and creativity. Deadlines are September 15, 1978 and January 15, 1979 respectively.

Articles should be submitted in duplicate to:
Shelagh Wilkinson, Editor,
Canadian Women's Studies:
An Educational Forum,
Centennial College of Applied
Arts and Technology
651 Warden Avenue
Scarborough, Ontario
M1L 3Z6

herbs:

yours for the picking

by Jean Frances

My kids and I and some friends went camping in Algonquin Park the second weekend in June. We took the minimum amount of food with us, intending to supplement our diet with foraged vegetables and fish we were going to catch. The fishing was a disaster in terms of results — we caught no fish, but we had a great time doing it, and I learned to bait a hook with worms because no one else would.

But the foraging was a substantial success. There was plantain in plenty, which the kids picked and chewed on when they wanted a snack, and which we used to bandage the inevitable scratches. (For more information about plantain see UPSTREAM, May 1978.) The first night we found bladder campion and sheep sorrel which we ate raw with rice and hard boiled eggs.

Bladder campion is a common plant, found at the edges of gardens, in empty fields or lots or growing at the side of the road. It has a pleasant taste, which to me is

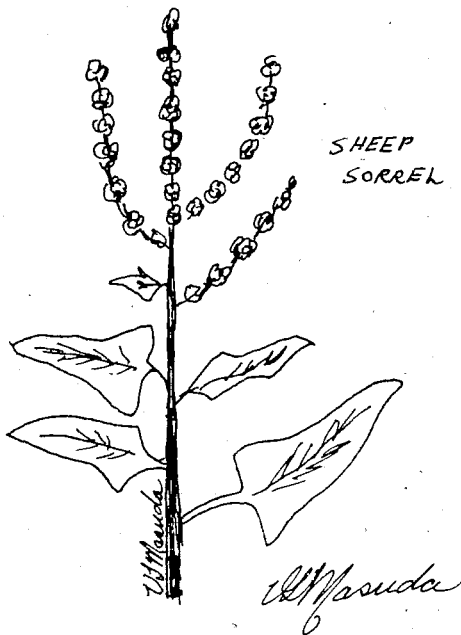


BLADDER CAMPION

almost buttery. It is best eaten when young, because the older it gets the

tougher it gets. If you want to eat bladder campion after it has flowered, it should be cooked. Steam it lightly for a few minutes or add it five minutes before serving to a soup or stew.

Sheep sorrel has arrow-shaped leaves and little red or green flowers on spikes on the stem. You can find it in quite poor soil. I found it in the sand by the lakeshore, though I've seen it in driveways and ditches too.

SHEEP
SORREL

It contains a high amount of vitamin C and has a nice acidic flavour. We ate it raw, and also chopped and added it to soup. Sheep sorrel can be used to make a beverage like lemonade by simmering a handful of the clean leaves in water for fifteen or twenty minutes. The resulting drink can be taken either hot or cold, with or without honey, whatever your taste.

Medicinally, sheep sorrel is chiefly valuable for its tonic and diuretic proper-

ties. Because of its high vitamin C content it is particularly good to have in the spring. A diuretic is something which increases the flow of urine; some women find using a diuretic relieves discomfort during menstruation.

By the time this issue is available yarrow will be ready for picking. It grows in fields



YARROW

and along roadsides, and has a straight stem branching into many small white flowers at the top. The leaves are long and feathery, and have a distinctly aromatic scent something like eucalyptus.

A tea made of the leaves and flowers of yarrow is soothing to a feverish cold. Yarrow taken before the onset of a cold is supposed to disperse it within twenty-four hours, but I can't vouch for this because I never know I'm getting a cold until I've got it. Yarrow, alone or in combination with catnip (see UPSTREAM, June 1978) is good to relieve premenstrual jitters. If you collect it this summer, you might want to save the stalks once the plants are dried and the leaves and flowers stored. Fifty yarrow stalks can be used to cast the I Ching (consult an I Ching for the method; it's a bit complicated to go into here).

CURRENTLY

General meeting of the Coalition to Oppose Sexism and Sexual Repression, at 378 Elgin. Topics include aims and purposes of the Coalition, and plans for activity around the issue of abortion. July 13, 8 p.m., all are welcome.

Women's dances every Friday night at the Town House Motor Hotel until July 21st. No dances are after that until August 4th, when they start at the Side Door, 114 Merton St., and will continue there every other Friday night. Admission \$2.00. There will be a dance contest on August 4th.

Next Ottawa Women's Lobby (OWL) meeting July 11, 7:30 p.m. at the Y. For more info call 563-1267 after 5 p.m.

The 3rd Michigan Women's Music Festival will be held August 17th-20th, near Hesperia, Michigan. Four evenings of concerts, including Meg Christian and Teresa Trull, Izquierda, and Sweet Honey in the Rock, along with four days of workshops can be enjoyed for an entrance fee of as little as \$20. For more information and to register, contact:

We Want the Music Collective
1501 Lyons Street
Mount Pleasant, Michigan 48858
(517) 772-0582



3RD MICHIGAN
WoMYn's
MUSIC FESTIVAL

August 17th-20th, 1978

Second Annual Feminist Womens weekend July 14 to 16

Women celebrate with old and new friends—a weekend in the country with lots of space to enjoy yourself. Bring your own food, tents, sleepingbags and musical instruments. Parking will be limited, so double up in rides. For more information and directions call UPSTREAM at 232-0313.

for children

Ottawa Public Libraries offer preschool story hours, films and activities for children. For more information, and the location of the branch nearest you, call 236-0301.

The National Museum of Natural Sciences offers film presentations, interpretive tours, slide shows and temporary exhibits for all ages. Admission free. For information, call 996-3102.

The National Gallery of Canada presents a children's programme for the months of July and August, 10 a.m. to noon, Monday through Friday. Projects include learning drawing skills, studying stage design, and film animation and are offered for ages 7-15.

For more details and to ensure acceptance, call Carol at Education Services, 995-7476.

for seniors

For information on lawn bowling in centretown, and swimming throughout the city, call 563-3222.

Play softball from 10 a.m. to noon on Fridays at Plouffe Park, Preston Street at Somerset Street West.

A summer day camp program for seniors includes lawn bowling, swimming, folk dancing, art or music appreciation, picnics and trips. Visits to local historical sites and entertainment from various cultural groups are featured. Registration is weekly. Call Good Companions at 236-0428.

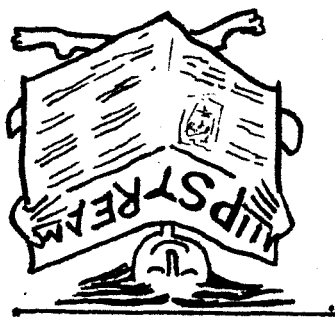
We've taken the first step

UPSTREAM has begun the long process of becoming a national newsmagazine. We are now distributed in six centres from Halifax to Vancouver. We have had a few offers from women across the country to write or be contact people for advertising and distribution—but we still need help. It UPSTREAM is to be truly representative of all the women in Canada we need input from every area, however large or small.

Will you participate?

- We need women to make initial contacts with potential distributors and/or advertisers.
- We need women to write: news, arts, features, sports, columns.
- We need women to promote UPSTREAM by putting up posters and selling subscriptions.

Now it's up to you.



Contact us:
UPSTREAM National Project
207-227 Laurier Ave. West
Ottawa, Ont.
K1P 5J7
(613) 235-2485

UPSTREAM

A CANADIAN WOMEN'S PUBLICATION

Vol.2 No.6

50¢

July 1978

MOTHERHOOD
Do we
"need"
it?

**Behind closed doors:
Western Women's Conference
Assemblée annuelle du CCSF
Joan Armatrading:
Plenty of Emotion**

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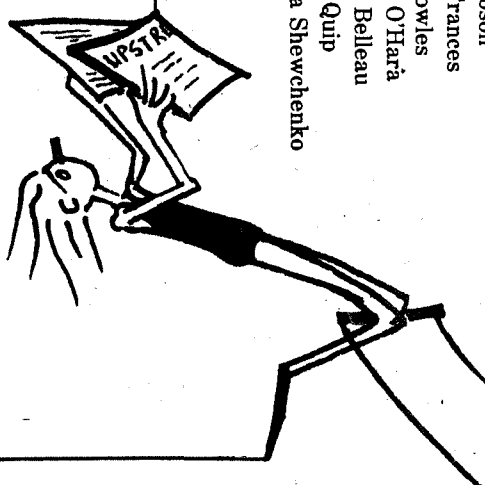
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