

# Whatever happened to Florence Nightingale?

by Pat Daley

"... V as in Victory, R, E," There is laughter in the background as Cecile Poilievre spells her name over the phone. But the chairperson of the Professional Institute of Public Service (PIPS) nursing group is making a point.

Federally employed nurses have been on strike, rotating their walkouts, since early July when negotiations with Treasury Board came to a standstill. The nurses have been without a contract since 28 December 1976.

"Our girls right now are very impatient," Poilievre said in an interview, and "have come to the point where the only way to improve the situation is by confrontation."

The main issues in negotiation are parity with provincial nurses — to be achieved through a 26% wage hike over three years — mandatory registration, and acknowledgement of the long

hours worked by nurses in the North.

Treasury Board has offered the 1,900 nurses in the bargaining unit a three-year increase of 17.5%.

Because federal nurses do not have to register as their provincial colleagues do, Poilievre said, "it creates uncertainty as to how the public looks at our professionalism." She said it also creates problems when a nurse switches from a federal to a provincial job.

"Undesirable" is the way Poilievre described the working conditions of nurses in the North. It seems like an understatement. They are "alone in health centres, responsible 24 hours a day, seven days a week" and do not receive overtime pay.

Support for the strike has been encouraging. Along with good press coverage and "good coverage from the public as a whole," Poilievre cites support from the National Indian Brotherhood,

Inuit Tapirisat, provincial nurses' unions and the 100,000 member Canadian Nurses' Association.

Even so, there has been "a fair amount of harassment on the part of the employer." When the rotating walkout hit Ottawa, it wasn't officially on at the Department of National Defence Medical Centre because all nurses are hired on a temporary basis and risk not having their jobs renewed.

"There has been some harassment as far as cancelling holidays," Poilievre said. "Scheduling has been a great problem.

Nurses are asked to work 12-hour shifts, seven days a week in some areas. Some nurses find themselves having to work in a totally different area."

Treasury Board announced in mid-June that it applied to the public service staff relations board for consent to bring charges against any designated nurses who strike. Forty per cent of the 1,900 nurses are designated as providing essential services.

But, says Poilievre, "the girls who have walked out are in a legal strike position. Designated girls have done what has been

demanding of them."

Pointing to the National Indian Brotherhood support, bargaining committee chairperson Norma Busby said, "If we were really jeopardizing lives in northern Canada, as the government says we may be, then do you think the native peoples would support us?"

While "some feel a strike is hard to cope with," Poilievre said, "we have built a kind of solidarity among ourselves."

How long will the strike last? "As long as we don't get a fair contract, we're planning to stick it out."

## UPSTREAM

August 1978

# Ottawa supports Fleck strikers

## Benefit raises \$2,000.

by Marilyn Burnett

Ottawa threw its support behind striking Fleck workers July 14 raising \$2,000 for what has been called a "classic labour dispute." Nearly 800 people turned out for one in a series of fundraising drives for the 90 women workers.

"This show of solidarity from all the people here tonight proves that for many people the word solidarity is not only a word you put in a constitution. It is also a word you can put into practice," Jean Claude Parrott, president of CUPW, told the crowd.

Parrott joined Sheila Charlton, chairperson of the Bargaining Committee, CLC president Dennis McDermott, and Alex Seymour, a UAW organizer, in addressing the benefit.

The women at Fleck have been on strike since March when contract negotiations broke down. The current top wage is \$3.20 an hour after 10 years seniority. The union is demanding 18 cents over the first year and 10 cents over the second with two years seniority. The wage issue, however, is not the contentious bargaining item. Fleck management refuses to agree to the Rand formula whereby employees pay union dues whether they belong to the union or not.

Fleck's Centralia plant is owned by the family of James Fleck - Ontario's deputy Minister of Tourism and Industry. Prior to the strike two Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) attended a general meeting of the workers to inform them of their "rights" and the rights of scabs entering the plant.

Throughout the strike a total of 500 OPP have been stationed near Centralia to handle pickets and to ensure scabs' entrance. The government has already spent \$3 million in OPP salaries and accommodation.

"It's definitely political. That's why it's going on for so long. We didn't realize we were getting into the government," Sheila Charlton said.

"In the end result we have more human resources and more determination than they ever gave us credit for and a hell of a lot more than they possess themselves," McDermott said.

"When we started this strike it was simply another bothersome employer that we sometimes have to take on for the basic recognition of the rights of the trade union. The women we organized down there turned into a classic example of the double standard and the continuing discrimination that is exercised against them," McDermott told the crowd. "This is a brave group of women representing their sisters all the way through this society."

Most of the women at Fleck have not been involved in a union before; none of them have ever been on strike. "The police really scared us, we didn't know what to do. We were wondering how many would show up for the picket lines. Then our union leader was arrested on the first day. So, we thought we might as well stick together and do something about it. We're more aware of what the union can do for us and we know they will strike with us for as long as needed," Charlton said.

The union met with Bette Stephenson, Minister of Labour,

to discuss working conditions at the plant and to ask for intervention. "She's supposed to be trying to get both sides together and if that's the case why isn't anything happening," noted Charlton.

Charlton felt that the strength of the picket line came from the great amount of support and the strength of the women involved. "I think the men would have given up by now. There isn't one man on the picket line," she said.

"Hopefully we'll win someday. We'll strike for as long as it takes," she said.



# Décision décevante à l'hôpital Sacré-Coeur

par Lucie Masson

Malgré les protestations de divers groupements sociaux de la région, l'hôpital Sacré-Coeur de Hull acceptait, le 9 mai dernier, de créer un comité d'avortement thérapeutique à incidences médi-

cales seulement. Cette décision de ne pas permettre les avortements pour raisons psychosociales consacrait l'absence d'un tel service du côté québécois de l'Outaouais.

Il y a plusieurs mois déjà l'idée de former un comité d'avorte-

ment thérapeutique à l'hôpital Sacré-Coeur, avait fait naître chez les partisans de l'avortement des espoirs de voir se combler une carence évidente, tout en réveillant les craintes de leurs opposants. La décision prise le 9 mai dernier, dans laquelle les uns voyaient une consécration du statu quo et les autres une porte ouverte aux abus de l'avortement sur demande, a provoqué de vives réactions dans les deux groupes.

Le Centre local des services communautaires des Draveurs, fort de son expérience et des statistiques qui veulent que de 80 à 90 % des avortements demandés le soient pour des raisons psychosociales, a réclamé la création d'une clinique d'avortement thérapeutique qui ne se limiterait pas à des cas à incidences médicales. Comme il l'avait fait auparavant, il a demandé l'aide des neuf autres C.L.S.C. de la région, pour exiger que les fonds prévus par le ministère des Affaires sociales à l'intention de la clinique du Sacré-Coeur, soient en partie versés à une clinique de l'extérieur qui offrirait une gamme complète de services de planification familiale et d'avortement thérapeutique.

Le ministre des Affaires sociales, M. Denis Lazure, sans vouloir préciser si la clinique du Sacré-Coeur perdrait son droit à la subvention de \$50,000. à \$100,000. qui lui était destinée, s'est dit déçu de la décision prise par le conseil d'administration de l'hôpital.

La Moïsen, Maison outaouaise d'information et de services en natalité, dont c'était la première manifestation publique, a appuyé la demande du C.L.S.C. des Draveurs de bloquer les fonds destinés à ce qu'elle appelle "le comité d'avortement fantôme de l'hôpital Sacré-Coeur". Elle a de plus critiqué la composition du comité, formé à l'encontre de la loi, de quatre médecins seulement. Une telle composition ajoute à l'arbitraire dont font preuve de tels comités.

## "Meurtriers légalisés"

Durant ce temps le mouvement Pro-Vie reprochait au conseil d'administration de ne pas avoir tenu compte de la pétition de 7,000 noms qu'il lui avait fait parvenir pour empêcher la formation d'un tel comité. Dans une lettre chargée d'émotion, Pro-Vie faisait part à l'hôpital Sacré-Coeur de son intention de se faire le chien de garde du dit comité. Employant à dessein les termes dégradants d'"avorteurs" et de "meurtriers légalisés" pour désigner les professionnels de la santé, l'organisme a fait savoir qu'il garderait sur fiche toute l'information concernant les activités du comité.

Ces protestations ne sont pas exemptes d'un certain fanatisme religieux. A l'instar de citoyens qui ont fait parvenir des lettres de protestation aux médias de la région, Pro-Vie trouvait scandaleux de voir associer le nom du Sacré-Coeur à la destruction de la vie humaine.

## Le lobbying catholique

Malgré la révolution tranquille et son bagage de réformes sociales, l'Eglise exerce son influence au Québec. Si on ne refuse pas ouvertement, pour

des raisons religieuses, l'établissement de comités d'avortement dans les hôpitaux, il n'en reste pas moins que les membres de ces comités sont souvent en butte aux pressions du lobbying catholique.

Ce qui explique en partie pourquoi en 1976, sur une trentaine d'hôpitaux québécois dotés de comités d'avortement, 40 % ne pratiquaient pas d'avortement. Les hôpitaux anglophones de Montréal sont presque les seuls à véritablement offrir le service. Le rapport Badgley sur l'application de la loi sur l'avortement déclarait en 1977: "deux villes de la province de Québec ont enregistré 100 % des avortements déclarés, pratiqués dans des hôpitaux en 1974. Douze hôpitaux situés dans l'une des ces villes qui compte 32,5 % de la population provinciale, ont pratiqué 99,4 % des avortements en 1974."

Alors que les hôpitaux francophones limitent leur définition de la santé au strict plan physique, les hôpitaux anglophones souscrivent eux à la définition de l'Organisation Mondiale de la Santé, qui dit: "La santé est un état complet de bien-être physique, moral et social et ne consiste pas seulement en une absence de maladie ou d'infirmité." Sur ces bases il leur est plus facile de consentir à des avortements pour des raisons psychosociales.

En limitant la pratique de l'avortement à des fins médicales seulement il est à craindre que l'hôpital du Sacré-Coeur ne vienne joindre les rangs des hôpitaux de la province dotés de comités-fantômes. Les femmes de l'extérieur de Montréal continueront donc d'être défavorisées par rapport à leurs consœurs de la métropole et se voient encore une fois refuser des services en français.

## Les voyages organisés aux Etats-Unis

Celles qui peuvent se le permettre continueront de profiter de la libéralité des lois de l'état de New-York pour aller y chercher un avortement assuré, loin des tracasseries administratives. A la tension physique et psychique que suppose une telle opération s'ajoutera la fatigue d'un voyage en autobus, ou en avion pour les plus fortunées, avec retour le même jour. En 1976, 34,7 % des Québécoises ont subi leur avortement aux Etats-Unis. Ce pourcentage est de loin le plus élevé de toutes les provinces canadiennes.

Quant aux autres, qui n'en ont pas les moyens ou que l'idée d'un avortement dans une langue étrangère, loin de chez elles, effraie, elles seront possiblement les victimes des charlatans. En 1972 on estimait entre 10,000 et 25,000 le nombre de celles qui avaient ainsi risqué leur santé et leur vie. C'est payer cher l'absence d'une véritable politique de la population et d'une définition opérationnelle de la santé au Québec.

## Statistiques:

Rapport du comité sur l'application des dispositions législatives sur l'avortement, président R.F. Badgley, Ottawa, 1977

La société québécoise face à l'avortement, La ligue des droits de l'Homme, éditions Léméac, 1974.

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# Abortion major issue

by Sue Calhoun

HALIFAX — Plans for International Year of the Child — IYC — were officially launched this month in Nova Scotia when close to 200 people from social service agencies, daycare centres, church and hospital groups, and a variety of organizations concerned with children met for a think-tank session at St. Mary's University, Halifax.

The meeting, sponsored by the Nova Scotia Family and Child Welfare Association, was designed to encourage planning and discussion around the subject of young people and their place in society. Karl Marshall, executive director of the Children's Aid Society, chaired the event and called it an "almost directionless day to share ideas."

Being the first of what will probably be a series of meetings over the next 18 months, the Halifax meeting was necessarily loose and informal. An IYC Co-ordinating Committee made up of 40 people from across the province was established at the close.

The United Nations has declared next year, 1979, the International Year of the Child. The UN "women's year," was generally considered by women to be a failure. Next year may attract public attention to the rights and needs of children; below the surface, however, it appears it will provide a major political battleground for abortion groups in Nova Scotia, with the rights of women pitted against the "rights" of unborn children.

## Abortion Major Issue

If there's one thing that can definitely be forecast about IYC in Nova Scotia, it's this: it will raise the abortion debate to a level not reached since 1975. We had a foreshadowing of this earlier this year when Liberal backbencher Ron Wallace introduced two resolutions in the provincial legislature.

The first — calling for a "bill of rights for children" — said the government should guarantee such rights for children as adequate food, clothing, and shelter, education and recreation, access to public places, and opportunity to advance in "every proper direction." He said children should have some say in where they live, a right to self-determination for present and future life, protection from such harmful influences as violent TV programs, the right to determine what they want to learn, and the right to legal action.

"There is another large group that cannot be overlooked," Wallace went on; "A bill of rights should include protection for the unborn child. This should start with the right to be born." In line with this, his second resolution called on the government to tighten the definition of insured services under the Health Services and Insurance Act, so that medical insurance would only pay for those abortions when "continuation of the pregnancy would be likely to seriously endanger the mother's life; or there would be a serious risk of severe and prolonged damage to

the mother's physical health if her pregnancy continues."

There were 1,306 abortions in the province in 1977 and cost of providing them was close to \$500,000, according to government figures. Almost all abortions in Nova Scotia are performed at one Halifax hospital.

At the conference, morning workshops were divided for discussion purposes into age groups: 0-5 years old; 6-12; 13-18. In the preschool age group, one of the first concerns in several workshops was "defining zero." In my workshop, the suggestion came from the prepared Childbirth Association concerned about prenatal care, services for pregnant women, and continued research in embryology. In another, the idea came from anti-abortionists wanting to make abortion a major part of the upcoming year's activities. The response from workshop participants was indifference — people seemed to want to avoid letting IYC activities be sidetracked by the abortion issue.

There's no doubt that the so-called "pro-lifers" in the provinces are planning to make abortion an issue in the provincial election which will likely be called in the fall. Wallace's resolutions died on the order paper, partly because most politicians would prefer to avoid the issue, and partly because the current ministers of health and social services are reportedly in favor of the law as it now stands. There's no guarantee, of course, that the individuals will still be in those positions after the election is over; it's a precarious position at best when we have to depend on the opinions of particular individuals.

Nova Scotia has never had a branch of the Canadian Association for Repeal of the Abortion Laws, or even a strong organization to speak for those who believe women should have a right to make their own decisions. A group of women have, only this week, begun meeting to make plans for combatting anti-abortion propaganda at election time. There seems to be opposition to turning the group into a branch of CARAL, because a large proportion of membership fees will go to Ontario coffers; the fight seems to be shaping up as a provincial one focussing on whether the government will be forced to cut back its funding of some abortions.

The issue, at this point, seems to be whether we can maintain the present system, however inequitable and inaccessible to the majority of Nova Scotian women. As one woman put it this week, "we'll be putting all our energy into hanging on to what we have, let alone trying to remove abortion from the criminal code."

Other issues raised at the meeting were the need for more and better daycare facilities, along with an increased recognition of the professional skills of daycare workers; the need to teach parenting skills in the public schools; the need for children to be treated as people,

with perhaps the establishment of a children's ombudsman to safeguard their rights; and the need for an increased emphasis on the family (including one-parent) as the primary resource for children, with an accompanying need for social service agencies to help families carry out their responsibilities.

The media came under strong attack in many workshops for its failure to promote a positive image of children, particularly adolescents; for its lack of interest in what children are doing. Television was singled out for its dissemination of harmful advertising directed towards children.

Much of the emphasis during the day seemed to be on encouraging local and independent programming, rather than broad province-wide activities sponsored by the co-ordinating committee. For example, the Canadian Dietetic Association will hold its annual meeting in Halifax next year, with the theme "International Year of the Child and his Nutrition." The Prepared Childbirth Association of Nova Scotia in its brief, recommended ways to improve prenatal care, which it is now circulating to hospitals in the province. The Preschool Education Association has launched a research committee to look into the needs of kids, parents, and community needs so that they can perhaps be matched with the association's resources.

Such an approach to planning activities will obviously be necessary, since the provincial government has said there will be very little, if any, money available for IYC. Though one woman stressed that the committee needs a financial commitment from federal and provincial governments — "we need more than moral support from both levels" — other people seemed to feel that the lack of money wasn't an important issue.



Karl Marshall, who for the time being is chairing the co-ordinating committee, said he would prefer to see the committee depend on its own abilities, interests, and motivations, rather than rely on the government for money: "I think much of the activity will depend on people power, not money power. In fact, I hope we don't get caught up in thinking that we can't do anything without money."

He said he has two personal goals for the year. One is to see the introduction into the school systems of parenting and "adulthood" courses. The second is establishment of an award system for Nova Scotia communities according to "how good they are for kids," based on a set of criteria which would include such things as recreational and day-

care facilities, availability of prenatal services for handicapped children.

It's difficult from the first meeting to draw any conclusions about the direction IYC activities will take in Nova Scotia. I was impressed with the enthusiasm of a wide variety of specialists concerned with children. However, much of the focus was on social services for children, with little apparent interest in the contradictions of treating children equals while recognizing their special needs, or in the value-ridden concept of "good parenting."

Nor was there much discussion of sex stereotyping in the media, schools, and books. But perhaps the most obvious criticism of the day is that there were no children in the workshops I attended.

## Daycare centres may close

by Sandra Corry

Québec's Parti Quebecois government has indicated that it will release a comprehensive day care plan this fall. But that plan may be too late for Montréal's Garderie Soleil and Garderie St. Louis. Superior Court judge Mr. Justice Claude Bisson upheld a lower court ruling early in July that the centres must pay to the Montréal Catholic School Commission back rent amounting to \$9,450, and vacate the unused school building they now occupy. The judge expressed regrets about this decision and was quoted in Montréal's Gazette as saying of Le Soleil, "It is a model of its type as to the maintenance of the premises, the excellence of

the monitors and its program."

The centres have been using the MCSC buildings since 1976. Le Soleil paid \$500 per month rent for the first year, but in April 1977 when the MCSC asked for \$650 per month, the centre's administration voted not to pay any more rent except a token \$1 per year. The centres have been operating on a grant of \$95,000 of which the rent represents 20%. As their policy is to permit parents to pay according to their means, the increase in rent would have forced them to cut back their services.

The centres have been critical of the government's failure to fulfill its election campaign promise to provide day care centres.

In an exchange with Social Affairs Minister Gerald Godin, the members of the centre called their struggle a class struggle and the Parti Quebecois government a bourgeois government catering to capitalists and denying women the right to work. M. Godin in turn expressed concern that the young children were being indoctrinated with communism. He did, however, express an intention to help the centres find other quarters.

Meanwhile, the centres' members said they would not leave their present building by the 7 August deadline; the riot squad would have to throw them out. In reply, MCSC's Luc Larivée said to Marguerite Sénécal of CTV that he may have no other choice.



**BEAVER:****Decriminalize prostitution or prosecute equally**

by Margaret Dwight-Spore

**BEAVER** [Better End All Vicious Erotic Repression] is Canada's first organizational voice for prostitutes and other workers of the flesh; i.e., strippers, porno actresses, topless anything.

Legislation governing prostitution in Canada is undergoing rapid change. The courts have been busy interpreting current laws, and the Minister of Justice has recently proposed amendments to the Criminal Code to tighten prostitution laws.

In order to understand the new developments, we have to review the evolution of the law in the past decade.

At one time the law allowed a woman to be incarcerated if she were known to be a street-walker who could not give a good account of herself (Criminal Code, Vagrancy C). In 1972 Vag-C was repealed because it was considered unjust to arrest a person for reasons of identity alone. You have to commit an illegal act. The current soliciting law was constructed and enacted in an attempt to focus on the illegal act.

In many cases the police were able to use the soliciting law as they had previously used Vag-C: to rid the streets of women they suspected of soliciting for the purposes of prostitution. Any number of physical gestures made by a woman to indicate that she was available or interested in speaking with a man were brought up in court as evidence of soliciting.

The higher courts of Canada have refused to let the police use

the soliciting law as another form of Vag-C. Deborah Hutt was arrested for smiling at a plainclothes officer previous to entering his car and agreeing to have sex with him for money. On 8 February 1978 the Supreme Court of Canada unanimously overruled her conviction, saying that her smile did not constitute soliciting according to the dictionary definition of soliciting as persistent and pressing importuning. Although the case had been appealed on the above grounds, Judge Spence added that in his personal opinion, the car, in which the monetary offer was made, was not a public place. Now all cases where the evidence of soliciting is based on a woman's physical overtures in public are being thrown out of court.

The result, according to police and certain local politicians, is an "alarming increase" of on-street prostitutes, and so the possibility that they may annoy pedestrians. Curiously enough, few men seem to be suffering from their advances. Local complaints of harassment have all been made about men; women who make these complaints have been told it is the fault of another group of women, prostitutes.

Sexual harassment varies more according to the ethnic character of a neighbourhood than the number of prostitutes working there. Furthermore, men do not distinguish between prostitutes and other females. All women, regardless of their status, suffer public insult from the male sex. To suggest that

laws to punish prostitutes will aid other women resist street abuse is heaping insult upon insult. After all, the desires of men keep prostitutes on the street, not vice versa.

One would hope that the recent emphasis of the high courts on the public-nuisance element of soliciting (as in "pressing and persistent importuning") might be extended to include as offenders those men who pressingly and persistently pursue women for the purposes of paying them for sex, getting it for free, or whatever. But no. The Ontario Supreme Court just acquitted Mr. "P" who offered money to a policewoman posing as a hooker. The Court defined the solicitor as the one who receives the money. The British Columbia Court of Appeal recently came to the same conclusion. "The crime," says Margo St. James of COYOTE, "is TAKING THE MONEY."

The Minister of Justice's proposal to amend the Criminal Code on prostitution reverses the progressive Supreme Court decision of D. Hutt, but does not touch the case of Mr. "P". The amendment would prohibit soliciting of any kind (winks, smiles, etc.) in any place and by either sex. The idea behind "by either sex" is to catch homosexual as well as heterosexual hustlers. Most people do not realize that presently a prostitute is defined by common law as a female person, or sometimes a man dressed as a woman.

The definition of the solicitor as the one who receives the

money, combined with Basford's proposal to outlaw all forms of soliciting, point toward the further repression of women who are struggling to survive in an already discriminating economy. If passed the new legislation means that what prostitutes do anywhere will be police and state business, while the client's privacy will continue to be respected. Unescorted women on the street may be subject to police surveillance. In the 1960s in the US South, archaic loitering and vagrancy laws were used to

deter female civil rights workers.) Women as a whole will continue to be treated as the provokers of men's so-called natural, uncontrollable instincts.

Prostitution is not going to stop until the demand goes away. Meanwhile we have to find some way to improve the status of the women involved, not further demoralize them as criminals. It goes without saying that if prostitution is not decriminalized then both parties, client and prostitute, must be equally penalized.

**Regional daycare conference in Ottawa**

by Jean Ogilvie

The Ottawa-Carleton Day Care Association is sponsoring a regional conference, 11-13 August at the Morisset Library, Ottawa University.

There will be a general discussion of the relationship of daycare centres to provincial and municipal governments. Funding policy and subsidization, the daycare worker and unionization, the education of daycare workers, and the history of daycare will be discussed in this context.

Workshops on organizing daycare associations and community involvement in daycare will follow the discussions. Although such associations are not yet

common in Ontario, they have been valuable in providing a common voice for daycare centres to speak to municipal and provincial governments.

The fee for the conference is \$7, which is open to all interested persons. Registration will take place Friday, 11 August beginning at 3:00 p.m. and followed by a wine and cheese party. Discussions and workshops will begin Saturday morning, 12 August. For further information on the conference, contact Brigid Hayes at the Ottawa-Carleton Day Care Association, 235-1696.

Next issue UPSTREAM will report on the conference as well as discuss current and future trends in daycare.

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# Bank workers organize

by Kris Klaasen

The movement to organize Canada's bank workers recorded its first victory in the Ottawa area with the July 14 certification of a Bank of Montreal unit in neighbouring Bells Corners.

The successful bid is the first visible result of a six month effort by the Canadian Labour Congress' bank workers organizing committee.

Bank organizer Robyn Alexander said "slowly management is realizing that employees want to have increased input into the determination of terms and conditions of work."

"And the workers see that collective bargaining is the real way they can have this opportunity."

The Canada Labour Relations Board certified the 18-member unit under Ontario's Union of Bank Employees.

Alexander says the movement is important on two fronts. Not only does it aim to provide workers in the country's 7,300 banks with their rights but it is also a boost for women wage earners.

"Seventy three per cent of the 143,000 bank workers in Canada are women but only two to three per cent are in management

positions," Alexander said.

Through unionization women will have a stronger voice in the workplace she said.

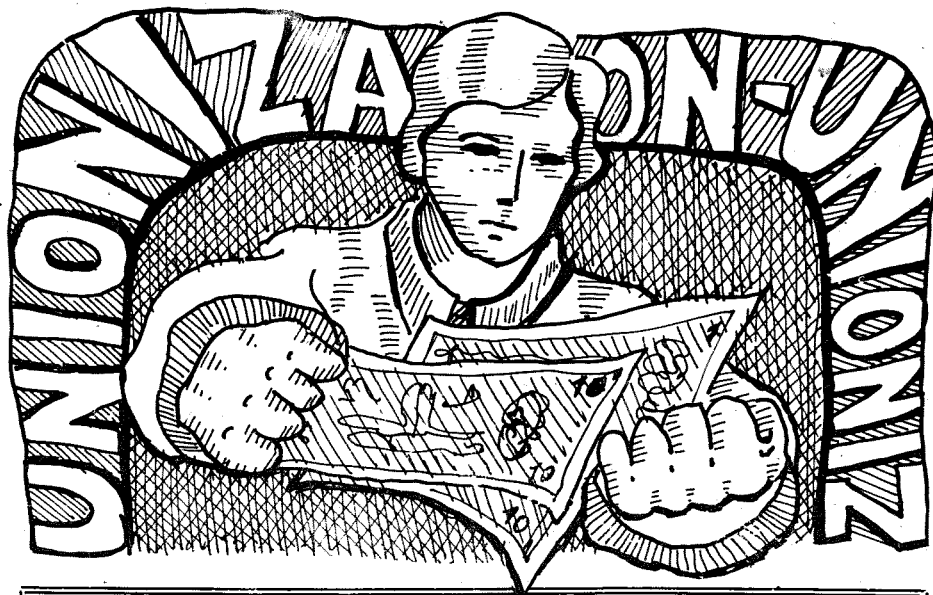
The bank union organizer notes "it's a popular misconception" that white collar workers do not need wage and benefit protection pointing out the average bank worker pulls in \$8,800 a year while the average industrial wage is more than \$13,000.

The gates for bank unionization opened a year ago when the Canada Labour Relations Board ruled bargaining units could be certified at single branches. Prior to the decision a cross country majority of workers in a company was required to make an application which made organizing virtually impossible.

The breakthrough came with two separate single branch bids from the Service, Office and Retail Workers of Canada on the west coast and Ontario's Canadian Union of Bank Employees.

Since then 50 units have been certified, half under SORWUC's United Bank Workers branch, and 20 more applications are pending. One is in Ottawa.

However Alexander admitted the movement still has several major hurdles to clear, pointing out that all of the bank unions have yet to win a first contract.



## UBW strike vote

In British Columbia, the United Bank Workers (UBW) has learned that gaining certification is only the first step to ensuring decent wages and working conditions for bank workers.

Dodie Zerr, vice-president of the UBW, says that the banks are stalling negotiations in hopes of bringing a decertification action against the branches the UBW has already organized.

The UBW, a local of the Service, Office and Retail Workers Union of Canada (SORWUC), has been in negotiations with the banks since September of 1977. According to Zerr the banks have taken until April of this

year "to get down to serious negotiations."

Recently, two UBW bargaining units took a vote to determine whether there was enough support within the units for a strike. The vote was in favour of a strike but the union has not decided whether, in fact, a strike will be necessary.

The UBW has brought in a conciliator in an effort convince the banks to meet for negotiations more often. One result of the banks' tactics has been to bring the UBW province wide organizing drive to a virtual standstill since most of the union's organizers have been tied up in bank negotiations.

### A LETTER TO UPSTREAM READERS

To those of you who do not already know me, my name is DEE VARDANEGA and I have a deep interest in women's issues. I am writing this letter in UPSTREAM to let you know that I have recently joined Cooperative Trust Company in its Real Estate Department as a sales representative. I bring to Cooperative Trust my previous experience in urban, housing and social affairs in a government context, my community involvement, as well as my qualifications as a licensed real estate sales representative with the Province of Ontario.

In these times much is being said about the need for women to plan for their own economic security. In the past, the ownership of property has proven to be a good tool toward this end. However, today this can be a very complex and trying decision. Whether it is cheaper to rent or buy, what type of housing and what areas are more suitable to your lifestyle, what types of income properties are good investments, how can one get started as a homebuyer with a small initial investment and with a low income — these are all important points to be considered. It is my conscientious goal to simplify the complex field of buying and selling by providing you with the information necessary for a wise decision. For example, if you presently own I can advise you of the market value of your home and help you to get its full market value in a resale. If you are thinking of buying in the future, I can provide you with information on housing conditions, social and recreational facilities available, and financing.

My listings presently include single family homes, condominiums, and some good investment live-in income properties including DUPLEXES, TRIPLEXES AND DOUBLES.

If you or your friends have any questions pertaining to home buying or selling, I would be very happy to answer them for you. If you are not contemplating a move in the near future, or do not know somebody who might be, may I kindly suggest that you store this letter in a safe place for the time being. I am confident that you will be satisfied with my professional approach towards your needs. I can be reached at 746-5580 and 563-0961 and please ask for "DEE".

I take this opportunity to wish you all a pleasant summer.

Dee Vardanega  
Cooperative Trust (Realtor)



Dee Vardanega  
Co-operative Trust Realtor



# Persuading Parliament

by Marie Harte

There was a story circulating among some women bureaucrats a few weeks ago about an Ottawa meeting between senior male mandarins and representatives of the militant Toronto Wages For Housework (Wages Due Lesbians) Committee.

The meeting had been arranged by accident. When the casually-clad group arrived to make their pitch around polished oak tables, it was too late to cancel. Suffice to say that the mandarins squirmed a good deal and that the women, sneakers squeaking on the shiny floors, had their say.

Not unexpectedly, the meeting — even among the women public servants who tell the tale — was quickly reduced to a bit of gossip suitable for a chuckle (pass the after-dinner mints please). Not to mention the touch of suspense about Mr. Mandarin X's underarm deodorant. Would it protect him to the duration of the encounter?

I repeat the story to illustrate that while the issue of pay for housewives remains an object of mockery in some quarters that matter on Parliament Hill, there also is recent evidence that some politicians, bureaucrats and government advisors consider it worthy of serious attention.

Health and welfare department officials say they have one gang wrestling with the possibilities of instituting a form of housework pay — the most realistic deal they will even consider is an arrangement for post-age 65 benefits under the Canada Pension Plan. Their thinking is focussed on three main obstacles: Public acceptance, administration, and cost during seemingly endless times of spending restraint.

The same officials warn: don't hold your breath for anything radical in the near future. But for those who take solace in studies, well, take solace. And, take note that it is the Canada Pension Plan which authorities regard as a tool — if any tool is to be used — for housework pay.

With that in mind, Progressive Conservative MP James McGrath went charging after the government a few weeks ago, accusing the Liberals of sexual discrimination by barring homemakers from participating in the Canada Pension Plan. He formally requested that Gordon Fairweather, head of the federal Human Rights Commission, investigate immediately. No results yet.

McGrath, the Conservative party's social affairs spokesman, went a step further than the study group appears to have gone. He regards pension benefits for homemakers not as pay for housework but as a social right denied to 3 million women who stayed home, kept and swept house and raised children, instead of joining the paid labour force.

He was struck with this way of approaching the issue a few days after a brief debate in the Commons on pay for homemakers. It was a rare occasion and revealed how complicated the issue can seem and how twisted the motives can be.

Quebec Social Credit MP Charles Dionne, for example, led the debate with a declaration that "no mother leaves her children without having to."

Said McGrath himself during the discussion: "I would find it difficult to put a price on my wife. There is no way I can replace the maternal influence that she provides in our family. If I were to lose

her, I would have to pay \$10,000 to hire a housekeeper, and that housekeeper would be entitled to the Canada Pension Plan which I would have to pay and she would have to pay."

Ontario Liberal MP Frank Philbrook defended housework as a satisfying role to many women and, then, in the next breath lamented the lonely, isolated state of many mothers.

Housework, he declared, quoting from outdated studies, is valued at \$5,300 annually for a mother of one pre-17-year-old child or \$8,400 annually for a mother of four.

Among the MP's proposals: flat wages through an income program, pension benefits acquired through deductions on a husband's income, improved part-time job opportunities, more men pitching in at home, further studies.

All of this was followed, coincidentally, by a major study — Five Million Women: A study of the Canadian Housewife — produced by Monique Proulx for the federal Advisory Council on the Status of Women.

Despite the 83 pages of hard-thought analysis the Council was left ill equipped to recommend anything final to the government. And, the carefully calculated monetary value of a mother of two was set at a mere \$9,742.64 annually.

Monique's study bulges with alternative payment systems but does not favor one and does not advise the Council to recommend any or all of them. In fact she warns of spending restraint and virtually rules out any hope and calls for "a change in attitudes."

Still, the questions of who should pay, who should get the pay, at what age and in what circumstances have all been put before the decision makers recently. It gives all advocates of wages for homemakers a fresh point of departure.



## CLRB - maternity leave ruling

Reprinted from Canadian Labour Comment, July 14, 1978.

The Canada Labour Relations Board has ruled that women on maternity leave retain their employee status and the right to vote in elections deciding whether employees want a union.

The landmark decision resulted from an application by the Retail Clerks International Union to represent employees at a Downsview, Ont. branch of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce.

Two women on maternity leave had been excluded from the voters' list by the bank which argued that the employer-employee relationship ended during the period of leave. The bank said there was no guarantee the women would return to work, and if they did it might be at a different branch of the bank. Therefore, it said the women had no right to vote, but their replacements did.

The board, however, ruled that the federal government recognized, "after a long battle fought by several groups, the important contribution of women in the Canadian marketplace and the fact that women engaged in a career should be free to have children and yet be able to retain their employment if they so desire ... at the end of maternity leave."

It is clear from the labour code, the board said, that the employment relationship continues during maternity leave which means women on leave should be able to vote on union representation.

The decision also stated that returning employees must be reinstated to the job occupied at the place where the employee worked when she left. This would eliminate the possibility of women being transferred to a branch anywhere in Canada after maternity leave.

The board also said that whether or not a woman returns to work after maternity leave, her employee status is maintained during the leave period.

### Carleton University Women's Centre

will be open until August 19th from 2-7 Monday to Thursday. Drop in and find out about our programs and services.

All women welcome.

Room 504 Unicentre 231-3779



### Carleton University Women's Centre

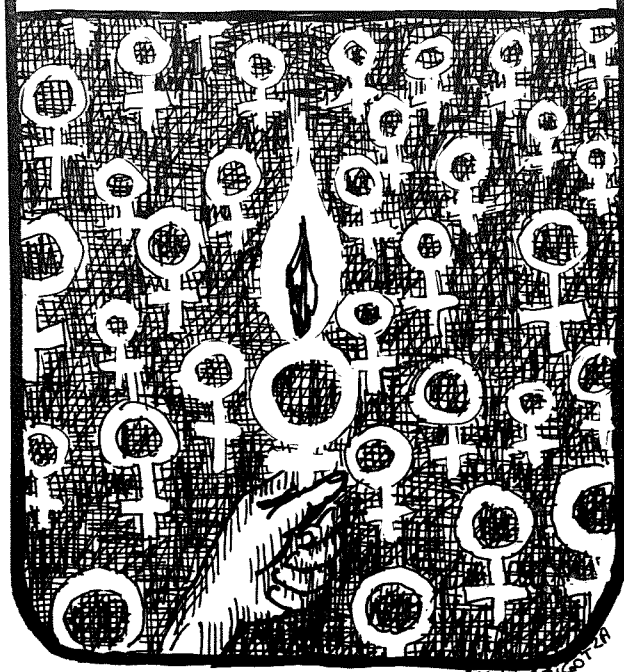
is looking for local women artists to exhibit their work. phone Mary Bell at 231-3779

### Women Reclaim the Night

On Friday night, August 25, at 9:30 pm women will be marching through the streets of Vancouver, Halifax and Ottawa. Our right to walk in the streets in peace and in safety will be reclaimed. Similar marches have recently taken place in Europe and the US. It is hoped that on August 25 women in other Canadian cities will be marching as well.

In Ottawa, women are planning to simultaneously march along Bank and Rideau streets, meeting at Confederation Square. Everyone planning to march is asked to please attend a meeting on Wednesday, August 23 at 191 McCleod, Suite 15, at 8:00. If you can't attend, but are planning to march, please call 233-2560 so that we can give you further information.

WOMEN UNITE:  
RECLAIM THE NIGHT





# Resource for lesbian mothers' custody battles

More and more lesbian women are going into courtrooms across North America and England to fight for custody of their children. Some are losing, or winning custody on condition that they live separately from their lovers. But more than a score of unconditional custody awards have been won in recently recorded cases. There have been two such victories in England, and one published case in Canada in which the woman won the unrestricted right to custody of her children (K. vs. K., in Alberta, 1975). Most custody battles are unrecorded, or settled out of court, so we do not know the real number of lesbian women who have succeeded in their fight against forced separation from their children. We do know that each victory is a milestone for all of us, and teaches us more about how to win.

### Criteria usually used in court

In deciding which parent will be granted custody, the courts look at what is in "the best interest of the children." They examine the "fitness" of each party with respect to certain criteria:

- who already has the children
- the conduct of the parents. This includes the question of "willful misconduct" of either parent, and really has to do with whether the court thinks lesbianism will be a bad influence on the child. Although there are precedents now against lesbianism being considered sufficient grounds for withholding custody from a woman, it is always a key, if not determining factor.
- the provision of a stable home environment. Under this heading, which is being given more and more weight, the question of which parent can better provide financial and emotional security is assessed. A woman who has a steady, paid job will have a better chance than a welfare mother; and men, because they make twice the wages women do, will measure up better than either woman against this yardstick. Judges who shy away from removing children from women solely because of their lesbianism can still penalize then by awarding the children to the father on the basis of his larger paycheck.

Here are a few pointers for women facing a custody fight.

### Choose your lawyer carefully

Find a lawyer who is sympathetic and experienced in custody cases. Most lawyers are unfamiliar with the recent history of cases involving lesbian mothers, but the lawyer you decide to use should be looking for the information that exists. If s/he doesn't seem to be doing this homework, don't hesitate to look for another lawyer. (The LMDF can provide you with a list of good lawyers in Toronto, and we are compiling names of others from all parts of Ontario. We also have a large library of information to give to your lawyer, including transcripts and written judges' decisions, briefs, etc. from recorded cases in North America.)

**Going to court is the last resort**  
Since the odds are better if you

negotiate a settlement out of court than if a judge imposes his decision, your lawyer should be making every effort to dissuade your husband (parents, etc.) from taking you to court. Your lawyer should present all the positive recent history of lesbian mothers winning custody to your husband's lawyer, and put together any information there is that might weigh against the father — his record of violence against you and/or the children, his alcoholism, poor job history, or criminal convictions. This may be enough to intimidate him into settling out of court.

### Do not leave the children behind

The courts are anxious to ensure continuity for the children, and are hesitant to move them from one home to another. This means that whoever the children are living with has an important advantage. So, when you move, take the children with you, even if it means having to stay in an emergency hostel or shelter. If you leave them behind because you think it will be better for them until you are

established, it will look to the courts as if you had deserted them. The longer the children are with you, on a continuous basis, the better your chances of keeping them.

### Beware of kidnapping

Pending the outcome of a custody case, and sometimes after a decision has been made in favour of the mother, kidnapping has been known to happen. Be wary of your ex-husband or relatives who may not return your child to you after a visit, or may come to your home or to the children's school when you are not there.

### Expert witnesses

There are a variety of "experts" who can be called on to testify on behalf of a lesbian mother. They (e.g. psychiatrists or religious professionals) may report on the social and official psychiatric standing of homosexuals in today's society. Or they may be used to support the mother's claims to the psychological, social, and moral well-being of her children, and the relation-

ship she has with them. Often called are psychiatrists, psychologists, child psychologists, social workers, family therapists, Children's Aid Society workers, school counsellors, teachers, child care workers, family doctors, ministers, etc. Sometimes the courts have heard testimony from other lesbian mothers about their experience and the "normalcy" of their children.

### How public should a woman be?

Although the courts are increasingly sympathetic to the claims of lesbian mothers to child custody, they are still prejudiced against those lesbians who are publically gay e.g. members of gay or lesbian groups, or women who speak to the media about their fight. Since this risk is so great, public support, money, and publicity must often be organized without using a particular lesbian mother's name or details of her case. Speaking publically about the general situation of lesbian mothers is an important function of the LMDF, since public opinion in favour of lesbian mothers will influence

the courts to grant us custody more readily.

### Who can get Legal Aid?

Your lawyer will explain the ins and outs of Legal Aid, but some rough guidelines do exist. In general, if your net income is \$130 a week or less you will probably qualify. But even if you earn \$200 or \$225 a week, it's worth applying, because all your expenses, e.g. child care, are assessed. In cases in which Legal Aid will not pay the cost of expert witnesses, the LMDF may be able to help.

For more information, call [416] 921-9091 or write to the Lesbian Mothers' Defence Fund at PO Box 38, Station E, Toronto, Ontario M6H 4E1.

The Lesbian Mothers' Defence Fund is a resource for women who are facing child custody battles. It is a project of Wages Due Lesbians, a gay women's group active in the international Wages for Housework campaign.



## Nova Scotia - study women in government

by Sue Calhoun

HALIFAX — The Nova Scotia Women's Action Committee has launched a 14-week project, funded by the Secretary of State, to compile a list of women qualified to sit on government boards and commissions in the province.

Three women hired for the project mailed questionnaires this month to roughly 350 women's groups, including women's institutes, church, volunteer, and feminist groups, professional and other special interest organizations.

N.S.W.A.C. is a volunteer group set up four years ago to lobby the government. It now has a membership of 200 women across the province.

In this particular project, the group has had difficulty getting information from the government about what boards and commissions actually exist, including their functions and memberships, despite the fact that the government funded a study two years ago to compile such information in detail.

That study was carried out by members of the Status of Women Council, an apparently toothless

organization set up by the government following International Women's year, which was disbanded last fall to make way for the N.S. Advisory Council on the Status of Women. When the old council collapsed, the study was discontinued and the information never published.

A spokesperson for the N.S.A.C.S.W., who declined to be named, said the information requested was considered by the government to be "privileged", and thus could not be made available to the Women's Action Committee. Though the study itself was completed, it will never be published because it isn't a priority with government. "They couldn't care less about it, really," she said.

Jennifer Nedelsky, a spokesperson for the Women's Action Committee, said the result is that public funds are being used for a second time to gather information which has already been collected. She said her group has been struggling since April to get at least a list of what boards and commissions exist in the province. She suggested the

government is hesitant to release any information, because it will reveal how few women actually sit on such bodies in Nova Scotia.

A list of roughly 120 boards and commissions accompanied the questionnaire sent out by the Women's Action Committee. Peggy Morrison, one of the paid staff on the project, admitted the list is necessarily incomplete because of the problem of getting information. The spokesperson for the N.S.A.C.S.W. called it "a mere sampling of the boards and commissions actually in existence."

The questionnaire asks women to list their education, work and volunteer experience, membership in professional associations, special skills, interests and activities. It also asks whether the person is interested in serving on a government body.

Another project, to provide volunteer groups with information about how to get their members appointed to boards and commissions, was also started last summer but never completed. Morrison said her group hopes to take over that project and finish it.

# Women and health: the growing controversy

by Leah Cohen and Constance Backhouse

In Ontario hospitals, student interns and residents routinely practice internal pelvic examinations on anaesthetized women patients. The patients, who are in hospital for gynecological operations, have not been informed of this practice, nor has the public at large.

The medical community argues that this procedure is necessary in order to train students. It is difficult to find unanaesthetized female patients who would willingly consent to have students practice pelvic examinations on them. Since the anaesthetized woman is unaware of what is occurring, the medical profession believes that there is nothing improper about the procedure.

This is only one of a number of issues that have caused a growing controversy over the quality of health care administered to Canadian women. The controversy is fueled by concerns about unnecessary hysterectomies, over-medication of women, unwarranted medical intervention during childbirth, and dangerous delays in therapeutic abortions.

As the evidence of women's inferior health care treatment mounts, especially in a time of soaring health costs, alternatives to the traditional delivery system are being proposed.

## Unnecessary Hysterectomies

Numerous American studies, including one by the University of Michigan Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, have concluded that at least one-third of the hysterectomies (surgical removal of the uterus) performed are completely unwarranted, exposing women unnecessarily to the risks of anaesthesia reactions and post-operative complications such as pneumonia, blood clots, infection, and depression.

The Canadian pattern of surgery is similar. Dr. Eugene Vayda, Chairperson of the Department of Health Administration, University of Toronto Faculty of Medicine, recently wrote in a Canadian medical journal that hysterectomy, which is done twice as frequently in Canada as in England and Wales, increased by 40% between 1968 and 1972.

Dr. Vayda concluded: "It seems unlikely that these increases were due to changes in the prevalence of associated diseases." Instead he accounted for part of the increase by relating it to the number of surgical personnel and bed:patient ratio. In other words, the frequency of the procedure increased when more physicians and beds were available.

Today, except for a minor decrease, the rate has remained at the controversially high level.

Dr. Eugene Vayda has recently suggested that once criteria for "justified" and "unjustified" elective surgery are developed and agreed upon, hospital surgical utilization committees could be empowered "to act prospectively to screen candidates for elective surgery and to pre-authorize elective operations." The most serious obstacle to this approach is that the medical profession cannot agree on the criteria justifying hysterectomy.

Hysterectomy will, of course, prevent cancer. If you don't have a uterus, you can't get uterine cancer. Physicians not only remove the uterus once they discover uterine cancer, but more and more they remove it to prevent any possibility of future cancer. Medical journals reflect the current debate over whether gynecologists should remove the healthy reproductive organs of all women who reach a certain age to prevent development of cancer in the uterus and ovaries.

As Dr. LeRiche says: "You can't have it both ways. While unnecessary hysterectomies may be alleged, cervical cancer is



quite serious." However, according to Ralph Nader's Washington, D.C.'s Health Research Group, the death rate for hysterectomy itself (1,000 out of every 1 million women annually) is, in fact, higher than the death rate for uterine / cervical cancer (100 out of every 1 million women each year.)

Recently, some physicians have abandoned the question of which medical symptoms warrant surgical removal of the uterus, and have wholeheartedly endorsed this operation for the sole purpose of sterilization. Dr. W.H. Allemang, Senior Gynecologist and Obstetrician at Toronto General Hospital, accounts for the "popularity" of hysterectomy because it is "a reasonable form of sterilization. The alternative of the sterilization procedure just leaves a useless uterus, except to get cancer. With a hysterectomy you prevent menstruation, which for a woman in her 40s may be a bit out of control. It's that easy. It's an attractive package in this day and age for both the patient and the doctor."

When asked whether he felt too many hysterectomies were being done in Canada, Dr. Allemang said: "What is too much operating? No doubt there is an increasing trend in the area of hysterectomy, but these things become fetishes of the time. Which one is today's, which one will be next year's, I don't know. Surgery has in a sense become safer. Most physicians want to contribute the best they can. They develop theories that a certain procedure will solve the patient's problem. There is not very much risk associated with it."

In an environment where 92% of all physicians are male, the type of reasoning which predominates was identified in a 1970 issue of Medical World News. This journal reported on a cancer conference where surgeons had agreed that they rarely hesitate to remove an ovary but think twice about removing a testicle. "The doctors readily admitted that such a sex-oriented viewpoint arises from the fact that most surgeons are male," the News reported. "Said one of them wryly, 'No ovary is good enough to leave in, and no testicle is bad enough to take out!'"

## Over-medication

Why do doctors prescribe mood-altering drugs twice as often for women as for men, as reported in a recent Canadian study? One explanation is that the male-dominated medical profession often misinterprets female patients' medical symptoms, believing them to be imagined.

Drug advertisements aimed at the profession tend to foster such sexist assumptions. A five-year study of leading medical journals concluded that medical advertising says, men have "real" illnesses; women have "mental" problems.

In a 1966 Massachusetts study, when Italian and Irish patients were matched for comparable ailments, doctors concluded that the Irish needed medical help more urgently than the Italians. Given that the Irish demonstrated a more stoical nature and the Italians were more expansive about pain, doctors showed a tendency to tag the Irish with real medical problems and the Italians with emotional problems. Dr. Linda Fidell, author of a 1975 California drug usage study, pointed out that in North American culture, men generally act like the stoic Irish and women like the expansive Italians.

Today in Canada, 78% of physicians prescribe more mood-altering drugs for

women than for men. According to Jessica Hill, Acting Director of Non-Medical Use of Drugs in Toronto, 70% of all tranquillizers are prescribed by G.P.'s. These G.P.'s, she claims, are more likely to prescribe tranquillizers to women than to men presenting the same complaints.

There are many inherent dangers in the over-tranquillization of women. Women can develop a crippling dependency on psychotropic medication which has serious long-range emotional and physical repercussions. Further, there is the danger that doctors programmed to expect psychosomatic afflictions in all women may overlook a critical physical condition.

Although this kind of data surfaced as early as 1971, Ruth Cooperstock, a scientist at the Addiction Research Foundation in Toronto and one of the foremost researchers in North America on over-medication of women, maintains that there has been little response or change. "Doctors," she says, "have the role of confidant forced on them. Their education is geared to action. They generally won't say 'I don't know' or refer the patient to an agency outside the health care system such as a marriage counsellor or housing expert."

"But the doctor does know that drugs diminish anxiety for short periods of time, and so prescribes tranquillizers. Current medical education devotes little time to training doctors in pharmacology or the problems of addiction."



## Natural Childbirth

Attitudes on the part of pregnant women and their spouses influenced by the new wave of natural childbirth proponents are definitely changing, says Terri Brown, an instructor at the Childbirth Educational Association of Toronto.

"Women," she claims, "are becoming cautious about drugs that cross the placenta. They are asking about side-effects to the baby and to themselves. They are less willing to accept that a medicated birth is the only alternative."

The routine use of anaesthesia by North American obstetricians leads to other interventions in childbirth. Despite the hazards, research indicates doctors sometimes prefer a drugged mother because it is easier to work on an inanimate object than on a responsive person.





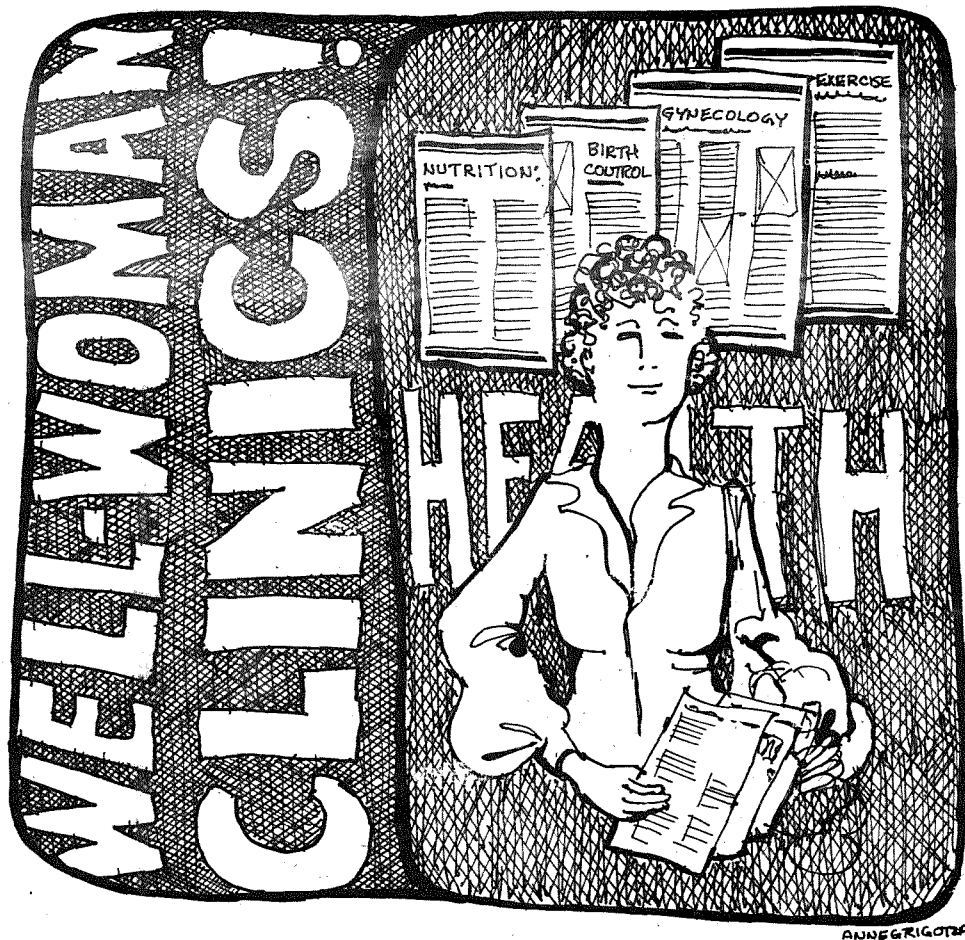
A more disconcerting statistic is cited by Dr. Eugene Vayda: "the caesarian section rate increased approximately 30 % between 1968-1972 and the inter-provincial variation was greater than 200 % between 1968-1972." Dr. Vayda maintains that "the 30 % increase was due to closer fetal monitoring (a device strapped to the woman's abdomen, tracing fetal heart rate and uterine contractions) and the more liberal use of caesarian section."

Ms. Brown's organization encourages women to go "doctor-shopping" if they do not like the answers they receive from their doctor. She fears that many doctors view birth as a disease, not as a natural event.

procedure is more complex and the possibility of complications is much higher.

Sherran Ridgley says: "Although there is no legal limit before which time the procedure must be done, both hospitals and doctors are cutting back in terms of time limits. Getting a second trimester abortion in Canada is always a problem. But more and more doctors are no longer doing the full range of first trimester procedures — they're cutting off at 10 weeks."

This cutting-back of time limits has grave implications for women seeking therapeutic abortion. The most common pregnancy tests are not effective before



ANNE GRIGORA

#### Other Problems

While the above issues are of first importance and concern, there are many other health-care problems that confront Canadian women, for example, hormonal treatment for menopausal women, breast surgery, and the medical examination of rape victims.

It is a common assumption that due to the aging process, menopausal women will be psychologically and physically at risk. Menopause has been medicalized as a disease and is often treated with a drug known as estrogen. Extensive research has linked the rise in uterine cancer to the increased use of estrogen replacement therapy such that post-menopausal women who take estrogen are five to 14 times more likely to get cancer of the uterine lining than women who don't.

The treatment of breast cancer is an unresolved controversy. A range of surgical procedures is used, from a radical mastectomy in which the breast, underlying lymph nodes, and the pectoral muscles are removed, through less drastic surgery. Women who have undergone a radical mastectomy are left to cope with physical discomfort, psychological scarring and severe disfigurement. Recent studies indicate that both radical and simple mastectomy treatments have approximately the same 15 % recurrence rates of disease. Yet the majority of North American doctors continue to perform the mutilating radical mastectomy, in many cases without advising the patient that the medical profession has reached no agreement on treatment.

Medical examinations immediately after a rape are obligatory for rape victims who are willing to go to court. At the emergency ward they may encounter serious obstacles. Apart from the trauma of the rape itself, the victims may come up against negative attitudes and uncooperative behavior from hospital personnel.

Irene Bell of the Toronto Rape Crisis Centre says there are still some hospitals which will not do the required medical examination. "Queensway General Hospital", she says, "will not take rape victims. If a woman has knife wounds from the rape they'll treat those, but will send her to another hospital for the rape examination."

Even in hospitals that do take rape victims, some doctors are reluctant to do the examination. Questioned about this, Dr. Allemang said: "There is a bit of a tendency to avoid involvement unless it's a good, legitimate, prima facie case. You would want to avoid the drunk weekend complainant." Ms. Bell claims that part of the hesitation is based on doctors' reluctance to go to court. "It's time-consuming and they make less money in court than they do in practice," she says.

#### Alternatives

Canadian women, in significant numbers, are reacting to the proliferation of data which suggest that they are receiving questionable medical care. The traditional notion that doctors have all the answers and are not to be questioned is no longer acceptable to many. There is an observable trend to women seeking out female physicians, whom they believe may be more understanding of their health care needs.

In Toronto, two concerned women's groups have been working for over a year to design and promote well-women clinics. The clinics would serve as models of exemplary health care for women, including informed staff, and self-help educational programs in nutrition, exercise, birth-control, and gynecological disorders. The objective is to lower costs, increase efficiency, promote preventive health principles, and provide a humane, sensitized environment.

Women are looking for alternatives to traditional medical practices. A very real option would appear to be such well-woman clinics.



ANNE GRIGORA



ANNE GRIGORA

#### Abortion

Phyllis Curry, the Director of CARES, a Toronto pregnancy and abortion referral centre, says she often hears from women who have been misinformed about the legality of abortion by physicians.

The Criminal Code provides that therapeutic abortion may be performed when, in the opinion of a hospital therapeutic abortion committee composed of three doctors, the continuation of a pregnancy "would or would not be likely to endanger the patient's life or health."

The 1976 federal Report of the Committee on the Operation of the Abortion Law (the Badgley Report), concluded that accessibility to the abortion procedure is unequal across Canada, stating: "What this means is that the procedure provided in the Criminal Code for obtaining therapeutic abortion is in practice illusory for many Canadian women."

The inaccessibility is attributed to the small number of hospitals and doctors doing the procedure, and quotas set by each hospital on the number of abortions per week.

Dr. Sheila Cohen, a prominent Toronto obstetrician-gynecologist at Sick Children's Hospital, says in her opinion the problems are caused because "patients are being shunted from doctor to doctor, there are hospital-imposed limits on the number of abortions each doctor can do in a week, and because of the large number in demand — Toronto has to service a large region of northern Ontario where the procedure is unavailable."

The hospital quotas are in many cases very low. Sherran Ridgley, a member of the Women's Health Organization, who works as a family planning counsellor in Toronto, says that for example, the Women's College has a clinic quota of two patients per week.

Delay is also a major factor. Abortions can be done in the first trimester of pregnancy (up to 12 weeks) by a safe, relatively simple procedure. When the pregnancy has advanced to the second trimester, (13 weeks to 24 weeks), the

42 days from the date of the last menstrual period (at which point the pregnancy has already advanced to 6 weeks.)

On the average, the manner in which doctors and hospitals now process requests for abortion creates an eight-week delay between a pregnant women's first visit to a doctor and eventual performance of an abortion, according to the Badgley Report.

The Report noted that the factors which accounted for most of the delay were the attitudes of physicians and hospital personnel.



ANNE GRIGORA

# EDITORIAL

For five months now, 90 women working in a rat-infested manufacturing plant in Centralia, Ontario, have been on strike, fighting the family of former Deputy Minister of Industry and Tourism, James Fleck.

The atrocities associated with their struggle, the Fleck Strike, speak of corrupt manipulation of political power. They speak of the unethical intimidation of underpaid workers by their management to stay away from unionizing. And they speak of the indignity paid to seemingly powerless women.

What the Fleck Strike highlights is something quite different. We see the dignity of 90 women, only recently unionized, refusing to be intimidated by the bullying and forceful show of 500 imported

provincial police at their picket line. We see these women realizing they do have rights and by organizing together and supporting one another they can demand them. They don't have to work for ten years before earning the top hourly rate of \$3.20 an hour. They don't have to work in a rat-infested sweatshop with broken toilets. And they don't have to be afraid of losing their jobs by joining a union.

They aren't afraid because over the past five months they have discovered the support, solidarity and strength from women and organized workers all over the country. A support, solidarity, and strength that will continue until they have been satisfied, because none of us can afford to tolerate such blatant corruption.



# LETTERS

## Lobbying absurd

Dear UPSTREAM,

I applaud your last month's editorial which described the inhumanity of the capitalist economy. Poverty, social service cut-backs and sky-rocketing unemployment are tolerated while billions are spent developing an anti-life nuclear technology. Large corporations and their political arm, the government, clearly share the same interests — profit, at the expense of human needs and life.

In this context, the solution you propose of "lobbying the government for more responsible activity" is patently absurd. As women we must be bitterly aware by now that reformist tactics such as law reform or government lobbying are a dead end. Under the law, women are equal to men. But in real life we are still the victims of sexism. We are over-worked, underpaid, battered physically and psychologically everyday. Governments and corporations are not about to grant us any favours which would lessen their control over our lives — be it free abortion on demand, equal pay or nuclear disarmament.

Their enormous power can only be challenged by those whom they most exploit — the working class, especially working class women — and upon whose labour they depend for their wealth. An organized working class movement demanding a society based on human needs will bring about change — not middle-class liberals begging favours from our oppressors.

Joanne Boucher

## Myth of motherhood

Dear UPSTREAM,

Thank you for your article Motherhood — do we need it?, in last month's issue. It was informative and enlightening.

I think one of the key issues the article should have pointed out is the powerful

vested interests behind the insidious motherhood propaganda.

Because unabated baby production is the very basis for ongoing profit for so many vested interests (from baby goods suppliers, toy manufacturers, the "education" factories up to the ministry of education, and their suppliers, all those profiting from weddings and establishing families, etc. etc.).

Therefore these people and their whole institutions and the institutions they control, will as a matter of economic survival perpetrate the myth of motherhood.

Just take the recent example of the Inquiry for declining school enrollment.

Jackson's proposals truly reflect the alarm among the vested interests over the decrease in potential "business" on account of the reduced birth rate.

The vested interests, whose spokesman Mr. Jackson obviously is, did not shy away from proposing salaried baby producers in order to stay in business.

Jackson's proposals make it clear to everybody what women's role is to be in this society and whose laws they are supposed to obey. The role is to be subservient means of production for those who profit from motherhood. The laws and standards women are to live up to are dictated by male-dominated economic and related interests.

Lets help all our sisters, and equally important, our brothers, never to forget this fact while we are being brainwashed by the unceasing propaganda of the "motherhood" and "fatherhood" cult.

In solidarity,  
Gloria Plaskan

## Women do hitchhike alone

Dear UPSTREAM,

In response to the article on hitchhiking in the last issue, I'd like to express my disappointment at the dismissal of the notion of women hitchhiking alone. I think it is a reality that many women hitch alone, and will continue to do so, and it makes more sense to talk about how to do that with the least possible risk than simply to patronizingly say "don't do it." There are

certain risks involved, and the more we share our experience, and talk about how to handle the problems that may come up, or avoid them altogether, the more we will be able to intelligently choose whether or not to thumb in a particular situation. I simply do not accept that it is impossible or unacceptable for me to thumb alone in a world where men may do so. I choose to take the risks and take responsibility for myself in doing so. I become a stronger person when I make that decision myself instead of accepting someone else's judgement that it is or is not safe for me.

I have thumbed alone from Ottawa to Philadelphia, S. Carolina to Phila., Phila. to Toronto, Pickering to Kingston, and so on. The main thing I have learned is to be in charge, be aware, know where I'm going and what I am willing to put up with in a ride, and be definite about that; role play responses to difficult situations so you can act assertively instead of being unsure should somebody attempt to take advantage of you, put out strong vibes, and expect respect from the drivers who pick you up. The worst problem has been people wanting to take care of me, rather than take advantage of me, actually! So I have to be clear that I don't want people to go out of their way to "help" me out, unless that will be really helpful and necessary in a particular situation. In other words, be real, and expect real people back. I'll bet there are women out there with a lot more experience than me, who can give more relevant information.

The main suggestions I would make are: a) use a sign b) avoid nighttime thumbing c) watch for safe places, i.e. spots where people can pull off easily d) avoid more than one man at a time e) say no if it doesn't feel right, or ask to get out of it if you would like to and f) absolutely the main thing is be prepared in mind, get yourself together, know where you're going. I've had some good rides with people, I've learned a lot, I'd like to encourage women to pick up women and build solidarity that way, (if you feel confident doing that), and I say be in charge, live life your own way, make your own decisions. We are capable people.

Also, if it's raining, or you don't feel like waiting on the ramp, try waiting in a service station or travel information centre. That way you can check people out yourself and do the approaching — there's more time to assess rides. My best ride — Virginia to Philadelphia in the back of a pickup — I got this way.

Lynn Sunwoman

# FORUM

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

## End capitalism to end exploitation of women

by Judy Wasylcia-Leis  
Federal NDP Women's Organizer

Women are recruited for executive training courses; "old-girl networks" spring up; corporations address women in their ads for credit cards and quality scotch; feminists take head counts of women in management; women are allowed into exclusive, men-only clubs.

For some women, these break-throughs are victories for feminism. As a feminist and a socialist, I cannot applaud such efforts.

As long as feminism is defined as getting into executive positions, holding down big jobs and making huge salaries, it will have little relevance for the majority of women and no impact on their lives. Under such a definition, feminism becomes a movement that only emphasizes legal and political reforms so that women who work hard can make it — if they really want to. As such, it can only lead to the individual advancement of a minority of middle-class women.

Feminism must mean the struggle to end the discrimination, oppression, and exploitation of all women. This cannot be accomplished under the present system of capitalism which depends on women as a cheap source of available labour. This cannot be accomplished under a competitive economic system which rates the "masculine" qualities of aggressiveness, ambition, and shrewdness as superior and

ensures the subordination of women.

Feminism which is interested in the claims of the mass of exploited women has as its main objective the transformation of society and the development of alternative systems and institutions. Freedom for all women can only occur in a society where equality of conditions, not just equality of opportunity, is provided. Such a definition recognizes that women are not free to "choose," to pursue certain goals, and to participate in society as fully and as equally as men when they are denied basic necessities of life. Feminism, therefore, requires a socialist perspective.

This is not to deny that the subordination of women came well before capitalism. But it is to say that by putting an end to the exploitation of female labour and to human relationships based on money, women would be liberated from their economic dependence on men and from their subordination. Rather than accepting the present structures of power, the oppression of women must be attacked at its roots. That means understanding that as long as profits come before people, women will be treated as cheap labour and under the present system profits always come first.

True equality cannot be achieved without simultaneously denouncing the economic exploitation of women and their dependent situation with respect to men. In this way feminism and socialism are indissolubly linked.

The realization of feminist ideas makes it necessary to have a political party which has integrated the feminist principles in its total policy. But while it is recognized that feminism cannot exist without socialism, it must also be recognized that socialism cannot exist without feminism — cannot exist without the recognition that the other half of mankind cannot be forgotten almost always and everywhere.

Organizations such as political parties and trade unions which espouse democratic socialism must take seriously the message of the feminist movement that real humanitarian principles must be reintroduced and protected in everyday practice. They must recognize the power of cultural conditioning being felt within their own ranks and be prepared to show that their principles of equality and justice also apply to women.

Socialism is an ideology that seeks to realize justice and equality for all. It must never forget that these principles apply to women and it must never reject the qualities of compassion, generosity, and desire for peace — those qualities so long defined as "feminine." For that it requires a feminist perspective.

Feminism means the end of economic exploitation for all women and the end to prescribed roles for which few beings are suited. It must not claim inheritance to male roles and values which function to support a competitive economic system. For that it requires a socialist perspective.

## LETTERS

### Disappointed with policy

Dear UPSTREAM,

I would like to congratulate the newspaper staff on the improvement I see in UPSTREAM since it began publishing. The layout, the quality of most of the articles, and the enlarged range of topics it covers are certainly improvements. I especially enjoy the articles of foraging wild plants and the historical articles.

I am however very disappointed that UPSTREAM wouldn't write an article about the Real Food Co-op as it's not considered a woman's issue. I think food is an important issue for everyone regardless of sex.

I support your paper as I believe it offers alternative ideas and useful information to raise women's consciousness, and so indirectly men's. As such I would think UPSTREAM would be very interested in offering its readers information about local food and housing co-operatives as a means of access to an alternative lifestyle.

The Real Food Co-op is trying to raise peoples consciousness about the nutrition in food, how food is produced, spoiled, and marketed. The difference between our policy and UPSTREAM'S is that we're not prejudiced against raising men's consciousness about food.

The Real Food Co-op is trying to provide an alternative to super food chain stores run for profit and not people.

The Co-op certainly isn't run with making a large profit in mind as only 10 % mark up is added to cost price to cover the store's overhead. The Co-op tries to carry the highest quality food, be it bread, eggs

or honey. The co-op tries to support local farmers and producers by buying from them, also ensuring better quality of food.

Unlike Steinbergs and Loblaws we buy food in bulk trying to eliminate the 37.9 % of urban garbage that pre-packaging comprises.

The Real Food Co-op is run entirely by its members. The co-op hopes that people will learn to work co-operatively together in solving problems and making their solutions a reality.

I really am disappointed in UPSTREAM for labelling The Real Food Co-op and thus all co-ops as a non feminist issue when co-ops of any kind are such a fantastic vehicle of consciousness raising for our society. UPSTREAM must be wearing blinders to stick to issues and alternatives that only involve women, when they could support organizations that hope to change society's consciousness, everyone included. I think UPSTREAM is making a HUGE mistake limiting itself so.

Sincerely yours,  
Faye Bryers

Dear Faye,

*We think it's highly unfortunate that you have received this impression about UPSTREAM and our policies. We don't now and never have considered food co-ops, nutrition, or consumer issues to be non-feminist. We agree that what we eat, how we spend our money, and whom we support are questions to be carefully considered by all people committed to changes in this society. UPSTREAM would be happy to support the Real Food Co-op by printing an article about the Co-op, or about food co-ops in general.*

*The Real Food Co-op is located at 43 Flora St., near Bank.*

UPSTREAM staff

### Congratulations

Dear UPSTREAM collective,

I picked up your newspaper a couple of weeks ago and I was delighted. In my work I have frequent opportunities to discuss both personal and societal issues of concern to women. The women I meet daily range from middle class housewives to working-poor single parents to women on mother's allowance to well-educated women with careers. I strongly feel the need to be well-informed about women's concerns as seen from a variety of viewpoints and have tried to educate myself with Ms. magazine and the few "tidbits" that appear in the Globe and Mail. Needless to say, this has been a frustrating experience since I need information relevant to a Canadian context. Your publication seems like it will satisfy my thirst for current articles on economics, politics, legal changes, the arts, personal testimonies, etc. etc. that are written for Canadian women.

Thank you  
Christine Wihak

Dear UPSTREAM,

Just thought I'd drop you a note with my cheque to renew my subscription. I am constantly pleased with your content — the variety and the depth, and that you're not afraid to cover and editorialize controversial topics. UPSTREAM'S value is in its ability to delineate what women's activities promote the advancement of women in and with society, from activities that are short-cuts and short successes.

Keep up the good work,  
J. Andres



# Law For Women

by Shirley Greenberg

When two people decide to separate, the law applicable to the situation is family law. What you do and how you and your spouse define your new roles and relationship will be determined largely by provincial legislation and common law. Here the new family law reforms are vitally important, for negotiation goes on within the framework set by them. In Ontario it is the Family Law Reform Act, in effect since 31 March, 1978.

The decision of one spouse is enough to bring a marriage to an end, and the options then available are four, at least:

1. Simply leave, taking your belongings with you. In Ontario no permission from anyone is needed, although elsewhere provision is made for a judicial separation, approved by a court.
2. Negotiate with your spouse on how to effect the separation, custody, division of property and support, and embody your agreement in a written contract (separation agreement).
3. If you wish to stay in your home but your husband won't leave, apply to a court for exclusive possession of the home, and combine in your application a claim for property, support and custody, if necessary. (This happens only when husband and wife can't come to agreement voluntarily.)
4. Petition for divorce, if you have grounds, and while waiting for your hearing, apply to the court immediately for support and custody.

The first option is a wise choice only for those who own nothing and have no joint debts or children. If you have nothing to lose except maybe a toothbrush, there is no need to tidy up affairs. It is the second of the options that this column will deal with — separation agreements.

## Separation Agreements

A separation agreement is a very important document, for it embodies decisions and arrangements that may last for the rest of the life of a party to the agreement. It covers important matters such as the following:

- custody of children and access to the non-custodial parent
- support for children, spouse (if necessary)
- possession or sale of the family home

- division of property, such as furnishings, cars
- responsibility for debts and legal fees
- insurance: life, accident, medical, dental
- income tax consequences.

It is standard procedure to articulate the spouses' agreement to live separate and apart, but the actual date of separation is when it occurs in fact, not when the agreement is signed. This may be important if a divorce later occurs based on three years' separation.

## Money and Property

The whole basis of the agreement, after custody and access of children, is financial and property arrangements. Thus it is absolutely essential to get full financial disclosure from each spouse, otherwise there is no way of knowing if the right decisions were made. Usually this requirement is satisfied by producing the past three years' income tax returns and revealing fully future prospects and potential, as they are known at the moment. Each party must supply a statement of assets and liabilities to the other. If an application ever is made to court under the Family Law Reform Act of Ontario, it is a requirement that such a statement be sworn, filed with the court, and served on each party. For each party's protection, this should apply also when preparing a separation agreement.

## Support Payments

Children will be supported until they are 18 years of age or until they leave home at the age of 16, withdrawing from parental control, according to law. A dependent spouse is expected to become independent as soon as possible under our new laws and thus provision for support will not be indefinite. Either husband or wife can apply for support from the other, under law, and either could be the dependant under a separation agreement.

In deciding how much a support payment should be, allowance should be made for the fact that the spouse who has stayed at home is penalized economically through lower salary, loss of benefits and social security, especially pension benefits, as well as loss of opportunity to develop skills. Maybe all the burden should not rest on one to compensate the other for these losses, but it should be taken into account when the decisions are made.

## Property and the Family Home

If there is a family home owned by one or both spouses, what is to be done with it? Within the framework of Ontario's Family Law reform, there are two aspects to consider: each spouse has a right to possession; and the home and contents are subject to equal division between spouses, regardless of who is listed as owner of the property.

Any other property, such as cars, boats, works of art, a cottage or mobile home, is also subject to this 50-50 division if it was in use by family members. Investments and business property is not subject to sharing except when special conditions are met.

## Income Tax Consequences

Income tax consequences are very important, especially for the one who pays support or transfers property. If support payments are made pursuant to a written separation agreement or a court order, they are deductible from the income of the one who pays but must be included in the income of the recipient (usually the wife). This is a form of income splitting, and it can make quite a difference in cost, possibly moving the payer from a high tax-bracket to a lower one. To protect the recipient and ensure that she always has enough to live on, all negotiations should be on the basis of net after-tax dollars.

Parents have to decide who is to be responsible for the support of children, because that person will also be able to claim dependant's deductions, and one child will qualify for the married equivalent deduction if the parent maintains a self-contained domestic establishment.

Tax consequences also follow from transfers of property, including life insurance, and it is all important: it is money!

Note especially that a lump-sum payment is not tax deductible, but periodic (monthly or quarterly) payments are, if they are for maintenance and are not transfers of capital.

## Legal Advice

Because the effect of the separation agreement defines rights and obligations of great importance, it is very important that each spouse know exactly what is involved in signing such a document. Usually a term is included in the agreement saying that each has had independent legal advice and does understand. No lawyer is comfortable if this does not happen, because agreements have been set aside on grounds that one

person was misled, misinformed, and didn't know what she or he was doing at a time of high emotional stress. This doesn't mean that it is easy to get an agreement set aside. It is best to know that your interests are being served, and that the agreement is fair to both parties. Usually the help of a lawyer is necessary, especially because the interests of husband and wife are usually in conflict at this stage.

## Variation of a Separation Agreement

Because conditions change, especially in inflationary times, and as people experience financial losses or gains, a provision should be included to allow for variation if there is a substantial change and for resort to a court if the parties cannot agree. If there is no variation clause, no changes are possible unless the two parties agree. A contract can be changed any time the parties to it agree on the change, however.

## Effect at Divorce

You cannot deprive a court of jurisdiction at the time of a divorce hearing, so the judge can then override a separation agreement even if the parties declare in it that it is to continue despite divorce. If there is no expression of intent in the agreement, it will definitely end. But even if there is the intention for it to continue, there is no certainty that it will, although a court will only override it for very compelling reasons.

## Effect at Death

It should be clear whether or not the estate of a deceased person is to continue to be liable for support payments, and the wills should reflect this.

## Effect at Re-Marriage or Other Relationship

Provision is usually made for payments to a spouse to cease upon re-marriage or if a relatively permanent relationship with another person is established.

## Other Considerations

Nothing has been said about arrangements for debts and other liabilities. It is impossible to cover all the issues in a short space or point out the hazards. But it is vital to be aware that the separation agreement is an important document, and that the drafting of such a contract is a very sophisticated exercise which may have very direct personal consequences that can last a lifetime.

# Women Helping Women

In past columns, we've talked about how women can support ourselves and our sisters through collective action. One such action has been the nation-wide lobby against the appalling film *How To Say No To A Rapist and Survive*. In response to our protests, the following organizations have taken active stands against the film — either by banning, rejecting, withdrawing, or developing alternatives to its use as a rape education and crime prevention aid. For further information on the specific action taken by each of these groups, contact the Committee on Media, c/o UPSTREAM. If you have any names to add, we'd like to hear about them!

## Rape Research Scientists

- Debra Lewis, author, *Rape: The Price of Coercive Sexuality*, Toronto Centre of Criminology
- Lorene Clark, author, *Rape: The Price of Coercive Sexuality*, Toronto Centre of Criminology
- James Selkin, author, *The Mind of the Rapist*, Denver Centre for the Study of Violence
- Stanley Brodsky, editor, *Sexual Assault*, University of Alabama Centre for Correctional Psychology
- Pauline Bart, University of Illinois Medical Centre, author, *Queen's Bench Study on Rape*
- Ralph Garofalo, Centre for Diagnosis and Treatment, Massachusetts Correctional Institute.
- N. Gager, author, *Sexual Assault: Confronting Rape in America*
- C. Schurr, author, *Sexual Assault: Confronting Rape in America*
- Lynn Curtis, author, *Criminal Violence*, U.S. Bureau of Social Science Research, Washington, D.C.

- Susan Weeks, author, *Queens Bench Study on Rape*, Queen's Bench Foundation, San Francisco
- Diana Russell, author, *The Politics of Rape*
- Mary Keefe, former Director, New York City Sex Crimes Analysis Unit (now with Law Enforcement Assistance Association, Washington, D.C.)
- Linda Holmstrom, author, *Rape Trauma Syndrome*
- Nina Falk, Training Department, N.Y. Health and Hospital Corporation
- Daryl Pope, Sex Crime Unit, State Records Bureau, Michigan
- M. Saylor, Sex Offenders Program, Western State Hospital, N.Y.
- A. Simos, Clinical Psychologist, Adolescent Services, New York University Medical Centre and Bellevue Psychiatric Hospital
- Menachem Amir, author, *Pattern in Forcible Rape* (instituted legal proceedings against Storaska)

## Status of Women Groups and Rape Crisis Centres

- Federal Government Advisory Council on the Status of Women
- All Provincial Government Advisory Councils on the Status of Women
- Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, Nova Scotia
- All Canadian Rape Crisis Centres
- All U.S. Rape Crisis Centres
- U.S. National Organisation of Women
- National Action Committee on the Status of Women
- Ottawa Federation of Medical Women
- Calgary Status of Women Action Committee
- National Council of Jewish Women of Canada
- Canadian Federation of University Women
- Alberta Status of Women action Committee
- Alberta Status of Women Action Committee
- Saskatchewan Action Committee on the Status of Women
- Saskatchewan Women in Religion

Women's Division, Saskatchewan Department of Labour

## Police Forces and Law Enforcement Agencies

- Police Foundation, N.Y.
- Law Enforcement Assistance Association (U.S.A.)
- Metropolitan Toronto Police Department
- Ontario Provincial Police
- B.C. Police Commission
- U.S. National League of Cities
- U.S. National Crime Prevention Institute
- Hamilton Crown Attorney's Office (Ont.)
- Hamilton Police Department (Ont.)
- U.S. Department of Defence
- Michigan State Police
- New York City Police Department
- Detroit City Police Department
- Denver Police Department
- Aspen Police Department
- Santa Barbara (Calif.) Police Department
- Washington D.C. Police Department
- London (Ont.) Police Department
- Royal Canadian Mounted Police (Have placed use of film under temporary suspension pending consultation with provincial Attorneys-General)
- Attorney General, Saskatchewan
- Minister of Justice, Prince Edward Island
- Department of Justice, Newfoundland

## Educators, Departments of Education and Ministries of Education

- Alberta Ministry of Education — "will not encourage use of the film"
- University of Alberta Department of Extension
- Ontario Ministry of Education — "not recommended as a suitable teaching resource"
- Nova Scotia Ministry of Education — "film will not be considered for purchase"

- Manitoba Ministry of Education — issued warning bulletin
- Saskatchewan Ministry of Education — distributed warning material
- Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Education — distributed warning material
- Vancouver School Board, B.C.
- B.C. Provincial Education Media Centre
- Canadian National Film Library
- Hamilton Board of Education, Ont.
- Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic School Board, Ont.
- Scarborough School Board, Ont.
- Toronto School Board, Ont.
- New York City Board of Education, N.Y.
- Scarsdale Board of Education, N.Y.
- Department of Education, Prince Edward Island
- Department of Education, Northwest Territories
- North York (Toronto) Public Library Board
- University of Western Ontario
- Ypsilanti State University

## Politicians

- Leader of the Opposition, Nova Scotia
- Leader of the Opposition, Saskatchewan
- Leader of the Opposition, Newfoundland
- David MacDonald, M.P. Progressive Conservative Party
- Critic on Status of Women
- The Hon. S. Smith, Leader of the Opposition (Ont.)
- The Hon. M. Cassidy, Leader of the N.D.P. (Ont.)
- Lloyd Francis, M.P.
- Evelyn Gigantes, M.P.P. (Ont.)
- City of Ottawa
- Governor, State of Michigan

## Others

- Ottawa Civic Hospital
- Block Parents Association (Ont.)

# FEMINIST CONNECTIONS COUNSELLING FOR CHANGE

by Olga Lenko

When I was asked to write about being a mother, I didn't know where I should begin or how honest I wanted to be. My memories about mothering are very painful, surrounded with feelings of guilt, inadequacy, and confusion. Guilt, because I wanted to raise my children in a better way than I'd been raised; inadequacy and confusion, because I'd always liked children but when I was confronted with the job of raising them many times I felt I didn't live up to my own expectations.

In my own personal life, family pressures to have children were not strong; getting married, however, was quite another matter, since sexuality (and so kids) was only permitted in this context.

Both my parents came from Eastern European peasant society and had no illusions about what a responsibility it was to have children. However, they had very little choice about it, as the only means of birth control available to them was either abstinence or abortion. So my mother gave birth to six of us and had three abortions as well. Abortions were legal in the Ukraine and were done under the best possible medical conditions. Mother was a confirmed Catholic but to my knowledge felt no guilt or remorse nor was this act condemned by the church or society in general. My parents emigrated to Canada with five of us in 1935, in the Depression. My parents, especially my mother, were very aware at what a disadvantage they were, economically and educationally, for giving us kids the necessities of life — proper nutrition, housing, and education. My mother worked from time to time as a domestic to supplement the meagre wages and unemployment bouts of my father. She had a basically calm and generous nature but holding down two jobs sometimes made her overtired and impatient. She started working hard at an early age, so she had very little patience with our need for independence or wanting to do other things besides chores. I liked reading when I was a youngster and when she would find me curled up with a book

she would scold me for being so thoughtless. I know now that she was proud that we could read, but that she must have felt envious that she neither had time or the skill to read — she had only had two years of schooling. My father also worked hard but his work-day ended at 5 and then he was able to pursue a life of a bachelor — reading, discussing politics with his buddies, and telling stories about his experiences as a young man in the old country. He didn't help with domestic chores and virtually ignored us when we were very young except to discipline us.

We had a difficult time financially and each of us was expected to get a job as soon as possible. I had fantasies of becoming a doctor but knowing this was impossible settled into a commercial course at high school. I had liked public school and did well there, but in my first year in high school I was bored and my marks slipped badly. When I barely passed I started thinking about a job, and so at fifteen and a half I got a job in a sewing factory.

My job was pinking seams on the skirts of dresses. I was expected to do three hundred skirts a day. I did it for two years. It was back-breaking work, and very boring besides, but the camaraderie made up for the bad working conditions and low pay. When I started, I made \$10 a week; when I quit, two years later, my take-home pay was the grand sum of \$12.50 per week. Later, my family moved to Toronto where I got work as a long-distance operator at Bell Canada. My starting wages were \$24 per week and when I left seven years later I was earning \$49 per week. The work was nerve-racking because we had the constant pressure of supervisors on our backs to handle as many calls as we possibly could. I had very little time for a social life because the job required working shifts as well as weekends and holidays. Because my family depended on my pay, I lived at home until I got married.

I met my future husband at 22 and was married at 23. I had some reservations regarding this relationship because of

educational and class differences — but I was young, full of energy and goodwill and I was sure we could work things out.

A few months after I got married I quit my job because I was pregnant. My child was born prematurely, a "blue baby" who died two days later. After his birth I was not allowed by hospital staff to see the child. I remember pacing the corridors near the nursery hoping to get a glimpse of him and giving up in frustration and grief.

When I got pregnant for the second time I was very happy. The pregnancy was a comfortable one and I was preparing for the birth by reading many books on the subject, among them was Dr. Grantly Read's books on natural childbirth and attended classes in preparation for this method. It was a long labour, there were some complications, but the child came into the world strong and healthy. He was a very easy child, slept through the night and adjusted very well to a regular feeding schedule. I loved taking care of him, playing with him, was excited by the various growing stages he went through, teething, walking, talking. I had time and energy to wheel him for long walks, and to read to him. Two years later another son was born; he also was a planned child and quite placid but it seemed that my energy was beginning to dwindle. My husband, who had been supportive at the beginning, was ending his university studies and starting to pursue his own career. We were hard up for money, moving from place to place in search of cheap rent and landlords who would accommodate two lively youngsters. It was at this time I was hospitalized for post-natal depression. When I came back home from hospital I found it difficult to cope in strange communities with very little help or anyone to talk to. Two years later, when under psychiatric care, I became pregnant again. I'd been using a birth control device so was very upset when this happened. I asked my doctors for an abortion but they told me that since I was mentally and physically sound it was out of the question. I said I simply couldn't

cope, and they said I would find a way.

Since I am a survivor and coper, I did do the best I could — but my mothering went downhill from then on. I got angry and yelled at my children. I became resentful at having to spend so much time cooking, cleaning, diapering, at having no time nor energy for doing all the nice things I'd previously done with the children and certainly no time for myself.

When the Women's Movement came along, from talking and working with women I discovered that our feelings about motherhood are at best ambivalent. We do not like having a role foisted on us; we want to have a choice. If some of us want to remain childless, that is all right too. Those of us who have children or are contemplating having children feel it's very important that it not become the woman's sole responsibility. From our collective experience we know it's not a job we fall into naturally, necessarily. We do not like the isolation this role imposes on us. We would like to see parenting become a community responsibility — through cross-country daycare centres, where we have a say in the values taught; men should be given the opportunity for, and education in this role as well. We want access to the best birth control methods our society is capable of, and to the right to abortion, should all else fail. We want the right to be able to work for decent pay and at challenging jobs so women need not turn to marriage and dependence as a kind of cop-out because there are few alternatives open to us. We also feel that children raised in a caring community would learn to be less competitive, less troubled, and therefore happier and more creative people throughout their lives.

*Feminist Connections was guest authored this month by Olga Lenko. She is relating her own experiences in growing up and in mothering. This article is the last in a series on motherhood.*

Dear UPSTREAM,

## UPSTREAM reader responds: thoughts on mother- hood

I had read your article on 'Motherhood' late one night and was so impressed by it that I had scribbled down some notes of thoughts that came to mind. Married and a mother of 2 myself, waiting for time to get it together into a properly constructed letter would prove futile, so I will send along the thoughts in their crude form.

Your article struck a deep chord within myself as did Rich's Of Woman Born quoted therein. My generation of women, of mothers, (30 plus) seems to be having a particularly difficult time in relating to and coping with the expectations and definitions called forth by that awesome and misunderstood term motherhood. We have been instilled with the traditional values, goals and expectations of our mothers. Yet we have grown up in a society whose goals conflict and contradict. Many of us have waited and delayed childrearing until a career could be developed, university completed. In an environment where we are stimulated and tantalized by such a variety of alternative lifestyles — especially in the milieu of academia and 'career' — marriage, and motherhood are almost ridiculed — definitely low priority. How do women, such as myself, functioning in this milieu, deal with those deeply ingrained traditional values? — with great difficulty — anxiety, guilt, frustration — It's a 'damned if you do and damned if you don't' situation. I find my self apologizing to my childless peers for finding joyous moments with my children and feeling guilty and resentful towards my mother and myself

at my loss of personal time, self and career advancement. Yes I was of the fortunate middle class and have a career that I enjoy and am good at — many strokes. Now I am mothering which amongst my own peer group, husband included, is most definitely not a valued or respected occupation. It's not even considered an occupation — "Do you work?" "No, I'm home with the kids." This is such a ludicrous situation. I've never worked harder in my life than since I "stopped working."

Yet, my decision to stop was my own. I did not wish to have children unless I was willing to be with them. The children are babies now, this stage is temporary, career can soon be resumed. Yet, I often ask myself why it is so difficult to hold on to this commitment.

Alternatives are to resume work and use daycare facilities, 'cleaning' ladies etc. I tried this route. 'Cleaning women' elicited guilt feelings as I felt they were exploited as well as the discomfort of strangers in ones personal sanctum. Daycare felt too institutionalizing. As well it still fell on my, the female's shoulders, to schedule and run the entire episode.

Was it Rich who wrote that what a woman needs is a traditional wife? How undeniably true. What a support system we have been trained to provide!

O.K. — enough negatives, we are all aware of the difficulties and frustration of the system. What directions do we move in now?

I feel women have made enormous strides in terms of personal growth in the areas of awareness and sensitivity to personal needs. However until our "liberated" male begins to feel and actually

assume his equal share of the family responsibility and all that entails, women will never be able to cope successfully and honestly with career and family. It should never be career or family unless one or the other is exclusively desired by the individual. Women must have a right to both. None of this — "I'm a liberated male — I wash the dishes and watch the kids while she shops or goes to the library." I'd also love to smash to bits the insane image of "superwoman," completing her Phd, teaching psychology. Throwing fabulous dinner parties single handedly (liberated husband pours the drinks or rolls the joints), attractive, with beautiful children and homemade bread etc. etc. Her image is the curse of our modern generation of mothers.

I doubt she exists but too many women of the 'now' generation of mothers are tormented by her taunting spectre. It is critical that we do away with her and replace her pipe dream achievements with some of liberated males dormant talents. It is about time that we reinstate the role of 'fatherhood' to its full glory or rather to a fuller, richer function. I am tired of hearing about motherhood. I'd like to hear more about parenthood in the future.

I greatly enjoyed your article. The nuclear family is at a crisis in its development due to a shaky foundation based on inequality and myth. Parenting and family can be beautiful as are all forms of growth but not until the weeds are cleaned up can the ideals and experiences freely blossom.

Keep up the good work. Your paper is a joy to read.

Judith Bernstein

## SPORTS

## Christmas in Sweden

by Havi Echenberg

Christmas in Sweden is the goal for the women of Ottawa University's basketball team, and they are working hard to reach it.

The team expects to play several matches with clubs in Sweden, Denmark, Norway and the Netherlands, and to take part in a tournament being organized by one of the clubs in Sweden.

According to Wanda Pilon, spokesperson for the team, most of the fund-raising plans will wait until September when all members of the team are back in the city from various summer jobs, but efforts have not ceased entirely. The fund-raising efforts

began last spring, with bake sales and raffles, and will continue this fall.

The project for August is a bottle-drive in the Sandy Hill area of Ottawa. Letters will go out in the first week of August to residents in Sandy Hill, informing them that the bottle-drive will take place, and what the funds will be used for.

Then, on 10 August, at least 12 women will take to the streets of the area to collect bottles.

The team's coach, Eric Anderson, said in an interview he expected the trip would cost about \$9 thousand dollars, assuming billets could be arranged with club members in the various Scandinavian countries.

"We told the various clubs involved we would need billets," Anderson said, "and they don't seem to think there will be any problem with that."

The \$9 thousand figure includes transportation to and from the various countries, and of course transportation from one to another once there.

Thus far, the team's efforts have resulted in raising less than \$3 thousand, leaving the women with a long way to go. Anderson said they had not yet contacted government officials to request funding, and would be doing so soon.

"We are not really optimistic about funding from them," he said. "They seem to fund only

government-arranged international competition. Still, we will be trying that method of raising money too."

Pilon explained they also expect to contact local business for financial backing, and are seeking a travel agent who could offer them a travel package to raffle off this fall. "We have had lots of set-backs," Pilon said, "but we are still trying."

Pilon added the team could use any help, financial or otherwise, anyone might be able to offer. For example, she said the women involved in the bottle drive could use "all the help we can get." Anyone able to offer assistance should contact Wanda at 234-4813.



## Alfred wins tournament

by Rose Jones

Once again, the Don's Variety Softball Tournament was held at Carlington Park on July 15 and 16. Twelve Ottawa Valley teams participated in the intermediate A tournament.

The draw was set up in double-knockout fashion. A team either advances after the first round of competition to the A section or to the B section of the draw. If a team wins, they are put into the A side and if the team loses their first game, they go into the B side.

The first round match ups saw Canadian Bank Note Beavers upset last years defending champions, Don's Variety with a 13-3 win, after 5 innings of play. (Note: anytime a team can score more than 10 runs ahead of the opposing team after 5 innings of play, the game is automatically called). In other games, Morrison Rentals beat Manotick 23-17. Alfred beat the Gee Gees 20-5. Ingleside squeaked by C.F.B. Comets 12-11. Kingston beat Cavanagh 14-3 and Hammond over Expos 6-10.

Don's Variety and C.F.B. Comets both advanced easily

to the B finals. However, Don's Variety came through to win with a commanding performance over C.F.B. Comets 11-0.

The other half of the draw provided a better match-up between the teams, making the games exciting to watch.

In the quarter finals of the A round, Kingston just beat out Hammond in the last inning of play with a 9-8 win. Unfortunately, Kingston bit the dust in the semi-finals, losing by 4-2 to Alfred in a closely fought game.

The highlight of the tournament was the A finals between the Canadian Bank Note Beavers and Alfred. Both teams played excellent ball. After three innings of play the score was tied at one. In the fourth inning Alfred scored two more runs to take the lead. Both teams continued to play a very tight defensive game and Canadian Bank Note was unable to catch up. The final score was 4-3 for Alfred.

Most valuable player went to Andrea Arsenaault of Bank Note and top pitcher of the A round was Anita Sequin of Alfred. Debbie Cloutier won top pitcher for the B section.

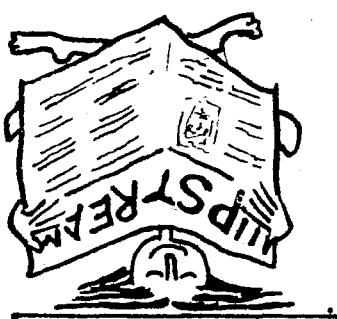
### We've taken the first step

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 to contact people for advertising and distribution—but we still need help. If 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

## You can find UPSTREAM at:

continued from last month

Everywoman's Book  
2033 Oak Bay Ave.  
Victoria B.C.

Port Coquitlam Women's Centre  
Port Coquitlam, B.C.

Red Herring Bookstore  
1852 Barrington  
Halifax, N.S.

Atlantic News Stand  
5580 Morris  
Halifax, N.S.

The Bookstore  
Windsor Public Library  
58 Ouellette Ave.  
Windsor, Ont.

The Book Mine Ltd.  
80½ Durham St. South  
Sudbury, Ont.

Northern Woman Journal  
316 Bay St.  
Thunderbay, Ont.

Shirley Leishman Books  
88 Metcalfe  
Ottawa, Ont.

Real Food Co-op  
43 Flora St.  
Ottawa, Ont.

Kristin Way Shoppe  
81A Clarence St.  
Ottawa, Ont.

Books Canada  
50 Elgin St.  
Ottawa, Ont.

Cheese & Peas  
1337 Wellington St.  
Ottawa, Ont.

Willflower Cafe  
160 Chapel St.  
Ottawa, Ont.

Ottawa South Groceria  
435 Sunnyside Ave.  
Ottawa, Ont.

Sunshine Trading  
590 Bank St.  
Ottawa, Ont.

Book Bazaar  
781½ Bank St.  
Ottawa, Ont.

Octopus Books  
837 Bank St.  
Ottawa, Ont.

The Frame House  
371 Lisgar St.  
Ottawa, Ont.

Interlude Cafe  
209 Belmont Ave.  
Ottawa, Ont.

Classics Books  
National Arts Centre  
Ottawa, Ont.

Carleton U. Women's Centre  
504 Unice Centre  
Ottawa, Ont.



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>August</b>	<b>1</b>  <b>BASKETBALL</b> clinic, Montpetit Hall, Ottawa U. 5:30-8:30 p.m. 15 hrs instruction for \$25. Call 231-5913. Continuing to Aug. 4.  <b>EQUESTRIAN</b> horse show, Delta. <b>FIELD HOCKEY</b> Ottawa women's competitive league game. Brentwood Park. Games at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m.	<b>2</b>  <b>BASKETBALL</b> clinic, see Aug. 1 for details.  <b>FIELD HOCKEY</b> mixed games. Anyone welcome. Brentwood Park. Games at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. <b>CYCLING</b> races, 25 miles. Polyvalente grounds, Hull. 7 p.m. For info, call Allan Large, 828-5266.	<b>3</b> <b>BASKETBALL</b> clinic, see Aug. 1 <b>SOFTBALL</b> 8:30 p.m. at Carlington Park. 'Senior A' women's softball. The Ottawa Valley Juniors against Ottawa Seniors. <b>EQUESTRIAN</b> horse show, R.R. 3 Ashton, Dwyer Hill Farms. <b>CYCLING</b> 10 mi. time trial. Lineback Road, just past Ottawa airport. 7 p.m. For info, call Allan Large, 828-5266. <b>RUNNING</b> Glen Tay Block Race, 15 km, Perth Community Centre for changing facilities, starts 8 p.m., front of Museum, Main Street, Perth. Admission \$1 for seniors, & cents for juniors.	<b>4</b>  <b>BASKETBALL</b> clinic. See Aug. 1 for details.  <b>ROWING</b> Canadian championships, Montréal, continuing to Aug. 6.  <b>EQUESTRIAN</b> horse show, see Aug. 3 for details. <b>BADMINTON</b> R.A. Summer Invitation. 7 p.m. at R.A. Centre. Event: Ladies Singles	<b>5</b> <b>ROWING</b> Canadian championships, <b>BADMINTON</b> R.A. Summer Invitation. 12 noon at R.A. Centre. Event: Ladies Doubles. 2:30 p.m. at R.A. Centre. Event: Mixed Doubles. <b>EQUESTRIAN</b> horse show, see Aug. 3 for details. <b>RUNNING</b> police Games Marathon, Toronto. For info write D.R. McBrien, Marathon Director, 590 Jarvis, Toronto, or call 416-987-2458. Also mini-meets for joggers, 1/4, 1, and 3 miles, 10 a.m., Mooney's Bay Sports Complex. Free to all. Call 563-3222 for information.	<b>6</b>  <b>ROWING</b> championships, see Aug. 4 for details.  <b>AUG 5</b> <b>CYCLING TOUR</b> beginning of three day tour to Vermont. For info, contact Jim Cumins, 725-3226.
	<b>7</b> <b>AUG 7</b> <b>BADMINTON</b> R.A. Summer Invitation. 11:00 a.m. at R.A. Centre. Finals.	<b>8</b>  <b>FIELD HOCKEY</b> Ottawa women's competitive league game. Brentwood Park. Games at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m.	<b>10</b>  <b>ROWING</b> Henley Regatta, see Aug. 9 for details. <b>CYCLING</b> 10 mi. time trial. See Aug. 3 for details.	<b>11</b>  <b>ROWING</b> Henley Regatta, see Aug. 9 for details.	<b>12</b>  <b>ROWING</b> Henley Regatta, see Aug. 9 for details.  <b>RUNNING</b> Mini-meet for joggers, 1/2, 2, 5 miles. 10 a.m., Monney's Bay Sports Complex. Free to all, call 563-3222.	<b>13</b>  <b>CYCLING TOUR</b> one day, Val-de-Bois. Either 50 or 98 miles. Leaves Mr. Conut, Billings Bridge, 8 a.m. Contact Bruce Timmermans, 237-2672, for info.
	<b>14</b>  <b>FIELD HOCKEY</b> Ottawa women's competitive league game. Brentwood Park. Games at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m.	<b>15</b>  <b>FIELD HOCKEY</b> Ottawa women's competitive league game. Brentwood Park. Games at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m.	<b>16</b>  <b>FIELD HOCKEY</b> mixed games. Anyone welcome. Brentwood Park. Games at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m.  <b>CYCLING</b> 25 miles races. See Aug. 2 for details.	<b>17</b>  <b>CYCLING</b> 10 miles time trials. See Aug. 3 for details.	<b>18</b>  <b>EQUESTRIAN</b> horse shows in connection with Central Canadian Exhibition, beginning Aug 19 at Lansdowne Park, Civic Centre, Ottawa.	<b>20</b>  <b>EQUESTRIAN</b> horse shows in connection with CCE, see Aug. 19 for details. Also South Mountain horse show, including driving classes for children.  <b>RUNNING</b> August Road Race and Time Trial, sponsored by the National Capital Runners Association. For information call Gideon Frydman, 746-2415.  <b>CYCLING TOUR</b> Annprior picnic, 100 miles. Leaves Mr. Conut, Billings Bridge, 8 a.m. For info, contact Bruce Timmermans 237-2672.
<b>21</b>  <b>SYNCHRONIZED SWIMMING</b> synchro camp, Carleton University, one week, daytime instruction, \$55. Minimum age, 10 yrs. Continuing until Aug. 25.	<b>22</b>  <b>FIELD HOCKEY</b> Ottawa women's competitive league game. Brentwood Park. Games at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. <b>SYNCHRONIZED SWIMMING</b> synchro camp, see Aug. 21 for details.	<b>23</b>  <b>FIELD HOCKEY</b> mixed game. Anyone welcome. Brentwood Park. Games at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. <b>SYNCHRONIZED SWIMMING</b> synchro camp, see Aug. 21 for details. <b>CYCLING</b> races, 25 miles. See Aug. 2 for details.	<b>24</b>  <b>SYNCHRONIZED SWIMMING</b> synchro camp, see Aug. 21 for details. <b>CYCLING</b> 10 miles time trials. See Aug. 3 for details.	<b>25</b>  <b>SYNCHRONIZED SWIMMING</b> synchro camp, see Aug. 21 for details.	<b>26</b>  <b>CYCLING TOUR</b> two-day cycle-tour de Quebec. Leaves from Montréal, 8 a.m. 75 miles / day. Contact 725-3226 for info.	<b>27</b>  <b>FIELD HOCKEY</b> beginning of two day tournament for women's league. Location to be determined. For info, contact Susan Dodge, 773-5100, during day.
<b>28</b>  <b>FIELD HOCKEY</b> Ottawa women's competitive league game. Brentwood Park. Games at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m.	<b>29</b>  <b>FIELD HOCKEY</b> Ottawa women's competitive league game. Brentwood Park. Games at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m.	<b>30</b>  <b>FIELD HOCKEY</b> mixed game. Anyone welcome. Brentwood Park. Games at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. <b>CYCLING</b> 25 miles races. See Aug. 2 for details.	<b>31</b>  <b>CYCLING</b> 10 miles time trials. See Aug. 3 for details.			
<b>September</b>	<b>2</b>  <b>CYCLING TOUR</b> four day camping tour, 170 miles total. Contact Bruce Timmermans, 237-2672 for info.	<b>3</b>  <b>CYCLING TOUR</b> one-day Calabogie circuit. Car required. Leaving Billings Bridge, 8 a.m. Contact Bruce Timmermans, 237-2672 for info.	<b>6</b>  <b>CYCLING</b> 25 miles races. See Aug. 2 for details.	<b>7</b>  <b>CYCLING</b> 10 miles time trials. See Aug. 3 for details.	<b>8</b>  <b>FIELD HOCKEY</b> beginning of two day tournament for women's league. Location to be determined. For info, contact Susan Dodge, 773-5100, during day.	<b>15</b>  <b>FIELD HOCKEY</b> beginning of two-day invitational tournament, two representative teams from Ottawa. For info, contact Susan Dodge, 733-5100, during day.

career:

# Woodworking women

by Joy Parks

Equal job opportunities has hit the Valley like a breath of cool air on a hot day. In the tiny village of Iroquois, anchored close to the St. Lawrence Seaway, one small outpost of sexism in the labour force has been taken, and the result is something fresh and exciting, even in our liberal times: women in the lumbermill.

Iroquois Enterprises is one of the two major places of occupation in the village, and while it has been in operation for many years, it has only recently hired female employees to work in the operation which produces wooden pallets. The four women in this mill are sod-busters for all the other women who will in time be assimilated into every area of the work force. Their courage and determination has won them the admiration of many, and in a recent interview, it was evident that these women have quite a story to tell.

The biggest event in their job so far was the realization that they had actually been hired. These women, Donna Hanes, Florence Collier, Carol Giles, and Linda Drennan, all living in the area, said that they had all been shocked upon hearing the news of their employment. "It made me feel big and proud," smiled Donna from under her hardhat. Her co-worker Carol Giles added, "I mean, how many women get a chance to do this kind of work. They could do it, anyone could do it as long as they didn't mind hard work." She knotted her brow and continued, "or dirt, you've got to get used to the dirt."

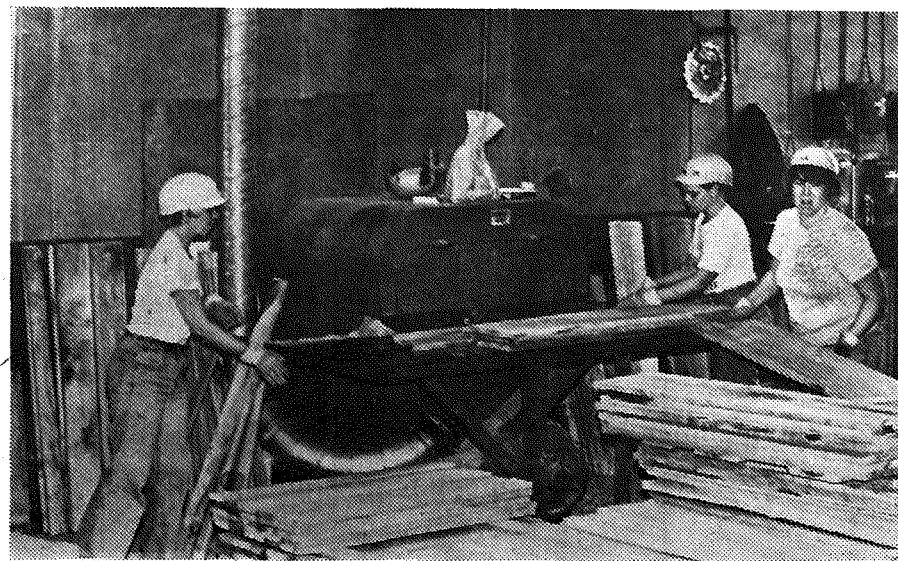
Each of the four women came to learn of the availability of the job in the same way: through the grapevine, through friends who had heard that George Jackson, president of the company, was hiring women. The four had been looking for work in other places without success. Deciding there was nothing to lose, they took a gamble and applied. Three weeks later, they had a job.

Strangely enough, in a small town, where ideas change slowly, the women believe there is a lot of support behind them. Linda said that when she tells someone where she works, they always want to know more about it. For Donna and Florence it was a little easier, since their father (they are sisters) has been employed at the mill for many years. He stood behind them and helped all he could. Carol's story is perhaps the most touching of all. She confides that her husband makes a point to ask her everyday how her work has turned out and what the day was like. She says that her husband knows that she works harder than he does and so he does all he can to help share household chores. "And my kids," she laughed, "they wrote me a note to tell me how proud they were that their mommy was a lumberjack!"

The women talked about sacrificing their traditionally-defined femininity on the job, and they agreed "You've got to learn to ignore the dirt, just work on and don't even think about it. Wait until after work when you can go home and take a shower and look human again." Carol added, "I can be just as feminine as any women, but not here. Not on this job."

Watching the women work is an experience in itself. Donna and Florence operate a rip saw, while Carol spends her time making pallets, the main function of the plant. To present a united front the girls gathered around Carol and boasted proudly that she could produce more pallets per day than could the two men working on the other machine. "Once I get started," she chuckled, "I'm a demon." Linda is sort of a "person-of-all-trades." "I go where I'm needed most," she says. She unloads and loads all the lumber that comes in and goes out of the yard, picks nails out of old boards, assists on the production line, and generally does whatever needs doing.

The women were a bit apprehensive about discussing money, but hastily reported that they were receiving the same amount as would a male employee in their position.



"The hardest thing about the whole deal is trying to convince people that you don't work in the office!"

Women are continually being sexually hassled on the streets, but working in such confined quarters, one can see how the hassle situation could become almost unbearable. Fortunately, it hasn't. In reference to their boss, Donna sighed, "If you can stand his crummy jokes, you've got it made." As for the men they work with, Carol replied, "They weren't too crazy about us being here, they thought that we would cramp their style." Florence, who had been fairly quiet until this time, suddenly piped up, "Ya, they thought they wouldn't be able to curse anymore." But now, the men have become used to the idea and things have settled down. The older employees seem to be more willing to accept their presence and even try to assist the women as much as they can. There are still rude comments and dirty looks from the younger men, but they go ignored. "And then there's —. He hates women. Nothing is going to change him."

Despite the successes the women have had in the short time they have spent at the mill, there are still many problems which must be solved. First, there are problems resulting from social conditioning. "My kids," said Donna gravely, "the other kids tease them. They say that their mommy is a lumberjack and that's silly. My kids handle it, but still, it hurts. It's still not right. Those things shouldn't happen."

And then, too, there are problems that come up on the job. Equal pay and equal benefits

is still a fight for too many women. Working conditions need improvement, not just for women, but for everyone in the labour force. As Carol puts it, "By the time you bolt down lunch, have a cigarette and go to the washroom, your half-hour lunch is gone." And speaking of washrooms, when the women began at the mill, there was only one for all the employees, small sign of the crawling pace of change.

On a larger scale, there are serious problems involving employee-foreman relationships. Carol noted that while it was never said out loud, each of the women knows that if they make waves, there is always some man standing by, ready and waiting to take your job. "They keep you from saying much," said Florence, "and they make it hard to complain." Donna is a spirited and outspoken woman and ad-

of organized labour.

The story of these four women is not complete without a view from the other side, so a phone call to George Jackson, owner and president of Iroquois Enterprises, was in order. Mr. Jackson was quite willing to talk about his female employees, and stated that he was very pleased with their presence in his company. He said that they were as good at the job as were the men, perhaps even better, as he has observed that the women seem to enjoy their work more than the male employees do. He is pleased with his choices, and plans to hire more women as the jobs become available. He wants an equal-opportunity establishment, one with a mix of male and female employees. "But," says Mr. Jackson, "there are certain jobs, dangerous jobs that I will not allow the women to try." He added sheepishly, "I try to treat them like ladies. I guess there are still some jobs that I don't believe to be fitting for a lady. Things that aren't 'lady's work'."

He firmly stated that the women have had a positive effect on the male employees. The men have settled down and become less rowdy. Generally speaking, the women have improved the entire working situation.

Self-images have also been altered and improved over the past months. The women all agreed that since they had started doing jobs once thought of as for men only, their entire perspective has changed. They began to see themselves in a new light, more aggressive, more capable, more complete. To hear them speak of themselves with a new sense of pride and self-respect is truly beautiful, and which could serve as inspiration and nourishment to all women.

With all the barriers these women have broken and all the others left to face, the women speak of their job with exuberance, determination, and high hopes. Their comments reveal their strength:

Linda — "You feel like quitting, but you won't give in."

Florence — "Since I've worked here, I've got more backbone. I'll speak up for what I want."

Donna — "If any women can do the job, then she should get it. We've always been equal, just give us the chance."

Carol — "I'd fall down dead trying to do what they told me to before I'd give in."

Backed with experience in diplomacy, the kind you receive through experience, they have developed a group policy to advise other women who plan to enter the work force in a male-dominated job. In close unison, the four stated that one must "prove that you can really do the job, get used to the dirt, and get it in your mind that you can do it. Then you will."

After the interview, Linda walked back to the forklift she had been working with. She looked into the sun in a slow thoughtful way and squinted hard. "You know," she said, shaking her head, "the hardest thing about the whole deal is trying to convince people that you don't work in the office!"

mitted that she had had run-ins with her foreman. She said, "He just bugs me more than he would if I were a man. It's obvious he just doesn't want me here. He's constantly after me, complaining and pushing me. So one day I lost my temper and went back at him. And did it help? He's been twice as bad since then. Sometimes I wonder just how much we have to take."

When union assistance was mentioned, a sad laugh filled the room. "The union," jeered Carol, "is no help to us at all." She looked around at the other women who were all nodding in agreement. "You go to the union," she continued, "and you tell them you've got a problem, a real problem, something important. And they just look at you like you're not even there and tell you to stop complaining and be thankful that you have a job. I am, we all are, but there are still problems. But they might as well tell us to sit in a corner and talk to ourselves for all the help they give us. It's a lousy set-up." When they were asked what they felt would better the situation, they were ready. "Women as union heads, women as union representatives, good strong women leaders who know what the problems are, ones who have been there and can fight. That's the only thing that is really going to help. We've got to have more women leaders." Every woman responded with different words, but even so, the message is plain: there is a desperate need for women in places of power in the structure

# Pioneers in Canadian health care reform

by Alice Switocz

Early in 1897 the National Council of Women (NCW) decided that the formation of an organization to supply nurses to outlying districts in the west, and to poorer segments of the population in the cities, would be an appropriate memorial for Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. The idea had been initiated by Lady Aberdeen, who, in her capacities as President of the NCW and wife of the Governor-General, had travelled across Canada and witnessed great inadequacies in health care.

In the late 19th century, in the sparsely populated areas of western Canada, medical care was often unavailable and settlers had to rely mainly on their own resources. Although medical care did exist in the more urbanized East, hospitals were often dirty and crowded — unhealthy places to be avoided. In most hospitals student nurses were the entire nursing staff, with the exception of their instructors. Under the pretext of professional training, student nurses worked long hours at arduous tasks for a minimal salary. Basically, hospital administrators regarded student nurses as a source of cheap labour and a way of economizing on hospital costs.

Those segments of the population that could afford it hired a private nurse to care for them in their own homes. Although for the patient home care was an improvement on hospital care, for the private nurse there were drawbacks. There never seemed to be enough cases among the well-to-do to supply private nurses with steady employment, and nurses often waited weeks between patients. As a result a private nurse's fee, once she did get a job, was very high making her services absolutely prohibitive to all but the middle and upper classes.

So a large portion of the population was left without access to health care. Lady Aberdeen and the women of the NCW envisioned that the Victorian Order of Nurses, as the new organization soon came to be known, would help two segments of the population: the poor would receive necessary health care, and unemployed nurses could be certain of jobs.

In an effort to involve the entire community in the project a committee of leading citizens from Ottawa, Toronto, and Montréal, both women and men, was set up under the presidency of Lady Aberdeen. It was their task to implement the idea and by November 1897 a constitution embodying the objectives of the VON had been drawn up. The objectives were:

- to supply trained nursing care, subject to one central authority, to the sick who would otherwise be unable to obtain nursing care in their homes, in both town and country districts
- to accomplish this organizationally through a series of local associations affiliated with the central office in Ottawa
- to maintain a high standard of nursing care
- to provide small cottage hospitals in small communities.

In every district to which a VON was to be sent, there was to be an initial organization of interested citizens; this local association would undertake to guarantee the nurse's salary (which was set by the central office in Ottawa), and pay her lodging, board, and travel expenses. Part of her salary, it was expected, would also be met from fees (paid by patients). These were determined by the patient's ability to pay and ranged from \$1.05 to \$.25 per visit. Poor patients were given free care, with the doctor deciding on the patient's financial position. Any deficit in salary from these sources was supplemented by the VON central office.

The type of nursing care provided by the VON came to be known as "district nursing." The term implied providing home nursing care to several patients per day, who would not otherwise be able because of their financial position to obtain the services of a private nurse. The nursing care given in both urban and rural districts was identical, but the situation in populated areas more readily encouraged the continuation of district nursing.

The average day of an urban district nurse entailed attending five or six patients a day, giving each the nursing care required, frequently preparing a meal for the patient or tidying their room. If the mother were sick, the nurse may also have cared for the children of the family. Maternity cases represented up to 50% of the district nursing cases; work involved not only attending with the physician at the birth, but also a series of pre- and post-natal visits.

All nursing care was performed under the auspices of a physician, and no nurse was permitted to attend any patient without being called to the case by a doctor. This regulation was enforced, and any nurse that took independent action was subject to dismissal. The fact was that Canadian doctors jealously guarded all medical services, including childbirth which had traditionally been left in the hands of women.

Apart from this nursing role, and the domestic role where the situation warranted it, the VON undertook to educate their patients in preventive medicine, teaching practical lessons of hygiene and sanitation, not only to the patient, but also to the rest of the family.

As time went on, although the VON continued its nursing and domestic role, it greatly expanded its educative function. This diversification of VON services was directly related to a growing

public awareness of the necessity of preventative health care, or what was to become known as "public health." In this capacity VON activities included conducting clinics to instruct mothers about child care; working as school nurses; staffing child welfare stations; and establishing centres to supply uncontaminated milk for infants. The VON was a pioneer in the field of

there would be accommodation for one or two patients, with one nurse always in attendance while the other one travelled. But these objectives were not achieved, chiefly because the plan was a financial burden on the Order; the local associations were never able to raise enough money to be independent.

There were also several practical difficulties which hindered

construction of cottage hospitals. The small hospitals, usually with six to eight beds, were constructed mostly in the outlying communities of northern Ontario and western Canada.

Initially it was hoped that cottage hospitals would be an integral part of the work of the Order, but by 1907, based on several years of experience, the Order's relationship with the cottage hospital became that of foster parents. While the Chief Lady Superintendent of the central office made annual inspections and staffed all nursing positions, and the hospitals were established with the aid of grants from the VON, they were administered by a local board.

Over a period of 26 years (1898 to 1924), 44 cottage hospitals had at one time or another been affiliated with the VON. In a period when hospitals were dreaded places, the VON imposed standards of quality in hospital care through regulation. More importantly they filled the gap in health care in many outlying communities until the communities themselves or public bodies were ready to assume responsibility.

The VON is a Canadian institution that we almost take for granted and forget that it was a pioneer in health care reform in Canada, bringing home nursing care within the reach of those of poor and moderate means, establishing public health nursing in Canada, and extending adequate hospital care to the inhabitants of small communities.

It cannot be said that the VON was completely successful in the realization of their goal to provide more jobs for trained nurses. The numbers always remained small — in 1922 there were only 277 VONs. The VON, however, had a much greater impact on Canadian nursing. By accepting only graduates from training schools that met their standards and then further training them, the VON gave great impetus to the wider struggle of Canadian nurses to organize on a national level and to introduce educational and professional standards in nursing.

Coburn, Judi "I See and am Silent: A Short History of Nursing in Ontario" in Acton, Janice (ed.). Women at Work Ontario 1850-1930. Toronto: Women's Press, 1974.

Gibbon, J.M. The Victorian Order of Nurses for Canada 1897-1947. Montréal: Southam Press, 1947.



public health, but it gladly turned the responsibility over to the provincial governments, which by the end of the First World War were beginning to accept responsibility for health care.

The VON was not able to implement its objective to provide district nursing in rural areas until 1909, because of financial restraints. However, "The Lady Grey Country District Nursing Scheme," named after the chataleine of Rideau Hall who raised the funds to implement the plan did begin a scheme of health care for the newly settled west.

The first district was in southern Alberta. The plan was to have two VONs supplying nursing care to people on farms, ranches, and homesteads within a radius of approximately 20 miles. Ideally at the nurses' home

the development of the VON's work: it was demanding and isolated, making it difficult to attract suitable nurses; there was a definite lack of interest among the settlers, attributable partially to the fact that settlers were of necessity more self-sufficient and partially because the VON did not publicize their services, but rather relied on word of mouth — a minimally effective method in sparsely populated areas; and finally there was the difficulty of nursing five or six patients a day, if the nurse had to spend most of her time travelling on horseback.

In furtherance of another of the initial objectives of the Order, a special fund was established in 1901, under the leadership of Lady Minto, the wife of the Governor General who succeeded Lord Aberdeen. This fund was used to promote the

# UPSTREAM 2

"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

| August 1978



Marie Cardinal

# Le contrôle des ovulations

Propos recueillis par  
Janick Belleau

Marie Cardinal, fille de la mer et du soleil d'Alger, a adopté la France trois saisons sur quatre et le Québec, l'été. Milieu juin, sur l'invitation de la librairie de la Capitale, l'écrivaine rencontrait lectrices et lecteurs et dédicait son dernier-né, "Une vie pour deux." Avant de quitter Ottawa, l'auteur a accepté de rencontrer un membre d'UP-STREAM. Marie Cardinal a élaboré sa théorie touchant le contrôle des ovulations, le pouvoir qui en découle et les conséquences à l'égard de l'humanité.

**Parlons des mots. Vous dites que vous vous considérez comme un "écrivain" et non pas une "écrivaine." Pourquoi?**

Dire une écrivaine, ça ne m'intéresse pas. Trouver du vocabulaire qui n'existe pas pour dire le corps, c'est ça qui m'intéresse. Trouver un autre mot que "con" pour mon sexe me paraît plus prioritaire que de changer le genre des mots. Forger des mots pour dire ce qui n'appartient qu'aux femmes, par exemple, la vraie gestation. Des drôles de choses se passent dans notre corps: notre sang, les règles, cette espèce de vie qui ne se voit pas, qui ne s'entend pas et qui, en même temps, existe à l'intérieur de nous. Nous, les femmes, sommes tout le temps trahies par les mots. Il faut s'emparer des mots du vocabulaire qui existent déjà et oser les employer complètement. Servons-nous d'abord de ces mots, ensuite inventons ceux qui manquent. Et après, si on veut féminiser des mots, d'accord.

**A quoi attribuez-vous le fait que la langue soit si misogyne?**

Bah! qu'elle ait été faite par des hommes et pis c'est tout.

**et acceptée par les femmes. D'où cela vient-il que les femmes se soient prises au piège de cette façon?**

J'ai là-dessus une idée tout à fait personnelle: c'est à propos des règles, et du fait que certaines femmes, vivant une vie authentique et sauvage, soient capables de programmer leurs naissances sans recourir à la contraception, à l'abstinence ou à quoi que ce soit; i.e. que je suis de plus en plus persuadée qu'il y a un chemin qui va de la tête au ventre nous permettant ainsi de contrôler les naissances. Et ça, c'est un pouvoir formidable parce que finalement l'humanité est entre nos mains. Je veux démontrer que ce contrôle existe quelque part puisque les femmes qui vivent de façon archaïque l'exerce selon les besoins de leur tribu, par exemple lorsque la disette sévit, lorsque la chasse est mauvaise, lors d'une perte de terrain. Faire de l'enfant durant ces périodes malheureuses compromettrait la survie de la nation.

Nous avons, en cours de route, complètement perdu ce pouvoir fabuleux en perdant le sens de la tribu. Par exemple, si les femmes disaient "c'est trop pollué, on ne veut plus faire de l'enfant," il n'y aurait plus d'humanité. Tu te rends compte? C'est affreux. Les hommes sont complètement dépossédés de tout. A Londres, il vient d'y avoir un procès formidable. Un couple était en train de divorcer et la jeune femme tout d'un coup s'est rendue compte qu'elle était enceinte. Elle a voulu l'avortement et le mari lui

a intenté un procès. Elle l'a gagné mais en même temps, c'est monstrueux. Tu ne crois pas?

Pour lui, oui.

Justement on oublie trop souvent la paternité et le fait que les hommes aussi veulent de l'enfant. Cette femme de Londres le prive de l'enfant. Tu te rends compte si cet acte était multiplié par des millions....

**C'est le pouvoir dont tu parlais.**

Notre problème en est un de pouvoir. Nous avons été, à un moment donné, coupées de tout pouvoir. Pourquoi? Cette possibilité de le retrouver existe en décidant de faire ou non de l'enfant.

Pourquoi les femmes qui entrent en prison n'ont plus leurs règles? La science parle de traumatisme. Au bout de deux ans, c'est passé, non? Alors pourquoi?

Elles n'ont plus de famille à fabriquer, plus de société à créer. Elles sont complètement aliénées. Elles sont comme les animaux dans les zoos qui ne se reproduisent pas à moins qu'on recrée une sorte d'habitat naturel pour eux.

**Ton hypothèse arrangerait drôlement les femmes pour qui la maternité est un obstacle.**

Je ne sais pas qui ça arrange et ça ne m'intéresse pas. J'essaie de comprendre où est la prise de pouvoir et pourquoi elle a été

**Ce qui t'intéresse ce n'est pas tant le contrôle des menstruations que celui des ovulations, n'est-ce pas?**

Justement. C'est le fait de faire ou de ne pas faire de l'enfant. Ce qui m'intéresse, si tu veux, c'est la possibilité de savoir que notre esprit fonctionne aussi bien à l'égard de l'ovulation que sur le reste du corps. Le pouvoir est non seulement le problème des femmes mais aussi celui des hommes.

**Le pouvoir étant masculin, l'espères-tu féminin?**

Je ne voudrais pas que la femme prenne du pouvoir.

**Quelle est ta solution au problème du pouvoir alors?**

Comment ce pouvoir colossal et indiscutable a-t-il pris sur nous? Où sont les racines du pouvoir? Voilà les questions qui m'intéressent. A partir du moment où ce pouvoir est contestable, il est tué. Il n'y a plus de pouvoir.

**Découvrir les racines du pouvoir n'est-ce pas se battre pour le futur?**

A quoi ça sert de se battre toute seule? Il faut bien se rendre compte que les hommes se foutent de ce que nous pouvons dire. Tu sais, on peut bien se battre et bien s'entendre entre nous, les femmes, mais il faut



Micheline D'Amours

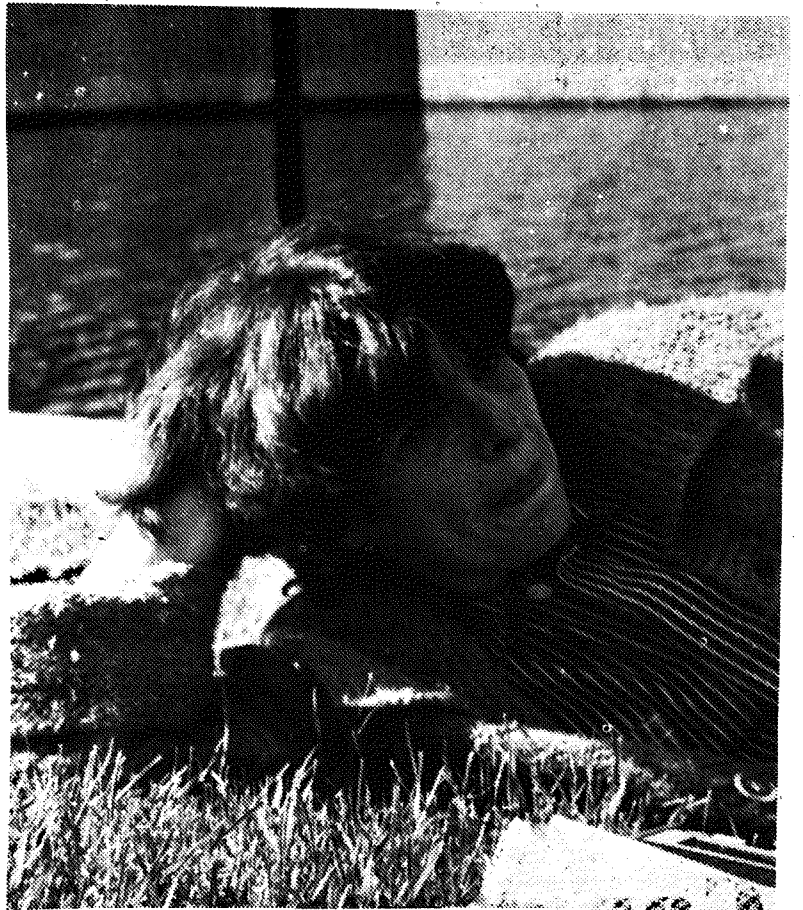
faite de façon aussi violente, aussi cruelle.

Nombre de sociologues et ethnologues étudient déjà la question. Moi, je veux m'y enfoncer. Tu vois, je suis déjà allée à la prison des femmes de Paris pour leur parler du drame. Je vais visiter systématiquement toutes les prisons de France pour essayer de comprendre, de voir, de monter cette histoire. On verra bien. La science sera contre moi mais n'empêche qu'il est inévitable que le corps que l'on nous a donné n'est pas un corps qui nous va. Quelle femme ne prendra pas la pilule et ne sera pas réglée tous les 28 jours si on lui dit qu'elle est réglée tous les 28 jours? C'est épouvantable tout ce qu'on nous bassine et nous emmerde à propos de notre vie physiologique.

absolument toucher les hommes. A moins que vous vouliez faire un univers de lesbiennes et de pédérastes. Si ça vous intéresse, faites-le. Moi, je m'intéresse à l'humanité. Je veux montrer aux hommes que leur argument: "C'est votre nature, vous êtes faites comme ça; ça toujours été comme ça," est faux. C'est culturel. Ce n'est pas naturel.

**C'est tout un projet que tu entreprends.**

Bien sûr que c'est un grand projet. Ce qui m'intéresse c'est que j'ai trois enfants et j'ai envie qu'ils vivent bien. Pour ça, il faut qu'il y ait une autre humanité, i.e. une autre femme, un autre homme....



Micheline D'Amours

## ...et son dernier roman!

Une vie pour deux,  
Marie Cardinal,  
Les Editions de l'Étincelle -  
\$9.95

par Marie-Claude Hecquet

Après Les mots pour le dire, La clé sur la porte, et Autrement dit, voici le dernier livre de Marie Cardinal: Une vie pour deux.

Bien que sur la page de couverture apparaisse le mot roman, cet ouvrage est en réalité, comme tous les autres livres de Marie Cardinal, une autobiographie, cette fois-ci sommairement déguisée en roman. La seule partie fictive du récit est la vie de Mary MacLaughlin.

Une vie pour deux raconte la tentative incessante d'une femme qui se retrouve, après 20 ans d'union et de désunion, en vacances en Irlande avec son mari, afin de découvrir la vérité du couple qu'ils forment (si vraiment ce couple existe) et son pourquoi; le pourquoi aussi de cette peur qui tenaille Simone à l'approche de la quarantaine: "Qu'est-ce que je ferai moi s'il part, qu'est-ce que je ferai seule maintenant?"

Pourtant voilà que ces vacances sur lesquelles Simone avait tant misé sont compromises à leur tout début quand Jean-François trouve sur la plage le cadavre d'une jeune femme. Un insolite ménage à trois va alors se former entre cette morte et ces vivants qu'elle va d'abord opposer puis rapprocher. Un peu par jeu d'abord, puis par défi, Simone et Jean-François vont réinventer la vie de Mary MacLaughlin. Peu à peu ils se prennent à ce jeu qui devient vite, mêlé de disputes, un jeu de la vérité.

On retrouve dans ce "presque" roman de Marie Cardinal, les thèmes chers à celle-ci: l'Algérie, l'enfance et l'amour des paysages. Elle met à nous décrire la campagne irlandaise, la même

tendresse et la même sensibilité dont elle se servait pour nous décrire les paysages de sa jeunesse nord-africaine. On y retrouve également des bribes de ses autres livres, La clé sur la porte et Les mots pour le dire.

Bien qu'appréciant énormément l'oeuvre de Marie Cardinal, je dois dire qu'après avoir tourné la dernière page d'Une vie pour deux, je suis restée sur ma faim. Rien, pas le moindre pincement au coeur, pas le moindre regret de l'avoir déjà terminé.

Assez curieusement pourtant, il m'est difficile de cerner le pourquoi de ce "désamour". Ça n'est pas l'écriture. Marie Cardinal a toujours autant de talent et ses mots se bousculent et s'alignent sur les pages avec la même harmonie et la même force. Non, je crois que ce sont plutôt les deux femmes qui apparaissent dans le roman qui me déplaisent. Je me suis désolidarisée rapidement d'elles, trop soumises et faibles qu'elles m'apparaissent. Leur histoire est une longue capitulation. J'avais envie de lire à la place, la vie de deux femmes fortes, victorieuses, qui auraient relevé la tête sous l'adversité....

La seule raison que je vois à ce fléchissement dans la volonté de ces deux femmes tient au fait, selon moi, qu'il s'agit, cette fois-ci, de deux héroïnes de roman et non plus d'une projection de la personnalité de Marie Cardinal comme c'était le cas dans ses précédents ouvrages.

Une vie pour deux, est un beau livre, bien écrit, mais qui n'a ni la vigueur ni l'impact de Les mots pour le dire ou même La clé sur la porte.

C'est un ouvrage que je recommande aux inconditionnelles de Marie Cardinal. Quant à celles qui aimeraient se familiariser avec son oeuvre, je leur conseille de lire et de relire le merveilleux Les mots pour le dire.

# Women in union films

**Harlan County, U.S.A.** dir. Barbara Kopple, ass.dir. Anne Lewis, dir. of editing, Nancy Baker; editors, Mary Lampson, Lora Hays and Mirra Bank. Colour, 103 min., 1977

by Brig Anderson

Who said the documentary was dead, and that women must look to new forms of expression — fantasy, surrealism, romance? Harlan County is a triumph of collective effort, high drama, and stark realism, with a taste of the Western thrown in for good measure. Of course, since the subject of the film — coalmining — has until very recently been a completely male domain, women still are seen to be helpmates and support and morale builders. But as the film progresses, the women become increasingly visible: they are far from silent and they make their demands heard, loud and clear.

Barbara Kopple started re-

searching the film archives and location of Harlan County in eastern Kentucky, in 1972, after the progressive boss of the United Mine Workers of America was murdered, along with his wife and daughter. The union democratized under the leadership of Arnold Miller and became the United Miners for Democracy for the duration of the film; the film crew got involved in union politics when the question of union reform arose and financing of the movie proceeded largely on the basis of fundraising and grants from various organizations including the American Film Institute.

Skillful use of film footage of the bloody Harlan County strike in the 1930's points up, in sepia and black and white, essentially the same appalling working conditions today, the exploitation and the isolation of the town which depends on the Brookside mine for its existence.

The film starts with the Harlan County union song "Which side are you on" as we see the miners come off their shift, lying on flat wagons (in the mine, conveyor belts are used for transportation because the passages are so low that standing up is impossible). The scene changes to an old man telling about his bad kneecaps and his ruined health ("both my lungs were broke down"), and how he had to spend up to 20 hours in the mine at a time.

Slow pans of old photographs follow while the soundtrack continues in his voice: "they worked you like a mule, and the boss placed more value on the mule because a man could be replaced easier." Then a young woman tells how she grew up hating the company, helping to organize picket lines and aware of the conflict between the greed of the mine-owners and the needs of her impoverished family. There is a brief sequence of John Lewis,

the original union leader, talking about the need to organize, because without that there would be no end to exploitation.

The director attempts to present the other (company) side by showing police and strikebreakers talking about unions destroying the country, the union organizers being known communists, and blaming the country's economic crises on the unions. However, it is clear that Barbara Kopple is on the side of the miners; she is not an objective reporter but becomes increasingly involved in the action.

The movie is saved from propagandizing, first by her political analysis of the issues involved; second, by her strong interest in the humanity of the people she has come to know well; and finally by her feminism which highlights the importance of the women's contribution in the strike.

Of most interest in Harlan

County is the radicalization of the women, from the sixteen-year-old mother whose husband gets shot on the picket line, which brings government intervention to end the strike, to the large, talkative Lois Scott who in one scene pulls out the gun she carries in the front of her dress. She is the foil to Basil Collins, the John Wayne-like character who is recognized as the "villain" by the townspeople because he keeps a gun in his pocket as though he were rehearsing for a Western movie.

Apart from that, there is little deliberate acting for the cameras, (the widows' grief is haunting) and there are several coups when dramatic events are caught and filmed as they happen: a funeral, several attempts to fight scabs, confrontations with police, scenes in jail after the picketers have refused to move when ordered by court injunction. From being mourners of their dead, the women become actively involved, raising money and assertively, at times aggressively, joining the picket line.

The only criticism of Harlan County is that the men did not care about their women the way the men in Salt of the Earth did, sharing the minding of the children and doing the housework. Here children were absent from the movie, and what happened at home was not dealt with.

Another critic has mentioned the partisan attitude of the director who spent a lot of time with union leaders and got to know union politics very well, but as she stresses in the film, support from the union for the miners was up and down, depending on personalities involved. The violence in the film was not all committed by the strikebreakers; a vigilante group of union men had been infiltrated by the Klan, and a woman called Bessie was in jail allegedly for threatening the wife of a Klansman.

The total impression the film makes is of richness and complexity, of the difficulty of organizing public support where apathy and hopelessness existed to start with. In one scene a policeman is quite shocked when he compares his job with that of the miner — he has security, pension and medical plans, and can retire early; the miners and their families in Duke Power territory, on the other hand, lead a precarious existence which will continue to be one of constant struggle and consolidation of energy to fight the common enemy.

Women concerned with improving their own working conditions, with getting a decent wage for a day's work, might do well to remember the scene where the old woman in a shaky voice sings the old song, "Oh which side are you on, boys, which side are you on..."

Harlan County should be required viewing for any woman who still thinks it is enough to support her man, instead of getting out and joining the union to fight for her own basic rights.

## Canada: "children's-eye" view

**Come With Us: Children Speak For Themselves**

The Women's Press, 120 pgs, 33 full-colour graphics \$5.95

by Sally Davis

Many of the children who have written and illustrated Come with Us have immigrated to Canada with parents hoping for a better life. They have come from such diverse countries as Lebanon, Ecuador, Jamaica, Hong Kong, Guyana, the Philippines, Macedonia, Uruguay, Japan and others.

To read this collection of writings by Canadian children, some of whom were born here, and all of whom live in inner cities, is to see Canada as it affects the lives of youngsters. We should consider that for people who leave their native land because of war, civil strife, lack of jobs and good opportunity for education, restrictions on freedom of thought — to name the main reasons for leaving the homeland — means that they believed Canada should have available the opportunities that were lacking in their native countries.

It would be good if this book were read by our politicians, our departments of education, our workmen's compensation boards, in fact, every adult would benefit

in one way or another. It is time for children to have their say!

As we read the reflections of the children in this collection we learn the price youngsters have to pay when economic conditions are bad. Poor job opportunities for parents results in children having to cope with bad living conditions. The stench of alleyways is mentioned by more than one writer. Street fights and escaping to roof-tops is a way of life for others. Being called names because of belonging to another culture led one child to write: "I try my best to ignore it but it always gets to my mind, things people call me, what they think of me, and why don't I go back to Jamaica." Another child who is called stupid, probably because of his language deficiency, explains that he acts tough, then people don't laugh at him.

There is a danger that books made up of a selection of writings become monotonous. Not this book, however, with its bold, colourful, visually descriptive illustrations. Also, having the compositions grouped into categories is a help. These are Why we came and where we came from, Streets and schools, Work, Racism, and We see ourselves.

To be an immigrant often means that families are separated. Usually the father comes to the new land to make a place for

the remainder of his family. That can take years so that when finally the families are united one child wrote, "I was so excited to see him that I had to go to the bathroom."

All is not necessarily easy going when families finally unite. "My mother and father are leading a pretty good or bad life, sort of medium, but they still miss Italy," writes one child. Another child has submitted a poem which states as its last line, "I'd rather freeze to death!!!" referring to the life that he might have to lead if it is anything like what his parents are living.

One writer takes on the cause of women's liberation as he/she describes that the mother is paid less than the men doing the same type of work. "Women are human, too," it is stated. Another child writes, "My mom loves her work because she's away from me and my brother, but she still loves us." So much for the needs of women to get out of the home, and the importance of day care centres.

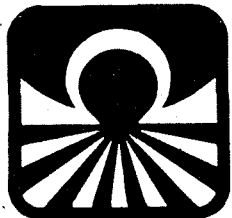
Several children are deeply concerned over the safety aspects of the jobs their parents are doing. The illustration showing a body falling off a very high building indicates a worried child. One composition is titled, "What we need is better working conditions."

Not every child's writing reflects a struggle for survival. One in particular boasts that her family is about to move to a house that costs in the \$80,000s. It is necessary to move because her father's Cadillac gets eggs thrown at it and is badly scratched by the neighbors.

Some children look back on the country they had to leave, writing that when the war is over or when the soldiers leave they will go back. Or they may show longing by writing that conditions were more modern where they came from.

We who are apt to be smug about our native Canada will have our smugness disturbed by this book, most particular by the cartoon on unemployment. First is a picture of a park bench on which someone is sleeping. The words say, "Many people have been unemployed. Where do they go? A list of possibilities is then given: 1. slums, 2. alleys, 3. streets, 4. parks. The cartoon next depicts people going into a building marked "Jobs" with a sign saying EMPTY. Next there is a place marked "Unemployment," and a sign saying FULL. The final drawing is, in this child's logic, the city dump.

The Women's Press is to be heartily commended for undertaking this publication. Are we adult enough to get the message?



**Octopus Books**

837 Bank Street

236-2589

- Octopus Books is a non-profit socialist bookstore which provides a comprehensive selection of left-wing periodicals and books.
- Emphasis is placed on social theory, political economy, Canadian society, women's studies, and non-sexist children's literature.
- Our bookstore is run by the Octopus collective on a volunteer basis with a paid co-ordinator.
- Any person who supports the store's objectives is invited to participate in its operation. We welcome book suggestions.



## Childhood Memories

She was only sixteen  
When she ran away  
She advised the others  
To do the same

They didn't listen  
They stayed instead  
Their hearts were fucked  
And their heads were dead

She was only sixteen  
When she ran away  
Though years had passed  
It was only a day.

Breathless, she stopped  
And decided to stay  
So she ran on the spot  
In the tracks she had made.

Can a heart beat again?  
You fucked up your head.  
The heart that you spoke of  
How long is it dead?

And the head where they fucked her  
It hurt with the pain.  
Had they raped her with love  
Then forgotten her name?

*Susan Bristow*

# LITERARY

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## Quiche Holloway

'add irony in the last stanza'  
he pencilled in

what do you think this is  
a cooking class  
building up a poem  
with the raw terms  
of pedagogy

an oxymoron or two  
is adequate  
must never be overdone

no stale ingredients  
no leftovers

cut to the bone  
and there you have it:

brown lightly  
serve cool.

*Catherine A. Crosby*

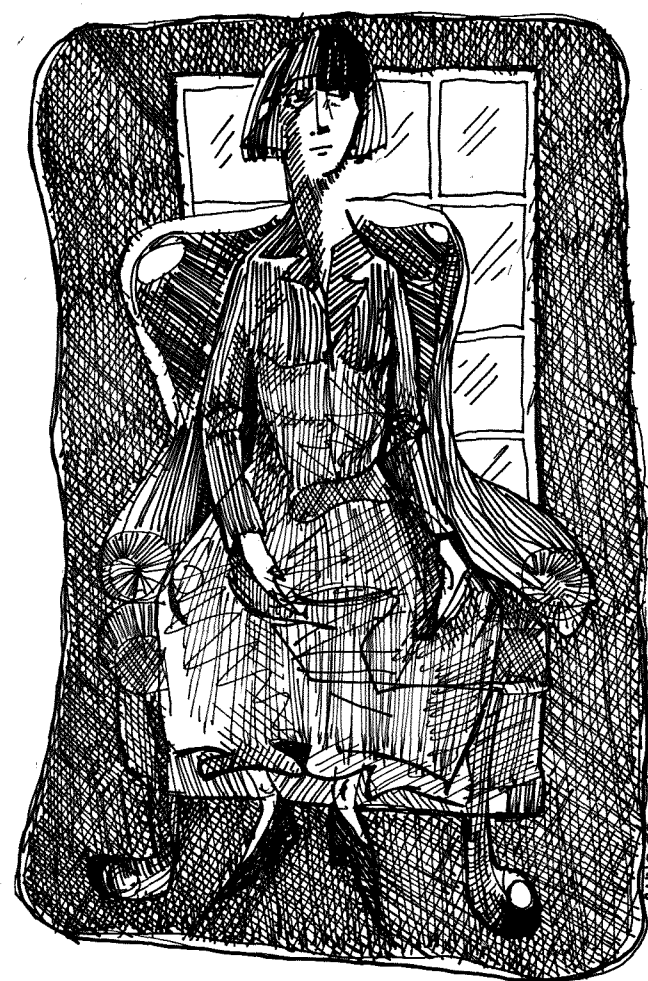


## Child Searching

you demanded, without asking, that i wait for you  
and i waited to the point of endlessness.  
i didn't know enough to feel ok about my impatience,  
instead i buried it deep and felt guilty  
for not letting you love me.

so many times the tension broke me and i cried —  
feeling young and lost.  
you watched me and said i could do better,  
and you don't understand why  
i draw away from you.

deep i search now for the impatience lost,  
for the anger that never surfaced.  
so well have i concealed my feelings,  
they elude me as i unravel the years  
of confused unhappiness  
when i should have been laughing.  
and you wonder why  
i don't love you.







# Fleck benefit

*Art is political. At the recent Fleck Benefit staged at the Civic Centre, a cast of speakers and actors woven together with music presented a very successful night of entertainment and information.*



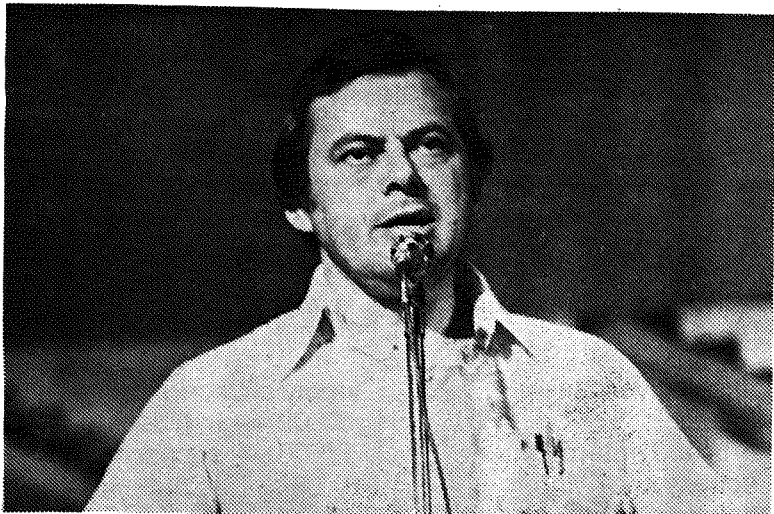
**"Oh, you can't scare me I'm sticking to the union."**  
Tricia Balmer, Dorothy Drinkwater and Jean Frances performing as Artemis presented a collage of personal and popular feminist compositions.



Denis McDermott, President of the Canadian Labour Congress received thunderous applause when he stated, "In the end result we have more human resources and more determination than they ever gave us credit for... We'll strike for as long as it takes...I throw the entire weight of the CLC behind the strike!"

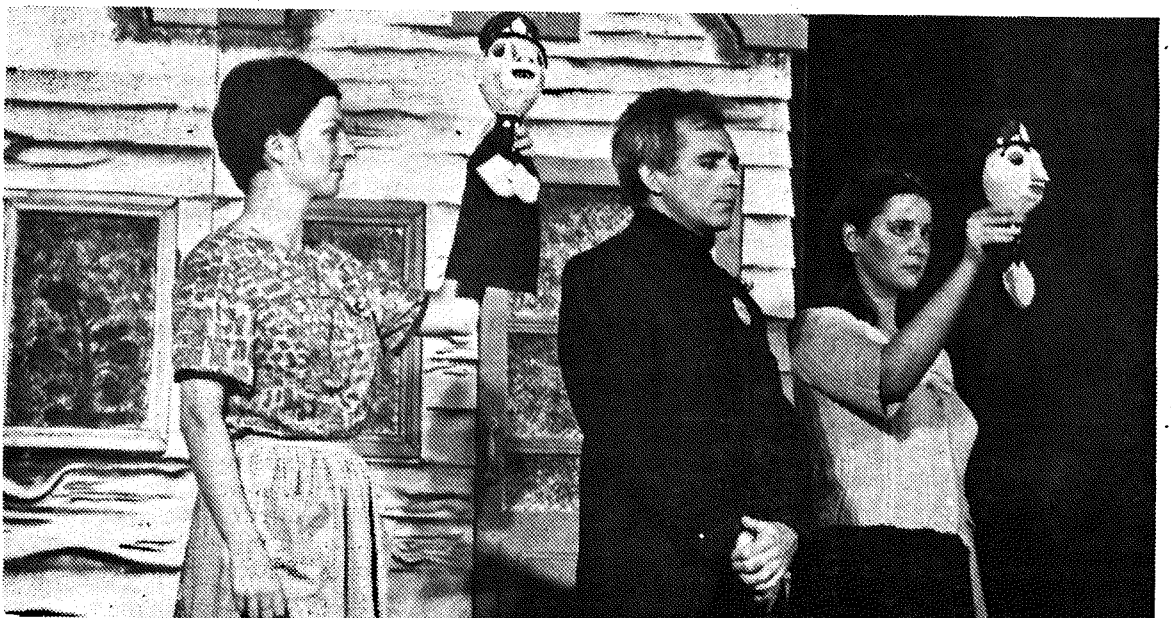
Representing the Ottawa Tenants Council, Dorothy O'Connell presented a cheque to organizer Janice Lockwood to be used by the Fleck strikers.

"We took up a collection from our group. It isn't much... but we believe low income earners should support low income workers, and women should support women."



"This show of solidarity from all the people here tonight proves that for many people the word solidarity is not only a word you put in a constitution. It is also a word you put into practice."

Jean Claude Parrott, President,  
Canadian Union of Postal Workers



The Great Canadian Theatre Company presented a Mummers play entitled, "Company Town," a re-told version of the ASAR Co. strikes in the early 1970's. Here, cast members combine roles of miner's wives with those of cops [hand-held dummies] in a courtroom scene.



## Interview:

### Dr. W. Raye

### discusses

## HETEROSEXUALITY

UPSTREAM was fortunate enough to be granted an interview with Dr. Wilhemena Raye while she was in Ottawa on her national tour. Dr. Raye is a highly respected authority on the subject of heterosexuality, its causes and effects. She is currently on a lecture tour of colleges and universities.

UPSTREAM: Dr. Raye, you have been quoted as saying heterosexuality is a controversial issue. How can you say that? Surely everyone is aware that there have been many known cases of heterosexuality as far back as biblical times, maybe before.

RAYE: Yes, but many people are not aware of the wild outbreak of heterosexuality which is now taking place. It's "in" to be straight right now. These militant right wing groups are springing up all over and becoming very vocal. There has been a noticeable upswing in heterosexual rapes and murders recently, which by the way, are seldom reported as such. It is a well-known fact that the media is controlled if not monopolized by avowed heterosexuals. Therefore, the public gets a very warped view of our times.

UPSTREAM: That's a rather large generalization.

RAYE: I don't think so.



UPSTREAM: Dr. Raye, when I attended your lecture I couldn't help noticing that you are constantly in disguise. Why is that?

RAYE: I wear this out of respect for my family and friends who find my occupation rather embarrassing. Just because I work with and study heterosexuals does not mean I sympathize with or support their cause. I've been called a "het lover" more times than I care to remember. But don't get me wrong, I don't hate them either. Every night I pray for their lost souls.

The other reason for the disguise is that I must be able to work undercover, undetected. If my real identity were to become known my years of research would be useless. As a group

they have an incredible underground grapevine with people in all levels of government. This is why I'm trying to make people aware of the spreading menace of heterosexuals.

UPSTREAM: You mean these people actually come out and announce themselves?

RAYE: Yes, they truly believe theirs is a completely normal, acceptable alternative lifestyle. They are demanding full rights as respectable citizens of the community.

As if that weren't bad enough, through a very serious fluke in nature they're able to reproduce and breed large numbers of little hets. Luckily, many of these offspring have strong enough constitutions not to be brainwashed by this radical group.

UPSTREAM: Could you give us a definition of heterosexuality?

RAYE: Heterosexuality is a condition in which people have a strong, driving emotional and sexual interest in members of the opposite sex, I would say predominantly sexual.

UPSTREAM: Do you believe it to be a condition of personal choice?

RAYE: Not always, that is one factor but there are others; thrill seeking, experimentation with the unknown. Then, as I mentioned before, pressure from peers or adults who have already been indoctrinated in "the family."

UPSTREAM: Is there any sure way to identify a heterosexual so that people can learn to protect themselves?

RAYE: Some are blatant and easy to detect — those wearing polyester leisure suits or their pants too short. The women wear large gaudy diamonds on their left hand as a sign to other hets that they're no longer for sale.

However, many have learned through a difficult process to curb their traits on the outside and pass quite well as cultured, refined people, difficult to tell from anyone else.

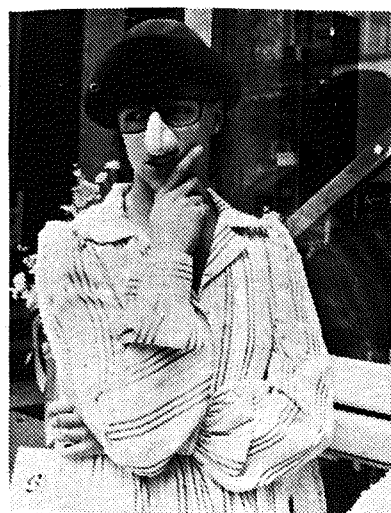
UPSTREAM: That's frightening, you mean to say that they are moving amongst us, influencing countless numbers of people without their knowledge?

RAYE: Quite right, they're working in our schools, playing in our parks and infiltrating the arts. As you take the bus to school or work in the morning, I'd venture to say that five out of ten people sitting around you are heterosexual perhaps more, depending on the area in which you live.

UPSTREAM: Dr. Raye, could we now go into more depth as to the causes of heterosexuality. For instance, I've heard it voiced that perhaps there exists a simple hormonal imbalance which surely could be corrected with the use of drugs.



RAYE: There is work being done in drug-related cures, but the statistics are not yet conclusive enough. It is a popular theory that heterosexuals have an imbalance in their sex hormones, meaning too many of one or not enough of another resulting in an inability to enjoy full, satisfying relationships with their own sex.



UPSTREAM: If this is only a theory surely the blame can be placed elsewhere.

RAYE: Once again we must point an accusing finger at that obscene beast, society. Through some unfortunate miswording in the laws and insurance policies it is economically easier to straighten out, (which is equivalent to freaking out) than to cope with real life. What with tax concessions and low-rental housing, for, I hate to use the word, married couples, it's an easy way out. In society as it exists today many people simply cannot afford to be gay. I'm not even touching on dinner and clothing expenses.

RAYE: We must feel sorry for, not hate these people because on top of everything else, they also possess many unhealthy inner conflicts as well.

UPSTREAM: For instance?

RAYE: Well, most heterosexuals come from a background, "the family," in which an appreciation of the beauty of their own bodies has been ruthlessly suppressed. Men are taught to think themselves ugly, beauty being for women only. The women learn to display themselves for male appreciation causing tension amongst themselves as a group.

Many psychic disorders stem from this self-rejection. Our

psychiatric offices are full of these poor, confused souls.

Many also succumb to the constant bombardment from the obviously biased media and find themselves conforming to the stereotypes portrayed, thus losing contact with their own true sexuality.

UPSTREAM: There certainly are a lot of obstacles to overcome. I'm almost afraid to ask but are there more?

RAYE: There are the rare cases of childhood trauma, a bad experience with a member of the same sex while young may cause rejection of that sex through fear.

If anyone knows of someone in this unfortunate position let me just offer a famous comforting quotation, "One bad apple don't spoil the whole bunch, girl."

If care is not taken the natural desire remains in the subconscious but turns around and emerges as a heterosexual neurosis.

UPSTREAM: Dr. Raye, what exactly is it that attracts someone to a member of the opposite sex?



...many find themselves conforming to the stereotypes portrayed."

RAYE: I don't know. More important, I don't care.

UPSTREAM: This is embarrassing, but what do they do?

RAYE: Oh, nothing very interesting. They get up, go to work, come home and go to sleep. They do that five times, then it's the weekend. Their weekends consist of mowing the lawn, screaming at their children and buying carpeting.

UPSTREAM: Well, Dr. Raye, the information you have brought to us has certainly been interesting and a warning to us all. Do you have any closing words?

RAYE: In the words of the founder of the Gayblade Institute, "It ain't too late to stop bein' straight."

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# herbs: yours for the picking

by Jean Frances

August and hay fever season are synonymous to far too many people. Those of us who are afflicted tend to either suffer through it in misery, or indulge in drugstore pills which, while relieving the symptoms of hay fever, also leave us feeling sleepy, spaced-out, drugged.

Symptoms of hay fever are itching of the eyes, nose, and throat, streaming eyes, running nose, painful, swollen sinuses, and sneezing — all to varying degrees of intensity.

What can be done?

Hay fever sufferers don't usually think of their malady as something which can be prevented. But in some cases, it is possible to prevent or at least reduce the intensity of the attacks.

Some forms of hay fever are caused by a sensitivity to pollen. Therefore, if you can build up a tolerance to it, its effects will be minimized. This can be done by taking pollen internally over a long period of time. It is suggested that you start in the fall, taking two or three teaspoons a day, and by spring you should notice a difference in your reaction to pollen in the air. Pollen can be purchased in granular form from some health food stores, herb shops, or apiaries.

What must be emphasized here is the necessity to persevere. Building up a tolerance to anything is a long process. If you decide to try pollen, but use it only occasionally or for a short period of time, then you're wasting your time and money.

It's also preferable to use pollen from the area you're living in. If it's not possible to get it in granular form, you can get it in unprocessed honey or, even better, in honeycomb. Use it every day — on toast or in tea, or just chew a chunk of the comb, if your teeth will stand it. Make sure, though, that what you're using is unprocessed and locally produced.

In the meantime, what do you do about the hay fever you've got now?

Start by reducing or cutting out altogether your intake of milk and milk products (except for yogurt on occasion) and carbohydrates, particularly sugar. Since these are mucous-producing, the more of them you use the more aggravated your condition becomes when you do get an attack of hay fever.

Herbs which can be of help are mullein and tansy. A member of the daisy family, tansy grows to a height of three feet or more. It has dark, glossy green fern-like leaves and flowers not unlike the centre of a daisy without the petals. It has a strong aromatic scent and grows along roadsides and fences, in fields and disturbed ground.

For hay fever, use externally as an eyewash and compress. Make an infusion of the fresh or dried herb by pouring about a pint of boiling water over a handful of the herb. (It will be very strong.) Let stand, covered, for about 10 or 15 minutes, then dip a clean towel or cloth into the infusion. Wring out and place the towel over your inflamed eyes. (This is called a fomentation.) Use it as hot as you can stand it, and repeat as necessary. One of my books warns against using tansy internally, while others say there is no harm in it. Since other herbs can be used internally for the same purposes, I prefer to play it safe and keep tansy for external use only.

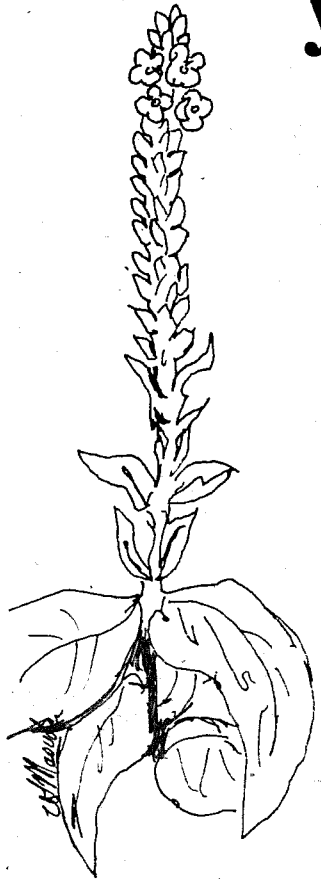
Mullein is excellent for hay fever, colds, croup, and similar mucous conditions. It is a very common plant, growing in fields, roadsides, often in poor soil or sandy, rocky areas. Its leaves are oval, light yellow-green, and very furry. The flowers grow on a spike often two to three feet tall and are bright yellow.

Use the flowers, which are said to be an anodyne (pain-relieving) as well as the leaves. Make an infusion of one teaspoon

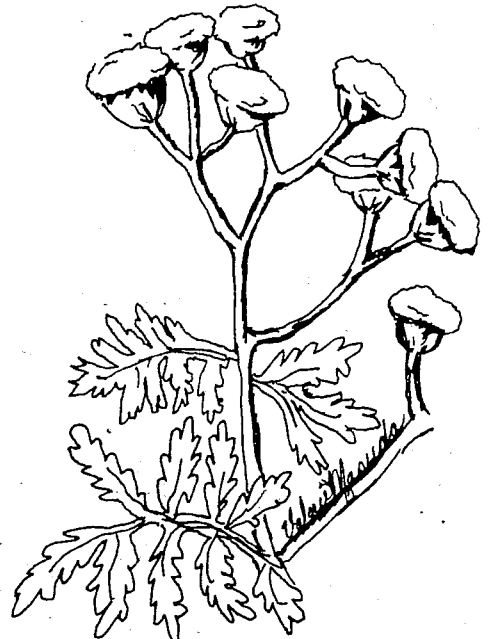
of the herb to one cup of boiling water, and steep, covered, for 15 minutes or more. Drink three or four cups a day during hay fever season, more during an attack.

One of my sources recommends snuffing a little of the mullein tea up the nose to relieve irritated membranes. I have not tried this. Gargling with the tea may help if your throat is irritated.

In using herbal remedies, remember to give them sufficient trial before you decide whether or not they work.



~Mullein~



~Tansy~

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Towne Cinema Sept. 1-2, the film *Outrageous* will be screened at 9:30. Phone 749-5035.



**Best of Ottawa '76** with award-winning animated films at Canadian Film Institute Aug. 3, 8:00pm. Among the 24 winners are Joan Freeman and first-prize winner Canadian Caroline Leaf. Tickets at NAC box office. Schedules and info 235-1611.

**Great Canadian Theatre Company** will be producing Cam Hubert's play *Rites of Passage* in the first two weeks of September. The play by B.C. feminist and author focusses on three generations of working class women. GCTC is looking for actresses (honorarium, daytime rehearsals) and input, comments, criticism. To audition and for details, phone Larry McDonald at 233-2578.

**Women's dances at the Town House** ended July 21. Contrary to the announcement in the July issue of *UPSTREAM*, they might or might not resume in the fall. Call 238-1717 in late August for news.

## CURRENTLY

**Ottawa Women's Centre** has left their Somerset St. location and may be reached at 233-2560 or P.O. Box 586 Station B, Ottawa, K1P 5P7 to leave messages. This temporary situation promises a new Women's Club in the fall...

**Peer Counselling Centre** at Carleton University will hold adult program, *Everything Your Child Didn't Tell you About Sex* at the end of August. Nominal fee, phone for date & info.

— Information on Vegetable Canning also available now, free. Contact 231-7476.

**Planned Parenthood of Ottawa INC.** has moved to 1355 Bank St. Suite 206, at Bank and Riverside. Pardon the temporary confusion. Training programs are planned for September.

**The Canadian Red Cross's** permanent blood donor clinic, 85 Plymouth St., is open 9:00-5:00pm Mon-Fri and 6:30-8:30pm Mon-Thu evenings. The need for blood does not take vacations! Phone 232-1156.

**Camp Fortune's** summer festival continues with an exciting variety.

— Film programmes at Alexander Lodge daily, covering the Arts, Canadian History and Lifestyles, the Environment and more.

— Food demonstrations given, with song, dance, and film from around the world.

— Children's theatre workshops and presentations offer productive summer fun.

No fees for activities, but there is a small parking charge. For further info call 827-1717.

**Carleton University Women's Centre** summer services Mon-Thu. 2:00-7:00pm. Women artists wishing to arrange a fall exhibition please phone 231-3779.

**Coalition For Full Employment** has tentative unemployment rally for August 12 with entertainment and theatre at local park.

— a Stella Bliss benefit planned for late August is of utmost interest. Bliss was unjustly denied any maternity benefits when caught "in the middle" by red tape. This case determines every maternity case to come and needs support! For info on rally, benefit, or more, plans definite after Aug. 1 at 238-3267.

**An Edith Piaf musical tribute** until 12 Aug. performed by Canadian actress-singer Libby Morris at National Arts Centre. Tickets at Box Office.

**Play in Human Settlements** theme for 7th World Conference of International Play-ground Association Aug. 20-26. First time ever held out of Europe, will take place at Carleton University. Volunteers are needed, and will be charged a pro-rated fee. Total conference fee \$90 otherwise. Call Jane Knight at the Canadian Council on Children and Youth at 238-6520 for info.

**Children's classes in techniques and art appreciation** at National Gallery Aug. 8-18. Pre-registration necessary at 995-7476.

Excellent presentations, films and exhibitions for all ages this month.

**Ottawa-Carleton Day Care Association** plans day care conference Aug. 11-13 at Ottawa U. Varied topics from possible day care programs to education of the day care workers. For more info call 235-1696.

**Variety Show** at the High School of Commerce on Rochester St. At 7:30pm August 15th. Sponsored by the Optimist Club of Ottawa. For more info call 232-7746.

**Thursday August 10th — National Prison Justice Day.** This year, as in the past three years, prisoners throughout Canada will be holding a one-day hunger strike on August 10th. The strike is held in remembrance of those who have died in prison because of a lack of proper medical care, psychiatric care, and fire safety measures.

A support demonstration will be held on Parliament Hill 12:30-2:00pm on the same day, Aug. 10th.

**SAW Gallery**, 72 Rideau St. Ottawa, 236-6181. An exhibition of print-making and found object construction by Jennifer Durkin, from July 24 to August 11, 1978. Preview: Monday July 24, 8:00pm

**Centretown Community Resource Centre** has expanded services:

— Operation Lifestyle & Health Program, back by popular demand in late August or early Sept — deals with stress, nutrition fitness and more.

— Women's Health Awareness classes slated for September.

— Nutrition and Cooking classes, in cooperation with YM-YWCA also in September. For further info contact the Y...

For information on other two workshops, phone the Centre after Labour Day at 233-9358. Nominal fees.



# UPSTREAM

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August 1978



**Décision décevante à l'hôpital Sacré-Coeur**  
**New — Sports Calendar      Women and Health**  
**Entrevue: Marie Cardinal      Fleck Benefit**

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