

HERizons

A WOMEN'S NEWS MAGAZINE

WOMEN & HOUSING

Building in a new direction

Will women make a difference? a report on the upcoming federal election

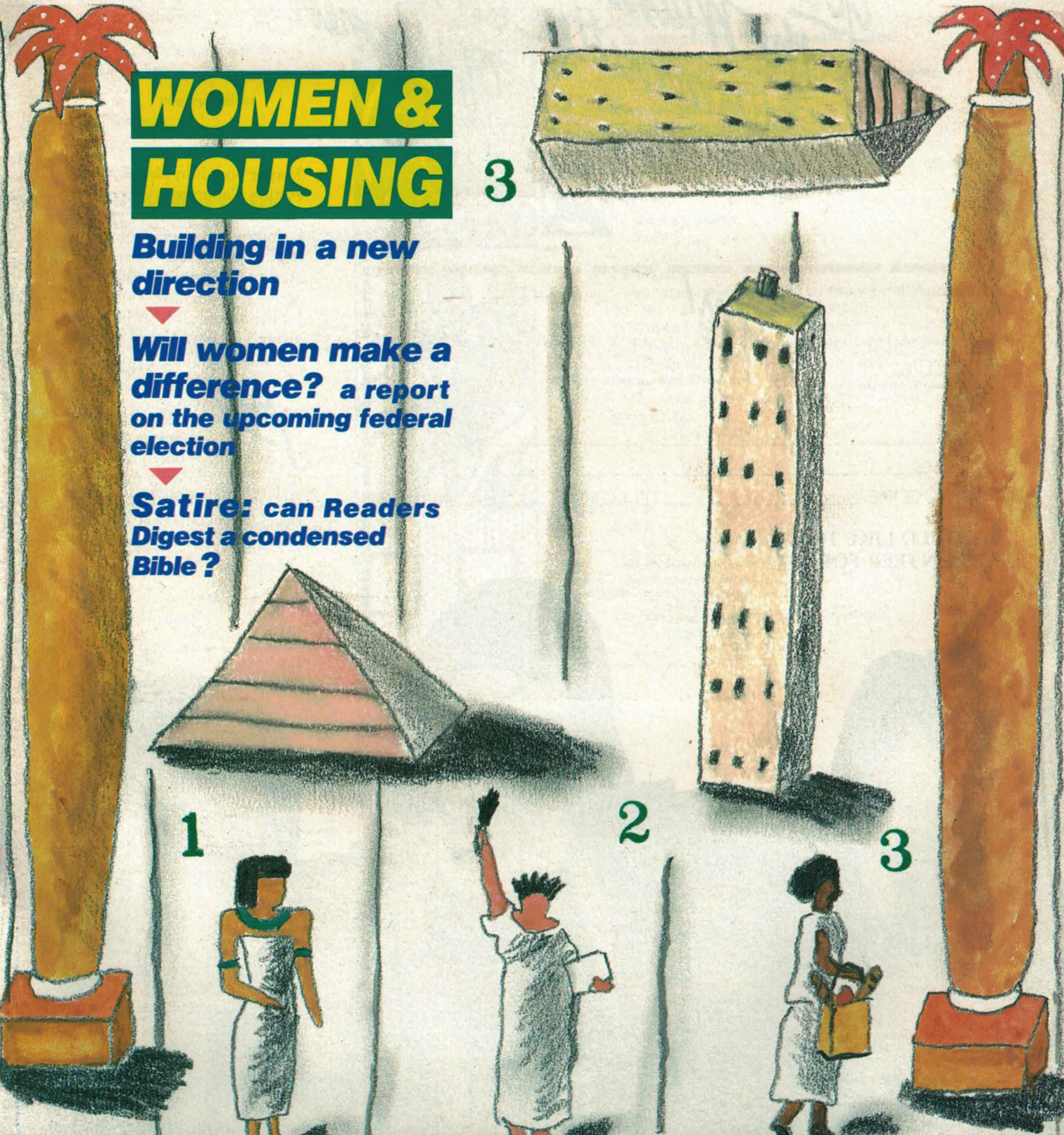
Satire: can Readers Digest a condensed Bible?

3

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2

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*Why aren't
you a member of
the Manitoba Action
Committee on the Status
of Women?*



THE MANITOBA ACTION COMMITTEE
ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

224 - 388 Donald Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 2J2

Yes!

Make cheques payable to: The
Manitoba Action Committee on the
Status of Women. Send along with
this form to: M.A.C.S.W.,
224-388 Donald St., Winnipeg
R3B 2J2

I want to join the Manitoba Action Committee
on the Status of Women.
Enclosed is \$15 ☐ for individual membership (or whatever I can afford)
\$30 ☐ for business, institution or sustaining membership

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

POSTAL CODE _____ TELEPHONE _____

**I WOULD LIKE TO
VOLUNTEER FOR:**

- ☐ Finance Committee
- ☐ Media Monitoring Committee
- ☐ Political Action Committee
- ☐ Violence Against Women Committee
- ☐ Reproductive Choice Committee
- ☐ Labour Committee
- ☐ Young Women's Group
- ☐ Office Duties
- ☐ Newsletter
- ☐ Other _____

Maybe you didn't know that the
Action Committee's support comes
from women like you, who want
to improve the status of women.
Maybe you weren't aware that the
Action Committee has several
active subcommittees working on
lobbying, research and education
around women's issues. Maybe no
one has asked you to join before.

join

The Manitoba Action
Committee on the
Status of Women today and
receive our monthly newsletter,
Action. Stay informed on the
issues and events that are shaping
your future. And get involved!



Herizons

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Prairie Sky Books

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Manitoba Action Committee on the

Status of Women

Women's Employment Counselling Service

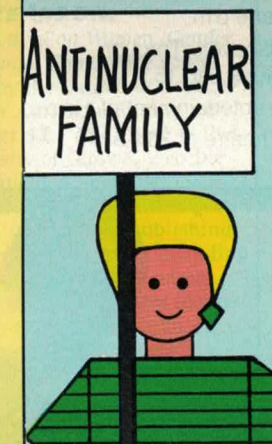
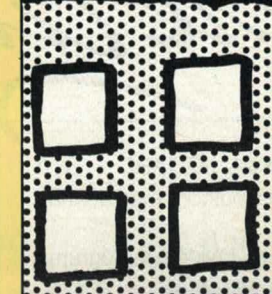
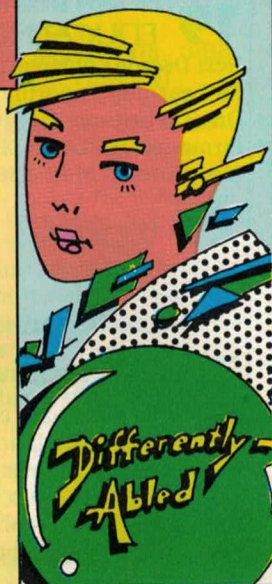
YWCA. A. Resource Centre

and through many other organizations

The aim of this magazine is to provide an alternative means of communication with a feminist perspective in order to stimulate, to inform, to effect change, and to unify women's strengths, serving as a forum for women.

HERIZONS belongs to the Canadian Periodical Publishers Association (CPPA) and is listed in the Alternative Press Index. HERIZONS is currently located at 200-478 River Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3L 0C8 (204) 477-1750. Views expressed in this publication are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect HERIZONS policy. Submissions are welcome. Editing rights are reserved and submission does not guarantee publication. A self-addressed stamped envelope will ensure that submissions will be returned to the writer. HERIZONS is published monthly, except for combined issues in June/July and January/February. Price \$15.00 per year. For individuals, \$50 for organizations and businesses.

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Calendar.

JULY

25 TAKE BACK THE NIGHT — Organizing Meeting will be held on Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the MACSW Office, 224-388 Donald Street. This is the first planning meeting of the annual ad hoc committee of the Take Back the Night March scheduled for September.

AUGUST

2 SECOND ANNUAL GAY SUMMER GAMES — will be held from August 2 - 6 in Vancouver. Competition will take place in swimming, volleyball, women's soccer and women's softball among others. An exhibition of photography and graphic art will be part of the games. For information contact Metropolitan Vancouver Athletic & Arts Association, 2632 Hemlock St. V6H 2V5.

9 TAKE BACK THE NIGHT Organizing Meeting on Thursday, August 9 - same time and place as July 25 meeting (listed above).

11 WEST KOOTENAY WOMEN'S FESTIVAL is scheduled for August 11 & 12 at the Vallican Whole Community Centre in the Slocan Valley. There will be music, art and food — if you want to help call (604) 352-9916.

19 EDUCATING FOR CHANGE: Women in the Next Decade Conference sponsored by the Canadian Congress for Learning Opportunities for Women will take place at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education in Toronto. For Information: CCLOW, Eleanor Christopherson, 692 Coxwell Ave., Toronto M4C 3B6 (416) 461-9264.

24 WOMEN'S CAMP at Camp Arowhon, Ontario starting August 24 through August 26. Complete use of all facilities — Women from all lifestyles and professions. For Information call Charlene Roycht, (416) 691-7118.

30 WOMEN & MILITARISM: Feminist Analysis and Choices for Resistance conference from August 30 - September 3 on Grindstone Island will bring together women to share in and develop feminist resistance analysis. Cost for four days is \$160; children welcome; childcare provided. Information: Grindstone Island (halfway between Kingston and Ottawa), Box 564, Stn. P, Toronto, Ontario M5S 2T1 (416) 923-4215.

SEPTEMBER

1 CANADIAN WOMEN'S MUSIC AND CULTURAL FESTIVAL will be held in Kildonan Park, Winnipeg, Manitoba, September 1 & 2. The event will be diverse in musical styles and will include art displays and children's entertainment. For information write or call, Our Time Is Now, 745 Westminster Avenue, Winnipeg R3G 1A5 (204) 786-1921.

Life in the City

The heart of the city is alive with the sights and sounds of people enjoying summer. There's so much going on downtown, you can choose a different set of activities every day. And the nicest thing about a day on the town is that there's so much to go for.

OLD MARKET SQUARE

- Summer weekends: outdoor market and live entertainment.
- Tuesdays to Fridays: children's programs.
- Call EnCore '84 at 943-0783.

GAS STATION THEATRE

- Sundays: movies at 8 p.m.
- Weekdays: Self Discovery Through Creative Play for ages 5 to 15.
- Fridays: children's entertainment at 1 p.m.
- Call Gas Station Theatre at 284-5870.

The best in restaurants, shopping and entertainment are yours to discover, all within easy walking distance.

For further information on summer in the city, call the Winnipeg Core Area Initiative at 943-0783.



WINNIPEG CORE AREA INITIATIVE

Bulletins

SUMMER AT ACE —

The following is a schedule of exhibits by women artists at Ace Art July 17 - 28, Joan Rzakidkiewicz, Mixed Media Installation; July 31 - August 11, Eillen Kasprick, Paintings; August 28 - September 8, S Lee, Drawings. Ace Art Inc. is a non-profit corporation created and operated by a group of professional artists. We are offering exhibition space free of charge to artists whose work is professional in quality, and non-commercial in nature. Interested artists are invited to submit a brief resume and current work or proposal. All slides (5 - 20) must be accompanied by a list stating the title, size, medium and date of the work and include artist's full name, address, phone number. Slides must be properly labelled. The gallery operates as a cooperative, dependent on the monthly contributions of members. Ace Art is open from 12 - 5 p.m. every day except Sunday and Monday. For the different membership categories and costs contact: Ace Art Inc., 24 - 221 McDermot Ave., Winnipeg, R3B 0S2 (204) 944-9763.

MINNESOTA WOMEN'S CAMP FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE —

invites you to a Festival of Resistance, August 4-6, 1984. We envision over a thousand women encircling Sperry Corporation to demand that Sperry stop making parts for the cruise missile, a first strike nuclear weapon. We want Sperry to convert its business from war preparation to a peacetime economy. During the weekend of August 4-5 the camp will hold workshops, vigils, song-fests, dancers, and rituals. On August 6, Hiroshima Day, women will confront Sperry Corporation by encircling it in a day long circle of resistance. The camp plans a large demonstration which will include hourly screams of rage, die-ins, dancing, rituals, making political art. For current information please contact (612) 827-5364.

MARATHON FOR SELF SUFFICIENCY —

to be held August 19th, 1984, meeting at the Provincial Legislature at 1 o'clock for entertainment and a Rally for Economic Democracy in our Communities.

Please contact The Committee for Self Sufficiency, 168 Arlington St., Winnipeg, Manitoba. 774-6000.

CONGRESS ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT —

The Fifth International Congress Theme is *Preventing Child Abuse: A Community Responsibility* on September 16 - 19 at the Palais de Congrès, Montréal, Québec. For information contact: Child Abuse Congress Secretariat, 3450 University Street, Montreal H3A 2A7 (614) 392-6744, Telex 05-268510.

HOME LIVING ENVIRONMENT —

Living Areas for All Age Groups is the theme of the seventh congress of the Union Internationale des Femmes Architectes to be held at the Technical University in Berlin, Germany on October 10 - 14, 1984. Close connections will be made with the International Building Exhibition the theme of which is *Life in the Inner City* featuring some 20 exhibits. Workshops will allow for the exchange of ideas including topics such as the relationship of various social groups to work and education, the influence of technical developments on urban life, self-help projects and others. The UIFA is an organization of women architects, landscape architects, and planners with members in over 57 countries. Contact: UIFA, GFB Reisen Berlin, Kaiserdam 28, D-1000 Berlin 19, West Germany.

TEN YEARS ON: —

Perspectives on Women, Gender and Family Conference sponsored by the Canadian Association for American Studies on October 11 - 13, 1984 at the University of Ottawa. Possible topics include: feminist research, women's studies programs, women and publishing, women and education including the peace movement and environmentalism, gender identity, women as immigrants, etc. For information: Virginia J. Rock, Programme Coordinator, York University, 215 Stong College, Downsview, Ontario M3J 1P3 (416) 667-6397.

WOMEN AND THE CHARTER —

Conferences are planned currently in provincial capitals across Canada for October 19 - 21 and are sponsored by a coalition of women's groups. For Manitoba information contact: The Charter of Rights Coalition, 184 Rosborough Drive, Toronto, Ontario M4W 1X8 — Nancy Jackman, National and Manitoba Coordinator (416) 961-7744, other regional contacts: Nfld. — Jan Solk Dawson (709) 944-6562; Nova Scotia — Joanne Hayman (902) 429-2969; Prince Edward Island — Dolores Crane (902) 894-8973; New Brunswick — Madeleine LeBlanc (506) 388-9660; Quebec — Suzanne Boivin (514) 866-3811; Ontario — Kathleen Howes (705) 675-1151, Ext. 217B; Saskatchewan — Judy Edmond (306) 515-6901; Alberta — Sandra Lee Susut (403) 432-3093; British Columbia — Milnoa Alexander (604) 592-8870; Yukon — Sharon Housnell (403) 667-4637.

CONFERENCE CALL —

A training conference devoted to the treatment of former victims of sexual abuse is scheduled for February 20 - 22, 1985 and will draw on presenters and participants from throughout Canada and the United States. The conference will aim to provide an opportunity for social service workers and other interested persons to develop skills in dealing with incest and sexual abuse among adolescents and adult survivors. The format is planned to include a variety of workshop and issue sessions to allow for the full involvement of conference participants and should serve to heighten public awareness of these issues by using several public forums and the popular media. The Conference is in the planning stages. We want responses and guidance about the specific skills that people would like to learn and develop. We invite you to send us your suggestions, comments and reactions. Contact: Clinic, Inc., Community Health Centre, 545 Broadway Avenue, Winnipeg R3C 0W3 (204) 786-6943.

EMILY CARR OFF AND RUNNING —

An 11 member all-woman crew are competing in the Victoria to Maui International Yacht Race which started June 30 from Victoria, B.C. Their boat is a chartered 50-foot Santa Cruz sloop appropriately named **Emily Carr**. Most of the women, who range in age from 29 to 53, have had considerable sailing experience, though not all have sailed offshore before. The team is being supported by the Canadian Women's Sailboat Racing Association which formed to raise the necessary funds and provide the organizational back-up. The CWSRA budget, by most corporate standards, is low — \$56,000. However, it has proven difficult to raise even that amount. A donation in any amount to the CWSRA will be gratefully received. If it's \$20 or more, you will automatically become a member of the association and receive its monthly newsletter and handsome Vic-Maui souvenir. For \$1,000 or more, you can become an honorary crew member. Send cheque to: CWSRA, P.O. Box 24392, Stn. C, Vancouver, B.C. V5T 4M5 (604) 873-2262.



WOMEN AND THE ARTS/

Les Femmes et les arts, a Manitoba co-operative of artists of all disciplines is working on an international celebration of women in the arts, slated for 1986 in Winnipeg. We are seeking input from Manitoba arts organizations and artists. We are interested in your ideas and recommendations. Please write to: Women and the Arts/Les Femmes et les arts, c/o Manitoba Advisory Council on the Status of Women, 693 Taylor Avenue R3M 3T9 or phone Lanie Patrick 943-4737.

Letters

Dear HERIZONS,

Re "Where Do Men Fit Into Feminism?" (by Debra Pilon and Penni Mitchell — May issue): I enjoyed learning about some of the pro-feminist work that men's groups have done; but the implications of some of the men's own comments disturbed me.

I get worried when one man (Padbury) says that the original focus of his men's group was on women and their oppression — but that the focus changed to men and their "pain." (Similarly, Falconer lists "general support for women," by implication, as being secondary to "personal support for men.") Dare and Padbury also speak of men's roles and the misery they feel in conforming to them. While this is no doubt true, it seems to me that concentrating on "roles" — rather than the concrete ways in which men oppress women in *all areas* of our lives — is an easy way for men to adapt feminism to their own wants instead of (or at the cost of) women's needs. (Furthermore, equating sexist oppression with the injustice of male/female sex roles sometimes leads to the absurd notion that men as a class are "just as oppressed" as women...and can even result in women being blamed for not getting out of *our* traditional roles. "Why are you a housewife when you can be an executive?" Roles are one symptom of sexism — but *not* its cause.)

Dare laments the "tendency for men to feel guilty about the fact that they are the oppressors in patriarchy," calling guilt a poor motivation for change. Jonathan Kozol once observed, " 'Neurotic guilt' has come to be employed as if it were a single word...Guilt is, as business people say, 'counter-productive.' The sinister part of all this, of course, is that our logic leads us very quickly to believe that there are not some situations of unjust and brutal disproportion to which guilt might well be the *only sane response*." Personal change, borne of shame and the resolution to do better, is far more revolutionary than looking to see "what's in it for me."

Lastly, feminists should be aware that men's groups who are interested in breaking out of male roles are not *automatically* pro-feminist; it is perfectly consistent for a man to be "in touch with his feelings" and close to other men while still being thoroughly sexist. The test is always how men choose to use their new found emotional resource. Will it be to end patriarchy, or merely to bond with other men?

Yours sincerely,
Julia Morrigan
Ottawa, Ontario



Dear Editors:

As a poet and a writer I am always excited to find a new publication. A friend sent me a copy of your May, 1984 issue which I read from cover to cover with some degree of discomfort. My discomfort is in discovering that yet another magazine is being published solely to and for the education of women — with the attitude interspersed that men are oppressors. Certainly, there are sociological aspects within our culture that are oppressive. There are laws and inequities in the work place and in our courts that **MUST** be changed. If women were to pool their energy and power and work towards the resolution of these issues it would be a great step forward — beneficial for both women and men. As it is, we deal in fractionalized issues and the real issues of economic and legal equality are left in the dust.

As a humanist, I believe in promoting an understanding between the sexes. We need to work with each other in order to make change happen. We need to stop pushing men aside to gain equality. And lastly, we must stop seeing ourselves as victims. It leaves us with a victim consciousness and hence, greatly weakened.

Sincerely,
Cheryl Ashley
Vancouver, B.C.

Dear HERIZONS:

I want you to know how much I look forward to and enjoy your magazine. As an active feminist and former feminist editor, your magazine is a joy to receive. It is far and away one of the most interesting, most pertinent and most professional publications I've seen. Our movement deserves your quality! But one question of south-of-our-mutual-border ignorance: Who is the Nellie in Nelligrams?

Sincerely,
Kathryn Olney

Editor's Note: Nellie McClung was one of Manitoba's feminist fore-mothers, who was instrumental in securing the vote for Manitoba women. She was also an author and poet and later, a politician in the Alberta Legislature. Nelligrams are messages between feminist publications; a feminist telegraph tributed to Nellie.



Nellie McClung, feminist writer and activist (Manitoba Archives Photo)

An Open Letter to Judge Samuel Toy

Re: the sentencing of Julie Belmas and Ann Hansen for 20 years and life imprisonment respectively, for bombing of Litton Plant and other "terrorist activities"

As members of the Women's Peace Camp at Cole Bay, Saskatchewan, we would like to express our sadness and anger at the harsh and unjust sentences given to Julie Belmas and Ann Hansen.

Firstly, it is a common belief that violence which endangers life is immoral. We believe that government-sanctioned military violence is wrong. Construction of weapons for mass murder is wrong. But sometimes destruction of something evil is necessary. For example, if someone had succeeded in assassinating Hitler, would that person deserve the severest penalty for murder? Surely many lives would have been saved, had Hitler been stopped earlier. Certainly a parallel thought must have been in Julie Belmas' and Ann Hansen's

minds: to prevent construction of the guidance system for cruise missiles would also stop the missile from ultimately killing millions. It is extremely unfortunate that several people were injured in the Litton blast. It is clear their intention was never to hurt anyone.

Perhaps a couple of quotations by Emma Goldman, an anti-militarist active in the early 1900's, will enlighten your attitude towards such cases which you are obliged to judge. "No act committed by an anarchist has been for personal gain, aggrandizement or profit, but rather a conscious protest against some repressive arbitrary, tyrannical measure from above." Surely you must consider the sensitive nature of an individual, compelled to take action for the safety of humanity. "The law does not even make an attempt to go into the complexity of the human soul which drives a person to despair or insanity, out of hunger or out of indignation into a political act."

We believe the sentences for Julie and Ann are far too severe for their actions, motivated by

Dear Herizons



Letters and responses welcome from readers. Send to
HERizons
478 River
Winnipeg
R3L 0C8

Dear Friend:

We live our lives among you, although you may not know that we are there.

We have never been welcome here, but there is nowhere else for us to go. This earth is *our* home, too.

Please don't deny us any longer. Support basic human rights protection for homosexual men and women.

The *Manitoba Human Rights Act* prohibits discrimination in employment, housing, and other areas on many grounds, but provides NO protection for lesbians and gay men.

The Manitoba Human Rights Commission, along with many Churches, Unions and professional associations, has recommended that the *Act* be amended to include *sexual orientation* among the prohibited grounds of discrimination. If you agree, please write to your M.L.A. and/or the Attorney-General of Manitoba, at 104 - 405 Broadway Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0V8. For more information call Gays For Equality at 786-3976.

reverence for life and a hope for world peace. Long and unfair sentences will certainly not deter the peace movement in any way.

It is always easier to condemn than to think.

Jan Hermiston
Diane Leis
Women's Peace Camp
Cole Bay, Saskatchewan

P.S. Remember, too, that you can imprison a woman, but you can *never* imprison her mind, her ideas or her hope.

Juliet —
 Is it
 too soon yet
 — to tell

The hero you
 have been — Juliet
 we've only seen
 — a glimpse

Juliet —
 no regrets
 They couldn't break you
 or mistake you
 for someone who should know
 better

A.P. Hewitt



Julie Belmas was sentenced in May to 20 years in prison for causing an explosion at Litton Systems of Canada, which manufactures the guidance system for the cruise missile.

Dear Sisters:

I am writing a book on women who immigrated to Canada between 1880 and 1940 and worked in Canadian homes. Household work was the main occupation for immigrant women before World War II and it is important that the history of these women be preserved before it is too late. I am trying to locate women who will share their experiences with me through personal interviews or correspondence. I should also appreciate receiving family or local recollections regarding immigrant household workers. Information will be kept confidential if desired.

Winnipeg as the gateway to the West attracted many immigrant women who found positions in both urban and rural homes. The Girls' Home of Welcome at 130 Austin St., the Salvation Army, and the Catholic Women's League Hostel received British domestics. The major Canadian railways and ethnic associations aided in placing young women from continental Europe.

Please write to Marilyn Barber, Dept. of History, Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario, K1S 5B6, or leave a message with Debbie Tyrchniewicz, 641 Kent Rd., Winnipeg, R2L 1Y5, phone 669-3520 (evenings) or Judy Hill, phone 668-0201.

Dear Editor:

I am presently working on a research project involving a survey of the 1975-1980 graduates from the University of Alberta Law School. With this data I hope to be able to analyze the different areas of law practiced by men and women and the corresponding differences in salary obtained by the two. In order to accomplish this end, I need some assistance.

In my literature search I have obtained some interesting data on law school admissions and articling data, but there is little information on the work situation. Would you have any information that could be of benefit to myself, or correspondingly an indication of where this information may be obtained.

Any papers, newspaper articles, etc. would be extremely beneficial. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Yours truly,
 Marjorie A. Webb

A. This instrument kills people.



B. This instrument saves lives.



Dear Friend:

Which of the above instruments would you guess is too hot for the Canadian government to send to postwar Laos today? If you guessed A only, you're wrong; the answer is *both A and B*.

The story began in 1982, when the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), gave Canadian friends Service Committee a grant for our Shovels for Peace in Laos program. CIDA agreed to match our contributions generously — three to one. But in 1983, CIDA told us that its 1982 grant to us for Laos had been a "mistake" — that not only were Viet Nam and Kampuchea being black-listed for any government development grants, but Laos was as well.

Help us pick up the shovels the government dropped.

If you agree with us, why not make a donation to CFSC to help not only our Laos program but our other programs in Southeast Asia as well, in Thailand, Vietnam and Kampuchea.

We also have relief and development projects in a dozen other countries from Bangladesh to Zimbabwe. As Quakers, we also work actively for peace.

We also have a reconstruction and relief program in Kampuchea, where our old friend Mike Call of Ottawa, who works there for American Friends Service Committee, is administering our program as well from Phnom Penh.

The Canadian government has said "No" this year to helping us with our Shovels for Peace in Lao program as well as to our Viet Nam and Kampuchea programs. Won't you say "Yes"?

Nancy Pocock
Clerk Emeritus
Canadian Friends
Service Committee
60 Lowther Avenue
Toronto, Ontario
M5R 9Z9

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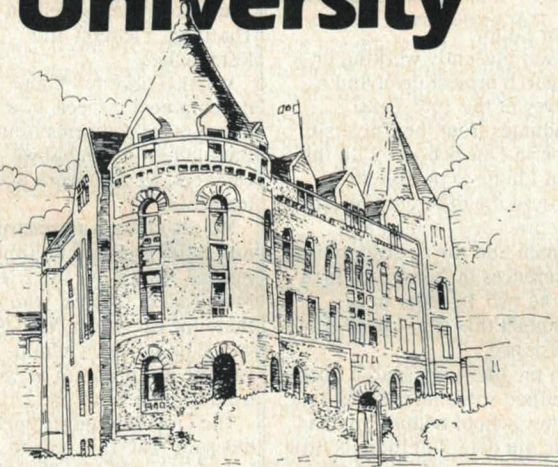
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Classified Ads

JAZZ DANCE THEATRE OF WINNIPEG announces *Dance Camp 84* to be held in Gimli, Man., July 29th to August 3rd. The dance camp is open to anyone over the age of 10. Classes for adults are separate. Features: Aerobics, Jazz, Ballet and Creative Modern Dance. *Dance Camp 84* welcomes beginners and experienced dancers. Special attention is available for skaters, gymnasts, swimmers and other athletes. Enrollment is limited. Call 284-5705.

ANIMAL LIBERATION GROUP NEEDS DONATIONS to help redeem all Mother Earth's enslaved creatures. Write to: A. Ré, 22-80 Roslyn Road, Winnipeg, Man., R3L 0G6.

DO YOU LIKE CHILDREN? Do you enjoy the challenge and fun of working with children? Are you a person who wants to share a learning experience with growing minds? The Fort Garry Women's Resource Centre has openings for women who wish to be part of the Child Supervisor Volunteer Program. For information or appointment call: Sherry - 475-2240. (Also call if you are looking for a single mother's support group).

BIG SISTERS NEEDED. Women volunteers of all ages (over 18) are needed to be a special friend to a girl between the ages of 6 and 16. Please consider joining the 250 Winnipeg women who are presently Big Sisters. Also urgently required are professional volunteers to assist in interviewing and follow-up case work. For information call 942-1490.

NEW ADDRESS ANNOUNCEMENT for the Manitoba Association for Children (Adults) with Learning Disabilities (M.C.L.D.). Effective July 1, 1984 the organization's new location will be 201-720 Broadway Avenue, Winnipeg R3G 0X1; the phone number remains the same 774-1821.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD WINNIPEG is currently accepting new volunteers in their program. The volunteer training course begins early September and runs for four weeks: two Saturdays and four evenings.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD is a non-profit, voluntary organization promoting responsible sexuality through public education information on human sexuality, relationships, and contraception. For further information call 942-0407.

PHOENIX RISING the magazine that speaks out against psychiatric abuse needs your financial support now. Our Health and Welfare Canada grant expired and we have not been able to find alternate funding to continue publishing. Our income from subscriptions (\$6 per year) do not cover all our expenses. We are planning to publish a special issue about women and psychiatry this summer, and one on psychiatric inmates' rights and the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* this fall. Please give now. Cheques and money orders should be made payable to Phoenix Rising, P.O. Box 7251, Station A, Toronto M5W 1X9 (416) 699-3194.

HERB CLASSES FOR LESBIAN, WOMEN'S OR GAY GROUPS — Field trips, fundamentals of herbal medicine, preserving herbs. Will travel to your area. Contact Isabel Andrews, R.R. #2, Kenora, Ontario P9N 3W8 Phone (807) 548-4325.

TOOLS FOR PEACE — Help us fill a ship for Nicaragua. Last December, a ship left Vancouver carrying over \$1 Million worth of medical equipment, educational supplies, and agricultural tools as a gift of solidarity from the people of Canada. Two large truckloads of this cargo were sent from Manitoba. Make this happen again by contacting the Tools For Peace Coalition Planning Committee, 418 Wardlaw Ave., Winnipeg R3L 0L7 — call Tom 452-9382, or Margaret 257-9851.

1984 WOMEN'S MUSIC & CULTURE DIRECTORY — producers, coffee-houses, festivals, publications, distributors, record labels, performers, bookstores, much more for only \$4.00 U.S. Write to Women's Music Plus, c/o Toni Armstrong, 1321 Rosedale, Chicago 60660 (312) 275-6512.

ON THE HERIZON

Manitoba Art Show A Real Treat

Erica Smith

A diversity of form and content marked the 52nd annual juried art exhibit of the Manitoba Society of Artists at the Centre Culturel Franco Manitobain in June. The exhibit was open to amateurs and professionals alike; in fact, anyone who could skillfully wield a brush, or hammer and chisel, was welcome to submit sample works. Attendance was record-breaking — the exhibit was packed within a half-hour. Much credit goes to Garry Tessier, the show's curator, for hanging the show so successfully.

It was one of those delightful exhibits that did not require "experts" to tell us what to look for and how to interpret. In the relaxed, Sunday-afternoon mood, people were prepared to be pleased and receptive to what was being offered. They strolled about studying the paintings and sculptures, seeming to find much pleasure and insight there.

Eleanor Golfman, president of M.S.A. states with pride that there were over 300 entries this year; and of the 90 chosen, 12 were awarded cash prizes and honourable mentions.

"And well over half of those 90 are by women," she adds. We agree it makes a pleasant change.

"An open show of this kind is immensely important to local artists," comments Jill Brooks, visual arts consultant with the

Manitoba Arts Council. "There's much fine work squirrelled away in small corners. It's exciting to see it emerging and having so-called Sunday painters receive valuable exposure and recognition." She points to Ann Bednar's "Biting Insects", a many-legged swarm against a virulent green background as a fine example of primitive art.

Some of my personal favourites included prizewinner Mary Krieger's "Bride and Groom", 2 dolls dressed in white (he's missing an arm) staring blankly, as dolls will, at the viewer. (Mary turned out to be an optimistic young woman who is happily married. Take a trip to the Osborne Gallery to see more of this exciting artist); Wendy Bailey's "Isolation", an evocative, beautifully linear cracked egg with a face peering out, in understated cool greys and beiges; Eileen Kaspnick's "Orchid", blazing with warm, sensuous fuchsias and pinks; Tatiana's "Her Pet, Obedience and Fan Moon", with all the clarity and elegance of its Japanese print origins; Yvon Villarcieux "Mask", a delicate collage of textiles, embroidery, lace (his mother's work), and much more that was uplifting, inspiring and enriching. To sum up, Stephen Smith, age six, downed his fifth petit-four and pronounced the proceedings a real treat.

M.G.E.A. vows to re-negotiate mental health clause

The Manitoba Government Employees Association (M.G.E.A.) says it is renegotiating a clause in its long term disability income plan recently negotiated with the province, which excluded mental and nervous disorders from the salary maintenance plan.

M.G.E.A. President Gary Doer says that response from provincially-employed mental health workers as well as the Manitoba Mental Health Association has prompted the M.G.E.A. to reconsider the clause, which differentiates between physical disabilities (covered under the plan) and

mental disorders (not covered). And while Doer says he agrees that there should be no differentiation made between mental and physical disability, he says it was not economically feasible under last year's agreement because the total amount available for the long term disability was limited.

If the mental health exclusion remains it will also amount to systematic discrimination, as a majority of mental health patients are women. In 1983 within the Civil Service, two thirds of the 50 people who had to take time off due to mental and nervous disorders were women.



ARMPIT DRESS CODE. Hawaii — According to the state department of labour, an employer has the right to set dress codes for women's armpits. Loral K. Llewellyn, who worked for a charter boat as a deckhand, was fired when she refused to shave. She has been refused unemployment on the grounds that her refusal to control armpit hair was in violation of her employer's policy on appearance. She has also filed a suit.

Apparently, the male deckhands have not yet been asked to adhere to the policy.



Two Battlefronts: Women With Disabilities

Charlynn Toews

"For the most part, they are...hidden... isolated in a household environment and restricted from contributing their talents as active members of the community...they have less income, less education, less employment, and more poverty."

Women with disabilities face double discrimination in many areas, having to fight on both battlefronts. Like women have fought patriarchy, the disabled have fought paternalism — regardless of its benevolence. Barriers to full and meaningful employment are attitudinal as well as structural for both 'disadvantaged' groups. And like women, racial groups, the aged, and others, the physically handicapped have become more militant, more political, and more demanding of equal rights.

A recent study, *Social Needs Assessment of the Physically Disabled*, reveals the results of being both female and disabled. Unemployment rates for disabled women is 74% (disabled men, 60%). Of the 178 surveyed living on annual incomes of under \$5,000, 117 were female. In the \$10,000+ bracket, 102 of 144 were male. The study found that, overall, the greatest economic difficulties are found with the young, single, and female.

Colleen Watters, one of the study's researchers, and a Research Committee member of the Resource Centre on Disabilities, says this points to the real need for a focus on programs designed to help women with disabilities gain work skills, assertiveness, and services such as adequate transportation in order to gain independence.

Gwyneth Ferguson Matthews, in *Voices from the Shadows Women with Disabilities Speak Out*, has quoted Canadian national statistics as stating that "when men become disabled, 50 per cent of marriages break up; for women, that figure is 99 per cent". She also recounts a case where a wife who became disabled was given a separation agreement based on the fact that she had

M.S. (multiple sclerosis), "and could no longer fulfill her duties as a wife", even though she had continued to live an active and independent lifestyle.

Veronika Demereckas, co-chair of the Public Education Committee of the Manitoba League of the Physically Handicapped, has observed that more disabled men than women marry. "The woman who marries a disabled man has the mothering, nurturing role, and copes with the spouse's disability — men don't seem to be as sympathetic or patient." She believes the women's movement could be instrumental in opening discussion on the whole area of disabilities and sexuality, and male/female roles. "After I was 'rehabilitated', I was very independent. When a man helped me with my coat, I only realized later that he was doing it because I'm a woman, not because I'm disabled."

The disabled consumers' movement and the women's movement share many general aims of independence and equality, but there has been very little overlap and sharing between the two groups in the past.

While larger issues such as transportation affect disabled people of both sexes, the sex-specific issues such as violence against disabled

women, needs to be addressed by the organizations of the physically handicapped.

There are some connections being made. The Voice of the Handicapped, the provincial disabled consumers group in Saskatchewan, now has a women's caucus. The organizers of the Women's Music Festival have been taking into consideration the needs of audience members who use wheelchairs, and hope to have some of the main stage presentations interpreted in sign language. The Focus on Women conference had a session on disabled women and the Women's Health Clinic summer workshop series included "Survival Skills for Differently — Abled Women".

Marianne Bossen, a research economist active with the Canadian Paraplegic Association and the MLPH facilitated the "Survival Skills for Differently abled Women" workshop, with Rose Gulak and Elizabeth Semkiw. They each gave a brief personal history, focusing on the survival skills they learned that enable them to be independent, creative, and active with the minimum of support services and bureaucracy.

They outlined three major issues: Semkiw described the difficulty of obtaining reliable and adequate home care services (an issue with "no

pizzaz"), and the stress that builds up as a result of having to "depend on the undependable". Gulak on transportation: "I'm tired of my tax money going to bail out the Jets when I can't even get a bus to go see them!"

Rose Gulak, involved with the Manitoba League of the Physically Handicapped since its early stages in the mid-70's spoke to me of a factor many women in the disabled consumers movement reiterated: the more basic issues such as transportation and accessibility have not yet been resolved, and most of their energies go to these non-sex-specific problems. She feels that although many of the MLPH chairs are men, women are also in positions of power. "Whoever is able to do the job will do it."

Elizabeth Semkiw, a community activist associated with MLPH and founder of the Patients' Rights Committee of the Manitoba Association of Rights and Liberties, also believes the women's movement could play a role in health-related issues. In her experience, some doctors belittle women's health needs as well as considering patients with disabilities "not worth bothering about."

In our conversation, she related a story that neatly sums up society's attitudes towards women and men, the disabled and non-disabled. "A number of years ago, I was at a sports wind-up and was introduced to a blind fellow. Being visually handicapped he didn't realize I was sitting in a wheelchair. Before he left, he made sure to give my shoulder a squeeze. A woman who witnessed this later phoned him to chew him out for 'getting fresh with a girl in a wheelchair'. His masculinity was acknowledged, while I was seen as in need of protection."

Women with disabilities have been a powerful force for change within the Manitoba disabled consumers movement, and can be within the women's movement. The Manitoba women's movement should open its doors (wide) and extend a welcome (in braille and sign, too) to our sisters who are already adept at fighting inequality.





NOT ILLEGAL, JUST IMPOSSIBLE. The Department of the Interior apparently knows better than to openly ban demonstrations in front of the White House; instead, it has designed regulations which would render symbolic protest ineffective, if not impossible. According to the new regulations, signs must be limited to certain materials and must be kept small enough that more than a simple message cannot be read across the wide sidewalk. Protestors are not allowed to sit (next to the tired tourists and the commuters waiting for buses) on the ledge in front of the White House fence. When they are directly in front of the White House, they must keep moving. What is more, if they allow anything to rest on the ground, the police may confiscate it. What this does, says Vigiler Mary Ann Beall, is ensure that only certain kinds of people (in most cases not "children, the elderly, or the differently abled") will even be able to carry the legal size signs for very long.

But the Department of the Interior came up with an imaginative list of terrorist scenarios. The women's banners were held up by paintbrush-extender poles, for example — possible rocket launchers. There was talk of attacks by "proxy demonstrators" — pushing "proxy baby carriages," and of course, there were the ever present banners. Apparently a banner went off once in Turkey, and the US government has never gotten over it.

The Vigil and its allies took their case to the Court of Ap-

peals. Last May, the court ruled in the women's favour, finding that the National Park Service rules were "oppressive," "unjustified," and "overboard and unreasonable." Judge William B. Bryant pointed out that the center portion of the White House fence, is "the prime focus of media coverage"; the government did not present adequate reasons for depriving demonstrators of the chance to gain publicity by holding up stationary signs there.

"With the advances in media techniques, especially television coverage, demonstrations have become an effective device for persons to make their positions known to the government and others throughout the country. As a matter of fact, for those of modest means, or with little or no assets, a demonstration is often the only affordable tool for effective protest."

The Federal Government immediately went to the Court of Appeals to ask for a temporary stay which would permit the regulations to remain in effect. Their request was granted. Until the next stage of legal proceedings takes place, new rules will remain in effect. What this could mean is that Reagan's Department of the Interior has impeded all major demonstrations at least until the middle of the election campaign, a move whose force neither the administration nor the protesters are likely to underestimate.

The Vigil is held between 11:30 and 1:30 every Wednesday, and the group welcomes women to join them. For further information call Mary Ann at (703) 533-2144.

Tricia Lootens off our backs

Health improvement in U.S.

A researcher for New York City's Family Planning Committee has found a rapid and substantial decline in the number of women who die as a result of abortions. Dr. Christopher Tietze's study, published in *Family Planning Perspectives*, attributes this change to increasing use of local rather than general anesthesia, a shift to abortions earlier in the term, and physi-

cians' increasing expertise.

Around 1960 there were ten deaths per year for every million women, aged 15-44, who underwent abortions. By 1980, Tietze says, this figure was down to .03 per million. Tietze found that without the Supreme Court's 1973 ruling in favor of legal abortion, the death rate for abortions would be eight times as high.

Abuse victims suffer under system

John Briere, Clinical Director of Crisis and Counselling Services at Klinik in Winnipeg recently completed research into the area of the effects of childhood sexual abuse.

One in five women and one in 10 men were sexually abused during their childhoods, he reports.

Women who were sexually abused in their childhood were more likely to be taking prescribed psychoactive medication, were found to have a higher incidence of alcoholism or drug addiction, and were more likely to have been a victim of battering in an

adult relationship. They were also more likely to have attempted suicide.

Within the traditional mental health system, sexual abuse victims are often further victimized. They often receive a diagnosis of borderline personality disorder Briere notes, with treatment that ignores their sexual victimization. Briere feels that the need for professional awareness of the incidence of, and debilitating effects of sexual victimization, are badly needed, as well as counselling which directly deals with their core victimization.



PEACE WOMEN 'EVICTED.

Harassment of women peace campaigners at Greenham Common has been stepped up since early March. Newbury Council and Berkshire County Council have joined forces so they can now legally remove the

women's camp from all land surrounding the US Air Force base.

No women have left the camp as a result of these 'evictions', in fact more women are arriving each day. Greenham Common continues to be a focus for women's protest against the siting of nuclear weapons. Information from London Greenham Office, tel 02 226 6285. **Spare Rib**



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PORNOGRAPHY Update

Fox Liberalizes McDonald's porn bill

(Ottawa) Communications Minister Francis Fox says the CRTC has a new objective: to promote the equality and dignity of human beings. He made the announcement when he released his proposed amendment to the Broadcast Act which will revoke the licenses of broadcasters who show pornography.

Taking from NDP - MP Lynne McDonald's year-old recommendation that the Broadcast Act prohibit broadcasting that's abusive to women (it currently prohibits abusive programming based on race, religion or creed), Fox announced that he is proposing the addition of "sex, age or mental or physical disability" to the list. The only way the bill stands a chance of being implemented however, is if the Liberal government is re-elected (or if the NDP wins), as it is part of an omnibus broadcasting and telecommunications bill that won't pass before the next election.

"Nasty" Tapes Targetted; Feminists Fear Fallout

Many feminists in Great Britain fear that the British government's recent Video Recordings Bill is aimed at censoring sexual explicitness and not necessarily pornography.

When the bill becomes law, most commercial videos will require a certificate issued by a statutory body, although education, sport, religious and music videos will be exempt from classification. Because the bill follows on the heels of an anti-nudity lobby in Great Britain many are suspicious of the possible outcome of the bill. Also because a fee will be charged to classify videos, there is also concern that low-budget organizations will not be able to afford to distribute their own tapes.

Porn quilty — Accused freed

The death of a 13-year old Nepean, Ontario boy has been linked to pornography, which was present at the site of his drowning.

However, an Ottawa judge, while condemning the role of violence and pornography in society, dismissed manslaughter charges against the 14-year old accused because he was convinced that his guilt was not proven beyond reasonable doubt.

Assistant Crown attorney Donna Hackett said the death was linked to pornographic magazines found in the bedroom of the accused and were similar to magazines found in a bag at the death site. She told the trial that there had been a sexual encounter between the two schoolmates before the victim's death last

Halloween and that the victim was exhausted and unconscious when he was placed in a shallow creek in Nepean, Ontario.

In his ruling, Judge Guy Goulard criticized public apathy concerning violence and the free flow of pornography and called for urgently needed legislation against pornography. Much of the pornography was degrading and masochistic, he said, but he concluded that running-shoe marks on the back of the victim and a skate lace around his neck were not conclusive evidence. The father of the victim noted after the trial that the rights of the victim weren't considered during the trial, and that seeking out truth didn't seem to be of much importance during the trial.

Preying Mantis Brigade

SANTA CRUZ — When members of the Preying Mantis Brigade went from liquor store to liquor store destroying single copies of *Hustler* magazine, the police were reluctant to make arrests: they acknowledged that the women's actions were political, *Lesbian News* reported, and even expressed some support. Finally, after five separate incidents, an irate vendor persuaded them to arrest members of the Brigade.

"The Endless Continuum of Self-Perpetuating Mess" was the Mantis's latest contribution to political art. A seventeen-mile string of chalk, the Endless Continuum stretched through the city from one liquor store to another. The chain read,

"VIOLENCE IN THE MEDIA =
VIOLENCE IN SOCIETY =
VIOLENCE IN THE MEDIA = ...
VIOLENCE IN SOCIETY ="

This action was a continuation of Artist Nikki Craft and her Preying Mantis Brigade's campaign against *Hustler* and the profiteering from its sale. Earlier, in celebration of International Women's Week they handed out the MUSH (Merchants United to Save *Hustler*) Award to a Santa Cruz liquor store merchant. A one-foot-high dildo painted gold was set up outside the liquor store and made to spurt corn-meal mush over a display of pornographic pictures. The merchants agreed to drop *Hustler*.

Snuff distributor fined

B.C. Provincial court judge, K.J. Husband recently fined a video rental firm \$1,200 for renting a snuff movie, in which the actual murder of a woman is taped for sexual enjoyment.

Crown prosecutor Pedro DeCouto, who obtained the conviction, said that he believed that it was the first conviction in Canada for distribution of a snuff film.

Fashionable Abuse

Japanese designer clothes currently in vogue promote abuse as "high fashion." The clothes, deliberately designed to look torn and ripped, are accessorized with bandaged feet and painted-on bruises. Models are shown with swollen lips, bruised cheeks and gashed foreheads painted on.



U.S. takes another look at pornography

A U.S. commission has been established to take a new look at a 14-year-old White House study that concluded pornography has no significant effect on behavior.

U.S. President Reagan, primarily concerned about child pornography, announced that the maximum fine for a first offender would jump to \$100,000 from \$10,000. Also, prosecutors no longer must prove that photographs or films are obscene and the age of victims covered by law was raised from 16 to 18. Further, reproduction of child pornography is now a criminal offence and pornographers' profit, pictures and equipment can now be seized.

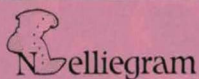
Will Courts Accommodate Kids?

(Washington) A U.S. Senate subcommittee on juvenile justice has been told that the legal system has to amend itself to accommodate the needs of child victims of crime.

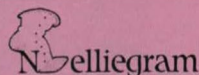
A nine-year-old girl, clutching a cabbage patch doll told the committee how awful it was to confront her rapist in court and said that she would like the laws changed "to help all other children being raped today."

The director of a child sexual abuse diagnostic centre in Los Angeles described how victims of child abuse have been seized by epileptic and asthma attacks, have fallen to stuttering or have become mute when confronted with the prospect of having to face their tormentors in a court situation.

A deputy district attorney from Los Angeles, who is prosecuting staff members of a private day care in California on 115 counts of molestation and child rape, told the subcommittee that while 90 per cent of the 250 children interviewed in the case had been molested, many of the charges would not be made because prosecutors and therapists believed it would be too horrid for the children to appear in court. The rapes of the children were videotaped and likely mass produced and distributed.



FOOD FOR NONE. The city of St. Louis, Mo. is trying to make it illegal for people to pick through garbage for food and aluminum cans by declaring the trash to be city property. Ironically, the punishment for the "crime" is a fine of up to \$5000.



A GIANT SETTLEMENT. Women employees of Giant Food Inc. recently won \$246,000 in an out-of-court settlement of a sex-bias suit they originally filed in 1972. Giant Food is Washington, D.C.'s largest food chain.

In 1972, female bakery department managers were paid \$50 less a week than grocery or produce department managers, all of whom were men. Female bakery clerks made \$142 a week while male produce and bakery clerks earned a weekly salary of \$196. The suit was later expanded to a class action involving several hundred women. Charges were also brought that Giant Food discriminated against women in promotions.

Giant denied all the charges, claiming they gave equal opportunity to all. But they consented to "enhance" their affirmative action program, with plans to recruit female trainees for management, to develop objective hiring and evaluation standards and to establish goals and time-tables for hiring. The settlement gives individuals shares ranging from the hundreds to the low thousands.

liz yates/off our back

Majority of Workers are Women

According to the latest statistics from the Manitoba Women's Bureau, the majority of Manitobans employed are women.

At the end of October, 1985 there were 218,000 women in the Manitoba Labour force, representing 54.4 per cent of the working people in the province.



Affirmative action for CLC

The 2 million-member Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) amended its constitution at its recent Montreal convention to guarantee that the policy-making executive council will include a minimum of six women among the 14 vice-presidents elected at large. The entire executive council was enlarged to 38 from 32 positions to accommodate the new representation for women.

The convention also adopted a sweeping policy document on women and affirmative action that included legislative, bargaining and union educa-

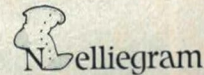
tion programs to give equality to women. CLC vice-president Sybil Frei noted that the affirmative action proposal was not sexist, but was a feminist policy aimed at ending systematic discrimination.

The CLC defines affirmative action as non-discriminatory hiring and promotion practices, equal pay for work of equal value, training opportunities, paid educational leave, child care, parental leave, policies to prohibit sexual harassment and accumulation of seniority by women during leave.

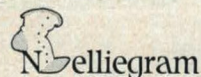


THEN THEY BLAME OVER-POPULATION. The Navy is paying \$12,280 for a piece of equipment that can be bought in a hardware store for 34 cents. The cost of a single nuclear submarine equals the annual education budget of 23 countries with 160 million school age children.

Big Mama Rag



GOOD EXAMPLE. Bighearted Ronnie Reagan recently said he would donate all the residual income from his old films to charity. This, says he, would be an example of what private citizens and companies can do to help the poor and make up for his brutal cuts in social services that are "saving America from big government." The total residuals for 1982 from generous Ronnie came to \$30.



OUR OWN MUSEUM. Washington — Soon, in addition to visiting memorials to famous white, American men in their nation's capital, sightseers will be able to take in some women's culture as well. An historic landmark building in New York will now be renovated into a museum for women in the arts.

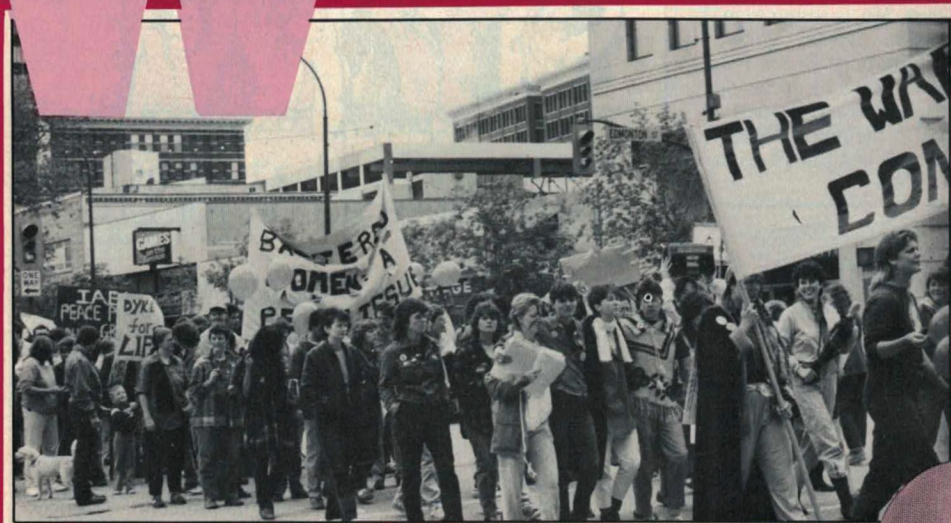
The National Museum of Women in the Arts Inc. purchased the building last November for \$4.8 million and is now raising funds to renovate the interior. The building will eventually contain exhibit halls,

auditoriums, a restaurant, and a gift shop.

Wilhelmina Holladay, president of the museum board, said the group was incorporated in 1981 and has raised more than \$8 million through corporation and foundation grants and from memberships. She said the museum will acquire and display women artists' work in permanent and changing exhibits. It will also have a library resource center and public programs. Look for its opening in 1986.

**PMK
Washington Post**

WALK FOR PEACE



Photos and story:
Brigitte Sutherland

Roberta Ellis of the Manitoba Advisory Council on the Status of Women has asked Manitoba Attorney-General Roland Penner to investigate the competence of two provincial judges to rule in domestic woman-battering cases as their comments showed "ignorance of the complexity of the problem of wife abuse and a glaring insensitivity to the issue."

Judge Ian Dubiński is quoted in a Winnipeg *Free Press* article expressing vexation at the improper use of the courts in these cases and asked for a review to see if police should again have more discretion in making the decision to lay charges. Such action would set back the hard-won fight of women's groups to have charges laid by the Crown as they are in all other assault cases; a significant step to impress that woman battering is indeed a crime. Judge Frank Allen, quoted in the same article, lamented the large numbers of complainants who don't proceed with charges and feels they are abusing public service. Since the Attorney General's directive to have the Crown lay charges, 824 assault charges were laid by the police and only 104 were subsequently dismissed. Nevertheless, the *Free Press* article reported the majority of charges were stayed or dismissed.

It wasn't long before these public statements brought a group of agitated women to the Provincial Law Courts Buildings. Wielding plungers and Drano, the placard-carrying



WOMEN-BATTERING OFFENSIVE

women responded to the judges' comments that the justice system is clogging up because of wife abuse cases. They paraded in front of and through the courts chanting, "The legal system is full of shit and we're here to clean it up." Replying to the judges' comments that often these men were only 'one-punch wonders', the women wore signs that said: "One Punch is Too Many", and a dishtowel with the words: "Wipe Out Violence Against Women". Spokeswoman Tanya Lester expressed their outrage at the stagnation of the courts and urged the Attorney-General to continue his initiative of laying charges in every case of abuse. She also pointed out the need for increased shelters and support groups for victims; with sufficient provisions in place more women will be able to refuse to continue to live in abusive situations. "Some legal officials are trivializing women and the abuse of women, so we're here to trivialize them," she explained.

Roberta Ellis also expressed horror at the callousness of the legal system's response and explained that victims face fear of violent retaliation, fear of poverty, fear for surviving on her own and for the future of the relationship. She called for consultation between judges, government officials and abuse experts to address the women's needs as they face court proceedings. Judges in some countries, like France and Italy, rather than simply being appointed from amongst senior

barristers, undergo specific training to qualify as judges, reports the *Women's International News Network*. One of the effects of this is to produce more women judges. In France, 30 per cent of the judges are women and among current trainees, 50 per cent are women.

Spokeswomen of several women's organizations have called for court-mandated counselling for offenders. Evidence shows that batterers' abuse is habitual and often escalates in intensity. The *Globe & Mail* recently reported investigations showing primary homicides are most likely to occur in families that have called police to intervene in domestic disputes, says Dr. Mark Rosenberg of the Violence Epidemiology Branch of the Centre for Disease Control in Atlanta. Murderous violence is predictable and some members of the health community reasoned behaviour modification could be applied to teach avoidance of tragic results.

In their search for avoidance of violence, 15,000 persons took part in Winnipeg's Third Annual Walk for Peace on June 9th. Harboured in their midst was a determined crowd of women. Marching between the banners "The War Against Women Continues Daily" and "Battered Women: A Peace Issue", they insisted on the need to connect the issue of global peace to peace and security in our homes. One marcher advocated "Fewer silos — more shelters for Women", while they



Winnipeg women mount an appropriate response to recent statements that wife abuse cases are clogging up the courts.

all sang Holly Near's *Fight Back* song and handed out leaflets giving information on local Manitoba resources for abused women.

A recent survey conducted by the University of Manitoba Institute for Social and Economic Research found that nearly half of the known incidence of domestic abuse went unreported and over half of the Winnipeggers surveyed did not know what services were available to victims of abuse. The findings also suggest that wife abuse is seen as a serious and pervasive social problem. Ninety-two percent of the respondents believed that battered women were the victims of multiple assaults and 85 per cent supported the actions of the Attorney-General of Manitoba, Roland Penner, in laying charges against the perpetrators.

Promising increased action on the part of government the Minister for the Status of Women, Mary Beth Dolin, responded to the survey by saying, "The hurting must stop, and more importantly it must be prevented."

Official statistics of domestic violence incidence is one in every 10 women in a living relationship with a man in Canada, however Toni Nelson, publicist of the Manitoba Committee on Wife Abuse (CWA) believes a one-in-four incidence rate is more realistic. The Committee, established in 1982, coordinates a provincial volunteer network to educate the public, to lobby governments, and to provide crisis response for city and rural women. At the recent MCWA annual meeting, the growing rural shelter network saw a

woman representative from every Manitoba region appointed to the current Board of Directors.

Increased commitments by both Manitoba and Ontario governments to funding rural and urban abuse shelters is taking place. The attention women's groups have given to this issue has brought a greater awareness to the enormity of the problem. New funding has been extended to the Brandon WYCA Westman Women's Shelter (\$87,000) and Core Area funding in the amount of \$77,200 to the MCWA will be spent on setting up a native organizations liaison and peer support groups for victims. Ontario will be spending \$10 million (up by \$6.7 million from '83) for shelters and crisis line counselling.

Still, funding has been sporadic and haphazard in the recent past and Mary Beth Dolin, Manitoba's minister responsible for the Status of Women has called for improvements in joint federal-provincial funding of services. Transition houses get 50 per cent from the federal government, 30 per cent from the provincial and 20 per cent from their municipalities. Many of these services are often started on a volunteer basis by women, then may proceed to a few staff positions through an employment grant, but often after this initial funding they are left in a quandry. Another major problem has been the federal government's insistence on subjecting victims to a needs test which Community Services Minister Muriel Smith calls "a barrier to positive assistance at a time of clear desperation."




poor judgements.



Victim deserved beating: Judge

An Alberta Court of Appeal judge remarked recently that an abuse victim asked to be beaten by her husband because she yelled at him. Denis Hlady had been found guilty of assault causing bodily harm last December and sentenced to serve 30 days on weekends after he slapped and kicked his wife and broke her elbow bone. But Chief Justice William McGillivray ruled that the sentence was too stiff for the poor man, who was tormented by his "shrew" wife.

"He was extremely provoked," the judge commented when reducing the sentence. "She yelled at him and used the most abusive language."

 Nelliegram

FOR CRYING OUT LOUD. A judge in Milwaukee recently "scolded" a woman who had been sexually assaulted for "inappropriate" conduct when she cried on the stand. He said her tears were a "ploy" to gain the sympathy of the jury and told the woman that if she did not stop crying, he would dismiss the case against the defendant. "I think the female response to crime, to any tough situation, is inappropriate in a courtroom... This is no 16-year-old schoolgirl. The woman was twice-divorced. You might say she was well-experienced in the school of life."


Judge worries over rapist's record

A South Dakota judge who ruled for suspended imposition of sentence of Kenneth Stands, who admitted raping a 14-year old-girl said he didn't want to ruin Stand's chances of becoming a school principal, teacher, or guidance counselor. Stands, who holds a master's degree in guidance and counseling, was arrested in May, 1983.

Attorney General Mark

Meierhenry said he is particularly upset because Stands wants to continue a career in education, even though he has raped children.

State's Attorney Art Rusch, who asked the judge to give Stands 10 years in prison, said he agreed to drop 20 of the counts if Stands would plead guilty to one count of second-degree rape, a lesser charge.

 Nelliegram

THE BIBLE SAVES. A Milwaukee man who admitted he sexually assaulted his two stepdaughters, fathering two children by one of them, received probation after correctly answering a question on the Bible. The judge asked the man

a question on the Book of Revelations and the correct answer saved the man, who had prior convictions for manslaughter and grand larceny, from a 10-years prison sentence.

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SPONSORS: SDB Manitoba with the assistance of Canada Employment and Immigration Commission • Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Recreation • Department of Communications • Manitoba Arts Council • Secretary of State — Women's Program • Manitoba Jobs Fund

22 landfill sites potentially dangerous

The results of investigation into the present and potential environmental effects of active and inactive landfill sites in Manitoba revealed that 22 potentially hazardous sites exist in the province.

The federal and provincial governments have each committed \$40,000 for further monitoring at the sites. Recommendations such as covering disposal pits, improving operations, or closing sites will be made to each jurisdiction by the federal and provincial environment departments, under which the investigation was conducted. The reports on the sites can be examined at Manitoba Environment and Workplace Safety and Health, Building 2, 139 Tuxedo Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3N 0H6.

 Nelliegram

SCARLET LETTER COSTS \$390,000. Tulsa, OK. — The Collensville Church of Christ is paying heavily for its belief that the days of Scarlet Letters are not over. Marion Guinn, a divorced mother of four children, was publicly reprimanded by three church elders for the "sin of fornication." The elders painted a red "A" for "adultery" on her forehead — and they and the Church have been ordered by a U.S. court to pay the woman \$390,000 in damages.

Lesbian News

Ooops!
Last month we reprinted photographs of the Winnipeg Folk Festival, but we didn't include proper accreditation. The photos, in the article "The Listening Is Easy" should have included creditation to: Marsha Wineman, and Bob Tinker.

Women cops humanize job

Research on female officers in the Los Angeles Police Department shows that they do at least as good a job as men. In fact, many women are better suited than males to the changing demands of urban police work.

L.A.P.D. Commander Ken Hickman recently put all the popular put-downs of women cops to a scientific test. He compared their records to those of male officers hired at the same time and dispelled these myths:

- *Female officers have a negative impact on productivity of male officers.* He scrutinized more than 6,000 daily field activity reports to check this out. **Result:** Male-female teams are just as productive in initiating potentially hazardous calls as are male-male pairs.

- *Women are second-rate versions of male cops, and their ratings will show it.* The recruits' training officers, who were all male, rated four areas — tactics, initiative and self-confidence, writing and communication, and public contacts. In all four field activities, men were rated lower than women.

- *Females' smaller physical size will make them less effective in subduing criminals.* Hickman found that height and physical

fitness correlated with success in the field for only 4 percent of all police officers.

- *The public won't accept women cops.* Women officers got significantly more commendations from the public. Female and male officers drew about the same number of public complaints.

- *In high-crime areas, they'll be paralyzed by fear.* Actually, women in the crime-ridden bureau had significantly higher productivity levels than those in lower crime areas.

Both male and female officers now rate domestic arguments as the most consistently dangerous calls in patrol. Yet there's a consensus that women's verbal skills give them an edge in just such hazardous scenes.

Leonard Bivens, Equal Employment Opportunity Coordinator for the L.A.P.D.:

"Our job is to take people into custody without beating them up," Bivens notes. "If a man becomes abusive, the first reaction of many men is to retaliate in kind. Because of the way they're socialized, women look for ways to accomplish the same task without a fight. And often that's just the kind of skill we need, given the changes in law enforcement."

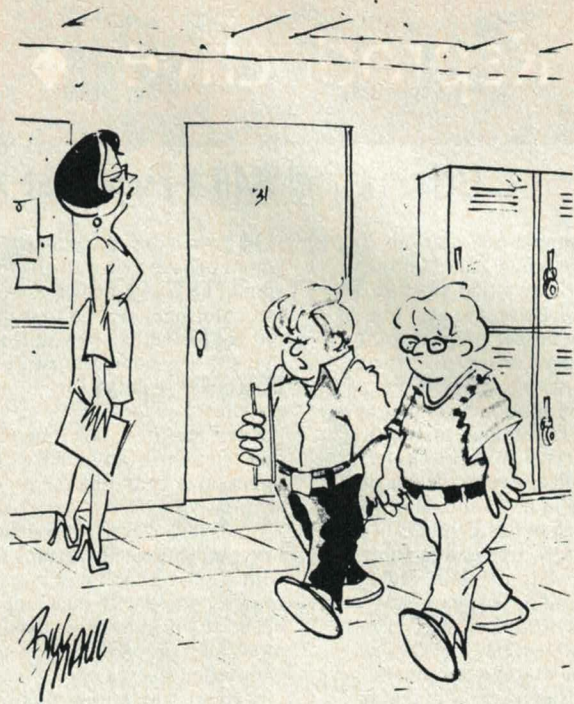
— Ms. Magazine

New Fetal Test Lethal for One in Nine

The U.S. National Institutes of Health have approved a wide study of a new fetal testing technique for deformities which cause miscarriages for 3 to 9 per cent of fetuses tested.

The technique, which allows doctors to find out in the first three months whether a fetus is genetically defective, will soon be performed on Canadian women on an experimental basis. The procedure involves inserting a catheter into the womb through the vagina and removing cells developing in the placenta. Called chorionic biopsy, it can be performed at eight or nine weeks, as opposed to the 19th week for amniocentesis.

Amniocentesis is considered to be a somewhat risky test, with a miscarriage occurring once in every 200 women tested, but the chorionic biopsy currently causes women to miscarry nearly twenty times more frequently. Apparently the high incidence of death wasn't enough to deter the organization from further experimentation and it will be performed on women in the U.S., Europe, China, the Soviet Union. The experimenters feel it will be of use to high risk women over 40 in whose families both parents carry genes that cause genetic defects. Women are given the option of an abortion if the fetus is found deformed.



"She gave me an 'F' in sex education. Made me so mad I felt like kicking her right in the balls!"

Family Life NEEDED

The Winnipeg school board has been told by one of its committees that a comprehensive family life course should begin this September for Winnipeg students in Grades 4 to 9.

Where the pilot project was tried, only a small number of the 1200 students in 11 elementary and junior high schools were kept out of the program by their parents.

The course, which included lessons on birth control, sexually transmitted diseases, pregnancy, masturbation and

human sexuality was o.k'd by 95 per cent of parents. Ninety per cent of elementary students and 80 per cent of junior high school students said they would recommend the course.

The school board committee recommended that notices be sent home each year notifying parents of the program and giving them an opportunity to view course material and the option of withdrawing their child(ren) from the program or any part of it.

VOLUNTEER

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Reproductive ♦ Health ♦ Update

Brian and Mila Against Abortion

The proper and gracious couple of Brian and Mila Mulroney, eagerly awaiting to adorn 24 Sussex Drive, are also like so many proper couples of the Progressive Conservative Party; they are against abortion.

Mila Mulroney let that news drop in response to questioning by Nelson Women's Centre volunteer Bev Bradshaw at a tea held at Nelson, May 18th.

Most of the members of the PC Party are against abortion, Mila Mulroney said, and so are she and her husband, except in cases of rape or incest. Bradshaw then asked if she was aware that the Mulroneys' position was contrary to that of

most Canadians, the majority of whom believe that women should have a choice on abortion. Mulroney replied that she did not know that. She added that she was not really aware of PC legislative policy on abortion.

Brian Mulroney has stated that the Conservatives have no intention of changing the present law.

Bradshaw, cleverly disguised, wore matched gold earrings with diamonds and a cranberry coloured dress with matching heels, accented by grey stockings and a grey wollen jacket with boxed sleeves.

Keeping calm amidst this sea

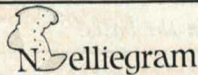
of conservatives, Bradshaw found herself surrounded by provincial Socreds, one on one side who said she wouldn't vote Socred again, and another who said she did it before and she'd do it again. 'What about Human Rights?' asked Bradshaw of the women. 'I'm sick and tired of hearing about Human Rights' came the reply.

Traditional feminine roles seemed to be the order of the day, for when Mulroney was presented with a bouquet of flowers, she leaned down to the five year old girl and said with a broad smile, 'Have I got a boy for you!'

Images

Artificial Fathers

A California judge has ruled that, although a state law provides that sperm donors are not to be considered natural fathers if the sperm is used by a licensed physician in "artificial insemination", that law does not extend to procedures done without a doctor. Therefore, a Sonoma County lesbian who had a baby after inseminating herself, using sperm donated by a gay male acquaintance, must now grant visitation rights to the man and inform him of all major medical and educational decisions affecting her son.



DETECT BREAST CANCER WITHOUT RADIATION. Charles Tennant & Co. (Canada) Ltd is the Canadian distributor of a US produced clinical breast-examination kit which does not require exposure to radiation. The device is called *Thermascan*.

Taking a *Thermascan* test involves wrapping a flexible, reusable, non-toxic mylar foil around the breasts. This foil contains liquid crystals which turn different colours depending on temperature variations. After 15 seconds, a thermal pattern is produced and photographed for use as a baseline record. Breast diseases register as either "hot" or "cold" areas. Cysts and fibrotic areas appear orange or brown, cancerous lesions blue.

The first Québec evaluation of the device is being conducted at a Montréal radiology clinic. In another study of more than 5,000 women, the device spotted lesions in 60 to 90 per cent of patients with breast cancer.

The examination takes about 10 minutes and has so far proven harmless and painless.

Charles Tennant & Co. Ltd is located at 1455 Hymus Blvd. Dorval H9P 1J5, (514) 683-3295.

Communiqué 'Elles

1,200 housing units planned

Twelve hundred non-profit housing units for families and seniors in 12 of Manitoba's urban centres are being scheduled to be built by Manitoba Housing. The three-year plan to build about 400 units in each of the next three years is contingent on Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's funding under the public non-profit program. The housing is being built in response to a critical shortage of affordable housing and the current low vacancy rates in the province. Total capital costs for the three-year building plan are \$60 million.

Manitoba Housing continues to offer shelter allowances to assist low-income families and the elderly persons living in private sector rental units.



JAPAN: EQUAL PAY? Tokyo — Business organizations all over Japan are making it known that they oppose an Equal Opportunity bill to give Japanese women equality in the workplace.

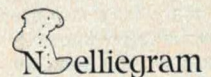
Employers justify lower wage scales for women on the grounds that the women leave after an average of four years. Traditionally, Japanese companies have expected (male) workers to stay with one firm all of their lives.

Government figures show that full-time women workers earn 60 percent of average male salaries and make up less than one percent of executive and administrative positions in both civil service and the private sector.

The Japanese economy rests on the large pool of female underpaid labor. If business is bad, companies lay off women and take away benefits to offset the cost.

Since 1960, the number of women in the Japanese workforce has doubled; the increase includes more older women returning to work, 55 percent of the women in the workforce are 35 or older.

New Women's Times



WHAT VALUE A WOMAN'S LIFE? A spot of news from Venice, Italy:

Last month, a father was convicted of raping his six daughters as they grew up. This man was sentenced to four years in prison, and one newspaper wanted to know 'where was the mother? Why didn't she put a stop to it?'

In the same period, two mothers were convicted of murdering the husband of one of them, who had been raping both their daughters. These women have been sentenced to 24 years in prison. On top of the horrors the daughters have already been through, they are now to be separated from the only people who cared enough about them to put an end to their misery.

The Italian law considers the death of one male to be six times as bad as the physical and mental devastation of six young girls.

J. Meyer,
Venice, Italy



LA RAGNATELA: WEB OF PEACE. Comiso, Italy — On Friday April 13th at Ragusa, Sicily, 12 womyn were tried for blockading a road to the U.S. base at Comiso over a year ago. The protest, against the installation of the Cruise Missile, was an action organized by la Ragnatela, a womyn's peace camp. Only one of the 12 arrested was Italian. The rest came from Denmark, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, and Britain. Additional charges of trespassing were laid after five days of imprisonment, resulting in the deportation of the 11 foreign womyn. This meant a delay in the trial and the loss of the right to prepare their defence in Italy.

The trial resulted in suspended sentences and fines for those charged. It became ap-

parent, in the course of the trial, that the trespass charges were based on complaints which had been signed against the womyn after their arrest. Complaints were not signed against other womyn of La Ragnatela. During cross-examination, the farmers who had signed the complaints were asked if they had ever requested the womyn to leave their property. One of the landowners responded in the negative saying, "In my home, the guest is sacred." The charge was dropped.

Another date will be set to appeal the deportation, the effects of which is felt not only by the 11 womyn charged but by all foreign womyn contemplating actions at Comiso.

Colleen Darraugh/Rites

elliegram

EAST GERMANY: PEACE WOMEN. East Berlin — The government of the German Democratic Republic arrested two women peace activists last winter but released them after six weeks in jail. Barbel Bohley and Ulrika Poppe, members of Frauen Für Frieden (Women for Peace) were arrested on December 12 and charged with passing on information about their country's military build-up to women peace activists. The charges could have led to a 12 year prison sentence. The women were released in January.

Women For Peace chapters in Dresden, Berlin and Halle have demonstrated openly against war toys and military instruction in the schools, demanding education for peace.

Women for Peace was formed in 1982 to protest a law passed that allows conscripting women into the armed forces in times of emergency. The women wrote

State Chairman Erich Honecker that they wanted to break the circle of violence.

Ulrike Poppe, her husband Gerd and others founded a nursery school to provide child care free of military values. It is reportedly the only nursery school in the GDR that is not controlled by the state. Since all space is controlled by the government, they have had difficulties getting and keeping rooms to hold it. A few weeks after their October 1983 opening, the collective members running the center were denounced by the Deputy of Police for "gaining accommodation by deception." Their childcare worker was declared an "anti-social element." The adults were threatened with job loss if they did not remove their children. The center was closed when Poppe was arrested.

Sarah Shulman/
Kinesis, New Women's Times

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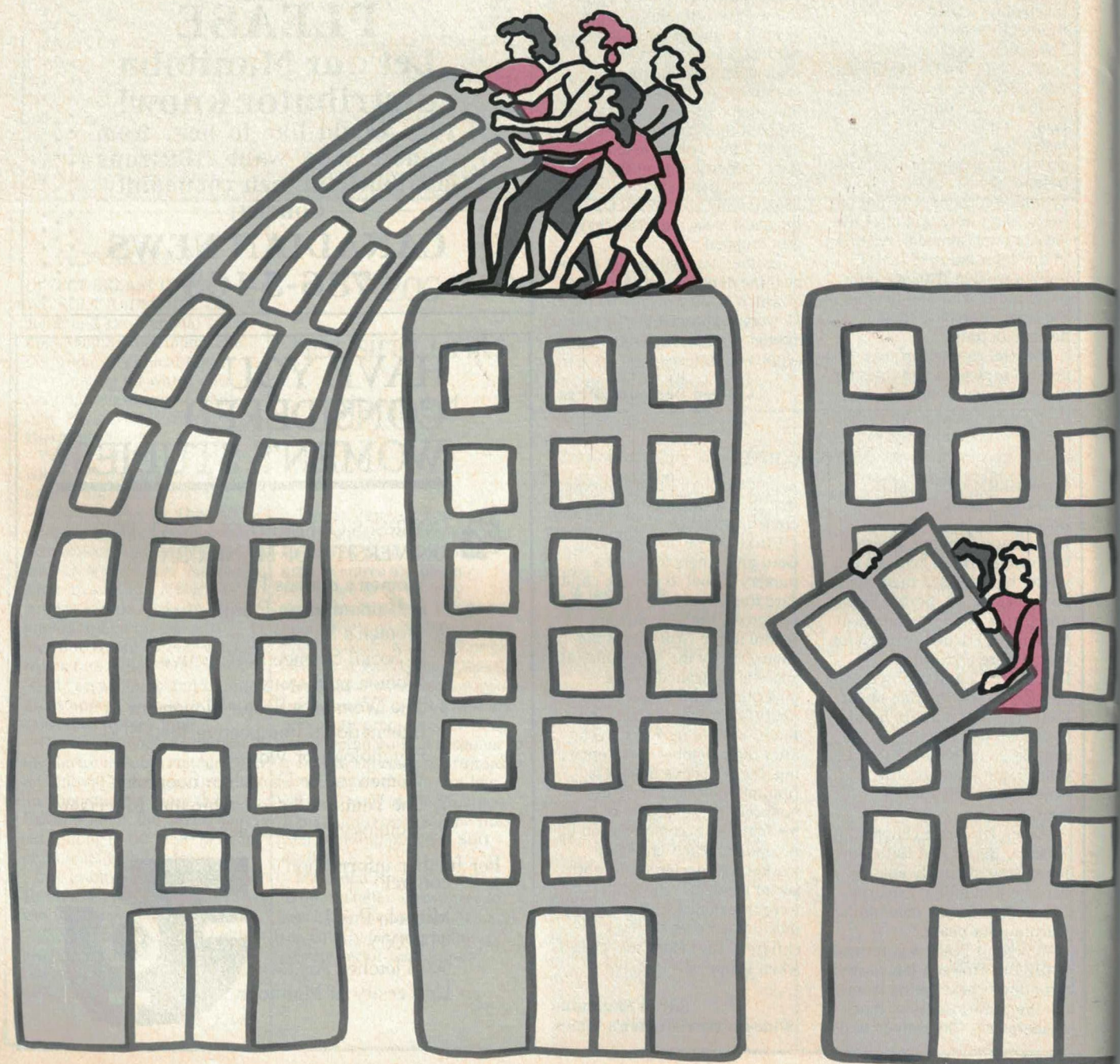
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SPACES

BUILDING IN A NEW DIRECTION



Recent information from the Canadian Council on Social Development reveals that women in Canada are the victims of housing discrimination. In her book *Housing* from the Making Man's Environment Series, Novia Carter probes this issue further by asking, "Who's speaking please?"

"The debate on whether there is a housing shortage or not seems to depend on who is speaking, what set of figures is being used, and the speaker's perception of what constitutes 'adequate' and 'affordable' housing"

Janet McClain and Cassie Doyle, in their book *Women and Housing* construct a gender-based analysis of the Canadian housing market. They develop a statistical profile of Canadian women as a distinct market force with their own housing needs.

An intriguing aspect of this new look at women's housing is the predominance of older dwellings (pre-dating 1960). In Canada, a full 46 percent of the population lives in these older buildings; according to some accounts this situation is more severe in Winnipeg. The arresting circumstances of the recession have resulted in an overall housing shortage which is characterized

by all-time low vacancy rates and a scarcity of housing for purchase.

Women are victims of the resulting timewarp, between available housing choices and radically different modern lifestyles. The upswing in divorce and the increasing participation of women in the work force have increased the number of women housing consumers. This circumstance has not, however, made it easier for women to obtain adequate, affordable shelter. Women have a long way to go in order to achieve wage parity and equal access to higher income employment. The result of this gap is evident in the startling one-third of women who pay more than 30 percent of their income for shelter.

Women are twice as likely to rent than own their housing, a powerful indicator that they do not have equal access to financing for home ownership. Ironically, women's credit needs are growing as they more frequently head families and provide the major source of family income. Current figures indicate that 68 per cent of Canadian single women in the work force have children and the proportion of working women with school-age and under children has increased to 54 per cent.

McClain and Doyle state in *Women and Housing* that "We have established ourselves as primary housing consumers because of our more intensive use and occupancy of housing units."

They also tell us that, "Women will not achieve equal social status if problems of access, affordability and security of housing are classed as peripheral or secondary by public policy makers."

There is a close link between available housing options and economic outlook. Because of their limited capacity to earn high salaries, women have traditionally been perceived as anomalies in the housing market. No studies have been conducted to identify us as a particular consumer group affecting housing demand, as the makers of Canada's housing policy have traditionally seen women as a temporary market force at best. This attitude is based on the assumption that women's housing is temporary in nature, providing for the time between marriage and leaving the nest. This perceived temporary nature of women's needs for housing leads to the corollary assumption that anything goes.

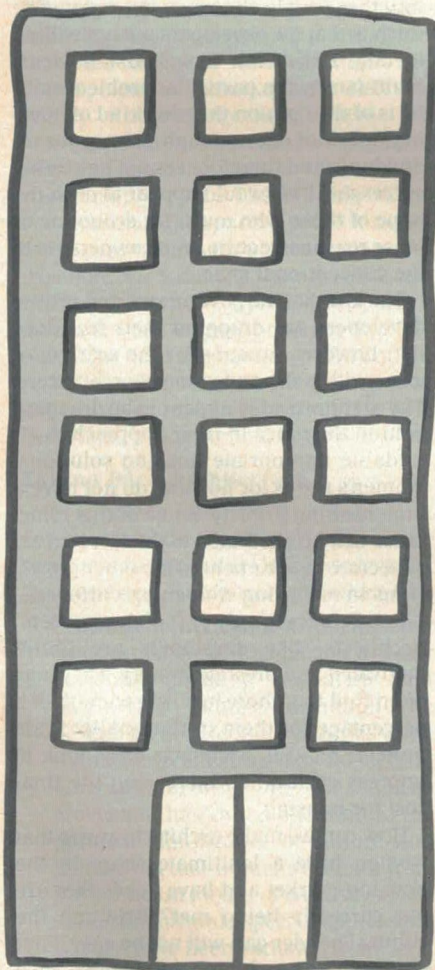
In Winnipeg, as in many major Canadian cities, women form a high percentage of the rental housing market. The 400 per cent increase in divorce rates since 1956 is accompanied by an increase in non-traditional family structures. Many women in low and fixed income situations are finding that rent regulations are not an assurance of available affordable housing.

While the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and the Canada Rental Supply Plan provide assistance to developers of rental housing, much of this accommodation is out of the price range for women at today's salary levels. In addition, many of these newer places are exempted from the full force of rent regulation. Winnipeg has the added distinction of the largest stock of poor quality housing of any major Canadian centre. The situation is blighted further by the seeming unwillingness of landlords to rent to single women or single mothers on low or fixed incomes. Unfortunately waiting lists for income-assisted and public housing are arduous.

For those women who fall into the single-parent category, there is cold comfort in the strength of numbers. In Winnipeg, 30 to 40 per cent of single parent families cannot afford good housing at market price and 75 per cent of these family groups are mother-led. In order to find housing they can afford, women are often forced to inhabit dwellings that are lacking in services, space, storage, security and quality. They are also forced to locate out of range of schools, daycare and employment opportunities.

Women and Housing shows that Canadian women are most likely to be housed in older dwellings. It is even more likely to be the case in rural areas and small towns where housing construction is on a smaller, less frequent basis. For those who live in pre-1960's housing, there is added vexation: apartment blocks with tiny basement laundry facilities, kitchens with appliances and work surfaces located poles apart, unreachable cupboards and cramped and poorly lit workspaces. The barriers inherent in this genre of housing unit design afflict others too. The independence and mobility of children, the elderly and the differently-abled are hampered by inappropriate unit design. As well, the possibility of company or assistance for routine maintenance tasks is precluded by the lack of sufficient space in certain areas such as the kitchen and laundry areas. These areas are often already isolated within the unit, reflecting the attitude that traditional woman's work space doesn't warrant significant attention. This makes maintenance needlessly frustrating, isolated and difficult.

Other non-productive housing design features include rooms and storage space which by their paucity suggest that women are temporary residents. Evidence of this attitude can be found in the lack of storage in single bedroom apartments and in the semantics of the bachelor suite. Women, the elderly and single people who, for economic reasons do not own a single-family detached dwelling, are all faced



with the subtle discrimination of the older apartment. One is not supposed to permanently reside in such a place; it is supposed to be transition housing.

Scaling The Ramparts: Housing Attitudes and Policies

Our cities and our country were founded on the premise of divide and conquer. The land survey and the grid pattern are strategies employed to efficiently service, defend and populate territory. The history of land settlement for most of Canada is characterized by a vigorous marketing plan that sold immigrants the idea of wide open spaces. In land poor countries, a mystique was created regarding the homestead as an estate. For many, this mystique assumed literal proportions since land was made available in quantities that were beyond their wildest dreams. Arriving, as they often did, from countries with land based economies, immigrants associated acres with status. My own great grandfather, fresh from Northumberland, named his piece of prairie, "Felton park". Vestiges of the mystique linger in attitudes we have acquired toward the holding of property. Perhaps the most poignant reminder of "a man's home is his castle" is the way we inhabit suburbia. Novia Carter describes it as: "a dreary similarity to the curved streets that go nowhere, wide lots separated from one another by hedges of ranch-style fences, and the scant variation in the design of the houses themselves. A combination of real estate-hype salesmanship and personal dreams that make the suburban lifestyle a highly prized objective for many Canadians. It is that magic place that lies within commuting distance of the city, where people live in nice houses alongside other nice people and their equally nice children, send their kids to the good 'family of schools' which attract the best teachers, live the Good Life, and close their eyes to any of the real difficulties that beset them either individually or as an extended community of the city proper."

Just like the rural homestead, distance is par for the course in many suburban areas and isolation goes by the name of privacy. Standard house design attempts to fulfill its mandate to conform to the dreams of any prospective occupant and like the settlement of the West, it is all part of a sophisticated marketing plan. Land speculation once again ghettoizes women. Because many women work in the home, it is important that women's space reflect their needs. They are often imprisoned by lack of transportation and isolated from meaningful contacts with other people, including their children once they reach school-age. Places that accommodate the traditional work of housekeeping and child

rearing are out of sight and out of mind.

Public space is no less formidable where women are concerned. If anything, public space tends to be prohibitive. Lyn Lofland in an April 1984 article for *Women and Environments* asserts that there is a tendency for people to think that, "Urban public space is a fearful place where women are at risk."

She goes on to illustrate that this attitude is exactly what deprives women of enjoyment of the larger scale of urban space. "To convince women they are always unwanted and at risk in urban public space is not only to deprive them of the pleasures of the 'street' but, by discouraging their presence, to increase or create the danger and the inhospitality of the 'street' to them as well".

In essence, it means that we are once again confined to quarters by an attitude.

The castle is very present in multi-family living spaces. Floor plans of apartments and houses are similar in many ways. As with the single family detached dwelling, housework does not rate legitimate space and isolation is heightened by the lack of communal facilities for meaningful social interaction.

Given the prejudice inherent in the design of Canadian housing over the last hundred years, it is not surprising that women have chosen to opt out of their traditional roles as housekeeper and wife. At a time when women have just begun to explore new lifestyles, it seems tragic that they are so constrained by housing that does so little to address the ways women live.

Women are aware that it is important to seek precedents for our new chosen life-paths. People like Dolores Hayden, writer of *The Grand Domestic Revolution*, are searching for the roots of woman's culture in the material feminist movement of the nineteenth century and other aspects of women's history. Women are eager to find their own examples and solve their own problems and are creating new housing types that are founded on women's living realities. Crisis housing and transition housing are just two examples of the ways that we are learning to make places for experiences that are woman centred. It is time for us to take the next step and address the larger scope of woman's spaces. The places that we work in and inhabit should be our own and say something about the way we have chosen to live. We shouldn't be forced to choose the least of all possible evils.

Appropriate Housing Design: The Big Chill

When it comes to making affordable liveable space, one quickly gets the impression that women are swimming

against the tide. There is a chilling lack of concern for the cost of housing that is being produced with the assistance of CMHC and a distinct aloofness from private developers. Rent regulations are a strong deterrent to the building of new units even during an apartment shortage. At a time when some innovative thoughts would be welcomed on the subject of affordable housing, the design profession is strangely silent. An interview with one of Toronto's prominent design professionals served to indicate that the waters of the mainstream of Canadian architecture are icy.

Ron Thom has made his reputation with designs that house people. Praised for the humanity of his living spaces, his work has been published in *Canadian Architect* and *Chatelaine*. Thom is quick to profess his empathy with women's concerns, but his statements refer to women as homemakers and housekeepers, rather than homeowners and career persons. He is careful to point out that he was brought up during an era when women assumed more traditional roles and present opportunities for women were inconceivable.

On housing quality and affordability, it is clear that Thom feels that excellent affordable housing can be designed for the way that people choose to live today. The catch is that the developers are not willing to take risks with new housing ideas. Multi-family is a particular problem since he is of the opinion that this kind of housing does not offer enough privacy for individuals and therefore cannot be readily successful. This would appear to dash the hope of those who must, for economic or other reasons, require home ownership in the conventional style.

The fact that the government and private developers are dragging their feet does not, however, account for the scarcity of ideas within the profession of architecture. The architects also appear to be dragging behind the times in their approach to affordable appropriate housing solutions. Women's needs for housing do not have a high ranking priority. Some of this reluctance can be attributed to the fact that architecture lags far behind the other professions in attracting women practitioners.

Indifference is only part of the problem. Architects, like developers are profit-motivated and prestige-hungry. They, too, often find that there just isn't enough of a percentage for them in the smaller scale project. As well, architects often look to impress each other, increasing the final cost for housing.

How can we make architects aware that women have a legitimate share in the housing market and have needs that are not currently being met? Bridging the cultural/gender gap will not be easy. First one must be convincing that women have

legitimate concerns regarding the design of housing that they occupy.

Unsurprisingly, the *Architoba* exhibition at Eaton Place in Winnipeg from May 24 - 26 did little to provide optimism that things are improving.

Housing did not appear to be a great concern for local designers, as evidenced by the display. Most of what was billed as Winnipeg Domestic Architecture in the screen programme wasn't domestic. The models of public edifices that formed the body of the exhibition do not involve the average person who will neither occupy the buildings nor go past them regularly. The lack of interpretive information for displays also failed to engage the interest of the passers-by. The few model houses were uninvitingly plunked on a table without any text or visuals to show the interiors or explain their significance. It would be easier to sympathize with the plight of the architect if they appeared to be concerned with issues that affect us more directly than the Mississauga City Hall competition.

One of the few redeeming elements of the *Architoba* exhibit was the video interview with Lydia Simmons, a New York architect. Simmons works for a non-profit housing corporation that provides affordable housing in the inner city. The spaces that she designed for her high rise development are remarkable for their sensitivity. Kitchens are not isolated. The laundry is in a foyer space with good finishing material and a view to the children's play space. The building tries to accommodate the spaces needed for community, another helpful weapon against isolation. Ms. Simmons states that she cannot understand why this approach wouldn't work for profit-making development. The units were so easy to fill and the residents are so satisfied that the usual administrative problems of a high rise were completely circumvented by good design.

Taking Back Architecture

In a recent issue of *Fuse* magazine, Toronto feminist Pauline Fowler raises some interesting points in her analysis of the worldview of architects. She states that,

"The meeting of feminism and architecture can be viewed as part of a wider collision between feminism and patriarchal culture, although the development of feminist analysis in the realm of architecture lags far behind other cultural disciplines. The Women's Movement has called attention to the political significance of culture and pointed out that women's absence from the dominant modes of creative expression is an integral aspect of oppression. Women have been excluded from 'legitimate' creative traditions, exploited

and subjected to patriarchal ideology within formal representation. We have yet to formulate a feminist opposition to sexism in architecture, and come to terms with the extent to which its traditional or dominant forms are inextricably associated with the exclusion of women from their creation."

In addition, she points to the fact that in architecture, divide and rule has been the order of the day. This has predictably resulted in the ghettoization of the domestic sphere and, by association, housing in general. Following the philosophy of mainstream architecture, Fowler shows that to mainstream architectural theorists, "domestic buildings are not architecture at all....Rooted venacular is the term used for this construction...it has 'nothing to do with the traditionally representative role of architecture'."

Architecture is seen as something that occurs in the public realm not in the private domestic household. Based in part on definitions of public and private that date back to ancient Greek civilization, architecture is meaningful work that occurs in a permanent way in the public sphere. The building that results in housing is a more or less continuous process that occurs in the private or domestic realm and as such is defined as 'labour' much as any other kind of household task. The fruits of this labour are impermanent and repetition of effort is continually necessary.

That low-cost housing has diminished the prestige and relevance of architecture proper is the conclusion of the theorists. The inevitable result of the over importance of domestic architecture has, degraded the 'true' architecture of the public realm, they say. But women made 'vernacular' design and it was this design that formed the archetypal basis for forms such as the Greek temple. Overwhelmingly it is women that are rejected by this symbolism. This rejection is indicative of more far-reaching social irresponsibility.

Fowler quotes political theorist Jean Bethke Elshtain who states that,

"Domestic architecture is extremely important; attitudes that place it in an inferior position need to be eroded...Architecture has traditionally been maintained as an elite precinct, with a discourse so esoteric as to make it virtually inaccessible to anyone but the initiate, and there is a corresponding disdain of input from non-architects. There needs to be a much greater exchange between architects and the people they profess to represent"

The problem with architecture and housing is that we lack access to architecture. The general public is unable to avail itself of its service for individual use. In an ac-

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companying *Fuse* article, "Designing Dissent" by Brenda Millar, we see an attempt by women to feminize architecture. In this design competition, the Toronto Women's Cultural Building (WCB) and the Women's Architecture League create a forum for the exchange of ideas on the architecture of feminism.

Among the various photos of WCB designs, the Kitchen to Kitchen Radio appears to address the omnipresent feelings of isolation that women experience as a result of inappropriate living space design. Other positive indicators are to be found in the April 1984 edition of *Women and Environment*. Here some of the articles feature work that promotes extended families and decentralization such as the 'granny flats' and 'Shelter Plus' for single parent families. Both these concepts stress the importance of maintaining connections between families and support systems. Granny flats are residences that can be attached to a single family dwelling so that an older person can retain their autonomy while still having the benefits of family living. Shelter Plus, on the other hand, creates multi-family spaces with support services that exceed basic shelter. Added services might include day care and communal need facilities. Both ideas have a lot of humanity since they enable and empower persons and families to be more self-sufficient.

For the problem of women's housing, the work is just beginning. Aside from assailing the profession of architecture, women must make their voices heard to government and private industry. We have the strength of numbers and could be a powerful voice for the humanizing of living space for many like-minded groups. It must be made clear that housing and employment are inextricably connected, so that solutions will involve both aspects of the problem. We cannot begin this push too soon. Novia Carter states the problem rather well:

"Many of the social changes and technological developments that have taken place in the last few decades in Canada imply that the housing of the future will be physically different in many ways from that of today. This will not come about by any massive destruction of our housing world as we see and perceive it in our lives today. It is possible that only a small percentage of the housing around us will even look vastly different, if the statement is accurate that 60 per cent of the entire building environment that will exist by the year 2000 already exists today."

The sooner we can make some changes, the less drastic will be the consequences of a housing market that doesn't fit the way women live.

THE ELECTRONIC COTTAGE

Glenda Jowsey

In *The House Of Women: Art and Culture in the Eighties*, reporter Gail Hamilton (off our backs, June '84) states that woman's culture comprises, "decentralized cooperation, absence of laws and taboos, the extended family, people knowing and cherishing one another, sharing of community resources."

The surprising element in this piece is the striking parallel between what Hamilton reveals as traditional woman's culture and the culture of humanism that Toffler seems to advocate in *The Third Wave*. Toffler describes in his chapter on third wave lifestyle that the development of neighbourhood activists reflects big governments' inability to deal with problems affecting diverse constituencies.

We are already making some positive moves toward taking control of our lives and our spaces. The move toward cooperative living among women is both decentralist and empowering. In Dolores Hayden's *The Grand Domestic Revolution*, a critical connection is made that supports the historical basis of decentralism in women's culture. Many of the key concepts such as paid housework and communal arrangements for child care and house-keeping are things that are mentioned by Toffler as new developments of the "Electronic Cottage". We have the historical precedents and rudimentary tools of infrastructure that may enable us to make the future our own. Hayden points out that

we could, in fact, reorganize spatial arrangements on a block by block basis to ensure adequate open communal space, play space and better patterns for living.

Lately there are many signs of a growing trend to laud the computer as an enhancer of our lives and spaces. In a recent *Newsweek*, the new technology is extolled as a humanizing force within the workplace:

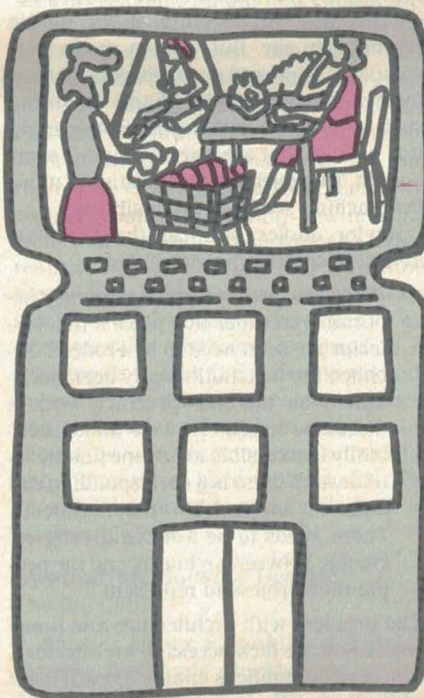
"Paradoxically, as the computer takes over more and more clerical functions in the modern office, the architects and designers are increasingly abandoning industrial-line inhumanity for human — even romantic interiors."

It appears that the computer is causing the mainstream of industrial architecture to re-examine 'form follows function'. The result is a highly decentralized, more individually responsive workplace. An example is Union Carbide's new \$190 million headquarters in Danbury, Conn. Almost all of the 3,000 workers have a private office of identical size, each with two or more windows. To obtain all these views, the designer streamlined vertical symmetry and fashioned a shop resembling a flat metallic caterpillar — one fourth of a mile long — with 15 legs darting out into the verdant countryside.

These few trendsetters are now providing recreational facilities, communal meeting places and fitness centres to promote and enhance human interaction. The individual is coming to the forefront as workstations are now crafted to suit the person. This development is having far-reaching consequences as the hierarchical relationships of the office are being eroded by new spatial arrangements and furniture that does not conform to the traditional office pecking order. It, "erodes the distinction between the 'reclining' executive chair and the 'action-oriented' secretarial chair."

The blurring of class distinctions and the metamorphosis in job descriptions as mechanization takes command are just some of the benefits. Designers such as Benjamin Beck of the Rhode Island School of Design have given us the ability to work anywhere. Beck's "Wearable Computer Workstation" can be voice activated for work at any location. According to writers Douglas Davies and Maggie Malone, "Beck's invention points toward equality, toward decentralization, not a single power centre. If these designers are correct, the future office of the future may be no 'office' at all"

The fact that the office may no longer be the site of 'work' is something that Toffler predicts as a consequence of the telecommuting revolution that he sees as a consequence of the computer revolution. In *The*



Third Wave, he states that the home will become the workstation, school, shopping centre and recreation centre of the future. This development is something he called the "electronic cottage."

In housing, the "electronic cottage" will have widespread consequences for our emerging lifestyles. For women there could be more than a few benefits. For one thing, people in isolated areas would no longer be automatically cut off from major employment markets. Women, whose presence in the workforce is often intermittent due to family responsibilities, may want to utilize the option of working out of the home.

The technology that provides us with affordable home computers will allow us to have more control over the means of production in the communications and information processing industries. In some areas, employees will be forming their own collectives and contracting to work for their former employers. This collectivity may well spread into other areas of living. The decentralizing of the office may well allow us to explore more feasible plans for collective childcare facilities. Homeworking might in fact eliminate the necessity to spend the time in transit between home and daycare just as it will eliminate the worktrip.

Ultimately, the computer with its immense ability to synthesize information may give us the opportunity to be more directly involved in designing our own spaces. New software that might include local by-laws, the building code, structural data, specifications, product catalogues and costs of materials will enable us to develop at a more individual scale. The machinery could do the graphic productions and writing of construction documents.

But, is this what really we want? The indications seem to be apparent already as we begin in small ways to take control over the making of our living places.

In *Housing*, Novia Carter says that cooperative housing, is emerging as one means of relieving lower-income households from the subservience and often unsatisfactory social conditions of public housing. It could also be an alternative for providing homes for middle-income groups who are often overburdened with high mortgages.

There is undoubtedly greater opportunity for people to achieve home ownership or stability of rental occupancy at reduced cost under the cooperative, Carter explains. Equally important, people can achieve some control over their own housing.

As we are already aware, technology can often be a dual-edged sword. In *Isis* magazine, the article "Technopatriarcha 1990" looks at the dark side of new tech.

The equation is very simple: Telecommuting = Home = Women. For over a hundred years now society has been gearing to the assumption that people will spend one-third of their waking period outside of the home. Women have been the last to leave the nest. Will the new tech decrease the opportunities available for women by enslaving them once again to the home?

Undoubtedly homeworking will have a huge impact on all the infrastructures that we now take for granted. The jury is still out when it comes to the real performance of technology as the provider of meaningful employment for women. Ilse Lenz of *Isis* states that rather than empowering women, homeworking does the opposite. The means of production for text-processing is very expensive; in order to pay it off, women who homework cannot be selective about their hours or amount of work. There is no indication that the shift to homework would benefit women financially. Homework would allow a woman to retain her traditional capacity to do childcare and housekeeping, leaving her with few life options. The personal cost could be prohibitive if she must work long hours too.

Another threat to women's security in the workplace is job obsolescence. Most of the areas most threatened by new tech are traditionally areas of women's employment such as information processing and education. If the job itself is not threatened, its meaning often is, as the machine takes over decision-making duties and communication functions. The automated supermarket checker is a good example of how technology can rob a job of its meaning.

We have seen how women's employment opportunities and economic outlook is inextricably bound with their ability to obtain appropriate housing. In both the job market and the housing market, it is imperative that we grasp the opportunities that the future has to offer us and put them to our use.

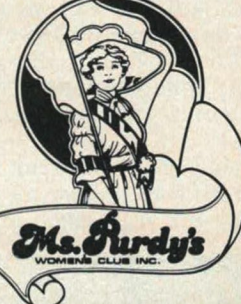
Specifically with regard to the design of housing, if the computer is to revolutionize the home as it has the office, we may well see the humane new office designs become new user-friendly housing environments that are tailored for the individual or small group. The flexibility of this new kind of design could be just the thing to generate a range of housing options for the ways that we live right now. Furthermore the benefits of greater choice in housing will accrue to more than women only. Ultimately it is our response to the issues that affect us the most that will determine the success of the outcome. — this, and our ability to gain support from others with like interests.

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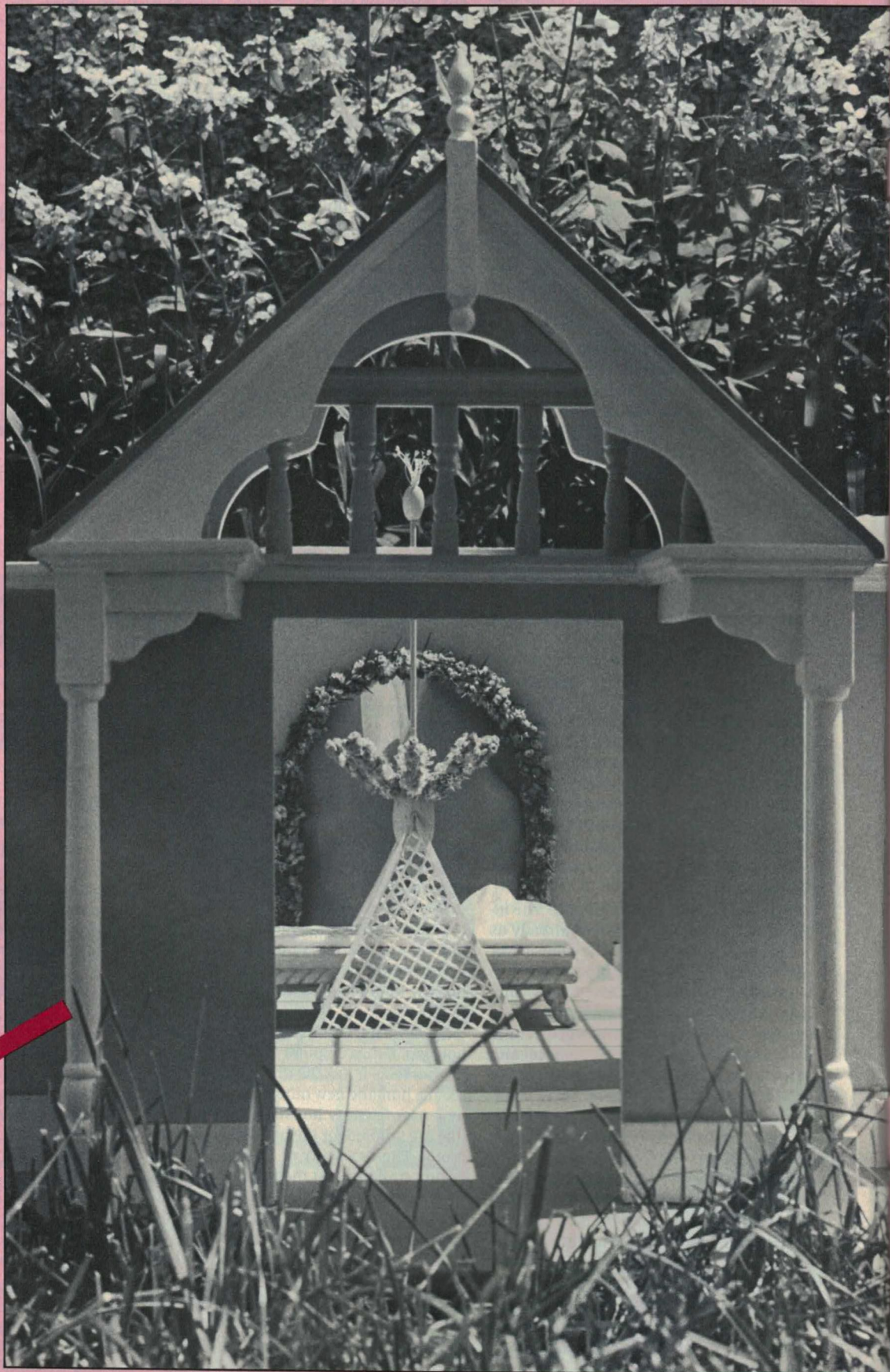


Photo by Debra Pilon.

LA MAISON

Debra Pilon

Whether safe or not, the idea of home is something women cling to: so much of what we are socialized to be as females revolves around what goes on inside those four walls, at "home".

Home's importance to woman has been emphasized recently by five women artists in Ottawa/Hull whose vision of a shared space, *La Maison*, is an artistically exciting depiction of a home created for women by women. The five artists Carol Bretzloff, Suzanne Joubert, Jane Martin, Meri Jean Morrissey-Clayton and Susan Geraldine Taylor have worked collectively for two years on this \$30,000 piece of environmental art which, if all goes well, will be exhibited for the first time ever in Ottawa late this year.

La Maison reflects the personalities of all five artists while simultaneously providing a welcoming atmosphere for the 10 to 12 viewers who will be able to walk through and around *La Maison* when it is installed. The finished structure will be a mammoth 33 ft x 33 ft. x 15 ft. structure artwork which Susan Geraldine Taylor, one of the artists, says represents hundreds of hours of work and an incredible fundraising effort by Suzanne Joubert. When the project was conceived in 1981, Joubert (a prominent Quebecois feminist and artist) agreed to do her utmost to ensure it was adequately funded. But the project is still \$7,000 short of the \$30,000 needed to construct the piece and Susan Geraldine Taylor hopes feminists from across Canada will donate \$1 each to help with *La Maison's* construction. Art galleries in Ontario, Quebec, P.E.I. and New Brunswick have agreed to show the piece in 1985 and the collective would like to see it travel across Canada so women in all provinces can appreciate their creation.

So far, reviewers have been able to see only a social model of *La Maison*. But this summer, as saws cut into pine and carpenters begin hammering nails into the house, this major installation will be on its way to completion.

La Maison is no ordinary house. It has no roof, although some rooms have ceilings. It has no windows, although a

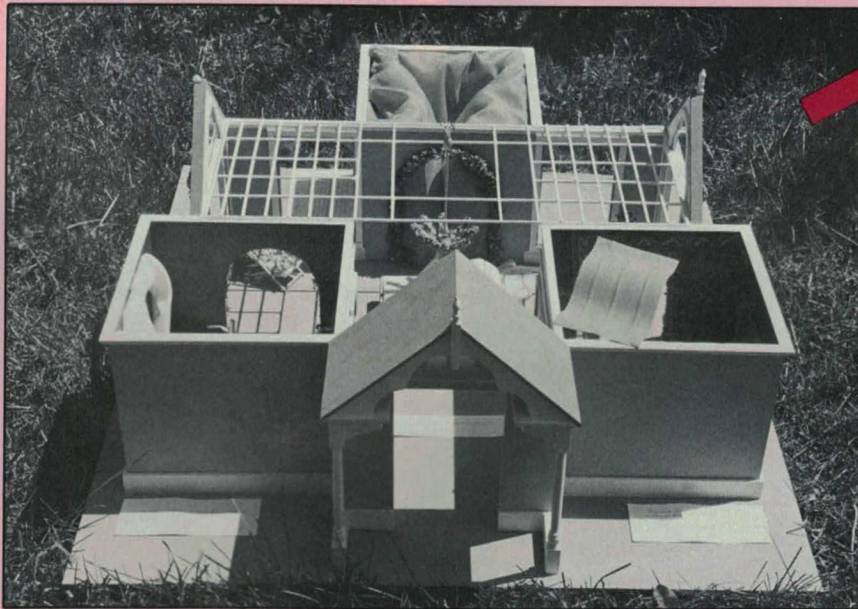
garden/courtyard supplies all the fresh air and light any woman could want. It has no kitchen, no bathroom, no wash tubs. Instead, it has a Womb Room, a Flying Carpet Room and Une Chambre de Mémoire (A Memory Room).

La Maison is, in every way, a dream home. This may be why it has no plumbing, says Susan Geraldine Taylor, whose past individual efforts have included works in which she dressed in a pink lacy dress and served dainties to guests at afternoon tea parties in May 1981 (*A Vision in Progress*) and hosted a summer barbeque in an art gallery for opening night of her one-woman show called *Summer Fun: A Suburban Environment*. In that installa-

reminder of where women fit into homes.

Let's go on a tour of the House. *La Maison* has five rooms — some of which are not really rooms. For example, upon entering the front door, viewers will walk into what seems to be an entrance hallway but is, instead, a portrait room, filled with depictions of the 10 imaginary women who live in the house. Created by Jane Martin, the portraits give the room an air of stately serenity which Taylor feels is somewhat offset by Martin's ability to lay bare her women's souls in the nuances of facial expression.

Another room which is not really a room is the Garden (*le Jardin*). This space, created by Carol Bretzloff, is airy and



tion, she used sand, grass, trees and gravel to create suburban backyards dotted with clothesline umbrellas drooping with diapers on which photos of children had been transferred through a non-silver photographic process called cyanotype. The mother of two, Taylor says the parts of a home which represent women's domestic oppression have been deliberately omitted from *La Maison*. For women viewers, the art will be an escape as well as a gentle

The airy, and spacious le Jardin is located in the centre of La Maison.

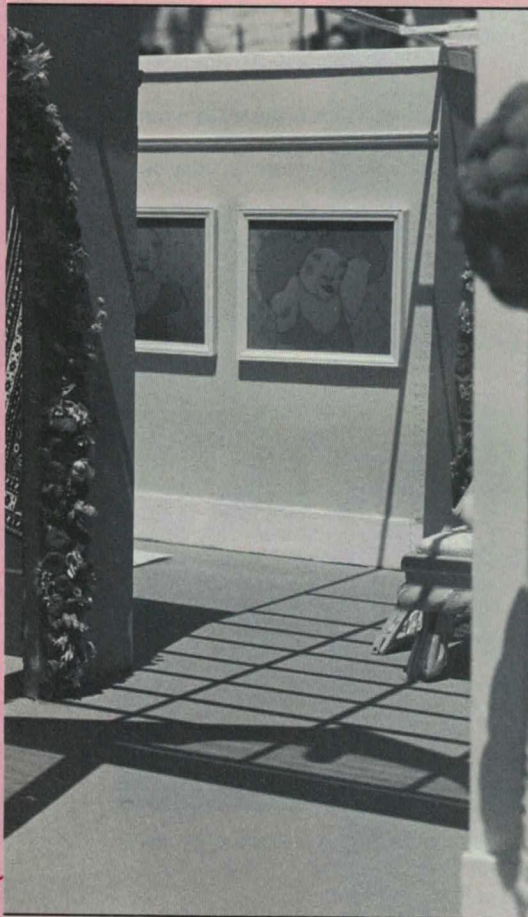
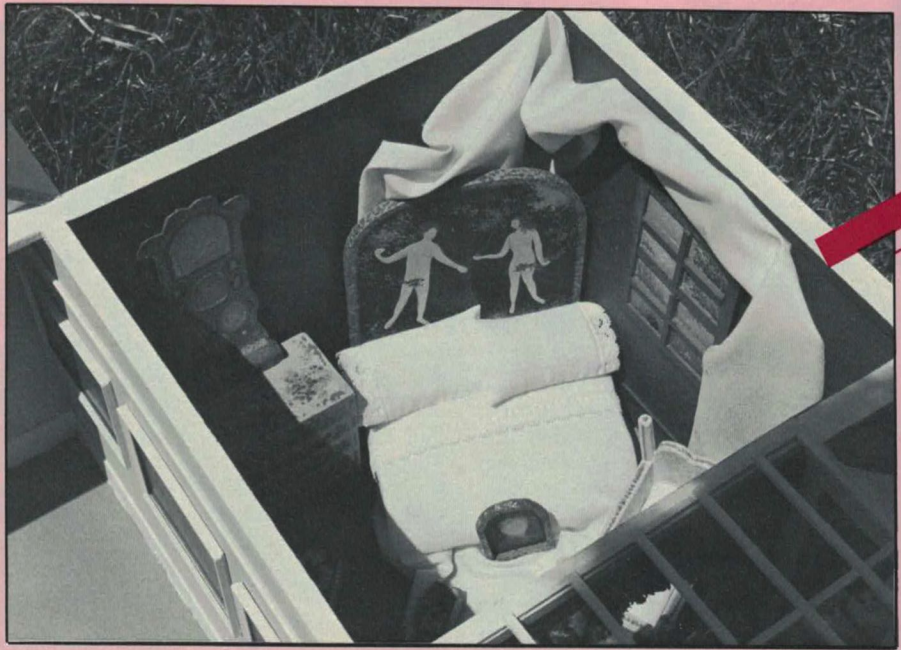
Photo by Debra Pilon.

spacious, open at both ends and located at the centre of the House. It is a social space, a meeting place, says Taylor, who feels its comfortable lawn furniture and plants make it welcoming to visitors. *Le Jardin* reflects Bretzloff's desire to integrate the outdoors and Nature's organic elements in-

LA MAISON

La Chambre de Mémoire depicts some of the elemental relationships in many women's lives.
Photo by Debra Pilon.

The portrait room of La Maison.
Photo by Debra Pilon.



to both her art and life.

Each room, with the exception of Le Jardin (which is about 18 ft. x 10 ft) is 10 ft. x 10 ft. including Taylor's contribution, the Womb Room, which may seem smaller because of its construction. A total experience of warm confinement which can

only be entered by squeezing one's body through a tiny opening, the Womb Room will be able to accommodate, at most, three people at a time. Taylor is not sure how she will feel about entering the room she has created. "I'm terrified of tunnels," she confides.

Occupying a space at the back of the House, the Womb is what Taylor considers to be the tabernacle of La Maison. Three of the artists, including herself, come from Roman Catholic backgrounds, she explains, so it's not happenstance that the layout of La Maison resembles a Church, from the sombre entrance way to an altar-like edifice in the Garden, behind which is the tabernacle (the Womb). Like the tabernacle, which in Catholic mythology holds the precious body and blood of Jesus Christ, the womb is a sacred place, Taylor believes. "We've forgotten that because we've lived in a patriarchal culture for 4,000 years."

The Womb Room will be constructed of thick foam covered with pink nylon. Underfoot, it will be soft and visitors who wish to sit may do so in molded chairs built into the foam walls. Slides will be projected onto the walls of the Womb and an audio track of the fetal heartbeat, the ocean and lullabies will soothe visitors.

If the Womb Room causes claustrophobia, then stroll through the Garden to the Magic Carpet Room, a total flight of fancy created by Meri Jean Morrissey-Clayton. The carpets in this room were painted flat then put on a mold where they were encouraged to undulate. Finally, each was fibreglassed into a permanent shape on walls or the ceiling.

Moving into Suzanne Joubert's room, la Chambre de Mémoire, one enters a place

where the artist has depicted some of the elemental relationships in many women's lives as reflected in furniture: the white wedding bed trimmed with lace linens and dominated by Adam and Eve painted on a huge headboard, a hope chest and a baby's cradle.

You will notice that La Maison is a bilingual house. It's worth noting, too, that the exterior of the house may seem strange to anyone who has never travelled in the Outaouais (West Quebec) or the Ottawa Valley where this distinctive style of gracious home is common. The style often features pillars at the front door, latticework in the garden and carved wooden spires at roof's peaks. By incorporating both French and English into the home, the artists hope to reflect their own unique backgrounds as anglophone and francophone women.

In every way, the artists have poured their individual talents and experiences into La Maison. Their hope is that it will be a distinctively Canadian as well as feminist statement of women's mental and physical desires for security. More than anything, perhaps, they hope their vision of a shared women's space will be seen by as many women as possible across Canada. After all, if The Dinner Party by Judy Chicago could be mounted in Canadian art galleries, these women believe curators of public galleries should see the merit of exhibiting art which speaks to Canadian women and was made "at home".



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The majority of the voting population in Canada comprise a group that has never before known the potential for power that now rests before it. That majority are women voters, who, with a potential 53 per cent of the country's voting clout are only now being acknowledged as a threat to the existing political regime in Canada. With statistics indicating that men and women will vote significantly different in the upcoming federal election, candidates of all three federal parties have been forced to acknowledge that women could make or break any of the federal candidates.

The tragedy of the latest scramble for political power in Canada is that, in spite of the credence being paid to issues of divorce law, equal pay, affirmative action, shelters for battered women, pensions, technological change and pornography, we do not have a woman leader to take up our cause. We are left, once again, turning to a predominantly male political arena, to take our concerns to a predominantly male cabinet in Ottawa, where rests the power of a male prime minister. However, the changes we are witnessing during the pre-election campaign are significant, and the number of women candidates running for election is reason for optimism. The Liberal party has set up a fund for women candidates, while the NDP is offering child care and travel expenses for women candidates running under the NDP banner. And while it can be justifiably argued that by partaking in a system which is still male-dominated women are exercising only a shadow of the kind of real power women need to affect substantial change in their lives, women's power within the existing political structure is one legitimate power base for change.

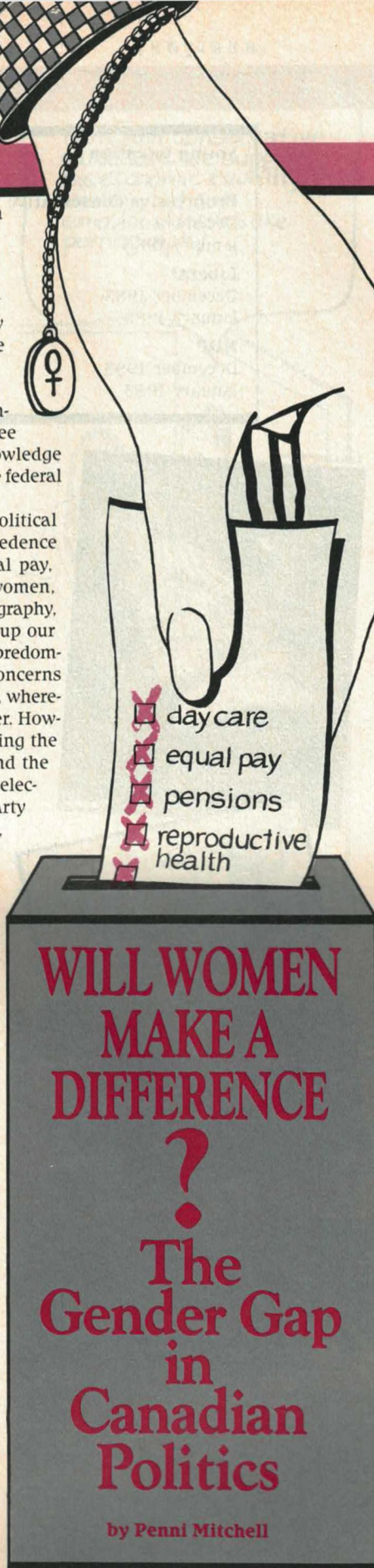
Outside the political arena, we are not without a measure of influence either. As the majority of the unemployed, as victims of soaring interest rates and inflation, we are potential voters who are still victimized by a recession which appears to be benefiting a (male-dominated) banking system and big business community. We have also lost our homes or apartments because we could no longer afford them, as well as our jobs, our buying power and our right to live in a nuclear-free world. But even more unique to our political presence, are those concerns we share because we are women. Male voters, no matter how sympathetic, will not make our priorities their priorities, because they don't face the threat of underpayment in the workplace because of their sex, they aren't as likely to be left high and dry with children and no means of support, they don't make up the two thirds of Canada's

poor and they don't have to worry about where they would find shelter if they were beaten in their home. If they are native men, they don't have to face the threat of losing their treaty status if they marry outside their race. For these reasons, women are a distinct bloc of potential voters and while our agenda is not solely comprised of those issues slated as "women's issues," women can't be expected to apologize for pointing out the inequities in a political structure that was created by and for men.

TESTING THE CANDIDATES

Lobbying politicians on women's issues is nothing new. What is unique this time around, is that women are being credited with the voting power they had since they got the vote over 60 years ago. Women's voting habits may not have actually changed so much as male politicians have finally recognized that women aren't just carbon copies of male voters. The result of the gender gap is that each of the political leaders is now paying lip service to many important issues on the feminist agenda in order to secure votes: daycare, equal pay for work of equal value, sexual harassment, technological change and the threats it poses to women workers. It is not uncommon, for example to find Brian Mulroney addressing a Conservative women's convention in Toronto, quoting Simone de Beauvoir, in the hope that some of her credibility will rub off on his policies. Meanwhile, Liberal leader John Turner talks about affirmative action for companies seeking government contracts, although he has no plans on how such a commitment would be enforced.

While it is impossible to predict just how many of these initiatives would be carried out if either Mulroney or Turner were elected prime minister, there is a measure of empowerment since these issues didn't even make it onto the party platforms a decade ago. This only underlines that our quest for equality within the political system has really only begun, but it doesn't mean that those concerns will be any more seriously resolved than the so-called REAL issues such as inflation, interest rates and unemployment, when a new prime minister is in power. The most women may gain from the politics of the gender gap



may be a share in the ambivalence expressed towards other lobby groups who lack financial and political influence like farmers, peace activists and new Canadians.

Even if all women voters got together and voted as a bloc, they likely wouldn't be able to decipher which party could best serve their interests. Party leaders, co-opting the language of the women's movement, sound like clones of one another when asked what initiatives they support for women. As recent as the last federal election, the New Democratic Party was the most consistent in its support for women's issues; they have had a position on legalized abortions since 1967, before the Liberal government had even legalized contraceptives. But now, because of the Liberal and Conservative parties' latest pleas for women's support, the NDP may face a serious dilemma if their role as women's rights advocates appears to be diminished.

THE WOMEN'S ISSUES BANDWAGON

For the Liberal party, who have been in the position for the past sixteen years to make the country a more egalitarian world for Canadian women, it has taken a federal election to prompt them to promise to eliminate some of the barriers that prevent women from realizing their economic, political and social potentials. The Liberals know the issues well, and so they should. For 16 years they have been educated and lobbied by Canadian feminists on many of the issues they now claim to have embraced. As the official Opposition, the Conservatives haven't much of a track record for supporting the cause of women's rights, although since the realization of the gender gap, Tory leader Brian Mulroney has jumped on the sexual equality bandwagon. When his campaign first started, Mulroney insisted he didn't need an advisor on women's issues, but in January he hired Jocelyn Côte-O'Hara, a financial analyst for Petro-Canada. In his

Iona Campagnolo



Kay Stanley, President of the National PC Women's Caucus.

*1983 Gallup Poll

Voting Intention	Women	Men
Progressive Conservative		
December 1983	46%	60%
January 1983	46%	51%
Liberal		
December 1983	34%	25%
January 1983	34%	27%
NDP		
December 1983	18%	13%
January 1983	19%	20%

pre-realization days, during the Progressive Conservative leadership race, Mulroney wasn't so astute. When a woman asked him about the role of women in the Progressive Conservative Party, Mulroney suggested the two of them go "out for a drink to talk about it." It was no surprise then, when a Gallup poll released just before the New Year, showed a 14 point gap between the number of men and women who supported the Conservatives. Forty-six per cent of committed women voters supported the Conservatives, while 60 per cent of committed men endorsed them. Nine per cent more women than men supported the Liberals and five per cent more women than men said they would vote NDP.

SHOCKING PINK PAPER

WAGE GAP

Women are paid less for their work in the labour force, earning on average little more than half of what men are paid. Although the Canadian Human Rights Act calls for equal pay for work of equal value in federally-regulated employment, this is only enforced on the basis of individual complaints.

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Brian Mulroney still has a long way to go if he wants to convince Canadian women that they would be better off voting PC in the upcoming election. The public record in recent months suggests that he recognizes the power of women's votes in electing his government to power, but like any politician, the difference between recognizing the voting power of women and integrating them into post-election policy is ultimately what counts. Gone are the days when politicians didn't think twice about publicly bemoaning women's issues with denials ("I prefer to think of human issues"), trivializations ("My wife is happy to be a housewife"), and ignorance ("Women just vote with their husbands") during their public campaigns. Day care is no longer a communist plot. Sexual harassment is no longer an indication that women can't take a joke and male MP's found out the hard way that wife abuse isn't a joke for Canadian women. The problem is that the anti-equality politicians still proliferate in the political parties and in their policies. Women's job of weeding out the insincere candidates from the sensitive ones has just become more difficult.

Every political party has its version of how women can achieve TRUE equality. The Tories are focusing on economic equality. Retraining for technological change, an increase in the guaranteed income supplement, a requirement that companies contracted by the federal government hire increasing numbers of women, homemakers' pensions and a central registry for divorce act maintenance and custody orders are all on the conservative agenda, although the specific means of implementation remain undefined. The Conservative party's decisive focus on economic equality is also revealing of the measures that the party does not want to address: namely changes in pornography legislation, disarmament, and reproductive health inequities. Brian Mulroney has said in the past that he does not oppose current laws on abortion and on another occasion that he favours a free vote in the House of Commons on abortion, where MP's vote along personal, rather than party lines. He also wants a free vote on capital punishment.

Even now, the Conservative party isn't consistent in its pledge for economic equality. Kay Stanley, president of the Conservative Women's Caucus recently stated that "affirmative actions is only practical when we've got the economy on sound footing." Brian Mulroney has shied away from most law reforms being pressed by feminists such as stricter penalties for sexual assault perpetrators, permanent federal funding for shelters for abused women and improved support services for women. Finance Critic John Crosbie has said that a Conservative government would consider implementing a means

I am your Conservative candidate. We support the economic equality of women, but not emotional issues like pornography.



SHOCKING PINK PAPER

TECH-NOLOGICAL CHANGE

The introduction of microelectronics has already caused a loss of jobs for women; by 1990, nearly a million Canadian women may be unemployed due to technological change. Any new jobs that the high-tech industries may create are unlikely to be available to displaced women workers, either immediately or in the future, since women are underrepresented in retraining programs and few girls enrol in sciences or math. Women whose jobs have been transformed by microtechnology find themselves performing more routinized, repetitive tasks, under increased management control and subject to health hazards associated with work on video display terminals.

HOW WILL YOUR PARTY ENSURE THAT WOMEN BENEFIT FROM THE NEW TECHNOLOGY ON BOTH A SHORT-TERM AND LONG-TERM BASIS?

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I am your Liberal candidate. We talk a lot about the economic and political equality of women, but we've been SO busy dealing with the recession, we haven't had much time for women's issues.



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VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Women are constantly the targets of male violence. We are beaten in our homes, sexually harassed in our workplaces; as adults and as children we are raped and sexually abused, while the proliferation of violent pornography contributes to the belief that women are appropriate objects of violence and degradation. Legal sanctions against this violence are largely unenforced and the few existing services (transition houses, rape crisis centres) for the women who are victims of this violence are poorly and unreliably funded.

WHAT IS YOUR PARTY'S RESPONSE TO THE ISSUE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN? TO PORNOGRAPHY?

SHOCKING PINK PAPER

test for universal social programs, such as Family Allowance, although Mulroney chooses his words more carefully. No one "in need" would be denied social services, he insists. An increase in military spending is also assured if the Conservatives form the next government, as well as a renewed commitment to testing the cruise missile in Canada.

THE LIBERAL TRACK RECORD

Now that the Liberal party has tested the political waters to make sure it's safe, they too are making election promises to women. The first pre-election splash came in January, with the announcement of an additional \$15 million for women's groups over the next four years. Soon a host of political promises and proposals followed which were, in most cases welcomed by women across the country. Among the barrage of bills prepared for the election (none have been made law yet) is the legislation repealing a discriminatory section of the Indian Act, which leaves Indian women who marry non-native men without their Indian status, a bill to increase the guaranteed income supplement of pensioners by \$50 per month by year's end, a bill to include degradation as an element of the legal definition of pornography rather than relying on sexual explicitness, and a labour bill for the 222,044 member civil service outlawing sexual harassment, extending maternity leave and outlining equal pay for work of equal value in government departments. Recently added on to the list are amendments to the Criminal Code, making it easier to prosecute distributors of hate propaganda. In the fury of pre-election gimmicking and promises, it is easy to forget that introducing a bill into the House of Commons is a long way from making it a reality for Canadian women; but reality is not the stuff that election campaigns are made of.

A look at the federal government's track record is at least as revealing as their commitment to women's rights. For example, the government's 6 & 5 restraint program, had a net effect of increasing the wage gap between men and women to \$7,000 in 1982. The Public Service Commission's annual report shows that while the federal government's management category grew by 22 per cent in 1983, women held only 5.9 per cent of the top jobs, a decrease of half a percentage point from the previous year.

In spite of the lack of progress among women within the federal civil service, the government closed down the Office of Equal Opportunity in Ottawa, despite outcries that women's equality would be further jeopardized by the move.

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men than women earn over \$20,000 annually in the public service and seventy per cent of women in the public service are in clerical categories. Critics of the government also point out that there were no specific employment initiatives for women in the February 1984 budget and that women were left with less than a 35 per cent share in the job creation pie.

For the sake of fairness, no one should expect miracles overnight if John Turner is elected prime minister. It has already taken him three or four tries to polish his stand on affirmative action. At the beginning of April he said he preferred that affirmative action programs for women be negotiated on the basis of goodwill. A month and a half later he said companies seeking federal contracts would have to have a "general program moving towards" equal pay for work of equal value in order to be considered. The federal civil service has had a general program for equal pay for work of equal value on its books since 1978, yet the wage gap between men's and women's wages continues to increase rather than equalize. Turner has been deliberately vague on every issue affecting Canadian women. When asked for his response to funding wife abuse shelters, Turner would only promise to study the issue further.

PICKING A CANDIDATE

So how can women pick a party or a candidate to represent their interest if it appears impossible to trust anyone to deliver on their commitments after the election? Carolyn Garlich, chairperson of the Manitoba Action Committee on the Status of Women's Political Action Committee quickly dispels the hope that women can expect one party to represent their interests.

"They're all politicians," she observes. "They're all being expedient." That's why she believes that it is more important than ever for women lobbying or questioning candidates to convince them that it is important to support women's issues and not drop them once they are elected. Garlich suggests pinning candidates down to specifics — ask them how they plan to implement a program if they say they support it. Consider whether the individual's position would hold up in caucus, or cabinet if their party is elected. Also consider the candidate on his or her own merits, she suggests.

Garlich believes that the blurred distinction between Brian Mulroney and John Turner is all the more reason to press candidates for commitments.

"We aren't the tool of any one party. We have to pursue our interests with any political party in power," she says.

SHOCKING PINK PAPER

PENSIONS

One in four elderly Canadians lives in poverty; 60% of single elderly women, 4/5 of them widows, are poor. Canada's public pension plans (C/QPP) pay 25% of pre-retirement earnings, so that women, with lower pay than men throughout their lives, continue to receive less in retirement. Most employed women have no private pension, and few widows receive any benefits from their husbands' pensions. Full-time homemakers are entitled only to benefits under the Old Age Security/Guaranteed Income Supplement program — which as the sole source of income ensures a life of poverty.

WHAT STEPS WOULD YOUR PARTY TAKE TO ENSURE ADEQUATE PENSIONS AND DECENT LIVING CONDITIONS FOR ALL WOMEN IN THEIR OLD AGE?

SHOCKING PINK PAPER

PROPORTION OF WOMEN IN FEDERAL JOB CREATION PROGRAMS Proportion of Women 1983

Labour Force	41.7%
Need Program	20.0%
Canada Works Program	31.0%
Lead Program	38.0%

**NDP Economic Recovery Paper*



Margaret Mitchell, M.P. Vancouver East

Many women, who are party loyalists to the third political party in the race, maintain that women's only hope for any real change from within the political system lies within the ranks of the NDP. Because the NDP has consistently been ahead of the other parties on women's issues, they vote NDP. But those who believe that forming the government is the foremost means to advancing the goals of the women's movement aren't about to cast their ballots in favour of a runner-up opposition.

Interestingly, a Gallup poll conducted in early March revealed that 12 per cent less women than men believed that the financial and economic situation of Canada would be worse off under an NDP government than it is now. While those statistics did not pan out into women saying that the NDP would improve the situation, it disputes the image of the NDP as poor money managers, at least in the eyes of many women. A further 5 per cent gender gap was recorded between men's and women's views of a Conservative government. Only 19 per cent of women believed that the situation would improve with the Conservatives, while 24 per cent of men thought that it would.

THE NDP PLATFORM

The NDP has the best track record for supporting women's issues compared to either the Liberals or Conservatives, but because they have never formed a majority in the House of Commons, it is impossible to tell what priority women's issues would have in a NDP government. We have only their track record as the "conscience of the Commons" to go by. The NDP has a slightly different approach toward electioneering, focusing on what candidates will do, rather than trying to build up leader Ed Broadbent's profile in the media. The party's stated practice of collective leadership is also somewhat of an anomaly compared to mainstream politics' image of a strong 'winner.' In a country obsessed with lotteries, sports pools and Grey Cup standings, it should not come as a shock to anyone that Canadians want to back a winner when it comes to elections too. For the minority who believe in the importance of smaller victories (winning a constituency rather than a country) the NDP platform may be a viable option. They are the only federal political party pledging to stop cruise missile testing in Canada. Also on their list of 'to-do's' is universal access to daycare on a cost-shared basis with the provinces. As supporters of equal pay for work of equal value, they are the only party recommending active enforcement through labour legislation. Other work-related policy issues are affirmative action for companies doing business with the

government, backed up with rigid enforcement, greater employee input and flexibility around the introduction of technology in the workplace, extended parental leave, and improved measures to improve the economic security of part-time workers, and public pensions for all women.

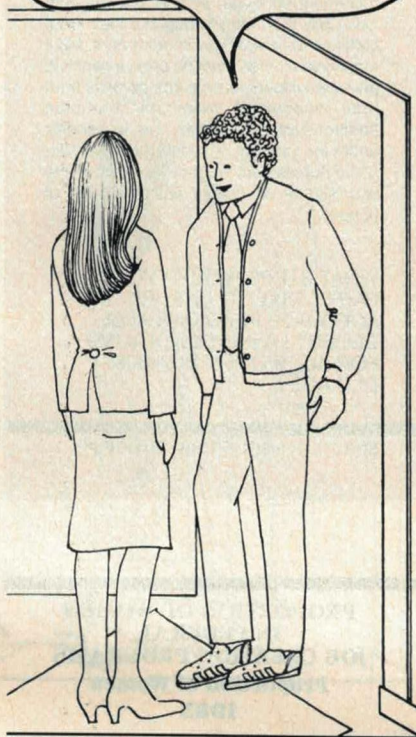
Like the Conservatives, the thrust of the NDP platform is economic recovery, but the NDP approach includes a perspective on how poverty and economic recovery affect different groups within Canadian society. Their economic recovery plan recognizes that the economic recovery for the banking institutions, for example, does not translate into economic recovery for an unemployed tradeswoman. In its policy statement on the economic recovery for women, it says:

"While women bore a greater proportion of the cost of this recession, they have seen little if any benefit from the recovery that we have been hearing about over the last year." It also notes that over the last ten years, women have suffered an average unemployment rate of 9 per cent, while men have had a 7.6 per cent unemployment rate. The party predicts a worsening of the unemployment situation for women, as traditional men's jobs make a comeback and women remain unemployed. Technological change threatens to increase the number of unemployed women in the country and a lack of union participation will make the situation worse. On the federal front, job creation and training programs must include an affirmative action plan for women to deal with this crisis.

The NDP has suffered under 16 years of Liberal leadership, as the Trudeau government has often stolen the NDP's policies and co-opted them into their own liberal formula. Examples include plans for a national oil company (PetroCanada), an unflinching commitment to the principles of medicare (even the conservatives have co-opted this one), laws against sexual harassment in the workplace, equal pay for work of equal value and affirmative action.

Of course not every woman politician is a feminist, but those within party ranks who share the ideals of the women's movement have done more than just echo the priorities of men. As a voice on the inside, they have pushed for day care and shelters for battered women, and have done much educating on women's issues within their party. It is inevitable perhaps that they sometimes become part of the political machinery that relegates women's issues to the back burners, yet

I am your NDP candidate.
Sure, we believe in the social,
economic and political equality
of women—but you've got to
understand that it's
Capitalism that leads to
the oppression of women.



SHOCKING PINK PAPER

DAY CARE

For many years, women's groups, labour, day care workers and parents have drawn public attention to the severe lack of high quality, affordable day care in Canada. The federal government supports day care **only** as a welfare service available to the poorest families. This policy ignores the needs of all children for good care. For all parents who must hold a job and raise a family, day care is an essential service, and thus merits recognition as a collective responsibility rather than an individual one.

IS YOUR PARTY PREPARED TO
COMMIT FEDERAL FUNDS TO
EXPAND DAY CARE SERVICES IN
CANADA AND TO MAKE THEM
FINANCIALLY ACCESSIBLE TO
ALL PARENTS?

SHOCKING PINK PAPER

there are still signs of optimism. A poll conducted before the federal Liberal party leadership convention put Party President Iona Campagnolo behind John Turner as Canadian's second choice for prime minister, beating out Brian Mulroney and Jean Cr tien. The federal Liberals hope to attract some 100 women candidates in the forthcoming election and they have set up a fund for women candidates, named after former cabinet minister Judy LaMarsh. The NDP recently pledged to pay partial child care and travel costs for women candidates in the hopes of attracting more candidates. Jean Pigott, a PC party advisor in Ottawa, told *Maclean's* that she doesn't expect the conservatives to run any more than 14 women in the 282 constituencies across Canada. Historically, the NDP has run the most women candidates, and while they sit with only three women MP's in the House of Commons (the Conservatives have three and the Liberals have nine), they have the highest percentage of women MP's.

THE FEMINIST PARTY OF CANADA

The idea of a Feminist Party was, and still is the dream of many women who supported the Feminist Party of Canada when it was established in Toronto in 1979. Because registered federal political parties must run candidates in 52 ridings in order to qualify as a federal party, the Party won't be running a slate of candidates this time around. But, according to Party representative Moira Armour, the Party is working with other women's groups lobbying on feminist issues. In the meantime, the Feminist Party is dormant, Armour says, although she says reassuringly, "It will rise again." Armour also commends the efforts of the Liberals and NDP parties for recognizing the financial barriers that hold women back from politics and covering some of their election expenses.

While women politicians still remain more visible at a provincial level, their impact on a national scale is larger than it has ever been. The documentation of a significant gender gap is already changing the face of Canadian politics, but the extent of our influence still remains to be seen. At least one thing is for certain. When we do achieve the fundamental changes needed to ensure that we have genuine control over our lives, it will be due to the insight, sensitivity, stamina and power of women both outside and inside existing political structures.▼

AMERICAN WOMEN & POLITICS

Taking Ourselves Seriously

Brigitte Sutherland

One hundred and fourteen years have passed since a woman has run for president of the United States of America, a country boasting of the world's oldest surviving democracy. In 1870, Victoria Woodhull, the first woman stockbroker on Wall Street, the publisher of the first translation of the *Communist Manifesto* in the U.S. and self-proclaimed 'Free Lover', ran as the first woman presidential candidate.

Not until 1984, has another feminist sought the Oval Office. Sonia Johnson, ex-communicated from the Mormon Church in 1979 for her outspoken support of the Equal Rights Amendment and author of the best-selling autobiography *From Housewife to Heretic* (1981), is determined to bring "the greatest hope of the world", the ideas of the women's movement, to the White House. In contrast, opposition parties, principally the Democratic party machine, still toy with the notion of a woman as a vice-presidential running 'mate'.

In those years between the presidential candidacies of Victoria Woodhull and Sonia Johnson, the white, male propertied class reluctantly gave up its self serving right to govern. Only after years of struggle were black men first given the right to vote and women of all colours were finally extended suffrage in 1920. Yet all of these legislative changes remained only theoretical until the advent of the civil rights movement twenty years ago. Even to this day, literacy tests and poll taxes are used by local officials to exclude non-white voters. Once again, this powerful class is being challenged to recognize that the continuation of its policies are a cause of great suffering and, if left unaltered, will continue on to the total destruction of all life on earth.

For Sonia Johnson there is a way to stop this conflagration:

"We must do the most difficult, transformative thing — something that goes against everything we have ever been taught — we must love women; must honour and respect them. Our values must become womanly."

For her, this will require truly revolutionary acts: "Men must learn to love women and women must learn to love themselves or we will become extinct."

Upon this passionate challenge, she campaigns, "I am running for president because no one is saying we must listen to women. We must take ourselves seriously."

"We must stop trivializing our values. Non-violence, life over profit, nurturance, negotiations are values that have arisen to save the planet. It is the only analysis and we must evolve to it."

In a telephone conversation from her campaign centre in Arlington, Virginia, Sonia Johnson says she expects to gain the nomination of the Citizen Party of the U.S.

at their August 10th convention in St. Paul, Minnesota. Her name will be on the presidential ballot in 35 states. Aware that in the last election a mere 236,000 voters cast ballots for the presidential candidates of the Citizen Party, she already doubts that she will receive as many. Yet, "there are lots of reasons to run this campaign and many victories to be gained along the way". By putting forward a positive image of a woman taking herself seriously, by neither asking for permission nor settling for a vice-presidential spot, she sees the potential for much consciousness-raising with people beyond the usual dialogue of the feminist movement.

Because the male presidential candidates will never speak to the realities of women's lives, Sonia Johnson feels compelled to say to the 1984 electorate that "one half of the world is waging all out war against the other half and we can't keep killing each other and hope to survive." She is determined to make this war visible. "As long as it is invisible and it is legitimate to wage war against women, there is no safe place, not for any class or ethnic group, nor for any country." She knows that the women's movement has arisen because of the violence in our most intimate relationships — in the bedrooms, in our homes. "If you can't stop rape (just rape, never mind incest, battering, sexual harassment, genital mutilation) in one place at one time, what hope is there for global peace?" she declares.

Not yet bored with present presidential front-runners, Sonia Johnson feels that after the Democratic and Republican conventions, the media will come and talk to her as a way of stirring things up. She has chosen not to work in the traditional party system because "as a woman it hates me, keeps me powerless and poor, and makes me feel rotten about myself. I must honour myself by removing myself to keep my integrity." Her many years as a Mormon and her eventual expulsion for her feminist activism within the church has made her reluctant to advise women that hers is the only way. However, Sonia often wishes and sometimes dreams that "one morning the ministers and priests would come to give their sermons and not one woman would be in attendance. And down the street, the campaign office would be deserted of women." She knows everything would soon collapse because women are at the bottom of everything. Although dying, this "system of the dead" survives vampire-like on women's energy: "I wish women would remove all our energy, love, attention from patriarchy and focus on a new vision."

The possibility of a woman being nominated to the Democratic presidential ticket does not excite Sonia Johnson. She believes uppity women who are courageous about women are not allowed to survive in the male controlled political

system: "The women usually chosen by the 'bore-ocracy' will be a female impersonator and will make male decisions because she must be a token or she'll be put out of the position."

Despite this caution, there are a number of feminist politicians' names bandied about as possible Democratic running mates. Presently in the lead is the protégé of Democratic speaker of the House, Tip O'Neill. Geraldine Ferraro, congresswoman from ethnic Queens, New York, has been an active supporter of women's rights such as pro-choice, the ERA, while making her main focus the economic needs of women. She is considered part of the mainstream of the Democratic party and lauded for not threatening the male egos about her. Surprisingly, she has supported MX missile

presidential nomination, she said recently in *Time* that, "women should campaign for President, being a white male is no longer the qualification for the job." She has led the Caucus on Women's Issues since its inception, and as a leading member of the Armed Services Committee, daily questions the necessity of a bloated military budget and actively opposes any potential draft. Other issues of importance to Pat Schroeder are the hazards of nuclear power, the disposal of toxic waste and the economic realities affecting women's lives. Whether she has chosen this role for herself or not, she is considered an outsider because she refuses to play by Democratic male party rules.

Often mentioned as a V.P. contender, is congresswoman Barbara Mikulski from Baltimore, Maryland. Described as the most radical feminist in the House, she is said to have anger, abruptness and lack of tact which apparently is enough to make many mainstream politicians wary of her. An extremely effective speaker, she is an advocate of progressive health, consumer and labour issues and an opponent of the MX missile and nerve-gas research. In addition, she supports the nuclear freeze. In the June issue of *Mother Jones*, Kaye Northcott reports that Mikulski, along with the other women mentioned as frontrunners for a possible vice-presidential spot "refused to be pitted against other women for the position and felt they should be pitted against any potential men candidates." Recalling the first vice-presidential bid by a woman at the 1972 Democratic National Convention, Mikulski remembers "it was a bold and dashing effort as the women caucused to nominate Sissy Farenthold from Texas to show their displeasure with the convention tactics of George McGovern."

Despite only 24 Congresswomen of a 435 member House of Representatives, two women Senators, and one woman state governor, there will, in 1984, be 50 per cent representation by women as delegates to the August Democratic convention. In November, women will finally make up 54 per cent of the electorate. This female majority are the women of the now famous gender gap; those favouring "candidates perceived to be more peace-oriented in foreign affairs and caring on social programs and the economy," as predicted by an '82 Republican poll. These observations are confirmed in the book, *Gender Gap: Bella Abzug's Guide to Political Power for American Women* (1983). Unlike the Republican survey, Bella Abzug predicts that this trend does not bode well for the incumbent. "What Ronald Reagan pretended to do for women was a sham, what he did against women and children was only too real and hurtful. It was nothing less than a massive, across-the-board attack on every govern-

ment program affecting women and children that had been labouriously won over a period of decades."

Black women suffering the double burden of racism and sexism can confirm this plight. Angela Davis, a noted black activist of the 60's and 70's and presently a professor of women's studies at San Francisco University, is the vice-presidential candidate of the U.S. Communist Party. As keynote speaker at the '83 National Women and the Law Conference, she focussed on the brutal socio-economic impact of President Reagan, where "the average income for female-headed households is \$10,408 and only \$7,425 for Black women. In this '84 presidential race, she urges for a broad-based coalition to defeat Reagan and his policies.

Though desirable, the difficulty of forging such a coalition might be explained by Black women like Paula Giddings, editor of *Essence* magazine, and Frances Beal. In an article by Barbara Reynolds in *U.S.A. Today*, each expressed their hesitations about the white women's movement. Giddings says, "Most of those feminist organizations have racist tendencies, and black women have had a hard time dealing with that." Frances Beal can't see much coming her way when, "White women demand from men an equal part of the pie. Equal to what? What makes us think that white women, given the positions of white men in the system, wouldn't turn around and use their white skin for the same white privileges?"

Even when envisioning a multiracial movement, Angela Davis cautions that "When a white woman becomes involved with a struggle that involves racially oppressed women, it must be with the understanding that it is in her interest that she do so. Only in such a unity can the basis be laid for a world without racism, sexism and the threat of nuclear war."

Although defeating Ronald Reagan is high on the political agenda of most political progressives in the U.S., Sonia Johnson expects him to win by a landslide. She believes people are so terrified of the future under Reagan that they are giving him a victory "by all the positive and negative energy that is being invested in him." She feels Americans will elect him "because we are not concentrating on what we want, what we love and what we believe in."

As an example she quotes a 1980 election exit poll which showed that if all the people who had wanted to vote for John Anderson (then one of the presidential alternatives to Carter and Reagan), had done so he would have become President. "Soon we must take the courage to vote out of principle and integrity. It is the only way to help change values, to achieve the shift in consciousness that is necessary for us to survive." ▼

Photo by J.E.B. (Joan E. Biren)



development and funding for Trident and Pershing II missiles, though lately has spoken against their deployment. On the issue of stationing U.S. Marines in Lebanon she has, in opposition to her mentor O'Neill, sought their withdrawal because she identified with other mothers of 19 year-old sons. In the July issue of *Ms.*, Geraldine Ferraro is quoted as saying, "I think we each bring our lives to congress; as a woman I think I do that. I think you have to legislate like that. I think you have to be concerned about people's feelings... because you have to make things personal."

In contrast, Representative Pat Schroeder of Colorado, is not nearly as popular with the male members of Congress. Although, her name is being mentioned in conjunction with a vice-

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REVIEWS

Entre Nous

Entre Nous: Starring Isabelle Huppert and Miou-Miou/written and directed by Diane Kurys.

There never have been gay men or lesbians in Hollywood films, only homosexuals

— Vito Russo
The Celluloid Closet

The barrage of liberal critiques — some of these actually liberal feminist critiques — concerning Diane Kurys' latest film *Entre Nous* can be summed up as follows: it is a sensuous film, but not a film about sexuality; a sensitive film, but not a film about romantic love; an exploration of feminine friendship, but not — certainly not — a lesbian film.

Indeed, to the majority of cinema-goers who are heterosexual, and who are, subsequently, entrenched in a liberal, or perhaps, even a conservative mindset, *Entre Nous* could never be a film about two women in love. To the mass of mainstream critics it is not a lesbian film because the film does not come out and state its sexual orientation blatantly; any sexual love between the film's two protagonists is too implicitly and ambiguously understated. Therefore, because it does not kick critics in the face, the potential for lesbian love in Diane Kurys' new film cannot possibly exist. I am not suggesting that the lesbian issue is the central theme of the film. Yet, to neglect the love relationship between the two women is only to discredit the film as well as many of its lesbian viewers.

Entre Nous is a story that begins during the Second World War with two marriages. Lena (Isabelle Huppert), a character based on Kurys' mother, is a Belgian Jew who gets released from a detention camp, and barely escapes being sent to Auschwitz by agreeing to marry the highly neanderthal but devoted Michel (Guy Marchand), who proposes to her by passing her a note in a hunk of bread. She agrees to marry him and they escape to Italy on foot. Concurrently, in occupied France, Madeleine (Miou-Miou) weds for love a young art student who soon is shot to death in her arms by a German patrol.

A decade passes, and in 1952, Lena and Madeleine meet in Lyons at the school their children attend. Lena has a nice and comfortable life with the doting Michel, now a garage owner. The coolly beautiful Madeleine, a sculptress, has married the puerile Costa (Jean-Pierre Bacri), a quasi-actor/quasi-fence, whose get-rich-quick schemes always end in disaster. The two

Maureen Medved



Isabelle Huppert, as Lena.

women are instant friends. It is the intensity and intimacy of their relationship that makes them suddenly aware of the emptiness of their married lives, and how incredibly removed and isolated they have become. This contrast between the marriages and the children with the creative and complete world they have invented for themselves initiates their growth together and away from their families.

Entre Nous has much to say about the notion of twentieth century liberal morality. In fact, any radical critique would show that Kurys' work has much to say about 20th century liberal morality. Kurys' film smashes the myth that a woman needs a man to complete her life. It encourages women to analyze their relationships because — like Lena or Madeleine — they might be better off without the men in their lives. But *Entre Nous* extends deeper in its criticism of present-day lives. It also suggests that the oppressive sexual norms of our times — insisting that a relationship must consist of one man and one woman — are not necessarily conducive to personal happiness. That Lena and Madeleine find love and companion-

ship in one another tells us that if a person finds a better partner in a member of the same sex it is something to be celebrated and not condemned. And Lena and Madeleine are well suited. Their relationship is a complementary and not a competitive one. Together they appear whole: while Lena has the strength of character and the determination to pursue her dreams, but not the talent, Madeleine has the creativity, but not the strength. Together they inspire one another, and break the myth of the "Superwoman". The film does this by presenting Lena and Madeleine as a team, each with her own strengths to contribute to an emotional support system, starting a business, and at the end, caring for the children, together. But this is also where *Entre Nous* becomes something of a paradox. Lena and Madeleine's decision to leave their husbands, and their creation of this perfect relationship, becomes what some may consider, a distorted reproduction of the nuclear family. This contrasts with a feminist solution, which would have encouraged Lena and Madeleine to gain emotional autonomy and maturity before they enter into another relationship, whether heterosexual or otherwise.

It is true that *Entre Nous* is very evasive about the exact physical nature of Lena and Madeleine's relationship. And, while many critics would consider the issue of their sexuality non-essential to the plot of the film — and to some extent I would agree — it is still important to acknowledge the important step this film has made in the depiction of love relationships between women. And one only has to scrutinize the misrepresentation of gay characters on the screen to truly understand the progressive leap this particular film has made. According to Vito Russo, there is a common thread binding most lesbian characters in Hollywood films: "All lesbians are outsiders, the films said, and in each film the myth of the predatory but lonely lesbian was reinforced...other films depicting lonely, frustrated women often contained clues to lesbian leanings." Not until quite recently were lesbians portrayed on the screen as anything but lonely, predatory, and sick. Such films as *Personal Best*, *Lianna*, and *By Design*, do contain more positive lesbian characters. However, none of these films succeed in quite the same way as *Entre Nous* in depicting the pain, intimacy, and joy that can be shared between women.

Kurys makes something deeply sen-



Lena (Isabelle Huppert) and Madeleine (Miou Miou).



Lena (Isabelle Huppert) and Madeleine (Miou Miou).

suous and glamorous of this friendship. Lena and Madeleine, isolated for years from real companionship, try on new clothes, write love letters together, become creative, share intimacies, experiences, and dream — mostly about the fashion boutique that they hope one day to open up. The story moves softly and elegantly as if through a soft focus filter. There is nothing hard or brash in this film, simply a story about two women stuck in unsuitable relationships. But there are a slew of complicated emotions: love, boredom, insecurity, jealousy — particularly jealousy. When Lena finally opens up her shop and Madeleine returns to celebrate her success, Michel finds them together,

and, in a jealous fit, he demolishes Lena's store. Madeleine shares Lena's pain and frustration by holding her much the same way that Lena held Madeleine when the latter returned emotionally all busted up from Paris. Scenes such as these ones were most effective in conveying the sense of real love between the two women. And while it is certainly fact that *Personal Best*, *Lianna* and *By Design* are more explicitly lesbian than *Entre Nous* in their content, the argument is that just because a film contains actual footage of two women making love does not necessarily mean that it is a good lesbian film.

These films lacked what *Entre Nous* did not fail to present its viewers — attention

given to the sensuality and intimacy of women's relationships. Therefore, even though the other lesbian films may have been more explicitly lesbian, somehow any affection depicted between two women characters was hard to believe. Whereas *Lianna* was filled with one-dimensional characters, *Personal Best* dealt more with sports than the relationship between the two women, and *By Design* was little more than a ridiculously palatable film for a consumer audience, *Entre Nous* was the only film to date which deals in any artful way with a love relationship between women without offending the lesbian sensibility.

And it might be added that the most effective portions of the film were those inhabited by the boring and pathetic Michel. He is an individual of the Fifties, and although he is a great father to his two daughters and a decent and doting husband, he cannot possibly cope or adapt to the break up of his family. Although such occurrences are acceptable in the Eighties, to the post-war mentality separation was unprecedented — it was the world turned upside down. In one of the most painful scenes, Michel pleads with Madeleine to help him rebuild his fantasy of the perfect family, and the perfect marriage. And at the end of the film when the separation is final, Michel holds his head in his hands: "It's all a waste", he cries. But it is important to acknowledge that Kury unlike the directors and writers of *Lianna* and *Personal Best* does not make mincemeat out of men. The beauty of the film is her fairness to all the characters and her understanding of the internal conflicts. This is what gives every film integrity.

Vita Russo has a point when he claims that Hollywood films don't acknowledge the existence of gay men or lesbians; or if they do, those characters are almost always misrepresented. The same thing can be said for film critiques. In its traditional stance of negligence towards the portrayal of women in film, movie criticism has helped to encourage a highly sexist film industry. That is precisely why a feminist and/or a lesbian critique of films are important.

To suggest that the lesbian messaging of *Entre Nous* does not exist, is to suggest to many women viewers that what they felt and what they could identify with on the screen was imagined and that lesbian feelings and experiences don't count as much as a heterosexual viewpoint. Women — both gay and straight — must not be denied positive, strong, and genuine characters in films they can identify with. And critiques to accompany these films are also important to reinforce the positive aspects of any film, and to alert viewers to what is sexist, and what is deserving of progressive feminist analysis. ▽

REVIEWS

Small Expectations: Society's Betrayal of Older Women

Imagine a million older women marching arm in arm on Parliament Hill, demanding their rights. This is the dream of Leah Cohen, author of a startling new book which exposes in unrelenting detail the deplorable status of elderly women. "Small Expectations: Society's Betrayal of Older Women" is a consciousness raising book which should be compulsory reading for everyone who has ever wondered what it is like to grow old.

For most women growing old means "becoming one of society's rejects, poverty stricken, abandoned, stripped of dignity". Cohen analyses the way in which the western world's adoration of youth and beauty impact on women as they age. Socialized to be passive and dependent, and growing up at a time when women's value was calculated in terms of her roles of wife and mother, old women, as they lose these roles, internalize society's view of them as "unattractive, unneeded and parasitical". In chapter after chapter Cohen shows how the institutions of our culture systematically create and perpetuate this sexist and ageist stereotype, then use it to infantilize and neglect old women. Using personal experiences drawn from interviews with older women in all parts of Canada and the United States, as well as published research and survey data, Cohen paints a compelling picture of the devastating price women pay for being old.

Poverty lies at the basis of older women's marginal status. Women's dependence on the incomes of spouses (which end or decrease dramatically if the spouse dies or leaves), women's low paying jobs during their working years, and an inadequate public and private pension system are all responsible for the shocking poverty of old women.

Cohen enters the controversy around

Diane DeGraves



Leah Cohen, *Small Expectations: Society's Betrayal of Older Women*. Toronto. McClelland and Stewart Limited. 1984.



homemakers' pensions, one of the most hotly debated issues currently being addressed by women's groups in Canada, to take a position critical of the proposed solution put forth by the National Action Committee on the Status of Women. NAC's plan would require husbands to contribute to CPP/QPP on behalf of their wives, while some groups of housewives would have their contributions subsidized by the CPP/QPP. Cohen points out that any contributory pension plan places all but high income contributors at a disadvantage. Describing NAC's proposal as "middle class, elitist and indeed, touching on chauvinistic", she adopts the position of the National Anti-Poverty Organization which recommends expansion of the universal Old Age Security benefit, with recovery from the wealthy through income tax. The Manitoba Action Committee on the Status

of Women has also opposed the inclusion of housewives in the CPP/QPP, and has proposed instead an imaginative Retirement Rebate scheme which would be administered through the Income Tax System, to operate in a manner similar to the Child Tax Credit. Both MACSW and NAPO's proposals, while differing in form, have in common the basic philosophy of adequate income in retirement as a right. Contributory schemes view retirement income as earned, and thus tend to penalize and stigmatize the poor.

Cohen's analysis takes deadly aim at the medical profession and at nursing homes for infantilizing and overmedicating old women, and at social workers, health care specialists and housing authorities for callously ignoring the real needs of old women. What most readers will find even more shocking however, is the accounts of violence and abuse of which many old women are the victims. Drawing on the few research studies which have documented abuse, and case histories of elderly women who have been its victims, she turns a harsh spotlight on an area which has been well hidden from public view.

Like child abuse, the extent of elder abuse only becomes known as professionals are trained to identify it. Unlike child abuse, no specific legislation exists to deal effectively with this form of victimization making intervention difficult, even when it is correctly identified.

But Cohen does not limit herself to the disasters of old age. She also explores its victories, its "magnificent survivors". In a series of touching narratives she shows how individual women have created lives for themselves that have meaning and dignity. A strong sense of self, determination to remain in control of one's life and one's decisions, and the support of peers are the crucial factors which have enabled these women, often with superhuman effort, to rise above poverty, ill health, loneliness and alienation.

The women's movement has not given enough attention to the status of old women. Faced with the shocking poverty of older women, most women's groups have focussed on pension reform, a remedy which will only affect future generations of women. Cohen's book, written to "encourage older women to speak openly of their lives, their deprivation, and their outrage", should move all women to demand their right to a decent and dignified old age. ▽

1981 census data shows that 62.2% of women over 65 have incomes below Statistics Canada's poverty line compared to 48.8% of men in the same age group. Single women are especially at risk of being poor in old age: 40% of single women 65 and older had incomes below \$6000. in 1981; 60% had incomes under \$7000., and 77% had incomes below \$10,000.

REVIEWS

A Poetry Selection

Duration

Duration by Jan Clausen (Hanging Loose Press, 231 Wyckoff Street, Brooklyn, New York.)

Duration is the work of a poet who is secure in her skill and willing to take great risks. Clausen is a poet who has been shaped by her involvement in radical feminist politics and *Duration* reads like a ledger of her growth, her growing awareness of the coming of middle age, not only to herself, but also to the radical communities born out of the Sixties and Seventies that now must brace themselves against the cold political realities of the Eighties. Whether in poetry or a lyrical poetic prose that is uniquely her own, the writing presented in *Duration* is Clausen at her best. In "Ground Zero", we are shown how nuclear threat has already irreversibly affected our lives and our vision of growing older. "i can tomatoes" is a strong and wonderful poem that shows how generations of women have gathered strength through small acts of survival. The title work is a series of connected prose passages, observations of the self in transition, the structure of the lesbian community, its families of artificially inseminated babies, its rituals of food co-op shifts and demonstrations in the streets. There is a cynicism in this work, but rather than limiting the poet, it forces her to search all angles, dive deep and find ways to speak of the ever-continuing problems of sexism, racism and anti-semitism. Clausen is too skilled, too respectful of language to simply hand the reader a polemic, the politics of *Duration* are intensely human, an evaluation of what could not be accomplished by a gentle people in a hateful age. *Duration* is not an easy book, but it is the mature and personal work of a poet whose poetry continues to grow stronger and finer as she grows and further knows herself.

Joy Parks



How Hug A Stone

How Hug A Stone, by Daphne Marlatt (Turnstone Press, 201-99 King Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba)

In this book-length prose poem, Daphne Marlatt makes magic with words. *How Hug A Stone* is a complicated web of the poet's experience, each word is the precise one necessary to draw the reader into the mind-play of the poet. Recording Marlatt's travels with her young son to her family home in England, this book is a dynamic voyage into the poet's past where she searches not only for a glimpse of her dead mother, but also for the lost parts of her own history that are reflected by the English countryside and the strangers/friends that share her family blood. Within this framework, Marlatt experiments with language and the origins of her voice, catching the local idiom in her poetry and showing its colour and music. So tightly constructed and laden with meaning, *How Hug A Stone* needs to be read over and over again if the reader is to fully appreciate the skill and power of this work.



The Glass Woman

The Glass Woman by Patricia Traxler (Hanging Loose Press, 231 Wyckoff Street, Brooklyn, New York 11217 \$5.00)

Despite the title, which suggests transparency and clarity, the poems in this collection are often vague and without direction. The work is marred by the poet's habit of creating fine sounding phrases that have little substance behind them. While the reader might be dazzled by the language, the shallowness of the work and the poet's dependence on a very private sphere of imagery leaves the reader outside the meaning of the poem.

The most successful section of the book is "The Woman in the Window", a cycle of poems dedicated to the poet's grandmother. From a mixture of Irish folklore and catholic ritual, the poet writes of the wisdom she has gleaned from the older

woman. Traxler is at her best writing intensely personal poems, much of the work in this section is warm and moving and totally without sentimentality. The reader is brought close to the old woman's fears of age and death and also the loss of faith such fear demonstrates;

don't tell me
that I am not of this body
it is the evidence of me
I don't want to rot
under the earth
and I won't let them burn me

While the quality is uneven, the best poems in this book are the ones that take advantage of the poet's personal style; in other poems, the poet's refusal go beyond her private imagery is both confusing and alienating. Still there is much potential in *The Glass Woman* and it is a worthwhile read.



Conceptions

Conceptions, by Jane Dick (Guernica Editions, P.O. Box 633, Station N.D.G., Montreal, Quebec H4A 3R1)

The most spectacular aspect of the poems in *Conceptions* is their ripe and warm sensuality. Jane Dick writes of the body, not symbolically, but as flesh and need, speaking simply of desire in a clear, uncluttered voice.

my breasts want you
so intensely
they lift my body skyward
nipples burning like scars

* * *

i am hollow and full
i cannot hold you more tightly
than this

There is an unabashed physical joy in these poems, a sense of ample, fertile bodies at one with nature;

there are days
the trees kneel
and kiss me
there are times
they hold my limbs
and carry me
through the forest
gently gently
with the joy of growing things

Conceptions is bursting with a female sexuality that stresses the poet's pleasure in her womanliness and demonstrating the power of female eroticism, a theme too often ignored in women's poetry. ▽

DAPHNE
MARLATT



How
Hug a
Stone

REVIEWS

The Human Costs of Unemployment

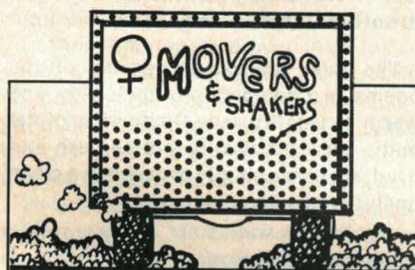
Unemployment: Its Impact on Body and Soul. Prepared by Sharon Kirsh, Ph.D. for the Canadian Mental Health Association, 1983. 128pp. \$10.00 plus \$1.50 handling charges.

• depression • anxiety • self-depreciation • fatalism • anger
• spouse abuse • child abuse • insomnia • infant mortality
• weight loss or obesity • suicide • mental hospital admissions
• homicides and rape • property crimes • youth alienation
• children's problems in school • divorce • rapid breathing
• poverty-induced consequences • alcoholism • fatigue
• ulcers • fainting spells • hard drug abuse
• tobacco abuse • caffeine abuse • muscle tension
• heart disease

This publication discusses a societal problem that can cause all of the heinous side effects listed above. It deals with the human costs of the impact of unemployment and the resultant poverty and does it well.

What does *Unemployment: Its Impact on Body and Soul* say to and about women? To begin with, it says:

- poverty among families would increase by 51 per cent if women's earnings were deducted from total family income.
- the unemployment rate among female heads of households (lone employed



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Tanya Lester

mothers) is 65 per cent greater than for male heads of households.

Given the fact that, as this publication estimates, women represent 45 per cent of the labour force, it asks what should be an often asked question: "Why don't we hear more about female workers and their responses?"

Because this question is still very rarely asked, the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) must be commended for both asking it and offering an answer. "With some notable exceptions, studies of unemployed persons concern themselves with the experiences of male workers," the publication spells out. "The married female is relegated (in traditional research) to the role of the spouse who stalwartly supports her mate throughout his trauma of job loss, or who withdraws her support from him, thereby undermining his self-esteem, or who is victimized by his frustration through abuse. Rarely are women acknowledged as workers either as unpaid workers in the home or as paid workers in the labour force."

However, this publication points out the strong relationship between unemployment and women's depression. Findings show that employed married women are less depressed than non-employed married women and both groups are more depressed than employed men; and that women with unemployed partners have higher rates of depression due to their spouses' joblessness.

It also recognizes that when women are employed in the labour force, they most often occupy "low-paying, non-unionized, insecure, and often part-time and temporary" jobs. We are accepted into the paid labour force when there are many jobs that need to be filled, for example, during World War II, and "blamed for the high unemployment rate" when jobs are few. During economic recession; we "are likely to get squeezed out of the labour market altogether, or to be pushed into part-time, low-paying positions as part of the vast underemployed army of labour."

But there are reasons why women do not find full, decent employment in both bad and good economic times. The CMHA does not specifically address these problems in this document although it does acknowledge that child care, for instance is still perceived to be women's responsibility.

While the CMHA must be applauded for advocating the vital need for further studies to be made on unemployment and women workers, it falls short of suggesting who should be responsible for doing these studies.

Unemployment: Its Impact on Body and Soul also addresses the links between unemployment and violence against women. It emphasizes the fact that sexual assault is not a sex crime but a crime of anger. "The majority of men who rape women are unemployed and cannot maintain satisfactory sexual self-images," the document states. "Their source of power is their physical force. They likely feel powerless in other aspects of their lives (e.g. no jobs; cannot provide adequately for family; etc.)."

The publication quotes an article by A. Wolberg that estimates 24 million women in the United States were battered in 1978 while 200 thousand children were killed by batterers in the same year. "Battering is not confined to the 'working class' but is found in all classes," the publication quotes this article. "It increases, however with unemployment, or dips in the economy during recessions, which affect not only the working class, the white collar class, but the upper middle class as well."

I was relieved to read that the CMHA understands batterers are not only members of the working class, because I know men of all classes inflict violence against women, but I would have felt more comfortable if the CMHA had emphasized that men who inflict violence on women should not be excused on the basis of their unemployment or for any other reason.

Besides presenting the problems of all types of unemployed people, this publication provides progressive solutions to joblessness aimed at "global, national, and provincial policy (economic & social); labour policy; community action; the family and the individual."

This document was published "not only for the sake of the two million jobless today, but also for each of us and our families and our communities as we collectively tread the fine line between our own employment and job loss."

And it ends by making a very strong and caring statement. "Whatever is economic is also deeply human and therefore requires a clear commitment to justice and morality. It demands making choices. Choosing to not care is choosing. What is your choice?" ▽

POETRY

Growing Pains of Eight Year Old Women

© N. Gray

*behind the school at
the bottom of the grassy hill near
the hedge
Donna*

*and I would
talk about our favourite kind of underpants
and she did handstands and cartwheels
I thought*

*she was beautiful
and sometimes we would lie beside
each other talking
about mummies and big
sisters (I didn't have one)
and what we would be when
we grew up
on very special occasions
we would hitch our skirts
at our waists
rub each others legs*

*(and sometimes when she got up first
I would lie back
and look up her legs)*

*her bedroom
was all her own
she had a bed that sat on bricks
and a big big pile of clothes, colouring books, toys
with a dismembered doll on top*

*no one could see us
down at the hedge
and the nuns knew we were good for each other
we could do what we wanted and did
One day
Donna
was
very
very
angry*

*she kept hitting me
and wouldn't stop until
she started crying*

*she told me
her sister was working with her mum now
who worked at night and
brought home men*

*from then on
Donna
had angry days*

*but we still went
behind the school at
the bottom of the grassy hill near
the hedge
Donna and I
we felt all tingly with scrambled egg stomachs
sometimes many times*

*(if I looked up Donna's legs
what would I see
now)*

she had angry days

Egg Money

© L. Pearl Shuck

*Finally she grew a gunny sack skin,
fingernails solid as a garden spade,
a shrubbery of hair as seasonal
as fur or feathers; a heart heavier
than uprooted beets (lying bewildered
in a dusty ditch) eventually
to be well sterilized, and sealed and shelved.*

*Flowers grew for her spontaneously,
fragrant and elegant as though to mock
her languid care, and vegetables, too,
whether with loyalty or stubbornness.
Morning glory vines took soft possession
of her hair, when, pausing at the door, she
watched the rhythmic ascension of a wild goose.*

*That, and things too delicate for handling
would give her joy, and often in the spring
her hand would lift a robin egg, explore
the blue reality, so lightly held
and yet imponderable as the sky.
The small immediate oval in her hand
glowed brighter far, for her, than any star.*

ARTVENTURES

A new program of support for innovative projects in the arts designed by professional or community-based organizations, individual artists, or groups of artists; \$5,000 max.; September 1, February 1, May 1.

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Film Grants for project costs related to the development of a film; \$3,000 max.; April 1, October 1

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* SHORT-TERM PROJECT GRANTS

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The Council also administers a variety of grant programs in other areas: operating grants to organizations; arts exposure and touring programs; aid to periodical and book publishers, exhibition assistance for galleries and cultural organizations. Deadline dates for application vary.

For further information/application forms on these and all programs listed herein, please contact:

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SATIRICALLY YOURS

Blessed Are The Condensers

Lyn Cockburn

The new *Reader's Digest* condensed version of the Bible has hit the stands and if initial reader response is any indication, it's going to be a best seller.

Even a cursory glance shows that the editors at *Reader's Digest* knew what they were about. The first thing they did was eliminate all the "begats" in Genesis. Nobody is likely to mourn their passing, since their main purpose was to put insomniac travellers to sleep when they were unfortunate enough to get caught in hotel rooms with nothing to read but Gideon Bibles.

The condensation of the Commandments however, may stir up a bit of controversy. There are now only six of them. In recognition of the realities of modern life, the editors removed the injunctions about adultery, blasphemy and Sabbathery. One editor wanted to add "or husband" to the shalt not about coveting thy neighbour's wife, but was reminded just in time that *Reader's Digest* is in the down, not upsizeing business.

Surprisingly, Moses still spends 40 days and 40 nights on the Mount, even though his workload has been cut by 40 per cent.

I found the condensed Psalms a bit confusing. There used to be 150 of them. There are now 75 and the 23rd Psalm, the best known of the lot, is now the 12th. I couldn't find my favourite, the 121st, which starts out, "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills from whence cometh my help" and therefore, unable to provide the full text. Only the editors at *Reader's Digest* know where it is.

In a fine disregard for the difference between eroticism and pornography, they disappeared the Songs of Solomon altogether. Just as well. I remember from my years of teaching that we were never allowed to read from that part of the Bible anyway.

The best aspect of the condensation of the Old Testament is that the editors in their quest for efficient downsizing, inadvertently got rid of a lot of the hot spots in the Bible which got in the way of ecumenism.

Mindful of the recessionary spirit of the times, the eds did their bit for reducing inflation by making sure that none of the randy patriarchs in the Old Testament have more than one wife. This change will surely make it easier for the Mormons to forget their past history and join with the

rest of us. Also, one of the Psalms which never make it past first reading is the 127th which says, "Lo, children are an heritage of the lord.....Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them." Since these verses are oft quoted by various gentlemen in Rome as backup for their ban on birth control, it is hoped that this deletion will allow them to ease up a bit. And gone is the entire story of Sodom and Gomorrah, an omission which may permit the fundamentalists to concentrate on the positive aspects of modern society, rather than on its supposed depravity.

Once the Christian churches have time to adjust to all these changes, the squabbles among them may lessen considerably, allowing the emergence of a true ecumenical spirit.

Similar plans by *Reader's Digest* to condense the Torah and Koran may well lead to worldwide religious tolerance.

If the *Reader's Digest* editors did a reasonable job on the Old Testament, their treatment of the New Testament was positively brilliant.

In a stroke of genius, they removed St. Paul, thus reducing the New Testament to a comfortable 13 books and also clearing up the controversy about whether or not he wrote Hebrews. Since the editors left it out, along with his acknowledged 13, we can only assume he did.

Few women will lament the loss of Paul who ranks right up there with Freud and Norman Mailer in the Misogyny Hall of Fame and who has been revered for centuries by the hat industry because of his remarks about women keeping their heads covered.

Mercifully, the editors saw fit to leave Matthew alone, as the loss of the Beatitudes would be more than the average reader could handle. Nonetheless, they had to chop the stuff about Blessed are the meek and Blessed are the peace makers, because they realized that if Ron and Konstantin keep it up, there won't be much left to inherit.

All in all, the *Reader's Digest* editors did a good job, with the possible exception of the Psalms.

I read somewhere that the *Reader's Digest* monthly magazine is about to publish a condensed version of the condensed Bible which will consist solely of Genesis and Revelations, both considerably shortened. I don't believe such nonsense. It's probably just the rumour mongering of unprogressive people who oppose what they call the desecration of great literature. Whatever that means. ▽

BREADWINNING

Tax Implications of Gifting

People often ask whether any taxes arise when one person makes a gift to another. At one time the provinces levied gift taxes or succession duties on gifts over certain amounts which were made either during a person's lifetime or upon death. However, all the provinces except Quebec have since done away with these taxes.

Therefore, you might think that you can gift any sum of money or value of property to your spouse, child or friend without any tax concerns at all. This is not the case. The Income Tax Act contains several provisions which may come into play when gifts are made. While these provisions are not designed to include the amount of the gift in income, they are directed at the taxation of the income arising from the gifted property. Specifically, the two major areas are those relating to realization and income attribution.

Realization

If you gift a property other than cash, there will be a deemed realization of the property at fair market value, and this may trigger a capital gain or loss. The recipient of the gift, on the other hand, is deemed to acquire the property at fair market value for the purposes of computing future gains and losses.

To illustrate, assume you gift stock in X co. to your 20 year old daughter. At the time of making the gift, the stock is worth \$10,000, \$6,500 more than when you bought it. You will have a capital gain of \$6,500 to report on your tax return for the year of the gift. Your daughter will be deemed to acquire the stock at \$10,000 and will only have a capital gain to the extent the value is over \$10,000 when she sells the stocks.

It should be noted that while the above is a general rule to be kept in mind when contemplating making a gift, certain exceptions to this rule exist in the Income Tax Act. While a detailed discussion of these are beyond the scope of this article, they should be mentioned:

1. Where you make a gift to your spouse, no deemed realization will occur, and your spouse will, in effect, take over the property at your cost. Please note that in certain circumstances you and your spouse may elect to have a deemed realization.
2. Where you gift to your child shares of a "small business corporation" or "farm property", a tax-free rollover of the property may occur.

Paula Gardner, C.A.
Arthur Anderson & Co.



3. Where the property to be gifted is your principal residence, the deemed realization rules become ineffectual since any gain on a principal residence is not taxable.

Certain rules exist to attribute the income earned on property back to the person who made the gift. This means that the income is included on the transferor's and not the transferee's tax return even though the transferor no longer owns the property. Even though it may appear as such, these rules are not designed to deter gifting, but rather to prevent income splitting. Income splitting refers to a person in a high income tax bracket "transferring" income to a person in a lower tax bracket so that the total tax paid on the income has been reduced.

To illustrate, assume you are in the top marginal tax bracket which would mean

that you would pay 56.2% tax on every additional \$1 you earned. If your spouse was at a 30% marginal tax rate you might consider gifting an interest bearing bond to your spouse so that the income would be taxed in his hands at a lower rate. This is exactly the type of results the following provisions are intended to prevent:

1. Where property is transferred to your spouse, any income generated by the property is taxable in the hands of the transferor (for the life of the marriage).
2. Where property is transferred to a person who is not 18 years, income will be taxable to the transferor until the year in which the transferee turns 18. Note that this attribution will apply whether or not the transferor is related to the minor.
3. Attribution applies not only in respect of the property transferred, but also in respect of any property substituted for it. For example, a new bond exchanged for an old bond will still be subject to attribution.
4. Income from business assets transferred (as opposed to cash or investment assets) is not subject to attribution.

It should be noted that a "bona fide loan", even if non-interest bearing, is not a transfer of property, and therefore does not trigger the attribution rules.

In summary, if you intend to make a gift of property, you should consider the provisions of the Income Tax Act to determine if it will trigger a tax liability for you ("realization") or result in your continuing to pay the tax on the income even though you no longer own the property ("attribution"). ▽

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ANTINUCLEAR FAMILY

EDITORIAL

The Sexuality Connection: A Public Affair



Amongst the 15,000 who publicly committed themselves to the Winnipeg peace movement by coming out to the recent 'Walk For Peace', two women marched arm in arm down Portage Avenue, carrying the sign 'Anti Nuclear Family'. Their presence was a humour-filled stroke of political haiku. Sure, they were against nukes and for peace but then again they never wanted to return to the 'peace' of the 'Mom & Dad' domestic bliss. They demanded to live as they are living in their own futuristic vision, in the strength of women loving women; they waited for no one's approval.

And yet in so many aspects of our lives, we, as women, wait at our work place, over supper's dirty dishes, at our conferences, even at our feminist fundraisers. We wait for the courts to begin interpreting our latest reform victory on family law, rape, domestic abuse, pornography, and labour legislation. We wait for the courts to begin interpreting the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. We wait for the provincial government, which after two years of study, has just been presented far-reaching recommendations by the Manitoba Human Rights Commission. These changes are claimed to be the most advanced in North America. With the collapse of B.C.'s Solidarity movement, women there can only wait to see the consequences of losing the British Columbia Human Rights Commission.

Our wait is not without anger. It continues to be difficult to believe in the promise of equal justice and opportunity for all, our birthright, while experiencing the opposite — the economic disparities; lack of opportunities; low wages; the unemployment or wagelessness of many women. Some of us are bombarded by "you too can succeed if you've got what it takes", while those of us who are part of doubly disadvantaged groups may be convinced into believing that our demands are unreasonable, too costly and should be ig-

Brigitte Sutherland

nored for the good of society.

The wait, too, has been surrounded by our agitation for change. That society is beginning to respond to the feminist demands for change in order to eliminate what U.S. presidential candidate Sonia Johnson calls, "the war against one half of humanity against the other half." If we need proof, we can look to a recent survey of Winnipeg residents on their attitudes toward wife-abuse: of those sampled, 92 per cent believed woman-battering was not an isolated incident and 85 per cent supported the laying of criminal charges against the perpetrators in every case.

With evidence of such societal change, we have thrown our energies into single issues, hoping to realize some immediate redress of some of the suffering and small gains for our long and gradually solitary vigils. As feminists we have made the connections between the crimes of pornography or forced child bearing as based upon the oppression of women in a male-supremacist world system. And still, we end up waiting for the introduction of a single 'degradation' clause into the Criminal Code or a judge's ruling in Dr. Henry Morgentaler's Toronto abortion case for its consequences upon the survival of his Winnipeg clinic.

Legislated individual human rights like those proposed by the Manitoba Human Rights Commission offer an affirmation of our strength to maintain our steadily narrowing vigilance around specific social and economic issues. In our struggles, we are offered a kind of political safety net; for surely, any major new recommendations will impact on the right of women to fair treatment since discrimination would be prohibited on the grounds of pregnancy or related circumstances, social status, as well as sexual orientation. From the realities of our lives we know that remedying systemic discrimination must include clauses (put forward by the recommendations) for the right to equal pay for work of equal value, the introduction of affirmative action schemes; the more clearly defined prohibition of sexual harassment and a strengthening of the Commission's hate literature provisions. We, once again, weave together the demands of increasingly isolated struggles, only to have to wait for the Manitoba Attorney-General

Roland Penner and the NDP Cabinet to empower them as legislation.

Amazingly, upon release of this proposed new Code, media reports suggested that the Attorney-General had no enthusiasm for enshrining protection under the Human Rights Act on the basis of sexual orientation. His intractability remains unshaken despite calls from the Manitoba Chapter of the Canadian College of Family Physicians, The Manitoba Teachers' Society, and the Manitoba Association of Registered Nurses for the inclusion of of sexual orientation protection.

It seems that the provincial government is loathe to enter into another, controversial defense of a minority. In the wake of the Manitoba French language debacle and the NDP's abandonment of women around the struggle for access to abortion rights, it is understandable how it might be much easier not to raise the pre-conceived hackle of their electorate. Weighing these potential political liabilities, the NDP government (sensitive to the mounting frustrations of women for change) have offered a negotiated settlement. In exchange for the end of the vigil for some of the 'other' women, lesbians are required to continue to wait.

Like the 'Anti Nuclear Family' women walking in the peace march we, as women, as feminists, as lesbians, can no longer wait. We must take some risks to attain a place of strength. While there is need for legislative protection, there must also be reintegration of all 'our' issues to enable every woman to escape the social and economic bonds which enslave them. Immediate to our feminist struggle is the regrafting of our bodies and minds; a separation so much a part of the patriarchy. A regrafting of all 'our' issues, even as we struggle a few of us at a time around that issue most vital to us at the time, must be integral to the 'whole' vision of our future. As long as we can be threatened and isolated into sexual acquiescence or silence, the possibility of female sexual autonomy does not exist for any of us. We cannot wait, but must risk our personal change made visible and communicated to each other. Otherwise, we will never challenge male supremacy and may simply wait for it to give up.

"Change does not occur in safety", says Sonia Johnson. "A way of telling that you are working for the change you want is when you're actions are scaring the socks off you." ▽

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