

PRIORITIES

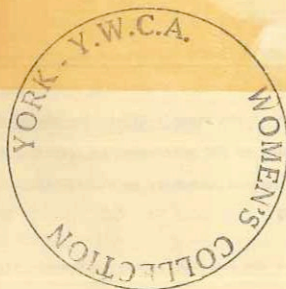
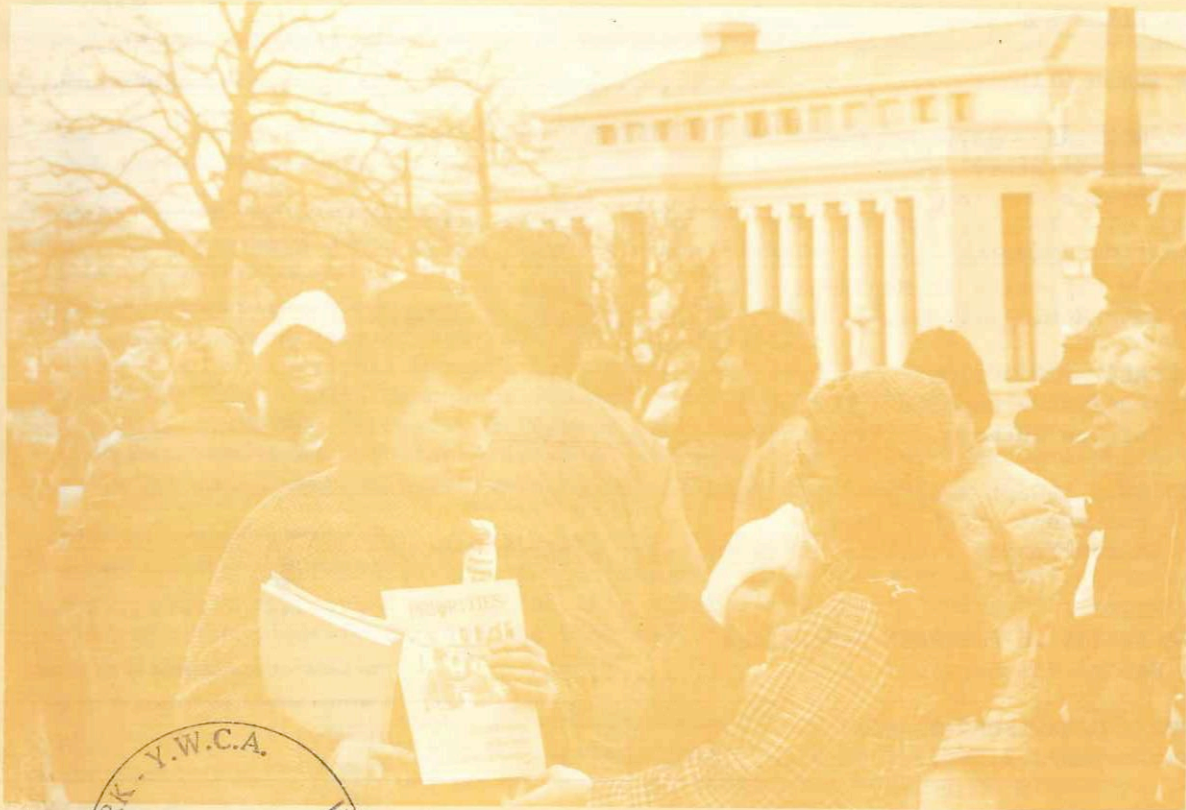
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April 1976

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RESOURCE CENTRE



a publication
of the n.d.p.
women's committee



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All unsigned articles are the collective
responsibility of the Editorial Committee.

"The issues and demands raised by the Women's
Liberation Movement are integral to the de-
velopment of a democratic socialist society.
The NDP actively encourages and provides
support for women organizing around the de-
mands of the women's liberation movement and
commits an NDP government to creating the
legislation necessary to realize these de-
mands."

(From the B.C. NDP policy on Women's Rights)

Priorities has been typed and laid out by
volunteer labour

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Phone 253-5410

EDITORIAL

«The Uncertain Glory Of An April Day»

Q. If winter comes, can spring be far behind?
A. In British Columbia, yes.

Or so it seems in early April, when Islanders and Lower Mainlanders begin to feel we are growing gills and scales, and residents of the North and the Interior are wearily digging out from under yet another deposit of the white stuff. Lousy weather, influenza, and a Socred government should add up to Total Gloom; yet there are things hap-
pening which make these weeks seem a promise of hope fulfilled rather than betrayed.

In this province in the past month there have been -- at least -- four important pub-
lic demonstrations in protest against the oppression of women. You can read details
about the International Women's Day action, the 22 March Women's Rally for Action in
Victoria, the daycare demonstration and the hospital workers' picket in this issue of
Priorities. These four very different actions had elements in common. We regard
them with the same expectancy as we do the pear tree in the back yard which has just
revealed some cream-coloured veining on its pale green buds.

All four brought out into the streets large numbers of women, and some men, who had
never before participated in a demonstration. Old-timers--the hardy perennials as it
were--sought each other out amidst this riot of new growth and said to one another
with astonished delight, "Who are they all? Isn't this wonderful? Things are final-
ly beginning to move!"

All four made it clear that the various demands they were raising were for legisla-
tion, services, opportunities, salaries, which their participants regarded as rights,
not privileges. There was no self-abasing gratitude, begging or pleading.

All four showed a recognition of the long-term nature of the struggle we are involved
in. Speakers and singers continually expressed the determination of the demonstrat-
ors to come back, and back, and back again if necessary; to strike, to harass, to go
public, to agitate, to take their case to more and more and more people. No-one re-
garded these actions as one-shot deals.

And finally, each was characterized by a spirit named by one participant as "joyous
anger". The reasons for the anger are well-established. The reasons for the joy are
newer. They have to do with a sense of growing strength, of recognition of sisters
everywhere, and of our power to create the kind of society we need and want for our-
selves and for our children. Not today, or tomorrow, or even next week -- for "win-
ter lingering chills the lap of May" -- but we can and we will achieve that abundant
season.

The spring is coming.



LETTERS

Trying Times

It is already quite apparent that the women of B.C. are heading into some very trying times. This will make Priorities more necessary than ever and I hope your fantastic stamina, intelligence, dedication (and all other applicable words) holds up through all the negatives to come. I suppose in many ways your job will seem more thankless than ever but, believe me, we need you out here and are grateful for your efforts.

- Arlene Burwash
Trail

Hear! Hear!

Hear! Hear! to Kate Dillon's article, "There Was A Time" (Feb./76) issue. A really good article.

- Marilyn Parris
Lillian Morrisson
London, Ontario

Single Parents?

I was pleased we finally had an article on our Federal NDP President, Joyce Nash. The article was enjoyable to read; however, I was somewhat amazed by the statement, "Joyce feels the Women's Committee of the B.C. NDP gives the impression that 'unless a woman wears a badge showing she is a single parent she is not welcome...'" Checking the inside

front cover of Priorities (March, '76), I noted that most of the women who put out that issue were both wives and mothers. Impressions or fact, I decided to be more thorough and went through every past issue of Priorities and old lists of active NDP women. My results made me wonder how we gave such an impression. 80% of NDP Women's Committee members have husbands and children. The next category, about 5% each is shared equally between (1) women with husbands, no children and (2) women with neither husbands nor children. In the third category (about 8%) I put all those women whom I didn't know, or those whose marital status I wasn't sure of. The last category, single parents, rated a mere 2% of our women's committee members.

If anything, I think that low percentage is worthy of criticism.

Astrid Davidson
Vancouver

Don't Fight!

I am writing regarding Priorities and specifically the November '75 issue. I take exception to your anonymous editorial and while I am not for holding women's progress up, I think a more feminine (softly but not more coy/sly) approach would work wonders for women. The way I see it, I as a gentlewoman am not here to fight with the men. I am here to educate them as to my feminine/womanly needs by my conduct.

- Mary ten Wolde
Quesnel

Opening Minds

I particularly enjoyed "Ideological Structures" by Dorothy Smith. The last paragraph offers a much needed suggestion for the further development of feminist priorities -- "working from the perspective and experiences of women" but not "bound by that" should open our minds to the many serious problems of the world -- or so one would hope.

The work and dedication of all who make possible the publication of Priorities is surely widely appreciated.

- Nellie Peterson
Mayerthorpe,
Alberta

Improved Quality

I do enjoy your magazine and find the quality has vastly improved since the first publications. My funds are low but please accept my small donation.

- Evelyn Weeks,
Ladysmith

Heavy Articles

I would like to take this opportunity to express feelings that I have been harbouring towards Priorities for some time.

Firstly, I would like to state that with knowing a great many of the Editorial Committee I have a feeling of admiration and comradeship with these people.

I recall the birth of Priorities when the contents were at the level where women, young and old, could feel a relationship to the Women's Committee's efforts for equal rights and equal opportunities. I recall one pensioner who sent her money to the women's movement in lieu of renewing her

membership in the NDP. Are these things happening now? The articles are heavy and many women can't relate to them.

In the March issue, seven pages were taken up with "Press Gang and Priorities". What a waste! Being a militant, elected officer of a union maybe I should get my two cents worth in. I strongly believe in using union-made products and union printing -- but then, I'm also a feminist. How could anyone condemn a publication such as Priorities for using a cooperative such as Press Gang?

Until such time as labour as a whole negotiates into their contracts equal pay for work of equal value, the Press Gang and Priorities have my endorsement.

- Marge Storm
Surrey

Sane

Keep up the good work -- excellent political analysis and sane views on women!

- Eleanor Millard, MLA
Yukon Territory

Splendid!

You are splendid!

- Vi Thompson
Toronto

Impressive!

I've only recently been exposed to your publication. It's very impressive, and all on volunteer labour. Wow! Woman power!

- Els Early
Comox

PRIORITIES WELCOMES YOUR LETTERS
- BUT please: 350 words or less

Retaining Sanity

I am really dependent on Priorities -- it helps me retain my sanity when "the law" and the "justice" that accompanies it starts to get to me.

- Jill ter Heide
UBC Law School

High Quality

Many thanks to the capable and committed hard-working women who compound their energies to produce this high quality publication which synthesizes as no other the priorities of the women of this province.

- Brenda Balaam
Trail

Rape Study

Betsy Spaulding of the University of Guelph is beginning a study on the social and psychological effects of rape on women.

The results are to be used to help women who have been raped.

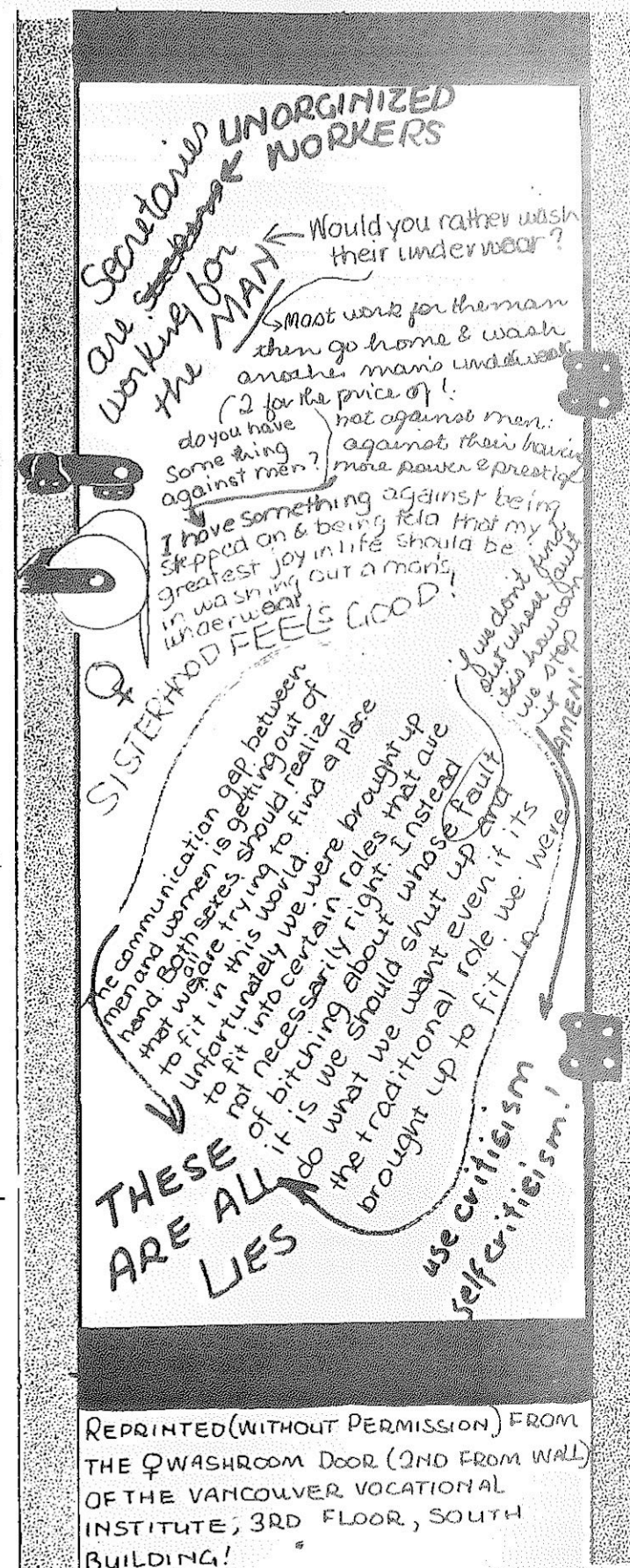
For this study, rape means any act of sexual intercourse you are made to commit against your will, whether by a husband, neighbour or stranger.

If you have ever been raped and are willing to complete a confidential questionnaire or be interviewed, contact:

Betsy Spaulding
c/o Psychology Dept.
University of Guelph
Guelph, Ontario

THANKS

to Priorities supporter Bob Blakey for donating time and talent in taking and printing many photos which appear in this and other issues.



DAY CARE STRIKE

THE ISSUES

by ellen shapiro

March 30th was the day chosen by workers at eight day care centres to hold a one day strike and public rally in support of their efforts to negotiate contracts that reflect the training and responsibilities of day care workers. The workers are members of the Social Services Employees Union, Local 2, and Service, Office and Retail Workers of Canada.

The strike was the expression of a growing frustration among day care workers, who are subsidizing the service they provide by working for next to nothing. However, the shutdown lasted only one day so that parents and children would not be hurt.

Day care workers hoped their actions would put pressure on the government to put more funding into day care, so that they are able to earn reasonable wages without jeopardizing the quality of care available to the children. They also hoped to increase public awareness of the financial crises day care is now facing.

Day care centres are financed according to a government set fee per child (for which a parent may receive full or partial subsidy). This money must cover rent, maintenance, equipment, food and staff salaries. Rent and operating costs differ greatly in each center, but the incoming money does not. Therefore wages, working conditions and the quality of care provided differ in each centre. And the fee per child has not been altered since the spring of 1974 leaving centres with no additional

funds to cover increasing costs.

This has left most day care workers with no wage increase over the last two years: qualified people are often working for \$500-\$600 per month. Quality childcare is suffering as highly trained daycare workers, who often have their own families to support, leave the field to make a living.

Frustrated with having their wages tied to the subsidy system, day care workers began to unionize so they could collectively get to the source of the funding--government. About 35 centers in the Lower Mainland are now unionized, but workers in these centres are effectively deprived of their bargaining rights. They cannot bargain contracts with



non-profit societies who have no money and no access to funds. Yet the government -- which has the control over funds -- has refused to take any responsibility in negotiating.

The qualifications and responsibilities of day care workers are often underestimated. Staff are responsible for providing programs and organizing activities that are positive learning experiences for groups of 20 to 25 children. The first five years are important formative years in a child's development, and day care workers are responsible for that development for most of the child's waking hours. The government requires that day care workers be trained in Early Childhood Education (one to two years in a community college or university).

WORK OR WELFARE

Good quality childcare is a necessity for many people in B.C. Forty per cent of the province's work force are women and over half of these have small children at home. Many women are the heads of families and day care means the difference between being able to work and going on welfare.

But day care is essential as a service to all parents. Women should have the right to work if they so choose, and the availability of high quality child care assures them that right.

A group day care experience can be a vital and enriching one for a child. It is particularly important now when many children are growing up in small apartments without the benefit of proper outdoor play space or the company of other children. In day care, children are able to socialize with their peers in a warm, stimulating environment geared to their developmental needs.

Day care workers, in their fight for higher wages and better working conditions, are fighting for better conditions for the children they care for. And they are also fighting for recognition of the value of the service they provide -- both to parents and to children.

What is needed is the support of parents and the public in general to pressure the government to provide adequate funding for day care.

(Ellen Shapiro is president of the Social Services Employees Union, Local 2).

BETTER NEVER THAN LATE

At the recent Provincial Council meeting in B.C., David Barrett announced that he had seen the light re: the oppression of women as a direct result of reading Phyllis Chesler's well-known work, Madness in Women.

Other works from which the dark-horse candidate in Vancouver East's by-election might learn are Women's Liberation of Voices, Politics is Sexual, and Eunuch and Female. In-depth study of Man's Consciousness, Woman's World would likely help too, as would reading Revolution and Resistance to Women and Sex is a Privilege.

Turning to fiction, we'd suggest Flying In Fear, Something I Didn't Mean to Tell You, Change to Small and, of course, Diving.

Should these prove inadequate, we can only recommend to Barrett David that (a) he try the basic Women of Status Report to the Royal Commission and (b) he remember that claiming publicly that a book has made a big impression on you lacks force if you don't cite the book's title correctly.

P.S. to D.B.: Phyllis Chesler's book is called Women and Madness.

NO COMMENT

The last meeting of the Provincial NDP Labour Committee, chaired by Garth Brown, voted not to go to a strip joint for lunch.

DEMONSTRATION BRINGS ACTION ON DAY CARE

By Sharon Yandle

If a successful demonstration is one that brings an immediate government response, the day care workers' one-day strike and rally was a success.

Two days after over 200 child care employees and parents demonstrated in front of Vancouver's courthouse, Human Resources Minister Bill Vander Zalm announced a new funding formula: a cost per child fee increase of \$20 monthly and the right of centres to raise their fees higher if they choose.

This means that the fees of a fully-subsidized child will be paid by the government at a rate of \$140 per month. If a centre raises fees to \$170 the parent will pay the extra \$ 30.

Although fraught with many problems the new formula is a better deal than many of the demonstration's organizers and speakers thought they would get. The two unions involved have been beating their heads against the wall for years in the effort to make the social care of children a recognized, decently-paid job. Lead speaker Ellen Shapiro, while conveying anger and resolve as she summarized the day care workers' problems, did not seem too optimistic. Vancouver alderman Darlene Marzari was even less

so. The election of the Socreds, she said, meant that the struggle was not one of improvement of day care but of day care's survival. Public service unions representing teachers and hospital workers gave support -- but their current experiences with the present government did not lead them to see an easy victory in child care.

In this context, Vander Zalm's announcement means something, however little. For one thing, day care workers in all centres can look to an immediate wage increase.



More significantly, the centres' new ability to raise fees means that collective bargaining can begin in earnest as the parent boards now have some control over revenue.

But this solution will create more problems. Well-off parents may increase fees beyond the level that middle and low income parents can afford, raising the spectre of one child care standard for the rich and a lower one for everyone else. Worse, any improvement in day care workers' wages must be paid directly by parents. The lowest paid members of the work force, women, will thus finance the wages of other women.

A solution, yes, but Socred style.

Reflect-Plan-Act

Resolution:

making of discord to pass into concord; solving of doubt, problem, question; determined temper or character; formal expression of opinion by legislative body.

Whereas the Women's Committee of the B.C. NDP has organized and fought to have women's rights issues adopted as party policy, and whereas women's issues are still not a priority within the party nor with MLAs in Victoria...

There should be a resolution to follow but there is no resolution yet. And therein lies the tale.

At the meetings of the Lower Mainland Women's Committee, debate continues.

March 26 saw discussion against the backdrop of the Women's Rally for Action in Victoria. As was pointed out, NDP MLAs' answer to the "how can we make things happen" question was a "put your faith in us" attitude. The women at the rally clearly didn't buy it. With the "abominable" performance of some of the MLAs it was small wonder.

Challenged as well was the argument, "if only we could get the right people elected..." It was not the intention of MLAs that was in question but their performance.

Some women at the meeting were preparing themselves for more work within the party among rank and file members. Others were concerned with maintaining a pre-

sence in other women's groups, building on the strong base of woman power established, (or should one say, affirmed) in Victoria on March 22nd.

And of the rally itself?

All Were Proud

Many came away exhilarated; some, with the sad feeling that the rally hadn't effected much change. But all were proud of the women organizers. What the rally did do, at the least, was to provide women's groups with a tool for organizing. A lesson too in how to approach women in trade unions who may well augment the numbers of the next cross-province meeting of women. (A handbook put out by the rally organizers and copies of the MLA reports are available from the Vancouver Status of Women office.)

Amidst the interchange of ideas, business at the meeting proceeded well. Members decided to send delegates to the ongoing Women's Rally for Action meetings. Day-care challenged the group to support women workers on a number of fronts. Two committee members decided to attend a meeting at the Vancouver YWCA called by the Social Service Employees Union and SORWAC to seek public support for childcare workers. Other women attended a Vancouver courthouse rally, March 30, during the one-day work stoppage by union members. Two more joined the planning committee of an April childcare workshop, sponsored by the NDP's Vancouver Area Council. It was felt that NDP childcare policy is, at best, uncertain. But the Women's

Committee position on childcare is not at all uncertain!

A request came from Rosemary Brown, MLA, for input from women on the new provincial budget and its consequences for women.

Convention Talk

Throughout the meeting, the upcoming convention was uppermost in many people's minds. The steering committee of the BC women's committee is providing guidance on resolutions going to the convention.

A day-long pre-convention workshop will be held by the Lower Mainland women's committee on May 8 to provide information on party structure, parliamentary procedure, the women's position etc. A booklet prepared by Hilda Thomas containing: the Federal draft paper on women's rights; the BC women's manifesto; and a Hilda Thomas/Rosemary Brown paper "Feminism and Socialism" should be ready at that time.

As the formal meeting closed and informal talks took over, it was agreed to meet next on the North Shore at Capilano College, April 30. Childcare workers will address that meeting and North Shore women will take up the discussion on the state of women's rights. It should prove interesting.

IMPORTANT!

NDP LOWER MAINLAND WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

Sat., May 8, 1976

WORKSHOP

9:30-5:00 p.m.

Reg. fee \$2

Britannia Community Centre
1661 Napier, Van.

Childcare avail.
Lunch

The Convention - A Dictionary of Terms

Past Women's Policy

New Policy

Parliamentary Procedure

To PRE-REGISTER CALL:

Astrid 325-2313

Sheila or Barb
876-7487

Hilda 224-4678

NEW NDP GROUPS

FORMING

Brand-new Women's groups are now being formed in three constituencies where none existed before. Interested women should get in touch with the following contact persons:

1. REVELSTOKE-SLOCAN - Karen McIntyre, Box 377, Kaslo, B.C. VOG 1M0 (Tel. 353-2397)

2. RICHMOND - Kathy Goldney, 552 Ludlow, Richmond.

3. NANAIMO - Jess Dutchak, 1040 Strathmore, Nanaimo; or Marjorie Stewart, Jinglepot Road, R.R. #3, Nanaimo (Tel. 758-2658)

The NDP Women's Committee is delighted with the formation of these new women's caucuses. Functioning constituency-based groups are entitled to send one voting delegate to all central steering committee meetings (and of course, any NDP woman may attend a steering committee meeting).

If you have formed a local group, drop us a line. Our readers in your area will want to know.

HOSPITAL WOMEN \$37.50

CLOSER by b. gehring

\$ 37.50 or fight!

Painted by many of the hands that carried them, these signs were held high above the heads of hundreds of hospital workers during their lunch breaks, as they joined in a demonstration in front of B.C.'s largest hospital, the Vancouver General. As each shift of workers -- most of them women -- returned to their jobs in dietary, building service, maintenance, nursing and clerical, others replaced them to take up the signs. Many issues were at stake but the main one was the hospital's stubborn refusal to pay a retroactive anti-discrimination payment of \$ 37.50 per month to the women employees.

During the demonstration, hospital management passed out a pamphlet announcing the money would be paid. With unbroken stride and placards held firm, the women responded, "I'll believe it when I see it".

To an outsider, the protesters may have looked like any other group seeking further monetary gains. But for those closely involved, this particular demonstration -- along with supportive strike votes taken by employees in another three major hospitals in B.C.'s Lower Mainland -- helped move approximately 13,500 women employees one step closer to non-discriminatory wage rates in the hospital industry.

Traditionally, women in this industry (as in most industries) have been paid a lesser wage for performing the same or similar work as a man -- the jobs being disguised by different job titles such as Cleaner (man) and Housekeeping Aide (woman).

As long ago as 1964 the Hospital Employees Union attempted to remove such discrimination by introducing a job evaluation programme into the Collective Agreement. Its purpose was to determine the value of the job performed by considering the skills, education and responsibilities required by the employee performing that job: a more rational method than the conventional "strong-man-worth-more-than-tiny-woman" structure.

But the tight purse strings of the



Department of Health under the old Social Credit regime strangled every attempt the Union made to negotiate equal pay or to implement the contractual job evaluation programme.

Then in 1973, with a change in government, a couple of effective tactics tried to force discriminatory positions and wage rates out of the hospital industry.

Arbitration hearings were held in some B.C. Hospitals where obvious discrimination against selected groups of employees was most apparent. The Union encouraged hundreds of women employees to file complaints with Kathleen Ruff, new Director of Human Rights

With the Arbitration decisions producing some outstanding (costly) awards, and Ms. Ruff's determination to bring justice to those women who filed complaints (indeed, to all women in the hospital industry) the Department of Health was forced to meet with the Union to determine the most reasonable method of recompensing all employees deserving of equal pay for equal work.

a payoff

The phenomenal cost of immediate anti-discrimination action could not be handled, resulting in a retroactive payment (pay-off) of \$37.50 per month or \$450 for the year of 1973, for every employee (99% women) who was earning less than the base rate of a cleaner (male employee) in the hospital industry.

A further payment of \$37.50 per month for 1974 was negotiated into the 1974-'75 Collective Agreement, along with regular percentage increases, for those employees (again, 99% women), who had still not reached the wage rate of Cleaner. In addition, the Union received a firm promise that proper Government job evalu-



BERNICE GEHRING

ation would be undertaken and implemented within the life of that agreement. All discrimination was to be abolished by January 1, 1976.

Knowing that the Government job evaluation was incomplete and that the women would not have the promised "equal pay for equal work" by January 1st, and under the pressure of the Union, the Department of Health under the NDP Government issued one of its last directives: to pay a further retroactive payment of \$37.50 per month to the women employees.

This is the \$37.50 the women were willing to fight for.

And although they were successful in their fight (the Sacred Government loosened the purse strings to the hospitals), and money will be in their hands, many of the women will still be a long way from the promised equality.

Even with the anti-discrimination payments totalled, the women working in housekeeping, dietary, laundry and some clerical and nursing position will still earn \$90 to

(continued p. 29)

WOMEN AGAINST CONTROLS

By Ruth Houle.

Almost 400 people attended a public meeting last December sponsored by the Manitoba Common Front Against Wage Controls.

Prominent among the sponsors were many unions and women's groups including the Manitoba NDP Status of Women. A steering committee, set up at an earlier meeting, did an excellent publicity job - one which we in B.C. or elsewhere might well copy.

The report, sent to us by the chairperson of the public meeting, Barbara Campbell, tells us that a "pamphlet and handbill were produced to advertise the meeting, and to present an analysis of the federal controls. This material was distributed directly at various workplaces and shops--universities, colleges, schools and shopping centres.

"As well, the material was distributed through various organizations --the Co-op Bookstore, Liberation Books, Council of Self Help Groups, NDP Status of Women, Women's Liberation, ethnic groups and some trade unions.

"Letters of invitation were delivered to the Winnipeg and District Labour Council, Manitoba Federation of Labour and most locals affiliated to the Labour Council. The letters were followed by personal visits in some cases."

The main speaker, Gil Levine, National Research Director for the Canadian Union of Public Employees, used the Weston's corporation as an example of how "integrated bus-

inesses could justify cost increases anywhere in their huge operation, and thus qualify for price increases under these guidelines". He pointed out that "under the British price controls, only a small fraction of the millions of price increases examined were ever rolled back by the review board," adding that "the main purpose of the Federal program was to control wages."

The meeting passed several resolutions (summerized at the end of this article) and those involved are seeking widespread support for them.

*Ed. note: Priorities has requested follow-up information from the Manitoba NDP Status of Women. We hope to bring you further information on this issue soon.

SOME RESOLUTIONS

- * to reject the Federal Anti-Inflation Program as unjust and inequitable.
- * to actively support any principled opposition to the Anti-Inflation Program.
- * to work for an effective program to achieve an economy without inflation or depression through control of corporations' excess profits, public control of resource exploitation, redistribution of wealth through democratic control of the economy, and elimination of wasteful expenditures (e.g. the \$1 billion Olympics).
- * to organize further public demonstrations and rallies and to support any strike action called to oppose the program.

WOMEN RALLY for ACTION

by JOAN HAGGERTY

The Women's Rally for Action in Victoria on March 22 was an amazing experience.

Three women from the Powell River Women's Centre, one from Bella Coola, and Betty Berdahl and myself from Roberts Creek made up the lobby team from the MacKenzie riding.

A coalition of women's groups raised the money to pay the fares of each lobby team from each riding in B.C. and billets were arranged for us.

One group of six women drove nearly a thousand miles down from Dawson Creek; on the way they had to contend with a leaky gas tank, faulty brakes and a shimmy in their car body. I ran into them in the lunch queue at the Empress -- they were still laughing. (They weren't laughing a couple

of hours later when they heard that their MLA had refused to see them).

The meeting was extremely well-organized. We spent Sunday training to lobby and most of our time was tightly scheduled.

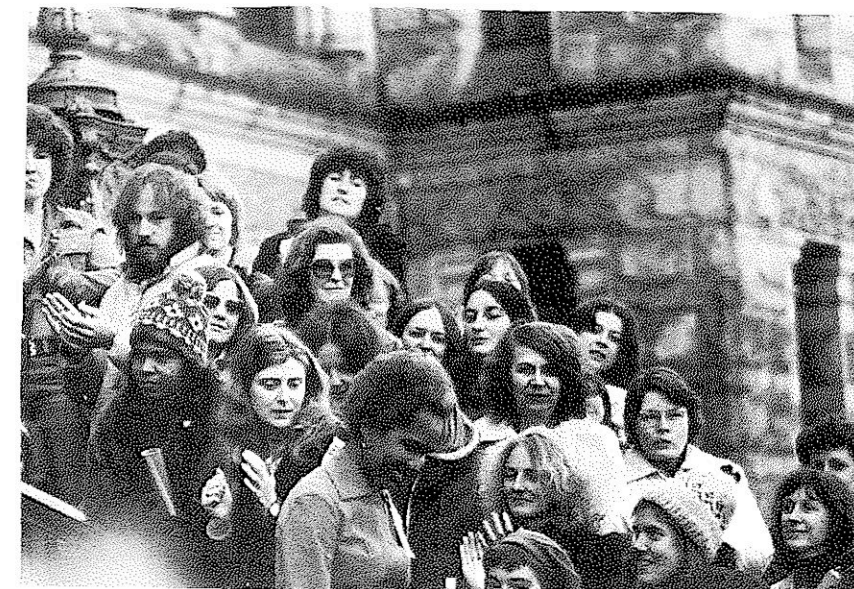
Mr. Twit

The most enjoyable part of that were two skits--one before, one after--in which four lobbyists met with the Minister of Absolutely Everything Important (played by Gene Errington, former coordinator of the Status of Women office). In the how-not-to-lobby skit, he and his executive assistant, Mr. Twit, met the lobbyists thus:

"Well, girls, it certainly is wonderful to see the fairer sex brightening up our office. Now, girls, I've had a look at this

long (it was 21 pages) brief you've drawn up and, my goodness, haven't you gone to a lot of work! And you have an agenda too, haven't you? Well, since you're members of my constituency, I think we can just abandon this piece of paper and chat in a friendly fashion." The women complied.

But in the how-to-lobby skit, the women replied to the Minister of Absol-



utely Everything Important that they would be delighted to chat after they'd finished the agenda.

Principal's Office

At the end of this day of agenda-compiling and assertiveness training, we had come to understand that the parliament buildings (with their high arched ceilings and their atmosphere combining church and a principal's office) actually could have been built to intimidate the peasants, and that we didn't have to enter them on our knees, tugging at our forelocks.

The buildings were softened the next day, however, by the presence of babies and apple juice tins on the window ledges: When the government refused to let us set up a day care tent on the grounds, we managed to talk the security guard into giving us their coffee room for a day care centre. Malcolm ran the day care centre. He received more attention and gratitude than anyone else there -- he could sing songs and tell funny stories.

Although many of the MLA's demonstrated lack of sympathy in answering our questions on the brief, most women still came away feeling that much had been accomplished. Someone spoke of a brand new emotion: joyful anger. This seeming contradiction in terms certainly describes the feeling I left with.

Here's an example of why. When the lobby team who went in to see Pat McGeer was foisted off on his executive assistant, they insisted on seeing the chief. The executive assistant told them Dr. McGeer was busy. After further negotiations, he promised to arrange a meeting with Dr. McGeer that afternoon at three if they would comply and speak with him now. (An executive assistant, by the way, has no power.) The

women said they would be back at three to speak with McGeer. When they came back and announced this to the crowd, they were triumphant that they had not been railroaded. Ten minutes after a letter of protest was presented to Bennett, the Point Grey constituents were promised a meeting with McGeer at three.

A small thing? Maybe. But if you've ever felt you were being patronized and finally found the right word to get out of the sticky marshmallow you enter on such occasions, you will understand that the clapping from the crowd was not only to encourage the possible success of their meeting.

Don Lockstead

We needn't have hassled over offensive strategy to win over Don Lockstead. He was delighted to see people from his riding and is as frustrated as we are over the regressive steps in women's affairs. He made a firm commitment that if the NDP is re-elected next election, the Status of Women's office will be re-instated. Our lobbying team recommended that, in the meantime, he and the other NDP MLA's be relentless in their attempts to persuade the government to give priority to these issues: representation for women within government, women's centre core funding, revision of family law, non-sexist education, improved day care, pensions for homemakers, and better health care for women.

We have lost all this and we want it back.

Graffiti

If God had meant women to be equal to men She would have given men brains.

(Women's washroom, Plaza 500 Hotel, Vancouver)

Victoria Rally: Impressions from a few of us

Strength, power

1. Organization: A-plus. Every requirement on hand from inspiring feminist songs to convenient chemical toilets. A model of efficiency. Running the world will be easy.

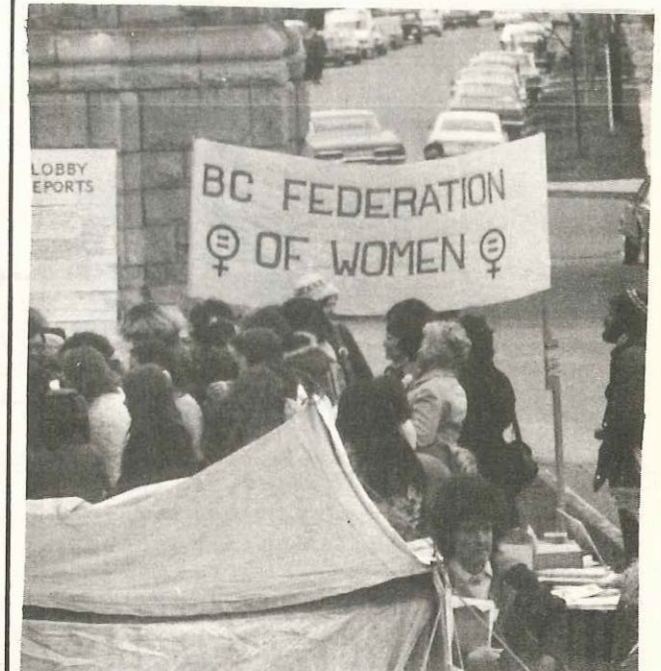
2. Responses of NDP MLA's: On the whole, C-minus. Some hadn't even bothered to read the Brief. Many were still--can you believe it?--trying to do the old "Just get us elected again and all will be well" number. After their record in office, why should women buy that? Few did.

3. Overall value for the women's movement: A. Sense of our potential strength and solidarity, our power in numbers out in the streets, was almost tangible out there on the Legislature steps.

- Cynthia Flood
Vancouver-Centre

I felt proud

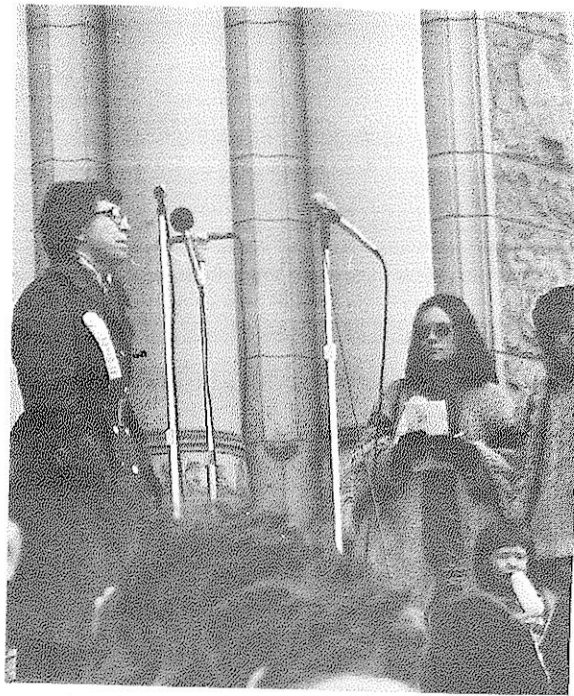
On my particular lobby team on March 22, five women with different backgrounds and interests came together to protest the actions of this present government against women. Our variety of past experience only served to bring more foundation to our argument with Grace McCarthy -- that women are being overlooked



in this province. Our support for each other and our commitment to a common cause stood out in vivid contrast to Mrs. McCarthy's evasive, uninformed and unsympathetic views on women.

This is what happened to most of the lobby teams and with each group at the rally. The feelings of strength and unity were expanded and intensified with each speech and lobby report. Gene Errington described many of the MLA's as "turkeys" and, indeed, we got a clear but pathetic picture of what we are up against with this government. In direct opposition to these MLA's were the articulate, organized and united women -- and I felt proud to be with them!

- Barbara Isaac



Ordinary women

It was so well organized, slick and intelligent. There we sat in front of our MLA, Gerry Strongman, four ordinary women, smart, assured and to the point. We knew what we were talking about, we had the facts and we knew the answers we wanted. There he sat demure, innocent and pleasant. He wasn't sure so he didn't argue. He spoke of legislation that didn't exist. We set him straight.

- Astrid Davidson
Vancouver-South

Hostile, hostile

It was good, it was good; driving to Vancouver, memories of driving home from Kamloops, the superb organization, the solidarity of NDP women, the warmth, the success of the women's resolution -- the happiness and expectation of real change in 1974 for women.

1976: a hostile government, hos-

tile women in government, no understanding, no women's rights policy -- and hundreds of women outside in the cold asking, demanding a piece of the pie. Attorney-General hostile to Berger recommendations, family property, general hostility to Status of Women's office. "Rape is society's problem". "Women make the best wives and housekeepers" -- from the Minister of Human Resources. Real change from THIS government? Sisterhood, songs -- but success?

- Robin Geary
Vancouver-Burrard

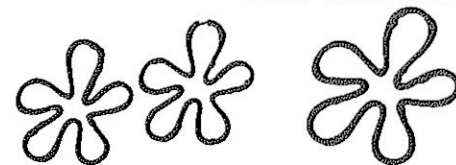
It meant something

The first rally I ever participated in was on March 8. It seems appropriate that it should have been on International Women's Day. I went secure in the knowledge that nothing was expected of me; just being there seemed sufficient. A woman mentioned that we should be carrying the available signs so I picked one up and blended into the crowd. While I stood listening to the speakers, whom I found interesting, informative, and stirring, someone said that the sign I was holding was radical and controversial. It was, "Abortion on Demand" which I strongly believe in. Suddenly I was involved and had a real purpose for being there. I didn't feel the sign was radical at all and it meant something to me, as did the other women's rights issues.

To sum up the feeling we had concerning both rallies, I must repeat something we heard recently at a women's meeting:

"The more I see of women, the more I like us."

- Sheila Mitchell



In at 10:15 Out at 10:30

Accompanied by Chris, Arlene, Robin and Donna I kept my appointment with Attorney-General Garde Gardom, who was flanked by his Deputy, David Vickers. Our first disillusionment: Gardom had not read the Brief, delivered one week earlier. He seemed disinterested in most of our presentation -- the immediate implementation of the Berger Commission reforms ("no time-no money-cut backs essential"). Affirmative Action talk brought hostility. He came alive as we discussed the high incidence of rape in his riding (Point Grey) and agreed police academies could implement better training for dealing with rape victims; that there were funds available for core funding through the Department of Health and A-G's office. He stated that women all over the world have not had equal opportunity -- up to now.

- Edith Thomas

I'll be honest

Since I've got my reputation as a pessimistic feminist to uphold, I'll be honest.

First of all, "sympathetic responses" from male MLA's don't impress me. Even if I believed they were sincere, "nice, well-meaning men" cannot effect any real change in an oppression that is deliberate and systematic, albeit unconscious at times. When elected male representatives start asking us what we want, and to formulate policy and make decisions which affect our lives, then I'll listen. When they become aware that our problems are the result of a male-dominated society and not isolated incidents happening to little poc-

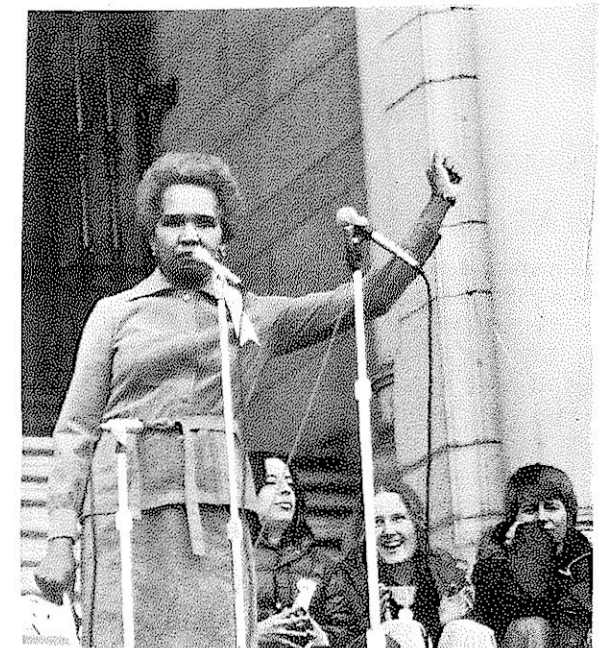
kets of individual women, then I'll become interested in what they have to say. The only way I see that happening is if we, sisters, can retain our energy, stamina and determination for a very long time. If women were affected and energized by the rally in that way then I'm hopeful that, not in the near future, but in years, change could come.

- Sandra Boucher

Nag and bombard

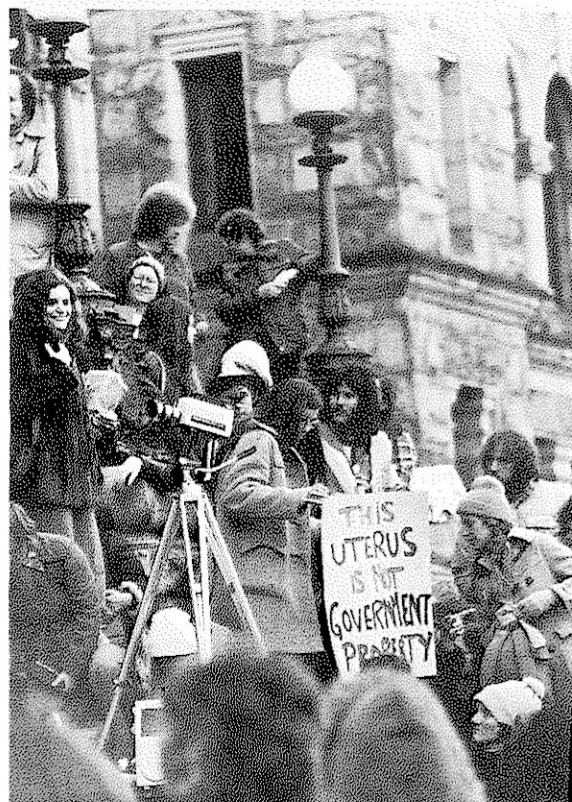
Our lobby team, composed of Enid Elliott (Child care), Lorraine Krakow and Diana Lion (Women's Health), Lila Rothberg (Rape Relief), Marnie Sugars (Emotional Emergency) and myself (NDP Women), met with Rosemary Brown.

As anticipated, Rosemary is 100% in agreement with all points in the Brief, including an addendum re: lesbian mothers, declaring that all mothers have the right to their children. Rosemary reiterated her never-ceasing battle, both in this government and the former



one, for women's rights. She promised to introduce and re-introduce private member's bills, to nag and to bombard this government until changes are made, or, until "the day that Bill Bennett becomes a flaming feminist". It is her life's work in government to exert all her strength toward achieving these goals, and she believes the pressure must come from all levels of involvement. We have an appointment to meet again May 1st.

- Phyllis Bridges



Women were heard

The organization, the sense of purpose, the unity. These were the outstanding aspects of the rally for me. Every detail was looked after from assertiveness training to billeting. There was a feeling that we all knew why we were there. The women used good sense in averting last minute rifts which might have developed when lobbyists of so many different backgrounds were teamed up. They chose instead to get on with the job. It was an impressive

rally. Women were heard. For many women the rally was their first political activity. I felt it will not be their last.

- Marilyn Walmsley

We grandmothers

A few of us, gathered in front of the legislature, remarked that we felt like the "grandmothers" of the movement.

We had been there before. We had had our time of organizing actions and experiencing the frustration, fatigue and excitement.

There was Jocelyn -- McGill, 1962, and Voice of Women. Rosemary-- Status of Women Action and Coordinating Council, '69-70. Betsy, Alice and Jeannie -- the Women's Caucus of Carrall Street in the mid-sixties. (Remember the Pedestal?) And Gloria, Val and I had shared in getting Transition House off the ground.

Altogether it was a joyous time. Watching our younger sisters carry on the struggle, we knew that our energies in earlier years had not been wasted.

- June Lenihan

Positive feelings

Vancouver-Burrard delegates can no doubt attribute a large part of their positive feelings about the rally to the support received from their NDP MLA's. Rosemary Brown, the only elected representative to address the rally, gave a rousing speech before joining the demonstrators.

Although he unfortunately continues to see expansion of childcare services and decent wages for childcare workers as an either/or situation, Norm Levi showed himself to be very knowledgeable on most of the issues, and well

ahead of the lobbyists on some, such as family law, pensions for homemakers, and labour, with which he has been deeply involved. Levi displayed an open and encouraging attitude and was quite enthusiastic about continuous follow-up for mutual education.

- Barbara Bachrach Taylor

We have time

Courage -- against pressures of time, neighbours, family, employer, money -- to travel long miles, often with small children through an unfriendly world with no facilities for their sleeping, feeding or playing.

Early rising, long travel, cold day, standing -- many uncertain what to say, how to say it. Old Chinese woman. Young coast Indian. Mother of four. Office worker. Warmed by our sisters. Feeling of purpose, of learning.

Awareness -- MLA's are human, elected by us. Their tricks and excuses recognized. Politicians barricaded against those at the gates. They have power. We have time. The women laugh. A laughter of growing understanding and confidence.

- Melodie Corrigan

Scripts Wanted

Studio D of the National Film Board is looking for dramatic scripts reflecting the experiences of women. They should be five to fifteen minutes in length and as detailed as possible as to dialogue, setting, etc. Deadline is April 30, 1976. The three best will receive \$ 600 each. Send to: Donna Dudinsky, Studio D, P-43, National Film Board, Box 6100, Station A, Montreal, Quebec.

Personally Speaking

After having agreed to write some of my feelings about the Women's Rally for Action in Victoria I'm finding it difficult to express them. I'm going to tell about one incident which, to me, stresses the need for a non-sexist, non-discriminatory society, and also tells of the strength and support I receive from my sisters.

Monday morning I was really excited and looking forward to the day (not every day is like that for me). I was up early, had my children, aged 3 years and 15 months, dressed and everything packed. Lots of time to get a good breakfast before I was to meet the other members of my lobby team.

Four other women who had billeted at the same house decided to ride with me to the Empress Hotel's Garden Terrace coffee shop. When we got there people were lined up waiting for tables. None of us being familiar with Victoria, we decided to wait in line for a table. After about 20 minutes the hostess came up and noticing our ribbons, "Women's Rally for Action", asked the six of us if we were going to "eat" or "have a meeting". We assured her we were all starving. At that point she said she only had a table for two.

The other women urged me to take the table as both the children had now been up for two hours without anything to eat. The hostess, well-trained by the Empress Hotel, I'm sure, looked at us in horror

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SWEPT AWAY BY AN UNUSUAL DESTINY IN THE BLUE SEAS OF AUGUST

- a film review

By Sharon Yandle

This is a movie no feminist/socialist should miss, especially if you get like me sometimes - a little tired and demoralized and fed up and put down and wondering if anything can ever again recall that Rising Up Angry feeling you used to have before you started Falling Down Exhausted and thinking what's the use.

Because this is a film that will really piss you off.

Here we have as a central character the original Young Mrs. Richbitch - a thoroughly vile human being who shrieks and nags at everyone in sight, especially workers. A beastly creature with nothing whatever to redeem her, not a shred of human decency, she sails around with her wealthy husband and friends in a luxury yacht, terrorizing the working class crew (male).

In a scenario too tedious to describe, this nasty shrew eventually becomes marooned on an island with one of the above-mentioned crewmen. The rest of the film is devoted to a study of how Working Class Male Subdues Bourgeois Female in such a way that the only question left at the film's end is whether Swept Away is more anti-woman or more anti-worker.

God knows that women (Young Mrs. Richbitch is effectively the only woman in the film) come off badly enough. But Working Class Male runs a close second. Discovering that his wretched companion is not only vile but also (what else?) totally helpless, incapable of un-

assisted survival, Working Class Male easily sheds that oh, so thin veneer of civilization and reveals what we all know to be the worker's True Nature. He is a pig.

Raising high the standard (Me Strong, You Weak) our hero proceeds to trade off his ability to acquire food and shelter in exchange for (a) domestic service, (b) sexual service, (c) slavish devotion and (d) love. A little sodomy and a lot of rape later, the woman is totally reduced to a kneeling, shoe-kissing, cowering, quivering, put-down, trod-upon, apologetic slave. By his own conscious actions Working Class Male has thrown off his oppression of yore and has become a Real Man.

So much for working men. Let us now turn to women.

Confronted by systematic brutality and degradation, what does the heroine do? Does she fight back openly? Does she scheme for revenge? Does she miserably submit? She does not. Instead, she responds to her savage treatment (which includes the demand that she must not only submit to but must also love her oppressor) by miraculously evolving into a Beautiful Human Being. Her former despicable nature dissolves and she becomes a good, warm, kind, thoughtful and loving womanly woman. She begs for abuse and the more she gets the more human she becomes. Naturally, Working Class Male cannot deny her conversion into exactly what he wants by exactly the means he chooses, and hence cannot avoid loving her in return.

Eventually all this silly claptrap leads to a Test of True Love, wherein the parties get themselves rescued in order to see if their Beautiful Relationship is strong enough to weather life in their former world and stations. It isn't. Heartbroken woman returns to her husband (a bourgeois male who, for contrast to Working Class Male, seems a nice sort of bloke) and heartbroken man is forced to return to the only other woman in the film, his dumpy, loud, giggly, empty-headed wife who trails after him nagging and complaining from a respectful distance. He is naturally miserable, having lost a good thing, but looks like he will survive through therapeutically beating his wife.

Not so the woman. Though she has returned to her class her meaningful experience has fundamentally transformed her. She got what all women need and thus is now a Real Woman for evermore. Her grief at her loss is profound, but her gratitude is eternal.

One last word. Lest anyone think that the goal of the feminist movement is to elevate individual women into the professions. I am compelled to reveal that Swept Away is directed by a woman.

P.S. I almost forgot. This film is a comedy. Ha ha.

personally speaking

(continued from page 21)

and told me she only had a table for two people. "Perfect", I said, "The baby needs a highchair anyway." But that wouldn't do. Although I pleaded that the children were very hungry, we were three people and would have to go back in the line-up. She then took two elderly, well-dressed people from the back of the line to the table.

By the end of that scene with the



hostess I was shaking with frustration and rage. At that point the other women told me that the Empress obviously didn't like women, especially women alone with children, and that we should all leave. They helped carry the children over to the museum to wait for the coffee shop there to open.

A society which discriminates against women and children, even in a coffee shop, points out how much we still have to change.

by JUDY McMANUS

MUSIC REPORT

by Sandra Boucher

More and more women have been inquiring about the availability of women's music. As I work at the Women's Bookstore in Vancouver, I've had access to records not available in regular stores. So although I don't consider myself a music critic, I'll offer my comments on the records I've heard.

Holly Near's first album, "Hang In There" consists primarily of anti-war songs. Holly has a clear, strong, inspiring voice. Her second album "Live", is mostly feminist songs and very good.

Rita McNeil is a Canadian from Nova Scotia and her music strongly reflects her background. The words are very political and feminist and she has a beautiful strong voice. "Lavender Jane Jones Women" is one of my favourites. The politics are lesbian-feminist and the style is a sort of classical-folk. One of my favourite songs is "The Women In Your Life Is You." It's about the special things you as a woman are and can be to yourself. It makes me feel good. Kay Gardner's flute playing on this record is excellent also.

"I Know You Know" by Meg Christian is pleasant to listen to and I find her song "The Hive" quite good, (it's about traditional marriage) but as a whole her music is not very political.

I feel women artists (actually all artists) have a responsibility to their community to present the truth about our situation in political terms, as they see it. I find both Meg Christian and Chris Williamson do "nice songs" but

offer little in this area. Chris Williamson's record is the biggest seller these days-- pleasant but that's about it.

Although Kay Gardner's album is not political either, the instrumentation is excellent. Mostly instrumental (flute); this record is very soothing and relaxing.

Hazel and Alice sing authentic Blue Grass music. Two of the songs are specifically about women and the roles they get forced into, and if you are into that kind of music, they are great.

(Continued page 27)

The next meeting of the
ISLAND-MACKENZIE REGIONAL
STEERING COMMITTEE
of the
NDP WOMEN'S COMMITTEE
will be on
SATURDAY 8 MAY 76, NOON
at Eva Manly's house,
621 Third Avenue,
Ladysmith.
LUNCH! will be served.
TOPIC:
THE PROVINCIAL CONVENTION
AND
RESOLUTIONS
Eva's phone no: 245-2183

WOMEN'S ORGANIZERS

ISLAND- MACKENZIE

At the March 20 Regional Meeting in Victoria, Gail Clague told us of her intention to resign from the women's organizer position for Island and MacKenzie. The 30 women attending were sorry to hear of her decision. The Island regional structure is really working and Gail has made a positive contribution to that.

We've now had three regional meetings in 1976 and the ongoing commitment of NDP women to a regional

organization is growing and strengthening. The group discussed the position of women's organizer at some length and decided that another organizer should be hired to concentrate her work first in the mid-Island constituencies. (The strongest groups at present are located in Victoria-Esquamalt-Oak Bay-Saanich, and Courtenay-Comox). Women present from Duncan, Ladysmith, Port Alberni, Nanaimo and Parksville felt that more organizational effort should be concentrated in the mid-Island where there are large numbers of NDP women but underdeveloped organization vis-a-vis the women's committee.

CARIBOO-CENTRAL INTERIOR

The women's organizer for Cariboo-Central Interior, Mary Humphrey, was hired effective March 15. Mary is working out of the Kamloops constituency office, 181 Vernon Ave. (tel. 376-8010). Her home address is: Apt. 304, 1370 Tranquille Rd., Kamloops (tel. 376-2641).

Mary formerly worked as a pre-election organizer for the Party in Ontario. She also helped organize the Lakehead University unit of OPEIU, Local 81, and served as Vice-President of the unit for one year and as chairperson of the bargaining committee for the first three contracts.

She has worked in elections in four provinces and was an active member of the Port Arthur NDP for the seven years preceding her recent move to Kamloops.

Mary has already set up a Parliamentary Law Session for the Kamloops Women's Caucus, held in April, contacted all the constituency presidents in her region, and took part in last month's Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) School at Harrison Hot Springs.

NDP members in the Cariboo-Central Interior area should contact Mary directly for further information. She wants your ideas.

SUBSCRIBE-----SUBSCRIBE-----SUBSCRIBE

WANTED: --PART TIME ORGANIZERS--

Two positions are now open: one in the Island-MacKenzie region and one in the North.

Duties include:

1. Travelling throughout the area and meeting with NDP women and women who are not yet members. Organizers will concentrate their energies on a smaller geographic area within the region in accordance with some long-range goals established by the regional women's committee.

2. Assisting in the formation of new NDP women's groups.

3. Educating NDP women about the political process and about women's rights policy.

4. Assisting in establishing communications between NDP women's groups; assisting in the formation and continuation of a regional steering committee or committees that cover the same geographic areas as your work. (Note: several regional committees in the North may well be more practical than one regional committee).

5. Helping to arrange women's rights conferences.

6. Reporting your work regularly (in print) to the Democrat, to Priorities, and to the Chairperson of the Women's Committee.

Remuneration of \$ 358 (includes expenses) for the equivalent of 10 working days per month. Work time should be planned to harmon-

ize with your own personal requirements and the needs of the women in your region (eg. Many meetings are set up for weekends and evenings, so you may find you can have all mornings or afternoons free.)

Hiring is done by the Women's Committee in consultation with the Provincial Secretary. Probationary period is three months.

Letters of application with a brief resume of relevant past experience should be sent to:

Candace Hanson, Chairperson
NDP Women's Committee
1435 Richardson St.
Victoria (tel: 382-8483)

with a copy to Cliff Scotton, NDP Provincial Secretary, 64 8th St., New Westminster.

Deadline for applications: MAY 15, 1976.

Law Booklets Ready

"Matrimony and Divorce" and "Family Court", two publications of particular interest to women, are now available from the Vancouver People's Law School, #610, 207 W. Hastings St., Vancouver.

"Matrimony and Divorce" is out in a fully revised edition. Areas covered are Marriage and its Implications, Common Law Marriage, Credit, Who Owns What, When One Spouse Dies, Financial Support, Children, Separation and Divorce.

The booklet is available to independent women's groups at a special reduced rate of 25¢ per copy plus postage, as is another publication, "Women and the Law".

"Family Court" discuss the use of the Family Court during marital disputes. It covers maintenance, custody, access, family assaults,

(continued on page 28)

Unions are not slot machines *by Gail Borst*

Editor's Note: In the aftermath of the Victoria Rally several women have discussed the why's and wherefore's of involving more trade union women in future actions. Organized women workers often cannot be reached except through the structures of their unions, and many women want their union's support before participating themselves. Because approaching the labour movement sometimes seems a mystifying process, Gail has written this article as a "how-to" guide for organizers.

How do you ask for the union movement's involvement in projects you're planning? These are the steps-- you may not agree with all the procedures, but this is the way things work, and succeed.

1. Determine which level of union structure you need to approach.

If your project involves only one union, you could deal directly with it, but it is almost always a better idea to go first to the Federation of Labour or to the Labour Council level. Federations deal with province-wide matters and Labour Councils with matters affecting their geographical areas. Policy on social issues etc., is decided by vote in convention or meetings within these bodies, and therefore they are the place to ask for support. They also have the machinery and processes to deal with such requests.

If your issue gains the support of a federation or labour council they will frequently direct you to appropriate union locals, ones who

would be concerned or affected by your proposal, or will take steps to inform those unions themselves. And after your issue gains such support, you can tell other groups and unions of that support and gain cooperation from a wider segment of the union community. Unions invariably want to know what the "Fed" has done about "this," will call up and ask, and if the "Fed" has never heard of you you're unlikely to get support.

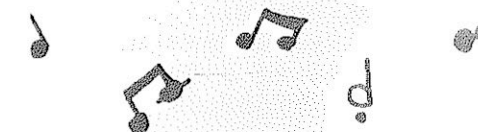
(Continued p.28)

music cont'd

Because it is hard to anticipate sales the Bookstore is sometimes out of stock and you might have to wait for some of the titles.

The following records are available at prices from \$4.50 to \$5.50 plus tax.

Hang in There	Holly Near
Holly Near, Live	Holly Near
Born A Woman	Rita McNeil
Lavender Jane	
Loves Women	Lavender Jane
I Know You Know	Meg Christian
The Changer and the Changed	Chris Williamson
Moon Circles	Kay Gardner
Hazel and Alice	Hazel and Alice
Living with Lesbians	Alix Dobbin



2. Write a letter to the appropriate person--business agent, president, secretary treasurer--and to the membership, explaining your issue and making your request.

If you don't know who to write to (name and title), call the union or union body, and ask to whom such a letter should be directed. Then, write the letter; don't deal with the issue on the phone. The telephone is useless for such requests.

In your letter, explain and make your request include your literature, backup information etc., offer more information if it's needed, including leaflets, brochures for them or for the membership meeting, and offer to come in and explain your request if they so desire.

Give a name, address and phone number where you (or someone) can be easily contacted.

If you would like the labour body to notify its affiliates or locals of your request, if granted, make sure you specify this in your letter.

Express your appreciation for their attention.

allow time

At best the labour movement operates on a monthly schedule of meetings, and your request may have to go through an executive meeting as well as a larger council or membership meeting. Some union bodies meet every two months, and in the summertime everything can stop dead for quite a while. Remember that you want the support of the members of the union movement and that the democratic process necessary to ensure that is time-consuming. Two to three months is not at all unusual.

4. After a while, check back by phone.

Find out if they need more information—or anything else. You might also ask when they'll be able to consider your request.

5. Say Thank you.

Even if your request is turned down they did spend time and effort considering it, and there will always be a next time and other issues on which you want support. And if your request is OK'd, a letter of thanks is in order. Unions are only human, and everyone like to know that their efforts, cooperation and involvement are appreciated.

Law Booklets

(continued from page 26)

etc. There is also a large section dealing with the Family Court's jurisdiction over the Juvenile Delinquents Act.

Cost of this booklet and all other booklets is 50¢ plus postage. Others presently available are: Civil Liberties, Labour Law, Small Claims Court Procedures, Pollution and the Law, Immigration Procedures, Land Transactions, and Wills and Estates.

No Comment

"I'll do what I have to do -- teas and bazaars or whatever -- but I plan to stay in the background. I feel politics is a man's role, and I don't want to become too involved."

- Audrey (Mrs. Bill) Bennett



Convention Coming Up

By Candace Hanson

Place: Peach Bowl Auditorium, Penticton.

Date : June 11 through June 13
Registration begins June 10th evening.

Deadline for Resolutions: Those received by Provincial Office by April 12 will be in the Resolutions kit. Those submitted later will not appear in kit.

At a meeting on March 20 of all the policy chairpersons of the B.C. NDP, the schedule for panel discussions at the convention was set. There will be 16 separate panels, all held on the first day of the Convention, June 11. (Panels are "workshops" for discussion of resolutions submitted to the convention; delegates attend four panels of their choice.) The following policy areas will have panels:

Two panel periods scheduled for: Women's Rights!; Highways, Transport and Communications (including urban transit); Lands and Forests; Housing; Environment and Land Use; and Finance and Economic Development.

\$37.50

(continued from page 13)

\$100 less than the famous "Cleaner" wage which, in turn, is the lowest rate of the traditional "male" jobs.

An end to discrimination? Not yet!

(Bernice Gehring is a practical nurse and staff representative for the Hospital Employees' Union).

One panel period scheduled: Labour (Wage and Price Controls will also be discussed); Human Resources; Health; and Education.

Resolutions can be amended in the panels, but new resolutions cannot be "created." On the evening of the 11th the Resolutions Committee, made up of the policy chairpersons and one representative from each regional area of the province, will determine scheduling of resolutions in the June 12 and 13 plenary sessions.

The Women's Committee's priority focus in resolutions will be those arising out of the Berger Commission Recommendations on Family and Children's Law, the Foulkes Report on Health Care in B.C., and recommendations not yet implemented in the Royal Commission Report on the Status of Women (1970). Resolutions on women's rights were passed at the Fall 1975 meeting of New Democrats North and a resolution on community of marital property passed at the Island and McKenzie Regional Conference (March 1976). Other resolutions on women's rights will no doubt be submitted. A copy of any resolution on women's rights should be sent to either of the persons listed below at the same time they are forwarded to Provincial Office!

At the 1975 convention the final women's caucus meeting passed a motion that space would be rented as a place for women to meet throughout the 1976 Convention. We will be investigating to see if this is possible in Penticton.

(Continued p. 30)

If there are any NDP Women in Penticton who would be willing to help the Women's Committee plan for caucuses and general convention arrangement, please contact:

Candace Hanson, 1435 Richardson, Victoria, B.C. 382-8483

or

Judy McManus, 2277 Upland Drive, Vancouver, B.C. 327-8875

GET ELECTED AS A DELEGATE !!!!!

100,000 ITALIAN Women March!

We're sure that women all around the world rejoiced as we did at the magnificent spectacle of one hundred thousand sisters marching through the streets of Rome in protest against Italy's abortion laws and the Christian Social Democrats' fink-out on the issue. Anything better calculated to give those in authority a collective and massive heart attack can scarcely be imagined.

We applaud the Roman women and wish them well in their inspiring struggle. And, Canadian women, take note; suppose we mustered one hundred thousand on Parliament Hill in the same cause???

ALL WOMEN MEMBERS OF THE NDP AND FRIENDS
ARE INVITED TO ATTEND A MEETING OF THE

LOWER MAINLAND NDP WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

CAPILANO COLLEGE ROOM ND101

FRIDAY, 30 APRIL, 1976 - 8 P.M.

*

DISCUSSION TOPICS

DAY CARE IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

with speakers from Vancouver and North Shore Day Care Centres

WOMEN'S RIGHTS PROGRAMS ON THE NORTH SHORE

with a speaker from the North Shore Women's Centre

For information contact Anne Kowan - 985-3828

ORGANIZER HIRED

Priorities has now hired an organizer, Judy Paterson, to take charge of our Raise The Subscription Level To The Stratosphere project. Judy has been actively involved with Priorities and the NDP Women's Committee for the last year. She was hired as of 1 April 1976, and is currently planning out her schedule. She is going to start travelling soon, and she is looking forward to meeting our supporters around the province and introducing Priorities to new women. Maybe you'll be seeing her at your next meeting or gathering.

Priorities' thanks for the hard work of June Lenihan, who spent many hours getting donations and pledges--as of 2 April, the total on hand and in postdated cheques was \$1770. Without June's efforts, we wouldn't have been able to hire Judy this soon. As you'll note, we still have a way to go to our goal of \$5000; if you haven't made your donation yet, please do so now!

THANKS

to our supporters.

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at the

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Eleanor Millard, Yukon
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