

HERizons

SEPTEMBER 1983 VOL. 1, NO. 7 Price \$1.50

THE MANITOBA WOMEN'S NEWS MAGAZINE



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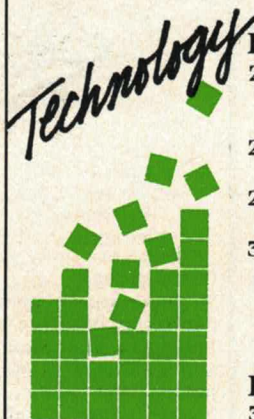
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The aim of this magazine is to provide an alternative means of communication with a feminist perspective in order to stimulate, to inform, to effect change, and to unify women's strengths, serving as a forum for the women of Manitoba.

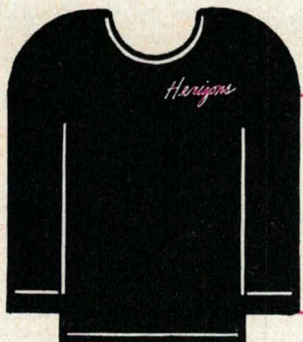
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LETTERS



Dear Editors:

Shannon Robson points out in her article (Wearing Your Politics on Your Sleeve) with and without inspirational humour, yet another form of discrimination — unfortunately within the ranks of the feminist movement itself.

I would deal with an attack on my personal grooming, and equating it with my social consciousness, much in the same way I would deal with a challenge of my personal morality based on how often I go to church: WITH ANGER.

The trouble with creating a uniform code in this social issue is that it is but another form of stifling one's self-expression, whatever form of dress it may be.

Very early in my 10-year relationship with my husband, there was a time when putting on a dash of lipstick before leaving the house brought forth such comments as "Who is that for?" I felt angry, I felt degraded, and I felt that he seriously questioned my own self-esteem. I felt that by questioning my self-respect and self-love, he was attempting to lower it, maybe for his own hang-up with possession.

I cannot help but transfer the anger I felt then to the theme of Ms. Robson's article. I find my judgement and intelligence insulted; that when I wear make-up or shave my pits, it could only be for someone else's benefit, or even that I have been subliminally seduced by men's

values into doing so. I have a great sense of self, and now, after years of trying to overcome such judgement from men, I have to struggle also with my sisters? Is the age-old imagery of the evil female seductress still lurking in all those self-professed feminist minds? The very thing we are fighting against?

In your magazine's questionnaire, you ask, "What does the word feminism mean to you?" To me, it is Freedom. Freedom of choice. Freedom of opportunity, knowledge and expression. And freedom from ridicule, even from those with which we are presently equal.

Sincerely,
Melissa Koltai

Letters and responses welcome from readers. Send to

Herizons
125 Osborne
Winnipeg
R3L 1Y4

Dear Editors:

I wish to subscribe to your wonderful magazine — which I heard about just this past weekend in the weekend Globe & Mail.

Finally an English women's magazine hits the Canadian publishing scene. I'm very pleased — as a native Winnipegger I'm extremely proud. I work with 3 men here at the office so maybe with the help of HERizons I can lead them towards male feminist thinking. Good luck in the future.

Yours,

Norma Jean Sanders

Dear Editors:

I find your magazine quite informative ... but perhaps a bit inconsistent.

I found the report in the July '83 issue about MACSW advocating the boycott of Safeway stores interesting. I assume that by printing such a story that you also advocate such a boycott, so I certainly hope that you are aware that your magazine is sold in Safeway stores. I purchased

my copy of the July issue at the Safeway store at Marion and Braemar in St. Boniface. Should your readership boycott Safeway, your sales might diminish significantly.

Nevertheless, keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

Lisa J. Lugtig

Dear Sisters:

I filled out the survey and then did not send it in. It seemed as though you did it only to find out what kind of advertising to seek. Please don't compromise your excellent standards to obtain advertisers to meet publishing costs. I would rather pay a higher yearly fee for the magazine! I am a married woman, 37 years old, have three teenagers and am ordained in the Church. I'm a Christian feminist. I don't always agree with all you present but I'm always challenged.

Yours in His Ministry,
Karen Binding

Dear Editors:

HERizons is off to a good start in Manitoba and a magazine of this calibre is needed by the women of the province.

However, I do feel that in order to be really effective a magazine representing women should consider women's issues from all angles.

The one issue I feel which is given very biased coverage is the abortion issue. I think that it is perfectly possible to be a feminist and to also be against abortion on demand. This doesn't appear to be the policy of your magazine. I am not writing to ask you to change your viewpoint but, I am asking for a more balanced approach — the hostility on both sides is getting out of hand and of course, the more publicity it receives from the media, the more the situation deteriorates.

In June's HERizons there was an article titled "Conversations at the Clinic." Why must we waste space reporting a few ludicrous remarks made by extremists. (Note, very few of these insane remarks were made by the pro-choice group.) The article implies that the pro-lifers are a rather sick ignorant bunch. Some are, but as with the majority of pro-choice members, the rest of us are reasonable and intelligent. Why not use this space to discuss the issues at stake? We are turning this into a battle between different viewpoints and losing sight of the issue and its implications to society.

A further example of this attacking is the pro-choice advertisement in the same issue. (I am aware that your magazine cannot control the content of advertisements.) Here again is a blatant example of the cheap shots being hurled by both sides. The abortion issue is not a fight for our freedom. We are all free to make choices, we are free to decide to have or not have children and to plan our pregnancies. Abortion is hopefully not to be used as a method of birth control.

The pro-life groups are made up of people from all denominations and walks of life. The advertisement in stating that this group wishes to deny access to contraception is implying that this is a Catholic group. It is not. The

abortion issue is not a religious issue as many would like to have us believe. It is a societal issue.

Pro-lifers do not frown upon abortions when the mother's life is at stake — but could the lives of 67,751 mothers who aborted their babies in 1980 really have been in jeopardy? Not likely!

The last point made was that pro-lifers would deny abortions to rape victims. This point hardly appears to be a problem when backed by the statistics available. In a 10 year report on the Minneapolis-St. Paul area, out of 3500 rapes reported, The Educator, Sept. 1979, reveals that no pregnancies resulted.*

The pro-life movement doesn't wait to take away people's rights. It stands for equality for all — including unborn babies. Feminists appear to perceive that unless they have access to abortions that there will be no equality and freedom for women.

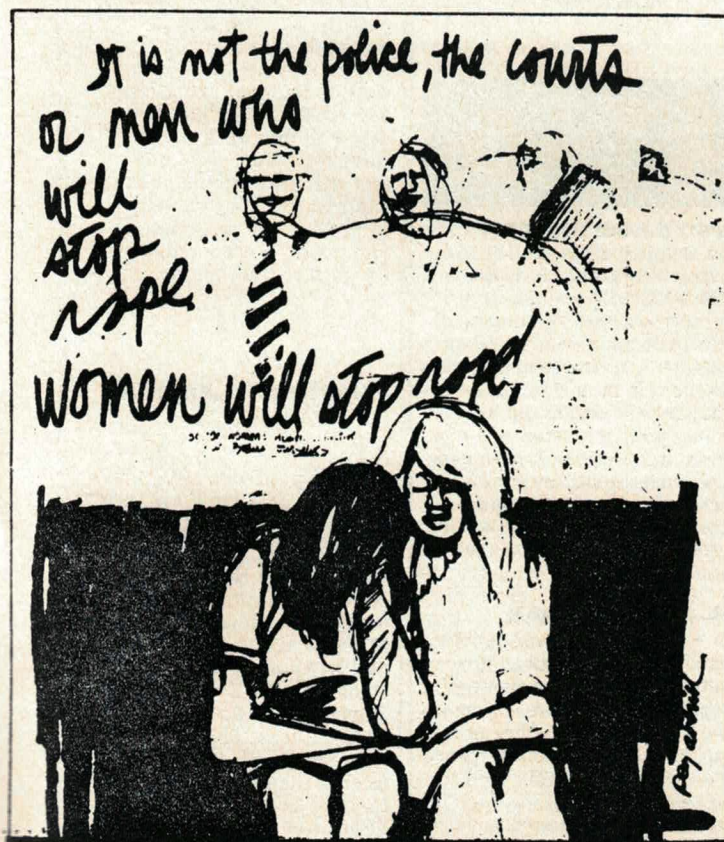
I have always felt it a great privilege to have children and I have chosen when to have each of them. I think most of us have this option available to us. Again I would like to say that although your magazine is pro-choice please, report the other half of the issue more fairly so that women are educated as to what is involved in the issue and what the consequences will be to self and to society.

It is a sad reflection on the women in today's society if they feel that human life has so little value.

Yours sincerely,
Susan Van De Velde

*Editors Note:

HERizons is unable to substantiate the claim of no pregnancies resulting from rape in The Educator. We are sceptical about a study was done on only reported cases of rape and reported pregnancies. Women who become pregnant in such cases are not required to report if a pregnancy results, and cases are not followed up to ask the fraction of women who do report rape whether a pregnancy resulted. In Winnipeg, it is a common occurrence for rape victims to report pregnancies to counsellors at Klinik that have resulted from rape/incest.



Calendar

SEPTEMBER

6 LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

for women are changing — is the focus of this meeting sponsored by the Man. Chapter of the Canadian Congress for Learning Opportunities for Women. Location: Chamber of Commerce, 6th floor, 167 Lombard St. at 8 PM. All interested women are invited to attend, no admission — cash bar.

17 SELF BREAST-EXAMINATION

Clinic at 10 AM. Registration is necessary. Call the Women's Health Clinic, 304-414 Graham Avenue, Winnipeg, phone 947-1517.

17 GENERAL MEETING — WCCD.

The Winnipeg Co-ordinating Committee for Disarmament will be holding its annual meeting at 7:30 PM at the Chapel in Westminster United Church. To nominate executive members call Anne at 256-9305.

23 TAKE BACK THE NIGHT MARCH

and rally. Women and Children meet at the Manitoba Legislature at 8:00 PM for speakers, march to make a strong statement in response and recognition of the violence that we as women experience daily in the streets and in our homes. Child care available and social to follow. For info. call 942-8790.

24 SELF BREAST-EXAMINATION

Clinic at 10 AM. Registration is necessary. Call the Women's Health Clinic, 304-414 Graham Avenue, Winnipeg, phone 947-1517. (Also Oct. 1 and Oct. 8).

30 VOICES IN THE COMMUNITY

— 2nd Annual Fall Conference Sept. 30 to October 2 at the Gas Station Theatre, River & Osborne. Topics include Children's Lit, poetry, fiction, reviewing, scriptwriting and much more, also readings, displays & party. To register: Manitoba Writer's Guild, 3rd Floor, 374 Donald St., Winnipeg R3B 2J2, 942-6134.

30 REPRODUCTIVE CHOICE

Social sponsored by the Cdn. Federation of Students at Riddell Hall, U. of W. 8:30 PM. Tickets \$10 (\$8 students, seniors, unemployed); available from U. of W. Women's Centre & MACSW 942-2000.

OCTOBER

1 NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION

Against Section 251 (Abortion Law) of the Criminal Code. 11:30 AM Rally at Legislature followed by a Choice-A-Thon (bike, run, crawl or whatever). For further information or if you want to get involved in the organization call Janine Gibson-Grant at 772-7958.

HERIZONS would like to hear from you. Please mail calendar events to 125 Osborne St. S., Winnipeg R3L 1Y4.

FOCUS ON WOMEN

Conference '83 - November 17, 18 and 19 at the Holiday Inn Downtown, Winnipeg, Manitoba. The goals of this conference are to assess the status of women in Manitoba from all perspectives; to gather together the widest possible participation of Manitoba women; to explore the ties that unite women of Manitoba; to discuss topics pertaining to the economy, the family, education, health, sports, the arts, and politics. Further information on this conference can be obtained from Win Gardner, Consultant, Secretary of State, 201-303 Main Street, Winnipeg R3C 3G7.

WOMEN AND WORK

in the 80's: Surviving The Technological Revolution. This national conference is taking place October 8 - 11 (Thanksgiving) in Ste. Adele, Quebec (in the Laurentians, north of Montreal). Sponsored by the Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, this conference is open to everyone.

Panelists and workshop leaders are required on Effects and Strategies re Micro Technology. For information contact: Ruth Linstead, Coordinator, 536 Richard Ave., Verdun, Quebec H4H 2A4 (514) 768-6066.



VOTE FOR PEACE

on October 26 in the Winnipeg Municipal Elections. The WCCD Referendum Committee has been organizing the "Yes" Campaign. One of the goals is to establish a committee in each ward of the city to educate the public, lobby politicians and distribute literature to support the nuclear disarmament resolution. Interested call Lynne at 453-1811 or WCCD office 786-1535.

W.A.R.N.-WOMEN

of all Red Nations are in need of funds to print information, to travel, to pay for legal litigations. "As women we must stand together in the struggle." Beautifully screened T-shirts are available with the WARN Woman on the front and says "A nation is not

conquered until the hearts of its women are on the ground." 100% Cotton, yellow, S M L & XL; Cost \$8.00, plus \$2.00 mailing fee (U.S. funds) Send donations, requests for further information and T-shirt orders to: Stephanie Autumn, W.A.R.N., 8953 Keystone Rt., Rapid City, SD 57701.

WOMEN AND THERAPY

Conference on November 9, 10, 11 at Holiday Inn (Don Valley), Toronto. To explore the social issues which influence women's mental health; to improve counselling effectiveness; to deepen self-awareness. Keynote address by Phyllis Chesler, author of Women and Madness. For info. and registration material write: Professional Development Assoc., 3 Cameron Cresc., Toronto M4G 1Z7.



UNIVERSITIES WEEK

Oct. 2 - 8 begins on Sunday with an Open House from 1 - 5 PM which features another garage sale. The purpose of the week is to highlight the role of universities in community, regional and national development. The national theme of this week is "We Have the Future in Minds" and will draw attention to the value of teaching, scholarship, research, and cultural and public service activities. For further information call Nancy Birks of Stefanie Madak 474-9514.

FEMINISM IN ACTION:

New Knowledge, New Education, New Society is the theme of the Annual conference of the Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women CRIAW on November 11 - 13 at the Four Seasons Hotel, Vancouver. The 1983 conference seeks to promote the broadest of social action programmes and key note speakers include Dorothy E. Smith, Sylvia Van Kirk, Meg Luxton, Olga Favreau. For information: Dr. June I. Gow, Conference Coordinator, Dept. of History, University of B.C., Vancouver V6T 1W5.

ON THE HERIZON

This fall the provincial government will be taking a run at the huge problem of how to protect workers from the negative effects of computer technology by introducing amendments to Manitoba's current technological change legislation.

Deputy Minister of Labour Mary Eady said the amendments will hinge on the findings of the Labour Law Review Committee. The Committee conducted hearings on technological change and plant closure over the summer.

Although Eady admits changing "this and that" wording in the legislation will not quickly solve all of the problems presented by the computer age, she does question areas in the Labour Relations Act that could be changed to improve the situation.

For example, the technological change section of the Act now requires an employer to give ninety days notice to an employees' union if a "significant" number of employees will be affected by the introduction of new technology into the workplace.

Eady hinted a definition of "significant" change is needed. The Union of Unemployed Workers (UUW), which presented a brief to the Labour Law Review Hearings, argues that the present legislation gives the employer "too much leeway in determining if he/she has to give notice or not."

The UUW believes the employer should give notice, regardless of how many employees will be affected and that the notice should be given as soon as the employer decides to prepare for technological change. Often this preparation starts two years before it is actually implemented.

"The notice given by the employer, then, would also give all the workers concerned adequate time to re-train for available jobs in the new com-

Technology Labor Laws

by Tanya Lester

puterized workplace," the UUW brief states. "The government should establish a policy whereby such re-training is available and financed by the employer or through government-employer cost sharing. In the case of small businesses, the government should solely finance this re-training."

The UUW also advocates granting severance pay and supplementary unemployment benefits to those workers laid off due to the new technology. It feels this money should be provided by the employer and/or the government.

To this kind of employer taxation proposal, Eady said, "They (the employers) would argue that they are paying that now. They feel its not their responsibility to provide full employment."

Although employers tend to profit from workers' displacement by computers, Eady correctly anticipates employers' opposition to taking this type of responsibility. Nor can it be expected that employer 'arm twisting' will be a political route the government would want to take.

Under these circumstances, then, it is even more urgent for the government to set up affirmative action programs. "These programs would either re-train the employees for the new workplace environment or help them find jobs in other workplaces," the UUW brief reads. "Because it is widely predicted that clerical jobs, largely staffed by women, will be the first and hardest hit, the affirmative action pro-

grams should help alleviate the employment problems already being faced by women."

Eady emphasized, though, that the introduction of computer technology will often not be coupled with layoffs. The employer may instead decrease the number of jobs through attrition. This situation would only further increase the importance of affirmative action and job creation programs. It remains to be seen if the provincial government will shoulder this responsibility and couple the programs with contract compliance in order to give them some 'teeth'.

A reduction of work week hours could also deter mass unemployment, Eady said. However, she did not go as far as to say that the government would advocate maintaining wage levels while reducing working hours. The result of decreased income would be decreased buying power. Robots, for instance, would make production more efficient while those able to buy the products will decrease in numbers.

In another area, Eady did point to the joint workplace committees which are required under Saskatchewan legislation. Such committees, consisting of labour and management representatives, enable employee input concerning how technological change is introduced into the workplace.

These committees would help protect non-unionized as well as organized workers.

The UUW believes government boards should be established to further protect non-unionized workers in the same way that unions offer protection to organized labour.

Protection against health hazards is another area to which the provincial government should very quickly turn its attention. "Pregnant employees should have the right to be transferred or take extended, paid maternity leave, financed by the employer and/or the government if they work at video display terminals (VDT's), for instance," the UUW brief recommends. "This government policy should be upheld until computer equipment is designed so that it will not cause fetus defects."

The UUW also feels limits should be set, on the amount of time that employees are required to work at a VDT or other computer equipment each day in order to prevent illness including eye strain, cataracts, nausea, psychological stress and infertility.

And, the UUW believes the government should undertake a massive education campaign so the public will become aware of the way computer technology will effect the way we will work and live in the future. Eady only expressed hope that the government would take a role in educating Manitobans on these integral changes.

"The UUW knows the new technology can be instrumental to human progress," the UUW brief concludes. "But without working people's input and its ensured implementation through government legislation, this technological progress will not lead to social progress."

The provincial government's amendments, which will depend on the Labour Law Review Committee's recommendations, should reflect how far it is willing to participate in directing this progress.



"Women Getting Burned By Tobacco Industry"

Women's groups should stop ignoring the issue of women and smoking, a British doctor told delegates at an international anti-smoking conference held in Winnipeg during July. "It's a problem that's every bit as important as contraception," said Dr. Bobbie Jacobson, an anti-smoking activist who used to smoke 25 cigarettes a day. Jacobson, author of the women and smoking book, *The Ladykillers*, chaired the "Smoking and Feminism" session at the Fifth World Conference on Smoking and Health.

She told 150 delegates attending the session that when she researched her book in 1979 and 1980, she contacted about 50 American and British women's groups about female smoking.

"The few who responded assumed that smoking was someone else's problem," she said.

Since then, she noted there has been a little progress in the area. Editors of the American publication, *Our Bodies, Ourselves*, have never written on the subject. But they are planning to include a chapter on women's smoking and health in an upcoming edition.

The Scottish and British anti-smoking groups, Action on Smoking and Health (ASH), have been organizing women's health conferences to bring the issue to people's attention. Earlier this year, the Scottish Committee of ASH helped organize a Women's Health Fair. It attracted 150 groups

and several hundred women and had displays on various female health issues — such as smoking.

Alison Hillhouse, secretary of the Scottish ASH group, told another seminar that ASH saw the event "as an opportunity to make contact with many groups who until then had not considered that smoking was a serious issue."

Since then, Jacobson said anti-smoking groups have started organizing a national British conference for all women's, health and consumer organizations. It is being held in November and is planned to publicize information on female smoking and encourage groups to campaign on the issue.

"It's finally becoming a legitimate thing for women to campaign on," remarked Jacobson in an interview after her seminar.

But Jacobson and other speakers in the "Smoking and Feminism" seminar noted this is only the beginning of a very important struggle. Ingrid Eide, a sociology professor at the University of Oslo in Norway, said, "this is as important a health issue as the breast-feeding issue which the women's movement has promoted."

"We're facing the same type of counterforce in the tobacco issue as we did in the breast-feeding issue," she said, noting that in both a commercial interest has been on the other side. Eide said women's groups could use some of the same tactics in the anti-smoking war as they did in the breast-feeding fight. For example, the anti-smoking move would also require grassroots organization, legislative changes and a long-term struggle.

During the conference, which attracted 1,086 delegates from 79 countries, at least eight women spoke about women and smoking. Although they presented various trends, health hazards and factors influencing women smokers, they all agreed the issue needed a higher profile and more action.

Dr. Mary Jane Ashley, a University of Toronto medical professor, told the conference there is evidence that smoking women have earlier menopauses and more menstrual disorders than non-smoking women. She said they also have more chance of getting cancer of the cervix, lung, larynx, mouth, esophagus, kidney, pancreas, urinary bladder and ureter. Smokers have higher frequencies of bronchitis, emphysema, sinusitis, peptic ulcers, coronary heart disease and influenza, and they are sick more working days than non-smoking women.

Ashley said female smokers who get pregnant have more chance of early bleeding, spontaneous abortion, premature rupture of membranes and placenta, fetal growth retardation, pre-term delivery and infant death. The quantity and quality of their breast milk can be compromised and their babies are more susceptible to sudden infant death syndrome.

She ended her cataloguing presentation with the comment that no one, including women, had been paying enough attention to this important problem. "Hopefully," she said, "this conference will be a stimulus to the redress of this tragic imbalance."

Several speakers noted that fewer women than men are giving up smoking. Dr. Bobbie Jacobson said women have a harder time quitting than men — partly because they smoke to deal with anger or stress, while men smoke for enjoyment. She said women get little support from those around them and they often reach for a cigarette rather than vent their anger or frustration by fighting with a mate or boss.

"Women who have gone towards genuine emancipation in their lives are not smokers," said Jacobson.

Tobacco companies capitalize on women's

vulnerability, said Dr. Virginia Ernster, a University of California epidemiology professor. She said that by its own admission, the tobacco advertising industry views "the working woman, under stress, as the ideal candidate for their product."

Besides that, she added, "the tobacco industry publicly acknowledges that it is directing much of its contemporary advertising to the female market." She said advertisers are trying to lure more women into smoking by portraying it as sophisticated and stylish and increasing the amount of advertising in women's publications.

So what did the conference delegates and speakers suggest women and their groups do about all of this?

During a brain-storming workshop in the "Smoking and Feminism" session, delegates suggested several tactics. One said women should petition governments to put people's health before multi-million dollar tax revenues. Others suggested support groups be set up for women wanting to stop, and families and friends be taught how to support women wanting to quit on their own. One woman said groups should check their communities to see what programs could be tailored to meet women's needs.

"Often the woman is shuffled into a program which works fine for men but not for women," said the delegate, noting that few programs are designed specifically for women.

Jacobson, who has a guide on how to stop smoking in her book, *The Ladykillers*, suggested women become more political. They could fight for legislation banning smoking and tobacco advertisements and make female smoking a major issue at local, national and international health levels. She suggested people unite against the tobacco industry and get magazines to stop taking cigarette ads. At the same time, more research could be done on women and smoking and available information better publicized.

"We're being taken for a ride to the cemetery," said Jacobson, "It's time we started getting together and fighting back."

by Noelle Boughton



Baha'i Women Pay Price For Their Faith

(Press Release)

The Local Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Selkirk were outraged by the news received from Canadian Baha'i Headquarters that 10 Baha'i women have been hanged for their beliefs in their sister community of Iran.

Judy Young, spokesperson for the Assembly said: "We learned that the executions were carried out in secret late Saturday night, June 18, and followed closely on the hangings two days earlier of six prominent Baha'i men. Four of the women were mothers, wives or daughters of the Baha'is executed two days earlier. A fifth was the 18 year-old daughter of a Baha'i executed on March 12th."

She reiterated, "We were horrified by the fact that a whole group of innocent women had been so savagely treated, and that the authorities tried to keep the killings secret by making no public announcement, refusing to allow the families to receive the bodies for burial, or even to see them."

The news from Baha'i headquarters had indicated that all 16 Baha'is were put to death because they had refused to recant their Faith. The 10 women had been subjected to brutal interrogations in prison and warned that if they did not sign a prepared statement denying their beliefs and converting to Islam they would be killed. The reason originally given for their arrest was that they had been holding classes for the Baha'i children in their community who have been expelled from Iran's schools as "unclean infidels".

Young said, "These shocking killings of young women represent an alarming escalation of the mullah's campaign of terror against the Baha'is which is now been focused on



the women of the community. It shows the Iranian clergy's particular hatred of the principle of equality of men and women that is so central to Baha'i teachings.

The Local Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Selkirk reported that "a tragedy of appalling dimensions is building up in Iran. Even more tragic is the fact that the clergy there are using the faith of Islam as a cloak for these crimes against humanity". The judge who sent these women and girls to their deaths warned recently in the government-controlled press of Iran that these killings were only the beginning. He said "Before it is too late, the Baha'is must recant . . . Otherwise the day will soon come when the Islamic Nation will, God willing, fulfill the prayer mentioned in the Quran: 'Lord, leave not one single family of infidels on the earth'. He is typical of the Iranian clergy who believe that the Baha'i teachings of equality of men and women, world

mindfulness and independent inquiry are a "satanic conspiracy" against their Islamic state. The Baha'is in this country feel that it is especially important for Canadian Muslims to speak out in conscience against these crimes carried out in the name of Islam and to protect it from the irreparable damage to its reputation all over the world. The Baha'i Faith accords recognition and reverence to all the great religions including Islam and teaches that they are all, in their essence, inspired by one God".

These hangings have brought the total number of Baha'is officially shot or hanged by the regime to 155. They arouse grave concern for the fate of some 200 other Baha'is imprisoned around the country. In addition, 10,000 Baha'is are now homeless, their properties destroyed or confiscated by the authorities.

The world-wide Baha'i community has been deeply gratified and encouraged by the many concerned statements urging the Iranian regime to cease its systematic persecution of the Baha'is.

that have come from the United Nations, the European Parliament, and Humanitarian organizations and from national and local governments of all kinds.

Canadian Baha'is are particularly proud of the record of actions taken by the Canadian Parliament and government in being the first to speak out, in their support of UN resolutions and in opening its doors to several hundred Iranian Baha'is who have been stranded in countries outside of Iran by acts of the revolutionary regime.

As they continue to alert the public to these outrageous crimes being committed by a regime defiant of world opinion, they want to express their gratitude for these many expressions of conscience from members of all faith communities, civic leaders, colleagues and friends. They feel that it would be most helpful at this time for people to give their support to actions Canada is now considering by writing to their M.P.'s. They may also write directly to the Iranian Embassy.

Financial Planning For Women



Marya Zajac



Lynn Chamberlin

Broadway Office 956-0480

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We Need Your Poems

Starting in September, Herizons will be publishing a poetry page. We welcome submissions and will pay an honorarium for poems published. * Include a self-addressed stamped envelope and mail poems to: Judy Johnson, Poetry Editor

Herizons Magazine

125 Osborne St.

Winnipeg R3L 0W6

* Copyright will reside with author.

(WINNIPEG) In 1982 Winnipeg City Council passed a resolution of intent to hold a Civil Referendum on Disarmament. On October 26th we will have an opportunity to give our support to this resolution in the municipal election: "Do you support nuclear disarmament by all nations on a gradual basis with the ultimate goal of a world free from nuclear weapons and mandate your federal government to negotiate and implement with other governments steps that would lead to the earliest possible achievement of this goal." So vote and say it in one word: YES!



(LAC DU BONNET) Reeve, George Ylonen, blames faulty isotope probes used in Atomic Energy of Canada testing in the area for increasing radioactivity levels by up to forty times higher than that found in normal drinking water. AECL officials deny this, and say the problem is not serious and is likely from natural uranium deposits in the area of the test drills. Manitoba's director of environment, Dr. Peter Warner is quoted as saying he would drink the water ... for a while. The reeve feels the provincial government and AECL have plans to buy nuclear waste in the Pinawa-Lac du Bonnet area. AECL spokesperson, Egon Frech, replies that there has never been denial that AECL has plans to research the safe disposal of nuclear waste in the Precambrian Shield.



(SASKATOON) Saskatoon Against the Cruise (SAC) has made plans for October 22 — an International Disarmament Day. They will be carrying a model of a cruise missile covered with photos of children from Cold Lake, Alberta to Saskatoon. It will then go by trailer to Ottawa. Their theme is: "A future for our children."



(NEW YORK) Twenty Canadians were arrested when they climbed the fence of Griffiths Air Force Base to plant flowers. This airbase is the

takeoff point for B-52 bombers that will carry the cruise. These people need both financial and moral support, as for most it was their first arrest. For cheques and money orders send to: Griffiths Defense Fund, Henry Laycock, c/o Dept. of Philosophy, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario. Letters of support to: The Griffiths Gardeners c/o Steven Burtch, 1-154 Johnson, Kingston, Ontario.



(VICTORIA) Peace Tax Update — The objective of the Committee is to have the Canadian government establish an official Peace Fund which may be used for peace diplomacy, peace-keeping, international aid and development and disarmament and peace research. This official fund would be fuelled by taxpayers allocating the defence portion, currently 10.6% of federal income budget to the Fund.

The Committee is gearing up to test in the courts our right to freedom of conscience under the Canadian Bill of Rights. A legal team of paid and volunteer lawyers has been assembled and is cur-

(CANADA) Peace groups across the country are continuing the pressure on government to stop the Cruise missile testing. A coalition of union, women's and peace groups are seeking a permanent injunction against the testing through the Supreme Court. Legal documents have been filed to argue that the Cabinet decision to test the U.S. Cruise missile violates Section 7 of the Charter of Rights which guarantees every Canadian the right to life, liberty and security.

Recent public statements by the Prime Minister indicate that if there were a national consensus against the testing, the government would reconsider its decision to allow the tests. Many people feel this consensus already exists and its message is being brought home constantly in the form of large public rallies, letters to the government and heavy majorities in the disarmament referenda across the country. The outcomes of balloting has been over 75% in favour of endorsing disarmament in 94 municipalities across Canada. Many more will be holding a vote this fall.



"Peace-ing It All Together"

by Brigitte Sutherland

rently researching legal precedents and interviewing prospective plaintiffs. This peace work costs about \$3,200 per month. Donations can be sent to: Peace Tax Fund Committee, 514-620 View Street, Victoria V8W 1J6.

For information on how YOU may be a peace tax chequer in 1984, call the Interchurch Disarmament Project in Winnipeg at 786-8178 or 786-8179.



(AUSTRALIA) Our Australian connection. Ann, sends news (hard to come by in the Canadian media) that the peace movement lives all over "down under". Almost 150,000 people marched in rallies around Australia calling for nuclear disarmament: Melbourne 60,000; Sydney 50,000; smaller groups in Canberra, Brisbane and Adelaide. A most extraordinary coalition made up of government and church leaders; doctors, scientists, nurses and lawyers, trade unions and unemployed

workers unions; as well as environmental, aboriginal, gay and student groups.

Miss Tessa Mallow, of the Sydney Nuclear Disarmament Coordinating Committee, said "all sorts of other groups made it along. I even saw Yanks for Disarmament, Pub Drinkers for Peace, Dykes of Disarmament and Poofs for Peace." She said the \$15,700 collected enroute will be used to embark on a campaign in suburbs and rural towns. They have also started running courses called Nuclear Disarmament for Beginners.

The marches' significance lay in the call for the expulsion of U.S. bases from Australia, as well as the denial of access to nuclear armed planes and ships on Australian soil. The marchers of Sydney added a call to the government to ban uranium mining.



(GERMANY) The headlines should have read, "You can use your democratic right to dissent, but only ...". The hundreds of thousands of peaceful demonstrators who, over the past few years, have been calling for an end to European nuclear weapons proliferation will be glad to know they have had some impact. Not to have their government stop the deployment of the Pershing and Cruise missiles in their country, but rather the German Bundestag will be asked to pass legislation enabling the government in power to designate any peace march as violent.

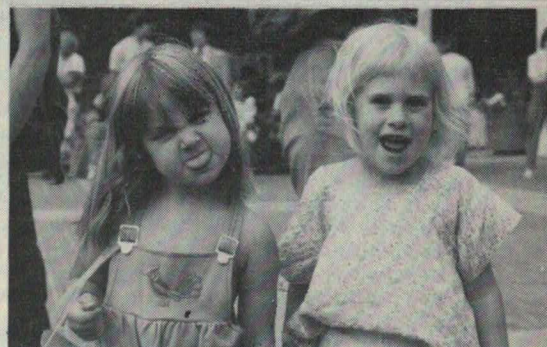
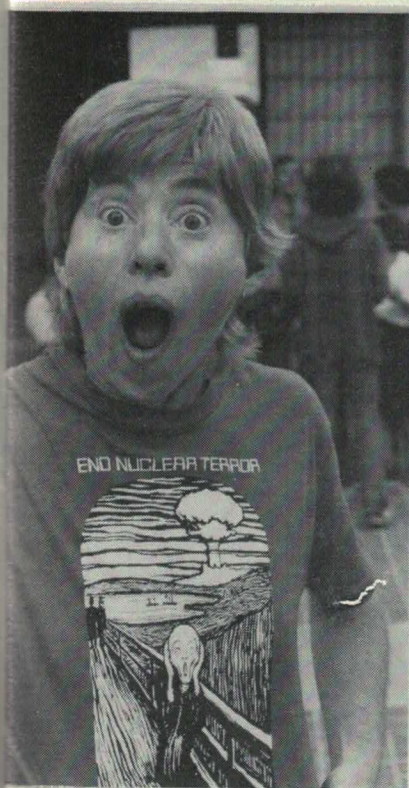
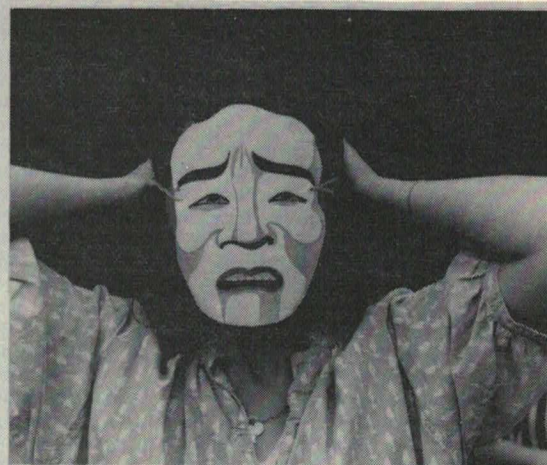
The police would designate any event, at their discretion, on the spur of the moment as violent. Once a peace demo was so judged, any person who does not immediately disperse is liable to a heavy fine and/or imprisonment. As well, demonstrators are no longer to be allowed to wear make-up or masks at rallies.

Big Brother is watching and wants to take picture of the real you, don't you know.



(NEW YORK) The *Wall Street Journal*, reporting on the failure of two (out of two) operational flight tests of the cruise missile: The Air Force doesn't call the tests 'failures', preferring to call them 'partial successes' because the missiles worked 'flawlessly' until they went off course.

Winnipeg-August 9



Remembering Hiroshima/Nagasaki . . . speeches . . . songs of power to encircle City Hall . . . sirens announce the silent ending of the day.

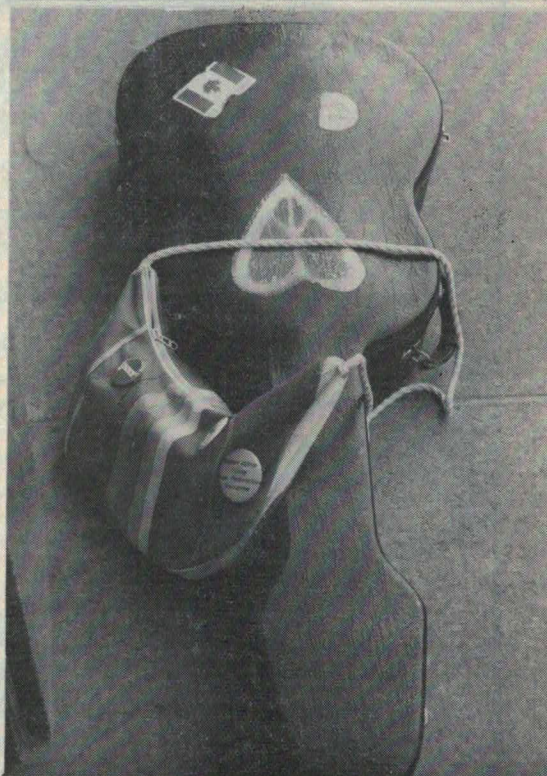


Photo story—
Brigitte Sutherland

Voice of Women Speak Out for Peace

A national conference of the Voice of Women/La Voix Des Femmes was held July 15 to 17 in Vancouver. VOW/VDF is a Canadian women's organization, working for peace since the 1960's. VOW/VDF has members in every province across Canada and is also a registered non-governmental organization at the United Nations.

The Conference drew about 90 women from across Canada, who came together to share their experiences and visions. Friday evening was spent getting acquainted. Saturday's workshops focused on two major themes — VOW and the national peace movement and VOW and the international movement. Throughout, there was much discussion about the links between patriarchy, militarism or a feminist consciousness (many women, including myself, had copies of Pam McAllisters *Reweaving the Web of Life on Land*: environmental destruction v.s. a conservationist concept; and alternative economic systems to

the present brutalizing, dehumanizing one. There was lively debate about whether the main issue should be nuclear disarmament first or whether to work on many areas simultaneously. The action plans presented on Sunday reflected the diversity of opinion. Most gratifying was the acceptance of alternative perspectives. Some of the plans for action include:

- a workshop on feminist conflict resolution,
- support for native women re: Bill 12-8,
- endorsement of Operation Dismantle's legal action against the governments' cruise missile decision,
- participation in the cross-country Peace Caravan in October,
- support for John Evans, a government employee suspended for wearing an "anti cruise" button at work,
- actions against war toys and video games,
- development and distribution of peace kits for schools,

- several VOW/VDF groups have taken non-violent action training and are preparing for civil disobedience actions,
- continued contact with Women's Peace Camps and Greenham Common U.K., Comiso Italy, Seneca Army Depot NY,
- participation in planning for the U.N. Decade for Women's "End of Decade" Conference in 1985
- protest the denial of bail to the five people arrested at Litton Industries,
- local VOW/VDF groups will continue to be involved in local actions. VOW/VDF's commitment to a non-authoritarian, non-hierarchical structure allows for plenty of local and individual initiative.

We also viewed a very powerful film *In The Nuclear Shadow: What The Children Can Tell Us*. Co-producer Vivienne Verdon-Roe was present for discussion following the film. Roe has also produced written materials for talking and teaching about nuclear weapons for parents and teachers. Information about the film and materials is available from VOW/VDF.

If you are interested in finding out more about VOW/VDF, please attend the next meeting September 6, 7:00 p.m. IDEA Centre, 418 Wardlaw or call Terri at 489-3675 or Myrtle at 832-5898.

by Sharon Kilbrai

Dale Pulls Obscene Card

Dale Cards has withdrawn a Father's Day card from its line, following a protest coordinated by the Manitoba Action Committee on the Status of Women.

The card featured a cartoon drawing of a small girl who exposes her genitals to her father inside the card. Petitions and formal complaints were launched following the discovery of the card, including at least one obscenity complaint made to police.

"That our commitment (to community responsibility) has been unintentionally abused is of very great regret to us," a letter from Nancy Blumens-tein, Assistant to the President reads.

"In the future, as new cards are designed a greater sensitivity . . . will be taken into consideration, so that we reinforce our commitment to our most important natural resource: people".

Recycled Paper Products, Inc. the parent company of Dale, says it is too late to recall the cards because they have been purchased by individual stores. It will be up to each store's discretion next year whether they display the card again next year.

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT COUNSELLING CENTRE 324 Kennedy St., Telephone: 949-2045

Provides service for women who:

- are entering or remaining in the labour force
- are ready and able to work
- lack employment related skills
- need help with the job or career finding process
- need information for realistic career decisions

Services support women with:

- a career development program
- confidence building groups
- self-assessment workshops
- individual counselling

Hours:

Monday 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.
(for the benefit of working women)

Tuesday to Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



Employment and
Immigration Canada

Emploi et
Immigration Canada

Canada

Elliegram

SPOILS OF WAR—NEARLY 170 women were arrested in Sydney, Australia in an anti-rape demonstration. The march was dedicated to the memory of all women in all countries raped in all wars. Organizers defied a court order barring the demonstration and the women were arrested as they walked along the route. A lesbian marcher who said she felt nervous about defying the court order to march on a day set aside for men who died in war said, "However, it is also a day of male bonding and glorification of male war exploits. Few are prepared to look closely at the other aspect being highlighted by this march . . . that on both sides, women are the spoils of war." The march was held on Anzac Day, like Memorial Day in Canada.

Big Mama Rag

Victims Face Jail Threats

In Alaska, blaming the victim in cases of spouse abuse has taken on a whole new meaning.

If women lay charges of assault and later refuse to testify against their partner, they face contempt of court charges and risk being thrown in jail. At least one Alaska woman has spent the night in jail for such a charge.

An Alaska official being interviewed on CBC radio rationalized throwing the victims in jail when they decide not to testify "for very good reasons," but said of the men who beat the women:

"We don't want to send these guys to jail, we want to rehabilitate them."

Classified Ads

Barbara Epstein, R.M.T.
Registered Massage Therapist
Therapeutic Massage Centre
Tel. 237-0210

ISIS, International Women's Bulletin is seeking submissions for a special bulletin on racism and anti-Semitism to be published in late 1983. We are looking for articles which describe the forms racism takes in different cultural contexts (caste system in India, apartheid in So. Africa) as well as articles which treat the ways in which women are organizing to confront racism and anti-Semitism. Submissions 1000-1500 words should reach the Geneva office before Sept. 30. Write ISIS, C.P. 50, 1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland.

The Reproductive Choice Coalition needs people to volunteer for telephone trees, distribute posters, and for various committees. For information on how to help out and upcoming events call the office 775-7774.

COALITION FOR REPRODUCTIVE CHOICE requires full time fundraiser to function on commission basis. Proven fundraising ability and organizational skills required. Commitment to the cause essential. Submit resume to Box 51, Station "L", Winnipeg, R3H 0Z4 by August 5, 1983.

Lesbians: Interested in living together in the country? You don't need any money to join us. Call Cedar, 612/721-4653 or write Land Group, P.O. Box 8122, Minneapolis, MN 55408.



TESTING, TESTING...
The Swiss-based chemical corporation Ciba-Geigy is defending its decision to spray several Egyptian children working in a cotton field with the pesticide Galeron as part of a "field trial".

Ciba-Geigy, which recently spent over \$5 million upgrading safeguards at its

Women's Scholarship, a curriculum handbook integrates the new scholarship on women into the university curriculum. Available from Women's Equity Committee, P.O. Box 8161, University Station, Grand Forks, ND 58202 — Cost \$7.95 U.S.

Women's Health Clinic is offering Volunteer Training Sessions at the end of September, for women interested in becoming Birth Control and Unplanned Pregnancy Counsellors. If you would like to be a part of this exciting and necessary resource, call Marilyn Wolovick at 947-1517.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for many positions: special events planning and implementing; peer counselling; office duties; research; child supervision and education. If you are interested call the Fort Garry Women's Resource Centre, Rm. 5 - 810 Waterford Ave., Wpg. R5T 1G7 Sherry Dangerfield 475-2240. For program info. call Wanda Tomszak 475-1986.

Morgentaler Clinic in desperate need for funds. Drop by with donations at 883 Corydon Ave. or mail to Box 51, Station "L" Winnipeg R3H 0Z4. The Clinic will be establishing itself as a Family Health Care Unit with physicians who will contribute their time. You can use us for a wider range of reproductive and health care needs at no cost to you. Call 477-1887.

Getting there — producing Photostories with Immigrant Women is a story of surviving in and adapting to a new culture. Available from between the lines, 427 Bloor Street, W., Toronto, M5S 1X7 at \$8.95 plus 10% shipping (Discounts for larger orders).

factory to keep its Swiss employees from coming into contact with the chemical, stated that the spraying of unsuspecting individuals is "rare" but still happens after animal tests have been done, to "double-check" that the "product will be safe under normal conditions".

Big Mama Rag

Baygon Linked to Birth Defects

Baygon may have been the cause of birth defects found in seven babies delivered at the St. Boniface Hospital between September, 1980 and October, 1981.

A University of Western Ontario geneticist says the birth defects, which proved fatal, were unusually high in number and showed similar genetic defects to those in lab animals infused with low doses of Baygon.

Dr. Joseph Cummins, who has studied Baygon's effects for more than three years, said his tests, substantiated in Germany and the U.S. link Baygon to deep-brain structural damage in monkeys at levels which are even less than those used on Manitobans.

The Winnipeg Free Press reported that in September 1980, a child baby was born with a protruding intestinal sac and no right arm. A second was born in October 1980 with omphaloceles and severe left-side deformities. The third and fourth cases occurred in January and June of 1981 and three more were born with severe defects the following summer and fall.

Dr. Cummins said common birth defects include omphaloceles (weakening of the stomach wall causing protrusion), abnormal brain electrical activity, deformed limbs and genital disorders in males.

Cummins told the reporter he was devastated by the city's use of Baygon.

MOVEMENT MORES



"Even novice Furies are accused of thinking or saying that 'men are the enemy.' This is a subtly deceptive reversal, implying that women are the initiators of enmity, blaming the victims for The War."

Gyn/Ecology
Mary Daly; Beacon Press

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Whatever your fitness needs, we have the clothing and equipment for you. Dozens of famous brand names to choose from, at the lowest prices in town!

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CHOICE NEWS UPDATE

THE CLINIC

A second police raid of the Winnipeg Morgentaler Clinic took place on June 25th. The police confiscated most of the equipment and all its records. The staff was again charged with conspiracy, and three staff members were charged with procuring an abortion.

All but one staff member spent two nights in jail, rather than comply with the bail condition that they not go within one block of the clinic. They were released when a second judge overturned that condition on June 27.

At the rally following the second raid, the Coalition demanded that the government send a representative to respond. Deputy Premier Muriel Smith came and repeated the government's position that the police are only enforcing the law, while the government is doing all it can to improve reproductive health care facilities for Manitoba women.

Meanwhile, the Manitoba NDP Party members have voiced their displeasure with the government's position. At a

recent meeting of the Provincial Council, members and the Party executive voted in favour of a woman's right to choose and urged the provincial government to petition the federal government to repeal the abortion law, Section 251 of the Criminal Code. The Council also expressed its "regrets" about the conspiracy charges. Several weeks later, NDP members attending the party's federal convention in Regina, condemned the Manitoba government's actions. They voted overwhelmingly in support of a woman's right to choose and supported a motion to drop the charges against the clinic staff.

The clinic now has one part time staff member. The rest have been laid off and most still are owed wages. Utilities are threatening to cut off services. In the most recent raid, police seized \$4000 worth of essential equipment which they refuse to return and which will have to be replaced. City police are promising another raid should the clinic re-open. Staff members work without pay providing fee

referrals and counselling, while coalition volunteers drive the majority of the women to North Dakota for abortions.

Local doctors have volunteered time in the evenings to provide primary health services (such as pap smears and blood tests) which are medically insured, in order to generate some income to keep the clinic from bankruptcy. If you would like to make an appointment for even an annual checkup, call the clinic at 477-1887.

by Randa Stewart Coalition For Reproductive Choice



(MANITOBA)

The NDP government in Manitoba has been conspicuously quiet on the abortion issue during the last month, but word has it that the cabinet is considering making a move soon.

A clinic offering abortion services may soon be set up by the government as an arm of the Health Sciences Centre. Sources say the clinic would operate outside the Winnipeg hospital's board.

(TORONTO)

The Toronto Women's Bookstore suffered over \$75,000 worth of damage during a fire intended for the Morgentaler clinic upstairs in the building.

Norma Scarborough of the Canadian Abortion Rights Action League said that graffiti on the doorway threatening Morgentaler's life is proof that the fire was set by the "lunatic fringe" of the anti-choice movement.

"For all its public talk about concern for life, they have no concern for life," she said.

A senior fire investigator in the Ontario fire marshall's office said the fire could have posed great danger because many people live in nearby buildings.

(LOS ANGELES)

In Los Angeles, an anti-abortion gunman who took two nurses hostage at a private clinic last month was killed by police after 15 hours of negotiations.

The gunman entered the Women's Medical Centre of Los Angeles, which sometimes performs abortions, and held the women hostage all day before trying to make his escape. One of the women had been shot in the leg.

Negotiators who talked to the man by phone said he told them he was a messenger from god and was anti-abortion. He was reportedly after one of the doctors who owns the clinic and he may also be linked to the murder of one of the clinic workers' fathers.

(HALIFAX)

In Nova Scotia, women's rights seem to be taking a turn for the worse. The provincial government in that province may further restrict abortion privileges since the legislative health committee passed a motion asking P.C. premier John Buchanan to appoint an abortion commission.

The legislative committee made the recommendation after it received a brief from the Senate of Priests of the Archdiocese of Halifax, which recommended abortion services be severely cut back.

by Penni Mitchell

444 St. Mary
Wpg, Man.



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15



News Anchor Sets Precedent

American news anchor Christine Craft won a \$500,000 sex discrimination suit against Metromedia Inc., former owners of KMBC-TV in Kansas City.

Craft was told she was being demoted because she was too old and unattractive to continue anchoring the news. This happened after she was subjected to 'beauty make-overs' and told to wear different clothes. Her male co-anchor was not subjected to the same personal scrutiny as Craft, and was paid considerably more for his job.

The court ruled that the company's treatment of Craft constituted sex discrimination, setting a precedent for an industry which is devoid of anything but youthful, traditionally-beautiful women. In Canada, men such as Harvey Kirk and Mike Duffy illustrate the double standard well; neither overweight nor older women are seen on camera in the TV news industry.

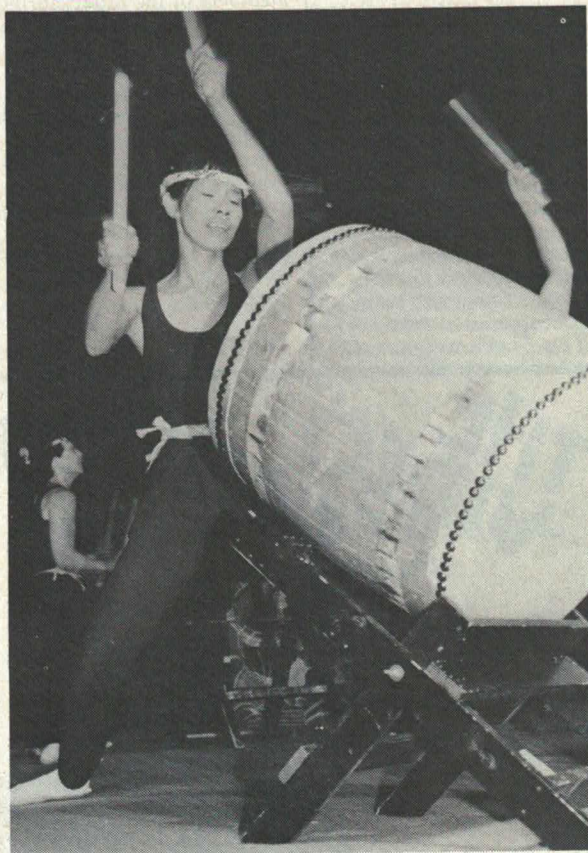


HARASSMENT PROTECTION for hotel workers of nine Boston hotels has been included in contracts of the Hotel Workers Union Local 26. For the first time management accepts responsibility for sexual harassment the employees face on the job from supervisors, employees or customers.

Sexual harassment is pervasive in the hotel industry. Over 2,000 women belong to Local 26, working primarily as waitresses and housekeepers. With the contract, it's management's responsibility to ask hotel guests who harass the staff to leave. A grievance procedure is established for complaints and offending employees can be fired.

The new contract also has a sexual preference clause and addresses the strict male/female job segregation which feeds into sexual harassment by keeping women in service roles with low pay and status. The hotel must post job openings and give preference to employees with seniority whether or not the job was traditionally performed by a man.

equal times/off our backs



Katari Taiko

(FOLKLORAMA/WINNIPEG) They are a wonderful sight and sound to behold. Again this year, the Japanese Pavillion reverberated with the powerful beat of Katari Taiko (Talking Drums). This nine-member group from Vancouver has been together since 1979. Being revived in North America predominantly by women, this traditional art of drumming demands strength and stamina. An ancient peasant music, it was performed by itinerant drummers at times of planting, harvest, drought, whenever it was necessary to call on the forces of nature.

Katari Taiko learn their pieces by visiting other Taiko groups on the U.S. west coast, because there is no written music for this type of drumming. The group will not be touring for a year, in order to develop a repertoire of their own arrangements. Photos: Brigitte Sutherland

UIC Benefits Women

Starting in January of next year, an adoptive parent will qualify for unemployment insurance benefits for up to 15 weeks.

In a move which makes some provisions of the Unemployment Insurance Act more equitable, women will no longer be required to have worked at least 10 weeks around the time of conception to qualify for maternity benefits. Women will also be eligible for regular UI benefits in the weeks around the birth when maternity benefits are not in force.

Counselling and Hypnotherapy for . . . stress, pain, weight control, migraines, compulsive habits (smoking), pre-menstrual syndrome, and school studies.

For more information call:
Fuesser-Rosenberg Consultants
452 Brock St. 489-3497

Winnipeg Womens Building Woes



Photo: Brigitte Sutherland

Excitement and optimism brightens the faces of these women; some of the founding

mothers of W.W.C.E.C. in front of their Women's Building in the winter of 1978.

"A time of tears and cheers" is how the GOODBYE BASH at the Women's Building coming up on September 3rd is being described. The event is to include a book sale, rummage sale and social which will commence at 8 PM at the 730 Alexander Avenue location

(proceeds to be used to cover outstanding bills). This woman-owned space was the first of its kind in Canada, when it opened in the fall of 1978.

In August of this year, the membership of the Winnipeg

Women's Cultural and Educational Centre Inc., who own and operate the building, voted to relinquish ownership due to ever-escalating operating expenses (including a \$10,000 boiler that pooped out this past spring). The Women's Building has never enjoyed core government funding, only short-term employment wage grants for specific programmes.

Support and attendance at events and meetings had been dropping off. Katherine Szadkowska, a board member for the past year, understands the reasons for the demise and doesn't attach blame to anyone for not succeeding. "It seems at this time, when so much of women's time and money is put into such issues as the abortion struggle and the nuclear threat, women have had to make difficult choices."

Over the years many women, local and travelling ones, have lingered for a while within the Building's strong, old walls. The women of W.W.C.E.C. focused their activities on the cultural and educational aspects of women's struggles and have always held open the doors of

the building to encourage women working together on self-defined goals.

Activities over the years have generated much in the way of pride, strength, support and understanding, but, never much in the way of income. Because of this, much of the board members time has traditionally been spent fundraising. Costs have now outstripped the energies of these women as well as the pocketbooks of those women who support the space.

Economic constraints aside, Szadkowska feels feminists should look long and hard at some of the underlying issues of why women have hesitated to become involved in the Women's Building, or why they have drifted away. The location and accessibility of the building in the core area has often been cited as a problem. But, she also feels the inability or hesitation of women to confront homophobia and heterosexism within the feminist movement (as well as in the larger society) caused much of women's fear of being associated with one another in the particular setting of the Women's Building.

PRE-COLLEGE READING AND STUDY SKILLS COURSE

Improve your reading comprehension and listening ability. Increase your vocabulary and reading speed. Learn study skills such as time management, memory and concentration improvement, note-taking and exam writing.

Classes will be held from 9 - 11 a.m. on Tuesdays and Fridays — a schedule designed for homemakers with school-age children.

Courses start October 4, 1983 and February 14, 1984. Each course is 40 hours long and runs for 10 weeks.

NOTE: These courses will be offered only if there is a minimum of 15 applicants.

Tuition and Student Fees: \$65.00

For information and an application form, contact:

Red River Community College
C-615, 2055 Notre Dame Ave.
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3H 0J9

Telephone: 632-2451

Red River Community College
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MANITOBA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

with financial assistance provided by the
Government of Canada

Nelliegram

SLAVING FOR THE NATION

The southeast Asian tourist playground welcomes Japanese business men. Most of them are between the ages of 40 and 50 and spend their time at a Kisaeng party at brothels. Often this trip is a company bonus spent in Thailand, South Korea, Phillipines and other S.E. Asian countries.

At all times, in all places the prostitutes must pay much more than the standard prices: taxi, public bath, restaurant, beauty shop and so on. A prostitute must have a health

license from the association for International Tourism (to enter hotels with foreigners). Before getting this identification card she must present an academic history (highschool), a personal history, pass an oral examination and have good looks. Then she is given a general culture course, consisting of anti-communism and sex education (sanitation and preferred sex poses of Japanese men). Then they are given course in pride: "Prostitutes must make sacrifices to get foreign money, and this self-sacrifice is a matter of pride for them and for our nation."

The ASP Whorganizer

Westman Women Gets Provincial Support

A shelter for battered women in Brandon will receive a renovated house and as much as \$18,000 annually from the provincial government. The Westman Women's Shelter, which will offer services for up to 15 women and their children, will be run by the Y.W.C.A. in Brandon.

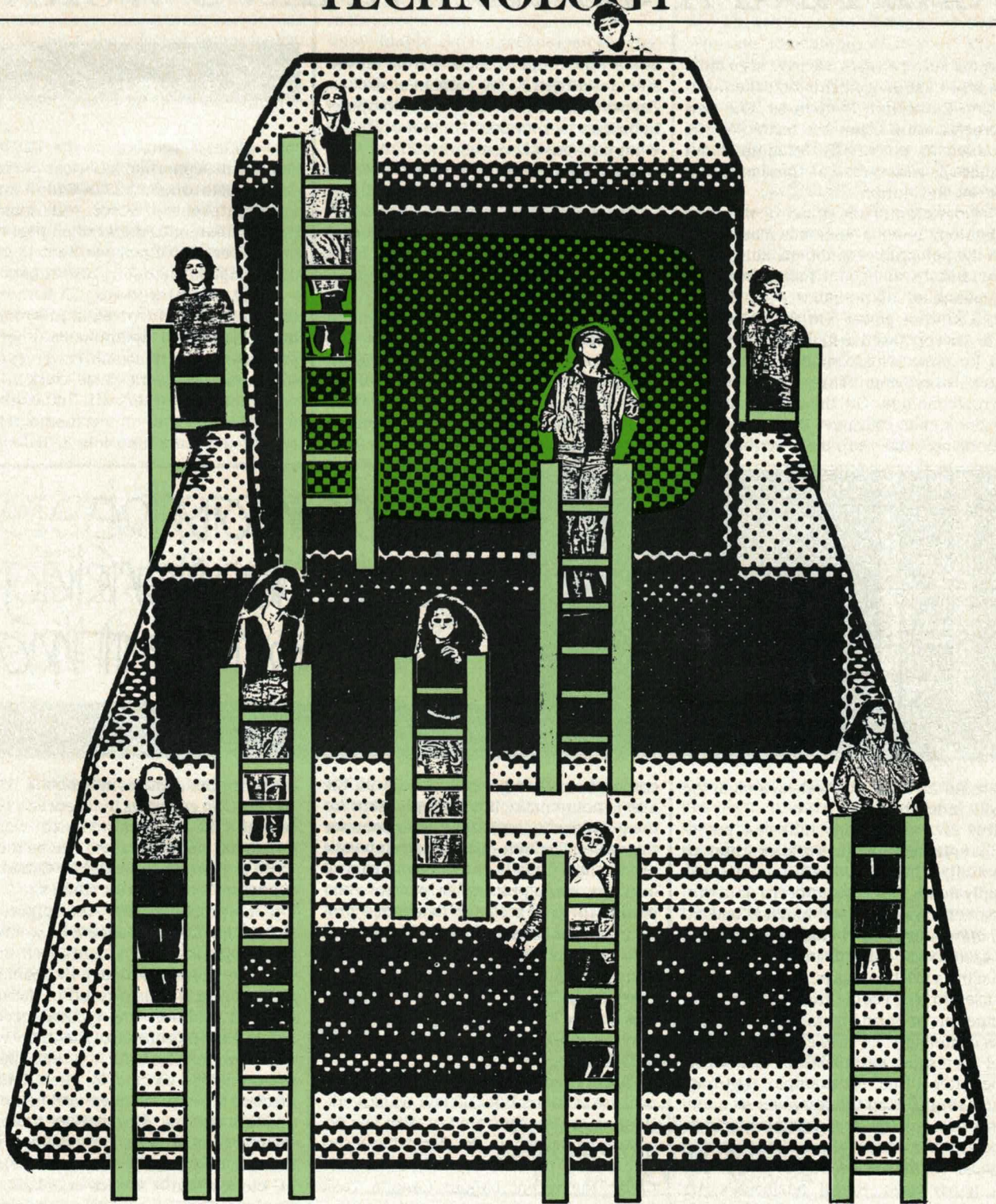
The shelter will provide accommodation, outreach, advocacy and counselling ser-

vices. The province's donation will go toward administrative and household operating costs of the shelter.

The Westman Shelter will be part of a network of help which has been undertaken in the past year by the Manitoba Committee on Wife Abuse (MCWA). MCWA has established a province-wide crisis line and is in the process of identifying "safe houses" for abused women.

Feature Section

TECHNOLOGY



Technology in the Workplace

CHIPPING AWAY AT WOMEN'S WORK

Over the last few years, we have seen more and more announcements that the Information Revolution is upon us. The new microelectronic computer technology is heralded as potentially bringing about changes as widespread as those in the Industrial Revolution.

The question of the effect of this new technology poses a dilemma. The power and the potential of microtechnology are clear. But it seems to me to be a very ambiguous kind of potential — a double edged kind of power. On the one hand, there are very positive kinds of things that can be done with computers and with other machines that incorporate microtechnology. On the other hand, if present trends continue, this technology may bring some extremely serious pro-

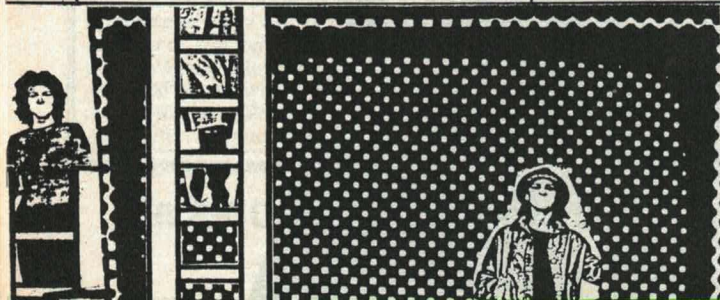
and a wide range of users — from university researchers, to women's groups, environmental activists and computer hobbyists — routinely communicate via computer-based communications networks. It is important to note that in all of these cases the technology is a tool that is under the users' control — its use is determined by individual or group needs and decisions. This kind of use is the basis, for the claims that computer technology will enhance our lives and our creativity.

There is another side to this technology however and it is one that is considerably less positive. Computers are being introduced into nearly every area of the work world — in manufacturing, transportation, office and service areas. Particularly where they are introduced in large

Margaret Benston

jobs. Estimates are of around \$2000 in equipment supporting a clerical worker as compared to around \$25,000 for a worker in manufacturing. Since such jobs are largely ununionized and often part time, the power of women workers to resist technological change is also limited.

Fewer clerical workers will be needed, especially those involved in inventory or in classification, updating or otherwise processing information. Fewer typists, telephone operators, sales clerks, bank and financial workers will find work and it seems clear that an increasing proportion of the remaining jobs will be part-



«Jobs may be lost, the working environment may

blems for all of us. Let's take a look at the bright side first.

This is a technology that can potentially enhance human work and human creativity. The older idea of computers as simply dumb, fast calculators or data processors is clearly invalid and it is becoming more and more obvious that they can be used to aid work or play or art in an amazing variety of ways. Computers can be used to free people from jobs that are dangerous or boring by taking over those jobs completely. Or they can be used as a tool: as a super paintbrush or as a super typewriter. I find, for example, that I am increasingly using the computer as a tool in my own writing. At a recent conference, a newspaper editor talked about his own enthusiasm for the electronic systems that his paper uses. Small businesses are finding microcomputers valuable for book-keeping, planning, calculations of various kinds (example artists, lawyers, dairy farmers, historians, doctors, as well as kids are finding uses for computers). Microelectronic technology is being merged with communications technology

corporations or in government offices, the aim is not to make life more pleasant for the people who work there or to enhance their jobs. The aim instead is to increase productivity directly or to increase control over the work process. In private companies, the goal is clearly to increase profit: in the public sector the analogous goal is to cut costs. The results of the introduction of computer based equipment in these cases may turn out to be quite negative. Jobs may be lost, the working environment may deteriorate and there may be serious health problems.

This is of particular concern to women because of the realities of their wage work. Women are concentrated in very few occupations, largely in the clerical and service areas. In their report titled *In the Chips*, the recent Labour Canada Task Force on Microelectronics and Employment points out that women are likely to 'bear the brunt' of the employment effects of microtechnology. Women's jobs offer low wages, little job security and poor, if any, benefits. These jobs are also undercapitalized compared to manufacturing

time. Heather Menzies in her book *Women and the Chip* estimates that between 10 per cent and 30 per cent of clerical workers in Canada could lose their jobs by the mid 1990's, and such estimates for Canada are supported by European studies.

It is probable that the process of technological displacement of women in the service sector is already well underway. The process is hidden by claims that reduction in staff is a result of the recession. In addition, there have been no massive lay-offs of clerical or other service workers. Instead, the job loss due to technological change is often handled through attrition. Women tend to move in and out of the job market more frequently than men do and employers can use this to gradually reduce the number of clerical and service workers they employ. Where this happens, the number of jobs lost at any one time tends to be small and this masks the fact that levels of unemployment from the new technology are growing. There are no good figures to support this conjecture but the fact that the unemployment rate for women was going

up before the current downturn is one indicator; reports from office workers in Vancouver also tends to support this. Menzies also points out the 'jobless growth' where automating increases business without hiring more people also tends to mask the effect of technological change in creating unemployment, since the layoffs may occur in the companies that lose business to the more efficient company.

An urgently needed public discussion of the issues around microtechnology has begun in Canada but there is an attitude to technology that occurs over and over when you listen to people talking about the changes that are taking place. This attitude towards technological change can be seen very clearly in *In the Chips*. A couple of quotes will illustrate this attitude. "Microelectronic technology is here to stay, to resist it would be counter-productive. Our economy does not offer this luxury." Or "It is inevitable that microelectronics, a truly transforming technology will bring new industries and

to cope with and survive the kinds of changes that are happening. But there is a common set of features in the response made by interested groups in Canada and this is the idea that the technology itself, in its present form, is inevitable, fixed, and unavoidable. Such a technological determinist position seems to imply that technology comes out of nowhere and is an independent force, separate from society. This does not reflect the reality that what is going on is a social process; 'society' and 'technology' cannot be separated one from the other. The machines and techniques that we call 'technology' reflect the structure of the society that created them. If one has a sexist, hierarchical, militarist, unfree society, then the technology created in those circumstances will reflect this. Such a technology will not be useful as the basis for a non-sexist, democratic, human society.

The technological determinist position is understandable from business men and corporate decision makers; they after all have created this technology for their own

automation in the U.S. that was sponsored by the National Organization of Working Women there. It was striking to listen to the women from European unions who kept saying to the North Americans: "but why are you talking as if this is inevitable? Why are you talking as if you have no choices?" One of the reasons for this is of course the much higher degree of clerical unionization in Europe. Eighty to ninety percent of clerical workers are unionized there compared to the few percent who are unionized in Canada. The European unions, particularly the Scandinavian ones, have won some very important victories around introduction of technology and around health issues; in addition, they are raising questions about what kind of technology working people, as opposed to managers, might want. In contrast, there is an amazing degree of acceptance in all of Canada, including unions, of this technology as something outside of human control.

Far from this being the case, the Information Revolution is clearly the result of

deteriorate and there
may be serious
health problems ■



groups into existence and render others obsolete."

What this reflects is a kind of technological determinism. It permeates the recommendations of that Task Force and it permeates the recommendations and pronouncements of various policy makers, academics and experts on the subject. The responses that people suggest to this technology, are simply that — responses. They say that we need to educate ourselves in the technology or we need to re-train to be able to work in the new jobs that will be created. One recommendation of the Task Force is the establishment of a centre to deal with the new technology with a mandate to monitor attitudes and to check out social impacts. There is nothing in the report to suggest that the task of such a centre should be to discuss different kinds of technology. It would exist only to respond to a technology which is assumed to be inevitable and fixed in form.

It is important to respond to the ways that this technology is being designed and used and to try to find ways for individuals

purposes. Such a position is even understandable from governments. But a wide range of individuals and groups in Canada and the U.S. — including women's groups and unions — who might be expected to have different interests and a different perspective — also seem to have accepted this kind of approach.

I attended a conference on office

a historical process in which machinery has been designed and introduced under the control of business specifically to further their interests. Mechanization and industrialization has served both to increase productivity directly and to increase management control over the work process. The Industrial Revolution meant the introduction of a new organization of pro-

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duction as much as the introduction of new machines. Division of labour and the increasing understanding by management of the details of the productive process were the preconditions for the further mechanization and later automation of the work process. Increasingly the knowledge that the producers had about the work process has been transferred to and embodied in the design of machines.

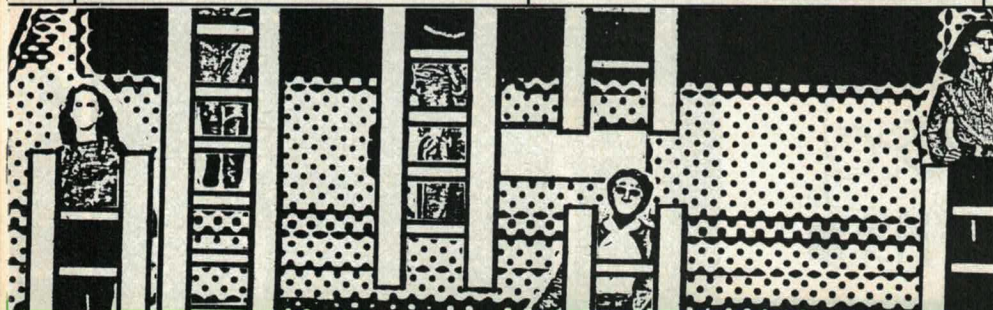
Joan Scott Wallace makes the point, in her article in the *Scientific American* issue on the mechanization of work (in September, 1982), that the mechanization of women's work has been a conservative process and not a liberating one for women — this has in fact been the overall result for all working people. Computers are the logical culmination of this process. The specific form that computer systems take is a product of this historical process. For all the talk about the Information Revolution, it seems clear that the net result will be a continuation of this constructing rather than liberating trend, since the fundamental structure of power

tion of the work process. The process began considerably before the late introduction of the new machinery in the late 1700's. In the 100 to 150 years before that, businessmen, capitalist agriculturalists and manufacturers fought with landlords and aristocrats for the right to control the society and structure the legal and political system in their own interests.

A fundamental shift in power took place in that period — the basic rules of the society changed and the basic logic of how power was organized and who exercised it changed also. Along with this the economic logic of the society changed. The workplace not only moved from cottage industries to factories, but the newly victorious business men took control of the work process away from the artisans who had been the main manufacturers. The Industrial Revolution meant a fundamental change in the control of labour and in the distribution of social and political power. It involved a kind of creative-destructive unleashing of the power of the new machines as a result of these fundamen-

of the society exactly the same, and, simultaneously, introduce a technology that will make extraordinary changes in the work process. They hope to use this technology to reinforce their control over the work process, not use it to move to another kind of society. In fact, once the initial cataclysm of the Industrial Revolution was past, the subsequent uses of technology have been overwhelmingly conservative. Critics of industrial society have pointed this out before, for example, Herbert Marcuse, in *Repressive Tolerance* asks: "How has it happened that with technical progress as its instrument, unfreedom is perpetuated and intensified?" Computers are just the latest in this historical process. In this sense they are machines like any others, introduced as a result of the same conservative business logic.

If one examines the proposed Information Society this becomes clear. The electronic office, for example, is still an office with executives and underlings. It's still an office with a hierarchy and it's still an of-



«The office of the future is

in society and the fundamental logic of its operation will not have changed at all.

It is important to look at what actually happened in the Industrial Revolution since the changes going on now are often compared to it. The changes that took place during the Industrial Revolution involved far more than simply the introduction of new machines and a new organiza-

tal changes in social structure.

I don't think that most of those who talk about the Information Revolution have quite this in mind. The technology that they are talking about and the uses of that technology are quite clearly conservative. What they want is change without change — they want to keep the power structure of the society exactly the same, the rules

fice whose major goal is to perpetuate and further the interests of businessmen and managers. The logic of business is very clear, and very inhuman. And the electronic office changes none of the power relationships in a business — on the contrary, it offers a way of intensifying them. As one of the U.S. working women's organizations has pointed out "the office of the future is like the factory of the past".

As another example, I recently visited a highly mechanized dairy farm where a computer based system is used to feed milking cows the proper amount of grain. With this and other modern technology, a handful of people can run a very large farm. The farm women in particular benefit since they aren't responsible for the huge amount of work — including cooking for a large farm crew — that was previously necessary. But this isn't a revolutionary change either. There is still a milk marketing board determining quotas. There is still the competition from agribusiness that leads to the continual loss of family farms. There still remain such questions as the destruction of farm

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land, the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, the problematic relationship between North American agriculture and the Third World. The fundamental structure of agriculture is not going to change because of the introduction of computers.

New communications media like Telidon are promised with all sorts of wonderful information and services to be available. But these are developing in the same broadcast model as commercial T.V. or commercial radio. These 'new' systems will have commercial information providers who will supply information to data banks and this information will be used to generate a profit for both the system providers and the information providers. We might get some different information from Telidon or have access to transactional services such as home banking, but our status as passive consumers has not fundamentally changed. Systems that would allow us to build our own data bases to express individual or community interests are not part of commercial plans.

The problems around employment are

that "we are going to have to change our attitudes toward work, we're going to have to prepare for a leisure society where work will no longer be an important part of our lives." The fact that this is ideology and not a move to a freer future becomes clear when one thinks about it. There is no move being made to change the fact that work is our passport to full citizenship and that wages are the way that production and social wealth get distributed. Consider the problems associated with being on welfare or UIC or being underemployed. Work is what gives meaning to most people's lives. The conservative nature of present policies is shown by Lloyd Axworthy's recent statement that Canadians will have to adjust to more 'leisure' — and lower wages.

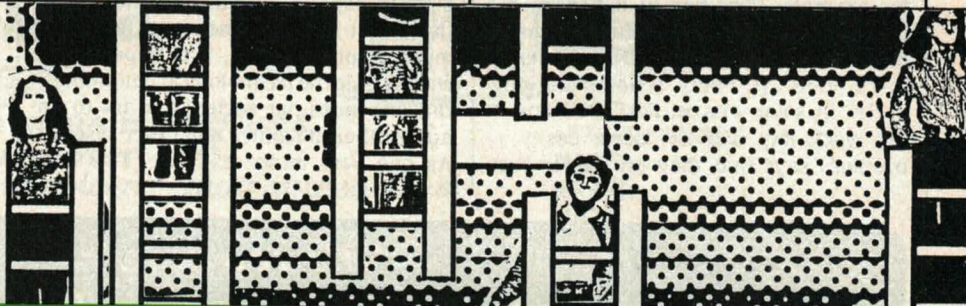
If jobs are going and if someone must learn to live with the leisure society, it may very well be that women will be the prime candidates. The social conditions that have led to the entry of women into wage labour in increasing numbers ever since the second world war may very well have reversed. If that is in fact the case, we may

it also makes sense that the net effect of the introduction of microtechnology may be to reinforce sex roles. There is nothing in the way that this new technology is being introduced that breaks down the sexual division of labour. On the contrary, it seems likely that it will make it more difficult to maintain even our present place in the world of wage work since such new jobs as do appear may require technical training that most women do not have access to.

This relatively pessimistic view of the impact of microtechnology is based on what may happen if there is no response by the people affected. There are a number of possible responses that women could make that have been suggested in the various conferences, briefs, and reports that have been current in the last couple of years in Canada. There are two categories of responses — ones that can be lumped together as 'survival strategies' and others that look to the future and to more fundamental changes.

Survival strategies are not solutions to

like the
factory of
the past. »



another example. There is a major, and I think justified, fear that work will be degraded as a result of the introduction of computers; people will be deskilled, what control remains over the work process will be further eroded. On some assembly lines, human workers and robots are alternated so that the workers not only cannot talk to fellow workers but the pace of work is set by the machines. The monitoring of office workers and retail clerks by word processing systems and point-of-sale terminals is another well documented example of the ways in which present structures of control remain or are intensified.

The loss of jobs is an area in which this technology can be seen as conservative. It seems clear that the introduction of microtechnology-based equipment is going to cost jobs in the short run and highly probable, as Jenkins and Sherman point out in *The Collapse of Work* (an analysis of the impact of microelectronics in England), that these jobs will not be replaced by other jobs. The government/industry line on this problem is (to paraphrase an article in the *Globe* last fall)

be heading for a time when the pressure on women to resume traditional roles will increase. The feeling that if jobs are limited, then men deserve them is a very fundamental one for many, in spite of the advances women have made in the last 15 years. Given my contention that the new technology is being used for conservative ends and not to liberate, then

the basic problems raised by microtechnology but they are important in terms of day to day struggles and in terms of opening up the possibility of wider discussions.

One of the most important of the survival strategies is union organizing. At present the best protection (limited as it is,) that working women can have is a

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union. Occupational health clauses, technological change clauses, attempts to bargain around structure of the workplace, job classification and retraining are all crucial ways in which unions can attempt to influence the conditions of introduction of microtechnology. There are limitations to what can be achieved by single unions or in a single workplace and it is clear that unions must begin to act together and to take on a much more public and political role. The problem for most women workers is their extremely low level of unionization. Successful union organizing drives are clearly necessary before women workers can get much help directly from the power of unions. However, it would clearly help if existing unions took technological change on as a political issue and pressed for improved protective legislation for all workers and women in existing unions need to begin to work toward that.

Another strategy is to insist that productivity gains should be passed on to the workers — through a shorter workweek for example. That has in fact been the trend over the history of industrialization as the work day dropped from 16 hours to 12 hours, 10 hours, 8 hours and now to 7½ in some places. Further drops in the work day will not come easily — business says that they are under such

pressure from foreign competition that they cannot afford to do so and probably no individual business could. There would have to be a widespread struggle for the 7 hour day or the 6 hour day.

The basic problem with these and other strategies, such as the very important struggles around health issues, is that they do not challenge the rules and the present power structure of Canadian society. Attempts to step outside the logic of present society and develop alternate visions have proven difficult. Discussions around microtechnology can provide ways of doing just that. This is because while the introduction of existing microtechnology provides an example of the way in which the technology is now acting as a conservative force, this need not blind us to the fact that its' potential is far beyond that of the other machines introduced since the Industrial Revolution.

A new technology based on microelectronics in a free and more human society could potentially serve to liberate people from drudgery and danger; it could be used to expand human potential rather than limit it. When one starts to look at more utopian visions, it is important to step outside the technological determinism that pervades our society and try to imagine other machines and other systems. As one very minor example, I've been

working with a community information system in Vancouver where we're creating a technology that doesn't distinguish between information providers and information consumers—everybody gets to put information in and everybody gets to take information out. We are having to create our own technology to do this — the software and the terminals created for conventional systems do not suit what we want to do. It is no accident, I am convinced, that women's groups have been important in this process.

The women's movement, in various ways, has been in the forefront of starting and developing the debate around the effects of microtechnology on Canadian society. In many ways women have the most to lose if the present trends continue unchecked. Among all the political groups and movements in Canada at present, they also have probably the best chance to be effective in both implementing survival strategies and developing visions of an alternative future.



Dr. Margaret Benston is a Computing Science and Women's Studies professor at Simon Fraser University. She has been writing and lecturing on the implications of technology for over ten years.

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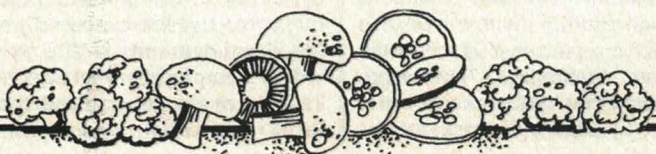
1 egg	1 cup all-bran
1/2 cup vegetable shortening	1-1/2 cups flour (unbleached or 1/2 unbleached 1/2 whole wheat)
3/4 cup brown sugar	1 tsp. baking powder
1 cup dates (add 1 tsp. baking soda)	pinch of salt

Pour 1 cup hot water over dates and soda. Bake in well-greased muffin tins in moderate oven. 15-20 min.



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THE KEYBORDS FOR VDT'S

Lissa Donner

Videodisplay terminals are rapidly becoming a standard piece of office equipment. VDTs and the computers to which they are attached, are eliminating many clerical jobs, and those women who remain in the office labour force face a host of occupational hazards.

The risk of radiation emitted from video display terminals has received much publicity recently. Clusters of miscarriages have been reported among women VDT operators. No large studies have been done which would allow us to say definitively that radiation emitted from VDTs is or is not hazardous, but that lack of firm evidence does not mean that we should assume that the terminals pose no threat to women's reproductive health.

Chemicals and new technological equipment are not human and need not be "presumed innocent until proven guilty." Only when they are demonstrated to be completely safe, should we treat them as such. Until that time, no woman who is pregnant or planning a pregnancy should be forced to work on a VDT. The Labour Canada Task Force on Micro Electronics, in its report, *In The Chips* has called for the right of pregnant women to be assigned to non VDT work without loss of pay, seniority or benefits. It is interesting to note that while VDTs sold in Canada come without any protective shielding to prevent radiation leakage, these same units are shielded when exported from Canada and the U.S. to Western European nations, which forbid the use of unshielded VDTs. Currently, no occupational health legislation in Manitoba or in Canada protects pregnant VDT operators.

VDT operators face other hazards less dramatic, maybe — but debilitating none the less. Video display terminals, desks and chairs, are designed for profit, appearance and efficient use of space, not for the comfort of the thousands of women who operate them. Many VDT operators complain of back, neck and shoulder aches. In order to eliminate these problems, office furniture and equipment must be flexibly designed, since workers are not all the same size or shape.

Chairs for office workers should have adjustable seats and back rests. The desks should have two adjustable horizontal panels — one to raise and lower the VDT keyboard, and one to adjust the screen to the proper height and angle for each operator. Only VDTs with detachable keyboards should be used, as it is impossible otherwise to have a proper fit between the operator and her machine. The Labour Canada Task Force on Micro Electronics has also recommended that the governments of Canada and the Provinces adopt technological standards for office automation equipment in order to prevent poorly designed equipment from being foisted upon working women.

The Canadian Labour Congress Labour Education and Studies Centre has also recently issued a report on VDTs, entitled *Towards More Humanized Technology*. They recommend that VDT workers be provided with totally adjustable work stations

and that VDT units with attached keyboards be banned. No government — either federal or provincial — has expressed an intention to introduce such regulations, although many other types of machinery and equipment are regulated for occupational safety. For example, in Manitoba the design of scaffolding, hosts, ladders, trenches and many other items are regulated under the Workplace Safety and Health Act. Office workers, largely unorganized, have not been able to force legislators to enact regulations to meet their specific health and safety needs.

VISUAL HAZARDS

Many VDT workers also complain of visual problems, including sore, red, stinging or itching eyes, blurred vision, headaches and problems with glasses and contact lenses. These problems can originate from either the VDT itself or from improper work station and office lighting. To save money, small screens are often used. These small screens project characters which are too small for comfortable reading, resulting in eyestrain for operators. Another major cause of eyestrain in VDT operators is the "flicker effect". Light emitted by phosphors on the VDT screen fade rapidly, and must be constantly refreshed. A refresh rate of less than 60 times per second will produce a flicker causing eye strain and stress. Most VDTs (and televisions) have a refresh rate of less than 65 times per second. Adjusting the VDT screen to make the image brighter increases the flicker effect. Flicker-free images are possible if VDT manufacturers build in a refresh rate of at least 80 times per second.

VDT operators have two potential sources of glare in their work-contrast glare and reflected glare. Both cause eyestrain and neck and back pain as operators hunch or assume awkward positions in an attempt to minimize glare. Contrast glare occurs when the office background is bright in relation to the VDT screen. The muscles of the iris, which dilate and constrict the pupil, become fatigued by constantly shifting from the highly lit background to the dimly lit screen. Light reflected from windows, lights or shiny walls onto the VDT screen causes reflected glare. Anti-glare screens for VDTs are available, but rarely used.

The Labour Canada Task Force on Micro Electronics has recommended that initial eye tests, followed by annual retesting be conducted for all VDT operators at the employer's expense and that corrective lenses specially adapted to the visual demands of VDT work be provided to employees where necessary. The Task Force also recommended time limits for VDT operators, in part because of com-



plaints of eye strain and musculo-skeletal problems such as back, neck and shoulder pains. In their report, they suggest hourly breaks for VDT operators and a maximum work time on VDTs of five hours per day.

The CLC, in its report, goes much further and recommends that the government establish standards for VDT manufacture to prevent visual problems. While the Labour Canada Task Force calls for annual eye exams, the CLC adds that these must be performed by an ophthalmologist of the worker's choice, who is knowledgeable in the field of work-related vision problems. This seemingly trivial point is in fact critical. Physicians on contract to a particular company owe their allegiance and their salary, to that company and normally conduct themselves accordingly.

STRESS - 'GOT THE VDTs'

Popular folklore has it that the most stressed workers in our society are those with the most responsibilities — the brain surgeons, the corporate executives and the lawyers. Recent research has shown that this is not the case. Workers who report the most physical symptoms related to stress are those with a high level of demand placed on them and little control over their work.

Corporate executives do have demanding jobs, but more importantly, they have a great deal of control over their work. VDT operators are a classic example of workers with demanding jobs and little job control. In many workplaces where VDTs are used, for example in airline reservations or in accounting offices, workers have a quota of work, a set number of operations that must be done in a workday, or in an hour. And of course, the computer keeps precise records — how long each worker takes with each task, how many tasks were done each day, the average work

load for the office, and how long each worker logs off for rest breaks and lunch, etc. Workers legitimately complain of stress in such situations, for they are constantly being monitored, although the boss may never be physically present.

VDT operators also suffer from the effects of the deskilling of clerical work. Secretaries, for example, perform varied tasks that allow them to develop different sets of skills and to move away from their work station. (Of course, some of these "different" tasks, like making coffee, are precisely what secretaries have been struggling against.) VDT operators have comparatively little mobility and flexibility in their work. They are bound to a machine which controls, paces and monitors their work.

Eliminating this stress is not something which can be done easily. It can't be fixed with a better lamp or a new machine. VDT workers need what all other workers need — control over the work process. The VDT must be an adjunct to the worker, and not the other way round. The Report of the Labour Canada Task Force does not address this most fundamental issue. It is fundamental since it questions the "right" of employers to structure workplaces in the most profitable manner. We all pay the cost of occupationally related stress, and other occupational diseases. Our taxes pay for the hospital beds, the doctors' appointments, the people on welfare. Why is it that their "cost benefit analysis" calculates only their benefits and never workers' costs?

Some corporate planners have begun to argue that the problem is women. They argue that we're too susceptible to chemical toxins and that we're likely to become pregnant and expose the fetus in utero to occupational hazards. These arguments are used to try to exclude women, especially fertile women, from certain occupations which are considered

high risk. For instance working in lead smelters and battery plants, are high risk for women. But those same corporate planners turn a blind eye to the real hazards faced by women in jobs which are traditionally seen as "women's work." The children of operating room workers, exposed to anesthetic gases, have higher than usual risk of birth deformities. Can we begin to imagine hospital operating rooms without women?

The solution is not to exclude certain "vulnerable" groups of workers, but to make each workplace safe for all. In many cases, research has shown that chemicals and physical hazards, such as radiation, which are assumed to endanger only women, cause reproductive effects in men as well. Both lead and anesthetic gases have well demonstrated reproductive effects in men. Their fertility and production of healthy sperm can be jeopardized.

The demand for safe and healthy workplaces is not a new one. What is new is that office workers, especially those working with the new microtechnology, are taking up the issue as their own. But office workers face one major disadvantage. Like most women workers, they are generally not unionized. Without the support of a union, individual women are more vulnerable to the deterioration of their workplace environment. Although the problems faced by women working with VDTs appear new and different, the solutions are not. Strong unions and protective legislation will help gain for women control over the process of their work and safe and healthy workplaces. *Lissa Donner is the Executive Director of the MFL Occupational Health Centre in Winnipeg.*

FOR FURTHER READING...

- Women's Occupational Health Resource Centre Newsletter — published bimonthly available from WOHRC, School of Public Health, Columbia University, 60 Haven Ave. B-1, NY, NY 10032
- Ont. Public Service Employees Union The Hazards of VDTs available from OPSEU 1901 Yonge St. Toronto, Ont. (cost \$3.00)
- Hucko, A and Brient M. Working For Your Life: A Woman's Guide to Job Health Hazards available from: Labour Occupational Health Program University of California 2521 Channing Way Berkely, California 94770 (cost \$5.00)
- VDT Newsletter Labour Council of Metro Toronto 407-15 Gervais Drive Don Mills, Ontario (cost \$5.00 per year)

*International***Short Circuiting Women's Labour**

While women in Canada and other industrialized countries are confronting the effects of the introduction of microtechnology in their workplaces, large numbers of Third World women work to produce the microchips for this technology.

Ironically, the production of sophisticated technology still relies on labour intensive processes. Multinational electronics corporations have organized their production so as to take advantage of sources of cheap labour, mostly in Third World countries. Approximately 60,000 immigrant women in the United States — Filipino, Korean, Vietnamese, Mexican — and 250,000-500,000 women in Southeast Asia comprise a labour force rarely mentioned in electronics industry, trade journals and the popular press. These women work on a global assembly line stretching from California to Penang, Malaysia. No other industry is as internationally specialized, or has its workplace scattered across continents.

Semiconductor companies locate research, development and the initial capital intensive stages of production, mostly in Silicon Valley, California. Scientists and engineers design complex multi-layered circuit patterns for each semiconductor device, drawing large versions that are then photographically reduced.

About 140,000 assembly workers in California, 90 per cent of whom are women — fabricate the initial stages of the semiconductor based on the negatives. They "dope" layers of silicon with chemical impurities to create electrical charges. Other workers photograph the circuit pattern and etch it on the wafer with acids and solvents. Wafers are then baked repeatedly in high temperature ovens, tested with computerized equipment and sorted into categories.

The wafers are then airfreighted to Southeast Asia, where Asian women workers slice them into separate chips. The chips are bonded to circuit boards, requiring a woman to peer through a microscope seven to nine hours per day while attaching fifty hair-thin gold wires to each chip. Workers bake the chips in ovens, sealing each inside a plastic or ceramic coating. Testers check the components, dipping them into a tank of chemicals. Components are then sent to Asian subsidiaries or back to the U.S. for assembly into various products or military hardware.

It is profitable for multinational corporations to locate parts of their production

process in Southeast Asia because there are major economic incentives and supports offered to such investments by the American government and international development agencies, namely the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and UNIDO.

For the women workers in the U.S., many of whom are recruited through overseas subsidiaries of the American electronics firms, pay is low and they are exposed to often serious health hazards. Most of them are women because men cannot be found to work for such low wages. For the women workers in such countries as Thailand, Malaysia and the Philippines, conditions are even poorer. Wages range from a high of \$5.00 U.S. per day in Hong Kong to \$0.80 U.S. per day in Indonesia. Many workers contribute substantial portions of their income to support families living in rural areas, further reducing their own standard of living. Many workers experience burns, dizziness and nausea from exposure to chemicals and fumes as well as eye problems. Women workers are also targets of motivation schemes which combine authoritarian discipline and attempts to play upon the patriarchal attitudes of Asian society with the lure of Western consumerism and feminine images that are so attractive to many young women. For example, Intel in Malaysia sponsors beauty contests and encourages agents to sell cosmetics and jewelry during mealtime. Yet women's careers within the industry are short. Most women workers are 16 to 24 years old. Women whose eyesight becomes less than perfect are laid off; they experience no job mobility, nor can they transfer their skills to other industries.

Significantly, the U.S. provides military aid (and at times direct intervention) to Southeast Asia to suppress opposition, particularly that arising within the labour movement.

Within these countries it is only the very small percentage of property holding families, government and military officials and professionals — who benefit from such forms of development, while the majority of the population becomes increasingly dependent on imports of basic foods and goods. Profits earned by multinational corporations within these countries are repatriated; there is little local investment.

Canadian women and men affected by the new technology must understand the global structure of the electronics industry and these wider political and economic dimensions. These issues are of increasing relevance to us. The Kanata Valley near Ottawa is rapidly becoming known as "the Silicon Valley of the North." Large numbers of women, including immigrant women, are employed by non-union Canadian companies such as Mitel. In addition,

multinational corporations have established electronics assembly plants in underdeveloped regions such as Cape Breton, where labor is cheap. When faced with unionization or other demands, companies threaten, and do in fact, leave, diverting their production to subsidiaries in Mexico, Taiwan and Portugal.

We shouldn't be drawn into the ruse of blaming low paid Third World women workers for taking jobs away from Canadians when in reality it is the multinationals seeking greater profits, development agencies such as the International Monetary Fund, and the policies of governments which support military regimes that are the root of such problems.

Microchip technology is not a neutral force. The crucial issues remain — who controls and determines the labour process and how is the technology developed and used?

In Canada, many of us are only now realizing the enormity of these issues and the necessity of finding solutions about how to deal with these massive changes. People are discussing the need for increased coordination of information about new technology among unions across industry lines; for coordinated strategies so that workers can't be pitted against each other internationally; for mutual support for worker resistance to the introduction

of new technology; for creative ways for manufacturing socially useful products; and ways to increase solidarity with Third World workers in some of their basic struggles for human rights.

The new technology has the potential to ease the tedium of jobs and to be the technological basis of a world where the labour of women and men is valued, enriched and enhanced. It challenges us to think more clearly about what such a world might look like in our workplaces, political institutions, and in our personal and family relationships. Women are central to these tasks. We are crucial to the production and application of the new technology throughout the world and are increasingly active in struggles around it. And through our oppression as women we have some particularly relevant things to say about what a just world might look like and how it comes to be. ▼

Sari Tudover

Specific references and other relevant information on this topic will gladly be shared with anyone interested. Please contact Sari Tudover, the Manitoba Council for International Cooperation, at 418 Wardlaw Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3L 0L7 (204) 453-6231.

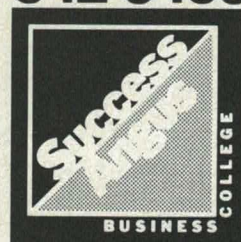
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Poetry

Working For The Man

*The knot of women,
beat-shrivelled,
bunch over their machines
— piece work puppets
manipulating bits
of fabric, the whir
and hum of technology
stinging the air
like a giant wasp.*

*Steam iron on hand,
the girl from Barbados,
soaked in sweat,
dreams of the sea.
The hissing iron distorts
her crested vision
with a vaporous
river of sound.*

*Dialects in Greek,
Portuguese and Italian
are savory fruits
in the sweltering
factory heat.
Conversation rises
like yeast!
in the industrious
oven of humanity.*

*Pockets, collars, sleeves,
in rainbow streams,
flow from each
punctuating needle.
Buffeting
buttonhole machines
bite sharply
into polyester tissue.
Precision speaks
with geologic force.*

*The factory is canopied with
plastic-swathed garments,
candy-cane copies
of haute-couture originals.
Operators, cutters,
pressers, shippers
scurry across
the room, hunch-backed,
ducking under 4 foot high
metal pipes
supporting parades
of dresses and slack suits,
labelled, tagged,
inspected,
ready to be shipped.*

*In the show room,
air-conditioners
articulate
a comforting chill.
Buyers
finger the goods,
and eye the models.
The designer*

*is all smiles.
The boss has
order forms
at the ready.
The season looks
promising.*

*In the factory,
the odor of sweat
mingles with the smell
of steaming garments
and dry-cleaning fluid,
but the women
are lucky to be working,
and live in fear
of seasonal
lay-offs.*

*The needle trade
marches on,
populated by
its human machines.
Immigrant women,
shapeless
in sleeveless smocks,
are mechanical tools,
over-exposed film*

*bemming, pressing, basting,
threading, cutting, stitching.*

*The fashion tread-mill
goes round and round
on the laws of
supply and demand.*

*Production
is an adrenalin flow,
a cover-up for
yesterday's copout,
today's emptiness,
the lost look of tomorrow.*

*Piece work is the
name of the game.*

*Pieces of soul.
Pieces of bone.
Pieces of sinew.
Pieces of gut.
Pieces of pride.
Pieces of pain.
Pieces of flesh.
Pieces of people.
Pieces of profit . . .*

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WORK

Mona Elaine Adilman



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BIRTH TECHNOLOGY

The Evolution Revolution

Brigitte Sutherland

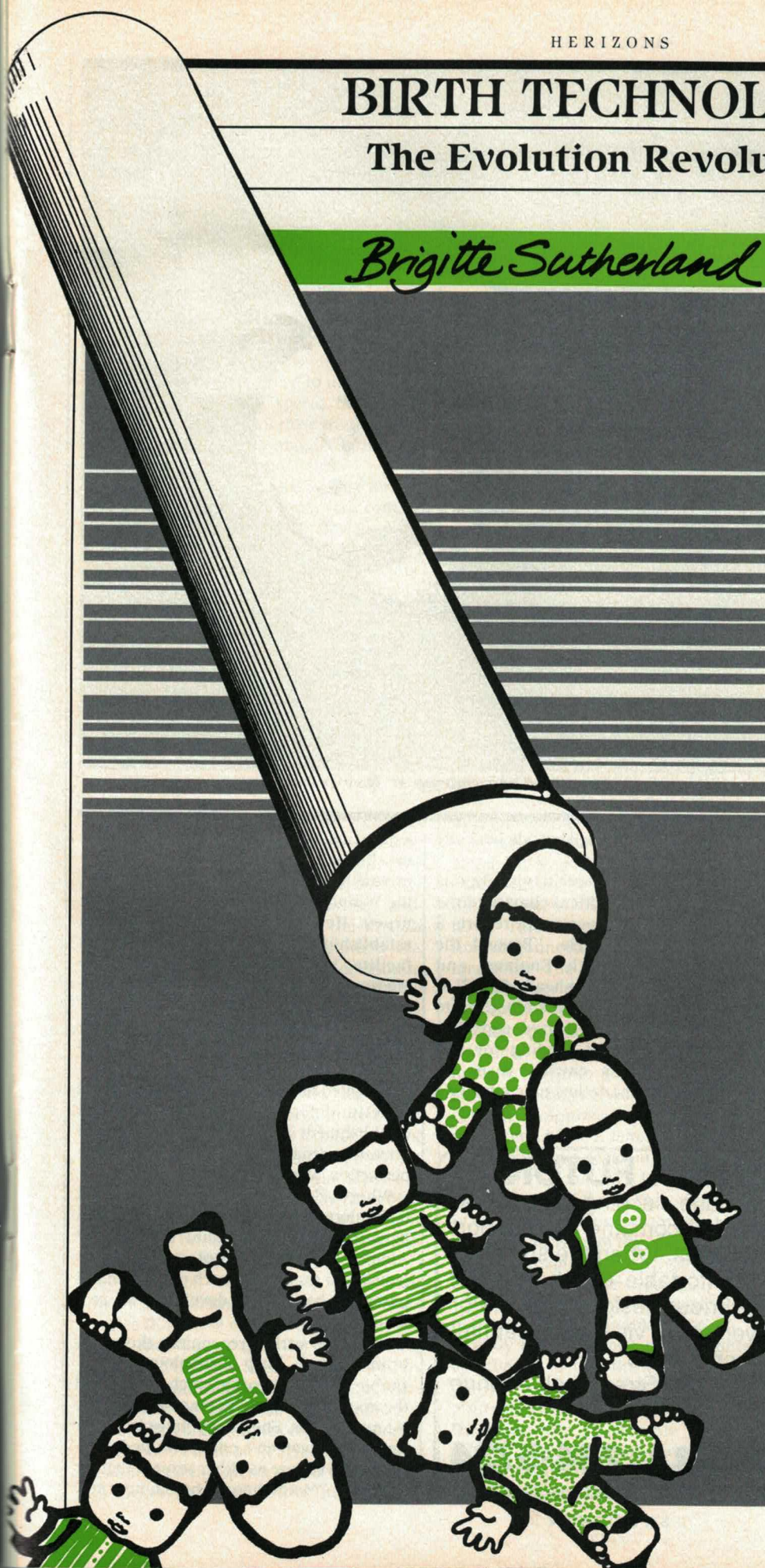
In North Dakota, 36 per cent of Native women have been permanently sterilized. A Winnipeg suburb shelters a woman waiting to be implanted with an in vitro fertilized ovum. Time-released amounts of drugs in the arm of a woman living in any one of 80 countries around the world are being tested to see how well the drug provides an extended period of sterilization. Remarkably enough, each of these events are directly influenced by the research and breeding manipulations of the multi-billion dollar cattle industry.

"The bits have all been done, and just now we're at the point of stringing them together," says Charles Srebnik, of the cattle embryo business. He is chairman of Genetic Engineering Incorporated of Texas, one of the companies involved in cattle breeding research whose equipment and technology has been used in the impregnation of women. Cattle breeders are leaving nothing to chance in order to ensure profitability of their business.

Similarly, scientists studying human reproduction are echoing the same imperative: Why leave reproduction to random chance — we need to produce healthy, productive human beings. Where does this leave women, the only human beings irrespective of scientific techniques who produce offspring? Why might women look at their reproductive decisions and weigh these against the historic picture of birth technology used in cattle breeding?

Feminist philosopher Andrea Dworkin, in her new book *Right Wing Women*, concludes there exists an overriding societal philosophy that reduces women to the function of their uterus. "The well-being of women — economic, social, sexual — depends on what the value of the uterus is, how it will be used and by whom, whether it will be protected and why." In this international context, women are making important decisions about the reproductive technology. Will they comply with medical dictates, or will they assert their ability to make independent reproductive decisions?

As women contemplate man, they note that in his beginnings man wrote himself a bible to give himself dominion over all the other animals on earth. From that lofty position it was an easy step to defining women's sexual and reproductive nature as animalistic and so to take con-



trol over her reproduction just as he did of the cow's.

Billion dollar incentives have produced research that enables the detachment of embryos from cows bred for great production capabilities — greater milking; better conversion of feed to beef; or consistent birthing of twins. After flushing out these hybrid cow embryos, worth as much as \$3000 each, they are implanted in 'mongrel cows' for the period of gestation, says Srebnik. This hierarchies-of-uteruses philosophy results in high profit specialization so lower grade cows make higher grade baby cows, but the host cows never get to reproduce themselves.

In anticipation of these genetic engineering processes and because there are no controls in place, a U.S. congressional commission warned of possible dangers in *Splicing Life: A Report on the Social and Ethical Issues of Genetic Engineering with Human Beings* (1980). Knowing that gene splicing is being used by the cattle industry, the commission worried that these techniques would be misused by extending the experimentation to human genes.

Medical research scientists aren't sharing the same cautions, but rather are moving quickly to apply techniques perfected by the cattle breeding industry to women. Artificial insemination has long been old news. In vitro fertilizations, which first brought us Baby Louise Brown in 1978 has by now produced some 128 babies; some twins and triplets too. After ingesting a fertility drug, the ova produced by a woman are flushed out of her uterus and fertilized in a petri dish. Some doctors implant all fertilized ova in the womb, others freeze those fertilized ova not used for later implantation or experimentation. This procedure now has a success rate of 20 to 25 per cent. The latest ovum transfers follow much the same procedure except that first the donor woman and the recipient woman's menstrual cycles are matched via the use of hormone therapy. The woman recipient is implanted with the egg



Fertilized egg embryo at four-cell stage.

after it has been fertilized outside her body by the sperm donor.

Much of this research's visibility is dependent on the political climate of the particular country it occurs in, reports a recent Maclean's article, 'Beyond the Limits of Life'. Both England and Australia are forging ahead. The U.S. Moral Majority movement's objection to experimentation on fertilized eggs has dried up government funding for this research and has caused it to go underground. Canada has no controlling

legislation and no government funding as yet, but is beginning to expand through private investment monies. Late last year, the Winnipeg Sun reported that the Winnipeg Health Sciences Centre was establishing the first in vitro fertilization facility in Canada. Not covered by Medicare, it is estimated this procedure would cost about \$6000.

In England and Australia where there are no sanctions against the use of spare fertilized embryos, these are frozen or experimented on for genetic engineering and genetic defect studies. The medical establishment is looking for major medical advances from this knowledge and the perfection of techniques.

Where does the impetus for this technology come from and who will benefit from the eventual discoveries? Almost no governmental guidelines or legislation for this research or its eventual potential have been developed in participating countries.

Andrea Dworkin recognizes their new branch plant, birth technology — profitable animal research which has opened the door to profitable human reproductive manipulations. She extrapolates from her analysis of women's only permitted identity in this culture as either sexual labourer or womb: 'Motherhood is becoming a new



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branch of female prostitution with the help of scientists who want access to the womb for experimentation and for power."

She bids us to look at the long tradition of reproductive control over women which have reduced our birth choices. Contraception or abortion has been either illegal and therefore too hazardous and too expensive, or legalized but with prohibitive restrictions. Birthing that has been usurped from midwives and 'doctored up' consists of drug-induced labour, extraction clamps for slow baby heads, and often interventionist cesareans. In this light, woman has been reduced to uterus in the service of the male sperm imperative. Men's sperm has been the defining factor which confers control and definition over the embryo or potential fetus.

A sperm bank called Repository for Germinal Choice in Escondido, California is supported to the tune of six figures a year out of private endowments from the retired inventor Robert K. Graham. Only Nobel prize winners are asked to donate their sperm with a view that artificially inseminated women will produce intelligent, superior offspring. The *Free Press* reports that 20 or so donors masturbate or "bring their wives and do it by withdrawal." When asked about the procedures used, Graham replied it is the same as that used with a bull, "our equipment is largely veterinary equipment for storing and shipping."

A recent editorial in the Toronto women's newspaper, *Broadside*, informs that the majority of cases of in vitro fertilizations and ovum implantation technology done are those where male spouses donate the sperm for the fertilization of the ovum which then confers relationship (ownership) upon the developing embryo. This same relationship to the ovum is also the one predominantly used in surrogate motherwork; the male donor's identity binds the contractual arrangements.

In surrogate motherwork, legal contracts are used to separate mothers from their product. There exists a differentiation of wages depending on the quality of the final results. The *Globe & Mail* reports of a Michigan case for which a normal birth would bring \$10,000; carried to term but born dead brings \$1000; for miscarriage in the first five months of pregnancy remuneration covers only travel and medical expenses. The law firm involved states that these contracts have "become the firm's fastest growing business." In another Michigan case cited in the *Free Press*, a contract father refused in utero treatment of the fetus' strep infection. After birth both couples rejected the 'contract' baby due to birth defects. Blood tests established the sperm donor had no part in conceiving the child and therefore was

not financially liable for this \$10,000 contract. This whole issue exists in a legal 'no woman's land'.

In addition to enacting 'conception' various technical methods of sex preselection are now known to man. The sex of the fetus can be determined from amniocentesis after 15-20 weeks of gestation. Doctors are attempting to push for earlier detection and as well are trying to develop a method of gaining this same information from pregnant women's blood cells. Recent *Globe & Mail* reports inform of advances in extra-uterine sex preselection. Japanese scientists were able to separate male and female producing sperm after noticing there was a "slight difference in electrical charges emanating from the two types." Ronald Ericsson, in a private clinic in San Francisco, uses liquid albumin (a common protein in blood) to separate male X chromosome sperm and female Y chromosome sperm. For some reason the Y's stay on the bottom and the X's head for the top of the liquid.

Prevailing sociological theories can be quickly amended, revised, or overturned to suit high-technology definitions of morality. Crucial mother-child bonding advocated in a popular 1976 publication, *Maternal-Infant Bonding*, claimed, "there is a sensitive period in the first minutes and hours of life during which it is necessary that mother and father have close contact with their neo-nate for later development to be optimal." The authors have now modified their previously-held belief; Dr. Marshall Klaus states in a *Globe & Mail* article "I wish we'd never written the statement. We don't agree with it now." This leaves little need for recognition of connection other than womb as nourisher. The frontiers of fetology are pushing ever closer to the beginnings of conception in seeing the fetus as a separate patient.

Women can now be forced by doctors and the courts to accept life-threatening surgery to themselves in order to relieve certain diagnosed problems in the developing fetus. A legal question of who has priority in a decision to have surgery, mother or doctor, has been established. This question of the mother's body integrity versus fetus-patient rights has no other legal comparison. In the case of life-saving organ transplants, relatives cannot be compelled to donate organs.

Right-wing men such as Ronald Reagan, in their campaign against abortion, have already forced women to live under the dominance of this theory. This right-to-control-over-life zeal has a whole philosophical underpinning. Andrea Dworkin says: "The male ego, which refuses to believe in its own death, now pushes backward before birth. I was once a fertilized egg, therefore to kill a fertil-



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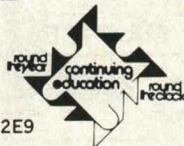
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ized egg is to kill me." In the U.S., a right-wing minority is attempting to make passage of the Human Life Amendment the legal expression of this philosophy. This amendment would then convey legal rights upon a fertilized egg which adult women do not possess.

Although the right in the U.S. has forced the new birth technology into hiding and secrecy, in other Western countries, male responses suggest approval, as long as the medical establishment maintains certain prescribed moral boundaries. Local defender-of-the-faith, Joe Borowski is quoted in the *Winnipeg Sun* as saying he found nothing unnatural about laboratory conception as long as there is no experimentation on spare embryos. In Australia, a spokesman for the Anglican church reiterated, "as long as test tube fertilization and freezing of human embryos are restricted to married couples, they are simply a technological extension of a natural process." Even the Roman Catholic church hails sex preselection as favourable, explaining that this process will limit family size as couples will stop having children after having a boy. The church sees the discovery as a lesser evil to abortion.

How does this male concern impact on the women right-wing men live with. Dworkin establishes clearly that these women understand that their survival is dependent on their production of children. This is the only approved-of lever they are able to use to negotiate for their daily needs. Though these women might echo statements like those emanating from the Roman Catholic church or the Winnipeg 'right-to-life' movement, Dworkin believes the women "want to protect not fertilized eggs, but motherhood and their worth as women in God's eyes as well as men's." Because their choices are limited, as are all women's choices in this society, and even though religion functions as their oppressor, they must enlist it as their only protector. Dworkin elaborates, "against the secular power of male scientists, women will try to put the power of misogynist males in religion." While these women are seeking some basis (motherhood) for their value in society, the right-wing men are already noting the efficiencies made possible by the new birth technologies. The final result of right-wing agitation over women's bodies threatens state control over women's uteruses.

Already, the state has created a hierarchy of reproductive uses world-wide. Most recently, affluent white women in the dominant society of Europe and North America are being offered exclusive access to the new birth technology to keep them producing children. In contrast, these choices are not given to the poor, or women of colour in all countries. Most of

these women have been used as the testing ground of contraceptive methods. This exclusive access does not come cheap to women claims Dworkin: "The racially privileged woman is not free; the conditions of her survival are predetermined; she may get rewards for meeting them but outside of them she has no chance."

Pure breeding extends also to what is judged to be mentally competent to reproduce. A *Globe & Mail* article recently reported a provincial court decision to sterilize a 29 year-old P.E.I. woman on the grounds she was retarded. Requested by her mother, the case is now before the Supreme Court. This case is of interest because few males defined as retarded are consequently forced to undergo vasectomies. Sterilization, and economic and moral sanctions are used extensively to control the reproduction of specific women. Katsi Cook, reports in *Akwesasne Notes* that between 1963-65, 40,000 Columbian women were sterilized by corporately funded programs. Research done in 1975 by Dr. Connie Vri, a Native American doctor in South Dakota, showed that 25,000 Indian women had been sterilized by Indian Health Services. It is estimated that between 24 per cent and 42 per cent of all American Indian women are sterile. In China the state imposes financial penalties or "women who are pregnant beyond the plan must take remedial measures (a euphemism for abortion)," reports the *Globe & Mail*. Usually women are sterilized and "in many parts of China women of child-bearing age are examined for pregnancy every two months by village committees." Sex preselection methods are becoming big business all over the world, but in many developing countries, this method is consistently used to induce abortion if a female fetus is found to be occupying the womb.

More and more women on welfare in North America suffer state control over their sexual and reproduction functions. Dworkin gives examples of black women on welfare in New York who have been cut off welfare for allegedly cohabiting with a man, while others have been urged by case workers to turn tricks when they appeal for money. "So far, the strategies of the state in stopping women on welfare from having children have been crude. The government has tried to police their homes, punish them for having 'illegitimate' children, starve them and their children; state policy is one of absolute, cruel, murderous paternalism," says Dworkin.

In Nova Scotia, a new provincial government legislation to deny welfare payments to certain single mothers has been put into effect. Without an independent income, this will force these young, single

moms to return, as daughters, to the houses of their fathers or as dependents to the men who have impregnated them. This new policy will act as a deterrent to independent-minded young women. As well, says the Social Services Minister Edmond Morris, "they can put their children up for adoption." In effect, they can become cut-rate breeders for province-approved married couples. It is no wonder that some women see the rent-a-womb surrogate process as more desirable. An Ontario woman, who is reported in the *Globe & Mail* to have made a contract for a baby with a Michigan couple said it was the money that was instrumental in making the deal.

The state control (whether via prevailing economic forces or legislation) over women's reproduction has not gone unnoticed by women. Some demonstrate in the streets against laws that give men rights over their bodies. Still others have looked into the past and into the future to warn of the political and personal implications of this high technology for women.

The authors of the futuristic short story, "Prima Gravida: A Not So Far Out Fantasy of Reproductive Tyranny" which appeared in *Ms.*, worked out one particular scenario of state control over reproduction. A Life-Watch is compulsively worn by every woman in that society and connected to a big-brother computer, which registers immediate pregnancy to the Fetal Protective Agency. The Life-Watch keeps constant vigil over the woman's physical condition until she has fulfilled her destiny. The society does not offer any choices. At the same time, the authors also inform of the ways women find to subvert this strategy. A women's network offers safe, secret abortions undetectable to the FPA and the women are taught bio-rhythms to control their bodies to report only a "spontaneous miscarriage".

Strategies may vary, yet the fundamental goals that women must achieve are to have self-defining reproductive abilities: how, when, where, how often, or if they will use this power. Some 12 per cent of Canadian women between the ages of 21 and 31 remain childless by choice and this trend is increasing, claims a U. of Manitoba sociologist in the *Free Press*. One of the other choices, incorporating this women-defined context, is the feminist health collective in Oakland, California which includes a sperm bank. The *Free Press* quotes director Laura Brown as saying they will not restrict their fertilization to married couples, but will also help lesbians, and single women to become pregnant. Women choose donors from a catalogue of a racially diverse group of men who have waived all custody rights. In Sweden, women are now using a drug to enable them to end their pregnancies

privately and safely, with the aid of pain-killing pills and two prostaglandin suppositories in six hours, reports an article in the *Free Press*. The procedure must be done during the first 49 days of pregnancy.

One wonders why British birth techniques of fusing two ova and achieving cell division are raising the ire of their American colleagues. The G&M quotes professor Peter Elsdon of the Embryo Transfer Laboratory at Colorado State University saying, "I can't see any reason for doing that with the human embryo. You are just asking for trouble. I don't see it as a scientific endeavor that has a chance to lead to something which is worthwhile." Still, American research has brought litters of female mice to term and live births precisely by using this method (joining mouse ova).

The medical imagination does not seem to go beyond using birth technology unless it ultimately fits into a patriarchal family structure. (My mental meanderings take me to wonder with fascination about the possibility of a daughter lovingly agreed to between two female friends.) With the possibility of cloning an identical being from a single cell, why wouldn't a woman wonder at the possibility of reproducing herself from one of her own eggs, stimulated in some way to commence cell division? It does not seem sacrilegious for a woman to ponder recreating herself in her own image. Advances in estrogen therapy and the techniques in storing frozen embryos may eventually enable a woman to carry a child beyond the biological determinism of her menopause.

Women do not want to be restricted by boundaries as they have birthed and not birthed historically against many odds. Risks are acceptable in a loving, life-sustaining environment.

In contrast, every aspect of the current direction of the new birth technology suggests a more horrific outcome for women. Jan Raymond, author of *The Transsexual Empire*, concerns herself with the lengthy preparation methods before infertile women are considered legitimate candidates for ovum implants. She says, "these women go to those doctors every week and have their (Fallopian) tubes blown-out. Doctors want to see if they can create an opening through which the egg can travel down into the uterus." During an interview, one of these women told Raymond she puts a towel over her head and cries every week during this procedure.

After a careful analysis of the prevailing reproductive conditions of women, what is one to make of the G&M report that a woman's body delivered a live infant boy by cesarean section 61 days after her death? Is this one step for

mankind in the continued reduction of real woman as uterus to cadaver womb? Reproductive technology which does not consider the whole woman as a person will have frightening consequences.

Be it artificial insemination, in vitro fertilization, sex selection, genetic engineering, fetal monitoring, artificial wombs, fetal surgery, embryo transplants, and cloning; Andrea Dworkin says, "the issue is not the particular innovation — whether it is intrinsically good or bad; the issue is how it will be used in a system in which women are sexual and reproductive commodities already exploited, with lives that are worthless when not serving a specific sexual or reproductive function." ▼

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My Daddy the teacher.



My favorite dog.



My favorite blanket.



WHAT IS WORK



Carol Matas

Hi

My name is Rebecca. I usually have lots of fun. I play with my toys and with my dolls. I have a favorite dog and a favorite monster and a favorite blanket. I take them all to bed with me.

I also have a friend. We share everything except my dog, my monster, and my blanket.

I also have a Mommy and a Daddy. I like to play with them. When I have a bad dream I like Mommy or Daddy to give me a hug and a glass of apple juice.

Every morning Daddy goes to work. Every afternoon Mommy goes to work. This bothers me because I don't know what Mommy and Daddy are doing. What is work?

One morning Daddy took me to a big building. Inside the building was a room filled with children. Daddy read to them, wrote on a big blackboard and taught them how to spell words. He is a teacher. That's his work.

One afternoon Mommy took me to a different big building. She met with lots of people. Everyone seemed in a hurry. She typed things into a computer. Then she was ready. She talked into a microphone. Her voice came on the radio. She's a newsperson. That's her work.

Mommy told me about other jobs people do when they work. They can be firefighters or letter carriers or doctors. And lots more.

Now I play with my friend and my toys but I also pretend. I think about what I'd like to be when I grow up. I pretend to go to work.

Sometimes I'm a dentist.

Sometimes I'm a radio announcer.

Sometimes I'm the captain of a ship.

What about you?



Poetry

Working For The Man

11 yrs
longer than most marriages
we had a few falling outs
a little lying
cheating
running around

I played helpless
eyelashes fluttering
I felt helpless

Welfare was my old man
my unloving
head of household
absentee lord & master
my computer poppa

I got as much as most
wives
got enough for toilet paper
used it as tissues
used it as napkins
used it as sanitary napkins

didn't need to dress up
didn't need to smile
my inlaws
were social workers
had to dress down
had to cry
bad to

Welfare, welfare
we're not divorced
only separated
my daughter's not 18

you would take me back
you would provide for me
in the style
to which I've had to
become accusotmed

I don't nag
I was a good wife
I never asked for
a clothing allowance
I never wasted medicaid
(couldn't face those Drs.)

I never went to welfare rights
meetings
I knew my place
was at your side
I had no side

WELFARE
was
my
HUSBAND

Reprinted from Big Mama Rag



Welfare husband
he carries big stick
he can take away child
I was good & scared
I never got out of line
long lines

Do I miss your face
your cheshire cat cock?
Do I miss your little
late checks?
Do I miss your hand-out
your punch in the face
the stomach?
Would I go back
as battered women do?

The safety of your impersonal
malevolent benevolence
Common law welfare husband
the whole country bates me
loves to take the pentagon
on shopping sprees
buy the bomb dress up clothes

while a country full
of welfare kids
window shop
at the salvation army
thrift shops

Welfare husband
flaunting
his mistress, GM
Chrysler, Lockheed
Grain farming Corporations
anyone could feed a family
of four
on those table scraps

Promise me no surprises
no gift wrapped
have-a-heart animal traps
in the mail
no more forms to fill out

I said "so long"
You said with a smirk
"write when you get work"

Gudrun Fonfa

OPINION

Sexist Lingo Lingers

With such a wide variety of causes to support and injustices to overcome, it's almost inevitable that we feminists are told we're often overly picky about some issues. Or that our time should be used for the more large-scale concerns of women, such as equal employment or freedom of choice. Granted, these are very important issues and they should be addressed, but does that mean those so-called petty issues are really irrelevant?

The topic that is most often dismissed as trivial is our sexist, inconsistent and just plain ridiculous English language (not to say English is the only sexist language, just one of many). Having annoyed people numerous times for changing (correcting?) mankind to humankind or businessman to businessperson, I can speak from experience as I'm sure any politically aware woman or man could.

The most popular response to my reflex action of attempting to androgynise the English language is "Aren't you wasting time worrying about language when there are so many more important problems to overcome?" Another favorite is, "Does how I speak matter as much as what I'm saying?"

Lynn Suderman

person

Well of course it matters. These people miss the point that sexist language simply perpetuates unconscious sexism. English speaking people think and reason and analyse in English. We get our education, we converse and we function in English. So how can such an all inclusive sexist base be considered irrelevant?

Essentially, our dialect is taken for granted. We are often unaware of our thought processes and the reasons we chose certain words in conversations. Listen to any group of people engaged in small-talk and it's apparent that no one is really listening. Like a chain reaction, one statement triggers a response which triggers another. So, often the deep-rooted sexism comes into play without anyone being aware of it, though reflex mouth exercise has innumerable consequences.

Unfortunately, to rid English of its sexist base we must return to its roots and re-write the entire language. Of course that's a mildly ridiculous task for anyone to take on, so we must look to other solutions that don't put the entire English-speaking world into a tailspin.

First, we can take the androgynising route. This consists of changing the universal masculine to a form that refers to both genders as part of the human race. Humanizing the language can be as simple as substituting fire-fighter for fireman or as difficult as finding a human equivalent for man-hole cover.

The second method is basically providing a feminine equivalent for every masculine word. Bringing this into effect is not as easy as it looks since some time-worn phrases refuse to die out. I have nothing against using some potentially derogatory feminine words as long as a masculine equivalent is provided. Thus when we speak of ladies and gentlemen or girls and boys, my desire to equalize the language is sated. Phrases such as 'men and girls' or 'man and wife' still make me shudder in revulsion.

Third, there's the avoidance route. All we have to do is avoid sentence phrasing where the universal masculine comes into play. The famous sexist sentence, "One small step for man, one giant leap

for mankind" could easily take on a non-sexist form such as "One small step for man, one giant leap for humanity."

(Or even: "A person walked on the moon and it was a giant technological advance for humanity.")

All of these methods are based on the premise that the English language is versatile enough to permit non-sexist communication. But that isn't necessarily true. The grammatical rules were initiated so long ago that they are based on an outdated and social and moral system. Dangling participles and run on sentences are not worries of every day speech, so why should properly written and spoken English reflect old-fashioned conventions instead of modern thought?

We are taught that there is a right and a wrong way to form sentences, and that we lessen the power of an argument by using "street" language. I feel that communication skills are based on how eloquent and fluent, not how proper our personal language is. The only thing stopping us from speaking or writing as we feel comfortable is that ingrained acceptance of the "right" and "wrong" rules of grammar.

After all that, I can still hear those arguments, more persistent than ever, demanding to know why feminists put such emphasis on non-sexist English. All I can suggest to those people is to look at the issue in context. More than half the world's population is female, so why should our language alienate a majority to satisfy the male minority.

Just consider the implications of our dialect. Its patterns and habits are not only detrimental to women, they create and perpetuate the impression of a hierarchy with men as the humans and women as offshoots of the human being, or as deviants. For example, there is mankind and woman kind, yet the former is supposedly used for all humans. People who graduate from university receive a bachelor degree. The feminine equivalent for master is mistress, and single men are bachelors while single women are spinsters.

So now its time to give our sexist language a long deserved overhaul. Ignore the objections and squeals of protest by those who find comfort in their safe word conventions. Our words are far more interesting and accessible, especially to those human beings who think while they talk. Perhaps that's all that's missing; the art of thinking and talking simultaneously. ▼

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REVIEWS

Growing Up Free



Ms. Magazine

by: Shannon Robson

Growing Up Free — Raising Your Child in the 80s: by Letty Cottin Pogrebin. 641 pp. Bantam Books, 1981.

On first study, the philosophy of "*Growing Up Free*" — with its extensive background information, supplemented with anecdotes, checklists, and outlines for alternatives — seemingly has a possibility for practical application. However, further scrutiny reveals some serious limitations. "*Growing Up Free*" — has been widely lauded as the bible for non-sexist child-rearing. This distinctively authoritative text examines everything we do with, to, for, and around our children. Using a language that has the sound and texture of real life, Letty Cottin Pogrebin dissects our family living styles and standards for achievement, creativity, sexuality, and love.

Feminists know that conditioned sex separatism and role conformity entrenches misogyny and causes societal maladjustment. Finding ways to help our children resist damaging stereotyping has been a lonely battle. The time has never been riper for a comprehensive plan of action.

Letty Cottin Pogrebin believes that feminists cannot change the world without also attempting to rear free children.

"*Growing Up Free*" could be criticized, not for its emphasis on changing family dynamics, but for the methodology/faith suggested as a means for doing so. The author chooses to work within an existing system. Married egalitarian partners and ex-spouses committed to sharing custody — with the freedom to attend to detail, logistics, and day-to-day co-operation — a rare commodity. To some dissenters such a premise might smack of elitism, of catering to middle class privilege and option.

The book offers a *Things Checklist*, as one of the ways parents can determine how many of their activities are sex-specialized. Objects are placed on the floor at random; ie: egg-beater, car keys, broom, newspaper, thermometer, snow shovel; and a child is asked to point out mom's things and dad's things. If the broom is for mommy, and car keys are for daddy we get to see how sex-typed articles are value-laden with domesticity on one hand, and outside power on the other.

A *Task List* outlines responsibilities from toilet training to teaching bike riding, and illustrates how care-giving duties usually fall to the mother, while fathers often handle issues of power and policy (ie: punishment and allowance). The significance of these differences is translated this way: "You remember the school principal better than the school custodian. The power balance that allows a father to have four to five times more

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playing time with his children exacts a toll. Both parents should be freed to get the "goodies" by spreading the "shit work". Also, father-child closeness is not nourished by a steady diet of fun, anymore than a love affair can deepen from nothing but laughs."

It is suggested that parents can "Chart The Status Quo" by keeping a record of family member activities in an ordinary week. This way, the invisible labour of housework and care-giving is made more tangible, often revealing that outside-working women do up to four times the housework of married working men. We are cautioned that "the buck stops with mom, when her children's nails could curl under her toes if she didn't see to getting them cut. Equality stops when ultimate responsibility resides within one person's consciousness. The only solution is to count "remembering" as labour and trade it for other work("I make the list, you do the shopping"). Hence, comes the *Drawing Up Of a Contract* to make things more equitable. "A contract may strike you as a cold way of working out a relationship," grants the author, "but it is often the only way of coping with 2000 years of tradition.

Words may encourage us to try different formulas, with an eye toward increasing our children's chance for healthy living. But no work-sharing program by itself, is going to change, "the essential dilemma of running a family in an unresponsive, inhospitable society." Most disheartening of all is that the goal behind "*Growing Up Free*" is dependent on a father's genuine participation for its success. And could that be asking too much . . . of a deeply ingrained patriarchal system?

Women are asked to relinquish their expert status and share domestic power even before they are sure of gaining any external power to replace it. "You have to start somewhere . . ." theorizes the author, "Unless men are let in on the mysteries of home management, women will be forever trapped in their groove." Once again, we

find ourselves wondering why the onus remains on women to teach men this, and what would compel a man to truly invest in such a reassessment. Do fathers really want to know that wiping bottoms, noses, and countertops is in their own best interest? Do they care enough to unlearn male privilege so that their mates won't be driven to supermom extremes?

Letty Cottin Pogrebin concedes that what is needed to achieve parity parenthood is the eventual overhaul of the social system and labour market in which the family functions; with the implementation of parental leaves, universal daycare, work options, and so on. "To even begin dealing with these changes we must get to the tap root of patriarchy — the myth of "natural motherhood".

"Sound impossible?" she writes, "No more than getting a man on the moon. With the same kind of commitment we could make families more functional and take a great step for humankind."

Indeed "*Growing Up Free*" does not purport to have all the answers. Still, our children cannot wait for the radical schemes of the future (abolish the family as we know it, etc.). In the meantime, we must not continue to bend to childrenrearing experts and principles that trample on the uniqueness of any boy or girl. Perhaps the premise of the book could be summed by this quote: "Armies are operated by common denominator expectations, but families can afford to respond to the individual."

As Ms Cottin Pogrebin points out, understanding how we came to where we are and asking the right questions, is a beginning toward to redefining our parameters. Is biology our destiny? What of the sexual double standard . . . gender identity . . . homophobia? Do such concepts cripple a natural pride in body function and thwart true potential? Could we teach our daughters to boycott males who refuse to go the feminist distance? Could our son's eyes be unveiled to keep them from cheating themselves and others? Can

we give up our domestic throne or workplace supremacy, and grow to inherit the earth? Will sharing both dominions give males and females an opportunity for open care-giving arrangements as well as outside achievement? Would sex preference become a thing of the past if each child was freed from emotional self-censorship and encouraged to express her/himself with iconoclastic abandon?

Individual responses to such soul-searching queries are bound to be provocative, exciting, and filled with hope. And therein lies the only promise of "*Growing Up Free*". ▼



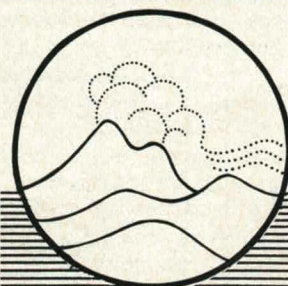
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REVIEWS

An Air-conditioned Comedy of Values

the BIG CHILL

Tanya Lester

Columbia Pictures' *The Big Chill* is the type of movie that you should wait for. Wait for it to appear in your TV guide listings.

The Big Chill would get top ratings over the mediocre commercial film fare of the tube but it is not worth paying the \$4.00 plus to see in a movie theatre.

But then again it depends on who you are and on what basis you are willing to judge this film. If you judge it from a strictly feminist perspective, you might be prone to compare it to a pig with gastritis as one woman who attended the promotional screening did.

And, as reflects the variety of people in the women's movement, other feminists who went to the screening thought it was good and even "wonderful". It was funny, they and I, too, said. It was a break from leaving a movie theatre in a state of deep depression.

Another said it would appeal to young, middle class professionals. That's who the film is about. It is a look at the people who were the products of the baby-boom. They were the student radicals of the '60's and are the quasi-conformists of the '80's. Backed up by vintage '60's rock soundtrack, the film's characters are drawn together by the big chill — the suicide and funeral of one of their mutual friends.

Among this group of old friends are three women. Meg is a lawyer, Sarah is a doctor, and Karen had once attempted to be a writer but opted instead for the security of wife and mother.

Meg made it in her male dominated profession and has almost come to the conclusion that she might never want to get married. She does want a baby, though, and she has decided to use one of the men in the gathering as a stud.

Sarah looks quite horrified when this decision is announced. The setting for this film segment is in the kitchen of the doctor's house. The two women are preparing apple pies and turkey for supper while they discuss the 'ins' and 'outs' of how to become a single mother. The men are off — well, you know — doing manly things.

Karen is busy trying to sort out her own problems. She is absolutely bored with her life of being a good wife and mother. Karen is living with a man who, she admits, would not make love with another woman because he would be afraid of getting herpes.

Apparently, her solution for this problem would be to find another man who better shares her own dreams or passions for life. She offers herself to one of the old friends who is a Tom Selleck-type television star. He rejects her as a permanent partner. In the end, it is clear that Karen will return to her husband. She does not

come to the realization that she could leave her husband without having another man lined up as a replacement, instead defining her life and status through men.

There is another woman in the film, Chloe, who is the lover left behind by the suicide victim. She suffers from no illusions about society as the others seem to. She says that she does not feel the need to talk as the friends do. In other words, she does not admit to digging inside to examine her feelings and her life.

By the film's end, Chloe has found a replacement for her dead friend among his old friends. Her life, too, is defined by being an extension of a man. I found Chloe to be the most unsettling of all the women characters. Because, in the cases of the older women, they were young and most impressionable when the feminist movement was just beginning its revival. But this young woman is part of the 1980's. The women's movement should have helped her develop a different role in society.

Although we have to admit that all the women in this movie are similar to some of the women we know, it would be absurd to think that Columbia Pictures has a handle on how women should be portrayed to reflect the women's movement impact on society. Nor does the film highlight the women's roles which are played by Glenn Close, Mary Kay Place, Meg Tilly, and Jobeth Williams. The male characters, too, get equal time to struggle with their internal conflicts.

The Big Chill is an air-conditioned comedy of values. It is a laugh at the shortcomings of our society which should make the film very comfortable to take for most people. It will be a prime-time hit when it ends up on television.

Until, then, I suggest only going to see it if a friend calls you up and feels like going to see something that won't make her feel depressed. Just don't get your expectations up too high. ▼

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BREADWINNING

Non-Taxing Tax Tips

It is a common misconception that only those in the top income tax bracket benefit from tax planning. This is not the case as there are several ways in which taxpayers in lower brackets may be able to reduce their tax bill. Included in this article are several tax planning ideas which you may wish to consider. These ideas do not comprise a complete list of tax planning measures but are intended only to suggest some of the possible tax planning opportunities available.

INTEREST INCOME — Prior to recent changes to the Income Tax Act, you could report your interest income either when earned or received. This is still allowed in part but it is subject to certain restrictions. Generally speaking, under the new law you can still defer the inclusion of interest in income but for not more than two taxation years. Therefore, even if you have not received your interest income by the third year, you will be required to include the amount earned in your income tax return.

This concept of received versus earned can be used in certain situations to minimize the tax you will have to pay on interest income. (Please note that you may use a different method for each source of interest income as long as you are consistent within that source).

As you are allowed a tax deduction for your first \$1,000 of Canadian investment income (includes qualifying interest, taxable dividends and taxable capital gains), you should ensure that your interest is staged so that you are able to take advantage of this. Therefore, if you have a certificate of deposit with a 3 year term and interest is payable to you at the end of the term, you may wish to report as income that portion of the interest earned in each year as opposed to waiting to report it in the third year when you may be over the \$1,000 limit. Alternatively, if you were already over the \$1,000 limit and you anticipate that you will be in a lower tax bracket in the third year you would not want to include the income in your tax return until it was paid to you at that point.

If you are married and if your spouse is not taking advantage of the \$1,000 deduction, you may want to consider making a genuine loan to your spouse. Your spouse can then invest these funds in interest bearing certificates and earn up to \$1,000 tax-free. To the extent that this deduction is not required to reduce your spouse's taxable income to NIL, it may be transferred to you within certain limitations.

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

DIVIDENDS VS. INTEREST INCOME — The Income Tax Act provides a different set of rules for the taxation of dividends and interest. In general, a dividend yields a larger after tax return. However, this does come at a cost since dividends are paid to owners of stocks and these are generally a riskier investment than interest bearing instruments such as term deposits.

INTEREST EXPENSE — Interest is deductible for tax purposes only when it is incurred on funds used to finance investments or business ventures. Interest on loans to finance personal expenditures such as automobiles and homes are normally not deductible. As a general rule, where there is a choice, money should be borrowed for business or investment purposes rather than personal purposes. For instance, if you have investments that are not financed by loans and you are carrying a non-deductible mortgage on your house you might consider repaying your mortgage with your existing investments and then make new investments with borrowed money.

TIMING OF CAPITAL GAINS AND CAPITAL LOSSES — If you have investments in stocks and bonds which have declined in value you may wish to sell these prior to year end in order to deduct the capital loss in the current year to the extent allowable. The timing of sales of investments which have built in gains is also very important. You will be able to defer your tax for a year if you sell your stock in January rather than in the preceding December. Remember, though, that the above tax considerations should not override sound investment principles.

REGISTERED RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLANS (RRSP's) — By making contributions to a RRSP not later than 60 days after the current year end, a tax deduction can be taken in the current year within certain limitations. Tax deductible contributions to a RRSP can also be made for the benefit of a spouse. This is advantageous if he/she will have lower income at the time the funds are withdrawn, and therefore, be in a lower tax bracket. Please note that planning is essential here since withdrawals from a spousal RRSP will be included in your income and not that of

the spouse to the extent of your contribution to any spousal plan in the year of withdrawal and the two immediately preceding years.

REGISTERED HOME OWNERSHIP SAVINGS PLAN (RHOSP) — A RHOSP also provides an attractive means of saving or deferring tax. A lump-sum withdrawal from this plan used to purchase an owner occupied home in Canada (additional temporary incentives have also been proposed) will be exempt from tax. A contribution to a RHOSP must be made by the end of December to be deductible in the current year. You should note that a deduction is permitted for contributions made in a year in which a home is purchased. Thus if you are considering a home towards the end of the year you might want to delay the closing of the transaction until the next year to enable you to make one additional contribution.

PERSONAL EXEMPTIONS

(i) **Marital Exemption** — As the amount of this exemption is reduced by a spouse's income over a certain amount and only by income earned while married, there is an advantage in planning your marriage late in December when the net income earned during marriage is likely to be below that "certain amount".

(ii) **Child Exemption** — This exemption should normally be claimed by the spouse with the higher income. Note that if you are claiming an exemption for a child, you must also include in your income any family allowance payments received in respect of that child. As the child exemption is reduced by the child's income over a certain amount, it may be advantageous to reduce the child's income, if possible, by having the child make contributions to a Registered Retirement Savings Plan or a Registered Home Ownership Savings Plan. (Note that certain requirements must be met to make tax deductible contributions to these plans). If your child does not have sufficient cash, to do this, you may want to consider making a loan.

REDUCTION OF EMPLOYMENT TAX WITHHOLDINGS — If you are incurring deductible amounts such as interest expense or RRSP contributions, you may apply to your District Taxation Office to have the amount of tax withheld from your salary reduced. This would give you use of the funds that you would otherwise have to wait to receive as part of your income tax refund after filing your return.▼

NOTIONS & POTIONS

The Ills of Diet Pills

reprinted from "Network News" by
Bambi Batts Young, Ph.D. and Kirk A.
Johnson.



Ever wonder whether those packets of tiny capsules so prominently displayed in supermarkets and drug stores can really erase last night's banana-split binge? When it comes to these diet pills, skepticism is truly healthy. Not only are such products virtually useless for anyone who wants to lose a lot of weight and keep it off, but they are unsafe for many of the people who take them.

Because over-the-counter diet pills have such an extensive record of safety problems and poor performance, the Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI) in the United States has urged the Food and Drug Administration to ban these products from the supermarket shelves, and instead make them prescription items, used only under the supervision of a health professional.

Here's why non-prescription diet pills are unsafe: The major ingredient in name brand products like Ayds Capsules and Drops, Appedrine, Dietac, Dexatrim, Control, Prolamine, Thinz-Span, and about twenty other popular diet pills is phenylpropanolamine (PPA), a chemical cousin of amphetamine and adrenaline. Drugs in this family are known to stimulate the brain and stress the heart, constricting the blood vessels and increasing the rate and force of heart beats. The 10 million Americans who take over-the-counter diet pills are exposing themselves to a drug that has the potential for altering brain function, and causing sharp increases in blood pressure. This blood pressure increase could prove critical for the roughly 33% of overweight persons

who already have serious elevated pressures.

Indeed, medical experts say that people with hypertension, heart disease or one of several other ailments common to the overweight should not take PPA at all except under the guidance of a health care professional. Recent clinical reports indicate that, in some cases, recommended doses of PPA may trigger psychotic behaviour, of life-threatening damage to blood vessels in the brain, causing confusion, seizures, or even strokes.

What's more, the PPA-based diet aids just don't deliver while slick, 4-color advertisements commonly imply that these products can melt away 40, 70 or even 100 pounds, the drug industry's own studies show that consumers are likely to lose less than half a pound a week, and no more than about 5 pounds total as a result of taking PPA. In some trials, the subjects who lost the weight were taking fake (placebo) capsules, while the people who took PPA lost less. "Any claim that PPA can produce more than trivial weight loss is simply a sham," says National Women's Health Network executive director Belita Cowan.

Not surprisingly, diet pill ads are almost exclusively geared toward women, promising not only rapid weight loss in excess of 50 pounds, but a "whole new outlook on life. CSPI and the National Women's Health Network have charged that the diet pill companies are misleading the public by exaggerating the benefits consumers can expect of diet pills, and downplaying or omitting the risks.

If most potential users shouldn't take PPA-diet pills without a doctor's supervision, does it make any sense for these drugs to be sold without a prescription?

How did products of such questionable safety and minimum effectiveness get into the over-the-counter market in the first place? Through a regulatory loophole. Diet aids containing PPA made their debut in 1937, one year before the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) started checking new drugs for safety, and many years before any evidence of effectiveness was required.

That's why CSPI and the Network plan to pressure the FDA to curb the excesses of the diet pill industry. Both groups need your help in getting FDA to remove diet pills from the over-the-counter market.

"We are starting the Hazards Clearinghouse for PPA-Diet Pills to collect reports from consumers," explains CSPI. "We urge anyone who has suffered an adverse reaction to register a complaint."



If you or someone you know has ever had problems with these diet pills, you could contact the Health Protection Branch of Health and Welfare Canada at 269 Main Street, 949-5434.

The Pharmaceuticals Working Group is a Winnipeg consumer group looking into practices of pharmaceutical companies, both on a national and international basis. For more information, call 453-6231/475-4169.

POETRY

THE HOMECOMING

♦ Dreams of grandeur
 Of crossing oceans to travel,
 Performing humanitarian deeds in the Third
 World,
 Bowing to acknowledge thunderous roars of
 applause.
 A journey south to a university,
 Three years of book learning,
 A parade down an aisle
 To change the direction of a tassel.
 Dreams of changing the world,
 Weeks of pounding pavement
 Only to find a mediocre job,
 And merge with the average public.
 A trip down an aisle
 To clasp a hand outstretched,
 To receive a band of gold
 And start a new life.
 Dreams of living happily ever after,
 But the roof leaks,
 Paychecks don't stretch.
 Bills must be paid.
 A return journey to a northern town,
 The hours are long; the work is sweaty,
 Food is on the table,
 But the price paid is high.
 The only job she can find
 Is slaving at a typewriter for second-class
 wages,
 Slinging hash at a greasy hangout,
 Packing groceries at a local grocery mart.
 Dreams shattered like the glass
 On the sidewalk
 Are all that remain.

©1979
 Glenda Walker-Hobbs

SISTERS

♦ I was ten
 And she, four more
 When she took me
 Down country lanes,
 To hockey games,
 And countless movies.
 And we shared all our secrets.
 I was sixteen
 And she, four more
 When I held her
 When he went to town,
 When he slept around
 And left her, pregnant.
 And we shared all our secrets.
 I was twenty
 And she, four more
 When she held me
 And tried to lie
 That I couldn't die
 From the growth inside.
 And we shared all our secrets.
 I was thirty
 And she, four more
 When she held my son,
 Crying tears of joy
 At my first born boy,
 And comparing labours.
 And we shared all our secrets.
 I was forty
 And she, four more
 When we cried inside
 For an ache we share;
 Under-employed and aware
 Of so many sisters.
 And we share all our secrets.

©Judith Johnson 1983

Dear Editors,

I have just read Alice Vorst's letter to HERizons (July '83) and was interested in the observation she made. I would like to add to that criticism. It seems that as well as expressing hostile feelings towards men you also condemn women who don't fit the stereotypic mold of the 'ideal' feminist you have created.

On page 23 of your July issue is a cartoon which I find extremely offensive. On page 5 you protest against a disgusting father's day card which makes a joke of sexual violence towards children. Obviously, indignation against the company which printed this card is justified. However it is a hypocrisy since you also printed a cartoon in which a child is made an object of aggression and implied that we who read your magazine are meant to find it funny.

Not only do you make an object of the baby; you imply that a woman leading such a lifestyle as the mother in the cartoon must not be fulfilled. One may also be misled to believe that a woman with a child would be forced to become a shut-in for the rest of her life.

I am a feminist and a single parent. I am also a performer and a university student and still have time to do work in support of the peace movement and serve on the board of directors in the student council at my university.

My daughter is not an object. She is a human being and so am I. You owe us and all other human beings an apology for presenting such a bigoted, narrow-minded view of humanity.

Sincerely,
Ann La Touche

**This is one of several responses we received about this cartoon. We feel this important issue needs to be addressed among women.*

Dear Ms. La Touche,

As a feminist and a mother of four children, I felt drawn to address some of the issues raised in your letter.

I've thought carefully about your criticism that the baby in the cartoon was used as an object of aggression and that the mother was represented as unfulfilled. I will not discount these criticisms, but I would like to share my perceptions of the cartoon and why I did not find it offensive.

The message conveyed to me, was that because motherhood is not valued in our society, it is made out to pale in its comparison to other supposedly more important "careers". This occurs I'm sure partly as a result of the fact that women with children are often not listened to or invited to share their experiences — this is what also occurs in the cartoon. We never know how active the mother is

EDITORIAL

because she is never asked by her friend to speak.

Under these circumstances it is not surprising that good and loving mothers experience frustration, isolation and resent their children from time to time and especially the culture in which they are raised. The character does not harm her child in any way — the first few frames of the cartoon show us her pleasure with the child — but she does blatantly gesture her thoughts of frustration. I have to admit that although I can't foresee beating my children, I have spoken private curses against them.

By contemplating literally "dumping" her child I think the cartoonist makes a serious and important point that acts in defence of the mother — the value of women and children is perceived as secondary to the value of work outside of the home. I don't believe this is the philosophy of HERizons or the feminist movement.

I have found mothering to be a difficult but wonderful experience. I have never felt or been made to feel that I committed a "feminist taboo" by having children. I am perplexed that feminists have been targeted as a group of women who are anti-child when it has been the feminist movement in general that has fought hard for the individual rights of women to: paid maternity leave, quality daycare, self determined pre-natal and childbirth care, child support and fair representation of homemakers in the Canada Pension Plan.

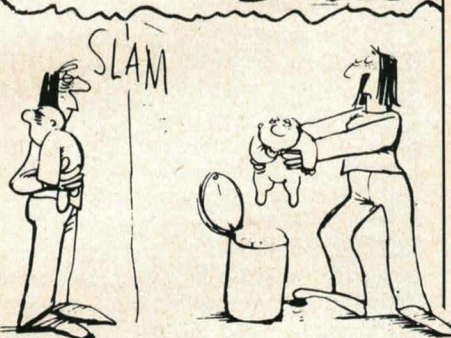
HERizons has worked hard to provide a vehicle through which these concerns can be shared with other women. We solicit work from a diverse group of women in an effort to present feminist philosophy in a manner that will not purport to be definitive or exclusionary in its analysis.

It is for these reasons that I am saddened that you feel HERizons has not been sensitive to the concerns and value of women with children. Although I can appreciate your objection to the cartoon, I don't think it's fair to render all of HERizons' editorial "narrow" and "bigoted" because of it.

Moving on to the issue of men. This area causes me the most frustration. Women have always been made to feel unfounded and apologetic for their anger toward men and women have too often rushed to the defence of males. Men are protected adequately by the system which they have created. In view of the fact that one woman is raped every 17 minutes, 1 out of ten beaten by her husband, 1 out of four children is sexually abused etc. etc. I think anger and hostility is an ap-



just now, im off to the airport to pick up the ambassador from Bojo. going to the airport is always such a drag, and then i have to cram myself into a press conference...



BLUTECHNER

propriate response.

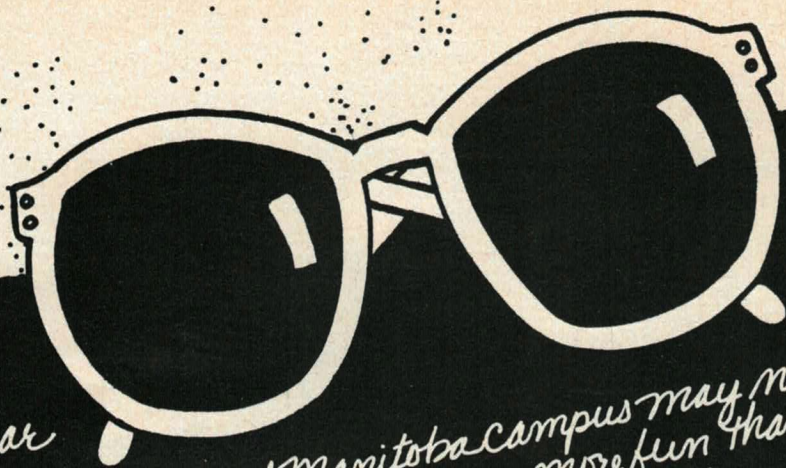
Although not all men are perpetrators of such crimes — such statistics result from the fact that many are. Our anger is not unwarranted and as a feminist magazine it would be a farce to omit writing about it and more seriously it would be a further crime against the victims to participate in the conspiracy of silence.

My personal experience with men has been that men who are sympathetic and active in the feminist cause do not feel threatened or personally targeted by women's anger, but rather, share in it. I also believe that if men want to stop the generalization of their sex as oppressors, they will have to become generally more vocal against oppression, and reflect that change in their behaviour and the laws they still have the power to make.

Again I would like to thank you for your letter and hope that you will continue to communicate your concerns as a feminist. I feel that debate is immensely important and healthy for the feminist movement.

D. Holmberg-Schwartz

* condensed version.



Dear

The University of Manitoba campus may not be Grand Beach, but I'm having more fun than I thought possible! And, I'm making an investment in my future!

The University has lots of programs designed to upgrade and develop management and administrative skills - from one day seminars to evening certificate programs. In fact, there is probably something for everyone on staff who recognizes that learning must be a continuous, lifelong process (and in today's changing society, who on staff doesn't know this??).

Why don't you write or call them for information on their 1983/84 programs? They'll even send brochures to Grand Beach.

Anne Percival, Program Co-ordinator
The Department of Administrative and Organizational
Development
Continuing Education Division, 541 University Centre
The University of Manitoba R3T 2N2
(204) 474-9921 Manitoba Toll Free: 1-800-432-1904

Your friend,

p.s. University isn't just for 18 year olds! The people in my program are all just like us - business people interested in personal growth and career development.



71
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Over 350
new and
used cars
and trucks
to choose
from.

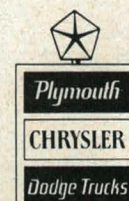
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where I live or work, what
I'm interested in, and don't
take me seriously ... what
makes you think you'll sell
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