

• DES DAUGHTERS
• B.C. WOMEN UNITE
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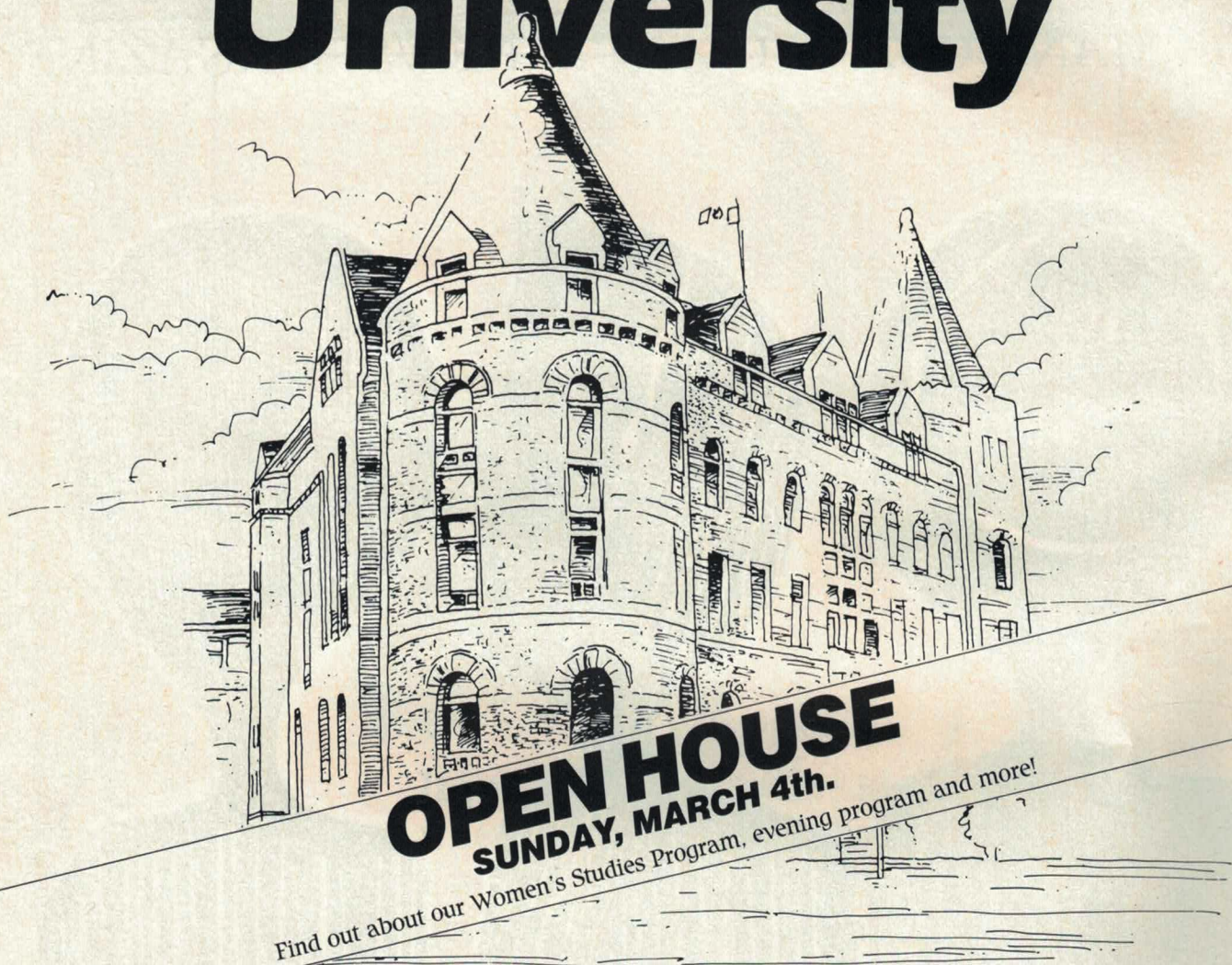
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HERizons

THE MANITOBA WOMEN'S NEWS MAGAZINE



Winnipeg's University



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Manitoba Action Committee on the

Status of Women

Women's Employment Counselling Service

YW.C.A. Resource Centre

and through many other organizations

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

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MANITOBA

Take Another LOOK



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TRAVEL 
MANITOBA

Calendar

FEBRUARY

21 **DES: THE WONDER DRUG** You Should Wonder About...if you were born between 1941 and 1971. A public presentation by Harriet Simand, President: DES Action Canada, Tuesday, 7 p.m., Auditorium, Winnipeg Centennial Library. Sponsored by the Women's Health Clinic; Pharmaceuticals Working Group; Manitoba Council for International Cooperation; Klinik, Inc. and the YWCA.

22 **INTERVENING IN FAMILY VIOLENCE** Conference February 22 - 24 sponsored by Klinik, Inc. and Manitoba Committee on Wife Abuse. Registration Fee \$70 (students \$35) includes meals. For information call 774-1794 or 786-6943. See Bulletins.

23 **THE OLDEST PROFESSION** is the topic addressed by Margo St. James of C.O.Y.O.T.E., a prostitutes' union, on Thursday, 4 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room, University Centre, University of Manitoba.

24 **HELPING OURSELVES:** A Conference on Women's Health — February 24, 25, 26 presented by Regina Healthsharing Inc., Box 734, Regina S4P 3A8 (306) 352-8397. Cost \$25.00 (full sponsorship available upon request). See Bulletins.

24 **SINGLE FAMILIES TODAY** is the topic of the Ft. Garry Women's Resource Centre taking place Friday evening and Saturday, February 25 from 10 - 5:30 p.m. This event will offer opportunities to look at issues and concerns of single parents. Childcare provided. For information 475-1986. See Bulletins.

MARCH

7 **EN TANT QUE FEMME, EN TANT QUE PERSONNE**, est le thème de la Journée de la Femme, dimanche le 4 mars à 12h00 l'Ecole Précieux-Sang, 209 rue Kenny. Il y aura divers ateliers, une conférence et souper. Pour plus d'information, composer le 233-1735.

7 **DIANE WHITEHOUSE — PAINTINGS** exhibition from March 7 - 18 at Plug-In Art, 175 McDermot Avenue (204) 942-1043.

8 **INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY** — Plans for the week of celebration in Winnipeg include: March 5, Polo Park Shopping Centre display by various women's groups; March 8, rally and reception. To be involved in planning, helping, or for further information call Karen Amirault 942-2000

8 PLANNED PARENTHOOD —

MANITOBA: A Dinner to Celebrate 50 years of Family Planning in Manitoba on Thursday at the Hollow Mug, International Inn. Cocktails at 6:30 p.m. — Dinner and Entertainment at 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$35 from Planned Parenthood office, 1000 - 259 Portage Ave. 943-6489. In Brandon call 727-0417. (Income Tax Receipt for portion of each ticket.)

14 COME GET TO KNOW US —

Manitoba Association for Children (Adults) With Learning Disabilities Open House on Wednesday from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Isaac Brock School, 1265 Barrett Avenue, Room 15. This non-profit organization's goal is to advance and support the well-being of learning disabled persons in the Province of Manitoba.

Bulletins

HELPING OURSELVES

Conference by Regina Healthsharing from February 24-26 will look at many alternative health technique topics — 27 workshops offered at the University of Regina. Included will be on-going happenings: a Healing Fair on Saturday with alternative healing therapists (vitaflex, reflexology, shiatsu, Swedish massage, herbology, iridology) and display booths. Book tables, women's services. For childcare pre-register by February 14 to Helping Ourselves, Box 734, Regina S4P 3A8.

SINGLE FAMILIES TODAY

starts with a Keynote Speaker Friday night, February 24 at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, February 25, 10:00 a.m. (morning) workshops will include topics on relationships: Newly Alone; Children; Moving on as a Single Parent (after lunch); Looking at Resources; Income & Finance; Legal Issues; Employment Options; Childcare. Registration \$3 (income adjustable); Childcare provided; Pickup Service from Ft. Richmond, Southwood Shopping Mall and Holiday Inn. Call 475-1986.

INTERVENING IN FAMILY VIOLENCE

Conference February 22 - 24 at the Fort Garry Hotel, Winnipeg will be a skills development workshop for those who work with battered women, battering men, or children in violent families, and will include resource persons from the Minneapolis Domestic Abuse Project Group (D.A.P.). For detailed registration forms contact the Manitoba Committee on Wife Abuse, 400-777 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg R3G 3L1 (774-1794)

CHANGING BODIES — CHANGING LIVES.

Sometime between the ages of nine and sixteen our bodies start to change. "Puberty" happens to everyone. An information and discussion series for girls aged nine to thirteen every Wednesday at 356-11 Street, Brandon from 4:15 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.

February 15 — Our Monthly Cycle

February 22 — Meanwhile, What's Happening to Boys

February 29 — Changing Relationships

March 7 — Pregnancy, What's It All About

March 14 — Child Abuse

These discussions are organized by the Brandon MACSW, for information call 725-2955.

SEXISM AND GOD TALK

for women and men on April 11 - 14 at the Prairie Christian Training Centre. Featured guest is Rosemary Ruether who attempts to transcend the patriarchal bias in religion, seeking a positive egalitarian and revitalized faith. Her latest book *Sexism and God-Talk: Toward a Feminist Theology* (Beacon Press 1983) is a full theological statement from a feminist perspective. Cost \$125 (includes Board and Room for three days); babysitting available. Write to P.C.T.C., Box 159, Fort Qu'Appelle, Sask. (306) 332-5691.

WOMEN AND SPIRITUALITY:

An Interfaith Event for Women on Wednesday, March 28 from 2 p.m. - 8 p.m. at St. Michael's College, University of Toronto. Female clergy are breaking new ground as they organize the first Canadian interfaith event to help lay and clerical women strengthen their voices in churches and synagogues.

"We want women to share their knowledge to give them the skills to go back to their communities and say 'stop denigrating us'" said Rabbi Elyse Goldstain.

Organized by the recently forged network called "Toronto Women of Faith," the day-long seminar will be followed by a public forum from 8- 10 p.m. in Brennan Hall to which men will be admitted. To register send \$12 (\$7 for limited income) cheques made out to Toronto Women of Faith, send c/o Christian-Jewish Dialogue of Toronto, 49 Front Street, East, Toronto M5E 1B3 (416) 364-3101.

FOCUS ON VISIBLE MINORITIES

& The Advertising Media — it's good business. April 13 - 14 at Westin Hotel, Winnipeg is the first regional follow-up conference to bring together media owners to increase minority representation and opportunity in the media. The thrust of this conference is that it is good business to reflect the multicultural and multiracial reality of Canadian society in advertising, in print and broadcast media. Conference Chair: Prof. Gary Granzberg, U. of M. For information: Edmund Oliverio, Sec. of State, 201 - 303 Main St., Winnipeg R3C 3G7 (204) 949-3601.

THE CIRCLE OF LIFE

with Virginia Satir and Elisabeth Kübler-Ross. Joining together in a one day event, these two internationally known pioneers will examine the journey of living from birth through death: A Celebration of Life. Saturday, April 14 from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. at the Playhouse Theatre, 180 Market Ave., Winnipeg. Fee \$60.00 with proceeds to be used solely for education and training. Dept. of Psychiatry, St. Boniface General Hospital/University of Manitoba. To register: J. Muir, 110 - 1205 Grant Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3M 1Z3 (204) 477-0165.

LESBIAN PSYCHOLOGIES

Conference on March 9 - 11 at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel has preregistration fees of \$45 - \$25 with some work exchange. Highlights will include presentations by Black, Asian and Hispanic women representing the diversity of lesbian experience and community. For information, write: Boston Chapter, Association for Women in Psychology, P.O. Box 1267, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130.



JOURNEE DE LA FEMME

organisée par divers organisées, Pluri-elles, Réseau, La ligue féminine, L'Association des étudiants du Collège, Le Conseil Jeunesse Provincial, La journée aura lieu le 4 mars à l'Ecole Précieux-Sang, 209 rue Kenny. Il y aura une conférence, divers ateliers et un souper. Le tout commence à 12h00 pour se terminer vers 19h00. Pour plus d'information composer le 233-1735.



Letters.



Dear Evelyn:

Your article 'Coming Out' in the recent issue of *HERIZONS* touched me very deeply. Everything you say is very true and relevant to my past attempts at coming out in Winnipeg. I, too, went the route of the Women's Building and the bars, only to find for the most part an uncaring and non friendly closed society. I don't wish to relate the entire frustrating experience to you. I will only say that I am not one of the 'tough ones' nor do I wish to be. I was not looking for overnight sex. I was seeking someone with whom I could relate to, develop a friendship and possibly a solid caring relationship. This I did not find.

It is very reassuring to know there are other women such as yourself out there but *where* is out there?

Sincerely
Name withheld

Dear Editor,

I am responding to the article "Coming Out" in the January issue of *HERIZONS*. I found the article very true in its depiction of the lesbian community in Winnipeg; which is indeed composed of several small groups of women. The members of each group may be cohesive, but the community as a whole is very fragmented. Although attaining membership in any of these smaller groups is not impossible it can be very difficult if your outlook or lifestyle strays too far from what is "accepted" in that particular group.

My inability to find acceptance from many of the women that I first came in contact with when trying to enter the lesbian community in Winnipeg prompted me to organize the Bi-Sexual Women's Support Group (B.W.S.G.) mentioned in the article. The initial purpose was to have a variety of women there, whether they were hetero, bi or

homo sexual — this accounts for the diversity of the group. Any woman could attend and discuss any subject without fear of rejection. A hiatus was taken over the summer since the majority of members felt they would be too busy to attend during the summer.

We are meeting again now and would like to invite any interested party to drop us a line for further information.

Thank you. *HERIZONS* is a great contribution to the women's community in Manitoba.

Yours Sincerely
Betty Espenell
c/o B.W.S.G.
P.O. Box 276
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Dear *HERIZONS*:

As a womyn coming out in Winnipeg, I found your article "Coming Out", without hope, compassion and more importantly laced with many untruths.

I am a very "untough womyn", who feels not only sexism in our large community, but homophobia. These are a reality in *every* community and we must struggle against them as others before us have and as our children will struggle after we are gone. I feel very angry that it's this cold hateful segment of our community that is seen as a "small problem" compared to the lesbian community by Evelyn P. Frost!

I joined in womyn's organizations and met lesbians in these groups, who introduced me to other lesbian womyn. Yes, we are 10% of the population — so where womyn come together at least some womyn will be lesbians. Seek and you will find! This womyn says she is seeking someone with whom she could discuss her "problem". My lesbianism creates hard pains in my life but I do not have a problem. I love me, I love womyn and that is why I have a joy that enables me to grow and live as a lesbian — spiritually, emotionally and physically.

I sit thinking about my mother with whom I have promoted *HERIZONS*. Hoping she did not purchase *HERIZONS* this month — I can hear it now "you

want to be what? — did you not read what womyn in your own community said about being a lesbian?" I have found little if any positive lesbian articles in your magazine. I have a lot invested in this community. It's the only community I have and I know vis-a-vis my friends, my supports that they listen and care not because of affectional preference. But that for many of them who have travelled this difficult road of "Coming Out" they are there to lessen some of the pain from the outside for me.

If the writer thinks it's easier coming out in Vancouver or Toronto, she should talk to womyn in these points. For me this is my community, this is where my life will continue. The grass often looks greener in other pastures. I recently went to Toronto — where there are no womyn's bars, the community is changing and I hope growing, but Toronto like Vancouver and yes Winnipeg has outside forces which make coming out for us difficult.

Why is the lesbian community expected to be any different from the womyn's or any group community? Cliques is prevalent in any group I have ever been involved with. As "Nicole" says our community is representationally diverse with womyn of all backgrounds. If it is the utopian community she seeks, free of favoritism, cliques etc, I am sad for her — for she will not find it anywhere. It's a reality — we are only products of our environment. Yes I would agree it would be nice if it wasn't a reality but that is a reality that comes slow to changes.

As for leadership, who wants it? I do not! I seek womyn for what they can share as individuals and I hope I return the same. That we need leadership only diverts womyn coming out. We have to look to ourselves and to the womyn around us in our process of coming out. It is role models, which to me leadership promotes that will and has created problems for womyn. Leadership is promoted by the patriarchy — not individuality!

I will end this letter in stating that being a lesbian in this

world is not an easy choice. I myself have suffered a great deal. I have been institutionalized for my lesbianism, abused by many, but still I feel a joy in my lesbianism. I have now come to a point in my life where I am trying with much support from other womyn to "come out" not to be accepted by a community or facists or even the majority of womyn in Winnipeg. I am coming out for me — so that I can grow, as a womyn and more importantly as a lesbian. I feel a part of the community and if it had not been for some of the womyn in the Winnipeg community I would not be writing this letter as a lesbian.

Signed,
I.M. ADYKE

womyn,

just have to tell you that i find February's cover illustration too violent for my tastes/ideas on womyn's magazine covers.

i also wonder how the black woman in chrisé kararusos "making the difference" (page 41, february 84 issue) feels about "black lists".

in truth,
jesseka

Letter to the Editors:

The thing that bothers me most about this new sport, feminist-bashing, is that the main focus of these letters is the supposed personality of the author. Margaret Buffie Macfarlane ponders on the "author's maturity and intelligence in dealing with matters of human sexuality." (Jan./84 *HERIZONS*) I wonder if maturity would have been indicated if Brigitte had made reference to our women-loving friend Freud who stated that only vaginal orgasms were mature ones.

Another letter that put fire in my heart is one written with that vindictive pen of Anne LaTouche (Dec. 84 *HERIZONS*). Here the expert opinion expressed was that "Ms Hewick showed symptoms displayed by paranoid patients." *Paranoid*,

hysterical and *fanatical* are stock phrases for angry women — they are cheap shots meant to dismiss worthy arguments without considering them seriously. It is far easier to maim the credibility of a woman writer. Just as it was far easier to maim the reputations of writers in the McCarthy era because there were shades of communism in their writing. As an avid observer and participant in kitchen conversations between women, I have heard far more wrathful indictments against men coming from the mothers of 12 year-old girls and wives of fellow artists than what is humbly offered in *HERIZONS*. Could it be that the papal sin that the contributors to *HERIZONS* are committing is hanging the dirty laundry out in public?

I am not addressing well-thought out criticisms like Susan Van De Velde's on the pro-choice/anti-abortion issue (Sept. 83 *HERIZONS*), I am saying let's put the witch-hunting and more subtle intimidation tactics aside. The fem-erotica issue speaks very truly to me, but if you want a more "balanced" viewpoint Margaret, why don't you submit an article of your own instead of asking Brigitte to "use some discretion and common sense". I've found *HERIZONS'* staff to be quite approachable — in fact begging for articles from all women in Manitoba. Nothing is stopping you.

In sisterhood, and enthusiastically vulva-gazing
Joan Winslow



Dear Editors:

I am writing to express some concern about the messages conveyed to parents using day care centres by the article in the January issue of *HERIZONS* entitled "Inadequate Day Care in Manitoba: The 80's Most Effective Form of Birth Control".

The choice of subtitle for the article is unfortunate. It does not relate to the content of the article, and it implies a more drastic situation (with a more extreme parental response) than

can be substantiated either by research or any other source. Parental guilt feelings about leaving young children in even the best of child care arrangements are common enough without those feelings being inflamed by this type of language.

Another concern with the article is the implication that the 5 or so waking hours which most working parents share each day with their children cannot be quality time. Many working parents feel that they are able to experience a better quality of interaction with their children during this time, and that this quality successfully balances the reduced quantity of time they have to spend with their children. The important sharing that goes on during meal times, bath times, and morning routines cannot be simply discounted, as the article implies.

While there is an obvious shortage of day care spaces in many areas of Manitoba, especially for infant care, the comment that the waiting list for an infant space in a family day care home is eight years long is not accurate and is needlessly discouraging for parents. While waiting lists exist for most, but not all areas, the availability of a space depends on many factors, including the turnover and ages of children in a family day care home, the area the family lives in, and the degree of need for subsidy. Spaces are often available to those on a waiting list relatively quickly.

Finally, provincial day care co-ordinators conduct both drop-in and pre-planned visits to licensed centres which are intended both to check on the quality of care and to provide ongoing help. One of the most important responsibilities of the day care co-ordinators is to respond to the needs and concerns of parents using or seeking day care for their children.

While the Child Day Care Program welcomes informed discussions of the many issues in the day care field, we would hope that published contributions to these discussions could present a balanced and accurate reporting of the current situation.

Your sincerely,
Drew Perry
Director

Child Day Care Program
Dept. of Community Services
and Corrections



Dear Editor:

I was very delighted to receive in the mail your magazine. It was a gift to me from my sister, who lives in Winnipeg...this is my hometown as well. I have lived in the interior of B.C. and on the Island for the last ten years and at present live in Equateur, Zaire, Africa. So, it is wonderful that your magazine has reached quite a distance. It is truly refreshing to my eyes, not only the publication but the voice of women reaching and touching progress.

It was your September issue I received...and because I am a Baha'i it was that much more a surprise to come upon the article of the Baha'i women persecuted in Iran. This is an issue that the whole world is quite aware of. Here in Equateur, much of the region is villages and predominantly Pygmies, Bantu, and others, where there is little or no education to be of the worldminded, however they know and bereave the inhumaneness of these persecutions. These people are not primitive in spirit, in fact their kindness and gentleness is beyond reproach.

I live with an Iranian Baha'i, who has been in Equateur over 7 years as a Baha'i pioneer. She speaks four languages, two of which belong to Zaire. Everyone knows her and loves her...and they all ask of Iran. She is known in many of the villages because it is her life to be with these people, like one family, and so she travels a lot to be with her friends everywhere...here in the so-called deepest, darkest Africa...I'm sure everyone whose been away from home can relate to the event of receiving mail...it's a little more eventful for my friend...because all her family is Baha'i and her parents still are there...Life is a strange form of events...but no doubt and inevitably realizing our necessary nobility.

With warmest regards,
Your sister,
Elizabeth Macdonald

Dear Women:

This past summer, we, the Carleton Women's Centre found ourselves under attack by the present student council. Our funds were cut pending a review of our service, a decision made arbitrarily by the student council. The council, CUSA, admitted quite openly that the review was undertaken largely because they felt we were "too political". The review consisted of three public forums, with written submissions also accepted. Enormous support was shown for the women's centre; however, in drafting their final report, the Services Review Committee (CUSA sub-committee) chose to disregard this support. These recommendations threatened the centre's autonomy, thereby limiting our ability to deal effectively with women's issues.

At this point, we found it necessary to hire a lawyer, to ensure that our rights as a women's centre were not infringed upon. Although we did not have to resort to legal action, we incurred legal advisory and representation costs of \$2,800. Because of this, we are asking you for any financial support you are able to give. Due to the fact that we are a university women's centre, our funds are extremely limited. Present fund-raising efforts include two benefits and written appeals. However, financial support from women's organizations such as yours is vital.

Please make cheques payable to:

Carleton Women's Centre
Legal Fund
Carleton Women's Centre
Room 504 Unicentre,
Carleton University,
Ottawa, Ontario K1S 5B6

In Sisterhood,
Carleton U. Women's Centre

Letters and responses welcome from readers. Send to

HERIZONS
478 River
Winnipeg
R3L 0C8

ON THE HERIZON

Plans for Women Major on hold

Proceedings to establish a Women's Studies major at the University of Winnipeg have been cut off due to financial cutbacks.

The U of W will remain one of the only Canadian post-secondary education institutions without this major for at least another university year. Women academics specializing in women's studies will continue to earn low stipend wages for teaching the few courses now offered in this area. U of W students will still not be able to take a full course load in a subject area that deals with half the Canadian and world population.

Last fall, a professional committee responsible for the proposal was optimistic the Women's Studies major would finally become a reality when it was approved by the U of W's curriculum committee. But university administration intercepted before the proposal reached the Senate for approval.

In a letter responding to the Manitoba Action Committee on the Status of Women's concerns on the matter, A. Ross McCormack, U of W Vice-President (Academic) claimed that financial restraints have delayed action on the proposal. "This decision, which as I said, we took reluctantly, does not mean, however, that we are discontinuing work on the Women's Studies concept," McCormack wrote. "That is going on and, I hope, will be strengthened in the next 12 months."

McCormack suggested women's groups "who take an interest in university education, should do everything to inform their constituencies and the Provincial government of the need to provide adequate resources to the universities."

by Tanya Lester

Photo by Sheila Spence



A Toast to a Spokesperson

Ruth Sheppard, president of International Toastmistress Club is a Winnipegger with years of community and professional experience. A high school teacher by trade, Ruth has 16 years of experience with International Toastmistress Clubs, served as president of the Manitoba Association for Children with Learning Disabilities, and has acted as a consultant to the Daycare Workers' National Conference and the Progressive Conservative Party's Women's Caucus. When her term as president of ITC ends, she will become chairperson of the Public Education Committee for the Canadian Cancer Society, Manitoba Division.

Her position as ITC president has taken her on speaking tours throughout the world, but Ruth still finds time to teach a ten-week course, "Speaking Made Easy" for the St. James-Assiniboia Evening School program.

Women No Longer Railroaded

In the first settlement of its kind involving a crown corporation, twenty three nurses and X-ray technicians employed at CN Railway won an equal pay for work of equal value settlement.

The Human Rights Commission and the railway agreed that female nurses and paramedics do work of equal value and that their pay should fall within the same range. The nurses will receive back pay retroactive to April 30, 1979 and a \$1,400 pay increase. The work of female X-ray technicians was also agreed by the two parties to be equal to that of both the nurses and paramedics and they received similar compensation.

Woman Reinstated

A 48-year old woman who was fired from her job as a waitress in a Toronto Holiday Inn because she wasn't "young, pretty or fresh" was reinstated recently to the job she had held for 10 years.

An arbitration board ruled that the former general manager of the Holiday Inn's testimony that the company planned to make the dining room facilities into a type of dining establishment where "young, pretty and fresh" women would be needed and existing staff would be let go, constituted an unfair labour practice.

Holiday Inn management argued that a new department had been created and that the seniority lists did not apply.

New developments in maternity benefits

Major changes to the Unemployment Insurance Act which concern women and maternity benefits were enacted early this year. These changes will correct some long-standing inequities which have functioned to make it difficult for women to receive maternity benefits, yet unemployment insurance still remains an inadequate means of support for many women during a time of maternity.

Pressure from growing numbers of working women caused the federal government to include maternity benefits in the unemployment insurance scheme, a change which occurred in the last decade. This year, in Manitoba, about 5,000 women will apply for a maternity claim; in total, about 125,000 Canadian women will apply throughout the year. Unemployment insurance, because it is a wage replacement scheme, will provide no support, or extremely inadequate income support, to many of these women. A wage replacement scheme is based on employment, and employment, or the lack of good quality, well paid employment, is still a very real problem for many Canadian women.

The changes which will occur in 1984 are positive changes, (although some are limited in their scope), and will result in a more available maternity plan. The 'Magic 10' provision has been entirely eliminated. This is a provision which stipulated that in order to collect a maternity claim, a woman would have to have worked 10 weeks in the 30th and 50th weeks prior to the birth of her child. A simple calculation will reveal that this provision functioned to allow only women who became pregnant while in the work force full time to qualify for maternity benefits at a later date. As the employment situation worsened, and women continued to be over-represented in employment sectors which were vulnerable to work shortages and lay-offs, it became increasingly difficult for many

women to meet the qualifications of this provision. The logic behind this provision was tenuous at best; it represents an attempt to ensure that women who became pregnant were members of the work force at the time, and, by negation, to ensure that women did not become pregnant in order to collect U.I. benefits. As a social statement, it was lacking in logic as well as being regarded as offensive by women, who now form close to half of the work force.

Maternity benefits will no longer have to be collected within the first 15 weeks of a claim; they can be collected during a 25 week period. The restriction of maternity benefits to the first 15 weeks of a claim has resulted in the disorientation of many women who have health problems associated with, or in conjunction with, pregnancy, or who became unemployed well before the date of birth. However, the total number of illness and maternity benefits to which a woman is eligible remains at 15, so that although this provision has been altered to make the collection of benefits somewhat easier, disorientations will still befall many women who have difficult pregnancies and attendant ill health, or who experience long-term unemployment.

The calculation of the maternity phase has been altered so that a woman could claim availability for regular benefits up until her date of childbirth, and as soon after the birth as she becomes available for work. The imposition of a maternity phase was not in keeping with the attitudes and work situations of many women, who wished to claim availability for work until a date very close to the day of the impending birth.

The final change concerns adoptive parents. It will now be possible for either parent to collect 15 weeks of benefits in the event of an adoption.

These changes to the Unemployment Insurance Act, are welcome in that they make maternity benefits more

accessible to Canadian women. Yet women remain vulnerable to loss of income and financial hardship due to childbirth in spite of these changes, as the problem is ultimately one of employment. Without 20 weeks of work, a woman is ineligible for maternity benefits. Benefits pay 60 per cent of a salary rate, and for many women that means 60 per cent of part-time work. Part-time jobs pay only 79 per cent of the wages that full-time jobs pay when the hours are averaged out. Among the part-time workers, 72 per cent are women, and only 28 per cent are men. Women remain underemployed in large numbers, and this situation will result in meagre or non-existent benefits for many of them.

For further information on maternity benefits, or for questions relating to unemployment insurance, contact Unemployed Help Centre, 942-6556.

by Jennifer McKenna
of the Community
Unemployed Help Centre

Nelliegram

OPERATION DISMANTLE — On December 21, 1983, Ambassador Mario Pacheco announced in Ottawa that the government of Costa Rica will propose the world referendum on disarmament in the United Nations General Assembly.

Their idea is that the entire world vote should take place in one year, in 1986, as part of the International Year for Peace (IYP). Costa Rica is a democracy, located in Central America (it shares borders with Nicaragua and Panama). It is the only truly disarmed nation in the world. It has no army, navy or air force, and this state of affairs has been enshrined in Costa Rica's constitution since 1949.

Recently, President Louis Alberto Monge announced the further step of proclaiming Costa Rica to be in a state of "perpetual and active unarmed neutrality". Clearly, we could not ask for a more appropriate sponsor for the world referendum.

T. James Stark/
The Dismantler

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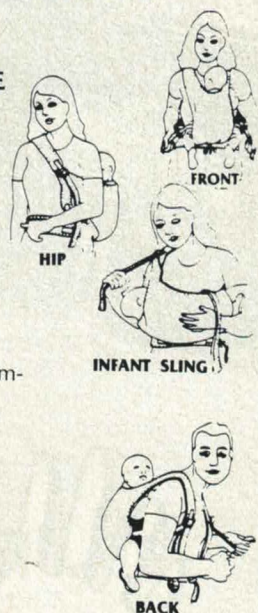
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Workers Sick of Nuclear Foul-ups

Officials directly involved with the Key Lake uranium mine spill in Saskatchewan were quick to report that the spill posed no health risks. Following the spill of over 100 million litres of radioactive water from a reservoir in January, one nuclear physicist at the University of Saskatchewan even said you could swim in the reservoir, but those whose health may be at risk didn't find reassurance in the industry's response. The United Steelworkers of America decided not to wait for the Spring thaw before asking the provincial environment department to reestablish the Key Lake board of inquiry which was disbanded in 1981 after recommending strict lease conditions for the operation of the mine. Occupational health and safety officials were also asked to investigate workers' concerns about safety at the mine. Meanwhile a small community of 700 at Pinehouse Lake awaits the spring thaw fearful for their own health, worried that the radioactive water will end up in the Churchill River system and contaminate the town's water supply...

★ ★ ★

The British government has recognized that radiation contracted at a fuel reprocessing

plant was likely a factor in six cancer cases. The six workers have been receiving compensation since 1971 after contracting cancer, the government recently revealed, but William Waldegrave, undersecretary for the environment said the compensation was recognition that the radiation was only possibly a factor in the six cancer cases and that no liability had been accepted.

Nuclear Madness Intensifies Sanity of Revolt

With the "doomsday clock" on the cover of the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* now at three minutes to midnight, comes the painful reminder that life on our planet is a fragile and perhaps only temporary phenomenon. But while the scientists who run the bulletin agree that there has been a complete breakdown of communications between the superpowers, the growing anti-

nuclear movement represents the largest world-wide political movement in history.

Thousands of protestors throughout the world continue to occupy peace camps set up near missile bases, drawing constant attention to the perilous escalation of the arms race. In keeping with their philosophy of peace, protestors in Greenham Common in England scrawled peace messages on classified documents after breaking into the U.S. Air Force Base and unfurled a banner from the control tower. Meanwhile near Oxford, three Roman Catholic monks and two women were among 32 arrested at another U.S. air base at Upper Heyford where they chained themselves to a cross in a protest of nuclear arms.

★ ★ ★

Every day of operation at full capacity, the department of Energy in the U.S. turns out eight new warheads and retires five. Accordingly, a private study of the U.S. nuclear arsenal estimates that the U.S.'s already excessive stockpile of 26,000 warheads will grow to 29,000 in six years. The study,

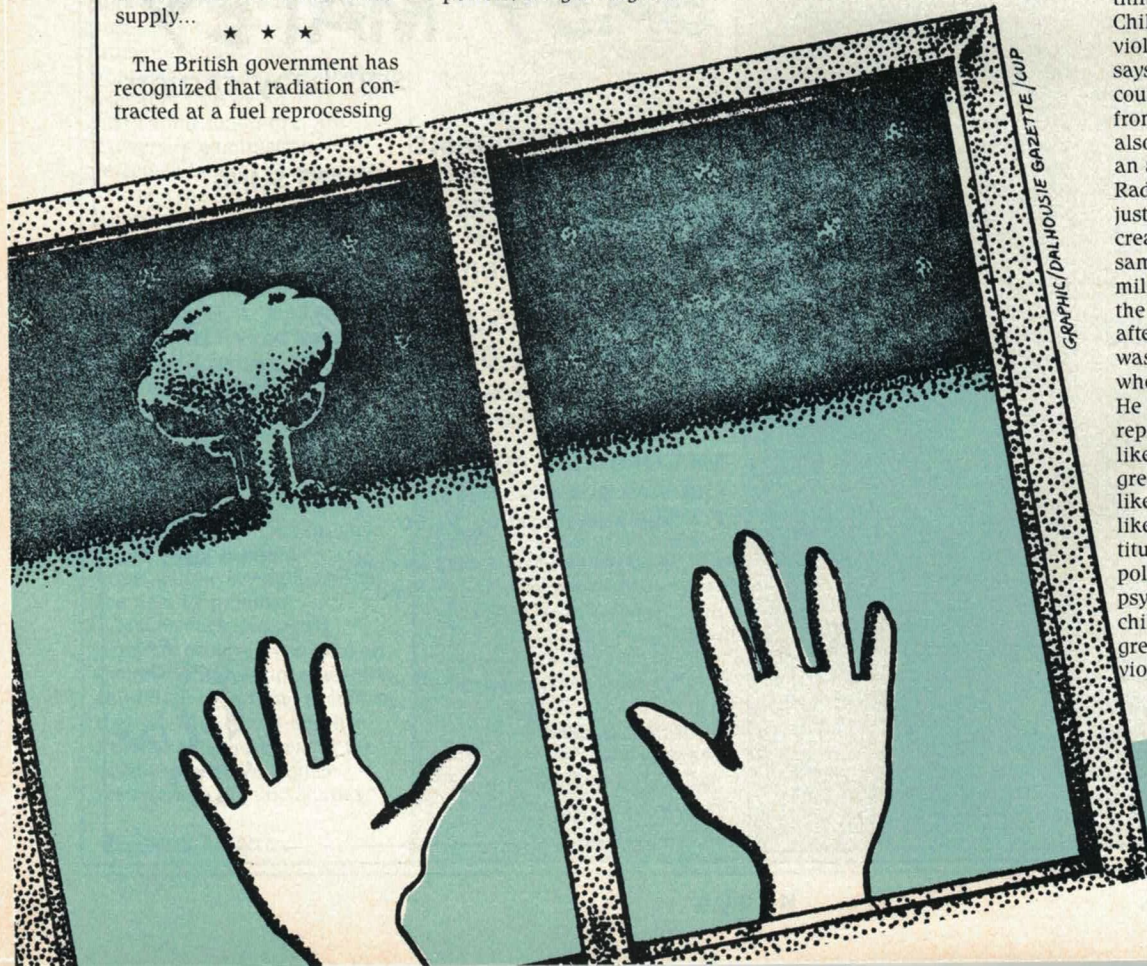
U.S. Nuclear Forces and Capabilities, says most old warheads will be replaced by new ones, at a rate of 2,000 new warheads per year.

★ ★ ★

Plans to make the Balkan peninsula a nuclear free zone started in January when delegates from Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Romania and Greece met to discuss the possibility of removing all nuclear weapons from the Balkans. While Turkey was unable to be represented at the opening talks, a government spokesperson said Turkey still needed time to prepare for the talks.

★ ★ ★

An Illinois psychiatrist who helped found the International Coalition against Violent Entertainment says the North American toy industry is training a "whole generation of warriors." While there have always been war toys in existence, Dr. Thomas Radecki says the violence level has escalated recently, offering children access to plastic models of intercontinental ballistic missiles, tanks, guns, and among other things F-15 fighter planes. Children come to accept violence more easily, Radecki says, if they have been encouraged to fantasize about war from an early age. War toys also serve to legitimize war as an alternative to disputes and Radecki doesn't think that it's just a coincidence that the increase in war toys came at the same time as a growing pro-military mentality developed in the U.S. He cited the period after Vietnam when the military was very unpopular as a time when war toy sales decreased. He told a *Globe and Mail* reporter that "In the future it's likely to increase the use of aggressive behaviour at home, like smacking the kids and it's likely to increase pro-war attitudes in international politics." He also said that all psychological studies show that children behave more aggressively after playing with violent toys.





Making Waves in Greece

(Greece)

Grecian women are slowly but surely gaining a measure of equality. The dowry system has been abolished and women have been given equal decision-making power and property rights under Greek law. Rural women, whose pension cheques used to be sent directly to their husbands, now receive their own cheques in their own names. The *Globe and Mail* reports that non-sexist readers have been introduced at the primary level in elementary schools in Greece.

The changes are partly due to the efforts of Margaret Papan-dreau, who is married to Socialist prime minister Andreas Papandreu. As a high profile feminist she regularly gives lectures on birth control and other feminist issues. The issues currently in the fore differ little from those in Canada: equal pay and job opportunities, day care, contraception and abortion.

The Women's Union, an eight year old national feminist organization in Greece has 15,000 members in 134 chapters. The Council for Equality director with the Greek government notes that socialist men are not all sympathetic to women's issues and there is more to combatting the male privilege in Greece than changing old-fashioned attitudes. Often Greek women are reluctant to admit their oppression, and oppose it, not unlike North American women.

But now, at least, they are getting a start. The Council for Equality has been set up by the government to monitor enforcement of new equality laws and to act as a clearing house for women's concerns. The Women's Union and role models like the three high-level women in the Greek Cabinet are just a few examples of the more visible ways in which women are beginning to take their rightful place in Greek society.

Women win battle against hosers

Imagine belonging to a group of workers where only one in 625 of your co-workers is a woman. None of the men you work with will eat with you, talk to you or trade shifts with you. They refuse to tell you what kind of fires you are going to. They disconnect your air hose from your air tank, leave a wet vibrator in your bed and break into your locker. They even phone your house in the middle of the night and threaten to kill you.

Do you take the hint and leave when you are eventually fired, or try to take the hosers to court?

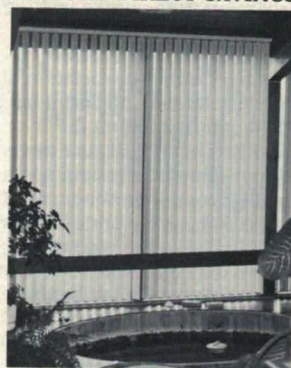
Zaida Gonzalez and Brenda Berkman fought the male bastion of the New York City fire department recently and won reinstatement of their jobs. The judge presiding the case said that the case involved extraordinary evidence of intentional discrimination and distressing proof of sexual harassment.

Job incompetence was used as a defence by the fire department, claiming that neither woman could handle pressurized hoses. This claim was not substantiated. Both women passed the standard tests for firefighters and one male officer praised the work of one of the women.

Thirty-four other women in New York are firefighters and if the women had lost this case, the precedent could have been used to oust them from their jobs as well. Berkman and Gonzalez said that they were singled out because they had both been vocal about the discrimination that had occurred. The New York fire department accepted women only after a 1982 historic law suit, which involved Brenda Berkman.

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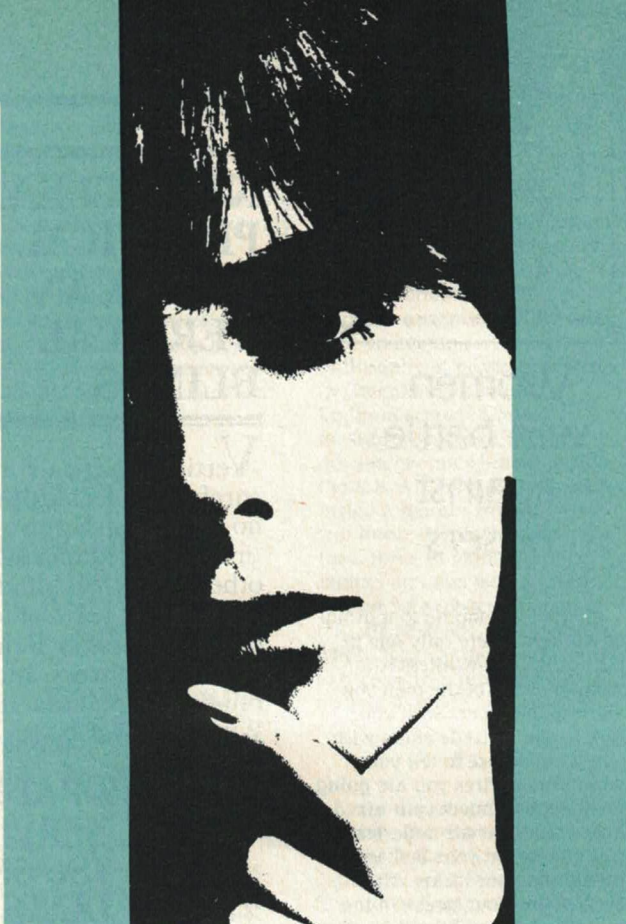
BLACKLIST HIT — A \$35,000 computer containing a blacklist of "undesirable" tenants was destroyed early January when urban guerrillas broke into the office of a landlords' association in Quebec. The 3,500 member Quebec Association of Property Owners has print-outs of the information on the blacklist, but it will take three or four months to program another computer. Tenants' associations have criticized the blacklist, saying it includes names of people who have complained about the landlords to the Quebec Rental Board. The property owner's association says it was no different than lists banks keep on bad credit risks.

Canadian Press

NEW DELHI — 200 women from various women's groups burst into the home of Supreme Court lawyer Rajan Saluja, stripped him naked and beat him to protest the alleged "dowry death" of his wife, Chandramohini. They then marched him to a police station and demanded his arrest. An investigation was ordered, but no charges were filed. In India, dismissals of charges in "dowry deaths" (when brides' parents cannot meet dowry demands) are common; convictions of bride killers are rare.

BRIGHTON, ENGLAND — The shop, Nasty's had repeated complaints over their selling of fascist T-shirts. They didn't stop, so recently their windows were broken. A statement was left which read: "We will not tolerate the sale of the Holocaust. The shop will have its windows broken over and over again until it stops selling the glorification of the death of 6,000,000 Jews."

GLASGOW, SCOTLAND — Women who work in a whiskey factory have been on strike because their management has been monitoring the number of times they go to the bathroom. The women walked out after their supervisor began clocking them in and out of their visits to the toilets. The company claims that the women were taking time off to use the toilets for "a smoke and a chat..." Workers at the factory said the management tried to set a figure on the amount of times the women visited the toilet, saying that a medical certificate should be sought by those wishing to go more than three times a day.



Taking Action... Fighting Back...

CONTINENTAL STINKS — About 3000 people were evacuated from the huge "C" concourse at Stapleton Airport (Denver) to avoid fumes from stink bombs placed near the Continental Airlines boarding areas. About an hour later, a similar evacuation took place in Houston's Intercontinental Airport.

Continental Airlines is being struck by pilots, flight attendants and machinists since the airline declared bankruptcy and is "reorganizing" in order to bust the union and lower wages and benefits.

Big Mama Rag

SOUTH AFRICA — A bus boycott in the bantustan of Ciskei has unleashed harsh government repression. A lawyer, working inside the country, reports about 90 people dead and over 1,000 detained. Ciskei is part of the 13% of South Africa which the government has declared the "homeland" for the 72% black majority of the country. They are stripped of South African citizenship and deemed citizens

of 10 separate tribally defined areas known as bantustans; these include the country's most barren wasteland.

After an 11% bus fare hike, workers walk up to 20 miles a day to avoid using the buses. Soon after the boycott was announced, police and vigilantes physically assaulted commuters, stationing themselves at railway stations to prevent people from using this alternative. Authorities have since cut the fare, but this has been deemed inadequate by the workers: "Five cents will not bring back the dead," said one boycotter.

PUERTO RICO — Over 1,000 women, men and children marched through the city of San Juan to the Capitol building chanting and talking, carrying gasoline flares and banners, pushing baby strollers, and demonstrating a proud refusal to remain silent — or hidden — about the problem of violence against women. The march was lead by a banner proclaiming: *Rompamos el Silencio: Mujeres unidas Salvemos Nuestras Vidas* (Let's Break the Silence: Women Together Let's Save Our Lives),

and starkly breaking down the numbers of killings of women here into statistics, by year, or murders by husbands and by rapists. They shouted as they wove through the darkened streets of Old San Juan: "*¡No te quedes escondida! Grita, lucha por tu vida!*" (Don't stay hidden/Scream and fight for your life!).

Among the groups that marched behind the banner was a strikingly disparate group of thirty women which included a bride in her wedding dress, a domestic worker carrying a bucket and wearing rubber gloves, several nuns, secretaries, teachers and students, a nurse, a three-piece-suited executive, and a green-belted karate student. The bride, dressed in ordandy with seed pearls, said the group had organized themselves because "we represent all the different roles of women — and men try to rape us all."

The march and rally which followed was planned by a wide range of women's groups including among them *Grupo de Mujeres* (Group of Women). Recently organized, they deal with basic issues of shared housework and childcare, equality of women in society and the right of women to exist outside of the domestic role. They distributed an illustrated paper urging all women to meet with co-workers, neighbours and friends to discuss their shared problems and to look for solutions which will benefit all women.

The march maintained a strong focus on the outrage of violence against women and concluded with a rally at the Capital building where the closing act of the evening was performed by the *Brigada de Teatro Popular* (Popular Theatre Brigade). On the steps of the Capital building, before a backdrop of silent dance and theatre, two women chanted a seemingly endless litany comprised of a list of the names, ages, and details of the murders of 118 women who have died here at the hands of their husbands, boyfriends and rapists. Punctuating this litany was a fervent promise, shouted together by the speakers and the march participants: "*Tu muerte no sera en vano/Mientras nosotras luchamos!*" (Your death will not be in vain/As long as we struggle!)

lynn yanis/off our backs

Courts hold contempt for women

When Justice Minister Mark MacGuigan announced that wife beaters in the Yukon and Northwest Territories would now be charged by authorities and not only by the victims, he said that "Women must be given the full protection of the law if we are to stop this violence in Canadian homes."

Noting that twenty per cent of all murder victims are women killed by their husbands and that ten per cent of Canadian women are beaten by their partners, he duly addressed the severity of the crime of violence experienced by women who live with their abusers.

Unfortunately, the system we rely on for justice is still a far way from taking women's lives seriously.

A six-month pregnant woman sentenced to three months in jail for refusing to testify against her fiancé charged with beating her illustrates this point. The woman said she only wanted a peace bond to keep him away until the two could get married (until the man is divorced), so when he was charged with assault, she refused to testify against him.

"It is absurd that the victim of a crime is being punished," said Jean Frances of the Sexual Assault Support Centre at a demonstration held in protest of the judge's jailing of the woman. The woman known as Courtney who was jailed a few months ago in Ottawa for refusing to testify against a man accused of raping her also attended the demonstration. The women are trying to make it clear that women should not be jailed for refusing to testify against their assailants if that testimony is going to jeopardize their own security.

★ ★ ★

The practice of jailing victims appears to be turning into a dangerous North American trend. A twelve-year-old girl in San Francisco was similarly jailed recently by a judge for refusing to testify against her stepfather accused of sexually abusing her.

Charges were laid against the man, a doctor, when the girl admitted to a counsellor that she had been molested. A new California law requires counsellors to report cases of molestation. The girl refused to testify five times against her stepfather and after each occasion was sent back to juvenile hall for contempt of court. The court seems unconcerned about the reasoning behind the girl's refusal to testify. (Is she afraid of further attacks? Afraid her and her mother will have nowhere to live if he is jailed? Does she not want the responsibility of sending her stepfather to prison? ...or feeling she would be responsible for the breakup of her family?) and more concerned with finding ways to force the girl to testify.

★ ★ ★

In Canada, Justice Minister Mark MacGuigan is proposing that judges lose some of their discretionary powers to cite people with contempt of court, largely in response to the jailing of the two Canadian women. Under the new proposal there would be three distinct forms of contempt of court, and a judge would no longer be police officer, prosecutor, witness and judge. Contempt charges would be tried by a separate judge. Under the proposal, the two women in Ontario, for example would be given no record and would be liable for a maximum fine of \$1,000 or 90 days in jail.

Irradiated Food in Canada?

Health and Welfare Canada and the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs want to know if, how and when you would like to see irradiated foods sold in Canada. They are now collecting opinions on irradiated foods, so if you have something to say about food irradiation, let them know. Write:

Food Irradiation, National Department of Health & Welfare, Ottawa, Ontario.

Irradiated food is available in Japan, South Africa, the Netherlands and a few other countries, and could be sold in Canada within a few years if consumers warm up to the idea.

Nelliegram

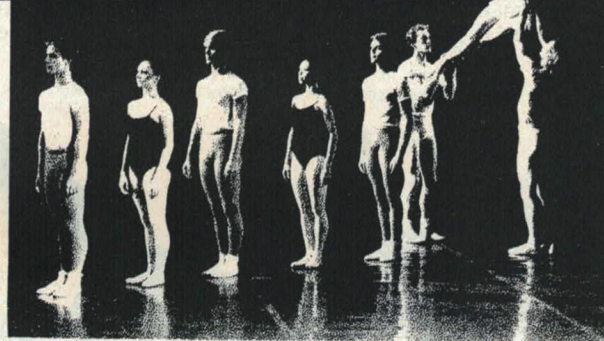
FAMILY PLANNING? The black and other poor minorities are urged to choose "voluntary" sterilization as their method of family planning. The "package deal" is a regular service in many North American hospitals. This plan requires that a woman desiring abortion undergo a simultaneous sterilization procedure as a condition for the approval of the abortion. Of the teaching hospitals surveyed on the issue, 53.6 agreed that they made this requirement for some of their patients.

Black people, as other poor minority groups, live with the specter of genocide — the ultimate threat to their continued existence. There is evidence to support the conclusion that white women do participate in some of the actions designed to control population

growth among the poor and members of the "inferior" races. Each year, conservative figures estimate, more than 200,000 poor people in the U.S. are subjected to irreversible sterilization procedures. Medical personnel, male and female, subsidized by federal policies and funds, support a sterilization program in the U.S. estimated to exceed Nazi Germany's sterilization program between 1933 and 1945. Medicare, Medicaid and other health plans for the poor and the affluent will reimburse a surgeon up to 90 percent of the costs of any sterilization procedure. Yet, only 50 percent of matching federal funds are provided for the costs of abortion.

Elizabeth F. Hood/
The Black Scholar

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CHOICE NEWS UPDATE

The Legal Battle Continues

(by the Publicity Committee
of the Coalition for
Reproductive Choice)

In Winnipeg, doctors Morgentaler and Scott, and nurse Lyn Crocker have had charges against them changed from "conspiracy" to "procuring an abortion". Their lawyer, Greg Brodsky, recently announced that the continuation of the constitutional challenge in Toronto courts will delay the Winnipeg trial until spring at the earliest. Meanwhile, the Morgentaler Clinic is functioning as a Primary Health Care Centre for all types of medical checkups, as well as providing counseling and referrals.

Fair trial?

While anti-abortionists are challenging Attorney General Roland Penner's decision to change the charges, the Coalition is asking the Canadian Judicial Council to take another look at its complaint against Chief Justice A.M. Monin who signed an anti-abortion petition published in the *Free Press* last

spring. It is asking that he be directed not to participate in any way in the abortion cases. We also are asking for an investigation of the role of Justice J.F. O'Sullivan of the Manitoba Court of Appeal. Justice O'Sullivan is chair of the board of the Youville Clinic and has publicly stated that the clinic is anti-contraception and anti-abortion. The Coalition wants to make sure Justice O'Sullivan is not involved in any abortion-related appeals.

Hospitals in Crisis?

Recent controversy over the shortage of available beds and insufficient staff at Manitoba hospitals lends weight to the argument that free-standing clinics could help alleviate this problem while providing safe, accessible abortions. The Morgentaler Clinic could provide these services if it were approved by the Attorney General.

Women from northern communities who must travel south to attain an abortion are able to have their travel expenses

paid under the Northern Patients Transportation Program. Doctors will submit forms on behalf of their patients.

Speak Out

If you are interested in supporting the choice movement you can send donations to the Coalition for Reproductive Choice, Box 51, Station "L", R3H 0Z4, to aid in legal fees and an educational program. Volunteer your time to the Coalition by calling 775-7774. We would like to thank the people who have volunteered countless hours to date.

Upcoming Events

- Resolutions at the annual NDP convention on the abortion issue February 17, 18 & 19.
- Possible Rally in February/March. Watch for details.
- International Women's Day March 8.

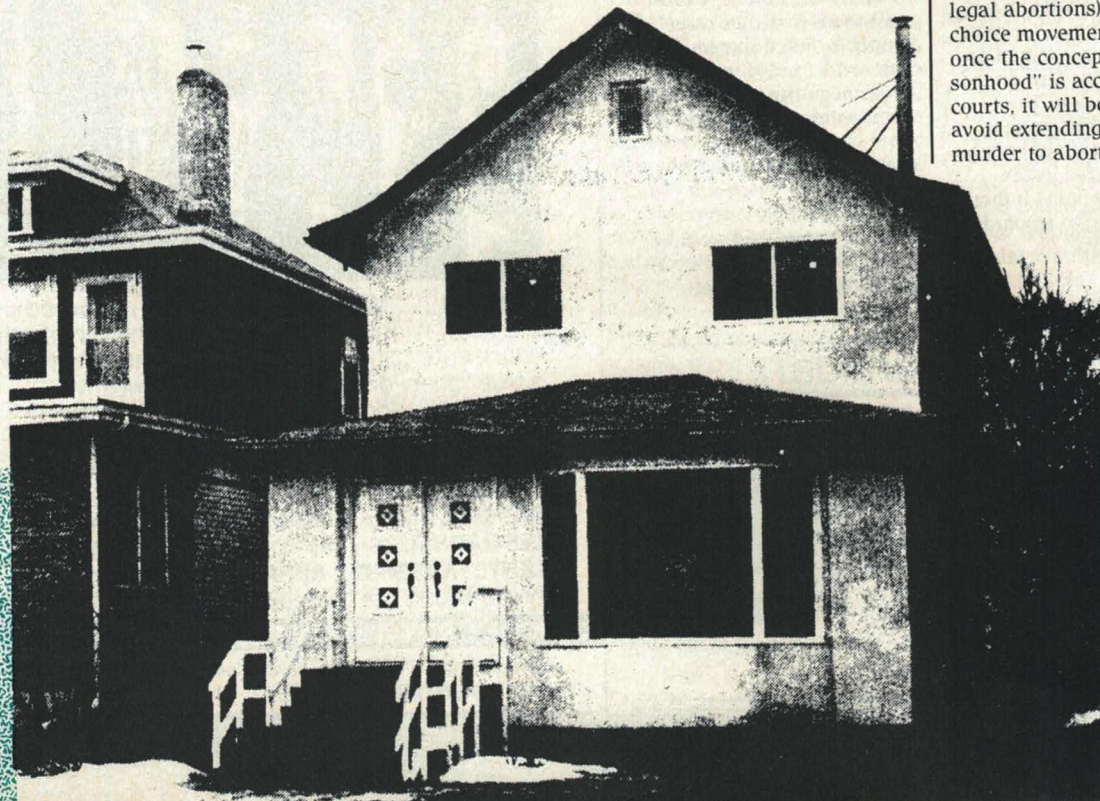
South of the border

(Staff)

In the United States, the battle over abortion rights has shifted from the legality of abortion to the availability of services. Areas most vulnerable right now are funding, parental consent for minors seeking abortions, second trimester abortion services and "fetal rights" advocates. According to an article in the National Women's Health Network News, "Lack of funding remains the number one obstacle to abortion services in this country (the U.S.) at the present time."

There are presently 18 states with parental notification or consent statutes. An example of how this can restrict access to abortion services is Minnesota. In 1981, the year its parental consent statute went into effect, the number of abortions obtained by minors was cut by one third.

Pro-choice supporters south of the border are also worried about legal attempts on the part of anti-abortionists to establish "fetal rights" laws. Fifteen states now have some kind of "feticide" statute (exempting legal abortions) and the pro-choice movement believes that once the concept of fetal "personhood" is accepted by the courts, it will be very hard to avoid extending the concept of murder to abortions.



Nelliegram

GREENHAM COMMON, ENGLAND — Nine women from Minnesota joined in to make up the 40,000 or so women from around the world to protest deployment of U.S. cruise missiles in Europe on December 11. Women who couldn't go sent 'Wish Cards' containing their names, hopes and dreams, along with mementoes.

Sue Morgan reported: "It was really empowering to see all those women". But the sight was also sobering. Outside the fence were unarmed bobbies, then a combination chain link barbed wire fence 10' high, then guard dogs and British 'Red Berets' then rolls of razor and barbed wire, and finally U.S. military, who gave every indication that they would use the long beating sticks they carried.

"We used mirrors to reflect evil back into the camp," says Sherry Wilson. The primary action was to take down the fence and enter the base. In several places the fence was taken down. "The bobbies would pick us up and throw us back. It got rough, but it was to be expected. We continued moving through the fence. Some women were thrown back 20 to 30 times. Afterwards there were women lying all over like on a battlefield."

"From midmorning till 6 p.m., we made noise, every hour on the hour. It was quite a din", said Sherry Wilson. The alternating noise and silence had a profound effect. Sue Morgan noted, "I understand that Greenham has the highest

turnover of troops on any U.S. base in Europe." Later, as U.S. military personnel left the base in their cars, women ran up to them and told them to "come home" to the U.S.

Of the women arrested that day, 17 were American, including eight of the nine Minnesotans. Sue Morgan feels "this reflects the government's fear of losing control. Twice I heard English people talking about increased police security. Even bystanders are being arrested at protests and demonstrations 'on suspicion of possible cause'. Parliament will vote on a bill in January entitled 'The Police Protection Act', which includes search without warrant, arrest without cause, and holding without notification."

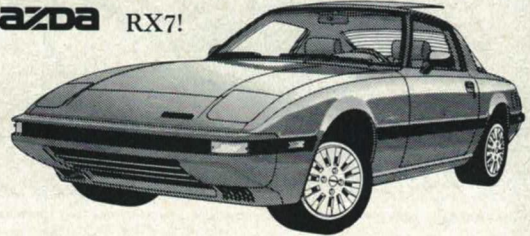
Sue voiced concern about political oppression in the U.S. and England during her trial. "Only the communist press covered the arrests while I was there; others said they could not publish until after the trials. There was minor coverage of the arrests on TV and radio. It was startling to realize the peoples of all nations are kept relatively uninformed as to the peace movements in other countries," said Sue Morgan. She believes change can occur: "If the press would emphasize the peace movements in all countries, we would reduce the fear and mistrust that leads to tension. We should also teach peace — not glorify war — in our schools."

**Barbara MacKay Simmonds/
Northern Sun News**



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Pornography Update.

Research documenting the links between pornography and violent behaviour continues to mount, this time at York University in Toronto. James Check, a doctoral candidate in psychology at the University of Manitoba and a lecturer in psychology at York University found, for example that college men believe that ten per cent of women enjoy rape. If the men are first shown pornography, in which a woman is depicted as enjoying being raped, that figure climbs to 22 per cent. Men in another study came to be more accepting of violence against women after watching pornography in which a victim of rape was shown as giving her rapist affection.

Illustrating that pornography is not an autonomous media, but a springboard into other mediums of mass culture, Check also found that feature films in Ontario contain a "rapidly increasing" amount of sexual violence. One quarter of all films containing sex were violent, he said, and one in nine of all films submitted to the Ontario censor board last year depicted sexual violence. Check outlined the danger of the growing portrayal of women

as willing objects of sexual violence. "If you want a woman to love you, the message becomes, rape her because she won't give it willingly."

Although the implications of violent pornography are serious, Canadian courts still deal with obscenity cases in an almost trivial manner. Recently in Winnipeg, Video World Ltd. was found guilty of circulating two obscene video tapes, one of which was the film *Snuff*. Although the Crown in this case said that the excessively violent depictions were simulated, many others across the country and throughout the world maintain that a woman is actually murdered in the widely circulated movie. A woman's arm is sawed off near the end of the movie, her stomach is cut open and her entrails removed for the sexual enjoyment of those murdering her, following a series of cult-type murders. While the maximum fine the judge could have imposed was \$500, the owner(s) of Video World left the Winnipeg courtroom with a \$200 fine and instructions to be their own censor in the future.

Video dealers and pornography producers aren't the only ones profiting from depictions of excessive violence. Canada's own CTV network was ranked the most violent network in the world recently by the National Coalition on Television Violence. The survey found that a viewer watching CFTO-TV in Toronto, the network's flagship station, from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. witnessed 11.1 acts of violence per hour, not including football games or verbal abuse. The network was warned by the CRTC about its level of violence when it came before the licensing board to renew its licence in 1976 but the network has done nothing to lessen the violence since that time.

With sexual violence on pay t.v., at the movies and on prime time television, it is no surprise to find much of the same, unregulated violence cropping up in advertising. After the CRTC task force on images of women in the media recommended giving the ad industry two years of self-regulation before it would consider setting up any regulations, the industry appears not to be lessening the exploitation and victimization of women in advertising. One of the guidelines the sex-role stereotyping committee of the Advertising Advisory Board drew up is "not to exploit women or men purely for attention-getting purposes", but the chair of the committee Alan Rae says that even committee members can't reach a consensus over whether the guideline covers gratuitous sex, sex and violence and masochism.

(Israel) Women in Israel are being victimized by a growing pornography industry in that country according to the magazine *Lilith*, an independent Jewish women's magazine. Dr. Judith Bat-Ada said in the magazine that many magazines — even family magazines — feature "sexual violence as Israeli chic," provocatively posed nude children in clothing ads, and "blatantly violent images assaulting female dignity."

Referring to *Monitin*, the 250,000 circulation "family" magazine, Bat-Ada says the magazine has featured photos

of "nude-sexy" battered women; women bound and tortured; and women running in fear. One of the most offensive photo spreads in *Monitin* featured women in sexy underwear fleeing Holocaust images — a freight train of World War II, a furnace and a light fixture resembling a shower-head.

Hard and soft core pornography is openly sold in Israel, in the form of books, videotapes and pornographic movies, while the advertising industry continues to promote the images which denigrate women and children on billboards, and in print media. Citing interviews with police and research by psychologists, Bat-Ada links the proliferation of pornography in Israel to a steep increase in rape, including child rape and sexual child abuse. The crimes of rape, wife battering and incest, she said, seem to be "incorporating the newer forms of abuse and humiliation depicted in pornographic materials." (source: The Jewish Post)



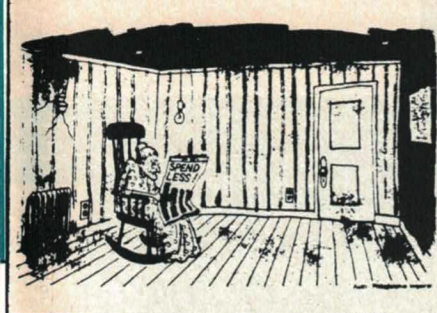
Nelliegram

PORN SPIES — A Pentagon study of long distance calls by the Defense Intelligence (sic) Agency shows the military's spies spent about \$25,000 a month in calls to a New York City "Dial-a-Porn" number, according to a UPI dispatch. The Pentagon's inspector general estimated the "potential monetary impact" from the porn calls to be about \$300,000 a year. The fun's over though, because the inspector general recommended that an electronic block be placed against the New York number and the Pentagon complied. U.S. taxpayers and tax resisters will be glad to know that keeping the spyboys in line costs only a \$150 installation fee plus a \$15 monthly charge.

Gay Community News

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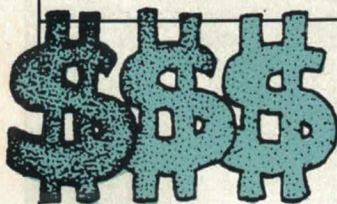
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Nelliegram

OTTAWA — The National Anti-Poverty Organization (NAPO) has initiated a project which will document case histories of low income people who have experienced problems because of doctors who extra-bill, hospital user fees or health care premiums. "Low income Canadians are the most adversely affected by direct health care charges", said NAPO's Executive Director Patrick Johnston. "We want to compile concrete examples of the ways in which they are affected. Such information will be useful for everyone involved in the ongoing effort to eliminate direct charges like extra-billing and user fees."

Working on the project for six months will be Debbie Hughes who, until recently, was a sole support mother living on social assistance. She was also active as a welfare advocate in Quebec and for the past three and one-half years was chairperson of the Social Rights Steering Committee, a self-help advocacy group of low income people in Montreal. A report will be made public at the end of the medicare project. For information call (613) 234-3332.



Nelliegram

TAXING THE TAXPAYER — Sperry Inc., another good corporate citizen and major Pentagon contractor, pleaded guilty in federal court in December to overbilling the Defense Department for work on a computer system for the MX missile. Judge Miles Lord tentatively approved

an agreement by which Sperry will pay more than \$1 million in costs. He remarked: "It's unconscionable — not one individual is punished. There is one justice for the rich and one for the poor." After a 15-month investigation, the Justice Department found Sperry had illegally billed the government for overruns of MX research by altering time cards and charging the work against another contract. They overbilled the government by about \$325,000. Judge Lord ordered a presentence investigation, which could result in the public disclosure of the names of Sperry managers involved in the swindle. It is possible that state and local authorities could bring criminal charges against Sperry employees.

★ ★ ★

MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE PLANT — Sperry, Inc. personnel and St. Paul, Minnesota police tore down the Minnesota Women's Encampment for Peace and Justice. Founded on October 1, the camp was located on Sperry property and the women were given permission from company officials as well as a permit from Native American women, who claim aboriginal title to the land.

The eviction, early in December, came as a surprise to the women living there. Nancy Mosier, was awakened by police and told she was trespassing. Five women were arrested that morning, as Sperry employees removed tents and cleared the site with a front-end loader. Later in the day, another dozen women were arrested as they blocked one of the dump trucks unloading tons of snow to bury the campsite.

A presence continues on the Sperry property as women have fashioned a shelter out of mounds of packed snow dumped on the campsite. The women state that they will continue to publicize the corporation's work on nuclear bombs. Sperry manufactures and engineers an electronic trigger for the ground-launched cruise missile and in their press release, Sperry supports the "U.S. Department of Defense in its policies of peace through strength," while they bilk them for money.

M. Spektor/
Northern Sun News

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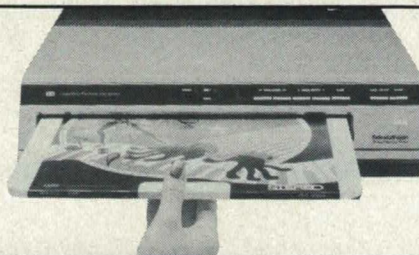
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SPORTS: MEDIA WATCH

Reprinted from **Canadian Association for the Advancement of Women and Sports Newsletter**.

(Betsy Clifford) has the right physique, 5'5" with a sturdy frame. Her face is too full for classic comparison and when she smiles (which is often), it reminds one of a lemon squash advertisement, but it has charm and allied to a dynamic personality, it helps to produce an agreeable addition to the Alpine scene. (Star, Jan. 14/70)

It is unlikely that you will read such a blatantly sexist description in your newspaper today, but according to a recent study by Karin Ots, the quality and quantity of the coverage of women's sports has not kept up with women's increased participation and excellence.

Ots compared the coverage of sports in the Toronto Globe and Mail in 1970 to the coverage in 1982. While the amount of copy increased, you can see from the accompanying table that the change is only minimal. In 1982, females had only 6.5% of the total sports coverage in the Toronto Daily Star and 8.95 of the total in the Globe.

Ots also shows that the kind of coverage given to most women was highly selective. She suggests that most of the increased space was taken up by professional golf and tennis, and the reporting of statistics such as league standings and game scores. While a larger number of female sports were included, a smaller number of athletes received a larger proportion of the column space.

There were less of the women's sports articles on the first and second pages in 1982 than in 1970. Of those stories, traditionally female sports were far better represented than the sports more closely associated with masculinity such as judo, rugby and football.

The quality of the coverage has changed but only marginally. There are fewer obvious references to an athlete's marital status in 1982. Yet many of the articles continued to use the athlete's personal life, discussing their conflicts and problems around marriage, children and sexuality. While there were fewer references to athletes as girls, there was a continuing emphasis on the

reliance of women on males, including their coaches and caddies.

In 1970 there were a number of articles about female firsts and overcoming female weaknesses and stereotypes in sport. In 1982, Ots reports a slightly different trend, comparing women's sport participation more closely with men's, in terms of earnings, calibre of participants and physical differences.

One trend is strongly evident in both years. There is an emphasis on women's personal appearance. While there is a greater awareness of this sexist attitude, and the potential destructiveness of this approach, it continues.

See Tracy Austin. See Tracy Austin grow. See Tracy Austin outgrow her image... Austin like Evert was processed... at 14, she was cute pinafores, sugar and spice. At 16, relentless, hard aloof... now at 19, stories of how she's prettier, funnier and it all strikes her as a trifle ludicrous. (Star, Jan. 4/82 p.5)

by **Susan Lee
Dorothy Kidd**

	TORONTO STAR		GLOBE AND MAIL	
	1970	1982	1970	1982
% of total sports coverage given to women	3%	6.5%	3.03%	8.95%
% of women's sports coverage on pages 1 and 2 of sport section	44.5%	23.7%	56.7%	35.4%
% of women's sport coverage that is:				
amateur	78.43%	45.73%	91.4%	64.55%
professional	21.57%	54.27%	8.6%	35.45%

A Tribute to Tanya Brothers

Back in 1928 "one of the most glittering performances" of the Games took place when Myrtle Cook broke the tape at a record 49.4 seconds and thus ensured the Canadian women's 4 x 100 metre relay team had scored a first place finish and the coveted gold medal at the Amsterdam Olympics. In the half century and more than a dozen Olympic gatherings since that memorable finish, Canadian women have repeatedly proved themselves deserving of world class standing — knocking precious seconds off their times while gaining the wide recognition once reserved for their male counterparts.

Winnipegger Tanya Brothers is one of the nation's finest examples of this world class quality. As a national team member, 19-year-old Tanya has competed in the 4 x 100 relay event at several international meets. Most recently, the team finished fifth at the World Track and Field Championships in Helsinki with a time of 44.19 seconds.

Tanya began running competitively as a grade 10 student at John Taylor Collegiate. In 1981 she won three gold medals at the Canada Summer Games, and was the uncontested best in the country at the junior level, in both the 100 and 200 metre sprints. She was twice selected Female Athlete of the Year by the provincial Track and Field Association, and was voted the 1981 Manitoba Athlete of the Year by local sports writers.

Tanya says the local media has been consistently encouraging and even prodigal in its support of her achievements. She emphasizes that media coverage of track and field is generally unbiased as journalists look at the results rather than the sex of a competitor. Yet in what she describes as an isolated incident, Tanya says she was dismayed by journalists in Helsinki who repeatedly referred to the accomplished Czech runner Jarmila Kratchikova as "the woman who looks



like a man," permitting this to overshadow her tremendous athletic ability.

Tanya's achievements nationally and internationally are clearly a source of local pride; as evidence of such she was approached in early fall to donate a personal item to the annual celebrity peace auction — a cause which she was eager to support.

Tanya's dedication to running — she trains a minimum of three hours a day, six days a week — permits her little time to pursue other interests aside from her second year university studies. However, she did find time to participate in the provincial Department of Education's 'Women in Sport' poster series. Tanya is featured on one of the posters, and narrated a tape for school age girls detailing the benefits of physical fitness.

Tanya is now looking ahead to the 1984 Olympic Games. She will not know for certain if she is to represent the country at the Games until the Canadian trials are completed this coming June. Yet because in Canada an athlete's past performance is considered when determining her Olympic team eligibility, Tanya says her chances of making the team are recognized as quite good. Still, she maintains, there are no guarantees. But because women sprinters do not usually reach their peak of ability until 28, Tanya can always look past Los Angeles to the 1988 Games.

When Tanya does retire from competitive running she says she may likely pursue a career in track and field coaching; an area in which she feels there is now a distinct lack of women.

For now, Tanya will continue her training and the pursuit of her elusive personal best and perhaps an Olympic medallion. The Canadian women's 4 × 100 metre relay team has not won the Olympic gold since Myrtle Cook crossed the finish line 55 years ago. In the 1980s it is not too presumptuous to hope that it will be the women who bring home the gold and silver.

by Sharon Chisvin



Tanya Brothers

Sandy Gilkes

DES

Diethylstilbesterol exposure:

What you should know

Take a brand new drug. Discover that it has the amazing power to mimic a natural female hormone — estrogen. By comparison this drug is easy to produce, inexpensive to manufacture, and simple to administer. Then, based mostly on theory, market it as the panacea for problem pregnancies and prescribe it in huge quantities to thousands of Canadian women. Don't stop for more than 30 years, even after the drug has been proven to be ineffective, until it's discovered to be the cause of cancer.

Karen Neufeld

This is the story of diethylstilbesterol (DES), a synthetic estrogen compound that was given to thousands of Canadian women between 1941 and 1971 to prevent or treat possible miscarriages in early pregnancy. Discovered prior to 1963, the year Canada toughened-up its drug regulations, DES was introduced to the market without having ever passed scientific testing to prove its safety or effectiveness. Unlike the thalidomide tragedy of the mid-sixties, the harm done by DES did not appear for decades. We now know that the



children of mothers who ingested DES during their pregnancy run the risk of developing health problems. Besides cancer, which is relatively rare, many daughters have changes in their vagina, cervix and/or uterus due to DES. These changes can result in problems with reproduction. DES sons may face an increased risk of genital organ and fertility problems. DES mothers may have a possible increased risk of developing breast cancer and cancer of the uterus, ovaries and cervix. Only continued research and time will tell.

No one knows for sure how many women took DES. Estimates fluctuate widely. Extrapolating from the U.S. figures it is estimated that the number of DES-exposed in Canada could be between 250,000 to 300,000 — including mothers, daughters, and sons. To date no studies have been undertaken to research its use in Canada. The only successful legal suit took place in 1971 in the U.S. when Joyce Bichler was awarded \$500,000 from Eli Lilly & Co. who were found guilty of insufficient testing before marketing the drug DES. After an appeal by Eli Lilly & Co., the New York State Appeals Court in 1981 upheld the decision to pay the damages to the plaintiff. There were approximately 200 manufacturers of DES, who marketed their product under a variety of names (see graph for the product names used in Canada).

DES was first discovered in 1938 by Sir Charles Dodds, a professor of biochemistry at the University of London. The medical community, enamoured by the biological power of the elusive sex hormones, greeted this discovery with a wave of enthusiasm. Unlike natural estrogen, DES was not destroyed by gastric secretions and could be administered in pill form. Within months, the new drug was on the market virtually untested for proof of safety.

Only a few individuals were wary of the limitations or dangers of this wonder drug.

In 1939, an article in the Journal of the American Medical Association sounded a warning of possible harmful effects if the drug was taken during pregnancy. By 1940, French and American scientists had also confirmed that DES caused breast tumors in male mice exposed to the drug.

Dr. Olive Watkins Smith and her husband Dr. George Van Siclean Smith, a biochemist-and-physician team of Harvard researchers are credited with promoting the use of DES during pregnancy. In the November 1948 issue of the American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology, the Smiths published an article suggesting that DES could increase the chance of a successful pregnancy for women who suffered from miscarriages, high blood pressure or diabetes. In fact, they wrote that if DES was given as a preventative measure it would render a normal pregnancy even more normal.

Not all of the Smiths' colleagues were convinced that DES could "save babies". Some doctors questioned the validity of the Smiths' research. They noted particularly the absence of a control group in the study. It was possible that the apparent benefits of DES could have resulted from the extra attention that the DES mothers received.

Unconvinced of the effectiveness of DES, Dr. William J. Dieckman conducted a controlled, double-blind study to test it. In a double-blind study, neither the patient nor the doctor know who receives the active drug and who receives the placebo. A third party such as a pharmacist, dispenses the drug and keeps a coded record to ensure that unbiased and equal treatment is paid to all the patients. The results: DES did more harm than good. In fact, DES mothers had twice as many miscarriages as the control group and DES favored premature labor. Dr. James H. Ferguson, another critic, had similar findings when he attempted to replicate the Smith study. By 1953, these men had proven that DES had no beneficial value in pregnancy. In

spite of the early warnings and in the face of the mounting evidence, many doctors continued to prescribe DES.

Perhaps most startling of all is that none of these researchers questioned the safety of the drug for human use. The majority of DES experimentation was on humans — specifically women. Even in light of the prevailing medical practices and attitudes of the 1930s and 1940s it is distressing to read about the uninformed, unaware and unlucky women who were given experimental doses of DES. Women took the pills unquestioningly as answers were sought to the effects, if any, of DES.

Most physicians were motivated by a genuine desire to help their patients have a successful pregnancy. The Smiths were nationally recognized and respected for their work. Their argument for the use of DES sounded logical and was very persuasive. The comfort of a daily pill offered an easy and concrete treatment for the physician and patient, worried that a pregnancy would end in a miscarriage. In short, DES seemed like the "perfect" treatment to ensure a strong pregnancy.

Danger Signals in 1971

Thirty years after DES was formally introduced into clinical medicine the harm done by the drug began to surface. In 1971, Dr. Arthur Herbst, an obstetrician at the Massachusetts General Hospital, and leading researcher in the field of DES, published a paper in the New England Journal of Medicine, connecting a rare form of vaginal cancer in young women, with *in utero* exposure to DES. Between 1966 and 1971 Herbst and his colleagues had seen eight patients with this rare form of cancer — clear cell adenocarcinoma. What was puzzling was that up until this time there were only three cases of this fast-spreading cancer documented in the world medical literature. Even more puzzling was that previously this cancer had only affected women over 50 years of age.



In contrast, Herbst was faced with eight young women, aged 14-24 years who all lived in or around Boston (where the Smiths had done their research). The clustering of so many cases of a rare disease within one geographical location was suspicious. The doctors searched for a common factor. Finally, one of the mothers suspected that the cause might be the DES she was given during pregnancy. She was right: seven of the eight mothers had taken some form of estrogen during their pregnancy. Its result lay hidden and unsuspected only to resurface two to three decades later.

The Response of the Canadian Department of Health and Welfare

In 1971, Canadian authorities contraindicated the use of DES during pregnancy. This does not mean that the drug was taken off the market. Rather, doctors were advised not to prescribe it for use during pregnancy and drug manufacturers were required to label all estrogen products accordingly.

The only current therapeutic indication for the drug is for use in the treatment of estrogen responsive cancer of the breast and prostate cancer. However, DES is still

supermarket by the time the cancer connection was made to the drug. Added to animal feed, DES helped to fatten up cattle faster and to produce juicier meat. In September of 1974, the use of DES in food animals was prohibited in Canada. As well, any imported foods which had been treated with DES were denied entry into Canada. The U.S. followed suit in 1980.

DES Daughters

The most frightening aspect of DES exposure is cancer. Fortunately its risk is minimal and the survival rates are high when it is detected in the early stages. Only a tiny fraction, between one in 1,000 to one in 10,000 DES-exposed daughters have developed cancer. This translates to 13 reported cases in Canada and to 500 documented cases in the U.S. to date. The risk is the greatest between the ages of 19 to 22, especially for those daughters who were exposed during the first eighteen weeks of pregnancy. This is the sensitive period for vaginal formation.

The vast majority of DES-exposed daughters have benign structural abnormalities of the vagina and cervix which are not necessarily dangerous. The most common of these changes is adenosis, the presence of atypical glandular cells lining the vaginal walls. Adenosis is responsible for the heavy vaginal discharge which plagues some DES daughters. This discharge will lessen as the adenosis recedes. By 30 years of age, adenosis is no longer visible in many DES daughters. Other problems include menstrual irregularities such as breakthrough bleeding and painful periods.

Excluding cancer, probably the most distressing of all the health problems for DES daughters are reproductive difficulties. Although many DES daughters have had normal pregnancies and healthy babies, the risk of problems is definitely greater than for nonexposed women. Fertility problems include difficulty getting pregnant, a miscarriage rate that is 50 per cent higher than the normal population, tubal pregnancies and premature labor. These problems are related to the DES-caused changes in the cervix (incompetent cervix) as well as changes in the uterus (T-shaped uterus).

Detecting DES exposure

DES-related changes may not show up in the usual pelvic examination or Pap smear performed by most doctors during a routine physical examination. Therefore, special procedures must be used if DES-exposure is suspected. These examinations should begin with menstruation or at the age of 14, whichever comes first. A DES examination is similar to a regular gynecological exam. It consists of a careful

visual inspection and gentle palpation (feeling) of the vaginal walls and cervix. A cervical Pap smear as well as Pap smears from the circumference of the upper, middle and lower vaginal walls are taken. This is a critical difference between DES screening and a routine physical examination. Next the vagina and cervix are swabbed with an iodine solution. Normal tissue in these areas will stain a reddish-brown color. Adenosis and cancer tissue cells will not stain — hence the name clear-cell adenocarcinoma. Depending on the results, or if abnormalities are suspected further screening techniques may be used.

A colposcopy may be done. In this test a binocular type instrument is used to magnify the cell tissue lining the vaginal wall so that a closer inspection of the tissue can be made. A biopsy, removing a tiny piece of tissue for study under a microscope, is indicated if any suspicious lesions are found. The entire examination involves very little discomfort and takes approximately twenty minutes. If DES related changes are detected, screening at six month intervals is desirable. Anyone who is not satisfied with the health care they receive should seek a second opinion. Most important is that women feel comfortable about the health care they receive and that their questions are answered.

DES Sons

There are probably as many DES sons as there are daughters. To date DES-exposure appears to be less ominous for males. There are suspicions that DES sons have more abnormalities of the genital and lower urinary tract than other men. Dr. Marluce Bibbo and her colleagues at the University of Chicago began performing urological exams on DES sons in the mid-seventies. While they did not find a direct link between DES and testicular cancer, they did find that more DES sons did have undescended testicles. This places them at a greater risk than the unexposed population for developing testicular cancer. As a group, DES sons also have more sperm abnormalities than unexposed men, which may, or may not, reduce fertility.

Currently few DES sons are receiving specific checkups. These men should be instructed in testicular self-examination. This practice of preventative health care will assist in the early identification of potential problems.

DES Mothers

There remains continued serious concern about the cancer producing potential of DES in mothers who took the drug during pregnancy. To date studies indicate that there is no statistically significant increase in cancer of the breast, ovary, colon or cervix in these women. In general all women

Some brand names under which DES has been sold in Canada:

Nonsteroidal estrogens

Benzestrol	Novostilbestrol
Chemestrol	Novostilboestrol
Chembstrol	Ovestrol
Chlorotrianisene	Pabalate
Dienestrol	Phenestrol
Dienoestrol	Stibilium
Diethylstilbestrol	Stibrol
Estroben	Stilbestrol
Gynestrogene	Stilboestrol
Hexestrol	Tace
Honvol	Tylandril
Linguets	Vallestril
Methallenestrol	Willnestrol

Vaginal creams and vaginal suppositories

Diethylstilbestrol
Furacin
Furestrol
Ortho dienestrol

Source: computer read-out from Health and Welfare, published in DES Action pamphlet "The Wonder Drug You Should Wonder About"

being prescribed to women. It continues to be used as a lactation suppressant for new mothers who do not wish to breastfeed. It is also prescribed in the form of a morning-after birth control pill for women who believe they might be pregnant after unprotected intercourse. Neither of these applications has ever been officially approved in Canada.

DES had also made its way into the

— but especially those with DES exposure — should obtain an annual pelvic examination. Pap smear and breast physical examination. Monthly breast self-examination is also advised to maintain continual surveillance for the development of breast lumps.

Identifying DES Exposure

In 1981, when Harriet Simand was only 21 years of age she was told she had vaginal cancer. The cause was DES. Since Harriet was one of the first DES cancer victims in Canada she was advised to have her surgery in the U.S., where doctors had had more experience in dealing with the effects of the drug. One week from her diagnosis Harriet was admitted to a California hospital for radical surgery which would remove her uterus, vagina and surrounding lymph nodes.

Obviously Harriet is not the only Canadian who was exposed to DES. Concerned by the government's unwillingness to assume responsibility for locating and screening DES victims, Harriet went public with her story. Today she is president of DES Action/Canada. DES Action/Canada is a self-help group which is part of a larger North American support network for DES victims and their families. The goals of DES Action/Canada are:

1. to identify all persons exposed to DES and to ensure that appropriate referral and follow-up care is available to them
2. to provide resources to educate consumers and health care professionals about DES and the unique care needed by DES exposed people
3. To ensure the recognition of needs for further research relating to DES exposure.

Many people do not know if they were exposed to DES. Everyone born between 1941 and 1971 *should find out*. They can begin by asking their mother if she took any drugs during pregnancy particularly if she had any problems such as bleeding, diabetes or a history of miscarriages. Mothers may not remember taking DES or recall the kind of medication they were given while pregnant (even some prescription vitamins included DES).

A second approach is for her to write the physician who cared for her during the pregnancy and request a copy of her medical file. As well, hospital medical records and pharmacies keep records of prenatal prescription drugs. Many hospitals keep records for only ten years and doctors for half that time, so it is still possible to draw a blank in the search. If this should happen and for any reason DES exposure is suspected, the next best thing to do is to have the DES screening exam.

It is not uncommon for DES-exposed people to have difficulty trying to locate medical records. In the mid-seventies the Canadian Medical Association recommended that doctors search through their files to recall patients who had been prescribed DES. It is unknown if the recommendation was ever followed. Harriet Simand has yet to meet a woman who was recalled. The sad fact is that many mothers who took DES may never have been told what they were given during their pregnancy. The combination of the physician reluctant to give information and the female patient who had unquestioning faith in her doctor leaves a legacy of DES daughters and sons who are not being alerted to their danger.

The DES story is far from over. Most daughters and sons are now in their twenties and thirties. As the DES generation ages it is not known what effects, if any, are still around the corner.

Kaaren Neufeld is presently in a Masters of Nursing Studies at the University of Manitoba. She is a volunteer at the Women's Health Clinic. Her interest is in women's health care and treatment decision making.



The Women's Health Clinic at 304-414 Graham Avenue (947-1517) has announced that Harriet Simand of DES Action/Canada is coming to Winnipeg on **February 21**. As well, a DES Self-help and action group is being formed at the Women's Health Clinic on **February 28**. The groups will offer emotional support, will do outreach to women who were prescribed DES and the daughters of these women. The clinic will also make referrals to doctors who will do DES screening.

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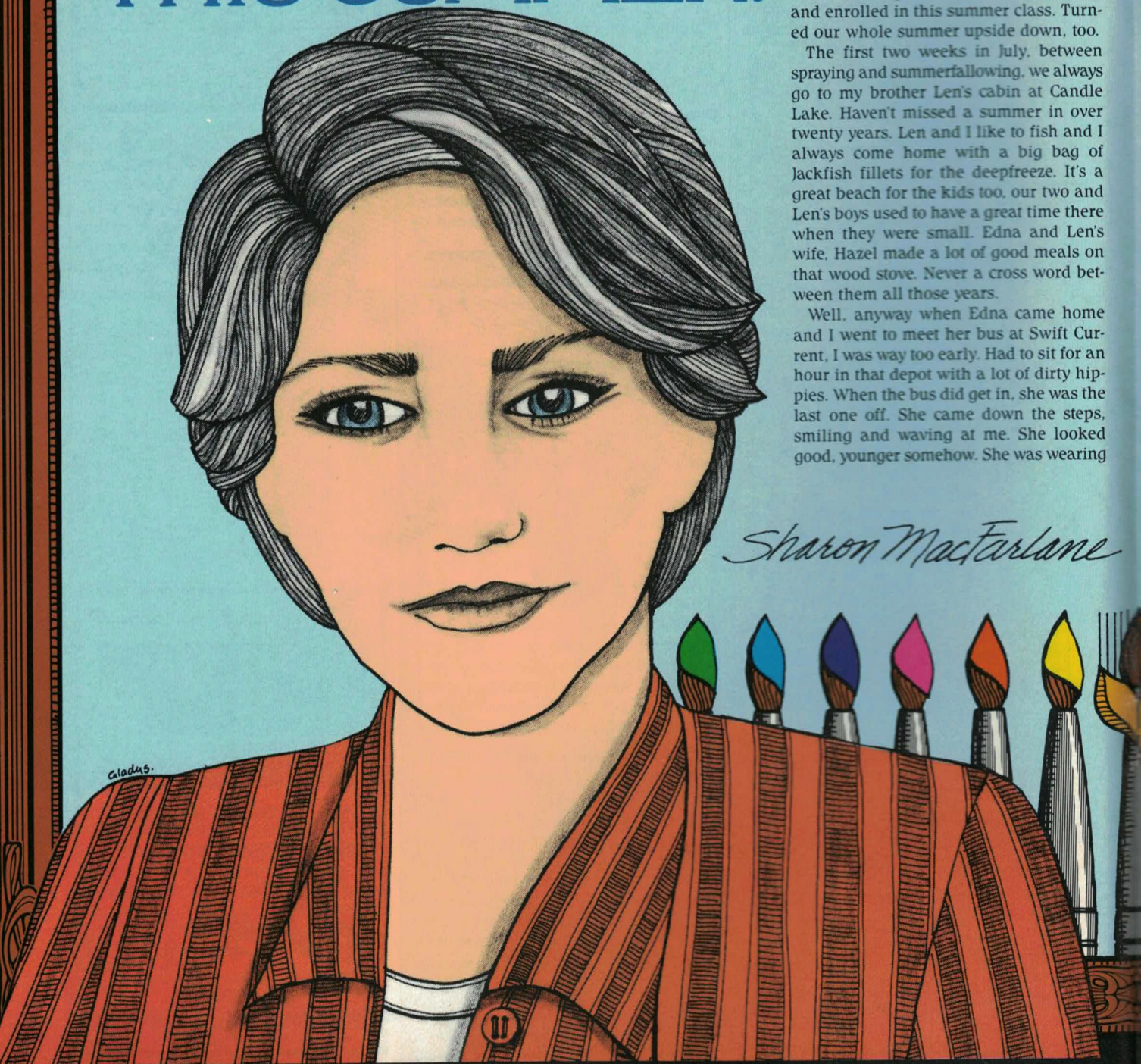
WE DIDN'T GO TO LEN'S THIS SUMMER.

The wife went to a summer school for three weeks, took an art class. I still don't know why she went. Edna's been painting for years and has done some real nice things. We've got two pictures hanging in the living room that she did of our girls, Judy and Karen. The girls both work in Calgary now but Edna copied from their old school photos. And her flower pictures are just beautiful, they've got one she did of a vase of lilacs, hanging in the library in town. She took an art correspondence course last winter and I thought that would be enough, but no, she sent off the money she'd saved up from the cream cheques and enrolled in this summer class. Turned our whole summer upside down, too.

The first two weeks in July, between spraying and summerfallowing, we always go to my brother Len's cabin at Candle Lake. Haven't missed a summer in over twenty years. Len and I like to fish and I always come home with a big bag of Jackfish fillets for the deepfreeze. It's a great beach for the kids too, our two and Len's boys used to have a great time there when they were small. Edna and Len's wife, Hazel made a lot of good meals on that wood stove. Never a cross word between them all those years.

Well, anyway when Edna came home and I went to meet her bus at Swift Current, I was way too early. Had to sit for an hour in that depot with a lot of dirty hippies. When the bus did get in, she was the last one off. She came down the steps, smiling and waving at me. She looked good, younger somehow. She was wearing

Sharon MacFarlane



a purple dress of some thin material, like cheesecloth. I'm sure I'd never seen that before. She gave me a hug right there with everybody watching and said "It was wonderful," before I had a chance to say a word. We got her luggage — two suitcases and a big package wrapped in brown paper and tied with heavy twine.

She talked all the way home, telling me about her teachers, her classmates and what she'd learned. She didn't seem worried when I told her the crops were really suffering, needed rain bad. Then I told her there was a letter from the girls, but she said "Oh, I phoned them when I was at school, we had a nice long talk."

After we got home and had coffee, I pulled her onto my lap and kissed her. She had been gone a long time. She jumped up and I thought she was going to the bedroom, but she took the butcher knife from the rack on the wall and slit the twine on the big package. She took out paintings and propped them against the kitchen cupboards. There must have been a dozen pictures. "Well, what do you think?" she said.

I couldn't believe it. They were all ugly. No flowers, no sunsets, no kittens. The biggest picture was black and red stripes on a green background, some were splotches of all different colours, one was brown and white shapes which might have been horses, but I didn't know for sure. The only thing I recognized was an ink dot picture of a rubber boot and some cattails. Who in their right mind wants a picture of a rubber boot? What could I say? Edna was waiting. "Nice," I said. Then we went to bed.

The next day Edna moved all her painting stuff into the girls' room, just put their stuffed toys and class pictures and everything into a cardboard box in the cor-

ner. She went in there every morning after breakfast and painted until it was time to make lunch. She hardly spent any time working in the garden, I'd never seen it so full of weeds. And we ran out of bread, had to buy some at the store. Awful stuff, tasteless as blotting paper.

Three days after she came home we finally got rain. It had been cloudy all day and just after supper it started, warm and gentle. Edna went out and stood in the front yard and let the rain wash over her. God knows, no one was happier to see the rain than me, but I couldn't see the sense in getting soaking wet when there was no need. When I shouted to her to come in, she just lifted her head and let the water pour down her face.

One day the next week I was summer-fallowing on the home quarter, so at three o'clock I came in for coffee. I saw a strange car parked in the yard but I thought it was probably a salesman, there had been a lot of them around since the rain had perked the crops up. When I was hanging my cap in the back porch, Edna opened the door and said "Come in and meet one of my classmates from summer school." Her cheeks were flushed.

Sitting at the kitchen table was a guy with long hair and a scraggly beard. He wasn't any older than our Judy, I'm sure. "Glad to meet you, Mr. Phillips," he said and shook my hand. Then Edna asked if I would like some wine. I saw that they were both drinking white wine from the fancy crystal glasses that Edna's grandmother left her. I had coffee.

This Chet told me his dad farmed near Moose Jaw, but when I asked him if they'd had hail in that big storm that went through that way, he didn't even know. Then him and Edna started talking about

composition and negative space and a lot of other rubbish. I put on my cap and went back to the tractor. When I came in at six o'clock he was gone and supper was ready.

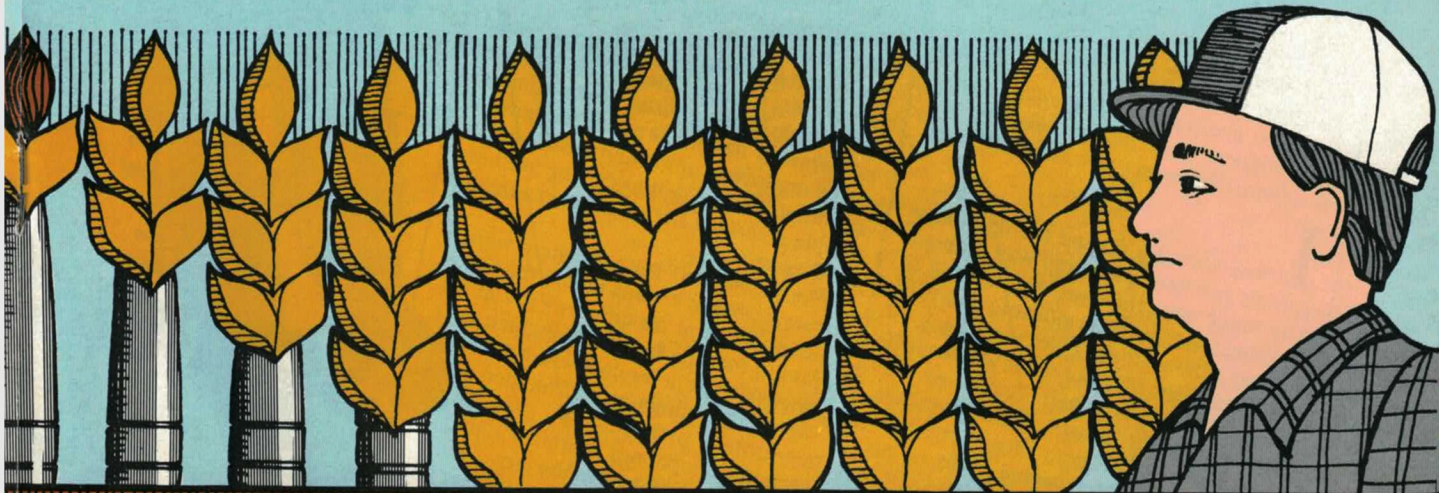
Harvest came early and we had a pretty fair crop, even if the rain had come a little too late. Edna hauled grain like she's always done. We finished harvesting by the first of October. It was sunny and warm, a good fall. I said "You know we could meet Len and Hazel up at the cabin on Thanksgiving weekend and still get in some fishing." Do you know what Edna said?

"Why don't you go alone? I'm working on a series of watercolours that I want to finish."

"Hell, Edna," I said "You can do watercolours anytime. Now let's phone Len and tell him we'll be up."

"Tell him *you'll* be up" Edna said. Nothing I said made a bit of difference to that woman, she wouldn't go. I didn't go alone. How would I have explained to Len and Hazel? So we stayed home. Edna painted and I built a new bin for seed grain. Now there's snow and it's too late to go anywhere. You know, somehow, I don't think we'll be going to Len's next summer either. ▼

The author having lived all her life in rural Saskatchewan, started to write at the age of forty, four years ago. She has had two stories broadcast on the CBC radio program AMBIENCE and one story included in BRANCH - LINES, an anthology of South-West Sask. writers. She also won two prizes for children's stories and received invaluable assistance from instructors in the prose classes that she attended at the Saskatchewan Summer School of the Arts the past three years.



THE SELLING OF SOLIDARITY: A STORY ABOUT

At the end, as at the beginning, there were a lot of tired people.

The mad, mad mess that was British Columbia between mid-October and mid-November had lurched, apparently out of control, to some deep abyss, peered over the edge into darkness, and abruptly backed away.

The province's reputation as manaland, where all is laid back and groovy, man, was shot to quick shreds. Great public figures were made of men — and one woman — who were scarcely known before the big battle of the bills. The "Almost-General Strike of 1983" forced a crash course in provincial politics on any citizen with even the faintest link with reality. It also gave new significance to the tired talk of political polarization in B.C.

But months before all that, on July 7, there was a budget, and a shock wave, then a protest as successive axings of social services, human rights, tenants' rights and employees' rights became known. A quarter of the government's workers faced firing — no cause necessary. A coalition of labour and community groups assembled into a force which was unimaginable after the devastation of the provincial NDP in the May elections. The confrontation between the Socred government and the Solidarity Coalition which followed brought surprise and support from as far away as the Solidarity movement's namesake in Poland.

It was after 2 a.m. and the injunction against teachers' picketing was granted. The judge gave the word in the dead of darkness that Tuesday morning and Vancouver School Board elves went back to bed certain the forces of chaos were routed in their schools. There would be no teachers at the school gates in picket paraphernalia denying those little tow-headed tykes their sacred right to an education.

Never mind that teachers had planned to walk off the job that day, November 8, in a stated try to get restored funding and high quality education for those same kids; the reprovals in the press and by some parents which followed invariably charged that teachers, not the budget-slashing government, were the fiends in the education fray.

The teachers' decision to walk was only one — if the most dramatic — of the political transformations stirred by the Social Credit government's tinkering with a new political order in the province. Teachers' federation members, not long before, had decided against even seeking the right to strike. They endorsed the walkout by 59 per cent in October, and then raised the margin with their feet when the time came. In many B.C. communities only one or two teachers turned up to work. Early estimates in Vancouver placed 75 per cent of teachers off the job.

It was no surprise, says Jim Howden, president of the island city of Nanaimo's teacher association. "Not when virtually every teacher in this province saw a government that put \$42 million extra into schools weeks before the election, then after the election said they would take over \$100 million out."

A damp grey dawn found figures staked out at every school in the city; not teachers, but people bearing picket signs from the city workers' union, the provincial government employees' union and the Canadian Union of Public Employees. The teachers simply respected the picket lines already established.

The signs didn't say why there were a great number of women out on the picket line, many from no union or job at all, walking the line for reasons which were completely lost in the days which followed.

When the injunction was handed down forbidding picketing by Vancouver teachers, telephones started ringing in darkened homes across the city. Sherry McGibban, a welfare worker for



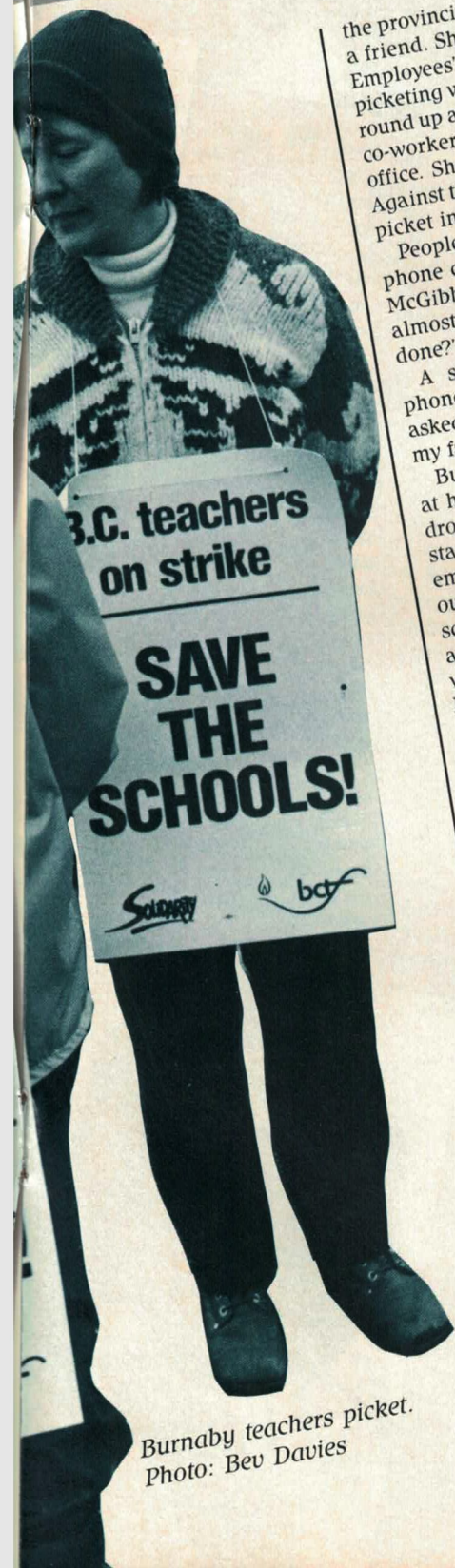
**B.C. teachers
on strike**

**SAVE
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OUT WOMEN AND THE B.C. BUDGET



Burnaby teachers picket.
Photo: Bev Davies

the provincial government, was called by a friend. She called the B.C. Government Employees' Union "war room", where picketing was coordinated, then started to round up all the help she could. She called co-workers from her East End Vancouver office. She called all those from Women Against the Budget who were planning to picket in support of the teachers.

People were pretty surprised to get phone calls at that time of the morning, McGibban said. "But the reaction from almost everybody was: 'What needs to be done?'"

A sleepy Ellen Frank answered her phone. "Sherry, am I dreaming?" she asked. She was not. "Fine, then I'll go wash my face."

Bundles of picket signs were unloaded at houses, then cars sped off to the next drop. The public sector strike which had started calmly with the government employees' immaculately scheduled walk-out steamed into its second phase. The school picket was organized in three and a-half short hours. Ten of those schools were covered by Women Against the Budget.

After a frantic night and a picket line shift, McGibban ran into Frank at another school. She was telling people: "This is a historical moment. Wake up. Your help is needed."

Ellen Frank worked 20 hours-plus each month at the city's Rape Crisis Centre for an extra \$50 which was added to her welfare cheque every month. She is a single parent. She and the rest of the 2,500 people on the Community Involvement Program, which pays the \$50 to unemployable and handicapped welfare recipients' volunteer labor for non-profit organizations, were told their grant was cancelled at the end of August 1983.

Centres which relied on the volunteers' work worried about losing help they couldn't afford any other way, or they simply cut programs run by the volunteers altogether. One was a door-check program in low-income apartment blocks, which workers say saved lives. Elderly tenants were often pulled out of bathtubs and off floors with broken limbs or after strokes when volunteers checked for signs of activity.

The group formed to fight for reinstatement of the program claimed suicide and

depression and the expense of hospitalization would result from the loss of the program. "They looked at what they did as a job," says Frank. "This is a society that values workers. You don't have a job and nobody wants you. To have the job was as important as the \$50."

Human Resources Minister Grace McCarthy later promised to restore the program for those welfare recipients labelled "handicapped", cutting off about 1,500 "unemployable" volunteers, critics said. Welfare rates were also frozen with the budget.

"The amount people get with welfare and CIP is nowhere near a living wage," says Frank. "We weren't fine to begin with, and on top of not being fine, they rip off \$50."

Every listing in Vancouver's Yellow Pages for "Family Planning Information Centres" has been cut off the provincial funding list. Planned Parenthood spokespersons talk about closing some of their offices. Two organizations teaching natural birth control methods are axed too.

The Vancouver Women's Health Collective wasn't listed under birth control in the Yellow Pages listings, though most of the 10,000 women who use the organization's services each year are after birth control information. They also found help there with a range of concerns, such as premenstrual problems and unplanned pregnancies, and nearly every sort of health problem common to women.

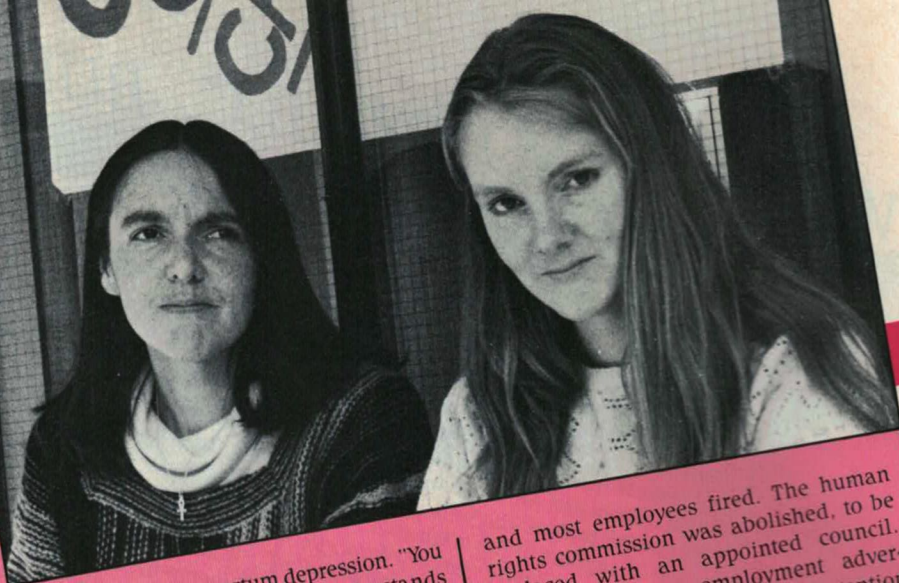
But a lot of those services are slashed, along with their hours, and the group is now struggling to survive after their \$119,000 yearly grant was cancelled by the government. That's just one year's salary for a doctor, says five-year collective member Beth Hutchinson. With it, they paid seven full time staff and rent on their large, bright offices in mid-town Vancouver.

They were not told why their funding was cut off, but health ministry officials told the newspapers that they provided no direct or clinical services, which Hutchinson denies. "We do have clinical services like diaphragm and cervical cap fittings. And we have a good reputation for doing those fittings thoroughly and properly. We have free pregnancy testing. We do emergency counselling with women with unplanned and unwanted pregnancies."

At least one Social Credit government member, North Okanagan Valley's Don Campbell, thought cancelling their grant

Debbie Wilson

Sandra Knight (right)
and co-worker Penny Handford (left).
Photo: Bev Davies



was particularly appropriate because he had heard it was some sort of service for lesbians. "It's funny," says Hutchinson. "Our opponents characterize us as a bunch of lesbians, and that's why we work so hard on birth control."

Tacked above the electric kettle in the Post Partum Counselling office is a poster in which two doctors peer over a woman trapped in a medicine bottle. "Take a pill, Mrs. Brown," the caption reads. Indeed, Mrs. Brown was prescribed pills until Vancouver's post partum counselling service was established 11 years ago. Now, according to staff, the Mrs. Browns who could have called the office and gone through their program will have to take pills once again, because the office has been chopped by the provincial government.

The service was started to aid women with children up to three years of age, who experience depression. But office staff were told by ministry of human resources executives that the problem could be handled by mental health workers and public health workers. "They had absolutely no understanding of the seriousness of post partum depression and that these women are suicidal," says staff member Sandra Knight.

It is not the "baby blues" women experience soon after birth, or psychosis, as most people think, she says. Many women never completely recover. Nola Holden went through post partum depression after she moved to Vancouver with her baby. She found she had no energy. She had irrational fears about someone breaking into her home. "I just felt bad. I felt like I had lost everything I ever had," she says.

Holden learned through the post partum counselling group she joined that her depression was common, and that about 20 per cent of women experience it. She later became a counsellor for other women

experiencing post partum depression. "You can go to someone who understands depression and anxiety, but they are not usually someone who understands what it's like to be at home with kids," she says.

Family support workers worked side by side with parents, teaching budgeting, nutrition, sanitation and safety to parents who often had never learned those basic skills. They tried to break the patterns of generations of neglect and abuse. They handled child abuse and assault, malnutrition and cases of babies being fed alcohol and cough syrup to keep them quiet.

Ninety per cent of the program's workers were slated for firing at the end of October. Following the settlement between the provincial government and its employees, family support worker Joan Rykya expected her program would still soon be gone, and her termination simply delayed. "I guess what upsets me most is knowing that there are kids out there who are going to die," she said.

Another therapy program, Project Parent, is also scheduled for termination in the spring.

Daycare subsidies cut. The child abuse team cancelled. Consumer protection centres closed. Vancouver Status of Women funding slashed. Legal aid to battered and separated women cut. Fort Nelson's emergency centre for women and children closed. Student aid cut by \$10 million. Rent controls abolished... transposition houses for battered women are slated to be "privatized" by the end of March.

The new medical services bill opened the door to extra billing, raised hospital fees and removed guarantees of doctor-patient confidentiality. An inspector was given power to review any patient's records.

The human rights branch was shut down

and most employees fired. The human rights commission was abolished, to be replaced with an appointed council. Discrimination in employment advertisements was no longer illegal. Intention to discriminate had to be proven. Women's groups said there was now no effective course of action for sexual harassment victims.

The human rights bill was later dropped and consultation promised with community groups on a redrafted bill, but critics of the original bill were not optimistic. Said a spokesperson for the B.C. Organization to Fight Racism: "I suspect a few cosmetic changes will be made."

The bill allowing landlords to evict tenants without cause was also dropped and the Rentalsman office was gradually closed down.

Workers at Rape Relief, the first centre for rape victims in Vancouver, have a perspective on government cuts to services for women which is tempered by the two years since their own grant was cancelled. The office has survived those years, thanks to vigorous fund-raising efforts, but they have meanwhile watched counterparts in other provincial centres close down.



Joan Rykya.
Photo: Bev Davies

Rape Relief members now believe they were a test case for the more recent funding cuts to nearly every women's organization in the province. "The government got away with cutting us off," says long-time collective member Joni Miller.

The government claimed Rape Relief's funding was cut because they refused to allow the government access to their confidential files on rape victims or complete a lengthy questionnaire which appeared to be intended to compile profiles of rape victims, and which Rape Relief said would make it possible to identify women in some smaller towns. Miller says the funding cut was more than a matter of refusing to fill out forms and open up files, though the government never said quite that.

"They wanted us to pat women on the back and say 'there, there, dear,' and take her to the police station and say 'you've had your one rape and it won't happen again.' They didn't want us to rebel against the conditions that caused the rape in the first place. What they're doing is they're cutting off funds to anyone they see as being in political opposition to them," she says.

All of that does not explain why so many women walked picket lines in somebody else's fight.

What does, is that it was supposed to have been their fight, too. There was an understanding between labor and community groups that disputed legislative bills would become issues of settlement as each public sector union walked off the job.

Government employees, who struck November 1 for a new contract, and to stop the bill which gave employers power to fire with neither cause nor seniority considerations, pledged they would not return to work until the issues holding other unions out were resolved. Teachers followed in what they called a "political protest", since they could not legally strike. With each successive walkout the ante was upped.

That's how it went in theory, at least. There was no doubt that if labor leaders gave the word, bus drivers and crown corporation workers would go out, creating, at least in Vancouver, almost certainly the conditions of a general strike. As it happened, the only table the legislative

package made it onto was in Premier Bill Bennett's Kelowna home rec room. Government employees' negotiators reached a settlement November 13. Woodworkers' union head Jack Munro immediately flew to the premier's fruit belt home town, and hours later appeared with Bennett on the steps of his home to announce a deal had been struck on the social legislation and on school funding for 1984.

In Vancouver, a doubting meeting of the community-based Solidarity Coalition met in emergency session and demanded to know why they were left in the dark by labor leaders who engineered the deal. What was first a rounded battle against the budget and bills apparently became labor's, then was finally reduced in the next days and weeks to an absurd argument over whether the \$12 million saved by schools during the teachers' walkout would remain in the schools' budget or revert back to provincial coffers.

The word "Solidarity" withered from the front pages of the press like salted slugs. The government, after a judicious wait, shed a couple of bothersome bills without fanfare or explanation.

The city's tireless graffiti artists had smothered walls with "prepare the General Strike" directives and they remained through the new year as the local Left issued their post-panic bumper stickers. "Repair the General Strife," they read.

Esther Shannon, a member of "Women Against the Budget", goes into a closet in her co-op apartment, hauls out a thick brown envelope, and removes a green leaflet with a small stain on it. It is not quite what she was looking for but it will do.

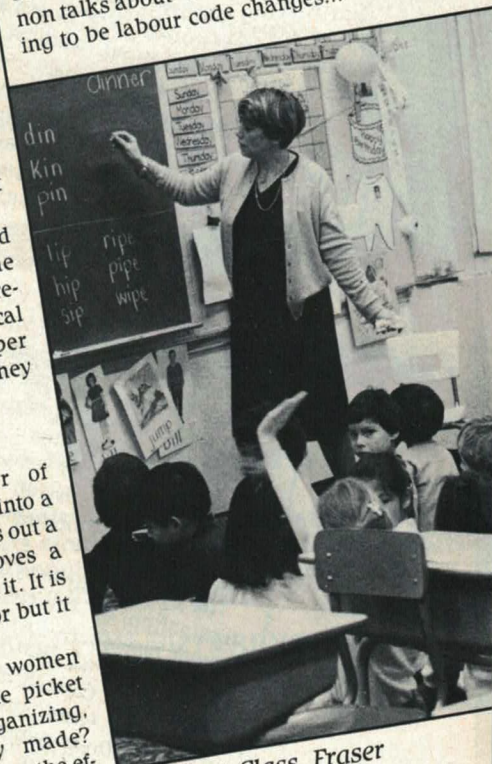
Do you want to know what women gained for their support on the picket lines, for their anti-budget organizing, with the settlement finally made? "Nothing", she says. The leaflet lists the effects of the government's budget and tactics on women's rights listed on the leaflet is affected by shifting government policy since the leaflet was printed, she says.

Well, the women in the government employees' union — 80 per cent of its membership — did get layoffs by seniority, she concedes. And that is no small thing.

"But this was their contract year. They didn't get an increase. They didn't hardly hold the line. If the Socreds didn't bring down this budget, this would have been a really big year for women in the GEU. There would have been a really big push on equal pay."

It was a big time for the women's movement, unmatched by any event in English Canada, she says. And Women Against the Budget exerted an enormous influence on the Solidarity movement. "It was probably one of the most highly-organized groups in the anti-budget movement. The women in it had been organizing for years.

"We had speakers out at the first mass rallies (which gathered 15,000 and 20,000 people) in Vancouver and Victoria. It is unheard of that a speaker from the women's movement was up there on a B.C. Federation of Labour platform." Now Shannon talks about "next time". There are going to be labour code changes...



Grade 1 Class, Fraser Elementary School.
Photo: Bev Davies

Women Against the Budget

(VANCOUVER) The first action of women in the lower mainland was to form a coalition of women's groups and individuals they dubbed *Women Against the Budget* or WAB. Succeeding activities ranged from an appearance before a Royal Commission to the staging of satirical street theatre.

Their July 13 founding meeting packed the small offices of the Vancouver Status of Women. Individuals from private and public sector unions, from community groups serving women, from human rights organizations, from women's rights committees, from community college women's programs, and from professional women's groups shared information about the contents of the legislative package and what it would mean to the women of B.C.

Women Against the Budget voted to participate as WAB in the regional and provincial Solidarity Coalitions then being formed so that women could have a strong voice from the beginning; would be an integral part of the organizational structure and could contribute to the overall work of the coalition by reaching out to unorganized women. However, WAB reserved the right to augment the activities of the broader coalitions with activities of its own.

Submission to Royal Commission

The media committee of WAB took advantage of the presence in Vancouver last September of a federal Royal Commission to win press coverage of women's concerns about the proposed legislation. With the assistance of the Women's Research Centre, WAB submitted a written brief to the MacDonald Commission on Economic Union and Development Proposals for Canada.

The United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women also received a formal protest from *Women Against the Budget*. "Just 19 months after Canada ratified the convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women," it read, "the government of British Columbia is drastically reducing legal protections and services for women." This letter, designed to embarrass the Socred government before an international forum, demonstrated dramatically to the public the seriousness with which women viewed the issue.

Luncheon with Gracie

WAB members next turned their various talents to street theatre in an event billed as "Luncheon with Gracie." Grace

McCarthy is the B.C. minister of Human Resources and a strong supporter of the Social Credit government budget package. In front of McCarthy's Shaughnessy mansion about 400 people met to sample soup ladled from pots boiling on Coleman stoves in the back of a truck.

A satirical skit featured a "chef" who gave the assembly lessons on how to cook "gracelessly." "You don't have to cut those carrots, you don't have to mince those vegetables, you don't have to slash those words," she said. Instead, she declared, the soup would be tastier and more nourishing with the "vitamin E of a seniors' centre, the amino acids of a transition house, a dollop of post-partum counselling, and a whole mess of services to the disabled." Sniffed a "McCarthy" "This is no free lunch." "If you can't take the heat," the chef retorted, "stop stoking the fire."

With the success of this event, WAB volunteered to organize a Picnic Against the Budget for the Solidarity Coalition. This picnic, with food, a children's parade, and a dance, was the culmination of a week of attention on women's and children's issues.

WAB Conference

Women Against the Budget held an all-day conference October 16 to discuss the current situation and explore ways that women could contribute to any strike action. The day began with a brief analysis of the economic and political thrust behind Bennett's legislation. Presentation of an alternative economic strategy, compiled from NDP and B.C. Federation of Labour policy documents, was presented.

The women in attendance then broke into small groups. From these brainstorming sessions came a resolution directing WAB representatives to Solidarity to ensure that the phrase "restoration of social services" was added to the Solidarity Coalition's demand for the withdrawal of the legislative package.

This budget hurts women

The point they have wanted to emphasize is that it is women who will bear the brunt of Premier Bennett's legislation. Hilda Thomas of the NDP Women's Rights Committee placed the legislation in the context of the Socred government's grand economic design for B.C. which represents a sharp turn to the political right, following the path of U.S. President Ronald Reagan and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

It is women, with average incomes only a fraction of men's, who most de-

pended upon those social services now eliminated. It is women who are the target of male violence, and it is services designed to protect women which are losing their funding. It is women workers, largely unorganized, who will suffer most from changes to employment and human rights legislation. It is even women who are most hurt by the 7 per cent sales tax on restaurant meals, since most waitresses live on tips. And it is largely women who will lose their jobs with reductions in the public service, in hospital services, in education.

Finally, it is women who will once again have to shoulder the responsibilities abandoned by the government. It is women who will have to provide child care, care for the elderly, for the handicapped, for the sick, for victims of family violence. Once again it is women who will be required to work without pay, in isolation and without support. ▼



Workers went out November 25 after settlement. Contract dispute still out January 4. Photo: Bev Davies.

(an extended version of this article appeared in the November/83 issue of *Priorities*, which is published by the Standing Committee on Women's Rights of the British Columbia New Democratic Party)

Sharon Shnaid

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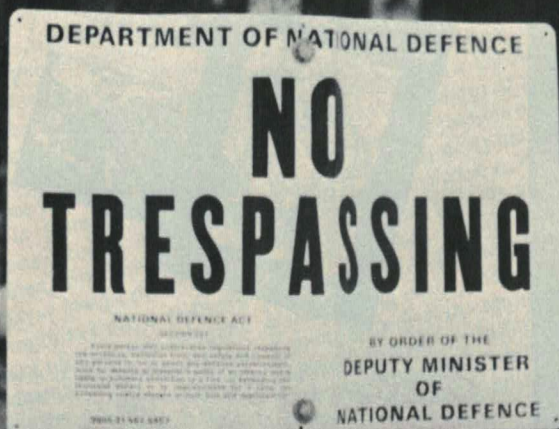
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Monique Foley is a free-spirited woman from Quebec who has embraced a non-violent, pacifist approach to life for as long as she can remember. "I learned it from my mother. It's in the deepest part of myself."

Last year, news of the proposed testing of the American Cruise Missile in Canada fueled a sense of urgency within her. She began to look for ways to help create Canadian awareness of the increasing peril posed against them by the production, testing, and deployment of North American first strike weapons. In the summer of '83, she realized this goal by joining the Ottawa Peace Camp for a three month stay, and among other things, participated in a "Women's Peace Gathering to Celebrate the New Year" at Grand Centre/Cold Lake Base, Alberta (near the Cole Bay Peace Camp bordering the Primrose Air Weapons Range in Saskatchewan).

Ms Foley works intermittently for Kelly Girl Services (legal/medical/bi-lingual secretary) to make just enough money to continue her quest for a nuclear-weapons-free-Canada. Hitchhiking from place to place, sleeping in hostels, at friends' homes and weather-permitting... in the outdoors, she exchanges ideas and takes part in creative actions while reading and gathering all the information she can about her cause.

She arrived for her interview at HERizons' office suitably clad to ward off the January cold. A long skirt, leggings and hiking boots reflected her independent, no-frills lifestyle. Her strong, friendly face and manner leave an impression of steady good humour. Answers come readily — voiced musingly in a lyrical accent, and backed up with self-disclosing openness.

Shannon Rohsen

A winter peace message found on the border of the Primrose Lake Air Weapons Range. (about 23 miles from Cole Bay, Sask.)

FOR PEACE

HERizons: What motivated you to join the peace movement?

MONIQUE: My involvement comes mostly from hope for a better world...and hope may help to lessen your fears. There's a lot of educating to do and that's what I wanted to do most — debate, argue, explain. I suppose I'm not one to analyse my feelings. If you think too much about it — you do nothing.

HERizons: Did you note any differences between the mixed camp and the women's gathering?

MONIQUE: In Ottawa it was a mixed camp from the very beginning. In fact there were more men than women. Our main aim was to keep Canada from escalating the nuclear arms race. To us — it was everybody's concern. But it was for women only at the New Year's gathering in Cold Lake, Alberta...and I was glad that I was a woman that could be a part of it.

Before Cold Lake, I had never noticed a special connection with feminism and peace, and the difference between the two approaches of men and women for peace. The Cole Bay Peace Camp goes beyond the global implications of the arms race. These women support the aboriginals' rights to the neighboring land now being used as a testing ground for weapons of destruction. About 3,000 natives bordering the Primrose Air Weapons Range are no longer allowed to hunt and fish on this land. There is also fear of fatalities from accidental crashes.

HERizons: What does the testing of the Cruise Missile entail?

MONIQUE: (Her answer is gleaned from a personal account of the various ramifications of the cruise testing and from background material supplied on the subject.) The agreement signed between Canada and the U.S. allowed the Cruise Missile to be tested over Northern Canada four to six times each year for five years, starting this January through March. But now it seems they are just going to make it for March...and have only one test this year.

The U.S. wants to test their missiles on Canadian land because it is very similar to the terrain targeted in the U.S.S.R. It is said they want to test it during the winter months to cut down the risk of forest fires should the Cruise crash. The computer guidance system on the Cruise is supposed to have some trouble tracking areas with ice and snow as is found on the defined test route. And since this is a populated

area, a possible failure rate could result in some deaths.

They say they need a practice stretch of uninhabited land, long enough to test the entire range of the missile. So they established an 80 nautical mile wide/1400 nautical mile long test corridor starting at the Beaufort Sea and ending at the Primrose Air Weapons Range, where the Peace Camp has been set up.

Our co-operation in this is justified by our obligations under the NATO pact which demands that we contribute to common security. (Opponents say that NATO had no intention of using the air-launched version of the missile since it is not even a NATO weapon.)

Worst of all, the cruise missile is so small that it could be hidden in a barn or basement. Once deployed in Western Europe all hope for disarmament would be gone, since removal of cruise missiles could never be completely verified.

HERizons: How did you come to hear of the New Year's Cold Lake Peace Gathering?

MONIQUE: At the Ottawa Peace Resource Centre one evening in December we were informed of the upcoming action by a woman from Greenham Common. I was glad because I was coming to Winnipeg around that time...and I thought there might be some women from here that would want to go to Cold Lake.

HERizons: Describe your experience at the Cold Lake gathering.

MONIQUE: There were 15 women, some from Edmonton, some from Cold Bay, which is about a 2 hour drive from the Grand Centre/Cold Lake Base. Most of us didn't know each other...I knew no one. So we spent a lot of time learning about one another.

The first action was on Saturday night, December 31st, around sunset. We went with balloons to a place in Grand Centre where there is a plane on a platform — kind of a monument. We decided to leave our peace message and balloons there... but we could only reach the back lower belly of the plane. We made a circle around the plane and sang songs.

We had hoped to reach some of the town people. There was an article in the town paper the day before saying there were some women gathering at the Airways Motel. At midnight we went again with candles and repeated the same action, and met with reporters.

The day after, we wanted to get to the gate of the base...we wanted to do a legal

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action, no civil disobedience. We just wanted to talk to the guard, and hang up colored paper cranes on the gate, the Japanese origami symbol of peace. But there was a blockade on the road that goes to the base, still 2 miles from the main gate. Two service personnel were guarding it. I talked to them and left our symbols of peace around the blockade markers.

HERizons: What were your impressions of the Ottawa Peace Camp? How it evolved/The co-operation of the surrounding community/The physical set-up/Your personal involvement?

MONIQUE: The peace camp has been there, on Parliament Hill, since April 18th. It started with a 24 hour permit. But by the next day it had attracted a lot of support, and they didn't want to go away. So they tried to find a way to stay there, and they did. And it's still there.

It has kept changing people all the time. Sometimes the camp numbered 30 or 40, as on Hiroshima Day...but most of the time, there were 8 to 10 of us.

We had a lot of support from B.C. and from the people walking on Parliament Hill. It's amazing...thousands of people in the summertime. And, when I was there in the last week of November — I was sur-

prised to see that there was still a lot of people walking there, even at night.

We needed a sound system for Hiroshima Day, and Greenpeace helped us with that. Also, for awhile, a printer did free printing for us. And we had many donations in our Donation Box...enough to get by.

We had two tables set up with a lot of give-away information. Everybody was just invited to look and pick what they wanted. We had a couple of big display boards with newspaper cuts on it, photos, and posters.

We set out a big board covered in blank white paper for the public to write on. I wrote on it... "What do you think?" So people could feel free to write anything they wanted on it, and it was just great. People could be mad at us, and write "You Commies go home". And others could write back, "No, stay. You're terrific!" And so people could write back and forth to each other. And they did, by the hundreds. We had to put up fresh paper every three days.

It was fun to be there. Maybe because I love living in the outdoors.

But even at that, I was lucky to be there after May. It was really hard that month because it rained all the time and they had to camp on the pavement. After awhile we were allowed to stay on the grass, and we kept moving on the grass all the time so that it would stay green. For outdoor shelter, since we were not allowed to pitch tents, we used the tarp which we had placed over our model display of the Cruise Missile.

People could come and go as they pleased. Some people had apartments to go to. Others were students. You could miss 3, 4 days, a week. For me, it was day after day for 2 months, 24 hours a day, except for a few hours at a time in town. Then I went away for 3 weeks, came back for a week or two, away again, and then I spent my last week there in November.

For facilities, we used the public bathrooms in the west wing of the Parliament Buildings...open from nine till nine in the summertime. We also used the Tourist Information Office across the street. And restaurants, too.

HERizons: What did you think of Trudeau's Peace Initiative Plan?

MONIQUE: I thought it was great. Because, you can never do enough for peace. This was really needed. But Trudeau contradicts himself. We are still testing the Cruise...they are selling Candu reactors to Romania...they are going to sell uranium to Japan. It's all big business. I mean sometimes it feels like a dream...that you can have Canada declare itself an nuclear-weapons-free-zone. It would involve a lot of changes. But it's feasible...it's possible. If only there weren't so many peo-

ple who just don't care.

HERizons: What about public support?

MONIQUE: Gallup polls released said that 52 per cent of Canadian people were against the testing of the Cruise Missile in the fall of '82. And I think even after the bombing of the Korean plane, almost half still supported that stand. But it was just awful after that September 1st bombing...such aggressive reactions toward us from people that week. People were so mad at us. Almost as if it was our fault... "See what you did...see what happened...those Russians, you can't trust them. Let's go with the Cruise. We need protection." I found it really hard to deal with people that week.

Some people say "I don't believe there's going to be a World War III. I don't believe there's going to be a nuclear war." Well, this is something — not to believe it...and this is something else, when it happens.

Everybody wants peace. I heard that a thousand times this summer. "Oh yeah, we're for peace, but we're scared of the Russians." I answer, "Nobody wants war. Nobody wants to live through the atrocity of war. But nobody wants to do anything for peace...to put in an effort. If you can risk a nuclear war...if you can risk having that many nuclear armaments behind you, well then, you can risk anything. You can even risk to trust the Russians!!

HERizons: What about harassment?

MONIQUE: It did not happen that often. It was bearable. That's what you are there for. You are not there only to talk with nice people...and just have them agree with you. You are not going anywhere if you do only that. The people you have to talk with most, are the people that are aggressive towards you.

I talked to people that were really against us. And sometimes you can talk for half an hour and then they leave more peaceful. They are not as aggressive anymore. They shake your hand. And this is so great when it happens. It's not that common, but it happened.

For sure the longer conversations I had were with people who wanted to argue. And you can learn a lot from those people too. They have a different experience, different fears.

I've never expected someone to change their mind all of a sudden...and say, "Here's a \$20 donation, and give me a petition, I'll sign it." I think the most important thing is to plant a seed in someone's mind. Even if they don't agree with you at first...if it just makes them think about peace, about disarmament. Even if the word "peace" stays in their mind for awhile...it could make them more peaceful with their neighbors. Maybe it just starts that small. But I think that's a lot. ▼



THE FIGHTING DAYS

by Wendy Lill

MARCH 16-APRIL 1

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Panning out Tales on the Gold Rush Trails

Tanya Lester



Public Archives Canada photo

"Stories in this world tell themselves by halves," Faith Fenton, a journalist who covered the Gold Rush in 1898, once wrote. "There is always a silent side and none may know the life of another."

Maybe Fenton was thinking about the time she wrote a story on a hanging while she worked as *The Globe* correspondent in the Yukon. If that prematurely written article had ever reached the Toronto editor's desk, he never would have guessed what was going on in the "silent side" of Fenton's life — not right away anyway.

"The uncertainties attending the outgoing of mail from the Yukon territory between the seasons would be laughable if they were not so provocative of exasperation to the journalist and seeker of 'scoops,'" Fenton later wrote about the hanging article for her *Globe* column.

The murderers' hangings were to take place at 8 o'clock in the morning. But the mail courier had decided to leave at 7 o'clock in the morning. It would be a two

week wait for the next outgoing mail delivery. Fenton wanted the "scoop" on the hangings and the event seemed definitely scheduled to take place. She wrote the story and gave it to the courier. Then, she went back to sleep for an hour.

Fenton was in for a rude awakening. Just before 8 o'clock, someone remembered the day was a saint's day and for that reason the hangings could not take place.

In desperation, Fenton hired a runner who, after several days, caught up with the mail deliverer and retrieved the article.

For \$50 Fenton's reputation as a journalist was saved.

"It was an expensive recall, but the correspondent learned the lesson that even with the death chant ringing and the trench grave dug, with the noose almost about the victim's neck, there is no surety of death," Fenton wrote.

Fenton's reputation as a journalist for the most part, was good. By the time she asked her editor for the assignment to the Gold Rush, Fenton had established herself as a

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"topflight" reporter, columnist, and editor. She had written for the *New York Sun* and the *Toronto Empire* and had sat as editor-in-chief of *The Canadian Home Journal*.

Still, it was unusual (and still is) for a woman journalist to be allowed to travel to a place so isolated and heavily populated with men as the Yukon Gold Rush area.

Fenton convinced her editor that the public was fascinated with the idea of women journalists reporting on masculine events. During the same year, 1898, Kit Coleman caught the public's fancy as the world's first woman war correspondent when she reported on the Spanish-American War for a Toronto newspaper.

The *Globe* publicized Fenton's stories of the Yukon in ways no other journalists enjoyed. Her name appeared even in headlines such as "Faith Fenton pictures Vancouver and the West" and was always prominently displayed around her stories. Sometimes it appeared as an autograph at the end of an article.

It seems the *Globe*, in Fenton's case, did a good job of gauging its readers' interests. "Even many of those who were too young to read her articles remember the excitement with which their elders waited, wide-eyed, for these tales of the great adventure," the newspaper reported years later when Fenton died.

"They were hardly more intrigued by what they actually read than by their imagination of the lone woman writer in the northern wilds. And their imagination did not exaggerate."

Well, maybe "their imagination" did "exaggerate" a little. Although it was true that Fenton was the "lone woman writer" in the Yukon, she was in the company of other women. One of the reasons Fenton's editor agreed to send her to the Yukon was because she had arranged to accompany four Victorian Order nurses.

On May 6, 1898, Fenton and the nurses left on their missions with the Yukon Field Force. The troops were sent by the Canadian government to restore law and order among the men scrambling to make a fortune in the North. "The representatives of the Victorian Order were not idle in the slow journey over the trail," Fenton wrote, fulfilling her obligations to *The Globe*. "Outside the occasional demands of the military hospital, we are rarely a day established in camp anywhere en route without an appeal for help from packer or miner, prostrated by accident, overwork or the careless neglect habitual to a strong man."

Fenton, for the most part, wrote what are known as human interest stories. The articles about scandal and politics on the Gold Rush trail were written by male reporters. Fenton's articles sometimes detailed the lives of the nurses and other women who were part of the Yukon at the

time. In doing so, she recorded the work of these women for history.

"Any woman venturesome enough to join the Klondike gold rush was likely to be quite a handful, not all content with being regarded as a fragile thing, all sighs and sweetness," Richard O'Connor wrote in his book *High Jinks on the Klondike*. "Influenced by the feminist spirit of the times, she was ready to assert her rights as a human being equal if not superior to any male."

Fenton wrote about a woman who accompanied her prospector husband. "One of the pluckiest travellers over the route this season is a little American woman of Scottish descent. She came up over the Stikine River ice in the late winter, in company with her husband, the admiration of every man along the way, by her cheery endurance."

"We have passed and re-passed her several times upon our journey," Fenton wrote, "and have grown quite friendly, so the sun-bonnetted figure is always hailed with pleasure and either tent by the trail side sends forth a genuine woman's invitation to stop and have a cup of tea." Fenton appreciated how important it is for women to get together and talk. She must have felt especially so in the male-dominated life of the Klondike. No doubt the woman prospector felt the same way.

"She is a dignified little body, with the whitest of teeth and a bonnie face full of good sense and kindness, and she can drive a reluctant pack mule as well as any man."

Upon Fenton's death, a woman recalled to a *Globe* reporter a story her mother had told her about Fenton. The woman remembered her mother showing her a picture of the human chain of persons going up an icy slope to a terrifying pass between mountains, the people looking like tiny black dots in the formidable scene. Her mother had explained: "Those specks at the side are men who are falling out; and one of those tiny black specks is Faith Fenton who helped them as a nurse and wrote about the trek."

For some reason, the people who lived through the gold rush period identified with Fenton. Perhaps her appeal was due to the way she was able to draw upon her experience as a fiction writer to describe the new world she witnessed.

"It was as though the day and the world had been newly created on our first morning in this beautiful coast country," Fenton wrote in *Faith Fenton Pictures Vancouver and the West*.

"All of one long day we had travelled through the mountains — those mighty Rocky and Selkirk ranges, concerning which so much has been written, yet of which the half has not and never can be told. Human speech is as the cry of an infant before their unapproachable gran-

deur; they are of the eternal — from everlasting to everlasting — and only by that which is infinite can they be expressed."

During a time when few people were able to travel further than a few miles from their homes, they saw a different part of Canada through the awestruck eyes of Fenton. She humbly described what she saw just as her readers would have if they could have been there.

"It was a journey among the wilds for the first 200 miles with little sign of life or habitation upon the banks, but as we neared the Thirty mile, or Lewis River Junction we caught our first glimpses of the gold quest," Fenton wrote in an article on October 22, 1898.

"Here was a 'claim' staked out on the bank, with a few poplar boughs marking the water boundary. Here was a 'cradle' lying idle, and here a sluice box. Camps grew frequent while picturesque fellows in bright colored jerseys shouted salutations and queries from the banks."

Three months later, Fenton wrote, "The stampede season has opened bravely, and threatens to outstamp that of last year not only in impetuosity but in results. Every few days during the past two weeks men have risen in the night and stolen a ways up and down the river with pack and dog sled and when morning has come others have also arisen and followed them while whispers of 'Where?' and 'How much to the pan?' have passed around."

"While these stampedes partake largely of the nature of a craze, and much ground is staked in the passing excitement that will never be worked, or, indeed, be worth working, there is no doubt that in the present majority of instances the many 'discovery claims' that incite the rush are authentic, and of sufficient richness to justify not merely the passing excitement, but the conviction that the Yukon Territory is richer than we have dreamed."

Not wanting her readers to take her word for it, Fenton interviewed an expert on the subject. "I have greater faith in the wealth of the Yukon today than I had a year ago," Fenton quoted gold commissioner Thomas Fawcett.

After spending several months in the Yukon, other writers might have become too disinterested and homesick to appreciate the events taking place in the Gold Rush. Not Fenton. She had only her pet cat that she had brought with her from Toronto to remind her of home. Nonetheless, she was still able to capture the feel of the Gold Rush and relay it to her readers.

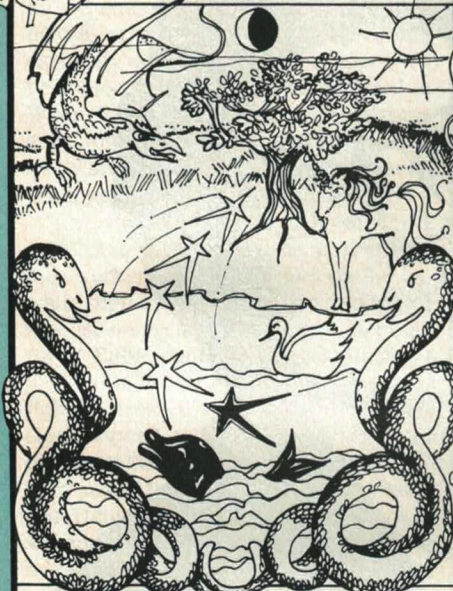
In 1900, Fenton's writing career ended. On New Year's Day, she married a Dr. Brown in a little log church at Dawson. From that time until her death, she seems to have been known as the "wife of Dr. J. N. E. Brown." ▼

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Who or what is, Naiad?
to be continued...

PROFILE

Babs Friesen

One of women's greatest needs is access to information that will end the silence on the status quo. "Much of that information needed to fight issues is in the (YWCA Women's) Resource Centre, and it may be one of the most potent tools for ending the silence for women, because it is assisting women to grow."

Roberta Ellis, Chairperson of the Manitoba Advisory Council on the Status of Women.

It seems that the YWCA's Women's Resource Centre and its volunteer coordinator, Babs Friesen, have always been there. In fact, the centre which celebrated its 10th anniversary last April would not exist today if it weren't for Babs.

That "packrat par excellence", as she has fondly been referred to, has spent years collecting and organizing news clippings, articles and reports on women's issues. Her willingness to share the handle she has on information and her liaison with other women's groups makes Babs herself the centre's greatest resource. Those who have come to rely on her knowledge and expertise speak enthusiastically of Babs' remarkable dedication through the years.

"With the women's movement and its organizations always short of money and resources, people like Babs Friesen are invaluable", says Roberta Ellis.

Social work students referred to the centre for an assignment return to class ecstatic, according to their instructor, Kim Clare. "Here was someone who knew everything, really wanted to help and was really interested in what they were doing."

The modest, quiet-spoken mother of four is the first to aver, of course, that she doesn't know everything. But what this meticulous marvel doesn't know, you can be sure she'll find out. Her guiding principle appears to be that the more people who have access to the information and become educated about women's issues, the further we advance the status of women.

The YW centre, which has always operated on a mini-budget and with much ingenuity, was in the forefront of pioneering self-assertiveness, consciousness-raising and other support groups based on feminist concepts.

Then something happened at the Y. "The philosophy moved into the Y's general programming department, although some would argue that it hasn't had the same thrust since," says Diane deGraves, chairperson of the committee responsible for the establishment of the centre. In spite of budget cuts to the Resource Centre, Babs



remains convinced that the YW is resuming its emphasis on social action and advocacy. It was the YWCA's ability to provide such programs to meet women's needs that

attracted her to the organization over a decade ago.

Back in the early 70's as women began to move into the mainstream, Babs, then a Y Board Member, assessed the services available to meet their needs. A committee representing the YWCA, the National Council of Jewish Women, Junior League of Women and the University Women's Club

by Gerri Thorsteinson

learned that women needed to establish their identity and self-worth in meaningful activities.

Women's lack of information about education, careers and meaningful volunteer opportunities, as well as their feelings about their changing roles, shaped the goals of the centre when it opened in 1973. With trained volunteers on hand, the centre became a place where women could meet and get support.

Like many women, Babs knew all about not being able to choose jobs. She had prepared for a career in the scientific field as a chemist or cytologist. Educated in a private school, she never learned that chemistry and maths were not supposed to be subjects girls should be interested in. When she graduated during the Depression, jobs were scarce. Babs was eventually hired as the first bacteriologist at the Winnipeg General Hospital.

"I earned all of \$125 a month back then," Babs recalls how she marvelled at a co-worker who had trained on the job, while supporting two children and buying a house on even less. Following her marriage Babs continued working as a bacteriologist in a government lab in Halifax "mostly diagnosing VD." Her physician husband, whom she first met as the captain of her university curling team, had been posted there during the second world war. Times were tough for the couple as he struggled to overcome a six year battle with tuberculosis he contracted from a patient on the operating table. Having worked his way through medical school with none of the assistance students receive today and with four children to support, Babs still reacts defensively when she hears complaints about doctors' salaries. The long hours in training and on call, as well as the toll on the health those of her husband's generation still live with, are ignored she said.

Not that Babs didn't know what she was getting into when she became a physician's wife. Her father, a professional engineer, spent much of his time travelling while Babs' mother was responsible for the household and raising two children. So Babs grew up, used to seeing women acting independently and found her mother a valuable role model.

While a homemaker, Babs has always been active in the community as a Community Chest canvasser, a member of the first Y Neighbours group and as "captain on up" in the Girl Guides. Her interests paralleled her children's activities and she found liberation through her volunteer work. She continues as the centre's full time volunteer co-ordinator (not a salaried position since her salary was cut in 1981 due to the Y's retrenchment). As well, she is on her church's Outreach Committee. As well, she is an executive member of the Council

of Women, an umbrella organization of 37 women's groups and has been a resource person for The Fort Garry Women's Resource Centre.

In the hospital setting Babs had always enjoyed the combination of lab work and talking with patients. She says that the people contact is one of the rewards of her volunteer position at the centre. But, like other social service kinds of jobs "you're never totally finished" and as a volunteer she has a hard time saying no, always going the extra mile. A case in point, a friend recalled that Babs was working at the centre till 1:00 a.m. the morning she left on a trip to Africa on behalf of the YW and the Manitoba Council for International Co-operation.

The international aspect of the YWCA, which is the world's largest women's organization, has always been of interest to Babs. She described the 1,000 kilometer trip through Zimbabwe as a "humbling" experience. "They do so much with so little" she said. She visited the site of a sewing factory co-sponsored by the YW where women trained to make school uniforms for local children involved in the country's literacy program. The women also took part in the classes and the men working on construction and making the bricks eventually joined in too. Babs was impressed by the women's warm spontaneity and great spirit of fellowship.

Babs also travelled to South Africa, where she visited Joyce Seroke, the National Secretary of the internationally affiliated YWCA. Here again, the ability to work at the grass roots level with very little impressed Babs. She explains that there is also a satellite YWCA with a large building for white women only. Because of this apartheid policy it is barred from affiliation with the International YWCA.

Even when she is on holiday Babs is not your typical tourist. At the end of a safari trip to Kenya, she was shown through a shanty town factory by a teacher friend in Nairobi on an exchange program. "It's good to have your eyes opened like that," Babs says about her visit to a district most tourists never see.

A "middle of the road" feminist, Babs never stops trying to open others' eyes. She is encouraged by the changes pressed for by women through the years, but says there are still many more to be made. Babs would like to interest younger women "who are leaving university no more enlightened than I was" to many issues. Marriage is still the primary goal of many despite the high divorce rate. How to make them, and women in lower income levels aware of their rights remains a challenge. The grass roots operation of community-based resource centres such as the Y's staffed by caring women like Babs Friesen, may be one way to reach them. ▽

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REVIEWS

Outrageous Acts and Everyday Rebellions

by Marilyn Morton

Gloria Steinem, **Outrageous Acts and Everyday Rebellions**. New York and Toronto: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1983. 370 pp., \$19.95.

GLORIA STEINEM OUTRAGEOUS ACTS AND EVERYDAY REBELLIONS



This first book by Gloria Steinem, feminist organizer, journalist, and co-founder of *Ms.* magazine, is a collection of her essays written over the past twenty years. Two essays are published here for the first time. Throughout the collection, Steinem is shown to be informed, articulate, shrewd, and sensitive to the problems faced by women and men of all races, classes, and age groups.

We learn a little about the author's personal experiences in the essays at the beginning, where she admits to uttering the conventional wisdom about the sexes and depending almost totally on male approval in her "prerealization" days. She writes about an "almost pathological" fear of speaking in public, and about a fear of conflict which still resurfaces from time to time.

One of the essays in this section, "I Was a Playboy Bunny," was written in 1963 after Steinem accepted a journalistic assignment to work as a Bunny and write about her experiences. It reveals the exploitative employment policies of the Playboy Club and its dehumanizing treatment of women.

In a tender piece entitled "Ruth's Song (Because She Could Not Sing It)," Steinem deals with the mystery of her mother's transformation from a spirited, independent woman into someone who was afraid

to be alone, terrified of leaving her home, and unable to maintain her grasp on reality long enough to hold a job.

It is in subsequent sections of the book, however, that the feminist reader will find the most food for thought. The author analyzes a number of topics in depth, sometimes exposing the inconsistencies in generally-accepted arguments, while frequently offering new insights.

In "The Importance of Work," for example, she discusses the ways in which women are made to feel guilty for holding paid jobs and notes that "women-workbecausewehaveto" is the favoured defense. Although this defense is based on fact, she points out that it is also deceptive and by no means a full explanation. She argues convincingly that we must insist that a decent job is a basic human right for everyone, and not a luxury for women affordable only in good economic times.

This economic situation of women is recorded in "The Time Factor," where Steinem notes that the length of time for which one is able to plan ahead is a measure of class or caste. While the rich and even the middle class plan for future generations, the poor can plan only weeks or days ahead. She observes that the short-term planning patterns characteristic of powerlessness are also present in women's personal lives. Even feminist writers and theorists tend to analyze the present and past, and avoid prescribing action for the future. Steinem notes the absence of even a single feminist five-year-plan.

She addresses the issue of sexual politics in an essay on transsexualism, and in "Erotica vs. Pornography," Steinem notes that these two terms are often lumped together because sex and violence are so dangerously associated and confused. "After all," she writes, "it takes violence or the threat of it to maintain the unearned dominance of any group of human beings over another."

Another excellent essay is "Houston and History." Steinem reveals some of the facts which the conventional history books fail to tell us — facts about American laws of the past which denied rights to women, and about our foremothers' fight to change them. She also goes beyond North America to reveal truths about the history of women in other countries and more distant times. She notes that women and racial minorities, particularly black people, have always had many issues in common. We would have been better prepared for the struggles of the current wave of feminism, she observes, if so many of

these facts had not been lost to us.

An outstanding essay entitled "If Hitler Were Alive, Whose Side Would He Be On?" exposes the parallels between present-day anti-abortionists' arguments and Hitler's Nazi doctrine. Hitler opposed contraception and abortion, and advocated a return to strong family life. Steinem points out some alarming similarities between Germany before Hitler's election and the United States today, including, among other things, a period of feminist successes followed by an ultraright-wing backlash. As was the case in Germany, our current anti-equality backlash has the restoration of a male-led, hierarchical family as a major goal. Steinem notes that advocates therefore condemn as "antifamily" any federal guarantee of rights to women or children by the law, including laws against child abuse and funding for battered women's shelters. She provides some amazing examples to prove this.

In "If Men Could Menstruate," (reprinted in *HERIZONS*, July/83) Steinem shows us the kinds of ridiculous arguments that are commonly made to justify the superiority of a "superior" group and to justify the plight of an "inferior" one when she turns the tables and describes the enviable, prestigious event that menstruation would become if men could menstruate.

Steinem provides some suggestions for individual, group, and strategic action in the final essay of the book. For example, she suggests that we as individuals should write five letters a week to lobby, criticize or praise anything from politicians to TV shows, and should give 10 per cent of our incomes to social justice. Many of the suggestions are practical ones that may motivate us to act. One wishes, however, that Steinem had taken her own advice and had explored the topic of strategies at greater length.

There is much more in this book. Although Steinem deals with a number of complex issues, she always develops her arguments in such a way that they are simple to understand. Like other good books which deal with the status of women, this one causes us to feel a mixture of anger and frustration. We feel angry with the injustices of the prevailing sexual caste system and the exploitation of women that it gives rise to. At the same time we are frustrated when we glimpse the enormity of this system and its resistance to change. But a writer such as Gloria Steinem may be able to make our anger overcome our despair, causing us to go out and fight for the very change that is so elusive. ▽

REVIEWS

The Hearts of Men

Pity poor men! Cast by mid-20th century patriarchy into enslavement on the breadwinner treadmill, the hearts of men longed for the song of the open road.

Bravo courageous men! Avoiding the certain death of stress-related heart attacks at age 45, men's hearts embraced Hugh Hefner's delectable dream of two chicks in every bed.

Pity poor men! Hearts open, their revolt against marriage over as quickly as a one-night stand, why are the lives of so many red-blooded males so empty?

In *The Hearts of Men*, (Anchor Press, Doubleday) Barbara Ehrenreich discusses the rocky road that led to "men's liberation" — something she seems to think is a fact of life in the 1980s. But she leaves her readers wondering what she has in mind, what point she is trying to make, when she launches herself and us into this exploration of the last three decades inside the North American male's collective psyche.

Too much of what she says in this book — which is well-researched and written with a witty punch — makes her sound like an apologist for the gender which, after all, has pulled the strings and built the consumer society we live in. She doesn't acknowledge that it was patriarchal fervor which established the nuclear family feifdom that was the norm during the post-war years. She forgets it was men who decided the homes they had fought so lovingly for in war would be their castles, complete with a smiling queen and children who had nicknames like "princess" in the TV sitcoms of the day.

Instead, Ehrenreich goes to great lengths to show us how this American male dream has backfired. In the process, she dredges up examples from the literature and magazines of the day which portray women as nagging, materialistic wives — the "enforcers" of middle-class consumerism. In those days, (the early 1950s and into the 1960s), women were just beginning to struggle against oppressive domesticity. Ehrenreich ignores the fact that before that struggle began in earnest, we continued to uphold the status quo and demanded, quite rightly, that men do their part. But by showing the "male revolt" against the breadwinner role as a sign of healthy male development, she twists history around and portrays men as the ones seeking justified liberation — from women.

Once she gets started, Ehrenreich can't stop. Although her prose is eminently readable and entertaining, it contains no

Debra Pilon

analysis. She presents events in a compressed, almost journalistic chronology, describing in great detail further signposts of male liberation: beats and hippies, followed by a move to androgyny, made conveniently acceptable for heterosexual males because they simultaneously sanctioned male homosexuality. (We're talking now about *politically aware and understanding men*.)

After dabbling for a bit in a chapter called "Backlash" which deals with right-wing reaction to both feminism and male liberation, Ehrenreich concludes women must extend the olive branch to men. The only way we, as a species, can survive nuclear annihilation and/or the continued breakdown of family life is to work together for a better world.

"If the male revolt has roots in a narcissistic consumer culture, it is equally rooted in the tradition of liberal humanism that inspires feminism," she writes. "Roles, after all are not fit aspirations for

adults, but the repetitive performances of people who have forgotten that it is only other people who write the scripts."

"...Traditional masculinity, as the men's liberationists argue, is a particularly strenuous act, and as feminists have concluded, it is an act which is potentially hazardous even to bystanders."

Ehrenreich says she is a feminist. She describes herself as someone whose "own utopian visions are far more socialistic, more democratic at every level of dialogue and decision-making, more 'disorderly... than anything that would normally be described as a welfare state'". She is the co-author, with Deirdre English of *Witches, Midwives and Nurses, Complaints and Disorders* and has written articles which appeared in *Ms.*, *Mother Jones* and the *New York Review of Books*.

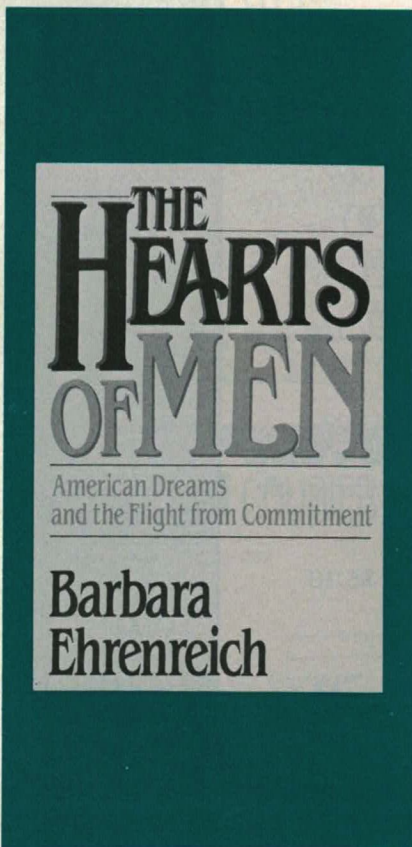
Her credentials are impressive and she seems to have written this book to her sisters, to ask us not to turn our backs on our brothers.

"Then, finally, I would hope that we might meet as rebels together — not against each other but against a social order that condemns so many of us to meaningless or degrading work in return for a glimpse of commodified pleasures, and condemns all of us to the prospect of mass annihilation."

She would have us believe that men's hearts are, after all, in the right place. She would have us believe that men's struggles against work, marriage and life in the fast-lane over the last three decades have been for the good of everyone, that women are to be the beneficiaries of these "new men" and their nurturing, non-sexist mentalities. She urges us to remove our blinders and to see men as companions in struggle if life on the planet is to survive.

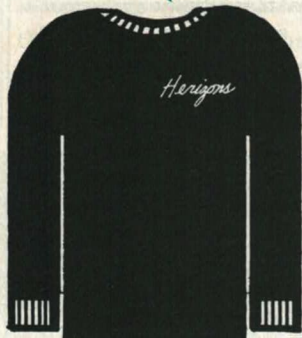
Ehrenreich seems to think women have been struggling "alone" and it is time, now, for men and women to struggle together. But women have not been "alone". We have been together and we have a long way to go together — with other women. We do not need to measure ourselves against men in the grand scheme of things — at least not yet. Even if we were to try to do so, would men measure up?

My heart must be a cold one for I do not see her prescription for the future as a stimulating or realistic one. Women have come too far, I think, to accept some platitudes about men's open hearts as good enough reasons for a melding of the genders' energies for the common good. ▽





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MS PURDY'S Women's Club is looking for female musicians, poets, storytellers; mimes, theatrewomen etc... if you are interested in performing at Ms Purdy's phone Louise at 783-4900.

HELPING OURSELVES: A Handbook for Women Starting Groups is an easy-to-use practical book for women who want to share and solve problems with other women. It is published by the Women's Counselling Referral and Education Centre of Toronto, a non-profit organization committed to providing alternative mental health services for women. The book costs \$5. write to: W.C.R.E.C., 348 College Street, Toronto M5T 1S4.

MENOPAUSE SUPPORT GROUPS meet every second Tuesday 7-9 p.m. at the Women's Health Clinic, 304 - 414 Graham Avenue. We provide an atmosphere of openness, support, and sharing information about menopause. Call 947-1517.

WORKSHOPS AT THE YW — Human sexuality, the myths and the facts — February 17 & 18; Foot Reflexology: a new experience in relaxation — March 16 & 17; Confidence Building, Level 2 — March 9 & 10. For information or registration, drop in or call YW, Colony at Ellice, 943-0381.

UNEMPLOYED TRADESWOMEN: The Workers' Information Program is a new program to provide unemployed United Steelworkers of America and other unemployed workers with job placements, counselling, and referrals to other agencies concerning unemployment-related problems. Current listings include: Finish Spray Painters; Foundry workers, Courier driver; Hoistperson; Diamond Drillers; Miners; Air Conditioning and Ventilation Mechanic; Electronics Techni-

cian; and Shipper/Receiver/Storeperson. Phone 783-7681, Workers' Information Program, 303 - 570 Portage Ave., Winnipeg.

OHoyo RESOURCE CENTRE (Ohoyo means women in the Choctaw language) in Wichita Falls works to increase the visibility of Native American women leaders. They published "OHoyo 1,000" which has info on women affiliated with 231 tribes and bands. The Centre's address is 2301 Midwestern Parkway, Suite 214, Wichita Falls, TX 73608 (817) 692-3841.

A WOMEN'S PAVILION is planned for the Louisiana World Exposition from May - November 1984. It will celebrate women's achievements in the home, workplace, government, science, sports, arts, and education. For input or information write Women in the Mainstream, Box 828, St. Mary's Dominican College, 7214 St. Charles Ave., New Orleans, LA 70118 (504) 861-4588.

FAMILY LIFE winter courses: The Adoptive Family — February 7, 14, 21, 28 from 8 - 10 p.m.; Living With Your Teenager: Parent Survival Techniques — February 15, 22, 29, March 7 from 7 - 9 p.m.; Merging Families for Step-parents — mid Feb. to mid March. Cost of course \$25 per couple; \$18 per person. For registration contact the River Heights Family Life Education Centre, 621 Oxford Street, Winnipeg R3M 3J3 (204) 452-1742.

GIOVANNI'S ROOM Restaurant/Cabaret for the lesbian/gay community would like to invite anyone with a positive approach toward lesbians and gay men to enjoy their restaurant and lounge at 277 Sherbrook St., Winnipeg. Dinner service between 5:30 - 9:00 p.m., Monday thru Saturday; Happy Hour 5:30 - 7:30 with domestic beer and bar brands of liquor at \$1.25. Weeknights after 8 p.m. and Friday and Saturday all evening there is a \$2 guest charge or you can take out a \$10/yr. membership instead. Hope to see you at Giovanni's Room soon!

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SATIRICALLY YOURS

Open Shop an Invitation to Robbery

A judge in Toronto sentenced a man to 10 years for robbing a bakery shop. The judge said he regretted that he couldn't put the thief away for life. "I'd like to make an example of you," said the judge, "in order to show that ordinary people in this country have the right to go about their business without fear of violence."

A noble sentiment, judge but what about the baker? How can you be sure that he did not invite the robbery? It is quite possible that the robber honestly believed the baker consented to the act of theft.

If the baker didn't want to be robbed, why is his shop in an urban area and why was he open on a Friday evening? Everyone knows that urban streets are dangerous, especially after dark. Why didn't this baker have his shop in a safe, well lit mall? Why wasn't he safe at home with his wife and children? What kind of family man is not at home on a Friday night? At the very least, the baker is guilty of indiscretion and a lack of common sense.

The picture in the paper shows an attractive bakery shop with all sorts of goodies in the window. Pies, cookies and cakes, some with bright icing, are on display for everyone to see. Attractive bakery shop windows are surely a come-on to a potential robber. If the baker didn't want to be robbed, he would have dressed his window in a decorous manner designed to inspire respect, not larcenous thoughts.

The baker did not put up a fight. There wasn't a mark on him. Not only that, he didn't argue, run, scream or even try to reason with the robber. He says the thief threatened him. He says he was scared. He says he believed the robber would injure him. But, there were no other customers in the store at the time of the robbery. We have only the baker's word that the robber threatened him. We have only the baker's word that he did not consent to the robbery. We have only the baker's word that he did not hand over his cakes and money of his own free will.

It is possible that the baker initially agreed to give the robber what he wanted and later changed his mind. The thief lives nearby and had been in the shop many times, so it's easy to imagine the scene. "Look", said the robber, "you know me. I'm a nice guy and I really like you. How about giving me some of those cakes and cookies and a bit of your money while you're at it?"

The baker agreed, but later regretted his impulse. Perhaps he was afraid that his friends and relatives would find out and

Lyn Cockburn

ridicule him, so he hollered "Help, robbery!" and the "robber" got 10 years.

That so-called robber needs a new

lawyer, one who will move for a mistrial on the grounds that any baker who opens his shop at night in an urban area, displays cakes with provocative icing and doesn't put up a fight, invites and maybe even enjoys robbery.

I think the thief honestly believed the baker consented to the act of robbery. ▽

Attention Readers

We need your input! Response to our marketing survey in our November issue has been overwhelming, and we are still compiling statistics on HERizons' readership.

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Estate Planning

What is Estate Planning?

To many of you, estate planning may suggest nothing more than a plan to dictate the means of disposing of your property upon death. However, estate planning encompasses so much more. In a broad sense, all steps taken during your lifetime to accumulate and preserve your assets form part of an estate plan.

Essentially, there are three components to estate planning; investment planning, tax planning and retirement planning. There is a great deal of interplay between these components and none of these should be viewed in isolation. Your investment decisions will affect the amount of capital you are able to accumulate over your lifetime. In making these investment decisions, the tax ramifications often become an important factor and may influence your ultimate decisions. The nature and amount of investments you make may also be affected by the estimate of your retirement needs. In addition, providing for your retirement may be tax motivated. For example, you may purchase a Registered Retirement Savings Plan in order to reduce your current tax bill.

Initial Considerations

The first step in establishing your estate plan is to set out the objectives of your plan. This may not be a simple task since some of your objectives may conflict with each other, and trade-offs will have to be made. The following are some of the more common objectives to be considered:

1. Selection of Beneficiaries

The selection of your beneficiaries is one of the most crucial aspects of estate planning. Not only must you determine who they are to be and what you want them to receive, but you must also determine whether or not they are to remain beneficiaries under all circumstances. For



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

example, will a subsequent marriage, break up of a marriage, or the attainment of a certain age affect the status of a beneficiary?

2. Minimization of Taxes

As Quebec is the only province that still levies succession duties and gift taxes, the primary focus in this area is on income taxation. Ideally, the goal of an estate plan should be either to defer the incidence of tax as long as possible, or to shift the income to another person so that the yearly tax bite is lower than it might be if taxed in your hands. This is the area which causes the most trade-offs to be made. Questions must be answered such as: (1) Do I want to forego income or control over my assets during my lifetime for the sake of minimizing taxes?, or (2) Do I want to leave a certain asset to someone even though it may result in a large tax bill upon my death which would not result if left to someone else? For example, if you leave shares in a corporation to a trust for your spouse, the income tax on any accrued gains on these shares at the time of your death will not have to be paid until

your spouse sells the shares. However, if these same shares are left to your niece, any accrued gains will be taxed on your final income tax return.

3. Planning for Retirement

A good estate plan should ensure that your needs are adequately met during your retirement years. This involves determining what those needs are, who is dependent upon you during that time, what are your sources of retirement income, and in what country do you plan to retire.

4. Provision for Liquidity

You should ensure that your estate includes sufficient liquid assets to meet any cash requirements that may arise upon your death. The acquisition of life insurance is a common means of providing adequate cash flow.

To illustrate, assume that your death triggered a sizeable tax liability, and in addition you bequeathed a sum to your favorite charity. If all that your estate owns are assets such as stocks, bonds and real property, your estate may have to sell these assets to obtain the cash to settle these obligations. Alternatively, if your estate was the beneficiary of a life insurance policy, this would provide the needed source of cash.

When Should I Begin?

The best time to begin an estate plan is when you are young so that the decisions you make will be consistent with your overall objectives. However, it is when you are young that the idea of estate planning seems so remote. Your energy and resources are focused on more immediate concerns such as establishing and maintaining a household.

Therefore, you may want to start with the basic elements of a plan. At a minimum, you should have a will in place and sufficient insurance to meet your needs or those of your family should you die suddenly or become disabled. ▽

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POETRY

BREAKING CHIMES

*The beginning took place
while digging the garden*

*Covered in mud roots
dangled from her arms
She felt ants crawling
A buzz tickled her ears
made her scream breaking
the glass chimes*

*It is tranquilizing
to watch a pattern of leaves
through large windows
of a white stationwagon
A shower of seeds falling
from the row of Chinese elms*

© Jacqui Smyth

22 YEARS

*Those 22 years of marriage—
how come so many of them
were odd years?
That is, not even,
not equal—like 22?*

*Now that we have learned that
2 equals 2—no catch —
I'm not daunted by
23s, kiddo,
nor by additions to
either column—
as long as they are
side by side*

©Julia Van Gorder

DANCE FLOOR

*There in that wild crowd
Fantasy faces
Bobbing in metallic glamour
Bodies in rhythm
Bodies in search of an embrace.*

*Many sullen sunken eyes
Unsmiling nervous mouths
Make-up by Coty.*

*Leave me alone
It is not my dream.*

©Alethea Lahofer

EDITORIAL

The Saga of the CRTC Sellout

Penni Mitchell

The first anniversary of pay television in Canada came and went in February, and while many of us spent the preceding months trying to predict whether the event would be a wake or a birthday celebration, the Canadian Radio Television and Communications Commission (CRTC) made sure that the industry had something to celebrate. Early in January the commission announced that it would go easy on regulations for the "fragile" industry and that pornography and other forms of abusive programming would continue to be free from regulation — pending a Department of Justice review of its proposed restrictions on such programming.

It was exactly one year ago that First Choice announced its deal with Playboy and the CRTC vowed to do little in the way of regulating the porn movies. Women protested the deal across the country. A few months later, MP Lynn McDonald introduced a private member's bill into the

House of Commons to amend the Broadcast Act so that programming which was abusive to women would be prohibited, in addition to programming currently prohibited if it is abusive on the basis of race, religion or creed. Her bill didn't get the tri-party support it needed and the matter was referred to a committee instead. Then Justice Minister Mark McGuigan announced that he supported changes to the Criminal Code which would include degradation as an element of pornography, but we still have yet to see anything concrete on the lawbooks. Now the overcautious Liberal government is testing the waters again, this time with a commission travelling across the country to seek community input on pornography and prostitution. Women making presentations to the Fraser Commission have been communicating their frustrations at the federal government's refusal to make any concrete changes regarding pornography. Some have said that the commission appears to be no more than a sounding board, where people can vent their frustrations and be brushed aside and forgotten. They point out that the CRTC hasn't implemented the recommendations of its task force made public almost a year ago regarding images of women in broadcasting. Because of this mounting frustration, women again took to the streets to protest the selling of their dignity for the supposed good of the pay t.v. industry, on January 18.

Women's objections of pornography are not directed at sexual explicitness, but at the masochistic brand of pornography which makes women victims of sexual aggression and humility. Movies such as *Cheerleaders*, shown on First Choice, in which a young adolescent girl seeks out sexual assault by a group of men and thoroughly enjoys the experience, are not about healthy sexuality, about love or even caring. They create an atmosphere where men can dominate women and children through sex. Pornography is about silencing women (literally through bondage, gags, whips, blindfolds) and about degrading them (through rape or by portraying them as desiring or deserving of rape). We are further silenced as we are seen only from a male fantasy perspective, as weak, sexual objects to be used, manipulated, conquered and if necessary destroyed. Pornography with its overtones of violence and domination also censors out love, caring and mutual sexual compassion. It leaves women to cope with a chilling and degrading lie about their

function and their value. If the scenes of degradation and torture in pornography had as their victims members of a racial or religious group, it would constitute hate propaganda. However, inciting hatred against women has come to be reckoned by some as their inalienable right.

But what about our rights as women?

The CRTC move not only constitutes moral bankruptcy, but defies marketing logic as well. The assumption that the saleability of pornography is the answer to pay t.v.'s problems is a gross oversight on the part of a commission which has traditionally been out of step with the realities of the broadcast industry.

Pay t.v. is failing for many reasons, but most of them have to do with consumer demand, not an unsatiated national desire to see women, children and other minorities portrayed in an abusive manner. Unlike viewers in the United States, Canadians with regular monthly cable service, or a communal satellite dish, already have at least a dozen channels to choose from. And aside from the zeal of a few Canuck entrepreneurs, there hasn't been a widespread demand for Canadian pay t.v. of the (poor) quality and (high) cost presently being offered in most Canadian regions. A Gallup poll last spring found that 75 per cent of Canadians were "not too interested" or "not interested at all" in pay t.v.

The business people who misread the market, thinking they could easily duplicate the profitability of pay t.v. in the U.S. (\$3 billion worth) should not be rewarded with a licence to show even more exploitive programming. If the industry can't make it on quality, then pay t.v. has defied the logic that established pay television in the first place, which was to support our lagging film industry and boost the quality of Canadian programming.

As a regulatory body of pay t.v., the CRTC has so far taken no initiatives which would suggest that it takes its role seriously.

The fact that the human rights and dignities of minorities are only affordable when the broadcast industry isn't selling them out illustrates that our illusory democracy isn't a bastion of freedoms for the oppressed and under privileged. It only ensures the freedom of the already powerful broadcast industry to exploit those whose rights are not *worth* protecting.

Knowing that the ailing pay t.v. industry is trying desperately to keep itself afloat is a poor excuse for the CRTC to opt for minimal regulations, especially in the area of pornography, racism and sexism. The rights of minorities to be free from abusive programming cannot be sold, but should be firmly entrenched in the Broadcast Act and seriously enforced by the CRTC. ▽

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OFFER**

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**Register
NOW**

All used cars and trucks are fully reconditioned and safety checked and carry Midway's 24 month warranty.



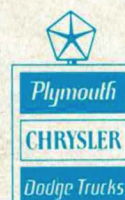
All used cars and trucks are fully reconditioned and safety checked and carry Midway's 24 month warranty.

If you don't know who I am,
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I'm interested in, and don't
take me seriously ... what
makes you think you'll sell
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At Midway...we don't take things lightly.
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