

PRIORITIES

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Economic Survival The Issues Affecting Women



- *Right Wing Economics*
- *Nurses and Garment Workers Fight Back*
- *Obstacles to Economic Equality:*

Sexual Harassment

Inadequate Daycare

Unpaid Labour at Home

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

—NDP Policy on Women's Rights

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Women Candidates: Winning New Support for NDP

Joan Smallwood, Surrey-Guildford-Whalley

by Sharon Shniad

More women than ever before in our party's history have won provincial nominations in winnable ridings. Yet, like the men who held office before them, most are professional women: lawyers, small business women, real estate agents, college teachers, social workers. It seems as rare as ever for working-class women to represent our party, the party of "ordinary working people."

One happy exception is North Surrey candidate Joan Smallwood. Joan has demonstrated that it is possible for an ordinary woman and a feminist to win a nomination with the support of a network of dedicated women and men within the constituency. Yet, without the financial resources which may be available to middle-class women, the personal cost can be high. And, the problems encountered by women identified as feminists are not insignificant. Joan's experience can provide encouragement to other potential women candidates as well as pinpoint some

areas of likely difficulty.

Joan is a veteran of "kitchen table politics." She first became politically active when she and her husband moved their young family to a rural area of Surrey. When a developer decided to locate an industrial park in the neighborhood, Joan and her neighbors led a successful campaign to stop the development. Over coffee at her kitchen table, they planned marches, demonstrations, and peti-



tion drives. One thing led to another, and she became president of her local community association, helped to design an official community plan, and became well-known in Surrey as a strong advocate for local decision-making and broader environmental issues.

Her community activism provided the challenge she had been lacking as a salesclerk at Eaton's where she had chafed under management's sexism, favouritism and arbitrary exercise of power. But her activism put her on a collision course with Surrey's former football play mayor, Don Ross (ironically now her Liberal opponent for MLA).

Fortunately, she found new allies among some of Surrey's New Democrats who were supportive of her efforts and introduced her to party politics. Feeling she could be more effective working with an organization of like-minded people, Joan joined the party. Because she believed strongly that elected officials should be accountable for their actions, she helped establish "Citizens for a Better Surrey," an independent group of NDP members committed to applying party principles at the municipal level. Joan ran for Surrey council twice under

Eileen Robinson, Okanagan South.



Photo by Dragi Photo Studio

I moved to Kelowna from Suffield, Alberta some 18 years ago. When I moved here, I vowed I would not get involved in politics, but would seek the "good life" —quietly!! I had worked myself into a lot of hot water in Alberta, mainly because of my outrage at the injustices I saw happening all about me under the guise of "Defence Research." I opened my big mouth and got my head chopped off, along with my husband's job.

So we came to beautiful Kelowna ("Lotus Land"), BUT, we came to the wrong city and the wrong province for me to remain uninvolved. You can have the "good life" here

IF you keep your eyes shut, your ears shut and of course your mouth shut... Trouble is you have to open your eyes and look at yourself in a mirror sooner or later.

My progression into provincial and federal politics has been slow but steady and picking up pace the last 3 years. My first step locally was to organize and head up a residents' association in our neighbourhood. Success came with many hours of (unpaid) work and rallying the troops constantly. We came from all political stripes, mostly Conservative and Socred, but we worked together for a common goal: our neighbourhood. I ran, unsuccessfully, for City Council and rea-

Smallwood continued

this banner and has continued to work within the party for policy which would encourage constituencies to run officially as the NDP in municipal elections.

Empowering people

An old saw says that party politics can't work at the municipal level. But Joan has come to view community level organizing as the key to empowering people to make political and economic changes in their lives. The community is the level where you can move people from political apathy to involvement, the level where women can gain the political skills they need to be leaders federally and provincially. Ultimately, she sees NDP strength at the municipal level as the key to the long-term success and staying power of the NDP.

As Joan's network of contacts expanded, she discovered the Provincial NDP's Women's Rights Committee. Here she found a group of women who shared her anger about the status of women in our society, who shared her aspirations for

women, and who were a treasure house of knowledge.

She was asked to chair the WRC's Childcare Subcommittee and help develop policy on the issue. The resulting NDP childcare policy represented an important step forward in the fight to secure quality universal daycare because it called for delivery of service through the Ministry of Education rather than Human Resources. Instead of a childminding



Joan Smallwood discusses transit levy with bus drivers.

service for the poor, Early Childhood Education was to be the model.

When new technologies began to be glorified by the Socreds as the panacea for B.C.'s employment problems, Joan led the WRC's push at convention for a full-fledged party task force to study the impact of technological change and became its first chair.

At the 1982 party convention, Joan was elected chair of the WRC. During

her term of office, prostitution became a thorny issue and the committee worked with the Alliance or the Safety of Prostitutes toward a solution.

Feminist social & economic agenda

When the party undertook to choose a new leader following the 1983 electoral defeat, Joan played a major role in encouraging the WRC to run a woman candidate for leader as a means of putting forward a feminist social and economic agenda. She then helped organize WRC support for the committee's candidate, Margaret Birrell, during the contest that followed.

At the 1984 leadership convention, Joan was elected fourth vice president of the party with the support of the WRC. With this position came the responsibility for organizing and chairing regional economic conferences. In her travels around B.C. with the Technological Change Task Force and later the Regional Conferences, Joan confirmed a belief she had held since her municipal work days. Again and again she

found that ordinary people had the experience and expertise to solve the problems facing our province. The role of government, she felt, was to provide communities with the resources and organizational tools to carry out their ideas.

As the party began to look towards the next election, Joan decided to seek the nomination in the newly-created riding of Surrey-Guildford-Whalley. Joan won the nomination over long-time Surrey alderman, Bill Fomich. Since becoming a candidate, Joan has observed some positive changes for women within the riding. But a few problems and difficulties have also emerged.

For example, one of the dilemmas a woman candidate may face is the pressure to assure voters that she is not a threat, despite a feminist reputation. Joan winces at campaign literature which reports that she has been married to her telephone worker husband, Larry, for 17 years and that she has two children. Yet, experience has also demonstrated to her that showing herself to be an ordinary woman like her neighbours

is an important part of raising feminist issues effectively and of changing people politically.

Joan tells the story of the very traditional wife of a progressive Indo-Canadian leader in Surrey who seemed to view her husband's female political colleagues as strange creatures who did not adhere to any of the rules that governed her own life. The culture gap between Indian and non-Indian women members of the riding seemed very hard to cross.

One day, however, when Joan commented at a community picnic that she had finally finished planting her vegetable garden, the Sikh woman blurted out in surprise, "You have a garden too?" A similar incident occurred when an older woman in the riding was amazed to discover that Joan, like herself, knits. Finally these women saw they had something in common with Joan. And perhaps with barriers lowered a bit they will come to see that Joan's feminist ideas come from life experiences not unlike their own.

Another problem for women candidates is money. To be a full-time

Robinson continued

lized that I needed a political home. That home was the New Democratic Party. I voted Liberal (once) in New Brunswick, before the NDP organized there. I could feel my hand shake and as I "placed my x" I felt a thunderbolt would strike me down.

South Okanagan has suffered under the Social Credit Government.

There is high unemployment, underemployment, environmental pollution and a growing crisis in education with schools closing down. The health care system is an issue, given the dismal situation with overcrowding and long waiting lists even for lifesaving operations at the Kelowna General Hospital. A few weeks ago we had a desperate call from a family because their daughter had been diagnosed as having uterine cancer and was waiting for an operation. I found out from the hospital that she was down

on the "Elective Surgery" list.

We have been working hard for months waiting for the election and find that we have reached an organizational state never achieved here before. We had Bennett firmly in our sights, then the target moved off and QUIT!!! The news was greeted here with mixed feelings, relief he will soon be gone and yet frustration because we knew we could take him out.

Some workers have taken the summer off but a few of us slog on. My life is presently totally immersed in the New Democratic Party. I am President of the Okanagan South Constituency Association, B.C. Rep on the Participation of Women Committee (federal), and this puts me on the provincial executive. Also I am one of the candidates in what has now become a double-member riding and this sometimes causes problems.

I am running because I believe I can make a difference, and that we

need women with feminist ideals sitting in the Legislature and Parliament.

We must all work together to get more feminist women elected. We must walk the halls of power with the men and be part of the decision-making process if we are ever to hope to achieve equality. Some male candidates are working for women's issues, but women have to be there to champion the issues for women who can't fight for themselves. Women are losing ground in today's society and we must never be lulled into treading softly so that we might keep what we have achieved. It is a constant fight now just to keep what we have already won.

My main struggle in the coming months will be to convince the Party and the members in Okanagan South that we can win and that we will win. ♀

Adrienne Peacock, Vancouver Little Mountain

by Miriam Sobrino

Adrienne Peacock has a PhD in zoology from the University of British Columbia. She was a consultant to the Peace Valley Environmental Association during BC Hydro's Site C hearings. She now works in the biology department at Douglas College.

Adrienne Peacock has taken on a challenge. She is out to beat Grace McCarthy in the next provincial election. She is out to win with the Skelly team.

When she acted as co-chair for the Bob Skelly leadership campaign Adrienne was convinced that Skelly could lead the province away from economic disaster. She decided to run in Vancouver Little Mountain because she has ideas on how to serve her constituents and she wants the chance to put her ideas into practice.



Adrienne Peacock with Bob Skelly

Sitting in a small, busy committee room, Adrienne has taken time off to be interviewed. She has three appointments today and will be out canvassing later this afternoon. She would like to meet every single voter in Little Mountain. She knows that if she takes the time to talk about the futility of the government's policies and the fact that nothing will change under a new Socred leader, she can convince some that the New

Democrats are the only alternative.

Adrienne's experience in active environmental groups like SPEC and the West Coast Environmental Law Association has given her a high profile in the fight to save BC's resources.

"The government's policies on the environment have turned BC into a reservoir for the creation of foreign jobs," she says. "The government continues to develop huge megapro-

Smallwood continued

candidate, Joan resigned from her community development job at Langley Community Services. But as the next election is postponed by the Socreds again and again, being a full-time candidate becomes harder and harder. In North Surrey, the constituency executive, backed up by the membership, was committed to the principle that if we wanted a woman candidate and if we wanted a candidate who could relate to the working people of our riding, we would have to put our money where our mouths were. Gasoline and childcare expenses mount rapidly for a working candidate. Even the cost of keeping a pavement-pounding candidate in shoes is considerable.

A women candidates' fund

Yet, in a low-income constituency, this level of candidate support is hard to maintain over the long haul, particularly with other pre-election expenses pressing. This is where the building of a provincial women candidates' fund becomes so important. A woman candidate can then bring money into a riding instead of com-

peting for limited funds with other necessary pre-election expenses.

One of the greatest benefits of having a feminist as a candidate is that capable women within the constituency are being encouraged to develop new skills. While women often do the bulk of constituency association work, they are not as often tapped for leadership roles. In North Surrey, leaflet design was tackled by a young woman with no such experience, a lifelong Surrey resident and mother of four young sons whose aspiration is to finish her nursing training. So successful was her simple, straightforward approach to pamphlet writing that it was adopted in its entirety by another candidate who changed only the name and photographs.

Another success has been an increasing interest among the membership in winning an MLA's position not as a job for an individual but as a vehicle for the party, a way we can help our community solve its own problems and build pride in its own identity.

The constituency has begun to

put this model into practice. Recently a 59-year-old Surrey woman called wanting help. She was on welfare. After paying rent and Hydro, she had only \$47 on which to feed herself for a month. The recent hike in the transit levy meant she no longer had enough money left to take the bus to the Surrey foodbank. Joan's response was to put the woman to work helping to solve the problem. Together they contacted others in the Lower Mainland working on the transit levy issue and set up "The Citizens' Coalition on Affordable Transit."

As this article is written, North Surrey NDP members are out greeting early morning bus commuters with petitions and literature on the unfair transit levy. The response from the community has been phenomenal. As one woman declared, "I've never voted NDP before, but if you people keep doing this kind of work, I'm with you all the way!"

To volunteer or send donations to Joan's campaign, call 581-8989 or write Ste. #1 - 14655 - 108th Avenue, Surrey, B.C. ♀

Peacock continued

jects ostensibly to create jobs for British Columbians, but invariably jobs and profits go south. All we're left with are stripped mountainsides and polluted rivers."

Adrienne acted as consultant to the Peace Valley Environmental Association during the BC Utilities Commission Site C dam hearings. She conducted research on the repercussions of damming the Peace River on agriculture, forestry, fisheries and tourism. By carefully outlining the negative impact such a dam would have on the economy and the environment, Adrienne helped to build a successful case against the Site C dam. She took the concerns of the community to the media, appearing on television and radio as well as writing a weekly newspaper column. Her group had such an effect that the project was cancelled, saving British Columbians 3.2 billion dollars.

Now the Socred government is choosing to ignore the findings of

the BC Utilities Commission hearings. In June, the premier announced that BC Hydro and several American utility companies had agreed to a first step toward developing the Site C dam to export power to the United States.

"After 11 months of hearings, the Commission ruled that BC Hydro's studies were not good enough to go ahead with the project. Now the Socreds are asking the people of this province to trust BC Hydro."

Adrienne knows the obstacles that lie in the way of stopping BC Hydro but she is not afraid to take this and other issues head on. She will do everything she can to make sure BC doesn't give away its precious resources. And she wants people to have a say in what happens to their communities.

Another issue that concerns Adrienne is health care. As a former nurse who has worked in England, Nigeria and Canada, Adrienne has a good understanding of the options

available to governments. She is skeptical of the Socred approach which she feels has caused a deterioration of medical and preventative health services in BC.

"This government believes that by curing the sick, you're doing all that can be done in terms of health care. As usual, they're trying to solve long-term problems with short-term solutions."

Adrienne's work in the health and education systems provide her with first-hand knowledge of the negative effects of the Social Credit policy of underfunding these important services in the name of "restraint."

As a feminist and a scientist, Adrienne has a special sensitivity to the problems of working women. She, too, has felt those pressures experienced by women in male-dominated fields of work. While at UBC she organized a Women in Science group and was an early member of the Society for Canadian Women in Science and Technology.

**Darlene Marzari,
Vancouver Point Grey**



Photo by Pat Higinbotham

by Catherine Kerr with Joanne Lee

On May 11, on its first ballot, the nominating meeting of Vancouver-Point Grey chose Darlene Marzari to represent the NDP in the next provincial election.

Adrienne is proud to be one of many women candidates representing the NDP in the next provincial election.

"This is just a start," she asserts. "There really is a commitment to getting more women into the legislature. We can't turn back now. The party can't ignore the commitment we've made to getting more women into crucial areas of decision making and political representation."

As chair of the outreach committee set up by the NDP Women's Rights Committee, Adrienne coordinated the collection of party policy on women's issues into a comprehensive handbook.

"The party has strong policies on women's issues. It's up to us to get out there and tell women what they are. In the next election women's concerns will be a priority. Women have been ignored by government too long. If women's issues are not addressed, that means everyone's issues are not being addressed." ♀

As a member of the Vancouver City Council from 1973 to 1980, Darlene became acquainted with every public interest group in Vancouver. "Any citizens' group that needed help could count on Darlene," in the words of current mayoral assistant Jane MacDonald. Since retiring from City Council, Darlene has continued community work as a director of Vancouver City Savings Credit Union, the B.C. Central Credit Union and the Social Policy and Research Council of B.C.

Darlene Marzari trained in social work at the University of British Columbia and social policy development at the London School of Economics. She has also owned and managed her own business.

Priorities: In your nomination speeches a strong theme was the importance of regional planning and local development. Then when you talked about yourself, you defined yourself as a committee person dedicated to incremental change. How do you see using your big-picture perspective along with your committee experience when you work in Caucus and in the legislature?

Darlene Marzari: First, Caucus is a committee, a committee of either opposition or government. Setting priorities, establishing goals, looking at policies and developing action strategies is basically a committee process. I can bring people together to get things done.

Building a moving train

Being an active, experienced committee worker has a lot to do with how effectively you translate policy into change. It's always more fun to set policy than to sit down and look at its legislative component and then its budgetary component. That's hard slogging, because that's where you start to make compromises.

Once you've got the legislation written and even once you've got it passed, then how do you set about to implement it? Even more important, how do you set up mechanisms to monitor new legislation? You're in the process, as Clay Perry once put it, of virtually building the train while it's running down the track. The train is the machinery; the track

is time and direction.

Ministry a bully

Priorities: What insight has your experience as a member of council given you into Municipal Affairs as a policy area? Have you worked on policy in this area?

Marzari: My assumption is that the NDP will do exactly the opposite of Social Credit. The Socreds have deregulated municipalities and centralized more and more control in Victoria, which sadly cannot deal with the programs that it has centralized. Consequently it ends up parceling out these functions to cronies and friends of the Socreds; it's patronage, so there's no accountability. As, for example, the Islands Trust, and the GVRD planning function and the official Regional Plan get ripped apart, we can see clearly how Municipal Affairs has become a bully. Even the Vancouver charter has been threatened.

This trend is not exclusive to Municipal Affairs. Health, Education and Human Resources have also done their damage by centralizing decision-making structures that had previously been locally based.

NDP: record of 20th century style

Priorities: What changes do you envision the NDP making, then, in administrative organization, especially so as to implement economic parity between men and women?

Marzari: We introduced 20th-century management to this province. In 1972-75 we helped to build the bureaucracy now taken for granted in this province. Government sets the priorities, but the bureaucracy makes the whole thing tick.

Now, NDP policy has not yet been specific about a women's office, a Women's Ministry, whether there should be contained within each ministry a women's secretariat, or an office that will serve a cluster or ministries. I have a big interest in that. I have seen ministries purpose-built, set up to do jobs such as Municipal Affairs at the Federal level. It lasted for five years: two and a half years building itself, two and a half years dissolving itself. I have concerns about purpose-built

ministries.

Shot and stabbed

I also have concerns about coordinative offices because coordinators always run the risk of being shot in the front and stabbed in the back. Their accountabilities are split. That's why for the city, when I set up the Equal Opportunities program, it was extremely important to have Shelagh Day report directly to the Manager's office so when she spoke she was speaking with that office behind her, the highest and most authoritative office. It would seem to me that the women's office (Ministry, function, whatever) has to be appended directly to Cabinet. What it should look like, I haven't yet thought through completely.

I think we're 150 years away from gender parity in administrative offices, let alone parity in wages. It's important to decide what ways to speed up parity without creating backlash. The Federal Employment Equity act is going to give us a beginning. But CEIC will be implementing that Act without all the monitoring powers that it really needs.

Priorities: There are implementation structures whose job appears to be deferring things unto the point of death. Your particular interest seems to be committees that get things going.

Marzari: [As a legislator,] focused committees are the way one has to operate. Committees with deadlines. Task oriented committees, with performance contracts written right into them.

Small is beautiful

Priorities: And community economic development? How to make a start there?

Marzari: Even the Socreds are starting to talk about loan guarantees that can produce community economic development programs and then monitor them. So it strikes me that we are inexorably moving towards that "small-is-beautiful" model using locally based financial institutions in local communities with a monitoring aspect so that we can actually see wealth created.

I don't want to suggest that the whole thing could be launched with such a simple step, but a step that I would like to see is people getting slightly higher-risk financing with a community that's willing to back them. A community becomes wealthier if twenty-five of its members set up small businesses that are servicing needs within the province with B.C. products using B.C. materials. That community is creating wealth in a way that you could never create it by importing products, by importing workers or by doing megaprojects. You're actually creating a buck and keeping it in the community.

"They've strip-mined the province financially"

I think that community economic development is the way that we have to go and we have to look at the creation of wealth in our developing economy that has been so badly mismanaged. If we take power, it's going to be very difficult to open the books and show the bad news but still say idealistically, "We do have vision and this is where we can go." It is a question of priorities. It is also a question of money, and the province has obviously been drained dry. Strip mining. They've strip-mined the province financially.

Economic independence for women: Canada calling

Economic independence is the major women's issue. It's an appropriate time to deal with the Feds on income security for women. They're giving it as much play as they possibly can, but only in form: putting Barbara McDougall in the Women's Ministry, for example. It's a master stroke of cosmetic reform, which is what the Conservatives seem to be good at. However, I also think that any goodwill from the provinces—serious requests and thought-through policies—are going to have an impact, certainly on the new CEIC programs that are focused on women's employment. Such initiatives from the province will have to be taken seriously. ♀

Women Suffer

by Adrienne Peacock

Women's role in the economic life of British Columbia is changing. As women increase their activities outside the home, their demands for equal opportunities in all areas of human activity have generated potent pressures for social change. We now have legal recognition of equality for women in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The United Nations dedicated an entire decade to the situation of women. Yet for most women, economic justice has no meaning in the reality of our lives.

Discrimination based on gender is as deeply rooted in our society today as it was decades ago. We have made some gains, but they are small when measured against what is needed to achieve economic equality.

One achievement is clear: the need to eliminate discrimination against women is firmly on the agenda. Women know that while legal recognition is critical, economics can make implementation of equality rights a farce. The struggle for women's equality is therefore an economic issue.

Women's economic reality

The facts of women's oppression speak for themselves:

- Women represent 67 per cent of minimum wage earners. The minimum wage in B.C. is \$3.65 per hour, the lowest in Canada. The annual salary for a minimum wage earner is \$7000 (\$2000 below the poverty line).
- In 1984 in B.C. women in paid labour earned less than 61 cents to every dollar earned by a man. The wage gap between men and women has narrowed only 11 per cent in the last seventy years.
- Women workers are still confined to job ghettos. Three out of five work in sales, service and clerical occupations and many of these are part-time work with low wages and no benefits.
- In 1982, 75 per cent of the 1.3

Under SOCRED Economics

million women over the age of 65 in Canada had incomes under \$8000, and 57 per cent had incomes under \$6000. In 1984, old age security and guaranteed income supplement provided a senior with \$6,662.54. B.C.'s top-up income plan provides a maximum of \$38.88 per month.

The current economic recession further increased the economic inequalities between men and women. In British Columbia, government policies resulted in a deeper and more lasting recession than in the rest of Canada.

The major effect of "restraint": increased poverty for women

It is not surprising that women took the brunt of the government attack on public services in 1983. Social services were particularly hard hit. As women and children are the primary users of the social service system, they suffered disproportionately.

ately.

Funding was cut to the Vancouver Women's Health Collective, Vancouver Status of Women, Post-partum Counselling and Planned Parenthood. Elderly women were further isolated as funding was eliminated for seniors' daycare centres. Many important programmes providing services to families were discontinued, including child abuse teams, legal aid, tenants' protection and family support workers. In 1983, family support workers helped more than 500 children. Forty-eight percent of single-parent families consist of women, and two out of three single mothers under the age of 35 are living in poverty. Yet, 45 percent of these women are employed full-time outside the home.

While important cushions of basic survival support for many women were eroded or removed, one of the major effects of the "restraint" programme has been to stall women's attempts to gain equality at work.

Table 1

PERCENTAGE OF FEMALE/MALE EMPLOYEES BY INDUSTRY

	Female		Male	
	1979	1985*	1979	1985*
	(per cent)		(per cent)	
Agriculture	34.8	40.5	65.2	59.5
Other Primary	8.9	11.1	91.1	88.9
Manufacturing	18.5	19.9	81.5	80.1
Construction	9.2	12.9	92.1	87.1
Transportation, Communications & Utilities	22.9	24.5	77.1	75.5
Trade	43.3	42.7	56.7	57.3
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	60.6	61.5	39.4	38.5
Community Business & Personal Services	60.2	61.6	39.8	38.4
Public Administration	34.2	38.0	65.8	62.0
All Industries	38.6	42.5	61.4	57.5

Source: Statistics Canada
* Average for first 10 months only.

Women and work: the need for economic justice

All women work; only 57 percent of women get paid for their work. When women work in the home, they lack economic independence and adequate pensions. If single, they usually live in great poverty. The labour of women must be recognized at its true value whether in the home or out.

The statistics get worse for older women. Sixty-two percent of single elderly women live below the poverty line. Clearly we need a public pension system that will protect all senior citizens from poverty.

When women join the paid labour force, the inequities continue. The job ghettos reserved for women are in retail, clerical and service occupations. In 1983, 51 percent of women working in the service sector earned an income below the poverty line.

New Democrats believe that a healthy economy depends on the full and equal participation of women. With the help of women's organizations around the province, the NDP intends to make economic justice for women a priority in the next provincial election.

The following includes some of the areas where immediate initiatives are necessary to eliminate the barriers to women's economic equality.

Equal access to job creation and training programs

Job creation and training programmes must be specifically targeted to the needs of women. All women who want to work, and who can work, must be able to do so in valued and secure jobs. This means we need an active recruitment programme, on-the-job training and apprenticeship programmes. Women need support to enter non-traditional but usually higher paying industrial jobs.

Table 1 illustrates how the concentration by gender in certain industries has remained essentially unchanged since 1979. Clearly, government leadership is needed. Women are poorly represented in training programmes overall and are receiving training in only a very

Cumulative Percentage Change in Provincial Operating Grants to Universities Over Three Years (1982/3 to 1985/6)
(NB: no adjustment is made for inflation)

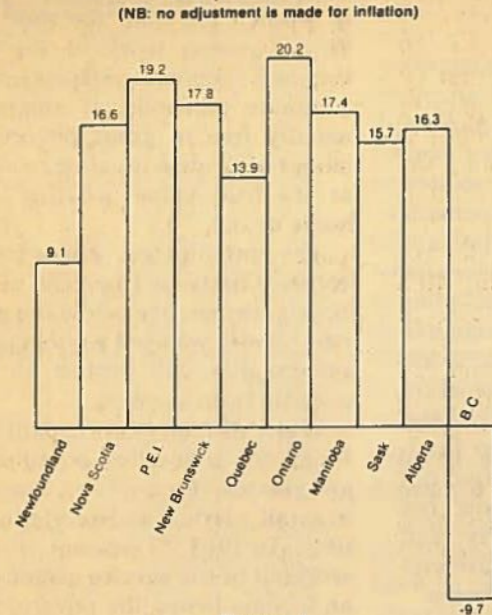


Figure 1

Sources: University Affairs, September-August 1983; September-August 1984; September-August 1985. The operating grant to B.C. universities was \$301 million in 1982-83, \$285.9 million in 1984-85, and \$271.6 million in 1985-86.

Federal Government EPF-Post Secondary Education Transfers as a Percentage of Operating Grants by the B.C. Provincial Government to Colleges and Universities

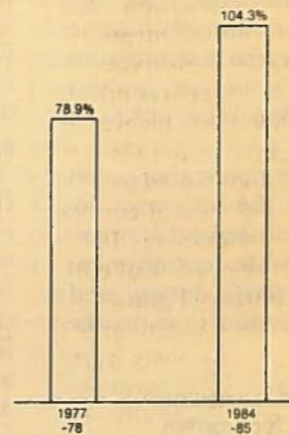


Figure 2

Source: A. W. Johnson, Giving Greater Point and Purpose to the Federal Financing of Post-Secondary Education and Research in Canada (A report prepared for the Secretary of State, Ottawa, February 1985), Table 3, page 12.

narrow range of occupations. Worse still, women are being channeled into training courses for the very occupations most likely to be eliminated by technological change.

One area where women have been very successful is in the small business sector. A recent study by a Toronto firm showed that women are starting three times as many small businesses as men and the survival rate of small female-run business ventures is much higher. Still, women face incredible problems getting financial support, and this barrier must be removed.

Affirmative action

Affirmative action programmes are needed if opportunities for women are to increase. We can begin in our own province, where November 1984 figures show that women in the B.C. government service are concentrated in the lower-paying job categories. Less than 1,200 women are employed in jobs paying more than \$24,000 per year, out of a total of more than 30,000 persons in government ministries. Implementation of an affirmative action plan must include contract compliance in the private sector, where funding is tied to equal

employment policies.

When the federal Conservative government introduced its weak employment equity legislation, New Democrats fought for tougher laws. We need enforcement mechanisms to ensure women a valued role in the work force, and adequate childcare and maternity leave provisions.

Part-time work

Women represent the largest percentage of part-time workers. In 1983, approximately one in three women were employed part-time, or 30.3 percent. For men, this number was only 9.2 percent. Over the last six years, part-time employment has increased in every year but one. In contrast, full-time employment peaked in 1981, and then fell almost 10 percent to 1984 when it has grown slightly (about 2 percent).

Clearly part-time employment has become very attractive to employers because this type of employment allows them to cut out benefits, eliminate worker job security and pay less. Employment standards legislation is badly needed to provide protection and benefits for part-time workers on a pro-rated or proportional basis. For women, this legis-

lative change is essential to prevent the current abuses of part-time workers.

Access to post-secondary education

Women's enrollment in post-secondary education increased at a dramatic rate between 1970 and 1979: 95 percent for full-time undergraduates, 250 percent for part-time students. However, a recent study by the Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women concludes that "women students are still concentrated in traditionally female fields and make up less than 50 percent of the full-time student population at two of the three universities in B.C. Women represent less than 20 percent of the total faculty at every B.C. university and those who do find their way into university halls are concentrated in lower ranks, less secure and lower-paid positions and are also clustered in traditionally female fields."

These researchers conclude that the Social Credit government's attack on education "can only impose further barriers to women's access to education and all the opportunities associated with higher education."

This attack has been dramatic.

From 1983 to 1986 every province in Canada increased its operating grants to universities except British Columbia. In B.C. the cumulative change over the three years has been minus 9.7 percent (Figure 1). In fact, the B.C. government has been taking federal funds targeted for post-secondary education and using this money for other purposes. No wonder the federal Conservatives want to cut back on post-secondary funding! However, in B.C. this would mean no funding at all. In 1978 the federal contribution amounted to 78.9 percent. By 1985 the federal contribution was an astonishing 104.3 percent as a result of provincial cuts to the B.C. contribution (Figure 2).

Only B.C. has no student grant programme and this obviously hurts women. The student loan programme must be improved, especially for part-time students, to benefit single parents and others on limited income who are attempting to increase their education and skills for a better future.

Childcare

If women are ever to achieve equality of opportunity, quality affordable childcare must be available in every community for those who need and want it.

In British Columbia, as in the rest

of Canada, working mothers are entering the labour force in increasing numbers. Whereas in 1970, only 20 percent of mothers with children under 14 were in the labour force, by 1984 that figure increased to 50 percent. Projections suggest that by 1990 over 75 percent of women in the labour force will have children under 14. For many women, the need for childcare is not an option. 50 percent of two-earner families would be poor if the mother did not work. In British Columbia, 40.8 percent of single mothers were in the labour force in 1981.

In 1983, according to the Canadian Daycare Advocacy Association, there are two million children in need of care; less than 10 percent will find licensed spaces, or anyone to care for them. British Columbia is moving to a system of commercial or profit-motivated daycare. 58 percent of all daycare spaces in B.C. are profit-making enterprises; 42 percent are non-profit. The myth that market competition will result in higher standards of childcare has not been supported by experience.

A system of extended parental leave (cost shared by both provincial and federal governments) is needed. Rather than the scattered myriad ministries now involved, the responsibility of providing childcare

should come under one provincial ministry, the Ministry of Education. This would recognize the right of all children to early childhood education, and provide a real option for parents. It would also mean that a parent who was able to and chose to stay at home with their children would have quality childcare available to relieve their long hours of work.

The present inadequate system, with insufficient spaces and poorly paid staff, was described in the NDP Women's Rights Committee brief to the Parliamentary Task Force on Child Care as "a national case of child neglect."

R.H. Tawney once said, "To approach the question of economic equality is to enter a region haunted." It need not be so. As a society we have recognized in law that equality of opportunity for women is critical and we have enshrined these rights in our constitution. The changes suggested above could make that legal commitment an economic reality for women. It is only with the achievement of economic justice that women will become full and equal participants in our society. It's about time. As a women's centre poster declares, "One hundred years of waiting is too long." ♀

The Vancouver Women's Health Collective may have to close!

After fourteen years of providing a unique service for women, we face a crisis in funding. Since the Provincial government cut off all our funding in 1983, we have relied on short-term federal grants and donations from supporters to keep us going. Now, as federal grants get scarcer, we need your help more than ever.

The Health Collective was founded on the principle of self help and thus promotes women's active participation in, and control of, our health care. Our resources give women both an understanding of the ways in which the conditions of our lives create ill health, and comprehensive information on prevention and treatment options.

Your contribution means:

- **Health information for women:** our information centre gives women access to clear, understandable information on hundreds of health-related topics.
- **Counselling:** we provide informational, supportive and referral counselling.
- **Public speaking and workshops:** we are frequently asked by community groups to give talks and workshops on a wide number of health topics such as birth control, PMS, menopause, patients' rights.
- **Access:** information is available to women across Canada through our mail order service; many of our publications (e.g. *A Feminist Approach to Pap Tests*, *Alternative Approaches to Health & Healing*,

and *Breast Health*) were researched and written by the Health Collective.

- **Political action:** the Health Collective organizes and supports actions around specific issues such as abortion, D.E.S., Depo Provera, the Dalkon Shield and the Copper 7 IUD.

- **A women-controlled organization:** over the years, women have built the Health Collective into an organization with a national reputation for consistent and excellent work.

Your donation will help keep this essential service going.

All donations are tax-deductible.

Help us stay open
Vancouver Women's Health Collective
888 Burrard Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6Z 1X9
682-1633

Popular Economics: an Alternative to Right-Wing Thinking

by Jean Lawrence

The 2nd Annual Popular Economics Summer Institute, sponsored by the Pacific Group for Policy Alternatives, took place July 22-26 at the North Vancouver Outdoor School near Squamish. For five days, participants laboured to understand the complexities of capitalist economics and to begin formulating the requirements for a progressive alternative economic program. Time off was allowed for swimming, volleyball, soccer and meditative walks at this most idyllic forest retreat.

The 40 conference participants comprised almost equal numbers of men and women from community, women's, labour and political organizations. Scholarships made available through Solidarity Coalition helped ensure that the \$400 registration fee (which included all expenses for the week) did not deter the involvement of representatives from social change groups, whose budgets usually put this kind of event out of reach.

Resource people for the majority of sessions were Cliff Andstein, B.C. Federation of Labour Secretary-Treasurer; Sam Bowles and Juliet Schor of the Center for Popular Economics at Amherst, Massachusetts; and Peter Warrian, a union researcher and writer. Bowles and Schor teach economics at the University of Massachusetts and Harvard University, respectively. They presented the Pacific Group's 1st Annual Summer Institute in 1985.

The formal program attempted to explain the postwar boom which characterized Western capitalism and lasted until the mid-70s. During the 1950s, acceptance of capitalism as a way of organizing an economy was so widespread that the word itself fell into disuse. The common perception that labour and capitalists both benefitted greatly from the success of capitalism led to the political rout of the Left. As workers were enjoying a growing standard

of living, it was held that labour was winning, at least economically.

The period 1945-65 saw the development of a "social structure of accumulation," that is, the conditions which facilitate the growth of capitalism and the attendant ability to garner high profits. According to Bowles, organized labour bought into capitalism in exchange for the opportunity to influence the distribution of wealth. This postwar accord of capital and labour complemented Keynesian policies which were responsible for the introduction of the social wage. Keynesian economics could be seen to "smooth out the bumps in the economy."

The boom, the Affluent Society, came to an end essentially because capitalism could not support its own success. The process of growth was very successful, resulting in over-accumulation, which then forced a slowdown of production—recalled now as the stagflation of 1973-79. As well, in the period preceding decline, 1965-73, many of the institutions of the social structure of accumulation were being eroded through a combination of factors, including the activities of popular opposition movements such as those against the armaments industry and the nuclear industry.



Bowles and Schor describe three mainstream pro-capitalist economic models, having in common the dicta that profits are necessary and free markets are best. Rightwing (monetarist, restraint) economics promotes low costs through the restriction of rights and the distribution of wealth. This is the "trickle down" theory which contends that when capitalists get things in hand, the benefits will eventually be spread around. It is an oppressive method of controlling the economy to ensure the security of profits at a high human cost. Problems associated with restraint economics are that there is little demand for products when no one has money to spend, and that capitalists are under no compulsion to re-invest domestically, so, in some cases, there's no trickle.

Keynesian (social democratic) economics encourages high demand: profits and wages rise together and both sides gain. It does not, however, take account of the problem of over-accumulation of goods and services. In periods of sustained economic growth, high employment keeps wages and production costs high, so profits are squeezed.

The third model, Neo-Mercantilism, looks chiefly to the international trade scene for solutions. It depends on large exports to solve the capitalists' problem of lack of demand for their products. Unfortunately, it is, as a consequence, subject to the whims of the international market.

In the 1980s, western capitalists through their governments have tried to recover their position largely by restraint policies, as we have seen in British Columbia. The Direct Attack of the Right Wing carries some compelling arguments—compelling because the grains of truth they contain make them believable. Many working people accept the logic of restraint: that we (labour) have bargained ourselves out of international markets, losing our advantage in resources to the third world,

and must restore a climate for investment by re-establishing the "social base" of competitiveness.

The challenge to the Left is to win back its natural support. We must find a way to respond to right-wing economics, and in language that is as compelling as that used by the Right.

A threat levelled at socialist governments is that of a strike by capital. The usual response has been to retreat, to roll back progressive policies. An offensive response might include intensive education around public investment (which is usually called "debt" by governments, but is known as "investment" when corporations do it), preparation for takeover, tax disincentives, community and regional economic development.

It is interesting to note in passing that when capital "flees" it is usually to another high wage country, the U.S. or one of the European countries, rather than to the third world. Although labour and the Left have generally shied away from discussing capital strike, there is every reason to put it on the agenda. The power of capital derives from its mobility and from its ideological domination. Resources and services do not relocate; only the money can be moved. Socialist governments need to take advantage of communication and propaganda to mobilize public opinion in support of public investment.

Many more topics were touched on during a week of lively and thoughtful workshops, and a number of guest speakers made presentations of special interest. A particularly provocative session on women in the capitalist economy was given by Ellen Woodsworth and Susan Tatoosh of Women's Economic Agenda. The issue of unwaged work, dealt with in detail in this session, was raised at various times during the week. The household economy, primarily consisting of work performed by women to produce additional labour power for the capitalist market economy, is a maintenance economy; there is no value added to the product, and therefore, no profit derived. This absence of profit makes

it convenient for economists, including left-wing economists, to overlook the contribution to society and to the general economy of women's unpaid labour.

Although more money changes hands inside family units than anywhere else in society, the household is a neglected sector in political accounting. Most of that money shifts from a male member of the household to a female one as sub-contracted labour. But there is no job security for a woman dependent on sharing the wage of a male wage earner. When the relationship ceases, the woman's standard of living plummets as she is forced to work at women's wage scales outside the home or rely on social welfare. The man, by contrast, experiences a rise in living standard as he is no longer sharing his earnings.

The concept of *wages* for household work, as distinct from GAI (Guaranteed Annual Income) or welfare, has yet to find wide acceptance, even on the Left. There are disagreements over defining such work, determining a value for it and devising a system for compensation. It was also pointed out by several women at the conference that payment of wages does not address the problem of redistribution of tasks in society.

Bowles and Schor concluded the Popular Economics Summer Institute by examining the needs of an alternative (progressive) economic program. First, it must make economic sense, that is, produce, reproduce and enhance a political base in order to guarantee its own continuation. Second, it must be positive-sum: it must be anti-waste, eliminate "guard" labour used to control other workers, and provide full employment. It must be productive, producing goods for use rather than for profit, and it must be able to pay for itself.

Strategies for finding alternatives within capitalism are aimed at moving towards a hybrid of humanism and capitalism, a form of social democracy with a longer streak of "social" than we have been used to lately.

For suggested reading material or information on the Summer Institute

contact the Pacific Group, # 104-2005 E. 43rd Ave., Vancouver, B.C., V5P 3W8, 324-6122. ♀



Too Dirty for a Woman

A production of the National Film Board's Women's Studio (Studio D), *Too Dirty for a Woman* looks at the personal lives and working experiences of several women employed by the Iron Ore Company of Canada in the remote, single-industry town of Labrador City. The women took advantage of job opportunities created in the 1970s that opened to them jobs traditionally held by men—as truck drivers, geologists, labourers and machinists.

The women in this film represent a range of trades and professions, age groups and family life situations. They are confronted as much by the limitations of life in a small company town as they are by the challenge of their jobs and by the responsibilities they hold. But theirs is a success story.

This film is now available through the National Film Board. It may be borrowed in 16mm and purchased in both 16mm and videocassette formats.

National Film Board
1161 West Georgia Street,
Vancouver, B.C.
V6E 3G4
Tel: 666-0718

BC Nurses are Worth More

Contract talks between the BC Nurses' Union and the Health Labour Relations Association broke down in April 1986. At issue is a collective agreement covering nurses in 135 facilities. In May, the union reported a strike vote which gave it a 91% mandate for job action. Some 70% of about 16,000 nurses cast ballots. Before job action was legally possible, however, the labour minister intervened and talks have resumed. The following article is composed from a statement by Pat Fraser, BCNU negotiator, and from bargaining bulletins put out by the BCNU.

Nearly 16,000 nurses have worked with an expired contract for more than a year. The employers refuse to admit the legitimate needs of nurses as working people who depend on their salaries, and as health professionals who care for others.

Our dispute is painfully simple. The Health Labour Relations Associ-

ation demands that nurses accept a bad settlement and we will not do that.

Our members have been without a wage increase for two years. Now HLRA says nurses deserve no better than a 3 year contract with increases of zero, one, and two percent. This would leave nurses about 8% behind inflation, based on official provincial government forecasts. A better offer is possible, according to HLRA, but only if nurses agree to cuts of existing benefits. This is the employer's price for better wages, even for contract changes with no cost implications.

The price is too high for our members and for the health care system that depends on us. The system cannot function effectively without nurses. We are its largest professional group and the nursing work force cannot be maintained without decent wages and working

conditions. Staffing some areas in BC is already hard. In fact, there is a chronic nursing shortage in BC today. Why? Let's examine the situation more closely.

Finding enough nurses

For decades, BC has met its overall nursing requirements with nurses trained elsewhere. This province does not educate enough nurses to staff its hospitals and other health care facilities.

Recently, however, we haven't attracted as many nurses. In 1985, the number of new BC registrants trained out-of-province was at a 20-year low, down 22.5% from the previous year, while the number of BC-trained registrants remained much the same (see Table 1). Fewer nurses are coming to BC, and if wages and working conditions do not improve, what will future figures show?

Canadian nurses' wages

BC nurses' wages used to be among Canada's best. Now we lag behind our colleagues elsewhere in the country. Worse yet, even our current rankings are in jeopardy. Negotiations are underway this year for better nurses' contracts in all jurisdictions but Manitoba and New Brunswick (see table 2).

Remember, the money is there

On June 5th, the legislature passed a law creating the Health Improvement Fund. It gives the government authority to spend up to \$120 million this year in addition to funds already allocated.

This means there is money available for a fair contract for nurses. There is no need for a strike or a lockout or any more confrontations. HLRA has said its 3-year contract offer would cost just over \$20,000,000. It wouldn't take much of the Health Improvement Fund to bring nurses and their employers to a reasonable negotiated settlement.

What is required is some action by employers. They know very well the effects of the nursing shortage and inadequate staffing. They must communicate this knowledge to the provincial government so that the

Table 1

NEW REGISTRANTS IN B.C., 1981-85

Year	B.C. Graduates	Graduates Trained Elsewhere	Total New Registrants
1981	680	1,459	2,139
1982	609	806	1,415
1983	683	691	1,374
1984	721	720	1,441
1985	674	558	1,232

Source: Annual reports of the Registered Nurses' Association of B.C.

Table 2

GENERAL DUTY RN STARTING WAGES

Rankings	Annual Salary	Ahead of B.C.
1 Alberta	\$28,420	\$3,868
2 Ontario	\$27,947	\$2,795
3 Federal	\$27,490	\$2,338
4 British Columbia	\$25,152	—

GENERAL DUTY RN TOP WAGES

Rankings	Annual Salary	Ahead of B.C.
1 Federal	\$33,186	\$4,110
2 Alberta	\$32,910	\$3,834
3 Saskatchewan	\$32,109	\$3,033
4 Ontario	\$31,845	\$2,769
5 Manitoba	\$30,408	\$1,322
6 British Columbia	\$29,076	—

Source: Canadian Nurses' Association (Figures for federal government nurses are for those practising in B.C.)

Garment Workers: Fighting for a Better Deal

by Val Cain

Marjorie Hamilton is a union shop.

This statement has a ring to it—and a history. At this large garment shop by industry standards, a successful manufacturer, and an employer of approximately 200 workers, management has run its own show—up until now.

A garment shop, even when it is organized, is a difficult, often brutal place to work. Speed-ups, drops in piecework prices on whim, sometimes lethal dust, forced overtime, and in some non-union shops "low pay or no pay" is the name of the game. It is not unusual to be fired for complaining about a nonexistent paycheque, or threatened with deportation. One Lower Mainland shop works on a two-card system—that is, one punch card for straight time, and another for "bonus money" (no, not overtime pay, not "pin money," but "bonus money").

These shops employ almost all women. Many are first-generation Canadians and speak little or no English. These women are convinced by management that they are unemployable elsewhere and had better "behave," not make waves, and above all, not join a union or they will lose the only job they are able to do. It is interesting to note that years ago when garment jobs were done mostly by men, it was considered a skilled trade.

The women in these plants are

fund can be put to good use.

Resuming talks but not backing down

The government has appointed Vince Ready, an independent labour consultant, "to attempt to effect settlement between the parties" and to make non-binding recommendations if a settlement isn't possible. The BCNU's goals remain unchanged but a new forum has been created in which to pursue them.

This appears to be the best option now open. The labour minister had refused to let the mediator report

not anti-union. Most have friends or relatives working in union shops and they are aware of the difference. However in the province of B.C. there are 12,000-15,000 garment workers, and only 2,000 are organized. The fact is, there has been a definite lack of interest on the part of the International Union up to this point. Vancouver has not had an organizing drive since 1961.

The time, the effort, the determination and the patience that went into the Marjorie Hamilton organizing drive can be attributed to the workers in this plant and the two organizers, Linda Leung and Phyllis Webb. I say "patience" because in reality, this plant has been organized no less than four times since February 1985.

Bureaucratic red tape, time limits for cards signed, inflated employee lists on the part of management, intimidation by the bosses and other legal wrangling by company lawyers resulted in a long and often expensive campaign.

At the present time the workers and the union are attempting to negotiate a first contract. On June 9, there was a request made by the union for employee lists and wage rates, but as of July 11 there had been no response from the company. The first round of negotiations had been scheduled for July 22.

The union, Local 287 of the ILGWU, has at present filed 14 cases of Age Discrimination against the management of Marjorie

Hamilton. These are cases where older women have been laid off (not recalled) and younger women are running their machines. One can see that even with certification, the fight does not end. Members of the negotiating committee are constantly harassed and intimidated for their role in the union. Workers who have quit because of harassment are still without work, and the fight goes on.

The importance of a first contract, a good first contract, is crucial. It will be a tool for future organizing, and a just reward for the people who work at Marjorie Hamilton. The role of the BC Federation of Labour and the Vancouver Labor Council has been important not only in this organizing drive but also in reaching out to other unorganized garment workers. Mobilizations, referred to as "Garment Workers' Awareness Days," have occurred at least 4 times. On these days, workers from other unions participate with the ILGWU in leafletting the Venables and Clark area, an area with dozens of non-union garment shops. The questions and the requests for organizing drives at these plants have given the ILGWU new leads for future organizing. After all, the Marjorie Hamilton organizing drive started with only 3 names. . . . ♀



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Sexual Harassment: Obstacle to Economic Equality

by Jan Taylor

Sexual harassment is an insidious form of discrimination affecting 70% of Canada's working women. It is costly, causing illness, absenteeism, job loss, and high staff turnover. Evidence suggests that all sectors involved in labour relations — employee, government, employer, and union — will be forced to acknowledge, examine, analyze, and solve this problem if women are to take their rightful place in the workforce.

What is sexual harassment?

Sexual harassment is a form of gender discrimination. Men sexually harass women in a number of ways: by making sexually suggestive remarks, by unnecessary and unwanted physical contact, by demands for sexual favours, or by forcing sexual activity. But no matter what form the harassment takes, it is defined as sexual harassment if it is unwanted or if it affects a woman's economic, employment, or advancement status or opportunities.

Section 8 of B.C.'s previous *Human Rights Code* used the following comprehensive definition of sexual harassment:

"... sexual harassment is forbidden and no individual should have to tolerate the following types of behavior:

1. being the butt of sexual innuendos, jokes, comments on your body, clothing and sexual activities to the point of unpleasantness;
 2. receiving repeated touching, patting, pinching, punching or close body contact which is unwelcome and unsolicited;
 3. being pressured to go out with a supervisor or client of the company with the understanding that your job depends upon it;
 4. receiving demands for sexual favours accompanied by implied or overt threats concerning your job; and
 5. being subjected to physical assault or rape."
- (This *Human Rights Code*, and

the sexual harassment protections contained in it, was repealed in 1983.)

Who is sexually harassed?

Overwhelmingly, sexual harassment victims are women. While some men are sexually harassed, they represent such a small percentage of the victims that they are generally not considered in discussions of this topic.

Most people believe that victims of sexual harassment are young, attractive, vivacious, and perhaps even seductive. Nothing could be further from the truth. "Surveys done in the United States and Canada show that between 7 and 9 out of every 10 women suffer sexual harassment at least once in their working... lives."

In searching for a "common denominator" researchers have found simply that the victim is a woman who was working at the time she was harassed.

Frequently, victims quit, are fired, or transfer (sometimes at a reduced salary).

In analyzing this staggering figure we must remember that 62% of Canada's working women are employed in clerical, sales, or support positions. They are in subordinate positions. Their salary levels inhibit mobility. Few benefit from union protection. Their supervisors and their employers are usually men.

Who are the harassers?

Supervisors. Clients. Male co-workers. Union officials. In short, men in a position of power, authority, and control over female workers. Like rape, sexual harassment has little to do with sex and much to do with power. Sexual harassment is a form of coercion. It is a mechanism by which men in a workplace restrict the activities of female workers. It is a method of "keeping women in their place" by jeopardizing their economic security. Traditionally, employers or representatives of the employer (e.g. supervisors) were thought to be the majority of harass-

ers. More recently, as the issue has been more thoroughly researched and better understood, it has become clear that the problem is more widespread. Through fear of offending the harasser and jeopardizing business, women are pressured to date clients and to tolerate harassment from patients, customers, etc. Male co-workers, singly and collectively, have made the work lives of many women intolerable. Particularly in occupations traditionally restricted to men, women have been harassed so that they will leave, creating a job opportunity for a man. And union officials, mandated to protect workers from harassment, on occasion participate in and perpetuate it.

In each case, harassment is an expression of the underlying attitudes men hold about the women with whom they work.

Why are women sexually harassed at work?

Our society is systemically sexist. We are raised, men and women, to believe some fundamentally untrue and unjust myths. We continue to believe, even in the face of substantial evidence to the contrary, that women are secondary wage earners. We believe that women are to be available, sexually and otherwise, to men, on demand. Remember National Airlines "Fly Me" commercials? A stewardess announces: "Hi. I'm Susan. Fly me." It is a set-up. Sexual harassment is the logical conclusion.

And, because women are viewed as inferior to men, any woman who succeeds must have been sexually manipulative to do so. Like all forms of systematic discrimination, these views of and attitudes toward women are deeply rooted and persistent. They are also responsible for the tragic underutilization of women's potential in the workforce.

What are the results of sexual harassment?

For the victims of sexual harassment, the results can be devastat-

ing: illness, poor job performance, lost advancement opportunities, job loss. Individual and collective action to combat sexual harassment is time-consuming, emotionally draining, and often costly. Most women would simply rather quit than fight.

For the employer too, sexual harassment can be costly. High staff turnover, productivity lost to poor job performance and absenteeism, and legal costs are all expensive. What cannot be measured, however, is lost potential — women who could contribute so much more if they were not harassed into leaving.

The victim's role

How can women help themselves? While sexual harassment is a socio-political problem, there is room for individual action to overcome it.

Most importantly, women must not ignore sexual harassment in the hope that it will "go away." It is vital that women state clearly and directly that they do not like being harassed. There have been a number of imaginative ways of making this point. A secretary, annoyed by her boss's constant attention to her breasts, ended the behavior by squatting down and speaking straight into his crotch. But the harassment may continue despite the best efforts of the victim and then further actions, are necessary. The woman should keep records of incidents of harassment, attempt to find witnesses to the behavior or other women who have been harassed, obtain copies of past positive job performance evaluations, and immediately contact her union.

The role of the women's movement

As is the case in many other women's rights issues in the labour relations context, the women's movement has been the primary advocate for raising awareness about sexual harassment. The women's movement has lobbied employers, unions, and governments to take action to end this discrimination. In addition, the women's movement has educated these groups about the effects of sexual harassment. Perhaps most importantly, the women's movement has supported the victims of sexual harassment through women's programs and support groups. Feminist research has helped women to understand sexual harassment as the logical conclusion of systemic gender discrimination.

The government's role

Sexual harassment is prohibited in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Yet the Unemployment Insurance Commission has ruled that sexual harassment is not sufficient reason to quit a job. In provinces like British Columbia, protections against sexual harassment have been revoked. If we are to reduce sexual harassment, governments must take a leadership role. They must introduce protective legislation, ensure that monitoring mechanisms are established, mount public awareness campaigns, and provide funding for further research. They must also provide financial assistance for women wishing to file suit in sexual harassment cases in order that all women have equal access to recourse under the law.

The employer's role

Quite simply, it is the employer's responsibility to provide a workplace free from harassment. Employers can establish and enforce anti-harassment policies. They can conduct workshops about sexual harassment and raise awareness and understanding of the issue through education campaigns. The motivation for these activities is becoming stronger as more women decide to pursue their rights through legal channels. In October 1979 *Business Week* wrote "There is a growing



Illustration by Jeannie Kamins

Imaginative ways of making the point

feeling among companies that they would be wise to protect their employees from harassment and themselves from lawsuits."

History shows, however, that depending on employers to provide the kind of security that women need is unrealistic. Ultimately, an end to sexual harassment is based on collective employee action. The role of trade unions in combatting sexual harassment is therefore crucial.

The union's role

The union's role in sexual harassment cases is multi-faceted. In anticipation of sexual harassment cases the union should: 1) develop policy, 2) negotiate contractual protections, 3) educate its officials and members, and 4) establish a monitoring committee (e.g. a Health and Safety Committee or a Women's Caucus).

1) Developing Policy

When a union acknowledges the seriousness of sexual harassment by establishing a policy to address it, the union has paved the way for negotiating contractual protection with the employer.

2) Negotiating Contractual Protections

The strongest sexual harassment

clause says simply that the employer will provide employees with a work-place free from harassment. However, many employers have taken the position that such a clause is impossible to administer. Accordingly, specific and restrictive wording has been more widely negotiated.

3) Educating Union Officials and Members

Unions can educate their officials and members by conducting special workshops or training sessions about sexual harassment as well as by including a section on sexual harassment in existing union education courses. They can use the union newsletter as a vehicle for promoting an understanding of the issue. They can encourage discussion through awareness campaigns using posters. By increasing the number of women who are active in the union, they can ensure that the issue will remain a high priority.

4) Establishing a Monitoring Committee

Policy resolutions and contract wording are major steps in dealing with sexual harassment. But to be effective, they must be enforced. Without this monitoring mechanism, the value of the exercise is suspect.

These anticipatory precautions

need to be in place in order that, when harassment actually takes place, the union is in a position to support the victim.

In cases where the harasser is also a member of the union, policy provisions and constitutional clauses can be used to discipline the harasser and support the victim.

Overall, the union's role in actual cases of harassment is to be an advocate for the harassed member. Throughout the grievance and arbitration process, the union's representatives and officials should be sensitive to the emotional and physical stress the victim may be experiencing as well as the stress associated with having her job security threatened. ♀

Editor's Note:

The above article consists of excerpts from a longer report by Jan Taylor exploring sexual harassment in unionized workplaces. The full report is available through Vicki Robinson at Provincial Office. The report relies heavily on materials prepared by the Canadian Union of Public Employees and anyone looking for further information on this topic should contact CUPE.

WOMEN EDUCATING FOR UNITY AGAINST VIOLENCE

at VCC LANGARA CAMPUS, Student Union Building

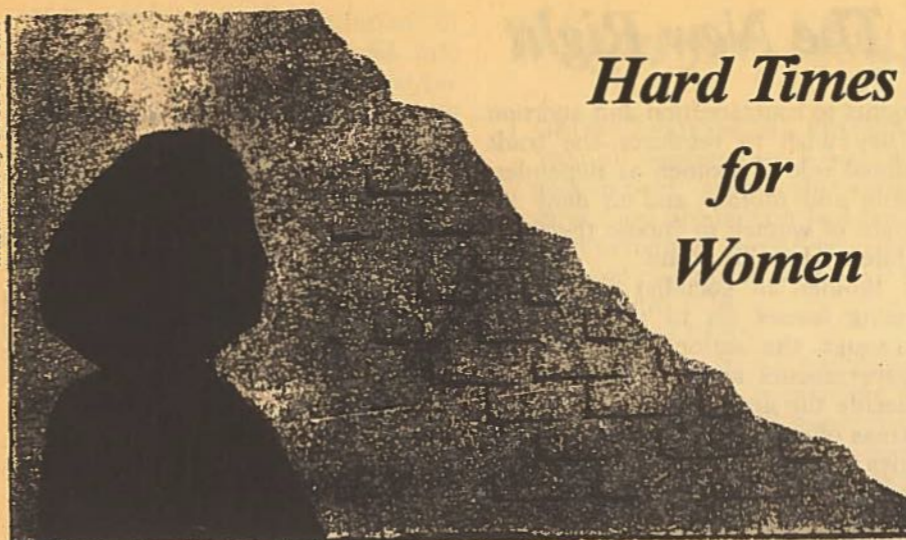
Women on Trial: Midwives, Native Women, Lesbian Women	Sept. 18 (7-10:30 p.m.)
Prostitution: The History, Nature and Reality	Sept. 28 (11 a.m.-5 p.m.)
Women's Health: Our Bodies and Our Disabilities	Oct. 2 (7-10 p.m.)
Abortion, Adoption and Other Choices	Oct. 9 (7-10 p.m.)
Rape, Woman Battering and Child Abuse—How Far Have We Come?	Oct. 16 (7-10 p.m.)
Pornography and the Question of Censorship	Oct. 26 (11 a.m.-5 p.m.)
Teenage Women Speak Out	Oct. 30 (7-10 p.m.)
Immigrant Women: Legal and Social Discrimination	Nov. 6 (7-10 p.m.)
Women's Work: Paid and Unpaid	Nov. 13 (7-10 p.m.)
Attacks on Older Women	Nov. 20 (7-10 p.m.)

A group of women's organisations and some individuals came together recently to strengthen old ways of working and to create new ones; we want to explore our differences, find points of agreement and hopefully form a united political force against violence. The workshops and forums are to be educative, yet they also will function as a preparation for a CONFERENCE where we hope to develop some consensus around the issues. All women's groups are urged to come. All women who think seriously about their lives must join us. The success of this effort depends on all of us.

Contacts: 879-3246 874-1538 291-4360



Illustration by Swee-Sim Tan



Hard Times for Women

by Cheryl Burger Dawson

The recession at its height, a group of women at the University of Victoria began exploring the question of just how women were managing in the new economic reality. In 1983 they came together to explore the problem in more detail, by way of a research project that was later published under the title *Women and Economic Hard Times: A Record*. The study was limited to Vancouver Island and concentrated on mill towns, where unemployment was rampant. Women were interviewed, their comments recorded and a plan of action laid down for further research on women living in poverty.

What was learned from this initial probe suggested that women were silently enduring the ravages of poverty. Often isolated, they were resorting to taking in laundry, as their grandmothers before them perhaps had done, collecting pop bottles for change, acting as emotional props for husbands and children. Family violence and tension were on the increase. Clothes had to be recycled from child to younger child where once new articles had been no problem to attain. Food became a point of contention in some households, where children, accustomed to bringing in friends for glasses of juice on hot days, came face-to-face with a mother concerned about running out before the next welfare cheque arrived. Life styles had altered dramatically.

When planning the second study of women living in poverty, it was decided that policies that were intended to relieve the problem, namely the Guaranteed Available Income for Need Act and the Unemployment Insurance Act, should be a focus for examination. The location of this second research project was limited to the city of Victoria. Questionnaires were completed by approximately 170 women and in-depth interviews were conducted with 25 individuals. Numerous resource people from the community, welfare advocates, social workers and those working directly with poor women on a one-to-one basis at food banks and counselling centres were called upon for their expertise.

In November 1985 a 68-page report entitled *Women, Poverty & Public Policy* explored the realities of poverty, probed legislation that does not meet the needs of women and offered suggestions for change.

The research on the question of women living in poverty has been completed. Women for Economic Survival is now looking for new ways to address the problem. In a meeting of some 65-75 women held in Victoria in April '86, women called for action. Follow-up meetings drew on ideas from a broad range of social and economic backgrounds. Currently 30-35 strong active members, this group is searching for permanent assembly space and a base out of which peer counselling,

poverty educational workshops, poverty videos and radio plays, etc., can be developed.

Women for Economic Survival has grown out of the University setting. It is now locating itself as a community based group and is an ad hoc assemblage. Since government legislation has been identified as inadequate, the group saw a role for itself as a lobby force, pushing for more realistic welfare rates, affordable daycare, accessible training programs.

In the words of the research team, "...women are not poor because they have failed society or not made their contribution to society... [W]omen's unfavourable or vulnerable position has resulted from a sexual division of labour in which far more value is attributed to work done by men than by women. Consequently, it is society which has failed women... [I]t is up to society, through its social, economic and political institutions," to rectify the problem. Women for Economic Survival are striving to achieve this goal. ♀

Peace Strokes Art Exhibition and Sale

Isadora's Cooperative Restaurant
Granville Island

Exhibition: September 2-29

Sale: Monday September 29,
7:30 p.m.

The Peace Strokes Exhibition is a cultural expression of the Canadian Mosaic in celebration of International Year for Peace. The exhibition will bring together the works of Canadian artists and artisans, and of Central and South American artists resident in British Columbia.

Proceeds from the sale will go to the Women's Health Education Campaign to provide medicines and health education materials for women living in the areas most affected by war in El Salvador.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND INTERVIEWS, PLEASE CONTACT:

Jennifer Fog at 874-2723 or Nora Patrich at 879-7405.

The New Right

from Socialist International Women

The philosophy and policies of the new right emphasize the role of the family and traditional values. These stress the need to return responsibilities and choice to the family, both of which, they claim, have been eroded by the growth of the welfare state.

But it is a philosophy that attacks, not supports, the family. It seeks to legitimize savage attacks on welfare programmes upon which women, children and the elderly particularly depend.

At the same time as advocating the family as the most important social unit and stressing the homemaker role of women within that unit, the new right recognizes and serves the demands of capital. Women are becoming an increasing proportion of the labour force. But the jobs they do are primarily low paid and low status, in the areas of employment traditionally defined as "women's work."

Yet despite this, the new right has won the support of many women, as was shown in the re-election of Margaret Thatcher in Britain and Ronald Reagan in the United States.

In the uncertain economic climate of recession created by monetarism, the elevation of the role of motherhood and carer of the family has provided a point of identification for many women, and a reassurance that their contribution to society is of value.

Women on the political left have often been seen as denying the importance of the role of mother. And many socialist feminists are responding to the political crisis by re-assessing their approach to issues like work and child care. It is important that whilst the left defends the right of women to paid employment and improves women's access to it, it does not appear to be undervaluing the importance of child-rearing. The new right wishes to deny women access to employment, to child care, to care for the elderly and the sick, and

rights to contraception and abortion. They wish to reinforce the traditional role of women as dependent wife and mother and to deny the right of women to choose their own independent life-styles.

Women in socialist parties are being forced on to the defensive through the actions of right-wing governments and institutions who decide the arena of debate and the areas of struggle. Often these struggles of women are relegated to side-issues by socialist parties. Yet women are in the forefront of struggle everywhere and socialist parties as a whole must address the problems women face and respond to the demands women make.

Socialist International Women rejects the arguments and philosophy of the new right. Women should not be confined to caring and nurturing as the dependents and adjuncts of men. This is to waste women's talents and the resources of over half the world's population. Women's opportunities must not be limited because of their sex.

Socialist International Women demands:

- equal rights for women, in particular the right to enter paid employment. We condemn the efforts

of the new right to force women back into their traditional role in the home, primarily through the dismantling of the welfare state.

- support for women and men raising children, through government-funded childcare at work and in the community and through shorter, more flexible working hours established with the agreement of the trade unions. Socialist International Women calls on the trade unions to give this demand high priority. In this way both parents can share responsibilities for their dependents. *Only if equality at home is created can the burden women bear be reduced.* It is this that constrains the hours women work and their choice of job; these measures will ensure genuine equality between women and men.
- education and training specifically designed to provide women with the skills needed to enter better paid, skilled jobs and to widen their career opportunities. Too many women are relegated to low paid, boring, dead-end work.
- action to ensure women receive equal pay to men and are not exploited by being paid lower wages for work of equal value to that of men.

**Socialist
International
WOMEN**



- the end to the exploitation of women forced to take work into the home and legal protection for homeworkers to defend them against the abysmal pay, long hours and insecurity of the jobs that they are now forced to accept. Attempts by the new right to keep women imprisoned, doing piece-work in the home with new technology, must be resisted.

- the right of women to control their own fertility and to choose whether or not to have children through the provision of free contraception and abortion.

Socialist International Women therefore resolves:

- to campaign against the policies of the new right, amongst others, by stressing that women are independent individuals and are entitled to choice about life-style, work and child-rearing.
- to work for the increased representation of women within the decision-making bodies of the member parties, in the trade unions and the Socialist International, as well as in governmental decision-making bodies when the parties are in power, to ensure that women's demands are high up on the political agenda.
- to express solidarity with women throughout the world in the struggle against the attacks of the right. In particular, to express solidarity with women who struggle to combat grinding poverty, hunger and landlessness.
- to fight plans to privatize services and cut back on the welfare state which will lead to fewer jobs for women and less support for women and their families. And to ensure that in all campaigns of member parties the effects of privatization and cut-backs on women are central themes. Further, to recognize the effects the priorities and practices of welfare services have on women's lives and to ensure that women are involved in the way these services are administered.
- to call on the trade unions in member countries to campaign, as a priority, for a shorter working day. q

Wages for Housework: a Proposal

1. GROSS PROVINCIAL PRODUCT
That all women's work both paid and unpaid, specifically agricultural food production and household activities, should be quantified and recognized in the G.P.P.

2. PENSIONS FOR
HOMEMAKERS*
That the provincial government commit itself to supporting the forthcoming federal government proposal re pensions for homemakers. That it be paid retroactively. In the case of the federal government not bringing forth the proposal this fall, that the B.C. premier bring it forward at the next All Ministers' Conference.

3. INCOME
A) That all welfare payments to parents of at-home children be renamed to recognize that it is a payment for work, and that it be called a wage or some suitable title.

- B) That these welfare payments be paid biweekly rather than monthly.

- C) That these payments be raised to the poverty line as defined by the National Council on Welfare.

4. LABOUR LAWS
That homemakers, domestics and farmworkers be covered and protected by the labour laws regarding minimum wage, sick leave, vacations, etc., so that they will be treated with the same rights and dignity as all workers.

5. DAYCARE
A) Universal
B) 24-hour
C) Accessible
D) Quality
E) Available for homemakers as well as women who work for wages.

- * homemaker: A person who, in any year, does the majority of the housework and the majority of the work of caring for a child under 18, a spouse, or an infirm and dependent adult living in the home.

6. HOUSING
A) That rent controls be reinstated.

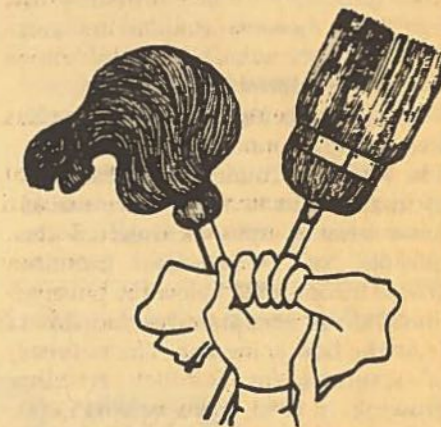
- B) That there be an increase of the number of social housing units built that are tenant-controlled to meet the waiting lists.

- C) That daycare be built into all social housing projects.

- D) That rents not exceed one quarter of a tenant's income.

7. HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
Be reinstated with full powers and autonomy from Government.

CONTACT:
WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK
Ellen Woodsworth
253-3395
Main Post Office Box 2288
Vancouver, B.C.



Labour Studies Programme

Capilano College Labour Studies Programme is offering courses for Fall. This programme "is committed to meet the special education needs of B.C. workers, their organizations, and the labour movement in general." Call 986-1911 local 2954 or 984-4954 for more information.

Quality and Affordable Day Care: a Right not a Privilege

Excerpts from a report by the Canadian Day Care Advocacy Association

The Canadian Day Care Advocacy Association is building a large and united coalition of groups and individuals across Canada. Local groups in the CDCAA represent a wide cross-section of Canadians. Groups range from the British Columbia Task Force on Immigrant Women, to the Ottawa Newspaper Guild.

The CDCAA grew out of the resolutions adopted by the Second Canadian Conference on Day Care held in September 1982 in Winnipeg. The seven hundred delegates from all provinces and territories called for an effective, united voice to pursue day care issues at the federal level and promote a broad consensus of support within all regions of Canada.

* * * * *

The growing need for day care

Many Canadian families require two incomes to make ends meet. The National Council of Welfare has estimated that in 1982, there would have been a 62% increase in the number of two-spouse families whose incomes fell below the poverty line if wives' earnings were excluded from the family income. The number of single-parent families is also growing. In 1983, there were 415,000 individuals parenting on their own, an increase of approximately 35% in less than a decade.

The vast majority of Canadian women of childbearing age participate in the paid work force. In 1983, fully 69% of all women between the ages of 20-44 worked outside the home. It's projected that by 1990, over 75% of women aged 24-54 will be in the official labour force.

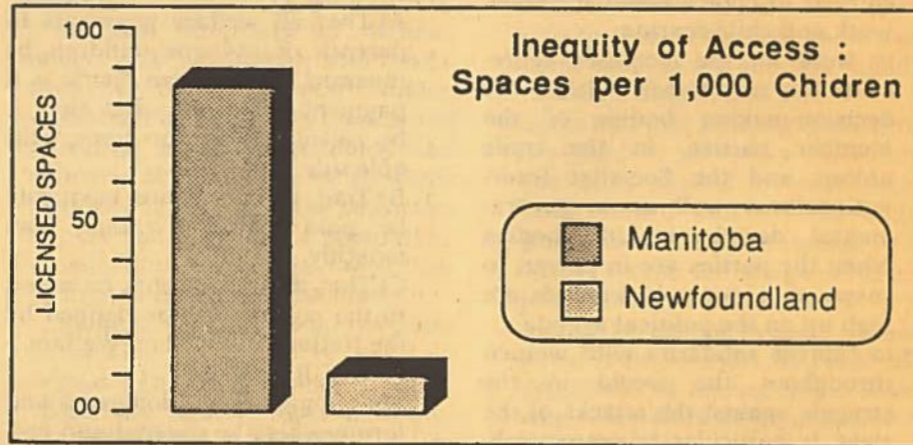
More mothers of young children now work for a wage or salary than stay home full-time, and their numbers are increasing yearly. In 1983, 49% of mothers with children under 3 and 56% of mothers with preschoolers in the 3-5 age group were

in the paid labour force. The percentage is even higher for mothers whose youngest child was 6-12.

In 1983, there were 956,000 children under 6 and 1,320,000 children aged 6-12 with mothers in the labour force. Yet, in 1983, there were only 139,070 licensed group and family home care spaces in the whole country.

Availability and affordability

Existing spaces are unevenly distributed. Licensed child care is simply not available in many rural locations. The number of spaces per 1,000 children under 6 varies from a low



of 9 in Newfoundland to a high of 84 in Manitoba.

The cost of good child care is now prohibitive for most Canadian families. Typically, parents must pay \$2,500-\$5,000 per year for a licensed child care space. For children under 2 years, the cost can be considerably higher, up to \$7,000 per year.

Substantial public dollars will be needed if child care is to become widely available, universally accessible, and of high quality across Canada. The CDCAA believes that public dollars should be used to develop and support a system of child care services which can be used by all Canadian families who need them. Schemes for distributing child care dollars to individual families through the income tax system, or selectively paying the child care

costs of low income families will not result in a high-quality comprehensive child care system.

Who pays for child care in Canada?

Child care staff subsidize the real cost of child care by working hard for low salaries. Equally qualified professional workers in other fields earn substantially more.

Unless they are poor, parents are responsible for paying the costs of child care. Within this user fee system, low-income families may have their child care costs paid for by government. Funds for these subsidies, however, are usually limited by the provinces. Canada has no federal child care policy or funding for a national system of child care.

Parent fees, subsidies for low-income families, and some other

funds from individual provinces make up the patch-work upon which child care services and Canadian families must rely.

There are three ways the federal government helps pay the child care costs of individual families in Canada. None contribute to the development of a comprehensive child care system.

The Canada Assistance Plan

The Canada Assistance Plan (\$75 million federal dollars in 1983) is cost-shared equally between the federal government and the provinces to contribute to child care costs for needy families. Although the federal government places no limit on its spending, all provinces limit funds for child care in a variety of ways.

What is wrong with using CAP to

pay child care costs?

• Only low-income families can qualify for subsidies. Middle-income families receive no federal assistance but in much of Canada, they cannot afford to pay for high-quality child care. The need to keep fees affordable has kept programs unstable and salaries for child care staff low.

• CAP is intended to provide welfare, not child care. CAP neither includes principles nor encourages provinces to provide adequate funds to develop good, accessible programs.

• CAP perpetuates the notion that organized child care services are only intended for the needy.

Child care expense deduction

Child Care Expense Deductions totalled \$105 million in 1982. A maximum tax deduction of \$2,000 per child to a total of \$8,000 per family per year is allowed to the parent with the lower income if both parents (in a two-parent family) are in the labour force.

What is wrong with using the tax system to help pay for child care?

• Social Insurance Numbers and receipts are needed to claim a deduction. Most families who use unregulated care are not eligible because few unregulated caregivers claim this income and so do not give receipts.

• Tax deductions benefit high income more than middle or low income families. A family earning \$30,000 per year may have \$500 returned to them at tax time to cover \$4,000 annual child care costs. Most middle to low-income families can't afford to pay child care costs in advance.

• Using the tax system doesn't build a comprehensive child care system. Imagine if, instead of creating a system of medical services, Canada had chosen to encourage Canadians to find a neighbor to diagnose a sore throat, and claim the costs as a medical deduction at tax time!

• The tax exemption is a public expense, yet there is no way to ensure that it is spent on good child care.

The federal government also spends over \$11 million annually through CEIC grants for child care

allowances for trainees. These grants increased in 1985.

What is wrong with using CEIC grants to pay child care?

• These grants, given to single parents to enable them to leave welfare, are mostly used on unregulated care, with no assurance of quality.

Direct funding for childcare services

Child care in Canada is currently paid for by user fees with government subsidies available for some low-income families, and some other funds from individual provinces. The patchwork and unstable funding which pays for child care in Canada has created a set of problems to which there is no solution under current funding arrangements. Dollars which directly support child care programs are needed.

Direct funding will allow the development of high quality programs with stable funding. It will allow children from across the social and economic spectrum to have access to a range of child care services. Equality of access for children would no longer be attached to their families' ability to pay or meet social or financial criteria.

Direct funding will enable the people who provide child care to earn adequate wages. With direct funding a comprehensive system of

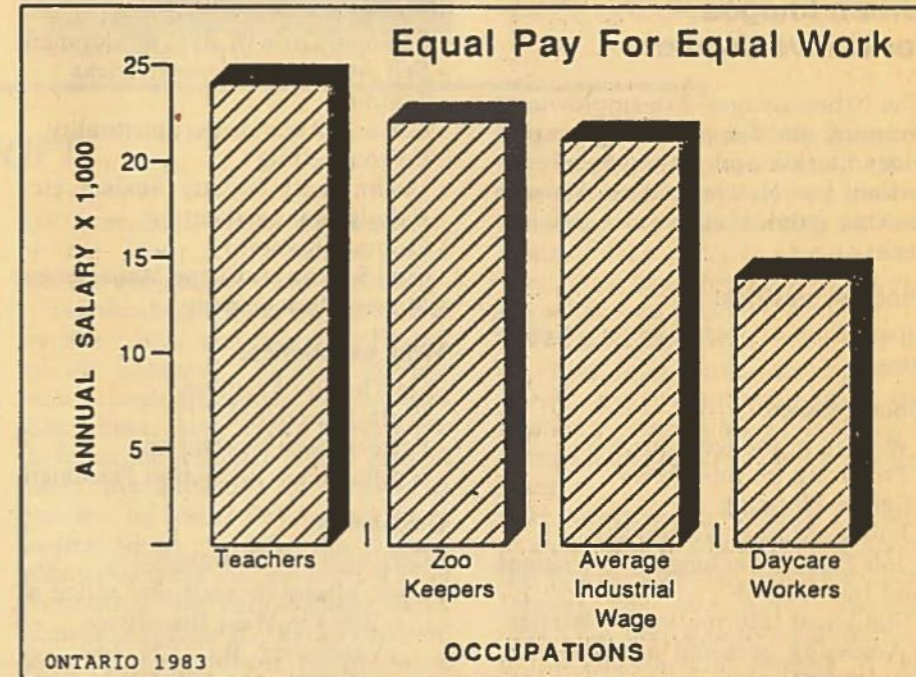
child care services can develop, so that families with a variety of child care needs will have access to the programs they require.

Federal leadership is necessary

Clearly, both federal initiatives and federal provincial cooperation will be necessary for the development of a comprehensive child care system.

Under the Canadian constitution, the provinces have the authority to regulate child care. The CDCAA does not propose any change in this provincial responsibility. The federal government, however, can establish principles for the provision of child care services and arrange to share the costs with the provinces, as it does with health care and post-secondary education. These precedents point the way for child care.

When a majority of families across the country face the same great need, the government of Canada has a responsibility to act. The federal government is now subsidizing high-income families through the Child Care Expense Deduction and low-income families through the Canada Assistance Plan. Since the Child Care Expense Deduction was increased to \$2,000 per child in 1983, the federal tax expenditure, mostly to more affluent families, has increased to over \$100 million for 1983-84.



Federal subsidies for child care for the poor totalled only \$75 million.

Federalism is intended to provide Canadians with some measure of equity and portability of essential services. There are great disparities across Canada in the availability of licensed child care, the size of the user fee, the provision of subsidy, and the quality of service available. For those 400,000-plus Canadians who move inter-provincially each year, there is little portability of service. Provincial initiatives alone cannot equalize child care across Canada. Federal initiatives are needed.

Until recently, all discussion of child care initiatives at the federal level was met by the argument that daycare was a provincial responsibility.

Times have changed!

Today, it is clear that federal leadership on child care is constitutionally possible, responsible, and necessary. In establishing two task forces in 1984 to look at child care,

the federal government has acknowledged a need for new Canada-wide initiatives.

More child care means more jobs

High unemployment remains one of Canada's most serious problems. Hundreds of thousands of young people are unable to find work yet hundreds of thousands of Canadian parents are forced to resort to makeshift child care arrangements. High-quality licensed programs are simply not available. A universally accessible child care system will help reduce Canada's unemployment.

Building a comprehensive child care system will involve significant planned expansion of the human service sector. Creating permanent, socially useful jobs in child care programs with an average ratio of one teacher to six children will add over 16,667 new jobs for every 100,000 new daycare spaces. Those caring for children in a comprehensive system of high-quality child-care services would be well-trained

professional employees earning fair and appropriate salaries and contributing to the economy.

In addition to employment opportunities for child care staff, new jobs will be created in the construction industry to renovate and build new child care facilities. Expansion will also occur in those sectors which supply and service child care. From an employment planning perspective, the creation of new publicly-funded child care programs makes a lot of sense!

As technological development reduces the demand for employment in traditional industries, the human service sector can create meaningful new employment. And new jobs in child care will not only fight unemployment but will contribute to the nurturing and healthy development of the next generation!

CDCAA has developed a proposal for a comprehensive child care system. For further information, contact CDCAA at 323 Chapel Street, Ontario, K1N 7Z2.



Urban Images for Native Women

The Urban Images' Pre-employment Training and Support Program provides lifeskill and employment education for Native Indian Women seeking gainful and secure employment.

Program provides:

Instruction in preparing for employment

Course topics:

- Women in the work force
- Preparing for interviews
- Career Planning
- Labour Market Awareness
- Job Search Techniques (Resumes and Interviews)
- Statistical Information on Women
- Assessing personal needs toward employment.

Instruction in lifeskills:

- Personal Growth and Development
- Self Awareness/Assertiveness Training
- Cultural Awareness/Spirituality
- Co-counselling
- Dealing with Racism, Sexism, etc.
- Family Management
- Communication
- Goal Setting and Time Management
- Money Management

Work experience:

- On The Job Training/Work Experience
- Performance Evaluation
- Employment/Education Placement

Graduation:

- Certificate of Completion
Please phone or visit our office at
305-456 West Broadway,
Vancouver, B.C. V5T 2A2
Telephone: 875-9211

Move-a-Thon for Peace

Saturday, October 25, 1986
12:00 Noon

Courthouse Steps, Robson Square

Walk, run, rollerskate, wheel chair, or bike through scenic Stanley Park. By gathering pledges and participating in this enjoyable event you will be raising consciousness and funds for peace work in Vancouver. All funds go to expanding the End the Arms Race Stop Star Wars Campaign, the campaign to elect pro-peace politicians, and the peace activities of EAR's 230 member groups. For more information, call 736-2366. EAR, 1708 West 16th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V6J 2M1.

Chairperson's Report: NDP Women's Rights Committee

by Jan Taylor

On the occasion of Rosemary Brown's decision not to seek re-election:

When Rosemary Brown first ran as a candidate for the New Democratic Party in 1972 she did so with the goal of opening political doors for women. Rosemary's vision then, and now, has been crucial to the progress made in our party to advance the cause of women's rights. Indeed in her role as educator, lobbyist, activist, mentor and role model Rosemary has strengthened our Party's commitment to women's rights and the advancement of women as has no other single individual.

When Rosemary first joined the Legislature the need for services and programs directed to the special needs of women in B.C. was profound. Services such as transition houses for battered women, rape crisis centres, pre and post natal counselling centres and childcare were virtually non-existent. Today, in B.C. and across the country we view these services as an integral part of our social service structure—certainly in this province these services are underfunded and under attack—but our belief that women and their families have a right to such protection is entrenched in the consciousness of most British

Columbians. Through the efforts of Rosemary Brown, the B.C. Legislature has been forced to address these issues and the women of British Columbia are immeasurably better for it. The recognition and awards Rosemary has received over her years in office attest to the affection and appreciation we feel for her.

In seeking the leadership of our federal party in 1975 Rosemary again brought issues of particular concern to women to the forefront. Women across Canada joined Rosemary's campaign and many women never before involved in political life be-

came active. Many of those women have continued to be active and to grow within our political system.

And now Rosemary moves into another phase of commitment to women. During the next provincial election campaign Rosemary will provide direct services, advice and support to our women candidates. In the next provincial election, New Democrats will have at least 21 women candidates—more than any party in B.C.'s history. Rosemary will be invaluable to these candidates in sharing her experience, her energy, her vitality, her wit, her wisdom, and her unflinching commitment to the New Democratic Party and to the women of this province.

And after the election, freed from the rigours of being the MLA for Burnaby-Edmonds, Rosemary will work with our newly elected MLAs to provide continuity and confidence. The constituents in Burnaby-Edmonds have had the very best and I know that Rosemary is anxious to teach our new women MLAs how best to serve their constituencies.

It has been a truly inspirational experience to work with Rosemary over the years and I am looking forward to continuing to work together as we take our team of women into the next election and beyond. ♀



Rosemary Brown at CCCA Rally

NDP Caucus Report

by Rosemary Brown, MLA

As an integral part of the NDP's efforts to work with women on their shared goals, Bob Skelly and I have begun a series of consultations with women's organizations, groups and individuals. The first meeting, held on June 11 in Victoria, was attended by representatives of provincially based women's organizations, as well as a cross-section of local Victoria groups. Thirty-three groups represented by thirty-eight women met for four hours with candidates, MLAs, representatives of the Women's Rights Committee, visiting

MP Lynn McDonald, the President of the Party, Joy Langan, and women's organizer Vicki Robinson.

The day began with introductions by Bob Skelly and myself, followed by an informal luncheon during which the groups present introduced themselves. After lunch there were three panel sessions where groups made presentations on issues of concern to them. The panels were co-chaired by myself, Ray Edney (Chairwoman of the Women's Rights Committee), Barbara Wallace, MLA (Cowichan-Malahat), Karen Sanford, MLA (Comox), Eileen Dailly, MLA

(Burnaby North) and Joy Langan. At the close of the meeting there was a short plenary wrap-up session providing an opportunity for the chair of each panel to give an overview of the presentations. The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

This consultation-meeting was an excellent opportunity for members of the caucus to hear from the women's community. Several major themes emerged from the presentations.

1) Women's groups have a wealth of information and expertise about the issues affecting women's lives. Despite this, they are a resource which has been grossly underutilized in the policy-making process. We all

recognize that this situation must change before any policy making body can deal effectively with the major roadblocks to women's full equality.

2) The work that women's groups do is severely underfunded and their labour is often voluntary and unrecognized. As a direct result of government's restraint policies, women's groups are being stretched to the limit to pick up the services which have been reduced or eliminated.

3) Many of the groups requested that public policy shift from its present focus on crisis intervention to preventive services and more rational planning.

4) All groups present reaffirmed that poverty remains a major issue for women and expressed concern at government's insistence on responding to this with piecemeal, ad hoc, inadequate remedies which only serve to exacerbate the problem.

The June 11th meeting was the first of a series of consultations which will continue in the fall. We will visit Kamloops and Cranbrook at the end of September and the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island early in October. At the conclusion of this series of consultations, a full report will be produced covering the issues and concerns raised by the women of British Columbia through their groups.

This final report will be studied by our Women's Rights Committee, caucus, and nominated candidates, and will be used as a resource in discussing policy options for the future.

On June 18, Women's Rights Committee of the B.C. Federation of Labour and the NDP Women's Rights Committee co-sponsored a wine and cheese party for NDP candidates and trade union women. Anne Harvey, Chairwoman of the B.C. Federation of Labour Women's Rights Committee, Joy Langan, First Vice-President of the B.C. Federation of Labour and President of the NDP, Adrienne Peacock, NDP candidate for Vancouver-Little Mountain and I addressed the gathering. All of us stressed the need for trade union women to participate in the political and electoral process at all levels if

more women are to be elected to the legislature and the problem of women's inequality in the workplace is to be addressed. There was enthusiasm among the many women present and a clear commitment to become more politically active at this time. ♀

Video Line-Up for Fall Viewing

Reviews by Catherine Kerr

Film fans, late summer may not be the season when you wear a path to the door of your video shop. But while the sun shines, make demands! Lobby your local video distributor for what you want.

The usual fare in video outlets is a mix and match of unlikely injury, unnecessary mayhem, wolf-pack antics and a high opinion of men at the expense of women—in other words, exactly what you would expect, knowing that most movies are made by men to please themselves. Rare indeed is a politically eloquent script, or a female character who is neither slavish nor self-martyring. You have to look hard for them.

So take these tips from my own exhaustive search, and ask your shop to order titles that you and your enlightened female friends can enjoy. Do it now, and maybe the cassettes will have arrived by the time that popcorn steam starts freezing on the kitchen windows.

Agatha
1979, directed by Michael Apted
Britain suspense drama

Here's a surprise; Vanessa Redgrave in a not-politically-serious but certainly engrossing fiction about (not by) Agatha Christie. The story is embroidered around an unexplained fact of Christie's biography: that once, for a period of several days, she simply vanished. A very human yet suspenseful story with a turn that might have been crafted by Agatha's own hand. Dustin Hoffman, taking an unusual "period" role (the time is the 1920s) does a good job.

... All the Marbles
1981
U.S.A. comedy

If you hate most spectator sports, this is for you. It lets you hiss the

siastic discussion among the many women present and a clear commitment to become more politically active at this time. ♀

bad guys and jump up and down for your team without making a gladiator of some suffering jock.

Peter Falk plays the two-bit manager of a two-woman team of—believe it or not—wrestlers. Try as he did for his book *TV Movies*, Leonard Maltin could think of no reason why the audience should enjoy trailing these three from one fleabag arena to the other while they try to make their dreams of success outlast the wear and tear on their bodies. But Maltin enjoyed it, and I did too. How else do you get to see the atmosphere surrounding wrestling—that mixture of acrobatics, martial arts, and slapstick—without having to buck the crowds at the PNE? The lead actresses' precise suitability and solid acting make them more than up to Falk's reliable performance.

Camila
1984, directed by Maria Luisa Bemberg
Argentina/Spain drama subtitled

Visually gorgeous, emotionally stunning, historically enlightening true story of a pro-reform socialite (yes, not a socialist) whose love affair made her a scapegoat of Argentina's first brutal dictatorship



in the mid-1850s. Fluid, suspenseful direction gives great power to the unfolding of both stories—a believable and unusually erotic love story, a haunting political (and feminist) drama. The fact that this story could not be filmed in Argentina until after the fall of the Falkland junta says something about its continuing relevance to South America.

Comfort and Joy
1983 directed by Bill Forsyth (*Local Hero, Gregory's Girl*)
U.K. comedy

Forsyth, the screen writer as well as the director of this film, mischievously punctures the self-importance of persons in trendy places with this story about a radio announcer whose disappointment in love fuels his journalistic ambitions.

It's been said that every great novel is a novel about a city. Perhaps every good comedy is the same. But the Edinburgh local color is not solely responsible; this film owes its delightful gentleness to an entire society. [ed. note: Did you expect a Kerr to say something bad about the Scots?]

Competition, The
1980
U.S.A. drama

Well-cast, well-scripted and well-acted drama about young adult competitors for a prize in music—and the sexual politics involved when two (Richard Dreyfuss, Amy Irving) become attracted to each other. Good piano, too. Lee Remick as the young woman's coach has some speeches that should be typeset in gold leaf by *Ms.* magazine.

Grace Quigley
1984 directed by Anthony Harvey
U.S.A. comedy

It's hard to say anything about this film without giving away too much of the plot. Suffice it to say that this story could not have been better suited to Katherine Hepburn as an old woman; in fact, her infirmity is indispensable. "Black humor" is probably the best epithet for the story idea, but it is observant, even instructive, as well as clever and offbeat. A refreshing change from the Hollywood products that



overdraw comic moments to the point of brutality. Nick Nolte is Hepburn's foil, young-but-not-too-bright versus bright-but-not-too-young.

Just the Way You Are
1984 directed by Edouard Molinaro
France/U.S.A. comedy

Kristy McNichol, in her first role as a woman old enough to live alone, shows a new side of the emotional range that helped her steal *Only When I Laugh* from Marsha Mason in 1983. By now her coltish appeal has become a magnetism suitable to romantic comedy. As to the story, no nastiness mars it, nor any boring wimps; every character is "doing the best I can" within his or her limits—and most characters have more going on within their limits than one is ordinarily privileged to see. All in all a subtly literary film; scenes that would have been broad farce in the hands of other actors and other directors are played for delicate tensions and almost private humor.

Les Compères
1984
France comedy subtitled

Thanks to the director of this film, farce has arrived intact in the twentieth century. Vive la farce! A mother, discovering that her teen-aged son has followed a ne'er-do-well girlfriend from Paris to Mar-

seilles, cannot persuade her husband to look for him. She decides that the best-motivated searcher would be a man who thinks that the missing boy is his son, so she works through a list of old lovers, trying to inspire a rescue attempt.

She succeeds too well. *Two* self-appointed fathers are bound to run into each other on such an errand. The macho one is too soft-hearted to compete with his depressive rival, who's inclined to burst into tears without provocation. So they team up, thereby doubling the opportunities for side-splitting ineptitude. Although not as courageous as *Ninety Days* in working with the real dilemmas of the New Male, this is a "buddy film" that can make modern women really laugh.

Silkwood
1983, directed by Mike Nichols
U.S.A. drama

The title role makes this film. Maybe because Meryl Streep is not doing a European accent, she creates a Karen Silkwood who, unlike roles such as her lead character in *Plenty*, is so seamless that one relaxes into her story rather than watching for errors in the persona. The screenwriter has been criticized for overdoing the details that underline Silkwood's naivete, notably the in-flight dinner scene; the criticism is just but the flaw slight.

Other titles well worth asking for:

Independence Day, directed by Robert Mandel. Drama about the aspirations of two very different young women in a small town. Brilliant surprise ending.

Old Enough, directed by Marisa Silver. Coming-of-age drama—about girls for a change!

A Woman Called Golda. Judy Davis captures Golda Meir as a young woman and Ingrid Bergman gives superb performance as the Israeli leader at her peak of political indispensability. ♀

Expo Examined

The *Expo Story* is a collection of essays about the many facets of Vancouver's world fair: its politics, economics, art and culture, its battles with labour, and its dollar-a-year president.

The last chapter, "The Macroeconomic Consequences of Expo" (by Slade, Picard, and Blackorby) is probably the most important one. It presents the economic cost/benefit analysis that the Socred government of B.C. should have done before committing over \$800 million to Expo. The authors first examine the dollar and cent value of Expo—the "bottom line" that Pattison and other Expo officials like to talk about. Then they analyze the short-and long-term benefits of the investment of public money in Expo.

The authors forecast a net loss of over \$500 million to the province if Expo is considered strictly as a commercial enterprise, taking into account all the expenses and revenues (including money spent elsewhere in the province) that have resulted and would result only as a consequence of Expo.

While it is true that in the short run, B.C. gains from the financial

contribution of the Federal government, foreign governments, businesses and tourists, these gains, will be felt mainly in Vancouver and its immediate surroundings. In the long run, "Expo is a dismal failure."

Compared to other types of public investment (e.g. education, forestry, or social services), very little of the investment in Expo is in permanent structures or human capital, most of it being in some form of promotion (advertising). The effect of advertising has been estimated to have its maximum impact in the first two years, equivalent to a depreciation rate of about 80% a year. Hence the Socred government's claim that Expo will generate large long-term future tourist spending is not based on fact.

Even as a promotional tool, Expo is not the most important factor influencing tourists' decisions to visit B.C., according to a 1985 survey by the government's own Ministry of

Tourism. It is more effective just to provide specific information on where to go and what to do in B.C.

What then is the rationale for Expo?

Ian Mulgrew in "And Now for a Paid Political Announcement" calls Expo "the key to survival for the world's last remaining Social Credit government." The Socreds have not been restrained in exploiting the people's excitement over Expo. "Expo is great for B.C. in 1986 and in years after... Expo will be a turning point in B.C.'s history," said Bill Bennett.

How convenient that the public will pay so willingly the \$300 or \$400 million bill (the deficit projected by Expo officials) for a 6-month long Socred commercial that precedes an impending provincial election.

World Fairs lose money, and there is no question that Expo will lose money. Apparently the people of B.C. had agreed with Bill Bennett in saying, "It is more important to proceed than to worry about how much it might cost."

Expo, together with BC Place and the ALRT, came about as a series of "unilateral decisions made in secret by the Social Credit government," whose aim was winning re-election in 1983 and 1986, according to Donald Gutstein ("The Impact of Expo on Vancouver"). Gutstein's article probes the interconnections between the BC Socreds, TEAM (a Vancouver political party), Gordon Campbell (a mayoral candidate for the Vancouver civic election this fall), and the federal Liberal party. He traces the enrichment of developers, including Campbell himself, as a result of planning decisions made in haste by the city of Vancouver to accommodate Expo deadlines and in disregard to the need for impact studies on the neighbourhoods affected.

The public's acceptance of Expo bears examination. Eleanor Wachtel's essay entitled "Expo 86 and the World's Fairs" looks into the justification for World Fairs. Today's fairs "do not represent the leading edge in any particular field. Still, the idea of associating fairs

with deep thought about our future dies hard."

One report on the New York fair of 1939, whose theme was "Fair of the Future," states, "The mass production methods of American industry... have long made the American bathroom synonymous with American civilization." In our time, Expo is essentially banality dressed in the glitz of a billion-dollar novelty store.

Wachtel notes that the first World's Fair (London, 1851) "validated the status of the rising middle class and satisfied its need to order a universe which rapid urbanization, industrialism and political ferment had shaken." British Columbia in 1986 has seen long-term unemployment, record numbers in food lines, and failing financial institutions. Expo captured public support because it promised a good time to a sufficient number of people. As Wachtel and Robert Anderson say in their introduction to the book, "In contrast to the food lines, the circus was looking better and better."

In the final analysis, on what do we base our judgement of Expo? Is there an index of fun? With what do we balance our losses in education and social welfare, and the unemployment to come when the temporary jobs are over? If Expo points at all to future of humankind, to what does it point? As a celebration of technology, what meaning does it contribute to human life? Is it significant that the "spiritual" pavilion at Expo became a commercial venture, sold at \$5 million to a Christian corporation? (Keith Howard, "100 Huntley Street and the Interfaith Pavilion Controversy")

B.C.'s transportation showcase features a hi-tech monorail that performs like a toy train unrelated to the needs of urban communities; an advanced rapid transit system that was set up untested at the cost of millions of dollars and that may never fulfill expectations for an efficient, cost-effective transportation network; and the legacy of Highway 86 (a sculptural work on the Expo site) that is status quo embedded in concrete.

The *Expo Story* invites us to view Expo in a wider context, to examine

it without its neon and dazzle and without succumbing to the delusion that we must avoid criticism in order to "make it work" because we have apparently committed our children's inheritance to it. The essays are readable, summarizing our recent history and putting a useful perspective on the facts.

However, some of the issues need more rigorous probing. The authors leave the reader with tantalizing hints at collusion and describe suspicious strings of coincidental events. They allude to dark secrets obscured

by veils of silence and suggest hidden objectives behind abrupt policy or staff changes. There are more questions raised than answered.

Perhaps with the passage of time, some of the answers will become clear. The political, economic and moral balance sheet for Expo cannot be completed until the Fair is over.

The Expo Story by Robert Anderson and Eleanor Wachtel, Harbour Publishing, Madeira Park, B.C., 1986.

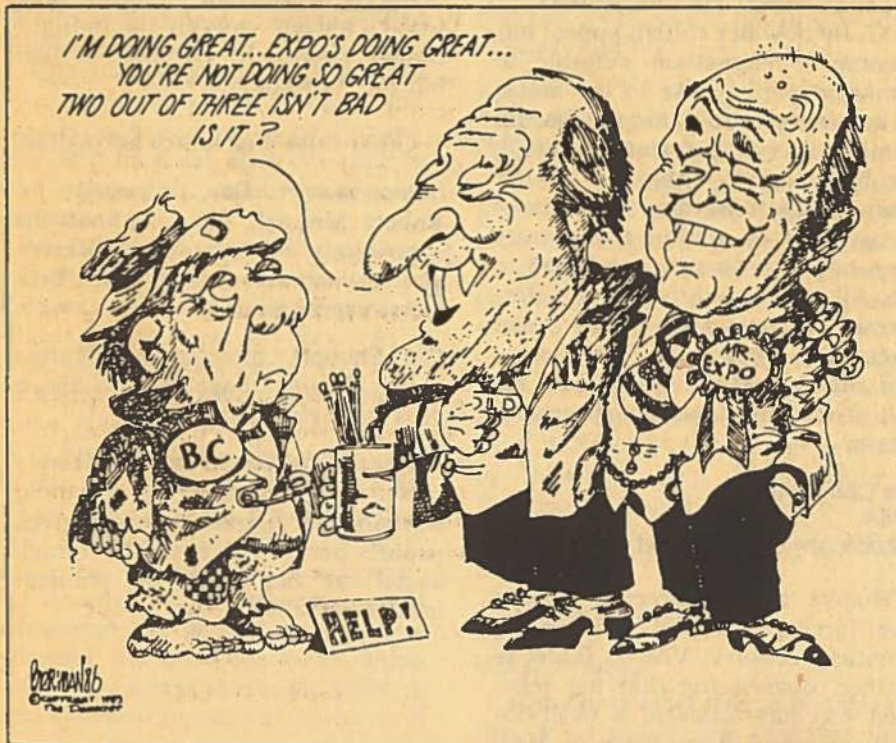


stop the action at any point if they see an opportunity to intervene and solve the problem (or problems) that are raised in the play. If an audience member DOES stop the action, then he or she is asked to come into the scene to try out his or her idea. Maybe the idea works. Maybe it doesn't. In any case, the community as a whole gets a broad view of what some local issues are (because everyone involved will see them from a different perspective) and some concrete ideas of how to go about solving them. All of this and an evening at the theatre, too!!

The concept behind **POWER PLAYS** was developed in Brazil by Augusto Boal. The two Headlines people running the workshops have both worked with Boal in Paris and have been teaching popular theatre workshops in Canada and Britain to many different kinds of community groups. Headlines is touring these workshops to eight different communities throughout B.C.

POWER PLAYS is a chance for you to actively participate in a theatre event about the things that concern you. The short plays you will see have been developed by people who you may even know and work or play with. Come on out and support them. It's going to be a lot of fun!

Headlines Theatre Co.
#104-1955 West 4th Avenue
Vancouver, B.C.
V6J 1M7
(604) 738-2283



Community Bulletin Board

Vancouver Lesbian Connection

The origin of VLC

The Vancouver Lesbian Connection started in April 1984. Our common goal, then and now, is to create a major political and social centre for lesbians in Vancouver. Our dreams are big. Our vision is to aid in the development of a building, owned and operated by the lesbian community, where office, performance, and meeting space is available for the lesbian community, and also to develop businesses that would provide revenue for the Centre and jobs for women.

Why organize as lesbians?

We have formed an all-lesbian collective because, as members of an oppressed group, we believe it is important to work autonomously so that we can focus on issues that directly affect our lives. By organizing independently, we will encourage lesbians to realize and to recognize our strength, our value as individuals and as groups within the feminist movement. We are committed to promoting lesbian pride, visibility, and concrete organizing for social change.

The structure of VLC

The Vancouver Lesbian Connection has a very detailed Basis of Unity. We work as a collective and strive for consensus in our decision-

making. We encourage individual women to join and support VLC, either as a core member or as a volunteer. We also encourage other lesbian groups to support the Centre by making use of the space and becoming involved in the direction of the Centre by sending a representative to core.

What we provide now?

After a lot of hard work and planning, VLC has partially achieved their goal by opening, in September '85, a small but thriving centre in the "heart of dykedom," at Commercial and Venables. To date, the centre provides a space to sit and chat over a coffee, to play pool, to check out the library, look over the ever-changing display of artwork and to keep in touch with events & services on the information board.

We are looking for women to facilitate coming-out groups with a feminist perspective. There has been an increase of calls from women needing a safe and positive place to meet and explore their lesbianism. We are unable to provide this service at this time but will give concrete support. Anyone interested in volunteering contact us at 254-8458.

• Any women needing the use of a typewriter may drop in Tuesday & Thursday at VLC at 876 Commercial Drive, 11-4 p.m. Also Xeroxing available.

• Take Back The Night Dance September 19 at the Capri Hall 8:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Tickets, \$4 to \$6, are available at V.L.C. 876 Commercial Drive, Ariel Books, Women's Bookstore and Little Sisters. Wheelchair accessible and childcare offsite.

Calendar of events

Cafe LIL: 1st Monday of each month. 7-10 p.m.
VLC meetings: Wednesdays 7:30 p.m.
Lesbians Moms & Tots: Wednesdays 9-11 a.m.
VLC Coffee House: Fridays 7-10 p.m.
Entertainment 2nd & 4th Friday
VLC Legal Advice Clinic:
Last Saturday of each month 9 a.m. to Noon with Ruth Taylor

Hours of Operation:

Monday-Friday: 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
Saturday: 12-6 p.m.

VLC is hoping to schedule an evening in late August or early September with Acting Up theatre group and aya, a women's a capella group. We are also planning an evening with Raw Sugar, a one woman show from Seattle, as well as our Marcia Meyer. Any woman interested in joining the Women's Coffeehouse Collective, please call 254-8458 or drop by 876 Commercial Drive on a Friday night from 7:30 p.m. on.

Single Mothers' Support Group

The Latin American Single Mothers' Support Group is a group that was recently funded with the help of the YWCA.

The main objective is to help single moms from Latin America understand and become part of Canadian society.

Our group is interested in participating in all women's activities. For information, contact:

Ana Oliva: 254-0909



COMMITTEE FOR THE DEFENSE OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS

CODEM in Vancouver has been organized to support the struggle of our sisters in Chile. We are working on three specific projects that CODEM has sent us from Chile. If you are interested in working in any way to support CODEM, we would like to get in touch with you.

Please phone:
430-3657 or 430-0423

"Only the struggle will make us free"



Video School

Script Writing for Video:
Lisa Steele
October 10 - 12, 1986

This three-day workshop will provide participants with script writing tools for a variety of video forms. Techniques to stimulate imagination and script ideas will be probed. Different examples of scripted videos will provide a jumping off point for class discussion. The development of script from concept to shooting script to editing script will be outlined. Participants do not need previous script writing experience to enroll.

Lisa Steele

Lisa Steele is a senior Canadian video artist whose work has been shown around the world. She has instructed at Simon Fraser University, Ontario College of Art and has taught many workshops. Her work involves complex narrative scripts which employ a variety of approaches. Lisa writes regularly for Fuse Magazine and lives in Toronto.

Some workshops may have an enrollment limit. Workshops for members are: \$30.00 for a 3-day workshop, \$20.00 for a 2-day workshop, and \$5.00 for a 1-day workshop. For non-members workshops are \$40.00 for a 3-day workshop, \$30.00 for a 2-day workshop, and \$10.00 for a 1-day workshop (may be subject to change). For more information please call Kellie Marlowe, the production coordinator, at 872-4332.

COMMUNIQUE'ELLES

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V5Y 1R3 • • (604) 872-2250

September 3rd to
October 4th

Opening September 3rd at 8 pm

PURLOINED PORTRAITS

Guest-curated by Heather Dawkins. Period photographs (1853 - 1874) from the Hannah Cullwick Archive depicting Cullwick posing in various disguises. Accompanied by a video-taped lecture by Dawkins and a catalogue/brochure that includes excerpts from Cullwick's diaries.

October 15th to
November 15th

Opening October 15th at 8 pm

THE U.S.A. GRADUATES

Guest-curated by Leita Richardson. Richardson brings together, for the first time, drawings, paintings, sculpture and archive photographs of works by the largely forgotten women who graduated from the Vancouver School of Art in its early years.



B.C. Premiere: Films Against Apartheid

Winnie and Nelson Mandela
Witness to Apartheid

Director Peter Davis will be in attendance for the B.C. premiere of his film "Winnie and Nelson Mandela," at the Ridge Theatre. Davis is considered one of the world's best documentary filmmakers.

"Winnie and Nelson Mandela" looks at the lives of these venerated leaders of black South Africa. Their fight for freedom and dignity personify the long and arduous path of resistance travelled by the black majority.

"Witness to Apartheid" is a documentary filmed during the 1985 State of Emergency in South Africa by Emmy Award winning journalist and former NBC producer Sharon Sopher. It presents a compelling testimony by victims and witnesses of recent police violence in townships.

Ridge Theatre (3131 Arbutus)
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