

TAPESTRY

A FEMINIST QUARTERLY



A NAC FOR POLITICS
by Robin LeDrew

SOURCE OF SUPPLY
by Barbara Brown

THE REUNION
by Margaret Chapman

THE WORLD CONGRESS OF
WOMEN
a report by
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WOMEN AT NATO
excerpt from
Peace Magazine

CANADIAN PEACE
PLEDGE CAMPAIGN

FALL 1987

\$2.00

TAPESTORIAL

Join with us in welcoming our new coordinator, Patricia Sebastian, to the Okanagan Women's Coalition. Patricia introduces herself to you in this issue, but please feel free to come to the Coalition offices and meet her in person.

Robin LeDrew has written a wonderfully clear article that explains what NAC is, how one joins and what is involved in the behind the scenes activity. Groundfloor politics at work!

Poverty is the biggest scourge of women today -- particularly single mothers and widows.

Jean Swanson's article on the Guaranteed Annual Income educates us on what to watch for in any future legislation. We want to end poverty, not get the screws yet again.

-- DW

drawings on front cover and pages 9 and 15 by Robin LeDrew

TAPESTRY is published by the

Okanagan Women's Coalition

The Okanagan Women's Coalition is primarily a resource centre of information pertinent to issues of concern and interest to women. We are a registered society and are supported by fees, donations, fundraising and government grants.

Our resource library contains non-fiction, governmental and non-governmental reports, Hansard (the official daily report of the House of Common) as well as novels, poetry and prose.

In addition to TAPESTRY we offer workshops, seminars and conferences throughout the year on topics such as:

- violence against women
- sexual harassment
- human rights
- sex role stereotyping
- child care
- pay equity
- homenakers pension
- the physically challenged
- visible and invisible minorities
- women in conflict with the law
- employment standards
- reproductive hazzards
- non-traditional work
- pornography
- prostitution
- world peace
- the environment

The Okanagan Women's Coalition is located at #6-3000-30th Street, Vernon, B.C. with office hours of Monday through Friday 9:00 am to 4:30 pm. The mailing address is P.O. Box 1242, Vernon, B.C. V1T 6N6. Phone 542-7531 or 545-6406 for more information.

Women who helped with this issue:

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Tabor, Diana Wheeler



NEWS FLASH!!!!!!

NEW CO-ORDINATOR AT OKANAGAN WOMEN'S COALITION.

Hello! My name is Patricia Sebastian and I have recently accepted the position as the new co-ordinator for the Okanagan Women's Coalition.

My involvement with the OKWC goes back several years when I was a volunteer and helped to set up the library and later was the project manager and volunteer co-ordinator on a Canada Works Project. During that time, I was editor for our Quarterly Newsletter, TAPESTRY, and involved in various projects, including the annual Women's Festival.

My background includes a B.A. degree from Simon Fraser University plus a B.C. Teaching Certificate. I have extensive experience living and working in Native communities in British Columbia. In addition to a teaching and counselling background, I have administrative and public relations experience.

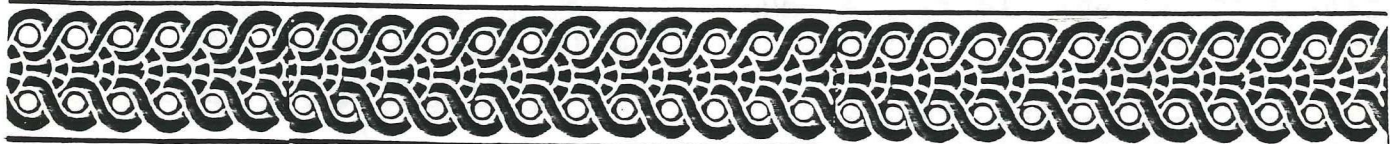
For the past two years, my son, Troy, and I have been living in Sydney, Nova Scotia. During that time I was employed as a women's employment counsellor. We enjoyed our time living on Cape Breton Island but are very happy to be back in the sunny Okanagan.

I am looking forward to seeing many familiar faces again and to meeting other women through my association with the OKWC. Please drop in to say "Hello".

Remember.....

You are enough.
You do enough.
You have enough.

(Thanks to Joy, Kelowna Women's Center)



the opportunity to fly to Ottawa, to meet and network with women from across Canada, to participate in a plenary debate with over 500 other women and to lobby Parliament in person -- all for the first time.

The experience can be overwhelming! The formality of Parliamentary procedure and the size of the gathering (speaking into a mike in front of 500 women!) are challenging enough.

But the real shock for many women is the range and complexity of issues. Child care, pornography, tax reform, the constitution, the justice system and more are all on the agenda. It is clear that there are no such things as "women's issues" anymore. For some, the realization that feminist women can be passionately divided on many of these topics compounds the distress.

However, the plenary can also be inspiring. Hearing eloquent and powerful women hammer out positions on such thorny issues as pornography and prostitution gives one hope for the future of the democratic process. For, in spite of the cumbersome Robert's Rules, the mikes and the formality, it is clear that, even here at a National level, women are more comfortable with consensus than majority rule -- and this is evidenced by the wondrous number of "friendly amendments" attached to most resolutions at the AGM.

It is not all roses, of course. Some of the political processes in NAC are as competitive and unpleasant as anywhere else. In fact, when I ran for Regional Representative, someone said to

me, "If you can stand running for a position in NAC, political office is a piece of cake."

Running for office in the National Action Committee may seem low key on the surface, but some of the positions are hotly contended. Strategic alliances and the formation of Power Blocs are part of the hidden process. This is unfortunate but it is certainly part of a realistic political education at present.

As an elected executive member, one's political education intensifies. One finds oneself as a Regional Representative in the rather extraordinary position of being a sort of voluntary MP. Not surprisingly, it is a difficult position -- even with a small budget for telephone, postage and travel, the Regional Representative finds herself taxed to the limit. The regional delegate is expected to maintain contact with her member groups, to activate them on particularly vital issues, to receive their input and incorporate it at the executive meetings and to spearhead lobby actions at a provincial level. To function effectively, a Regional Representative needs willing and able contact people in each member group, a support system of past Regional Representatives and a very unpossessive family.

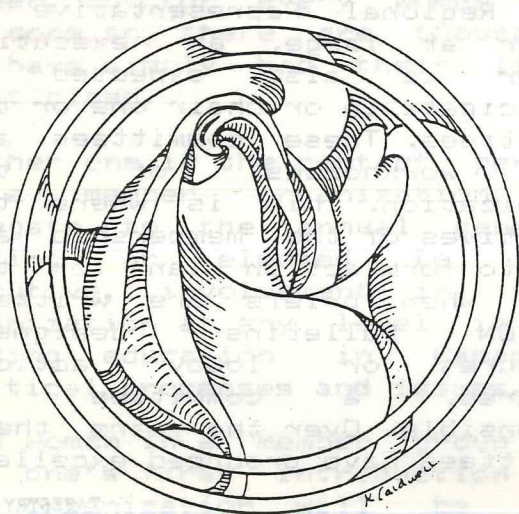
In addition to her responsibility as a Regional Representative or member at large, an executive member is also expected to participate in or chair one or two committees. These committees are the workhorses of the organization. This is where the directives of the membership are used to form action plans for the year. When briefs are written, NACTION Bulletins designed, brochures or lobby actions prepared, a committee is responsible. Over the years these committees have produced excellent



material. Their structure and processes have varied. However, they all have sought the active involvement of women at a grass roots level, women who are working in the appropriate field -- whether from a member or non-member group. The chair of a committee has a number of responsibilities: to ensure the involvement of representative women in the committee; to facilitate communication and democratic decision-making within the committee; and to ensure the achievement of the committee's goals.

This can be very exciting and stimulating (although daunting, I'll admit). It means being in communication with women who are actively involved in an area of mutual interest from across Canada. It means constantly thinking about political issues and working to develop a women's perspective on them. It means never being bored!

Presently there are approximately 20 policy committees dealing with the following areas: international affairs, survival of the Planet, employment and the economy, justice, pensions and income security, pornography, violence toward women, health, reproductive rights, Lesbian issues, Native women, young feminists, immigrant women and prostitution.



The most fascinating aspect of the National Action Committee is its duplication of the Canadian political forum. The typical Canadian issues of vast distances, far-flung constituencies, centralization versus decentralization, Francophone versus Anglophone, rural versus urban are all present. In that respect NAC offers an education in federal politics which is unbeatable. The challenge always seems to be "how can it possibly work"? -- and yet it does.

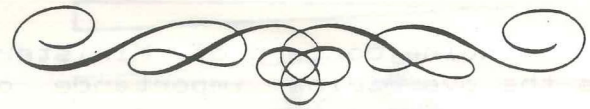
Recently, the Meech Lake Accord posed a strenuous test for NAC's federal commitment. Presented with the imminent arrival of the accord at the Annual General Meeting in May, a committee was struck to examine the accord and to prepare a response to it. This ad hoc group, reflecting NAC's commitment to its Francophone members, had equal representation from Quebec and English Canada. Unfortunately (perhaps because of the haste imposed by the September deadline for responses), a further motion to make the committee accountable to all the provinces was abandoned. The committee met throughout the summer and formulated a critique of the Accord. However, NAC's position was considerably less "hard line" on women's rights because of its committee structure, and so laid itself open to criticism from other women's groups. Also, the lack of provincial and, particularly, territorial input made NAC's brief less acceptable to some regional delegates. Up to that point, NAC's actions were not much better than those of the federal government. However, because of lack of consensus, this brief has now been retained for internal debate and the real processes of NAC can proceed: the processes of grass roots education, discussion, feedback and consensus decision-making which will make a truly national women's perspective on the Meech Lake Accord possible.

Flawed though it was, the committee process was essentially more democratic than that of the federal government. NAC's willingness to accept its brief on Meech Lake as a first draft, and to open the doors for long term dialogue and consensus, contrasts sharply with the finality of the Meech Lake Accord itself.

What we as Canadian women have in the National Action Committee is a glimpse of what real political participation could include: education, consultation and dialogue at a grass roots level, careful analysis of input, formulation of draft proposals, feedback on the draft proposals, compromise and, in the end, consensus.

So, having a "NAC for Politics" does not simply mean inspiring a few women to political careers (although that may be a side benefit), nor does it only encompass the political education of a broad majority of women (though that is a worthy goal). It can mean much more. It can mean having an opportunity to experiment boldly with the political process itself, tear it apart and transform it for the benefit of all Canadians.

After all, since it is obvious that women do have a knack for politics, can we settle for anything less?



MEETING OF COMMONWEALTH MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR WOMEN'S AFFAIRS

The Second Meeting of Commonwealth Ministers Responsible for Women's Affairs was held in Harare, Zimbabwe, from 3 to 6 August 1987. Thirty-two countries were represented, 23 of them by Ministers charged with responsibility for women's affairs. Canada was represented by the Honourable Barbara McDougall, Minister Responsible for the Status of Women.

A central theme of the Minister's deliberations was the development of effective means of incorporating women and development issues into the mainstream of policy and planning processes, both at the national and international levels. In particular, the Ministers were concerned with the interaction between economic and women and development issues. There is deterioration in the international economic environment and it has an impact in all sectors of policy development. Co-operation among Commonwealth governments is important to ensure that policies support women in contributing to economic recovery and avoid placing disproportionate burdens on women in the adjustment process.

The Ministers reaffirmed the special value which they attach to stringent legislative measures involving increased penalties for all forms of violence against women. They emphasized the importance of public education to ensure that women are aware of their rights and to overcome societal attitudes condoning violence against women. They want this to be expanded to include sex tourism and child abuse.

A continuing concern of Ministers was the overriding importance of training. Ministers emphasized the need for a variety of training formats and durations, directed at a range of participants: training for senior policy-makers in governments to orient and sensitize them to women's issues; for staff of national machineries to enhance their professional competence; for women in local communities to develop their decision-making capacity. They stressed the need for in-country training to enable more women to benefit. In order to facilitate this, they emphasized the value of programmes for training of trainers.

The meeting resulted in the adoption by Commonwealth Ministers of a Plan of Action to be forwarded for endorsement to Commonwealth Heads of Government at their meeting in Vancouver in October.



WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN EGYPT

A report in a recent issue of the Christian Science Monitor states that the Muslim Brotherhood, for many years an underground organization in Egypt, is determined to persuade the People's Assembly to adopt Islamic Law. In the last elections in April, 35 members of the Brotherhood were elected to parliament. Complete implementation of Islamic Law would alienate Egypt's millions of Coptic Christians and for this reason President Hosni Mubarak has limited his accommodation of the Brotherhood. However, laws that enhanced women's rights have already been repealed.

TAPESTRY...6

BILL 19: BUILDING BARRIERS TO FAIR WAGES

-- NDP Press Release, Women's Caucus Report #1

Over the past few months, most people in this province have come to realize how bad Bill 19 really is. But there is a section in particular which will have a damaging effect on working women. Joan Smallwood, MLA, talked about it at length in the House. It's a section called "factors to be considered", and it very clearly inhibits the ability of women in the public sector to increase their wages or benefits to an equal status with their male counterparts.

On average, women make 65 per cent of men's wages. This section of the Bill inhibits any improvement on that by comparing any public sector wage settlement with similar occupations in the community. What that means is that wage inequities normally addressed through collective bargaining will instead be entrenched through legislation.

The progress unions have made at achieving equal pay for work of equal value will be prohibited by law. This is the only government in Canada that is building up the barriers of unequal pay instead of working towards tearing them down.



working women

...Myrna Robson

Myrna Robson has been a computer typesetter for many years and with several companies. She is fast; she is efficient. I know - I have worked with her.

The following is the result of an interview with her. Myrna stresses in her interview that hers is a job that challenges the mind; it certainly does, and I would add that a good memory would also be an asset for a computer typesetter. She also refers to the constant pressure to meet deadlines; the pressure is strong and the typesetter must be strong-minded to handle what will be dealt her way. She must be willing to work a fair amount of overtime because she is the beginning of the printing process and the work does not always come in nicely spaced intervals. "Feast or famine" seems to hold true in most print shops.

The first step, of course, is the acquisition of skills. In days past, many typesetters seemed to "fall into" their jobs while working in other phases of the printing industry, but now it is necessary to attend a technical school that offers programs in the graphic arts industry. After finding employment at a printing company, it is usual to follow through an apprenticeship program.

Computer typesetting is a complex but efficient method of reproducing the printed word on film with a sharp, vivid image. Naturally, this makes for easier reading and a more visually pleasing printed page. To understand how all this works, you would have to understand the purpose of each component of the typesetting equipment and the production process. This is an



Jeanette Nelson/Jewels Graphics

involved process as each component has a specific purpose and is connected electronically to all the other components of the system.

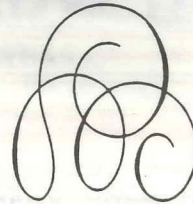
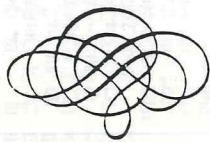
As the operator becomes familiar with the equipment they are using, they are able to adapt to the preferences of the production department and determine changes to the process presently used to increase production efficiency. All printing departments are interdependent on one another so it is necessary that each department work in harmony with the other.

The typesetter receives a manuscript -- a document of the text to be included in a typeset job. A layout is a "blueprint" or illustration of how the text, rules, and graphics are to appear in the finished job and where they are to be positioned on the page. These documents are created by authors, secretaries, artists, layout designers, and others, depending on the work being done. The manu-

script and layout are the raw materials used by the operator to enter and typeset the job.

The manuscript and layout may contain mark-up symbols which are instructions to the operator on the size, style, width, spacing, and specific positioning of the text, rules and graphics in the job. A good operator does not need a heavily marked up layout; instead they know either by trial and error experience or by learning to use their knowledge of the equipment to typeset the job on their own. Very few small print shops have an employee that marks up the job for the typesetter and, therefore, it is necessary to learn how to do it yourself -- and the only way is trial and error. Typesetting is like any other learning experience -- you are not learning if you are not making errors.

Anyone thinking of a career in typesetting must be an above average typist and thoroughly enjoy doing it. It must present a challenge and a feeling of fulfillment when you can type a page of copy without an error. This is all important! The work also entails a necessity for creativeness, a love of words, hard work and the desire to always do your very best. For the most part, a typesetter is under constant pressure to meet deadlines as this is the beginning of the printing process and other departments are waiting for the type so that they can get on with the job. Every job is different -- some are so difficult they boggle the mind, others interesting and relaxing -- there is never a dull moment. If your mind likes to be challenged, then this is the career for you!



1987 PERSONS AWARDS RECIPIENTS

The Honourable Barbara McDougall, Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, announced the names of the five recipients of the 1987 Persons Awards. They are: Margaret Catherine Harris, of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan; Jacqueline Laprise-Demers, of St-Felicien, Quebec; Frances Lanacy, of Conception Harbour, Newfoundland; Kay Macpherson, of Toronto, Ontario; and Norma E. Walmsley, of Wakefield, Quebec.

The Honourable Guy Charbonneau, Speaker of the Senate, presided at the awards ceremony in the Senate Chamber, Ottawa, on October 21st.

The Persons Awards, which recognize outstanding contributions towards improving the status of women in Canada, were initiated in 1979 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Persons Case. On October 18, 1929, women in Canada won the legal right to be considered for appointment to the Senate. This victory was won through the efforts of the "famous five" Alberta women -- Emily Murphy, Louise McKinney, Nellie McClung, Irene Pariby and Henrietta Muir Edwards -- who signed a petition requesting an amendment to the BRITISH NORTH AMERICA ACT to grant women "persons" status.

Nominations for the awards were submitted by individuals, women's groups and status of women committees within various organizations across Canada and were reviewed by a seven-member selection committee. *

Source of Supply

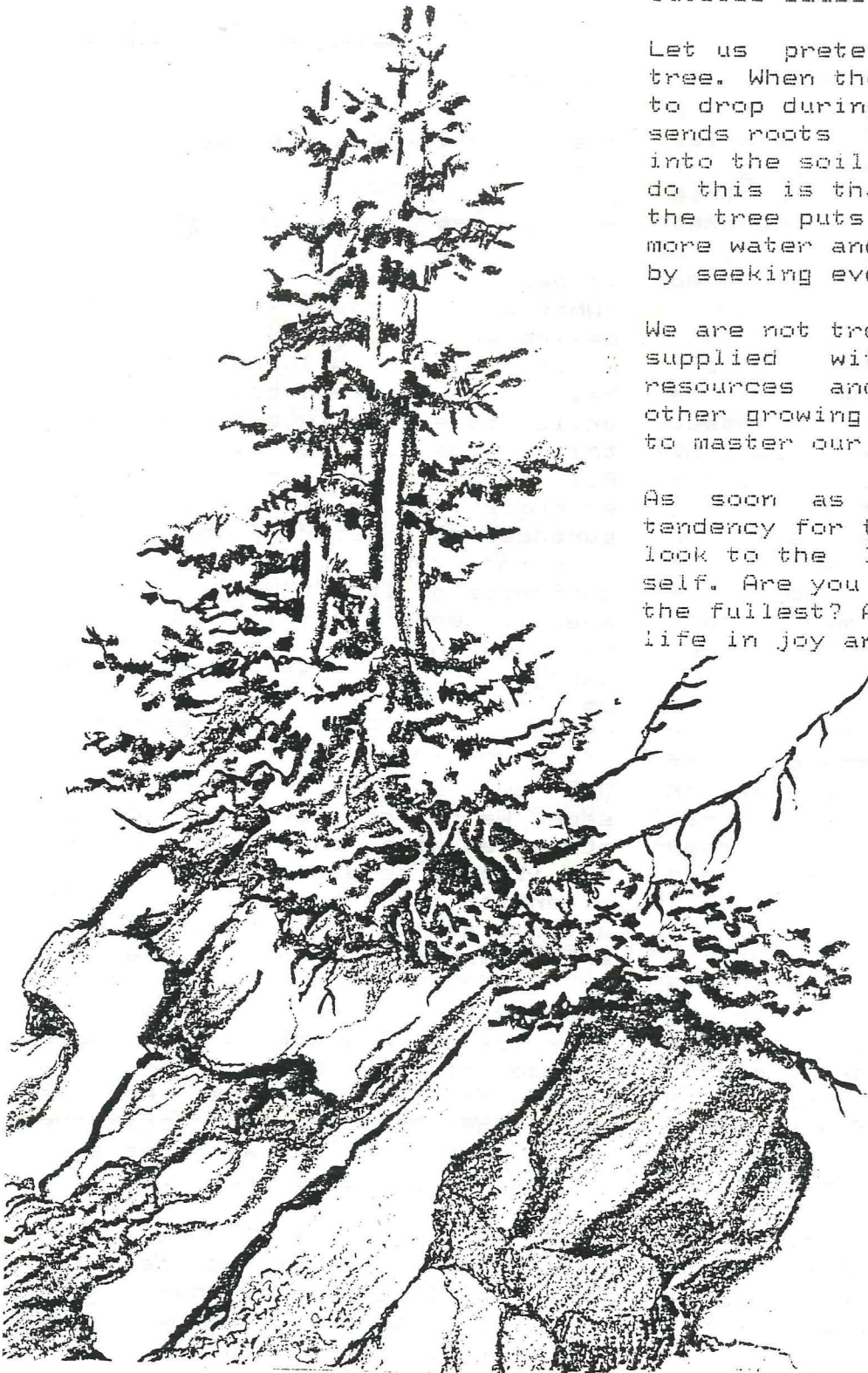
by Barbara Brown

What do you do when the apparent source of supply, i.e. wages, earnings, business earnings, seems to be lessening, rather than growing? Do you tighten your belt? Do you reduce your consumption? Do you moan that "times" are hard? Do you put the blame on some other outside cause?

Let us pretend that you are a tree. When the water table tends to drop during a season, the tree sends roots further and further into the soil. What causes it to do this is that the life energy in the tree puts forth its demand for more water and the roots respond by seeking ever further.

We are not trees. In fact we are supplied with vastly greater resources and desires than any other growing thing. We are told to master our environment.

As soon as one experiences a tendency for the supply to lessen, look to the life energy in the self. Are you expressing life to the fullest? Are you living your life in joy and gratitude? Are you



so full of energy and the things of this world that you are bursting to share it? These feelings are the expression of life and they make the demand on the universe to supply our greater and greater expression with the bread of life itself, the wherewithal to satisfy our urge toward a more abundant life.

This abundant life is not a selfish acquisition of material possessions, but a fulfilling of our desires of expression. This can bear fruit in many thousands of ways, wherever we can fill a need, by using the unique gifts we have come here to express.

When a gardener discovers a plant is not expressing its best in the situation in which it was planted, she moves it to another location. We have a gardener within ourselves. A voice that gently urges us toward what is best for us. We have legs and wheels to make any move necessary, so we are independent. We have minds that can think, and intuition to guide us. So what goes wrong?

We have been taught to think that we earn our supply by the sweat of our brow and income depends on persuading someone out there that we can do a job better than someone else. Sometimes we believe in luck, sometimes in the influence of others.

None of this is true. You are a child of the universe and by being here, by just existing, you place a demand on the universe to supply you with all your needs. The secret lies in not being content with our needs being met. That is the life of a plant or animal. We are to search in our hearts for the desires of our hearts. Those desires that make our eyes light up, our hearts beat faster, our energy to begin to tingle in our fingers -- and then --

BEGIN

Begin with whatever you have at hand. Even if all you have in the world is a crust of bread, give it to someone hungrier than you. Love the giving. Give thanks that you had it to give. Love the receiver and know that her supply also depends on what she can give to another. Perhaps all she will have is a smile because at the moment her need has been met.

The snowball of prosperity starts with a smile. Even if the only person we can smile at is our own face in the mirror. Try it!

To begin, it helps to take stock. "What would I do if my greatest desire was fulfilled?" And then proceed to do it with what you have. A car never goes anywhere until its engine is started. Start that engine of life with action. Fill it with the fuel of enthusiasm, drive it with the sureness of a veteran, and do not concern your mind with the mechanics of it. It will tell you when it needs attention. When it gets low on fuel, we take it to a garage, knowing that the gas will be there without our giving a thought as to how it got there.

Our own supply is exactly the same. We do not have to concern ourselves with the mechanics of how it gets to us. As long as our attention is on the quality of our actions and the quality of life we are demanding of the universe.

Quality of action, of course, lies in attitude. And attitude we have charge of. We cannot look to others for our attitude. And we take care to express positive attitude by the love we express in our day to day environment.

BEGIN now to express more love. Look to your heart and ask it, "What can I love today that I did not love yesterday." And by loving a little more today, our tomorrow will be motivated by a more positive attitude. And our more

positive attitude will fuel our enthusiasm and as we go into action that will put a demand on the universe for our supply. Like a snow ball at the top of a mountain, it gathers more snow and more momentum as it goes -- automatically.



DIRECTOR OF WOMEN'S SECRETARIAT
DISCUSSES LOCAL WOMEN'S ISSUES
a report of the Kelowna Women's
Resource Centre

Fran Norris, Executive Director of the provincial Women's Secretariat, met with representatives of several women's groups and Cliff Serwa, MLA, Okanagan South, on September 23rd to discuss the creation of a women's advisory council in Kelowna.

Norris came to Kelowna in response to requests for more frequent and formalized communication between local women's groups and the provincial government. British Columbia is presently the only province without a formal advisory council on the status of women.

In her role as head of the Women's Secretariat, Norris made it clear that the creation of a formal system of consultation is a decision which can only be made at cabinet level. The Secretariat is presently studying the issue and

will make recommendations to the Minister-in-Charge, Stan Hagen, at some later date.

While this was useful in clarifying the fact that the Women's Secretariat does not have an advocacy role with regard to transmitting women's concerns to the government, it left those present unclear about what concrete plans the Secretariat will pursue in the future.

Serwa assured the group that he is ready at all times to attend meetings, receive briefs and guarantee feedback to women's groups throughout his constituency. He reiterated his support for the creation of a local advisory council in Kelowna and pledged to maintain communications on an ongoing basis. He said that a balanced and co-ordinated approach, such as the Kelowna Women's Resource Centre has recommended, would raise awareness at all levels of government and ensure that women's issues receive the attention they deserve.

Briefs were also presented to both Norris and Serwa concerning: problems women face due to the lack of a degree-granting institution in the Okanagan; treatment services for victims and offenders in the areas of family violence and child abuse.

Representatives attending the meeting included: Brenda Knight, Executive Director of the Kelowna Women's Emergency Shelter; Diane Wilkinson, Executive Director of the Central Okanagan Elizabeth Fry Society; Morgan Price, Executive Director of the Kelowna Family Centre; Ruth Drope, Nancy Netting and Joy Stowe, board members of the Kelowna Women's Resource Centre.



The Reunion by Margaret Chapman

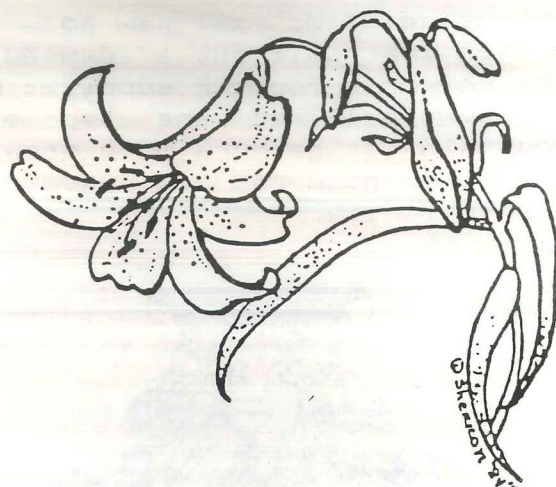
Was this the right house? Would I recognize my fellow graduates, the Household Science class of '47 at U. of S., after forty years? Would they be chic and ultra sophisticated, unlike the rather dowdy, aging woman with the hearing aid and short memory that I have become. Also, the plane had been late and I hadn't had time to change! Still, I had taken the plunge. No time to yield to feelings of apprehension.

I needn't have worried. Name tags helped and soon the recognition came. They were as natural and friendly as 40 years ago. In a few minutes, we were talking and laughing as the years dropped away.

Of the original 28 in our class, only 26 remain. Of these, 16 attended the reunion, from as far away as Virginia.

Our university training was well-founded in Science and Arts courses, designed to prepare us, after one or two years of internship or teacher training, to work as dietitians in hospitals or large commercial establishments such as the Bay or Eatons, to become community nutritionists (a new field in 1947), to teach Home Economics or to become effective homemakers and parents.

Our faculty had imbued in us the idea that we had an obligation to pass on our knowledge to the community in return for the privilege of a higher education. Most of us hoped to marry and, in fact, our Family Relations classes emphasized the role of the wife in furthering her husband's career. All but two in our class did marry. All those who married had children, natural or adopted, or in one case, acquired through marriage. Families tended to be



larger than today's -- four in most cases.

Sharing the stories of our lives since graduation was fun. Most of us used photo essays but some reported verbally.

In my opinion, the happiest report was of a woman who married a minister, sharing his duties in the parish in six different locations and serving 21 parishes. Early rural parsonages did not usually have electricity or running water but the family of five thrived. Serving several parishes made for difficult travelling in winter and was worrisome. Holidays were rare; mostly inexpensive camping trips. Yet there was an exuberance about this woman, in spite of M.S. which she has had for many years.

Some graduates have been influential. One became National President of the Consumers' Association of Canada, appeared on several CBC consumer programs and on the Jack Webster show. She also served for a time as Women's Editor of The Country Guide. Now retired, she is busy organizing Seniors for Seniors, whereby seniors help other seniors for a small fee.

Others have used their organizational skills in amazing ways. One graduate who had taught at the

university level became involved in the school system because her children were in attendance. Later she organized the League of Women Voters in Blacksburg, Virginia and served on the State Board of that organization. Presently the League is working on a project called "Future Horizons for Virginia", a plan devised by 35 appointees of the Governor. Jean's group is visiting communities in Virginia, acquainting them with the plan and asking for their opinions. Their findings will be presented in a brief to the Governor.

Reception to her group was cool at first but has gained support now in the Governor's office. She calls it Participatory Democracy.

One of the grads raised her family, then returned to university part-time for classes in Interior Design. Having qualified herself as a Registered Member of the Interior Designers of Canada, she plans to set up a private business with her husband, an architect, when he retires from his position with the City of Saskatoon this year. What an interesting retirement project!

Dissecting a Reunion of women educated in the traditional role model can bring puzzling results. One startling fact that I observed in our case was that, when both parents have continued to work all those years, their children appeared to be outstanding achievers. For example, one woman, the daughter of two working professionals, is an adviser in international law, the only female adviser to the Department of National Defence. She also is a motorcyclist. Another, a daughter, is medical director of a large hospital in Regina.

The sampling was too small to be significant but I couldn't help but wonder: was it because of increased income, higher expectations, because of the role models,

the independence developed when both parents are deeply involved in their careers? It would be an interesting study to pursue.

Through all the stories came the recognition that this class has contributed significantly as professionals, as community builders, as homemakers and parents, as partners and as initiators of change to a much greater degree than I had expected.

The sad news is that the college is to be closed in 1990. Nutrition and Dietetics will be retained but moved to another discipline. But Household Science (later, Home Economics) was much more. It was Family Resources and Management, Consumer Studies, Interior Design and much, much more.

Our visit to the Western Development Museum didn't help either. Recognizing many items there, we couldn't help but wonder -- are we museum pieces, too?



The World Congress of Women

JUNE 1987

a report by Zella Taylor

I am very glad to have this opportunity to report on the World Congress of Women, as I found it to be a tremendous experience and I see it as one of many very significant international gatherings that are taking place with increasing frequency as the people of the world search for solutions to the vital and formidable problems that face us today.

Congress was sponsored by the Women's International Democratic Federation (WIDF), which was founded in 1945 in Paris at the close of World War II with the immediate aim of caring for the children who had suffered so cruelly during the war. Its expanded program now calls on women to unite for: winning, defending and implementing the rights of women as mothers, workers and citizens; defence of the rights of all children to life, well-being and education; winning and defending national independence and democratic freedoms; for the abolition of apartheid racial discrimination and fascism; for peace and universal disarmament. These four main principles of the WIDF are closely linked; the rights of women and a happy future for children can only be fully achieved in peace, and there can only be a stable peace if relations between states are based on peaceful co-existence and if the rights of all states to independence, self-determination and equal security are respected. These aims cannot be achieved without the active participation of women.

The delegations were warmly welcomed by the people, the officials and by General Secretary Gorbachev, who spoke to us during the opening ceremonies which were

held in the Kremlin Palace of Congresses.

We learned that there were over 2,200 delegates present, from 154 countries, that 40% of them represented minority peoples. The largest delegation of 150 came from the United States, and the second largest delegation of 105 came from Canada. Of these, 20 were from French Canada and there was a special delegation of 12 Native women, three of these coming from British Columbia. Our province sent 17 delegates, three of us coming from the north; besides me, there was one from Terrace and one from Prince Rupert. The delegates came from backgrounds as diverse as were their homelands. They represented peace groups, women's organizations, unions, political and religious groups; there were doctors, lawyers, grandmothers, housewives and young women, to name a few.

I should like to include a few excerpts from Gorbachev's speech of welcome: He said that the world is facing a number of complicated problems, such as dwindling energy reserves, the hunger and poverty of millions of people, ecological problems and age-old and now new formidable diseases. All of these concerns and many more are, in one way or another, bound up with the task of eliminating nuclear war; that there are no roads open to human progress outside the movement for a nuclear weapon free, non-violent world; and that it is immoral to take delight in technological advances, while closing one's eyes to the fact that only an insignificant proportion of the world's inhabitants can enjoy its benefits. And about women: "It is not surprising that it is in

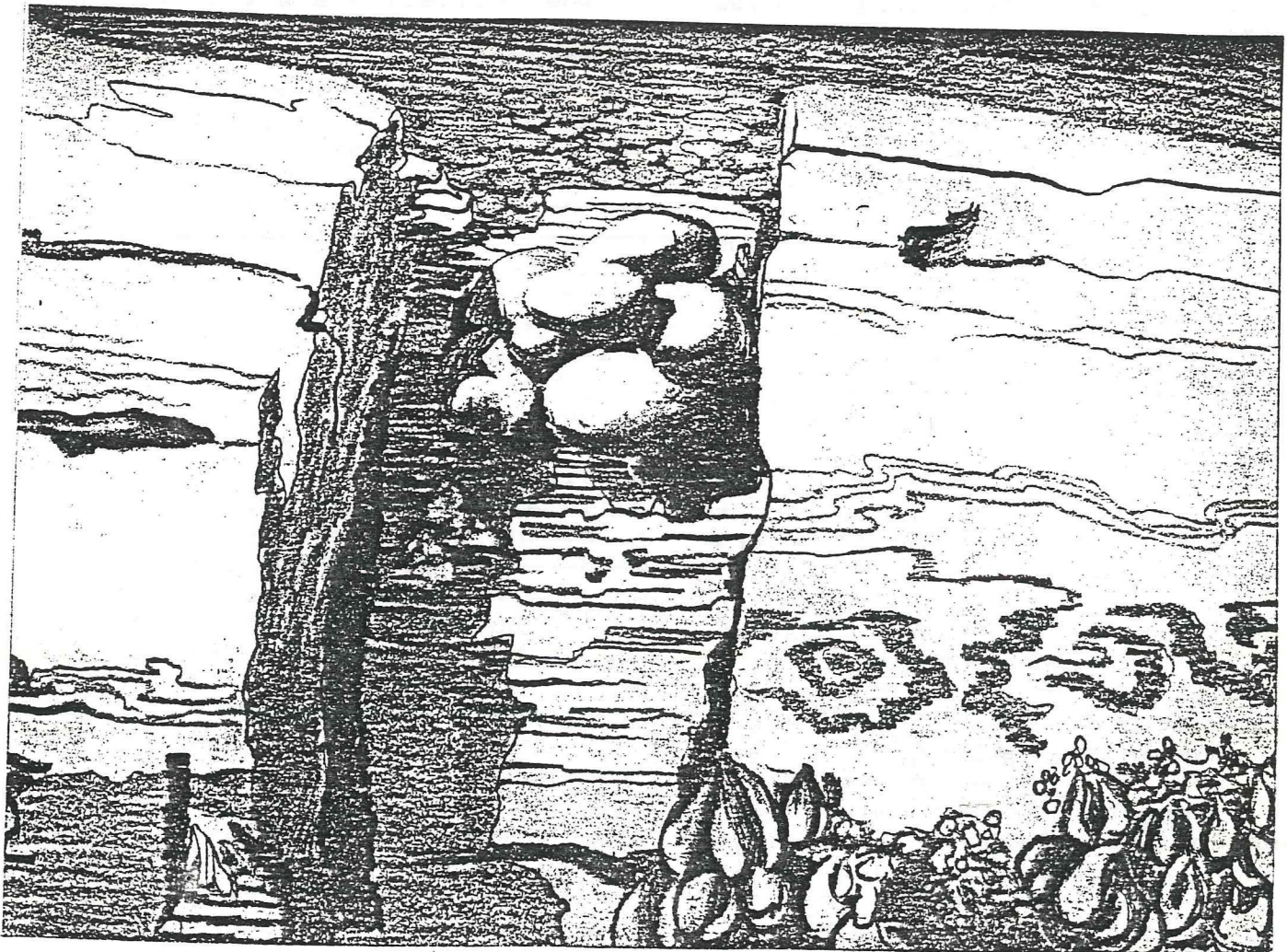
women, whom nature ordained to carry on the human race, that the idea of peace today finds its most selfless, self-sacrificing and mass defender, and I must say that it is women who perceive more fully and emotionally the absolute priority that preserving peace has over everything else." He ended by saying, "Of one thing you can be sure: that the Soviet people are deeply committed to peace and friendship among nations. I would like you to leave Moscow with this feeling and for it to live with you."

The theme of Congress, "Toward the Year 2000 without Nuclear Weapons, for Peace, Equality and Development", ran like a connecting thread through all discussions. Delegates repeatedly marked the relationship between the increasing expenditures for arms and

the decline in the living standards of the people, particularly the women and children who suffer most from social insecurity, unemployment, cutbacks in education and training and other needed programs. They denounced the arms race as a sheer waste of precious resources that could be better used to meet the basic needs of human-kind.

Even in the industrialized countries many women are still denied equal pay for equal work and are still being channelled automatically into traditional female employment -- work which is often extremely essential to the operation of the economy, but is not always given the recognition it deserves, nor the wages.

The use of high technology for raising profits does not guarantee



the right to work, while lack of training in new skills is increasing the threat to women's employment. At the same time a wide range of health problems is being created from the use of modern devices and methods of production.

In the third world, women face many of the same concerns, but all of their problems are aggravated by economic crisis, by apartheid, armed conflict, exploitation and foreign intervention. The economic conditions in developing countries is deteriorating day by day as the wealth of these nations is drained away by arms expenditures, profits for the trans-national corporations and interest on the enormous and growing national debts.

The women in the developing countries represent 60% of all illiterate adults. They work for long hours for low wages. Like welfare recipients in our own society they are locked into poverty. They appeal to us in the developed countries to understand the real situation created by the lack of opportunities of all kinds created by the economic crisis, the cutbacks in social programs and the increase in military programs. They ask us to support them in their demand for a just solution to the debt problem, and for a new international economic order, based on peace and the right of all nations to work out their own destinies without foreign intervention, without political, economic or military interference.

In many countries, the situation of women continues to deteriorate, and this trend can only continue unless deep and essential changes are made in the economic systems that prevail in these countries. A new international economic order must be established; one that assures national sovereignty over natural resources, using them to benefit the whole population,

finding just solutions to regional conflicts, stopping the arms race and working for nuclear disarmament all over the world, especially in the Middle East and Central America, as these conflicts exhaust the human and material potential of the people and swallow huge amounts of money, to the detriment of development projects.

The foregoing is a brief account of the concerns of the delegates, but it does not indicate the courage, the strength and the determination with which they face those problems. During the closing ceremonies, a young woman from the United States spoke for women of all ages when she said, "I must tell you that we are appalled by the world which we have inherited. In this Congress we have shared the horror of the brutal apartheid system, we have shared the horror of the mutilation and the torture of our sisters in Central America, in the Middle East and all over the world. We have shared the grief of economic injustice, and racial discrimination. We are alarmed by the destruction of our environment, we have shared the terror of nuclear weapons, time bombs set to go off all over the world. We reject the priorities which place human greed over our basic human needs."

"Some might say we need to have more experience before we can participate, before we can help to build a better world. It's not true; the world needs us now, and we have the power to change the world now. We have the power of the young women of Southern Africa who sing the freedom songs and struggle for justice; we have the determination of the young women of Greenham Common in Britain who cut fences and stopped cruise missiles; we have the courage of young women all over the world who fight so that they can obtain food, decent housing and education. We are strong, we are

taking responsibility because we have hope. We will inherit the world of the 21st century. We want this world to be without apartheid, without discrimination, without poverty, without torture, without rape; and to assure our survival, without nuclear weapons. We inherit the experience and the goals of older women who have been acting for a more peaceful world. You can be sure that we will take up the legacy; we not only demand, but we will create a better world. This Congress has given us the strength and the solidarity to continue as young women to meet, to work and to act together until we achieve peace, equality and development for all."

I want to conclude my report by describing what Congress has meant to me personally, the message I am getting from it.

Women from all over the globe recognize the fact that our world is in a serious crisis situation. Too many of our political leaders have lost all credibility. They have no answers for the problems that face us. They can only offer more armaments, more inflation, more unemployment and poverty, more cutbacks, more fear and worry.

Economically, too many nations are being impoverished by the arms race, the profits of the multinational corporations and the interest on colossal national debts.

Ecologically, our soil, our waters and our atmosphere are becoming more and more contaminated by industrial and nuclear pollutants, and over us all hangs the nuclear threat, which in a few hours could reduce our planet to a lifeless wasteland.

There has to be something fundamentally wrong with a world that allows nearly a billion of its people to be permanently hungry, when four days of world

wide military spending out of each year would eradicate starvation; and there has to be something fundamentally wrong in a world that allows from 20 to 25 million children to die every year.

These are not natural disasters which cannot be prevented. They are the direct results of decisions that are made by people in positions of power and authority. These leaders must be pushed in the right direction or pushed aside. Since the beginning of recorded history, practically all major decisions have been made by men. It is time that women's voices are also heard in the decision-making process in all areas and at all levels. It is recognized that men, as a rule, are more aggressive, have more drive, more ambition to get things done, while women are more practical, compassionate, emotional, if you like. It requires a combination of all these qualities and more if wise decisions are to be made. The state of our world today indicates that wise decisions are definitely not being made.

At this time our world is witnessing a tremendous upsurge of awareness, of protest and of determination to make changes. If you yourself are in any way working for peace, for human rights or for social justice, then you too are one of the millions who are struggling to turn our world around and steer it in a better direction, away from war and violence and hatred. We are going to succeed. We will win.



The Guaranteed Annual Income

How Big Business is Using it to Trick Low Income People



Since the early 1960's, low income people have worked for a Guaranteed Annual Income (GAI). We thought it would provide enough money for a decent life above the poverty line. We thought it would be given with dignity and no hassle. We also thought that, if we were able to work outside the home, decent jobs at decent wages would be available.

There are four parts to the big business version of GAI:

1. **ABOLISH WHAT WE HAVE:** The Financial Post calls our existing system a "morass of conflicting and confusing social programs" and notes (disapprovingly) the \$60 billion annual cost. The MacDonald Commission lists the programs on the big business chopping block: family allowance, child tax credit, Guaranteed Income Supplement for seniors (this is the program that is responsible for almost getting seniors out of poverty), social housing, married and child tax exemptions, the federal share of welfare payments to provinces (about half of the money paid by provinces on these services) and unemployment insurance.

Recently, quite a few big business groups have jumped on the GAI bandwagon -- groups not reknowned for supporting low income people. They include the Fraser Institute, representing over 400 large corporations; the Canadian Manufacturers Association (CMA), a lobby group for Canada's largest manufacturers; the MacDonald Commission, a \$20 million Royal Commission on the economy set up by the Liberal Government; the Financial Post, a weekly newspaper which represents big business thinking in Canada; and the Business Council on National Issues which released a social policy paper in December, 1986.

Big business thinks these programs cost too much and contribute to the deficit. In fact, Canada's social spending is already way below the average of industrial countries. As well, many economists say that the deficit is not too high, and, if it was, could be contained by reducing handouts to private corporations.

But big business does not want the same kind of GAI that low income people want. They do not want a GAI that will end poverty. They want a GAI that will:

- guarantee poverty for people who cannot work, and help pull down wages for people who do work;
- help build a pool of cheap labour so that people on GAI compete with each other for low paying jobs;
- reduce employers' wage bills, leaving more money for corporate profits.

2. **LOW INCOMES FOR PEOPLE WHO DO NOT OR CANNOT WORK:** The MacDonald Commission suggests \$2750 per year in one option and \$3825 in another. This would, presumably, be topped up at the whim of provincial governments. For comparison, the poverty line is about \$11,000 per person per year.

The CMA provides another clue to the level of income that big business thinks people outside the paid labour force should have: they say the GAI should ensure that "recipients will be better off working and earning income".



Why doesn't business want GAI rates above the poverty line? According to one report (GATTfly, May, 1986), some business leaders fear that people receiving adequate welfare or GAI will not work at "unsafe low paying jobs unless wages and working conditions are improved. Such improvements at the bottom of the employment ladder would push up the whole wage and working conditions scale."

3. END LEGISLATION TO MAINTAIN AND INCREASE WAGES: The Fraser Institute is famous for calling for an end to the minimum wage. The CMA told the MacDonald Commission the same: the government should loosen up on laws such as minimum wage laws. Business does not like minimum wages because, like welfare payments, they push up the bottom of the wage scale ladder, putting more money into workers hands rather than business profits.

Business is equally negative toward equal pay for equal value. Keep equal pay laws as they are, said MacDonald, knowing full well that they are virtually useless. Fair wage laws are equally abhorrent to big business. The federal government has announced that this will be abolished.

4. KEEP WHAT YOU EARN: The Financial Post, the MacDonald Commission and the BCNI argue that taking away earned income from people who received the GAI, or even welfare, creates a "poverty trap" and destroys "incentives to work". This sounds exactly like what low income people have been saying for a long time too. We have wanted to be able to keep much more of what we earn without having it deducted from our monthly welfare payment. But we want wages to be adequate, above the poverty line at least, in the first place. Big business wants the GAI as a taxpayer top-up of inadequate wages. With a GAI that

is not reduced as work earnings increase, business knows that it can keep wages lower and have more money left over for profits. With the extra profits, they can buy up their competitors, move to countries with cheaper labour, or do whatever they like.

What would the effect of a GAI with these four ingredients be?

Imagine that big business gets its way. Their GAI is in place and you are a single mom with two children. You will be getting a GAI that is far below the poverty line. Your provincial government will hesitate to add much to it because it will not be getting any money from the federal government for this purpose. You will have no chance of getting into a co-op or non-profit housing. Those programs will be gone. Likewise, you will not get a child tax credit or family allowance. Funding for childcare will be drastically cut



back too, as the federal government will no longer pay half of costs. But because the GAI is so low, you are desperate to feed your children. And, with the new GAI, you can keep what you earn. You scrounge around for a friend or relative to take care of the children. A fast food restaurant has an opening for \$4 an hour and you take it. Unemployment is high and all the better-paying jobs are full. You can not afford not to take the fast food restaurant job even though you know you are worth more. So you struggle along, working at slave wages, still below the poverty line, feeling guilty that you have to depend on another woman to care for your children, exhausted at the end of the day. You ask yourself; is this new GAI really better than the old welfare?

For you, the answer is "no". But for fast food restaurants and other low wage employers, the GAI will be better than the old welfare. Without legislation boosting minimum wages, without equal pay laws, and with hundreds of thousands more people forced to compete for low wage work by the low GAI rates, employers will have no trouble keeping wages low. The money that they paid for wages in the past can now go into acquiring more assets and more control over the economy and over job creation and elimination. Much of the extra profit for multi-national companies could even flow out of the country.

While business would continue to receive billions in tax exemptions and loopholes or in a lower tax rate, resentment would build among middle-income working people. Their own wages would fall due to pressure from a large group of people (like our single mom) forced to work because of low GAI rates. Yet taxes paid by middle income people would subsidize employers (with the GAI) to hire these people at low wages. As Cy

Gonick says (Canadian Dimension, Jan/Feb, 1986), "It's the old game of divide and conquer. In effect the regular wage earner is asked to give up some of his/her income so that some employers needn't pay a living wage." This plan could easily split the poor from middle income earners who might perceive that low income people, not an unjust economic system, are the main cause of their own falling income.

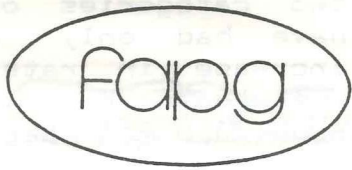
In short, this business version of the GAI is a scheme that lets business appear that it cares for the poor, but at the same time, helps create a system that will, over the long term, reduce all wages, make people poorer, and increase control over our economy by large corporations.

The danger for low income people is this: It appears that the Tories could put forward a GAI plan, meaning the business GAI of guaranteed poverty and low wages. But low income people and others with a social conscience may confuse this GAI with the GAI we have always hoped would end poverty.

Probably there is no single word or phrase that will describe what will really end poverty. If there was, business would hire pollsters and public relations experts to take over that word or phrase and put their meaning to it, like they are taking over Guaranteed Annual Income.

We need to be sure that whatever phrase is used, the results will end poverty and increase democratic control of our economy, not the opposite. Anti-poverty groups are beginning to realize that our anti-poverty agenda should include a package of measures. We need:

- * full employment at decent wages;
 - * legislation to improve wages.
- This means minimum wages above



fapg REPORT

by Gwyneth Montgomery

- the poverty line; equal pay for work of equal value; fair wage laws; and laws which make it easier for low wage workers to form or join unions and bargain collectively for better wages and working conditions;
- * improved public insurance programs (UI, WCB, CPP);
- * maintenance and improvement of universal programs, such as education, medicare, family allowance, and childcare;
- * a tax system based on ability to pay which redistributes income from the rich to the poor;
- * income above the poverty line given with dignity to people not covered by the above programs;

and, with these conditions, we need an increased earnings exemption for people receiving welfare or GAI.

Those of us working to end poverty have a big education job ahead of us. We must ensure that voters see the big business GAI for what it is: a way to help concentrate even more wealth and decision-making power in the hands of big business.

by Jean Swanson
End Legislated Poverty
104 - 2005 E. 43rd
Vancouver, B.C.
V5P 3W8



Robin LeDrew and Gwyneth Montgomery from the OKWC attended the federated anti-poverty groups annual general meeting for 1987, held in Prince George in August. It was organized by the Welfare Right and Self-Help (W.R.A.S.H.) group. Our new executive is: President - Annette Russell, Prince George; 1st Vice-President - Margaret Cox, Victoria; 2nd Vice-President - Gwyneth Montgomery, Vernon; Secretary - Audrey Swartz, Prince George; Treasurer - Cecile Guay, Dawson Creek. Members-at-large are: Barbara Davies, North Shore; Donna Biro, North Okanagan; Jerry King, Terrace; Belinda Halpin, Vancouver; Dr. Ron Pratt, Ft. Nelson; Cheryl Dawson, Victoria. Alternates: Bill Buck, Terrace, and Gloria Harris, Victoria.

All member groups of fapg are autonomous. All policies must be reached by a consensus of the member groups. If there is no consensus, then there is no policy. There is no age limit to joining fapg.

fapg endorses a federal guaranteed adequate income on a non-discriminatory basis at least at the poverty level and a minimum wage that would be sufficient to support a single person above the poverty level.

Annette Russell, the president of fapg of B.C., stated, "Anti-poverty groups from around B.C. roundly condemn the government's decision to reduce welfare rates for employables, singles and couples over 26.

"These two categories of recipients have had only a 2.4% overall increase in rates since 1982. Since the rates were entirely inadequate to begin with and have fallen progressively behind inflation, even this small reduction is insult piled on injury. Even the increase granted to singles and couples under 26 will not make up for the years of government neglect.

"Our advocates around the Province will help recipients apply for crisis grants to make up for the government's failure to give welfare recipients at least a poverty level income."



There was a decision to have a two-day workshop to address the goals and objectives of the fagg. The time will be announced at a later date. Member groups may submit proposals to this meeting for preparation of the agenda. Proposals should be sent to:

W. R. A. S. H.
Room #109
1705 - 3rd Avenue
Prince George, B.C.
V2L 3G7.

We are also seeking reports of the experiences and concerns of self-employed welfare recipients. Reports from those who have attempted, successfully or unsuccessfully to become self-employed while on welfare would also be welcomed. Please send these c/o Robin LeDrew, Box 1242, Vernon, B.C., V1T 6N6.



Everyone who is involved with organizations representing low income people should know the importance of VCLAS (Vancouver Community Legal Assistance Society).

David Mossip, the Director of VCLAS, is invaluable. He represents fagg and all low income people in numerous court hearings. David will also help low income groups become incorporated societies. Gillian Andrews will come to you and do FREE advocacy and appeal training. She will also answer your GAIN Act and GAIN Regulations related questions by telephone. Gus Long answers the telephone at VCLAS half the year and will also help with this. Gus Long has been introducing the Poverty Game to organizations across Canada.

To help support VCLAS, you can get a membership for \$5 per group and \$1 per individual:

Vancouver Community Legal Assistance Society
257 East 11th Avenue
Vancouver, B.C.
V5T 2C4

Telephone 872-0271





HELP FIGHT WELFARE CUTS

If you are over 26 years old,
do not have children,
and are "employable",
your welfare cheque will now
be \$7 less.

People who used to get \$384
will get \$377.

Childless couples will get
less too.

About 33,000 to 35,000 people
are affected.

WE CAN FIGHT THE CUTS

We may win.

If we do not fight, the government
will get the idea that it can cut
back even more.

To help fight the welfare cuts,
contact:

Gwyneth Montgomery
at the

Okanagan Women's Coalition
3000 - 30th Street
Vernon, B.C.

Telephone 542-7531
or 545-6406



WOMEN ART AND THE PERIPHERY/MUJER ARTE Y PERIFERIA, an exhibition of multimedia work by thirteen Chilean artists, opens at the Floating Curatorial Gallery at Women in Focus on November 11 at 8:00 pm through December 19. Chilean artists-curators Diamela Eltit, Nelly Richard and Lotty Rosenfeld will come from Chile to co-curate the show.

These thirteen artists will be exhibiting together for the first time in Canada. The artists include internationally known painters plus photographic, video and literary artists. This work blends European cultural discourse with the realities of daily life in Chile under the often brutal military dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet. How will the Canadian reality engage with these art works?

Just to give you a hint of the calibre of these artists and curators, we will take the example of Nelly Richard. Richard was curator of the Chilean section of the Paris Biennale (1982) and consultant from Chile for the Sidney Biennale (1984). She has also participated in a number of conferences on art criticism and is author of several books and essays published in Chile and overseas.

The Floating Curatorial Gallery at Women in Focus will also host a walking tour of the exhibition with curators, December 10 at 8 p.m. On Thursday, November 26 at 8 p.m., Diamela Eltit will read from her work and talk on "Women Writing in Chile".



Women at NATO

excerpted from Peace Magazine
August/September 1987

We hear a lot in the media when NATO representatives meet, but did you know that women representing NATO countries, after a day of meeting and discussion, meet with their own NATO ambassadors and with Lord Carrington, the Secretary General of NATO? They call it the "Meaningful Summit".

The group which met in Brussels in June, 1987, included MP's, members of the European Parliament, experts on defense strategies and peace activists. It was led by Margarita Papandreu of Greece.

The women want NATO decisions to be made by politicians accountable to the people of Europe and North America, with less secrecy and fewer unilateral decisions taken by the United States. They seek alternative ways to end the confrontational arms race, with efforts by both alliances acting with other countries to bring about solutions which depend on neither nuclear nor conventional weapons.

In summing up the women's reactions to the meetings, Margarita Papandreu, Cora Weiss of the United States, Scilla McLean of Britain and others said that NATO appears to be an obsolete organization, still thinking in terms of "negotiating from strength" and keeping peace by being armed. It takes unilateral action without reference to the democratic process, with decisions and agreements often remaining secret or hidden from the public. Cora Weiss summed up the dilemma, saying "It's hard to take the toys away from the boys." But Women for a Meaningful Summit and millions of women around the world plan to do so.

TAPESTRY...24

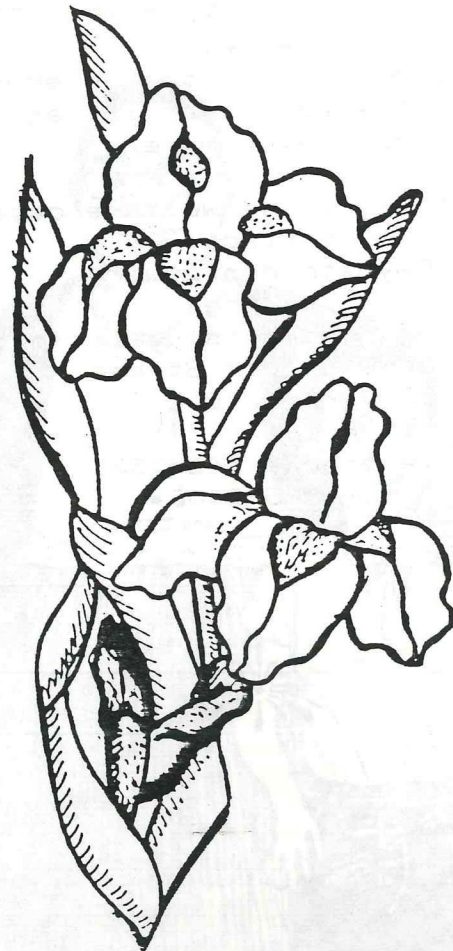
You cannot-
Simultaneously-
prevent and
prepare for
war.

—EINSTEIN



Editorial Note: I have always believed that peace was not a divisible issue -- that men and women should work together to ensure new ways of thinking for settling our disputes between nations. However, as this article clearly indicates, the POWER rests with the men of NATO. Perhaps we will have to build our own power bases if we are to be effective.

-- Marg Chapman



DO YOU WANT TO HELP END THE NUCLEAR ARMS RACE?

Join the

Canadian Peace Pledge Campaign
and help vote Canada out of the arms race.

Millions of Canadians feel threatened by the risk of nuclear war.
Millions of Canadians want the arms race to end.
But Canada continues to support the build up of nuclear weapons.

TURN CANADA INTO A WORLD LEADER FOR PEACE

You can make an important contribution towards making Canada a world leader for peace by joining the Canadian Peace Pledge:

- a pledge by voters to support only candidates who take concrete steps to help end the arms race
- a pledge by Canadians to make this country a voice for world peace

I pledge to vote only for candidates who will speak out against Canada's support for the arms race, and who will actively work to make Canada an international voice for peace. Candidates should work to:

- * Stop all Canadian involvement in, and support for, Star Wars -- support instead the peaceful use of space.
- * Make Canada Nuclear Weapons Free by: ending cruise missile tests, stopping nuclear armed ships from entering Canadian waters, ending low flight testing and training of nuclear war-fighting aircraft.
- * Convince the United States, the Soviet Union and all nuclear powers to end all nuclear weapons testing -- support international arms control initiatives.

Signature _____

Federal Riding (if known) _____

Name _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____ Phone _____

I have enclosed a financial contribution:

_____ \$15 _____ \$30 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ OTHER

Mail to: The Canadian Peace Pledge Campaign
c/o Canadian Peace Congress
300 Bathurst Street
Toronto, Ontario
M5T 2S3

NEW RESOURCES

compiled by Marcia Browne

VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: BALANCING THE SCALES FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME. This discussion paper provides information on the victim service programs currently available in British Columbia. It outlines additional programs the Ministry of the Attorney General would like to see in place and asks for your ideas and suggestions. Brian R.D. Smith, Q.C., Attorney General, June 1987.

THE NATIONAL FILM BOARD COMMUNITY NETWORK -- Summer 1987, Vol. 1/3. This newsletter reviews recent and upcoming NFB film and video releases. Among the articles in this issue is a look at Studio D, the women's film-making unit.

MENOPAUSE IS NOT A DISEASE: A GUIDE FOR LIVING YOUR MID-LIFE by Ellen Neal, 1987. Ms. Neal's book is compiled from questionnaires from women across Canada. It examines historical and sociological attitudes towards menopause and combines a positive and realistic approach with useful advice and suggestions.

WOMEN'S STUDIES PROGRAMS -- Simon Fraser University, 1987. This catalogue outlines available courses and answers questions specific to this program. It also gives a brief introduction to the SFU Women's Centre and its concerns.

PLANNING BY OBJECTIVES -- published by ACTION's National Centre for Service Learning. This booklet can be used by any service-learning program in a high school or college, by staff or volunteers. It can help you plan activities and evaluate your efforts.

BUILDING BOARD STRENGTH -- by the Volunteer Leadership Development Program. This booklet contains a

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suggested table of contents for a Board Orientation Manual. The manual is to help new members become aware of the history and purpose of your organization as well as the services it provides.

WORKING WITH VOLUNTEER BOARDS -- Government of Ontario, 1984. Boards that perform well produce programs that have significant impact on people. This handbook combines theory and practice to help in developing the volunteer board with which you work.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT -- by the Voluntary Action Resource Centre, 1984. Every member of the Board of Directors of a non-profit society assumes a serious responsibility for the financial management of their society and is held legally accountable for its actions. This booklet will provide an overview of bookkeeping and financial statements and how to interpret the results.

CONTRACTING OUT PUBLIC SERVICES IN B.C.: A REVIEW BY THE B.C.G.E.U. The government of British Columbia is privatizing and contracting out a wide range of public services. This booklet takes a critical look at the effect of these measures and tries to assess whether the short-term savings are enough to outweigh long-term social costs.

CITIZENSHIP '87: PROUD TO BE CANADIAN. This discussion paper contains proposals to amend the 1977 Citizenship Act to reflect the principles of the new Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The government urges you to read its proposals and provide your comments before these changes become law.



All of these and many other resource materials are available in the Okanagan Women's Coalition lending library.

Success

"By the end of the decade, female owner/managers will comprise 50 per cent or more of the total small business owners in this country," reports Chris Daniels in an article entitled WOMEN MEAN BUSINESS in a recent publication of the Canadian Manufacturers Association.

Not only are women setting up companies at three times the rate of men in Canada, but their businesses tend to have a higher rate of survival -- 47 per cent for women, 25 per cent for men at the end of a three year period.

"Women tend to be older than men when setting up their first business, are more mature and experienced and therefore more likely to make mature business decisions," states Daniels.

Another consideration is that successful male owner/managers have already had an average of 2.9 previous business failures before a subsequent success. Women have had an average of 1.3 failures before their successful business.

The vast majority of women who survived in business had used professional advisors while starting their companies. They also spent more time (6 to 10 months) in preparation and research. Most of the successful women had taken business-related courses and they used the media available to further their education by reading books and periodicals dealing with management, finance and marketing. Women are more likely to continue to upgrade their management skills by attending seminars and conferences.

Because they rely heavily on their own finances and personal savings when starting a business, women use less of their cash flow to pay the interest on loans, leaving them with more money to reinvest in the business. And they seem to have a greater interest and awareness of lifestyle trends and management philosophies, thereby continually reinvesting their minds into their business. *

Jeanette Nelson / Jewels Graphics



BOOKS

GREEN POLITICS: THE GLOBAL PROMISE

by Charlene Spretnak and Fritjof Capra

(Bear & Company, Santa Fe, New Mexico, \$8.95 U.S.)

Green Politics documents the emergence of the Green political party from West Germany and Belgium and its spread to nearly all industrialized nations.

Green philosophy proposes holistic principles based on ecology, social responsibility, grass roots democracy and non-violence. They encompass people from left and right, calling themselves not centre but "out in front". Most Green party members are also activists in citizen's movements such as peace, environmental or feminist groups.

The book presents a careful and thorough analysis of party history and structure and makes no attempt to hide the factional conflicts which have arisen. The differences are viewed as part of the evolutionary process of the party.

A thoughtful chapter on Green Perspectives of Social Issues recognizes patriarchy as a central cause of many concerns. They believe feminist analysis must be applied in science and technology as well as women's rights and healthcare.

"Participatory democracy is not for the impatient." The Greens recognize that time will be needed to effect the changes they propose. There is frustration in seeing continued and massive exploitation of the Earth's resources and people, knowing that that trend must be reversed as soon as possible.

In North America there is the basis for rapid growth of the Green movement. This is demonstrated by the thousands of groups already working along the lines of Green principles who could be linked into an effective political network.

Recommended reading for those who believe that the changes we must make in order to survive will come at least in part from our political system. "The future, if there is to be one, is Green."

by Marcia Browne



THE SPIRITUAL DIMENSION OF GREEN POLITICS

by Charlene Spretnak
(Bear & Company, Santa Fe, New Mexico, \$4.95 U.S.)

The spiritual dimension of our lives is the web of our lives. It is that within which all other aspects of living are woven. It is not a matter of "believing". It just is.

No one part of life, physical, ecological or political, can be plucked out of this web without the destruction of the whole, for all are interrelated. No part of life on Earth, no part of Nature, is separate from any other part.

The principles of the Green Party are ecological wisdom, social responsibility, grassroots democracy, nonviolence, decentralization and postpatriarchal consciousness. All of this intrigued Charlene Spretnak, but the phrase in Green Party literature which started her on her quest for the factor which integrates all into the whole was that there is a "spiritual impoverishment of modern society."

In this search she determines that humans are a part of all, not the prime culmination of all. We must seek knowledge of ourselves as an individual part but realize and use the strength that the bonds of family, community and healthy traditions can give us.

Spretnak's book takes the form of attempting to answer the questions that evolve from a spiritual journey into a political party -- "what is spiritual about Green politics itself...what can Green principles contribute to the contemporary evolution of post-modern religion?"

What follows is a guided quest, supported by statistics (not of the dry variety but of the "oh, yeah? well, isn't that interesting?" variety), incisive thinking, views into the pitfalls of misguided thinking and a map of our interconnectedness to hold us firmly to the path.

The original questions lead to other basic questions: who are we? how shall we relate to the environment? how shall we relate to others?

Happily, our guide leads us with a clear and well-thought out presentation on our journey. It is single-minded but in no way is it narrow-minded. She searches for the greater good of all with flexibility and respectful compassion for the many, many expressions of human life.

Unlike some who ask provoking questions, tantalize us with an idea here and there, and then leave us with a feeling of "Well, that was interesting, but now what?", Spretnak gives suggestions; she gives answers. Instead of an unsatisfied feeling of being left hanging, at the end of this book one is left with a feeling of balance; one says, "Ah-h-h-h, yes."

In THE SPIRITUAL DIMENSION OF GREEN POLITICS, we not only have a spiritual handbook but a very practical political handbook to guide us to a deep understanding of what we want from our politicians, our governments, our industries, our religious institutions, ourselves.

-- D.W.



SOMETIMES THEY SANG
by Helen Potrebenko
(Press Gang Publishers, \$6.95)

Odessa is a picketer. For her, it is not an occasional task but a lifestyle. She has been on the fringe of almost every "rights" group extant in her lifetime: feminism, lesbianism, sexual abuse, sexual freedom, the Viet Nam War, labour strikes, abortion, birth control, child care, pornography, equal pay. And yet, Odessa is left with the confused cry, "Would someone please tell me what's going on?"

But there is more. This woman has had two "living together" relationships with men, she has been raped, she has had an abortion, her brothers no longer speak to her and now she is 36 years old and searching for a biological father for the baby that she has decided to have.

Is this a soap opera? No. It is a historical commentary on the varied factors -- the political ideas, the social and moral dictums -- that shape our lives.

Potrebenko has the verbal needle to burst the balloon of pomposity that often accompanies "rights" groups. She has a sharp, clear comment that cuts into failings of

each sociopolitical movement. She is also sympathetic to their reasons for being.

Most attachments to groups fighting in limited ways for varied rights stems from poverty. The personal poverty and the personal struggles for survival pervade the movements and manifests in their fights for survival, their fights to do so much with so little money.

Midway through the book, the story moves away from the expression of a historical context of Odessa's life to a feeling for who SHE is, what SHE feels -- the context of her personal history. Odessa's strength grows as she clarifies the social and political issues of what it means to be a woman -- unattached, poverty-stricken, independent and surviving.

-- D.W.

These books are available at the Okanagan Women's Coalition lending library.



CONSCIENCE CANADA

In the Spring issue of TAPESTRY, we ran an article by Margaret Chapman about the work and aims of Conscience Canada and the Peace Tax Fund. This is a trust fund to which peace trustees divert that portion of their income tax which would go to the military. This fund is to be used by the government for peaceful purposes.

We asked Edith Adamson, founder of the Peace Tax Fund, for information on subsequent action which may have been taken by Revenue Canada against the peace trustees.

There are 421 peace trusteres, some of whom have directed taxes to peace as much as six times since 1982. The fund now contains \$133,000.

TAPESTRY...30


The equivalent of military related taxes were sent to the Peace Tax Fund trust account and letters were written to the Minister explaining what was done and why. The calculation of the military portion of the Federal Income Tax is based on the Public Account of Canada, published by the Government. This was calculated to be 8.7% of the Net Federal Tax Payable based on the 1985-86 fiscal year.

Peace trusteres waive the interest on their deposits in the trust account, and this money is being used to fund Dr. Jerilynn Prior's court case.

No one has been arrested or taken to court, which is why Objections had to be filed to get to court to secure an interpretation of freedom of conscience in favour of Conscience Canada.

Thirteen per cent of the peace trusteres have had collections from their bank accounts or by garnish-ee of wages.

Start thinking ahead now. Tax time will inevitably come our way again. Should you wish to divert that portion of your income tax that accrues to the military and would like help in doing this, information and advice is available. Contact Marg Chapman at 545-1836.



"It is part of our language that 'conscientious objector' refers to the refusal to bear arms or participate in killing. Respect for non-violence holds a central place in the freedom of conscience and religion which is in the Charter. The Peace Tax Fund is necessary if we are to exercise that freedom in the nuclear age."

(Conscience Canada Newsletter, Summer 1987)

ATTENTION USERS OF DEPO-PROVERA!

Women's Health Interaction
Manitoba has initiated a research project to interview women about their experiences with Depo-Provera.

While the drug has been approved in Canada for specific medical uses, it has not so far been approved as a contraceptive. It has, however, been prescribed to many women for contraception, menstrual pain and other reasons, and to disabled women in institutions to stop menstruation and so make it easier for staff to care for residents. Currently, Health and Welfare Canada is considering approval of Depo-Provera for widespread contraceptive use by Canadian Women.

Many unanswered questions remain about the safety of Depo-Provera.

* The drug was turned down for use as a contraceptive in the United States after review by an Expert's Panel.

* A majority of women taking the drug experience side effects such as intermittent bleeding and weight gain.

* Return to fertility may be delayed.

* Depo-Provera has caused malignancies in some test animals.

There are no adequate studies of women to whom the drug was given for long periods of time.

We welcome hearing from anyone to whom Depo-Provera was given for an unapproved use -- teenagers, older women, immigrant women to whom Depo-Provera was given in their home countries, disabled women and others. We would also like to contact health care workers who have administered Depo-Provera for contraceptive or other uses, or who know of women to whom the drug was given.

Confidentiality of all parties will be preserved. This is a study by women for women. It will help provide Manitoba women with a better understanding of the issues surrounding the uses of this drug.

Please contact members of the study team for further information:

Cathy Hellsten, Research Staff
786-2106 or 338-8659
Patricia Kaufert, PhD 788-6681
Sari Tudiver, PhD 786-2106
Laurienne Ring 786-6943

Correspondence should be addressed to:

Women's Health Interaction
Research Project
60 Maryland Street, 2nd Floor
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3G 1K7



COALITION FOR REPRODUCTIVE CHOICE

The purpose of the Coalition is to ensure the right of every woman to make for herself the decisions of when or whether to bear children. Their aims are the repeal of Section 251 of the Criminal Code of Canada so that abortion becomes a private decision, and, through the establishment of free-standing clinics, to improve reproductive health care services so that birth control, pregnancy counselling and sterilization are available to all women requesting them.

It has been three years since the government, the police and the Manitoba College of Physicians and Surgeons forced the Morgentaler Clinic to cease providing abortion services for Manitoba women. Due to the pressure from the public led by the Coalition, the Health Sciences Centre re-organized and improved service delivery to serve more women. They even began community clinics and other

service organizations. However, the number of gynecologists doing procedures has not increased significantly and general practitioners are not allowed by the hospitals to do procedures. Waiting two to three weeks is not uncommon.

For rural women, the obstructions become greater. For them, accessibility has not improved significantly. Lack of information, lack of money, travel distance to Winnipeg, other children at home to care for are all factors that must be considered. If the woman is referred for an abortion to Winnipeg, more often than not she arrives here only to find that she has an initial appointment and is told to come back next week for the procedure. This delay and obstruction of rural women is unfair. We must speak for and with them and demand better services that are more accessible for rural women.

The Morgentaler Clinic in Winnipeg continues to provide information, referral and counselling for

abortion and other women's health care needs. Women contact us from Winnipeg, rural Manitoba, north-western Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia because they do not know where else to call. They associate the Morgentaler Clinic with accurate and objective information on abortion.

Women remain the real victims of the legal/political wranglings in the abortion debate. While the Morgentaler Clinic is providing useful, in fact urgent, information to these women, we must not lose sight of its original function: to provide safe abortions in a supportive environment.

To become a member of the Coalition for Reproductive Choice or to make a contribution to the Morgentaler Defence Fund, contact:

Coalition for Reproductive Choice
Box 51, Station "L"
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3H 0Z4

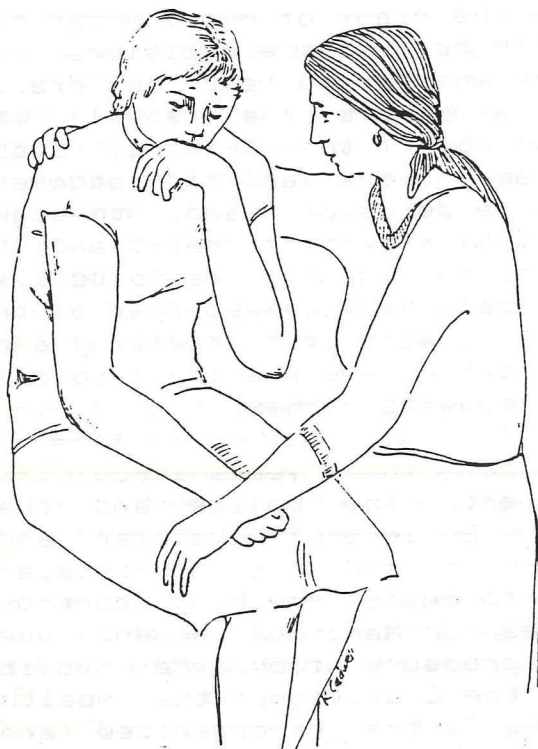


HEALTHSHARING MAGAZINE

Healthsharing magazine encourages submissions. Healthsharing seeks articles about women's health that are feminist, readable and written in a lay journalistic style. Articles vary in length from 1700 - 4000 words. Sometimes excerpts from speeches can create an article.

We request a proposal before you undertake writing an article. This saves us both time. The proposal should tell us about your topic, your angle, what or who you will quote, how long your article should be and why it will interest Healthsharing readers.

Here are some ideas to give you a sense of topics which interest us;



they are not the only topics in which we are interested. Please send proposals about YOUR concerns.

Women working in health care; the community health representative program in Native communities; outpost nursing; innovative health education and dilemmas facing health educators.

Health experiences and diseases: depression; addictions; Lupus; agoraphobia; loss of a partner.

Social analysis: the move of so-called "pro-family" groups into health; the battle ground of sex education; midwifery, childbirth and abortion movement strategies.

Self-care and health treatments: visualization; spiritual healing; staying fit; therapy; nutrition.

A writing guideline is available upon request. Proposals are accepted at any time. For more information, contact:

Connie Clement
Healthsharing
101 Niagara St., Suite 200A
Toronto, Ontario
M5V 1C3

STUDIO D LAUNCHES POWERFUL NEW FILM ON INCEST

Studio D, the world-renowned women's film unit of the National Film Board of Canada, has just completed a powerful, hour-long documentary on incest entitled TO A SAFER PLACE. Directed by Academy Award-winning filmmaker Beverly Shaffer, TO A SAFER PLACE will be launched this fall in a series of cross-country public premieres, beginning in Halifax, Nova Scotia on Tuesday, November 3rd.

TO A SAFER PLACE is a rare and sensitive account of one woman's life as a survivor of childhood incest. Sexually abused by her

father from her infancy to early teens, Shirley Turcotte, now in her thirties, has nevertheless survived her abuse and today leads a successful and fulfilling life as wife, mother and professional.

In TO A SAFER PLACE, Shirley revisits the people and places of her childhood -- her mother, sister and two brothers, all victims of her father's abuse, as well as the neighbours who were silent witnesses to her tragic early life. Finally, in an attempt to come to terms with her past, Shirley visits the farmhouse basement where most of the abuse took place.

The frank disclosures of Shirley and her siblings in the film clearly reveal the emotional confusion, denial and self-blame common among victims of incest. Current statistics in Canada indicate that one-third of our female population are incest victims, although the silence and secrecy that surrounds incest suggest it is even more pervasive. This film calls attention to basic societal attitudes and assumptions that contribute to violence and abuse in families.

TO A SAFER PLACE will be available from NFB offices this fall in 16mm film or videocassette formats, along with a detailed user's guide designed to accompany the film. TO A SAFER PLACE was directed by Beverly Shaffer and produced by Gerry Rogers and Shaffer.

SCHEDULE OF SCREENINGS

Halifax, Nova Scotia	November 3
St. John's, Nfld.	November 5
Montreal, Quebec	November 11
Toronto, Ontario	November 17
Ottawa, Ontario	November 18
Winnipeg, Manitoba	November 23
Edmonton, Alberta	November 25
Vancouver, B.C.	November 27

For locations and times, please contact your local National Film Board of Canada office.

NATIONAL ACTION COMMITTEE
ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Canadian women are still a long way from being equal to men.

* The wage gap has diminished BUT much less than people realize. In 1971, a woman's earnings were 60% of a man's. In 1984, they were 65%, so that we have gained only 5% in thirteen years. On average, a woman with a university degree still earns less than a man with a high school diploma.

* We have succeeded in having laws changed throughout Canada to ensure a fairer sharing of assets between spouses on divorce. BUT most divorcing people own very little, and the trend is for support payments to be smaller and smaller and last for three years at most. With close to half of new marriages expected to end in divorce, the likelihood of a young bride becoming a poverty-stricken single parent is skyrocketing.

* Minimum pensions have been raised. BUT Canada's population is aging fast and most of the very old are widows with incomes below the poverty line.

* More childcare is available. BUT since thousands more mothers are working outside the home and many have to support themselves

and their children, the supply of good child care spaces is more squeezed and inadequate than ever.

WHY -- after decades of fighting -- have we come such a little way? One reason is that the closer we get to achieving real change, the greater the resistance we meet. Equal pay for the same work, which meant little because women and men have very different jobs, was relatively easy to obtain. Equal pay for work of equal value, which is essential to break this vicious cycle, is blocked or delayed almost everywhere by strong business opposition.

Also, our successes have created a backlash. Now we see right-wing groups unashamedly spreading lies about the women's movement and our group. Most outrageous is the lie that NAC is "anti-housewives", "anti-motherhood" and "anti-family". NAC has always insisted that our society should recognize the crucial role of the family -- and women's massive contribution as wives, homemakers and mothers. We have always supported measures -- such as pensions for homemakers -- that would give housewives the respect and financial security they deserve.

We have fought on behalf of mothers and pregnant women -- defending their right to generous maternity leave and benefits, higher family allowances, quality daycare, and protection against reproductive hazards in the workplace. And we support the right to choose whether or not to have children, and when.

NAC does not advocate only one kind of family. Indeed, the only sorts of families we consider unacceptable are those in which there is exploitation, violence, abuse or incest.

As Canada's most important women's organization, NAC plays a vital role in doing research, public



education and lobbying on all issues of concern to women. We are the united voice of Canadian women. Our support is strong and growing. In the last two years alone, our membership has risen from 360 to 530 women's groups.

To help us to continue to speak out for Canadian women, please mail a donation to:

National Action Committee on
the Status of Women
344 Bloor Street West, Suite 505
Toronto, Ontario
M5S 1W9

Your Support is our Strength!



IRRADIATED FOOD

Meat decomposes as it spoils, leaving behind a tell-tale odour. This is nature's warning to us. But the irradiation of food can disarm that warning system. Irradiated chicken can receive a dose strong enough to kill the bacteria that causes the meat to decay, but not strong enough to kill botulism bacteria, which is very resistant to radiation. The result could be death for everyone who share in that chicken dinner.

The potential for this kind of accidental botulism poisoning is so great that the U.S. government prevents chicken from being irradiated. The Canadian government, on the other hand, is poised to give the nuclear industry the go-ahead.

But botulism is only one of many concerns with food irradiation.

* Animal tests using irradiated food, though inconclusive, show chromosomal damage, kidney disease, abnormal blood cells, testicular damage, reduced fertility, and premature deaths.



* In one of the few documented human experiments, conducted on malnourished children in India, those fed freshly irradiated wheat developed polyploidy, a condition involving an abnormal number of chromosomes. Those fed stored irradiated wheat suffered less from polyploidy and children fed unirradiated wheat showed no signs of polyploidy.

* When food is irradiated, unpredictable new chemicals called "unique radiolytic products", or URPs, are created. No one knows what the long-term effects of eatings URPs are, but some are thought to be carcinogenic.

* Aflatoxins -- highly carcinogenic naturally occurring chemicals produced in certain mouldy foods -- form more readily in some irradiated foods.

* Irradiated food loses nutrients, in addition to nutrients lost from processing, storing and cooking. Vitamins A, C, D, E and K, and some of the B vitamins (such as thiamine) are particularly susceptible to irradiation damage.

Apart from these food-related concerns, widespread introduction of irradiation in Canada would add to our environment's plight: dozens of food facilities would be generating radioactive wastes, for which no safe disposal method has been found.

Food irradiation does have some merits. It controls some bacteria, such as the Salmonella that are such a problem in chicken (although only temporarily -- as soon as the package of a Salmonella-free food is opened, there is a chance for bacterial re-contamination). Irradiating food also increases its shelf life.

But the big push for food irradiation is not coming from our food processing industry -- they realize that the economic benefits of food irradiation have not been demonstrated and may never be. The big push is from our nuclear industry, which has spent billions of taxpayer dollars trying to sell nuclear reactors and faces slow extinction if it can not find other markets for nuclear technologies. Because the Canadian food production system does not need irradiators, and resisted using them, the nuclear industry tried to sell them to Third World countries. When the Third World countries balked at being guinea pigs for a Western technology that we ourselves do not use, the industry tried harder to push these technologies onto our dinner table.

Opposition from the Energy Probe Research Foundation and many other citizens groups across the country have stymied these plans. An all-party Parliamentary Committee spent four months hearing from Energy Probe and two dozen other experts, including independent scientists the committee itself hired. In its report released last May, the Committee unanimously concluded that food irradiation is

too suspect to proceed with.

Despite this report, the federal government has still not come out against food irradiation and may decide to put the nuclear industry's health ahead of our own. In fact, there is every indication that Health and Welfare Canada is about to permit widespread irradiation of Canadian food, ignoring totally the Parliamentary report. That is why it is important to act now, before the government takes an ill-advised position. Let Prime Minister Mulroney know that you agree with the Parliamentary Committee's decision not to turn us into human guinea pigs. Write to him c/o The House of Commons, Ottawa K1A 0A6.

For more information on food irradiation, contact:

Energy Probe
100 College Street
Toronto, Ontario
M5G 1L5



MEDIAWATCH: National Watch on Images of Women in the Media Inc. has a new address:

Mediawatch
250 - 1820 Fir Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V6J 3B1

Phone 731-0457

If you have complaints about sex role stereotyping in the media, please contact them.





DRUGS MADE YOUR LIFE A LIVING HELL?

Addiction is a disease that ends in jails, institutions and death. Many of us came to Narcotics Anonymous because drugs had stopped doing what we needed them to do.

Addiction takes our pride, self-esteem, family, loved ones and even our desire to live.

If you have not reached this point in your addiction, you don't have to.

If you can get serious about the things that have and are happening to you and admit you are having a problem with drugs, you can find help in the fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

meets
Friday nights at 8:00 p.m.
at the
Okanagan Women's Coalition
3000 - 30th Street
Vernon

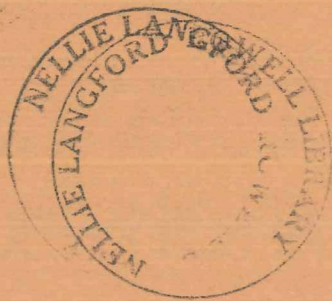
You can recover. Come and find out how!



Okanagan
Women's Coalition

P.O. Box 1242
Vernon, B.C.
V1T 6N6

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Okanagan Women's Coalition

A feminist group working to improve the status of women.