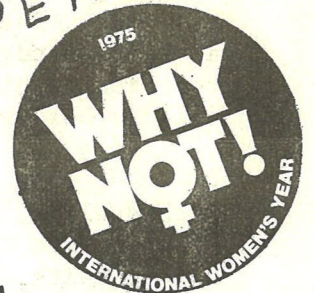
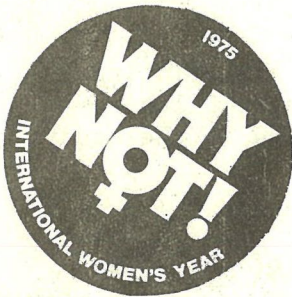
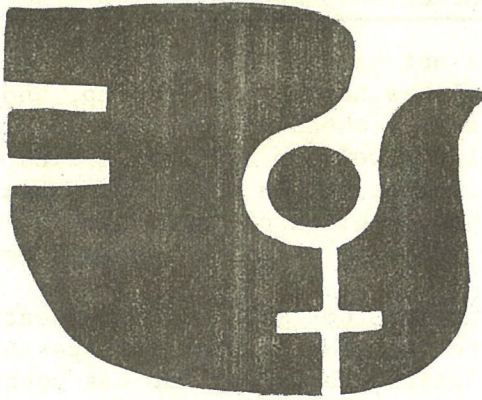


NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 6072
St. John's, Nfld.
A1C 5X8
709-753-0220

January 1975
Volume II, No. 2
WOMEN'S CENTRE
Rawlin's Cross



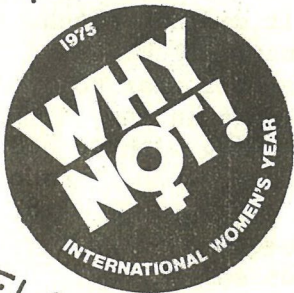
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Membership Meeting

February 3, 1975
8:15 p.m.
Women's Centre
Members & Friends invited

PEACE



DEVELOPMENT



PEACE



EQUALITY

Y. W. C. A.
RESOURCE CENTRE

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

THE DATES OF OUR next two membership meetings:

- ★ February 3, 1975 Monday 8:15 p.m. at the Women's Centre
- ★ March 8, 1975 Saturday, International Women's Day - all day. A celebration at the Women's Centre.

Reporting on our January membership meeting.

We apologize for not having enough chairs so some of those in attendance had to sit on planks hastily propped up, and even on the floor. It was a good omen for the year ahead that we had such a lot of women present. New faces are always welcome and please find a way to add your special "you" to the development of the Women's Movement in St. John's, and abroad. Tell us you have a block of time that is just waiting to be programmed, by calling or dropping in to the Women's Centre.

Since some of you were not able to be present, we are printing elsewhere in this Newsletter a recap of what our special guest, Ellen Antler, Anthropologist, (Social Researcher who has specialized in the study of the wives of inshore fishermen), said.

Our February meeting will deal with the topic of the health of the women of St. John's and will feature Dr. Helen McKilligan.

Dr. Helen McKilligan has spent many years in Nfld. She joined the NSWC at its inception and has maintained an active interest in our progress. She has a lot to share with us having just recently returned from a year's study at the University of California. She will tell us the reaction of husband and children to her decision to go back to school as well as her own feelings of returning to the role of student.

The courses Dr. McKilligan took had such titles as Medical Anthropology, Health Education and the Media, and Human Sexuality. Drawing from this rich background of courses, Dr. McKilligan will be sharing with us ideas which could well apply to better health prospects for all of us.

Editorial

FEMFEST '75

"Nellie McClung Visited Us on Saturday, January 18 at the Arts & Culture Centre
--- But, Was it Such a Glorious Time????

If it was entertainment you were looking for - then the evening was entertaining - Women were once again the laughingstock with their so-called frailties emphasized rather than their strengths.

Although this production did act out an extremely important era in the history of Canadian Women, it did not catch the spirit of International Women's Year. We would like this year to mark a noticeable change in the status of women, bringing with it new ideas and attitudes.

Let's hope that subsequent FEMFEST productions either do something serious on the subject of Feminism or leave it alone completely.

Agree? No? Write us.

♀ On the G♀ at Women's Centre ♀♀♀

TO BRING YOU UP-TO-DATE

The executive committee -

Chairperson - Celia Griffith
Alternate - Loretta Kelly
Treasurer - Jan Black
Corresponding secretary -
- Yvonne Farwell
At large - Elinor Neubauer
- Joan Hiller
- Thea Nation
- Diane Segel

and our newest member -

- Marian Atkinson

Staffers

We welcome the addition of

- Florence Redpath

++++ RESEARCH GRANT AWARDED NSWC

Joan Hiller was awarded a grant which was applied for in the name of the Nfld. Status of Women Council. With the help of an assistant Joan will set up headquarters at the Women's Centre.

The research undertaken is on the question of Women's concern's about the quality of life in Canadian cities.

Funding comes from the Ministry of State of Urban Affairs as their contribution towards IWY.

++++ JOBS WAITING FOR A TAKER

Volunteers needed for -

- 1) going through the file folders in the vertical file. Each file needs scanning to make sure its contents are relevant.

We are building up a valuable source of information. Can you give a few hours of concentrated effort to finish up this job?

- 2) adding to our clipping file. Items from the news media pertaining to women are needed for first our Bulletin Board, and then to file away under subject headings. We need everyone to clip items, especially from uncommon sources and see that they get to the Women's Centre. Remember to note in ink the source and date of the clipping.

- 3) bringing a few more toys for the children's shelf. We thank whoever it was who brought in the building blocks. Can anyone contribute some puzzles for pre-schoolers?

++++ IN THE PUBLIC EYE

We hope you were tuned in when Elinor Neubauer presented the NSWC point of view on sexism in advertising to the TV audience of Here and Now.

Elinor had only three minutes but she made the most of it! We feel sure that because of this interview a few more persons will realize that all we are asking is to be treated as human beings, and not as just a body.

++++ JAMES McGRATH, MP FOR ST. JOHN'S East, VISITS WOMEN'S CENTRE

Mr. McGrath came by at our invitation on January 14th to chat with us on various questions.

Among the questions was whether he could explain why we had not received a LIP Grant, it being IWY. We learned that our mistake was in not informing our MP that we made the application. He perhaps would have put in a good word for us, after reading our proposal.

Not to be daunted, we now are in the process of applying to our Provincial Government for funding.

Keep your fingers crossed!

The Origins of Housewifery--And where do we go from here?

It is distinctly human that we look around at the existing order of things and assume that it is "natural"--that things must always have been the way they appear today. For those of us engaged in efforts to change women's place such an attitude is deadly--for surely it is pointless to struggle against what has always been, against "destiny." And more important, if we don't understand how things came to be as they are, it is difficult to know the best way to go about changing them.

It is with all of this in mind that we should examine how women have become housewives: for although we have been getting married, and having children and although the nuclear family has been with us perhaps since the beginning of human society, women have been housewives only since the development of a very special kind of nuclear family. That is, where one person--an adult male--leaves his home to sell his labour (he works for wages) at a work place that he does not own while being serviced at home by women--housewives--who do not work for a wage. This kind of family has developed along with capitalist industrialization.

Everywhere and at all times that capitalism has grown and evolved the position of women has changed critically; they have everywhere lost their status as partners in production and have been absorbed into the privacy and isolation of their households. What's more, it is startling to consider how recently these changes have taken place. In 17th Century England the development of capitalism saw the withdrawal of women from commerce where they were often important in family enterprises, a general reduction in education for girls and women, and an overall loss of status and opportunity. In Newfoundland it has been only the last 50 years or so since most households were centres of production: women, men and children worked at the fishery in boats and with gear, stages, flakes, etc. that they themselves owned. And in currently developing Third World countries the move of families from the countryside to the city sees the removal of women from productive activity and dramatic losses in their status and even of their physical well-being.

Of course, the development of the industrial nuclear family took place in stages. Early in the history of capitalist development all members of the family had to work to provide simple subsistence. Women and children were expected to earn wages sufficient to sustain themselves, and wages to men were based on the assumption that they did so. As recently as 1842 in the United States a law was passed forbidding children under 12 years from working more than 10 hours each day. The struggle for a 10 hour working day for adults was won only in 1871. It is only in the last two generations and largely because of workers' struggles over the conditions and hours of work that first children and then women were withdrawn from the labour force.

Consequently, today it appears that men earn wages sufficient to support these newly unproductive members of their families. In fact, this is far from the truth. It may no longer be necessary for all family members to earn incomes, but the wages men earn are based on the assumption that someone--a wife--provides vital services to them--services that they would otherwise have to purchase.

This on the face of it may not seem so extraordinary. But stop and think about it. The wages that a company pays to its

workers must be enough to provide subsistence and to reproduce the worker when he gets "used up." That is, wages must provide workers with food, shelter, clothing and also enough to birth, rear and educate the next generation of workers. In fact, a lot of these costs are borne privately by women in long hours of work at home, in forgone education, in loss of pay and seniority during child bearing years, and often in careers forgone altogether. In short, the wages that men receive really presupposes that they receive many services for "free." Of course, these services aren't really free--it only appears so because no money changes hands, and because women labour alone, privately and in isolation. Now the services women perform may seem trivial, but they are essential: washing, ironing, making lunches, offering emotional support, bearing, nurturing, educating the new generation of workers. These are services that our system could not do without and yet cannot afford to pay for. We can visualize how crucial services really are if we consider what would happen if they were withdrawn; factories and businesses would have to shut down, just as certainly as if their employees went out on strike.

Under our present economic and political system, women are vital participants, but because they labour so invisibly, in their own homes, the enormity of their contribution is hard to see. Even we who provide these services do not understand the enormity of their worth: how many of us say "oh, I don't work, I'm just a housewife."

Because we do not understand how intimately integrated we are as housewives into the industrial system it is often not clear to us how to organize to change things, or it may keep us from organizing at all. We have come to think of demands to improve the conditions of our work--things like daycare centres, better housing, etc. as extravagances and as unrelated to the conditions under which our men labour. Sometimes we feel that since as women we have no real function in the economy that we should simply join with men (for example in trade unions) and support their struggles. Then as things improve in general; things will better for women too.

Or, because we do not understand the true nature of housewifery, we believe ourselves to be economic parasites existing at the expense (and pleasure) of our husbands and sons. This leads both women and men to mistake the real issues. It leads to believe that sex is the central problem and that if only we could overcome male chauvinism or replace troublesome men supreme court judges or cabinet ministers with sympathetic women that all of our problems would disappear. (Of course, the tensions, conflicts and sexual stereotyping--all the things that keep women and men struggling with each other--are important problems and should most assuredly be addressed.) This is just not true.

Understanding the origin and function of our role as housewife suggests that we should organize around issues that most intimately affect the conditions of our labour. For only in this way will we be sure to address the economic conditions that today are at the heart of our oppression.

Ellen Antler

Letter Forum

President
Nfld. Status of Women Council
St. John's, Newfoundland

Dear Madam:

I should like to present an opinion which I have concerning the NSWC and the Woman's Liberation Movement as a whole.

I have attended quite a few NSWC meetings, a course in Woman, Love and Marriage at MUN. I have also been in a CR group and have read quite a few books concerning the Women's Movement and the Status of Women in general. I have come to one conclusion, among many, which stands out most in my mind, this being the plight of the so called "ordinary" housewife, nurses, secretaries, teachers, clerks, bank tellers, etc.

The emphasis, from most of what I have learned, is on being a successful woman and I feel that unless you become a doctor, lawyer, business owner or are involved in politics you are not really making it at all. In our society to-day, unless you attain one of the above positions in life you are not looked upon as successful.

What bothers me is the feelings of say, a housewife, nurse or secretary who may not necessarily want or have the ability to move to higher heights. All of these three have to take orders from a man which is, of course, oppressing and should not be, but what concerns me is the fact that no credit seems to be given to housewives who make a really big effort to liberate themselves either in their home or by getting out into the community and taking jobs such as nurses, secretaries or clerks.

To a woman who has spent years in the home, with no money of her own, doing all the so called shit work who finally realizes she can do something more fulfilling and makes the effort to broaden her life and at least learn to remove as much oppression in her own life as possible, should indeed be commended for helping to liberate herself and influencing other women (which is important). Even though it may be a small step in relation to the Women's Liberation Movement as a whole, at least it is a step in the right direction.

My point is, I resent the fact that nurses, secretaries and teachers are not considered successful because I believe any woman who works at liberating herself, even in a small way is contributing to the removal of the oppression of women and helping the Women's Movement.

We as women can't all be doctors or lawyers, but we can all work towards a better status in society and hopefully someday the world will become a place of equality for both men and woman.

Sincerely yours,

Paula K. Martin

Paula K. Martin (Secretary)

How do YOU FEEL ABOUT THIS?

How does YOUR man feel about YOUR figure?

Do you really know? Does he have cause for complaints?

Tom P. says:

"MY WIFE IS LETTING HERSELF GO"

"Although I didn't realize it immediately, I'm in a pretty sad state about my wife's weight — and its effect on our marriage. When we were first married, my wife was very careful to look her best at all times. I was so proud of her, I couldn't stop talking about her to all my friends and business acquaintances.

"But now, she's gained some weight. And as far as I can tell she doesn't care about how she looks at all! She makes no effort, for example, to hide her figure with the right kind of clothes. She doesn't even set her hair anymore!

"When I speak to her about it, she starves herself at meal-time in front of me — and then stuffs herself with snacks when I'm not supposed to be looking. It seems that she doesn't care about herself anymore. And that makes me wonder how much she still cares about me. Her figure is out-of-all-proportion to what it was. And I'm afraid our relationship is getting that way, too!"

Only the Spa offers you a complete individual program, comprised of supervised exercise and diet for each member. All this plus a rest and relaxation area out of this world. He deserves a lovelier you. But then, so do you. We're here till 10 p.m. tonight to help. His Happiness can't wait.

LETTER TO: Public Relations Manager
Palm Springs Spa Health Resort
Freshwater Road, St. John's

Dear Sir:

Many of us find your recent newspaper advertisements objectionable on several grounds.

While the men's advertisement attracts by the simple statement "Trim off Excess Pounds and Inches" the women's advertisements ("How does YOUR man feel about YOUR figure?") go to great lengths to make the reader feel like an object whose value lies solely in its appearance. Many of us are insulted by the implication that the female half of the population ought to consider being decorative the most important aspect of life.

We feel strongly that an appeal on the basis of good health and physical fitness would be of value, and of value especially to women since a recent survey shows that women are the least physically fit members of society. Surely it would be possible to design an advertisement which makes an appeal on this, or a similar, basis. The value and attractiveness of physical fitness could be emphasized without insult to any potential clients.

Yours sincerely,

Yvonne Farwell
Corresponding Secretary

NEWFOUNDLAND HUMAN RIGHTS CODE

PRESS RELEASE

The Newfoundland Status of Women Council greeted the news of major amendments to the Province's Human Rights Code with interest. The Status of Women Group has been pressuring Government for over two years to amend the Human Rights Code. They are pleased that many of their recommendations are included in the new legislation.

The new legislation will make it illegal to discriminate on the grounds of sex and marital status in addition to race, religion, religious creed, political opinion, color, or ethnic, national or social origin.

The old Act prohibited pay discrimination where males and females were doing the same work. It was found that through strict interpretation of the word "same", discrimination still existed. The amendment clearly states that females and males performing the same "or similar" work on jobs requiring the same or similar skill, effort and responsibility have pay equality. This section also provides that female employees must receive equal treatment with respect to opportunities for training, advancement, pension rights and insurance benefits.

Another Status of Women recommendation acted on by Government was the setting up of a separate Human Rights Commission. It is regretted, however, that this Commission, still subject to the Minister of Manpower and Industrial Relations, was not made responsible to the Provincial Legislature as they had requested. Also it would appear that the new Commission will not be empowered to initiate a complaint or investigation unless authorized to do so by either the Minister or Lieutenant-Governor in Council.

Although provision for a Women's Rights Division is not included in the new amendment it is hoped that at least one of the three Commissioners will be responsible specifically for the protection of women's rights and that this Commissioner(s) will be sensitive to the plight of women in the labour force.

It is felt unfortunate that an Act dealing with Human Rights still contains sexist terms. Although the Interpretation Act states that masculine terms refer to males and females, the intent of the Act would be better served if non-sexist or both masculine and feminine terms were used throughout.

The new legislation still exempts denominational schools and colleges. This is considered contrary to the spirit of the Code and could permit such institutions to pressure their students, teachers, prospective teachers and employees to proclaim or conform to certain beliefs.

Deletion of the clause "bona fide occupational qualification" from the section dealing with discrimination in employment was suggested because of the traditional allocation of certain low-paid jobs to women. This clause has been maintained and could continue to encourage sex-stereotyping of jobs.

2 January 1975

JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN

For those women who would like to "go west" and are qualified to teach in the areas of Philosophy, Psychology, Sociology, History, P.E. and Daycare, they may contact Cariboo College in Kamloops, B.C.

HUMAN RIGHTS CODE, AS AMENDED, HAS ITS GOOD ASPECTS
BUT IT SHOULD BE BETTER.

11 Jan. 1975

Hon. Edward Maynard
Minister of Manpower & Indust. Rel.
Government of Newfoundland
St. John's, Nfld.

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to our letter of January 5, 1975 concerning recent amendments to the Human Rights Code, we request a further amendment to the Code as follows:

Sec. 10 (2)(b) - by adding the words "and all employee benefits,".

As stated in our press release of January 2, 1975 we feel that it is unfortunate that an Act dealing with Human Rights still contains sexist terms. Although the Interpretation Act states that masculine terms refer to males and females, it is our opinion that the intent of the Human Rights Code would be better served if non-sexist or masculine and female terms were used throughout. We request that the Interpretation Act be amended to provide for the following:

Substitution of the word human for the word man and the inclusion of the feminine gender together with the masculine gender whenever human beings of both sexes are being referred to.

This amendment should be incorporated immediately into the Human Rights Code and into all new legislation. Because of the enormity of the task involved we do not feel it necessary to amend all existing legislation to reflect this improvement.

We look forward to some positive action in this regard shortly.

cc. Hon. Premier
Mrs. J. Keough, Chairperson, Human Rights Committee

I RESOLVE

JANUARY 1, 1975.

To keep my temper under wraps
In spite of irritation
And never lose my cool approach
To any situation.

If hubby's late and dinner's spoiled
When I've spent hours fussin'
I'll button up my lip real tight
And not resort to cussin'.

Though weekend football games prevent
My favorite TV viewing
I'll serve the guys their beer and chips
And smile instead of stewing.

Let Junior play his stereo
So loud it makes me dizzy
I'll bite my tongue and swallow hard
And not get in a tizzy.

I'll count to ten then start again
When I'm the only mother
Who's asked to drive a bunch of kids
From one place to another.

And when no one tidies up a room
Or helps me with the dishes
And no one walks the dog
Or even thinks to feed the fishes . . .

I promise not to blow my top
Instead I'll grin and bear it
And I'll keep these resolutions
No matter what—I swear it!

January 4, 1975

For three whole days I did my thing
And shrugged off irritation
And never lost my cool approach
To any situation.

I waited for some words of praise
At least some recognition
That there were welcome changes
In my nasty disposition.

Instead my family seemed to think
My robust health had failed me
And when I didn't rave or rant
That something awful ailed me.

The children stared at me all day
With fear and apprehension
My husband came home every night
A wreck from nervous tension.

And suddenly I realized
They didn't mind my fussin'
They were used to my explosions
And could tolerate my cussin'—

In short although I class myself
An ornery wife and mother
They'd rather have me as I am
Than trade me for another!

ALICE E. CHASE

PERSONS:

Found this in a True Story mag belonging to my sitter (Not that I need an excuse for having such a despicable rag). The person I am married with claims that this, and the picture you had in the newsletter* that of an overly-endowed young lady of 72" proportions, is not only an insult to women, but to men also, in the sense that no man really wants the type of woman who will button her lip and gracefully pass out the peanuts, have supper ready like clockwork, and not demand to see the TV programs she want to. He also claims that a minority of men would be attracted to that mammary wonder, and only then because they have been programmed to think they are supposed to be attracted. Food for thought: men have been a product of the system which men created, and are as oppressed as women.

*October, 1974

Terry LeDrew Bonnell
Pasadena, Nfld.



Canada
Manpower
Centre

Centre de
Main-d'œuvre
du Canada

Manpower
and Immigration
P.O. Box 8548
St. John's, Newfoundland
A1B 3P3

16 January 1975

Your file Votre référence

Our file Notre référence

(Future plans for
helping working
women)

We'd like to introduce you to a program which we hope is going to help improve the status of women's employment in Newfoundland. Pro-Feminae is a project which was initiated last April in the four Atlantic Provinces. It is sponsored by Canada Manpower under its Outreach Program and as you may already know, Outreach Programs are designed to service segments of the population which CMCs do not normally reach.

Our aim, then, is to reach out to women who are planning to enter the labour force, or to those who are already working but who just are not being given a fair deal. Unfortunately, that encompasses a large group of women.

Right now we are in the midst of planning our itinerary (strategy might be more appropriate!!) for the coming year. Our predecessors have spent the last ten months making contact and gathering statistics on women's employment in Newfoundland at present. With the benefit of this information as a background, we hope to focus more directly on women themselves in the next few months. We are presently making plans for a travelling workshop to be held in centres all around the Island and in Labrador. We are also hoping to have a fair amount of contact with high school students in an attempt to open up employment possibilities to them that they would not normally consider.

These are two main projects which we hope to involve ourselves in. However, we are interested in anything that affects women's employment. So, if you have any ideas or suggestions, just give us a call or if you feel we can be of any service to you or your group, we'll be glad to help.

Well, this is just the start. Hopefully, you'll be hearing a lot from us in the upcoming months.

J. Wells
A. Earle

Jocelyn Wells
Alison Earle

THE COMPUTER -- A TWENTIETH CENTURY MACHINE

COMPUTER WORKERS -- TWENTIETH CENTURY WORKERS?

According to Kerstin Aner, M.P. (Member of Parliament, Liberal Party, in Sweden) in her article "The Computer Girls" in WOMEN SPEAKING, October-December 1974 stated that in every establishment computers were used, there was a similar and familiar situation -- a male employee explained the computer's function while the "girl" who demonstrated the computer was never introduced. Questions directed to the "girl" showed that her salary was low and that she is shut out from any hope of promotion.

Delegates to the ILO conference in 1975 will be asked to issue a solemn declaration proclaiming women workers' rights to equality and to draw up a plan of action to help countries put the declaration into practice (International Labour Organizations' press release, Evening Telegram January 7, 1975). They have a big job, particularly in the areas of employment which are female dominated.

Kerstin Aner as a member of parliament and as a journalist had noted the computer advertisements showing a "lovely imbecile" sitting at the machine, smiling vacantly and decided to study the real life situation. "The computer girl is one of the symptoms of a trend that some socially concerned scientists are beginning to worry about: the emergence of a new class structure in non-manual work, replacing the old class difference between manual and non-manual. New technologies do affect employment. Information retrieval systems geared to machines and their operation, rather than to personal skills, requires a major shift in the organization of office employment. Increasingly the servants of the new machine system are women drawn from working-class backgrounds, and there is alarm that the process of devaluation of clerical skills will result in female operatives becoming a new army of alienated employees." Other studies corroborate this fear, and one trend would see these female operatives shut off completely from the main business operation, and becoming the lower tier of a two-tier employment pattern. To change this trend is going to need strong affirmative action. Ms. Aner does not think women alone will be able to reverse this trend but will need the support of trade unions and well formulated legislation about equal employment. She looks to the day when a woman will be able to take her employer to court for not giving her the same career opportunities as men. Newfoundland's recent human rights legislation amendments provides this opportunity. It will take a test case to determine its effectiveness. As G.K. Chesterton said: "A whole generation of young women rushed out of their patriarchal homes, shouting: 'We will not be dictated to.' --and immediately became stenographers." Is the so-called electronic industrial revolution going to produce a generation of young women in the low-paid, dead-end job of computer girl, shut off in a computer room, apart from the main operation. Ms. Aner asks that the proper conclusions be drawn from the facts that Professor Lane Tracy of Ohio University puts as follows: The old saying that secretaries really run the company, or

that nurses really run the hospital, is no joke. It is such productive parahierarchy which provide the glue that holds our society together. Without them, business, government, medicine and education would long ago have collapsed under the weight of cumulative incompetence." Ms. Aner concludes by suggesting that the computer "girls" try to live up to Ada Augusta, Lady Lovelace, the very first writer of computer programmes in the world, and not to the pretty morons in the advertisements?

Is this what Silva Gelber of the Department of Labour (Women's Bureau) meant when she said every time she turned her back she would find that the women had slipped back into the low-paid, low-status jobs again?

Shirley Goundry

COMING ATTRACTION - March 21

The film RACHEL, RACHEL, directed by Paul Newman, starring Joanne Woodward, will be shown at 8:00 p.m. in the Little Theatre at MUN, March 21. The film is based on the book A Jest of God by Margaret Laurence.

International Women's Day
March 8th, 1975
Women's Centre, Rawlin's Cross

Programme for International Women's Day will be in the February Newsletter.

If anyone in the immediate area of Women's Centre knows of Day-Care facilities for that day or knows of someone willing to volunteer her home for that day, would he/she please notify any member of the executive or contact Marian Atkinson at the University (phone 753-1200, Ext. 2647).

This issue of the NSWC Newsletter was produced by -

Marian Atkinson, Jan Black,
 Sally Davis and our contributors

May we receive your contributions for the March Newsletter by Feb.15, 1975?

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE
 NEWFOUNDLAND STATUS OF WOMEN COUNCIL

Name _____ Ph.# _____

Address _____

Donation \$ _____ Renewal ()

New Member ()

I wish to support NSWC and the WOMEN'S CENTRE financially by pledging each month a sum of \$ _____

We publish a NEWSLETTER -

members	free
libraries	\$5.00/yr.
organizations	donation

Non-member donation \$ _____
 Send Newsletter ()



NOTE: This letter is reprinted here in the hopes that among our readers will be someone who has had contact with the problems faced by women in jails, or penitentiaries. If this person would make recommendations to the Advisory Committee on the Female Offender, we would like to hear from her/him. It is a great opportunity to express opinions that will possibly help in the reforming of Canada's penitentiaries for women.

Shirley Goundrey
Newfoundland Status of
Women Council
P.O. Box 6072
St. John's, Newfoundland

December 18, 1974

Dear Ms. Goundrey,

An Advisory Committee on the Female Offender serving sentences under Federal jurisdiction was established by the Honourable Warren Allmand, Solicitor General of Canada, to commence work on September 4, 1974, for a period of six months.

Members of the Committee believe that there could be more effective, creative ways of working with women, who, because of the length of their sentence, fall under the jurisdiction of the Solicitor General's Department.

We recognize that many people to whom we are addressing this letter will have had experience primarily in services which are under the jurisdiction of the Province and/or with voluntary, community-based services. We would welcome any information which you have about programmes which are working effectively in Canada or overseas.

Following are the Terms of Reference of The Advisory Committee:

To study the needs of the Federal Female Offender and to make specific recommendations to the Commissioner of Penitentiaries and the Executive Director of the National Parole Service regarding the development of a comprehensive plan to provide adequate institutional and community services appropriate to her unique program and security needs.

In the announcement of the establishment of this Committee, the Terms of Reference were expanded to indicate the areas which may well be considered by the Committee. These include:

...2

CHAIRPERSON
PRÉSIDENTE

Donna CLARK
Dixon Hall
58 Sumach Street
Toronto, Ontario
863-0499

MEMBRES
MEMBRES

Ethel ALLARDICE
1135 East Hastings
Vancouver, B.C.
254-0571

Marg BENSON
National Parole Board
382 King Street East
Kingston, Ontario
549-3890

Phyllis HASLAM
Elizabeth Fry Society
215 Wellesley Street East
Toronto, Ontario
924-3708

Maryrose LETTE
A/S Commission national
Libérations Conditionnelle
685 rue Cathcart
Pièce 302
Montréal, Québec
283-5863

Marie MARULE
National Indian Brotherhood
1610-130 Albert Street
Ottawa, Ontario
236-0673

Judge, Sandra E. OXNER
The Law Courts
Halifax, N.S.
425-5880

SECRETARY
SECRÉTAIRE

David BLAKE
340 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, Ontario
992-4277



The Advisory Committee will study the needs of federal female inmates and recommend treatment and training programmes best suited for their effective rehabilitation.

The Advisory Committee will examine such areas as population profile of federal female inmates, existing penitentiary facilities, programmes to meet their present and future needs, and develop plans for parole and after-care needs of the female offender.

The Committee will also make recommendations on the calibre of staff required and the training necessary for them in order to effectively implement new programs.

The Committee is anxious to get the ideas of individuals and groups within the community, as well as in institutions.

We hope that you will discuss this letter with others who are interested and concerned about these matters---and share with us any ideas which may emerge.

If you know any person or group of people who you believe would be interested to participate in this project, please share this letter with them, or send us the name and address of the person so that we can send a letter directly to the person. All responses would be appreciated by mid-February.

Sincerely

Donna Clark
Chairperson.

The National Advisory Committee
on the Female Offender
c/o 340 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0P9

ABORTION - THE WOMAN'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE

Help for those seeking an abortion

Over the past two years the women at Women's Place have carried on the job of keeping up with what is available in abortion facilities in St. John's, in other communities in Nfld., and on the mainland of Canada, the U.S. and England. Now that the Women's Place has decided to close they have turned over their files on Abortion to the NSWC.

The NSWC has set up a group of women to take on this very responsible assignment of providing referral information to women who need help. These women are Yvonne Earle, Jane Lewis, Thea Nation and Wendy Williams, each one of whom is taking this assignment very seriously. Their first effort is to compile a Handbook to have at the Women's Centre for staff members.

Please let it be known to your contacts that this service is now available from the Women's Centre by calling our number - 753 0220 - and making an appointment to talk to one of the above women.

SUPPORT FOR CARAL GROWING

The Canadian Association for Repeal of the Abortion Law needs all the backing it can get. Have you joined as yet? There was a very good response to the appeal made at the January membership meeting. Our organization joined as a group by raising \$50.00 from our members. And in addition many joined on their own by sending in the application form printed in the January Newsletter. If you missed out on supporting CARAL one way or the other, it's not too late. Mail your contribution (\$5.00 for an individual; \$10.00 for a family) to

CARAL
Box 424
Preston-Cambridge
Ontario N3H 4S8

ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE IWY-1975

The Local Council of Women has a very interesting IWY project underway.

You are invited to submit the name of a woman no longer living, who you think made a real contribution during her life-time. She must have lived in Newfoundland, but not necessarily have been born here. The contribution can be the salt of the earth variety - simple but significant. And someone who has never been written about in the books.

Send in your name to Women's Centre with a short sketch. If your submission is chosen, then more detail will be asked for in preparation for a 3 minute sketch for radio which LCW will handle.

The Vancouver Status of Women asks support

Get out your pen and paper and write a letter to -

Hon. Marc Lalonde
Minister Responsible for
the Status of Women
Parliament Bldg.
Ottawa

Request that Mr. Lalonde use his influence to take all the unsold Royal Commission Reports on the Status of Women and mark them down from their present cost of \$4.95 to at least half price so that they are more accessible.

Also since certain legislative reforms have been made since the Report was published in 1970, perhaps the government could publish a supplement in which the reforms are acknowledged and statistics are brought up to date.

Add your voice to others across the nation and we could well see the results.

What Glorious Times They Had

A review by Mike Cook

"No woman, idiot, lunatic or criminal shall vote."

So read the Election Act of the Dominion of Canada, quoted by Nellie L. McClung in her book "In Times Like These", (1915). This remarkable woman led the Political Equality League in Manitoba, pursuing not merely the right for women to vote but the human rights for all women everywhere in a country that did not consider a woman a "person" until 1929, when finally the Privy Council of Great Britain ruled that the word person in the BNA Act of 1867 did include members of the female sex.

The Redlight Theatre of Toronto presented, as part of its 1975, "What Glorious Times They Had" a documentary revue style piece of theatre based upon the battle Nellie McClung and her co-workers in the Political Equality League had with the premier of Manitoba, Sir Rodmond P. Roblin.

As theatre, the piece did not work, seeming to be a mixture between vaudeville and a serious desire to satirize and earnest conviction. This sense of being heightened by the, I think, mistaken use of the Public Library and Culture Centre's enormous stage, which such a presentation must have been given effectively. As an introduction to the prevailing attitudes at the time (attitudes which were antithetical to the spirit and humanity of Nellie McClung's "Glorious Times They Had" was akin to a pleasantly presented information program, with moments of parody and satire.

Some of the quotes are memorable:

"Heckler: The Prime Minister would quit politics if a woman were ever elected."

McClung: This proves what a purifying effect women would have on politics."

Sir Rodmond: what shades of decaying English gallantry in that name...once addressed Nellie as follows:

"What in the world do women want to vote for? Why do women want to mix in hurly-burly of politics? My mother was the best woman in the world and she certainly never wanted to vote. I respect women, I honor and reverence women, I lift my hat when I meet a woman. Now you forget all this nonsense about women voting. You're a fine, smart young woman, I can see that. And take it from me, nice women don't want to vote."

Diane Grant,—who conceived and directed the show, played Nellie McClung with vivacity and bustle, and was ably supported by Francine Volker, Valerie Von Volz, and Marcella L. Colorfully costumed in period, the ladies' best theatrical moments were when they parodied barber shop quartets in style and wit. Geoffrey Saville Read was a caricature of a caricature, as the premier, almost too empty at times to be acceptable as a human being at all.

The dramatic weight was carried by Eric Peterson, playing Roblin's assistant, P.T. Fletcher, a very funny portrayal of a conniving, self-abasing servant who chooses to limit his own capacity as a human being until, in one drunken moment, he finally dares to speak a little of his mind. The show was knit together, musically, by Monika Piebrock.

It is a pity that the Redlight Theatre was only able to give one performance, and that on a Saturday, for in a world in which traditional and frequently repressive male values still predominate, What Glorious Times They Had is a timely and valuable reminder of the distance still to be travelled in the pursuit of human dignity. Students of all ages, as well as adults, should have the opportunity to be exposed to it.

Council never approached on day care centre

Gander Advertiser Jan 15, 1975

Gander Mayor Hazel Newhook says that she would have to conduct a survey that shows a definite need for a Day Care Centre in Gander before approaching the provincial government to institute such a program.

the matter of a Day Care Centre.

Mayor Newhook said one of the things she has noticed is that most parents in Gander who are working can usually afford to pay well for housekeepers. It is for this reason she says that there would have to be a definite voice and a definite need established by the parents of Gander before calling upon the provincial government for action on the matter.

The mayor stated that council has never been approached for support by any group of individuals in the Gander area on

Women's sports facilities inadequate

LETHBRIDGE (CUP) — "Sports may be good for people, but they are considered a lot better for males than for females." Jane Schwindt, a third year physical education student at the University of Lethbridge, outlined women's role in sports from ancient Greece to the present day at a public forum in the Lethbridge Public Library.

Her talk on "Women in Sports" was part of a continuing series of lectures of "Women in Society" presented by Schwindt said women create a program of sports, the Her Honour of Hera, wife of Zeus.

City council endorses IWY

SASKATOON (CUP) — The all-male Saskatoon city council is willing to endorse a project which will suitably recognize International Women's Year, 1975 if the women in Saskatoon can suggest something.

The all-male pavillion at the local summer fair. Another councillor ensured that all women would be listened to before the council made their decision.

Morris Cherneskey, the best suggestion is for city fathers to grant women more freedom to grant women more freedom to control their bodies and ease abortion regulations at the City Hospital where Saskatoon is assured they have ideas for tightening up policy while in speakers, sites, etc. Maybe even interpreting federal legislation.

NSWC
P.O. Box 6072
St. John's, Nfld.

Ms. Kay Macpherson,
41 Glengowan Rd.,
Toronto M4N 1G1

