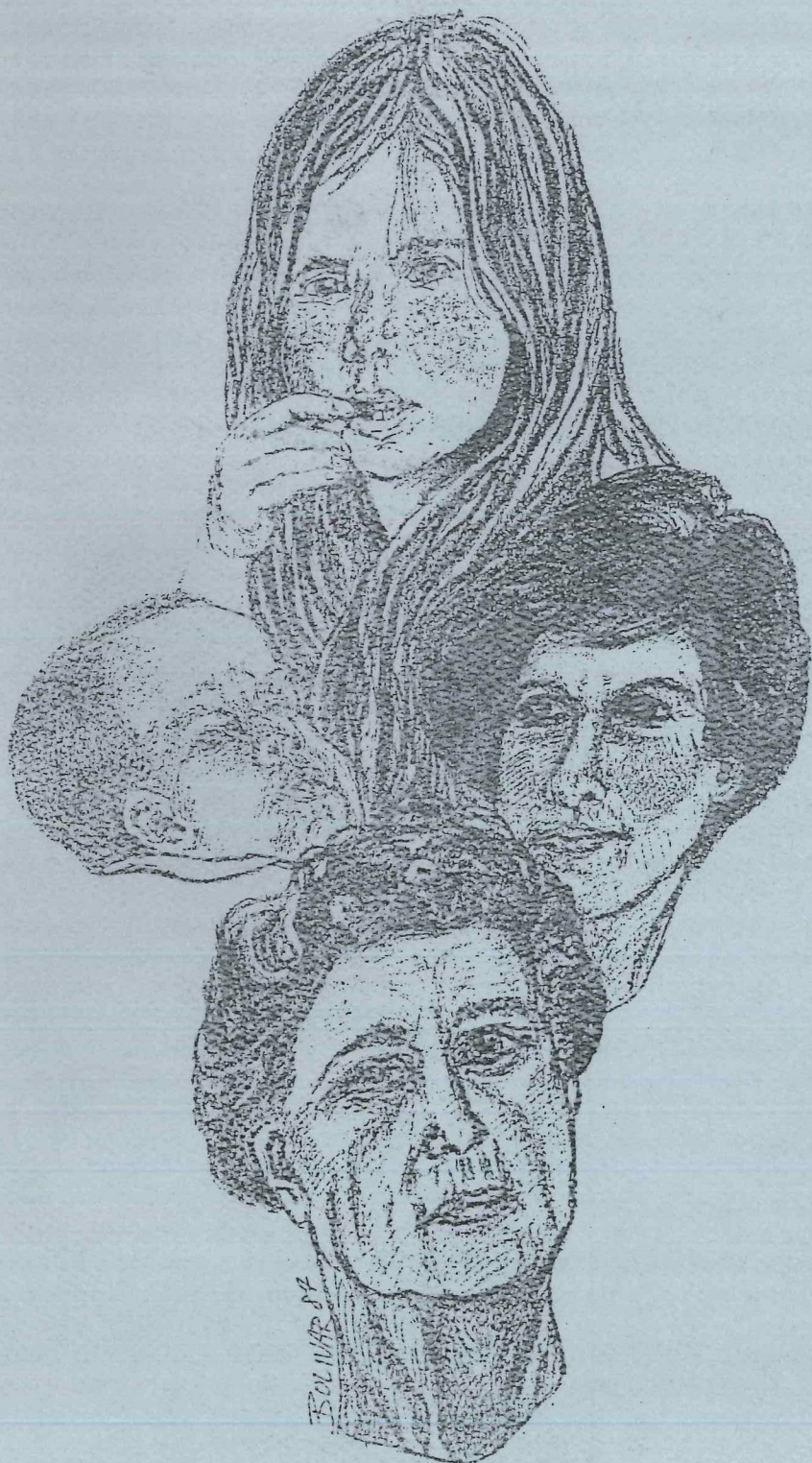


TAPESTRY

A FEMINIST QUARTERLY



OKWC COORDINATOR'S
REPORT
by Patricia Sebastian

AN HISTORICAL
OVERVIEW OF
FREE TRADE
by David Hewitt

WORKING WOMEN
-- Doris Brown

Essays on Life at
Different Ages

Poetry

Report on the Federal
Service to enforce
Support, Custody and
Access Agreements and
Orders

WINTER 1988

\$2.00

TAPESTORIAL

Life is good in different ways at different ages. Life is good in similar ways at different ages. In this issue we present seven essays that enhance the expression of life at various points in the journey.

David Hewitt has written an overview of the history of free trade -- the results of the past can reflect the future. He concludes his report with the effects that the agreement could have on the employment of women.

The WORKING WOMEN report for this issue offers you a glimpse at the daily work of a long term care aide and an activity aide. It was a report lovingly given by a woman who knows how to meet not only the physical needs of those whom she assists but totally capable of fulfilling their emotional and spiritual needs.

Cover and drawing on page 21
by Anne Bolivar
Drawing on page 27 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 Commons) as well as novels, poetry and prose.

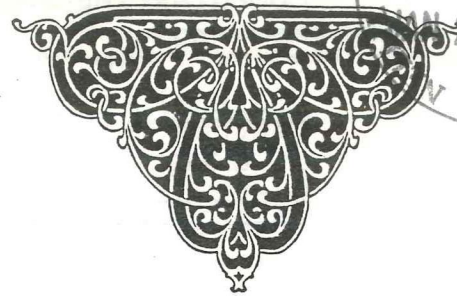
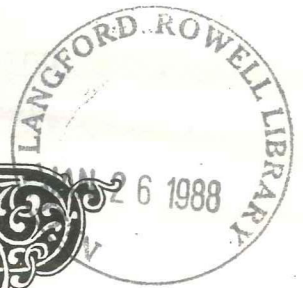
In addition to TAPESTRY we offer workshops, seminars and conferences throughout the year on topics such as:

- 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 hazards
- 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.

OKWC Coordinator's Report

by Patricia Sebastian



"Time flies when you're having fun." The past few months have been a busy and intense period for me. It is three months since I started my job as coordinator. Starting a new job is always a stressful period and takes at least 6 months before one is feeling familiar and, hopefully, competent in a new position. I have been involved in various meetings, workshops and public functions as well as the daily administration of the office. The following is an outline of several activities that the coalition has been involved in this past fall.

MENOPAUSE AND PMS WORKSHOPS were co-sponsored with the Vancouver Women's Health Collective. Both of these workshops had an excellent turnout and a follow-up menopause support group has formed. There will be a viewing of a NFB film "Is It Hot in Here?" at the OKWC in early February. Anyone who is interested please phone us to confirm the date.

JOB ENTRY PLACEMENT. Cindy Cole of the North Okanagan Handicapped Association began her placement here on October 30th. Although Cindy has a visual impairment, this does not seem to deter her from performing her work in a very efficient and competent manner. She has organized the library and would like to remind individuals with overdue books to please return them. Cindy will be using her computer knowledge during her next phase at the OKWC. Her enthusiasm and pleasant nature are greatly appreciated.

SECRETARY OF STATE GRANT APPLICATION was completed to meet the December 1st deadline. This was a challenging group effort and I commend the creative energies of those committed women involved in the process. Our activities relate directly to the Women's Program,

Secretary of State priorities:

- economic equality for women
- social justice
- access and participation on a community and institutional change level

An area that requires clarification to individuals and agencies is our role as a social development organization versus a direct service agency. Although individual women phone or drop in to the office requiring assistance or advocacy and the process of self help is initiated, the overall function of the centre is not direct service but social development.

Organizations receiving Federal Government funding are mandated to investigate the social problems of individuals and families and to use them as cues to develop and design programs that are intended to eliminate the social problem. However, the funding for the development of a program need not include the implementation of a program.

Letters of Support were received from the following organizations:

- * City of Vernon
- * Vernon Transition House
- * Communities Against Sexual Abuse
- * University Women's Club
- * Vernon Multi-Cultural Association of Vernon
- * Canada Employment Centre
- * Vernon Alcohol & Drug Program
- * U.N.N. Friendship Centre

DATES TO REMEMBER

- January 13 - OKWC Collective
Coordinating Board
Meeting
16, 17, 18 - OKWC Casino
18 - Regional Women's
Centres Meeting
at OKWC
30 - Workshop
"Demystifying the
Political Process"
- February 6 - Vernon Winter
Carnival Parade
(OKWC Participation)
- (no date) - Menopause Film
- March 4, 5 - Kamloops Women's
Conference
10, 13 - NAC Annual
Conference

Special thanks to our long time
volunteers: Diane Bottin, Gwyneth
Montgomery and Muriel Hurry.



EVERYWOMAN'S ALMANAC

The Okanagan Women's Coalition has
copies of the 1988 Everywoman's
Almanac: Appointment Calendar and
Handbook. Not only is it a
calendar but it is interspersed
with interviews with women of
different cultural backgrounds and
of a variety of occupations.

Copies are available at \$9.00 for
OKWC members and \$10.00 for
non-members.



"Remember, our heritage is our
power; we can know ourselves and
our capacities by seeing that
other women have been strong. To
reclaim our past and insist that
it become a part of our human
history is the task that lies
before us. For the future requires
that women, as well as men, shape
the world destiny."

-- Judy Chicago



WOMEN'S WORKSHOP

DEMYSTIFYING
THE POLITICAL PROCESS

Speaker: Darlene Marzari, MLA

Would you like to understand
how politics works?

Would you like to discuss issues
vital to women today?

Would you like to learn how
to voice your concerns?

COME TO
Schubert Centre
3505 - 30th Avenue
Vernon, B.C.

(wheelchair accessible)

ON
Saturday, 30 January 1988
from 10 am to 4 pm

No registration fee. Lunch
provided. Donations gratefully
received.

Pre-registration -- 546-8222
For child-care, pre-register by
January 15th

Workshop sponsored by the Women's
Rights Committee, New Democratic
Party.





"What do you like about being a little girl?"

I like pretty things.
I like drawing and painting and colouring.
I like gluing.
And vacuuming the rug.

I like emptying the trash for you.
I like to get dressed.
I like to pay the womens or men the money when we go shopping.

The things that I really like to do is making things --
like paper houses.

I like to go to Papa and Gram's and Auntie Lena and Uncle Tom's.

I like to write letters and do crossword puzzles.
And the other thing I like to do is play with toys.
I like to share.
And I like to take care of my dollies.

I like to take care of Angie (dog) and Turkey (cat) and you and
my little children Kaylee and Haylee (imaginary).
I like to take care of you and all the rest of you and your bones.
And I take care of your paper and I won't use the felt markers until
I'm thirty-twenty years old.

-- Meghan, age 3 11/12





FEDERAL SERVICE TO ENFORCE SUPPORT, CUSTODY AND ACCESS AGREEMENTS AND ORDERS

The Honourable Ray Hnatyshyn, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, announced on November 30th the start up of the federal tracing information service. This service is available to provide information to assist the provinces and territories in enforcing family support payments, whether made by court order or by written agreement between spouses, and whether for spousal support or child support. The federal tracing information service is also available to help enforce child custody or access (visiting rights) whether made by court order or by agreement between parents. The service is authorized by Part I of the FAMILY ORDERS AND AGREEMENTS ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE ACT.

Where support is not being paid, and the person who should pay it cannot be located (usually the spouse or ex-spouse), the federal tracing information service can be used to help locate the missing debtor. Where a child has been taken by the non-custodial parent contrary to a custody order or agreement, or access to the child is denied because the child's whereabouts are unknown, the federal tracing information service can help to locate the missing child and the parent who abducted him or her.

Once located, the spouse seeking to enforce the support, custody or access order or agreement can take the steps available in law to enforce the court order or agreement. For support, this can include garnishment of wages, seizure of bank accounts or property, garnishment of other debts, and establishing a trust over the debtor's estate, for example. For custody, this can include civil

enforcement of orders and/or the enforcement of a criminal charge of parental child abduction. For access, contempt proceedings can be used to enforce the access arrangement.

USING THE TRACING INFORMATION SERVICE

If you are a spouse seeking to enforce a support, custody or access order or agreement against a missing person, how do you use the federal tracing information service?

PROVINCIAL ENFORCEMENT SERVICES

For financial support, most provinces and territories have a support enforcement service. This service will collect and enforce your support payments for you without charge. If that service feels it needs to make use of the federal tracing information service to locate a defaulting spouse, it will do so. If your support order or agreement is registered with your provincial or territorial enforcement service, you do not have to take any steps to make use of the federal tracing information service. If you want to contact your support enforcement service, you can do so by contacting your local family or superior court, or by contacting the offices of your provincial or territorial Attorney General or Minister of Justice. You may want to contact the support enforcement service to register your order or agreement with it, to find out if your order or agreement is already registered with it, or to find out the status of your account with the service. Each province or territory has different rules regarding the operation of its service, so if you are in doubt, you should contact your provincial or territorial support enforcement service.

Only in Ontario and in Yukon will the provincial/territorial en-

enforcement service assist you in enforcing custody. If your child has been taken contrary to a custody order, you can register with this service and it will act to enforce your custody order. This will include making use of the federal tracing information service if it is needed.

LAWYERS AND LEGAL AID

Some provinces do not have provincial enforcement services. In others, not all support orders or agreements are enforceable by the provincial service. In most, custody and access orders are not enforced by the province. In these cases, you have the responsibility to enforce your own order or agreement. In such a case, the best course of action is to see a lawyer or legal aid service. Regarding the federal tracing information service, lawyers across Canada will be receiving application forms and an explanatory booklet on how to apply for tracing. If your lawyer or legal aid service does not have this material, she or he can obtain the material from the Department of Justice at the address below.

PARENTAL CHILD ABDUCTION

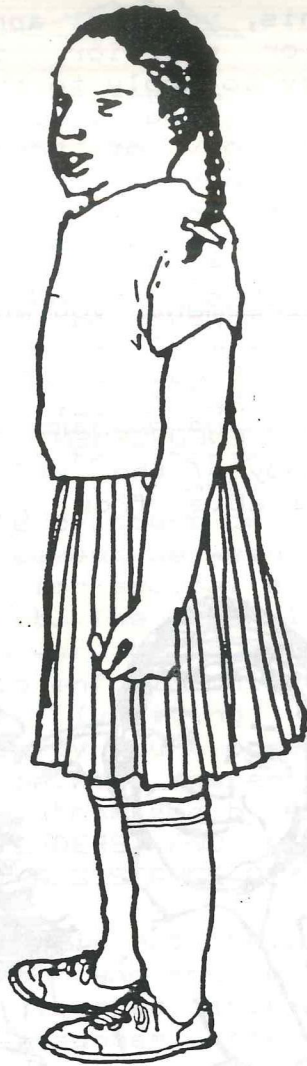
If your child has been taken by the child's other parent contrary to a custody order or arrangement, you should consider having the police lay a charge of parental child abduction. A Canada-wide warrant will then be issued for the arrest of the other parent. Police forces may also decide to use this service.

IF YOU WISH TO DO IT YOURSELF

If you do not wish to make use of a lawyer to enforce your support, custody or access order or agreement, you yourself can apply to use the federal tracing information service.

To do this, you must apply to your family or superior court for authority to apply to the federal government. You must provide a certified copy of your support, custody or access order, which you can obtain from the court that issued the order. If you are relying on a support, custody or access agreement, you must supply a copy. You must fill out an affidavit as set out in the regulations to the FAMILY ORDERS AND AGREEMENTS ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE ACT. A copy of the affidavit may be obtainable from your court





office, or you can get one from the Department of Justice at the address below.

In most cases, the ENFORCEMENT ACT requires that before you apply to search the federal information banks, you must first have searched provincial information banks to locate the missing person. You must provide proof of your search of a provincial information bank, if the province provides such evidence, when you apply to court for authority to search the federal information banks. This is so unless there are grounds to believe the missing person has left the province. This proof could be a provincial form or letter.

The court will consider your application and if it is satisfied

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that reasonable steps have been taken to locate the missing person, the court may authorize itself to apply to the federal tracing information service. The court, therefore, will fill out the application form and send it to Ottawa.

The court, not yourself, receives the information from the federal government. The court must keep the information confidential, but it can place the information on court documents to the extent necessary to enforce the court order. For example, if you wanted to garnish your spouse's wages, the court could put his or her employer's name and address on the garnishment summons, once it had received this information from the federal tracing information service.

The above is a broad outline of the process to be used in searching federal information banks. Local practice of the courts or enforcement services may vary.

If you wish more information, contact the Department of Justice at:

Department of Justice Canada
Communications and Public Affairs
239 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0H8
(613) 957-4222



Writer Joan Mills talking about mid-life insights:

"I'd gone through life believing in the strength and competence of others, never in my own. Now, dazzled, I discovered that my capacities were real. It was like finding a fortune in the lining of an old coat."



I like being eleven because I'm almost twelve. And I can still fool around, but I can also take on responsibilities. School is o.k. when you are eleven, but I'd rather be in high school not elementary. I can go to the mall with my friends and I don't have to follow Mom's shopping cart around the supermarket. I can stay home by myself and talk on the phone and I can cook when I want and use the stove.

I get my allowance when I want and I can buy anything without Mom watching and paying the bill. I can help plant the garden, including the little seeds. I can use matches with care without Dad there and I can buy my own gifts when it comes Christmas time.

I'm smart enough to make up a story or tell a tiny white lie without being caught, but I know it's not right. But what do you do -- take all the blame when your sister did it? Oh, what a shame.

School's kind of a bore when you do the same things every day and then something interesting comes your way and it goes right around you as if it were blind, but what I really like about being eleven is shopping for clothes and taking out the garbage of course!!

-- Natasha Brown



CAROLYNE GORLICK WINS
THERESE CASGRAIN AWARD
FOR STUDY ON LOW-INCOME
SINGLE MOTHERS

Alphonsine Pare-Howlett, President of the Therese F.-Casgrain Foundation, announced in November that Dr. Carolyn A. Gorlick is the 1987-1988 winner of the second annual Therese F.-Casgrain Fellowship. Gorlick will use the \$25,000 grant for a long-term study on the feminization of poverty, entitled "The Impact of Economic Stress and Social Support on Low-Income Single Mothers."

"Single mothers have the highest poverty rate in the country," says Gorlick, a sociologist at King's College, University of Western Ontario. "Overall poverty rates have declined, so people have the impression that poverty is no longer a problem, but poverty rates for single mothers are rising. In 1985, 60.2% of single mothers were below the poverty line, compared with 12.4% for married couples with children."

Gorlick is studying a group of single mothers over a three-year period following separation, in order to find out how social networks and social support ease financial strain and help single mothers get out of the social welfare trap by seeking employment and education. She hopes that the results of the study will have an impact on government social assistance policy.

"The Therese F.-Casgrain Foundation and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council are sending a message to poor single mothers that someone out there cares about them and is interested in addressing their need," says Gorlick. "It is absolutely critical that we as a society find better ways to deal with this growing social problem."

Gorlick was selected by a commit-

tee of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, the federal research funding agency which administers the grant. The money for the grant comes from interest on a fund of \$300,000 raised from associations, individuals and corporations by the Therese F.-Casgrain Foundation, a private group established in 1982 to perpetuate the memory of Senator Casgrain, who devoted her life to the promotion of women and the cause of social justice. She campaigned to get Quebec women the right to vote, and to receive family allowances. The Foundation is seeking further contributions to keep the bursary at the \$25,000 level in future years.



CONGRATULATIONS ANNE BOLIVAR!


The GALLERIE ANNUAL is a new women's publication devoted to women's art and women artists. It will feature approximately 40 women artists and will be published once a year, with the first issue appearing in June 1988.

Artist Anne Bolivar, who did the cover picture for this issue of TAPESTRY, has been accepted to appear in the first issue of GALLERIE.

GALLERIE will also publish announcements and advertisements from women's presses, women's galleries, women's music distributors and other cultural organizations that promote and encourage the work of women artists.

If you wish to receive a copy of the 1988 GALLERIE ANNUAL at a cost of \$12.00, please contact:

Gallerie Publications
2901 Panorama Drive
North Vancouver, B.C.
V7G 2A4



Here I am, sixteen years old, and what a great age it is. I love being sixteen because I have my whole life ahead of me. People are always asking me what I want to be after I graduate; I am not quite certain yet. I am supposed to know so that I can take the right courses in school. I would love to become involved in professional acting because it is a great way to express my feelings. It might be rather difficult to participate in commercials and movies because I would have to know the right people like writers and directors. I would not mind travelling after I graduate, but I am still not certain; travelling can be so expensive. There are just so many choices.

I love being around other people, which makes having many friends fun. The problem with some friends is peer pressure. Not all my friends are like that though, only some of the ones that I am not too close to. Peer pressure can be hard on a person at any age. If I say "no" to drugs, for example, my friends may say, "oh, come on, everyone is doing it". Maybe they will ridicule me, but there are always a few people who will respect me for my choice. If I give in and say "yes", I will be hurting myself and if my parents find out, they will definitely be disappointed and may lose respect in me. The way I deal with peer pressure is by just saying "no". I can go to a party and have a great deal of fun without becoming drunk or high.

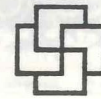
Physical appearance seems to be very important in Grade Eleven. If I don't dress in the most popular fashions or do my hair in the latest styles, I am just not with it. It is too bad that people don't make friends on the basis of personality rather than on hair or clothes. If more people made friends by inner appearance and not outer, there would be so many more enduring and positive relationships. These are important to me; what I value as important in a friendship is friendship.

Being sixteen is fun, but it can be difficult at times. However, whatever age you are, you should live your life to the fullest.

-- Cathy Mitchell

FREE TRADE

by David Hewitt



An examination of the political and economical complexities in Canadian history necessarily involves a survey of trade relations between Canada and the United States. Politics and economics are extremely complex entities in their own right. Given the interdependence, and thus interrelationships, the contemporary issues involving Canadian trade negotiations with the United States deserve a historically progressive analysis in the developments that have culminated in a current Bilateral Free Trade Agreement between Canada and the U.S. The extent of Canada's evolution as a nation state in terms of foreign ownership and control of the economy is explained by the Macdonald Commission which says in part that:

"It could be suggested, indeed, with only slight exaggeration, that Canada was formed in reaction to mid-nineteenth century Britain and U.S. trade policies, and that the gradual development of our nation was shaped, to great extent, by external influences. Our foreign economic policy has been based, in large part, on a desire to channel these forces in directions beneficial to national growth. Since (before) Confederation, Canada has adopted a pragmatic policy stance, born out of recognition that our country was neither strong enough nor large enough to chart a wholly independent course."

RECIPROCITY TREATY OF 1854

The first reciprocal free trade treaty with the United States involved at least seven years of negotiations. The civil war in America had not broken out yet and so Canadians had to placate both the North and the South in their differing interests. One of the

chief concerns of the South was that Canada would be annexed to the North. This question was answered by giving the British North American Colonies what they wanted; a treaty would quiet the push for annexation from the colonies. Possibly the biggest controversy was the issue of fishing rights. The Americans disputed the qualifications of the limits to access that Canada had claimed. The Americans would have perhaps approved only reciprocal trade in fish. Great Britain provided ambassadors to the colonies in an attempt to arrange some type of trading arrangement with the U.S., after a considerable amount of persuasion was placed upon the colonial office by some of the leading colonial politicians. After many controversies, a treaty was approved by all of the colonies and the Imperial Parliament in February, 1855. It was a wide ranging treaty, but it did not include printed books, unmanufactured sugar, agriculture implements and axes, although these had all been suggested. Still, it was a large list of natural products and it also gave Americans access to the St. Lawrence canals and Canadians were able to use Lake Michigan. The volume of trade increased substantially between the two countries, much to the benefit of Canada. The Americans abrogated the treaty in 1865, and in 1866, the treaty ended its operation. The Canadians had largely acquiesced and did nothing to deter its demise. The Civil War in the United States had spilled over into Canada. Through professing neutrality, the Canadians had sustained a considerable profit while permitting the South to raid the North from colonial borders. This and the failure to do anything to stop abrogation led to the defeat of the Reciprocity Treaty of 1854.

CONFEDERATION

The British North American Colonies had prospered with the Reciprocity Treaty. Growth in trade and immigration led to the possibilities of confederation. Railways were needed to tie the nation together, and money was needed for the building of a transportation infrastructure. These are some of the interests which led to confederation. Money from government came chiefly from taxes on trade and so Canada came out of Confederation with a protectionist policy. Reciprocity policy had not entirely been abandoned but the Northern United States had become quite protectionist. There was an impetus to link the colonies' trading pattern and the west was seen as a huge market for central Canadian manufactured goods and services. Protection was needed, for the United States had come out of the Civil War bigger and more industrialized than ever, and Britain was still playing a friendly game with America and was willing to sacrifice Canadian interests to keep the peace. Canadians, however, trying to force the United States into another reciprocity deal, seized more than 400 American vessels in Canadian waters that were fishing there illegally in 1870.

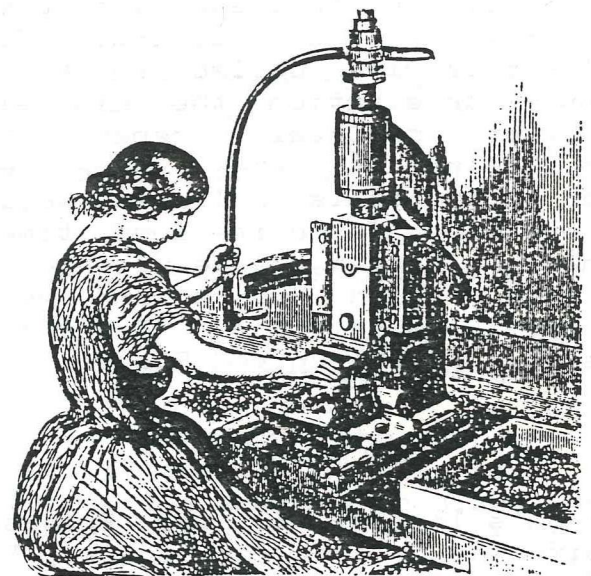
TREATY OF WASHINGTON

The United States wanted to buy their right to fish in Canadian waters. They were angered about the seizure of their boats and still had some grievances with Britain over their involvement in the U.S. Civil War. In the spring of 1871, the Prime Minister of Canada, Sir John A. Macdonald, was invited to Washington in the role of a British Commissioner to solve the war damage claims and the fishing question posed by the Americans. The Prime Minister tried to bargain trade with the Americans, but without British

support this did not get far. Sir John did manage to limit inclusion of fishing privileges for a ten year period. He also received guarantees from England that they would provide 2,500,000 pounds in financing of the Pacific Railway, and \$5,550,000 from Americans for their fishing privileges. This settlement helped to foster Macdonald's dream of a nation "from sea to shining sea".

NATIONAL POLICY

Another thing besides money was needed for the development of the Canadian nation as seen by Macdonald. It was Macdonald who named it "National Policy" and crusaded for a high tariff wall of protection of goods produced in Canada. This theme of protectionism has never been absent in Canadian trade relations since that date. It meant that manufactured products in Canada could be very profitable, even if there was an increase in cost of production because of it. It also meant that there would be a limited amount of these manufactured goods because of the lower incentive to compete. However, in the area of raw materials these tariffs have stimulated research on a more efficient means of production, particularly in lumber where Canada has become one



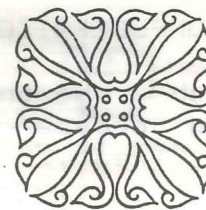
of the most efficient producers of that resource. The national policy required that foreign companies wanting to sell their products in Canada would have to establish branch plants to manufacture their products within Canada's boundaries. By 1900, there were approximately 675 U.S. branch plants operating in Canada. Another 396 branch plants began their operations by 1919, and by the end of 1934 there were 1,350 U.S. corporations active in Canada. There was a growing element in the United States that wanted free trade with Canada. The United States had industrialized far beyond Canada's rate and it extended into an era of expansionism.

ELECTION OF 1911

The U.S. had a government committed to tariff reductions. In 1911, the President of the United States prepared a draft reciprocity treaty and presented it to Canada. The Canadian government felt that it had a coup but there was some deeply entrenched opposition that appeared soon after the idea of reciprocity was suggested. Business was generally against it, the transportation segment most vocally so. The group most in favour were the farmers and, in 1911, this was a very significant part of the population. Instead of a referendum on the issue, the government, led by Liberal Sir Wilfred Laurier, called an election -- an election the Liberals were not adequately prepared to win. Losing it, they guaranteed that protectionist policies would be prevalent for quite some time. Canadians proved themselves loyal to the British Empire and were troubled with the "manifest destiny" of the United States.

WORLD WAR I

Canada's loyalty to the British Empire was called for again. By



the end of the war, the nation, from sea to shining sea, would feel very proud of her position in the British Commonwealth of Nations. The country had mobilized over half a million men to fight in the war. With Europe under seige, Canada's exports expanded rapidly and war production caused a huge growth in industrial capacity. The agrarian sector reached new heights with the government stepping in to handle marketing and production of Canada's greatest resource -- wheat. Tariff increases were made without a whimper, although there was some criticism. Money was needed and Canadians saw a shift in investment capital from Britain to the United States. American money went overseas to help rebuild the European economy.

DEPRESSION

After 1929, with the Europeans and Japanese exports growing and with an overabundance of agriculture products, the world slipped into depression. In the 1920's, American money was invested in Canada mostly for raw resources. When a crisis in world agriculture loomed, the United States enacted higher tariffs, as did the rest of the world. Trading blocks emerged and the value of trade in the world fell 42%. The depression began, and the policies of the Canadian government were social policies. In 1934, the United States Congress passed the Reciprocal Trade Agreement Act which lowered certain of their tariffs, mostly on raw resources which were needed by their industry. With this drop in tariffs, there was a preference for domestic producers, so Canada benefit-

ted little except to establish the trading pattern that was emerging between the two countries.

WORLD WAR II

The Second World War ended the depression and it would see the continental link between Canada and the U.S. forged completely. The continental defense plan was expressed in the Ogdensburg Agreement of 1940, to defend the northern half of the American continent. In 1941, the Hyde Park Agreement was signed which was an economic defense for Canada. The feeling was that without the agreement Canada would go bankrupt filling Britain's munitions orders. Canada filled these orders with components purchased in the United States and final assembly in Canada. The branch plant economy is symbolized distinctly by this process. The Ogdensburg and the Hyde Park agreements firmly placed Canada into this type of economy, an economy that during World War II would see the growth of the U.S. multinationals. Henceforth, the American government could easily be seen backing the interests of these corporations.

GATT

This organization, General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, began after the depression and World War II. The U.S. led the way, calling

for a world wide organization devoted to changing trade policies of member governments. A larger trade organization was proposed by member countries called the International Trade Organization (ITO). But the U.S. would not back this, so GATT remained the only comprehensive structure to lower tariffs world wide.

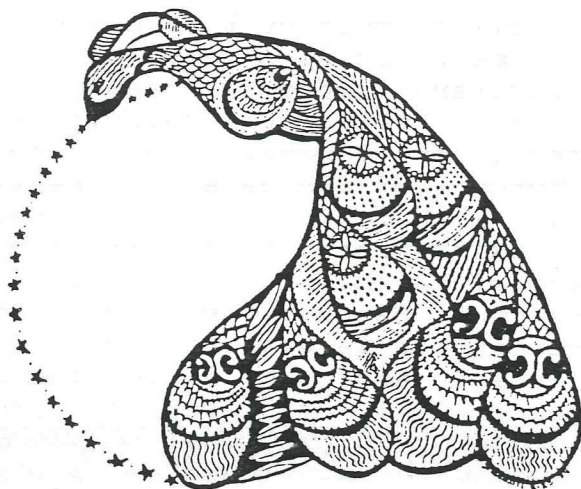
Seven rounds of GATT talks have occurred since 1947. There has been a steady downward trend to tariffs with the overall average being under 5 per cent. The main problem with GATT today is its limited power in coercing governments to reduce non-tariff barriers and its lack of research on new trade issues. For a world wide organization the budget expenses are very small which hinders its research projects. New trade issues are those ever-increasing non-tariff barriers and trade in services.

AUTO PACT

In 1956, the Canadian and U.S. trade ministries negotiated a sectoral trade agreement. This agreement allows motor vehicles and parts to pass across the border with no tariffs attached to them. The Canadian government agreed to financing the large transportation infrastructure needed for this. The U.S. auto industry guaranteed production quotas based on Canada's share of the consumer market. These production quotas also guarantee jobs for Canadians, since Canada has no control of the auto industry in Canada.

RISE OF THE MULTINATIONALS

Canada has historically financed its industrialization through direct foreign investment. In this type of borrowing the intake of direct investment in the form of subsidiaries and branch plants by externally-based parent corporations, the control of these sub-



diaries rests unequivocally with the lender.

Until the First World War, Britain was the heaviest financier of Canada's debts, since then the U.S. inflow of direct capital investment has grown steadily. In the 20 years between 1945 and 1965 this investment has risen approximately 16 billion dollars, with most of the increase in petroleum resource extraction and marketing. In 1962, 62% of petroleum and natural gas resources were owned by Americans. This is a huge growth considering that in 1948 there was only a small, unmeasurable amount of control of these resources vested in the United States. During the same period control of Canada's utilities fell from 24% to 4%. Today over half of the large corporations in Canada are U.S. owned and of the top 25 in Canada, U. S. ownership accounts for 18, including the top five.

FREE TRADE

According to the Ricardian Trade Model which has as its basic premise that countries should specialize according to their comparative advantage so trade will benefit both parties, there are four stages in free trade leading to economic and political integration.

FREE TRADE AREA. Eliminate tariffs between the two countries and keep separate tariffs against the rest of the world.

CUSTOMS UNION. Eliminate ALL tariffs between the two countries and adopt a common tariff against the rest of the world.

CO-ORDINATION OF ECONOMIC POLICY. Government spending, taxes, exchange rates and a shared monetary policy.

POLITICAL UNION.

Currently the U.S. is suffering under huge trade deficits, buying more than they sell. The U.S. Congress has grown more and more protectionist with a President who claims he is in favour of free trade. In 1981, the Business Council of National Issues began "lobbying Ottawa about a possible free trade agreement with the Americans. The BCNI is made up of the 150 largest corporations in Canada which, as stated earlier, are more than half American controlled. The Macdonald Commission came out in 1985 in favour of a bi-lateral free trade agreement with the United States. This commission's report has been criticized for its emphasis on the BCNI, disregarding economic studies from groups not representing big business in Canada. In general, world conditions in trade have worsened to perhaps pre-depression levels with countries closing their import abilities entirely. The European Economic Community (EEC) is an example of this and is a customs union of the RTM model. Britain joined the EEC in 1973 and still has not increased the efficiency of its ability to produce, and prices within the community still are not equalized, even after more than 14 years. Since the EEC's inception, the world economy has shifted from an Atlantic orientation to the Pacific. The most obvious fact about this shift is that Pacific countries, notably Japan, have historically limited exports.

The veil of mystery that surrounds the free trade agreement which has preliminary approval makes it difficult still to delimit its effects on Canada. The current government of Canada still relies on the much criticized Macdonald Commission Report to justify their "leap of faith" in approving the agreement. Because the free trade agreement falls within the GATT, it is supposed to be a good thing. Remember GATT was American pro-

continued on page 26



WHEN GOD CREATED MOTHERS



When the Lord was creating mothers, he was into his sixth day of overtime when an angel appeared and said, "You're doing a lot of fiddling around on this one."

And the Lord said, "Have you read the spec on this order? She has to be completely washable, but no plastic. . .have 180 movable parts -- all replaceable. . .run on black coffee and leftovers. . .have a lap that disappears when she stands up. . .a kiss that can cure anything from a broken leg to a disappointed love affair. . .and six pairs of hands."

The angel shook her head slowly and said, "Six pairs of hands? No way."

"It's not the hands that are causing me problems," said the Lord. "It's the three pairs of eyes that mothers have to have."

"That's on the standard model?" asked the angel.

The Lord nodded. "One pair that sees through closed doors when she asks, 'What are you kids doing in there?' when she already knows. Another in the back of her head that sees what she shouldn't, but what she has to know. And of course, the ones in front that can look at a child when he goofs up and say, 'I understand and I love you' without so much as uttering a word."

"Lord," said the angel touching his sleeve gently, "go to bed. Tomorrow is another. . ."

"I can't," said the Lord. "I'm so close now. Already I have one who heals herself when she is sick, can feed a family of six on one pound of hamburger, and can get a nine year old to stand under a shower."

The angel circled the model of a mother very slowly. "It's too soft," she sighed.

"But tough," said the Lord excitedly. "You cannot imagine what this mother can do or endure."

"Can it think?"

"Not only think, but it can reason and compromise," said the Creator.

Finally, the angel bent over and ran her finger across the cheek. "There's a leak," she pronounced. "It's not a leak," said the Lord. "It's a tear."

"What's it for?"

"It's for joy, sadness, disappointment, pain, loneliness and pride." "You are a genius," said the angel. The Lord looked somber, "I didn't put it there."

working women

-- Donna Brown

Donna Brown has been a long term care aide and activity aide for over 3 years. She was drawn to this occupation by a need to work in the service field in a job that would give her the satisfaction of helping people.

To become a long term care aide in the Okanagan, one must attend a 15-week course through the Kelowna campus of Okanagan College. This course is split into two parts -- theory and practicum. After three weeks of classes in theory having to do with such things as nutrition, communications and maintaining a safe and clean environment, then one would spend three weeks of practicum at a long term care facility. One would alternate yet again, returning to school to study theory -- personal care skills, work responsibility, handling emergency situations and human needs. Then there is another practicum to give one the skills of applying the theoretical studies.

Basically, a care aide assists residents with the activities of daily living. The emphasis is on maintaining resident independence as long as possible. Also, maintaining a high standard of quality of life is part of the job.

A daily routine for a long term care aide begins with assisting a resident with personal care procedures in the morning, making sure that they attend breakfast and helping to serve meals and beverages. The care aide also assists those residents who require help with cutting food or putting jam on toast. This assistance includes encouraging residents to eat, because you are trying to maintain the quality of life, part of which



Jeanette Nelson/Jewels Graphics

is being full. If a resident is depressed and does not eat, it will perpetuate the circle of depression combined with a poor nutritional state.

The next stage is assisting residents from the dining room to whatever activities are going on or to their rooms or to wherever they wish to go. This also includes assisting residents to the bathroom, also known as "routining". "Routining" is the method of regularly taking a resident who does not have all of her faculties to the bathroom. This also prevents soiling of clothing which would then result in skin breakdown.

Bathing takes up the rest of the morning. Residents are assisted in and out of tubs and with their personal hygiene, which includes clipping toenails and fingernails, cleaning ears and washing hair. The care aide is expected to note any changes in skin colour, skin integrity, gait, behaviour, moods or anything out of the ordinary about the resident. She reports

this to her superior and appropriate action is taken. That is the duty of the care aide, to be the eyes of the facility.

Again the residents are assisted to their mid-day meal and routined.

The care aides then give a daily report on each resident to the RN on duty. If there is any time that is left before the end of shift, it is spent taking quality time with a resident on a one-to-one basis.

An evening shift worker would assist at the evening meal and help the residents with their routine involved in getting them to bed.

The night shift mainly involves going rounds and routing people.



An activity aide's responsibility is to assist residents in keeping active, physically, socially and emotionally. The idea is to motivate and this is to be done in an encouraging, compassionate and caring manner.

A week of activities would include card and board games, bowling in the facility with regular balls and pins, outings to local restaurants, Bingo, pet therapy, wine and cheese parties, movies in the facility, inter-facility socials which provide outside interaction, youth interaction programs with children and church programs. The aide is greatly assisted in these programs by volunteers from the community.

The activity aide is constantly motivating, stimulating and providing an environment in which the resident can maintain a high quality of life by remaining active. This is not always easy as the average age at the facility where

Donna works is 85. It is not easy but it is very rewarding to assist a generation who have so much to contribute from a lifetime of experience.

If you are considering a career as a long term care aide or an activity aide, it would be a good idea to ask yourself if you are compassionate, patient, a good listener and flexible. Not one day is the same and you will be challenged constantly to be all of the things she has mentioned.



"I've never had a day yet when I don't want to go to work. I love my job."



YOU ARE INVITED...

Come to the Okanagan Women's Coalition and pick up your free copy of FEMINIST ACTION, a magazine published by the National Action Committee on the Status of Women. The current issue deals with Federal Government performance, Federal elections, being a candidate, knowing your candidate, pressuring your candidate and working for your candidate. There is more, as well, so come up, introduce yourself and get to know the OKWC while you pick up your free copy of FEMINIST ACTION.



"Nothing living should ever be treated with contempt. Whatever it is that lives, a man, a tree or a bird, should be touched gently, because the time is short."

-- Elizabeth Goudge



Here I am, forty years old. It is something of a relief to be here because I lost something on the way -- extreme self-consciousness. There are bits and pieces of the milder sort lurking about and popping out occasionally, but I can recognize them for what they are and not pay too much attention to them.

It was the almost paralyzing shyness and the incapacitating blushing embarrassment that I lost on the way here. And I don't miss them.

I have discovered that the world is full of unsure, fearful people -- so why should I fear them.

I have discovered that the world is full of loving, accepting people -- so why should I fear them.

Self-consciousness and embarrassment were limiting; they took the joy out of life. Worrying about what others thought could prevent any participation in life because SOMEBODY is always going to disagree with me.

I know now that I am a loving, accepting person. I know that I generally make thoughtful decisions. I know that I am a capable person with many talents. This is nothing to be embarrassed about.

I listen. I hear that people want to talk about themselves. They want to be loved and accepted. They want their opinions to be validated. They want warmth even if they don't know how to accept it. They want to be right.

There is nothing to fear here. Why waste my time being self-conscious?

I have become whole.

-- D.W.



BOOKS

"JUST A HOUSEWIFE" THE RISE AND FALL OF DOMESTICITY IN AMERICA

by Glenna Matthews

(Oxford University Press, Toronto,
Ontario, \$29.95)

At last -- a history book that is MINE. Glenna Matthews has written a cultural history of the American home from 1750 to the present. It does not matter that the historical viewpoint is centered in the United States for the cultural changes which Matthews discusses had as deep an impact on Canada.

The early colonial housework was essentially a matter of survival -- no gourmet dinners here but a one-pot meal cooking over an open hearth fire -- clothes washing that had to be done by hand, but only after the soap had been made first.

Then one of the major changes of the home was invented, the cast-iron woodburning cookstove. The American culinary arts began; one-pot meals were no longer the daily fare. Then came the invention of the sewing machine which brought about more changes in the domestic life of the country.

Not only does Matthews trace the effects that "labour saving devices" had on the American home and, subsequently, the American culture but she also follows the status of the housewife from a survival level in the colonial period to the peak of esteem that she was to reach in the nineteenth century.

Matthews uses cookbooks, novels, essays and magazine articles as some of her sources to elaborate on the way the women saw themselves and their role of housewife and on the way men saw women as housewives and keeper of the home.

The home was an object of reverence in the nineteenth century; it was "seen s the front line of action to produce virtuous citizens". With the value of the home being extolled, the role of women within the home as marriage partners, mothers, housekeepers and guardians of the flame of homely warmth, affection and virtue was satisfying and respected.

Do not believe that women were confined to the home, for its sphere was to spread to the community in general by active community work, both political and social.

What went wrong? Why did the status of the woman who worked in the home decline?

Industrialization of the home and the rise of consumerism resulted in women's highly skilled domestic labour becoming just labour. Add to this the Darwinian theory of evolution and natural selection with its extolling of all things male and its reduction of the female's fitness solely to her capability of reproduction.

Matthews has so much more appended to the central theme of the rise and fall of the housewife: the changes in the use of hired help to the use of servants, racism, modern inventions such as the sewing machine, the automobile (which made the housewife the chauffeur of the nation) and electricity, social viewpoints on the sharing of household duties by man and woman, Betty Friedan's writing of "The Feminine Mystique" and pinpointing of "the problem".

I learned so much. I enjoyed learning so much.

-- D.W.



SECRETS OF THE INVISIBLE WORLD
by Jean Roberta
(Lilith Publications, Montreal,
Quebec, \$9.95)

SECRETS OF THE INVISIBLE WORLD is a collection of twelve short stories covering a wide range of cultural and feminist issues relating to lesbianism.

This book is a study in the science of human nature. The author has obviously led, as she puts it, "an examined life". She demonstrates surprising insight into a wide variety of personalities and social situations that has to be admired. Her stories are believable and true-to-life. She presents a positive image of women, of lesbians and of women as lesbians.

Jean Roberta forces her readers to look inside themselves. Even though the emphasis of these stories is on interpersonal relationships among lesbians, her stories are universal and their messages can be related to regardless of gender or sexual orientation.

She has an interesting flair for variety. She deals with ageism, sexism, racism, monogamy vs. love triangles, social patterns that develop from dysfunctional families, substance addiction, socio-economic conditioning, the career-oriented single mother, and even touches on spirituality and herstory.

The role models that she presents are emotionally strong and healthy. She breaks away from the scenerio of the socially ostracized introvert in Radcliffe Hall's WELL OF LONELINESS, for example, which for too long has set the precedent for lesbian literature.

Her characters are self-directed and independent and proud to love other women. At a time when women are turning to their other sisters

for emotional support, she shows that not all lesbians are "born that way", that more and more intimate relationships are developing from these friendships.

My one criticism of the book comes from its tendency to gloss over in an unrealistic manner the process of transition from a heterosexual to homosexual lifestyle. The road to complete transition, if ever, is seldom smooth and easy as she seems to imply. I feel that she is more interested in presenting a positive image, which is appreciated none the less.

The women in SECRETS OF THE INVISIBLE WORLD are real women. They are witty and humourous, sappy and self-indulgent, old and wise, young and naive, gutsy and fallible, adventurous and vulnerable, sexual and caring. They deal the best way that they can with the social ramifications of being lesbian in today's world. They live with loneliness and infatuations. They struggle with a sense of loyalty to the old code when it



was even harder being a dyke. And of course they suffer the pain of rejection when they finally "come out" to an old friend and are betrayed. Their relationships are as solid and well grounded as any heterosexual partnership, which goes a long way to dispelling the prevailing image of homosexuals having shallow and short-lived relationships.

SECRETS OF THE INVISIBLE WORLD has it all. Its wide variety of subject matter is sure to offer something of interest to everyone. A gallant effort by Jean Roberta to share the "secrets" and increase the visibility of lesbians.

-- Anne Bolivar



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



NO MORE SECRETS: A CONFERENCE ON
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May 24 to 27, 1988
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This national conference is designed for professionals who work in the area of child abuse and adult survivors of child abuse. Conference presenters include dynamic feminist therapists, researchers and activists such as: Lucy Berliner, Sandra Butler, Diana Russell and Lucie Blue Tremblay. For registration information, contact:

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TAPESTRY...22



THE NELLIE LANGFORD ROWELL
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REDISCOVERING HISTORY: BRINGING A NAME TO LIFE -- NELLIE LANGFORD ROWELL, 1874-1968. Tracing the steps of Nellie Langford Rowell, this pamphlet shows how one woman combined a warm and successful family life with work in organizations to better the status of women. It illustrates the way women's organizing furthered the social and political development of Canada in the first half of the century.

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Remember "What do you want to be when you grow up?" When I was little, I mostly wanted to be a pilot; now I want to be me! I am 55 years old; I've got store teeth and white hair; I am through the menopause and have 7 5/6's grandchildren and live with a 57 year old man! And I am just so glad to be me!

I am at a point in life where I am able to look both ways: my mother and I have become easy friends over the years and it feels good knowing that I have some of her intelligence, integrity and stubbornness. I can also see the results of those hectic years raising 5 rambunctious kids: what nice, really fine, loving people they are! They go about their lives competently and confidently, leaving me to go about mine. They share with me the love of their children and partners, and someplace over the years I realized that feelings don't ever have to be justified, and so I am able to live comfortably with all my emotions.

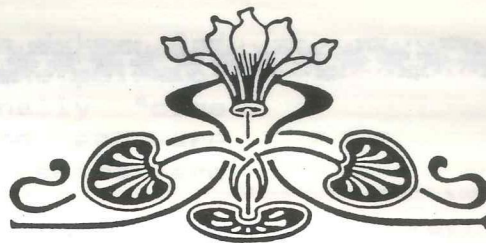
Now, I am so glad that Bill and I put out so much energy and caring working out the hassles that inevitably invade any relationship that involves kids, work, even life. We finally declared an amnesty in our personal 'battle of the sexes'; we have more fun, more mutual pleasure in our lovemaking than ever before, a really unexpected bonus in our middle age. We came together in our teens, and have met and remet over the years as one or the other experienced change and growth. We learned to make room for each of us, for both of us: I value this freedom most of all. And finally, we dance! We both love to dance, and now we have the time, again, to dance and to be a couple again.

Perhaps the prime gift of aging, for me, has been perspective. I am deeply moved by what I can only call the holiness of life: I actually have more hope and faith than when I was younger . . . strange, as over the years I "discovered" and later rejected religion. I became a peace activist in the 1950's because I had little hope for my children's future: I stay now, because I have faith in the wonder of life itself.

I feel rather blessed now, truly blessed, because, at 55, I have the interest and the time and the energy to explore all my desires! WOW! I am here, not only for a long time, but also a good time!

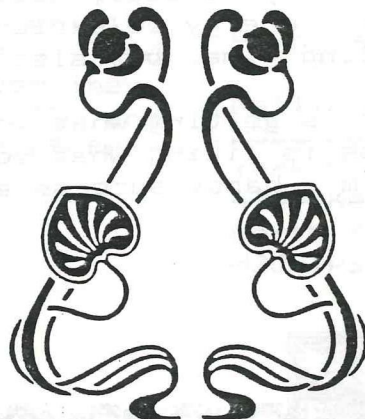
If "Success is getting what you like,
and Happiness is liking what you get",
I guess I'm a happy success story!

-- Joan Crebo



When I am an old woman I shall wear purple
With a red hat, which doesn't go, and doesn't suit me,
And I shall spend my pension on brandy and summer gloves
And satin sandals, and say we've no money for butter.
And I shall sit down on the pavement when I'm tired
And gobble up samples in shops and press alarm bells
And run my stick along the public railings
And make up for the sobriety of my youth.
I shall go out in my slippers in the rain,
And pick the flowers in other people's gardens
And learn to spit.
You can wear terrible shirts and grow more fat
And eat three pounds of sausages at a go
Or only bread and pickles for a week
And hoard pens and pencils and beer mats and things in boxes.
But meanwhile we must stay respectable
And must not shame the children: they mind more,
Even than we do, being noticeable
We will keep dry with sensible clothes and spend
According to good value, and do what's best
To bring the best for us and for our children.
But maybe I ought to practice a little now?
So people who know me are not too shocked and surprised
When suddenly I am old, and start to wear purple.

-- Jenny Joseph



pelled and controlled from the start. The government of Canada has placed much emphasis on the Auto Pact as proof that free trade with the United States works. However, the Auto Pact is not a free trade arrangement inasmuch as it is a controlled trade agreement. Recently the Auto Pact has been placed back on the table of the free trade negotiations.

The largest issue that the government has largely kept silent about is Canada's culture. Canadians have their own distinct identity, evident from the way Canadians feel about work to the three party political system. A separate and unique cultural identity has been successfully promulgated in Canada only through government policies which have upheld the principle of Canadian multi-cultural society. Culture is a business and in 1984, Canada's film and broadcasting exports to the United States were worth \$23 million; U.S. exports to Canada were worth \$136 million. This current disparity underlines the fact that Canadian cultural industries are still fledgling while at the same time, points out that Americans take their culture very seriously.

Canada will have to ADJUST to conditions of free trade. The government of Canada says that businesses in Canada will have to rationalize their work force to the American labour force (less unionization, lower wages, more automation, fewer workers) under the Bilateral Free Trade Agreement. The Provincial Government of Ontario prepared a study which shows some 400,000 manufacturing jobs in southern Ontario are vulnerable to free trade. A study prepared for the industry minister of Quebec says there are 230,000 jobs that may have to be rationalized. Another study prepared for the Quebec government has 446,000 jobs on the slate for rationalization. In B.C. 52% of all manufacturing jobs may have to be ration-

alized while it is almost guaranteed that 15,000 people will lose their jobs in the service sector. Canada's huge reliance on its primary resource sector, which has only 6% of the total work force employed in it, is a clear winner in the Free Trade Agreement. Steven Clarkson states that "there is little evidence...that the United States would want to establish a free trade zone with Canada on any basis other than as a resource satellite." The Bilateral Free Trade Agreement that was okayed in October of 1987 makes certain that Canada now has satellite status.

For women and free trade the costs of the agreement are immense. Women are last-hired, first-fired. Women are particularly vulnerable because 42% of all females employed in manufacturing are in the six industries generally considered most vulnerable under free trade. In the service sector, well over 80% of its employees are females. Free trade in service threatens: telecommunications, health services, advertising, marketing, management consulting, personal financial services, motion pictures, leasing, accounting, building related services, technology maintenance, education services, legal services, travel and tourism, utilities, franchising and data processing and other computer services (The Last Canadian Christmas, CANADIAN DIMENSION, Nov/Dec 1987).

Approximately 70% of the U.S. labour market are currently employed in the service sector. This is the largest growth industry in the United States. The Canadian Independent Computer Service Association recently prepared a study that shows in the period 1977-1984 there were 180,000 jobs lost due to increased importation of computer services. In 1989 the U.S. will have unrestricted access to

Canada's service sector. Canada's labour force is concentrated in the service sector, the majority of female workers are employed there and the projected consequences are enormous. Even if women keep their jobs, their employers are more likely to be American in future.

An overview of the history of trade between Canada and the U.S. has been necessary to view the current Free Trade Agreement between the two countries. Because of the extreme complexities of the political and economic interests of Canada, and the mystery that surrounds the new Bilateral Free Trade Agreement, it is difficult to presuppose a major benefit that will accrue from its passage into history. The first treaty of this sort took seven long years of negotiations and was abrogated by the Americans 11 years later only because it was not in their interests. History always provides sound examples for the future. The all encompassing Bilateral Free Trade Agreement has taken only 3 years to become, very possibly, a reality for Canadians. That reason alone should provide skepticism that it would not be in Canada's best interests to become more firmly entrenched in the continental orbit of the United States.



"Nobody can make you feel inferior without your consent."

-- Eleanor Roosevelt



"It takes a lot of courage for a man to declare, with clarity and simplicity, that the purpose of life is to enjoy it."

-- Lin Yutang
The Pleasures of
a Non-Conformist

THE LAST CANADIAN CHRISTMAS? The Free Trade Agreement

What It Says and What It Means

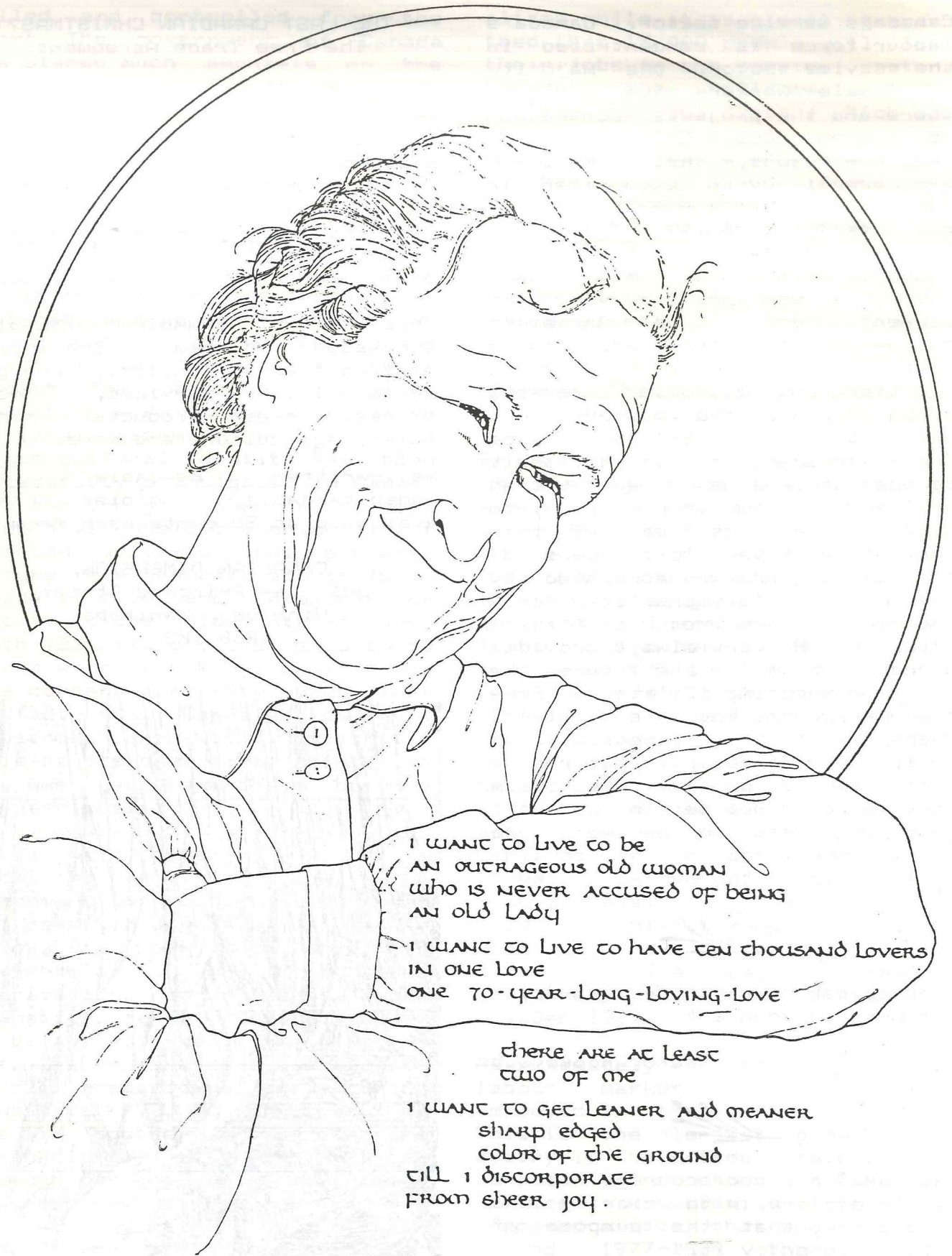
"...binational panels are bound only to US laws and practices whenever US firms want to challenge how we do things in Canada... Governed by US law and precedent, the US can define subsidies almost any way it wants to."

This issue of CANADIAN DIMENSION breaks down and examines the impact of free trade on culture, energy, automobiles, services, jobs, prices, forest products, fisheries, agriculture and more.

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I WANT TO LIVE TO BE
AN OUTRAGEOUS OLD WOMAN
WHO IS NEVER ACCUSED OF BEING
AN OLD LADY

I WANT TO LIVE TO HAVE TEN THOUSAND LOVERS
IN ONE LOVE
ONE 70-YEAR-LONG-LOVING-LOVE

there ARE AT LEAST
two OF me

I WANT TO GET LEANER AND MEANER
SHARP EDGED
COLOR OF THE GROUND
TILL I DISCORPORATE
FROM SHEER JOY.



It was suggested that I write a small essay on why I like being the age that I am. And when I thought about it, it seemed that WHY I liked being the age I am really had nothing to do with "being seventy-two". I am probably much the same person who looked from two-year-old eyes as I am looking out of these eyes seventy years later. The difference lies in seventy years of experience which has brought me to a certain place on the journey of my life wherein I find myself contented, happy and secure with whatever life brings from day to day.

When I look on these blessings, they do not seem to have sprung up ready-made but are an ongoing result of a search which has gone on most of my life, at any stage of which I could have said, "Yes, I am contented, happy and secure."

The rosebud is the bloom in a process of expansion and at any stage it is beautiful in itself. It is neither more nor less a rose. Each stage, which is a process, not a static condition, is perfect in itself.


And so at seventy-two I can say with my whole heart, "Yes, I am contented, happy and secure", knowing that the process of becoming is still continuing into deeper and deeper levels of understanding.

The very nicest thing, perhaps, is that the years have given me white hair, and to my astonishment I find myself the object of special care and attention from those people who serve me in public. And of special acceptance by those who seek help or advice in their own process of becoming.

To say that I am a little in awe of this is putting it mildly. But it IS nice to be here now at seventy-two with all my life before me.

by Barbara Brown





WOMEN ARE AGAINST FREE TRADE
from the National Action Committee
on the Status of Women

Why Free Trade will harm women: It is vital that women speak out against free trade because we will be most affected and can least afford bearing the "cost" of free trade adjustments.

It will mean:

JOB LOSS. The reason women will lose more from free trade is because working women are concentrated in industries which will be most adversely affected.

In manufacturing most women work in textiles, clothing, food processing, electrical and electronic products, and other consumer industries. Even government studies admit that the jobs in these industries are most at risk.

In the service sector, where the majority of working women are concentrated, jobs are threatened because many restrictions on the provision of services from outside the country will be removed. For example, in the case of data processing, there are many laws which require that data be processed and stored in Canada. When these are removed, many clerical jobs for women will be lost.

LOWER WAGES AND POORER WORKING CONDITIONS. Even in those places where women don't lose their jobs, increasing competition will force firms to reduce costs through cutting wages, ignoring health and safety, and fighting legislative protection which ensures equal rights for women.

They will do this because their major competition under the agreement will be located in U.S. states with no minimum wage, poor labour legislation and very low levels of unionization.

POORER ACCESS TO SOCIAL PROGRAMS. The Canadian tradition of providing services to people through publicly supported facilities is jeopardized.


The agreement says that U.S. firms must be given equal treatment in Canada and implies that they must be given equal access to public funding. The result will be a great drain on our tax dollars and an increased tendency for certain services, such as health care and child care to be shifted to the private sector.

When services are delivered through private means, they tend to be less accessible and more expensive.

WHAT WOMEN CAN DO. It is important that everyone understand what free trade is about. You can help in many ways: tell your local M.P. of your opposition to free trade, give your support to activities in your community against free trade, help NAC fight free trade through a financial contribution.


Contact:

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



"It occurred to me when I was 13 and wearing white gloves and Mary Janes and going to dancing school, that no one should have to dance backwards all their lives."

-- Jill Ruckelshaus



"You will do foolish things, but do them with enthusiasm."

-- French writer Colette
to her daughter

When things seem difficult, remember...
To solve each problem one at a time,
to take each day as it comes.
To stick to your goals, no matter
what happens,
and press on toward your dreams.
To keep your attention focused on
the future,
as you consider the solutions at hand.
To look for the bright side,
even though it may be temporarily
covered by a cloud.
To smile often, even when a frown
feels more natural.
To think of those you love,
and know that they love you, too.
No matter how difficult it may seem,
you have within you the power,
the ability,
and the knowledge
to make things better.

~Lindsay Newman

WHAT DO YOU SEE?

This poem was found among the possessions of an old woman who died
in the geriatric ward of Ashludie Hospital, near Dundee.

What do you see nurse, what do you see?
What are you thinking when looking at me --
A crabbit old woman, not very wise,
Uncertain of habit, with far-away eyes;
Who dribbles her food and makes no reply
When you say in a loud voice "I do wish you'd try."
Who seems not to notice the things that you do,
And forever is losing a stocking or shoe.
Who unresisting or not, lets you do as you will,
With bathing and feeding, the long day to fill.
Is that what you're thinking -- is that what you see?
Then open your eyes . . . you're not looking at me.

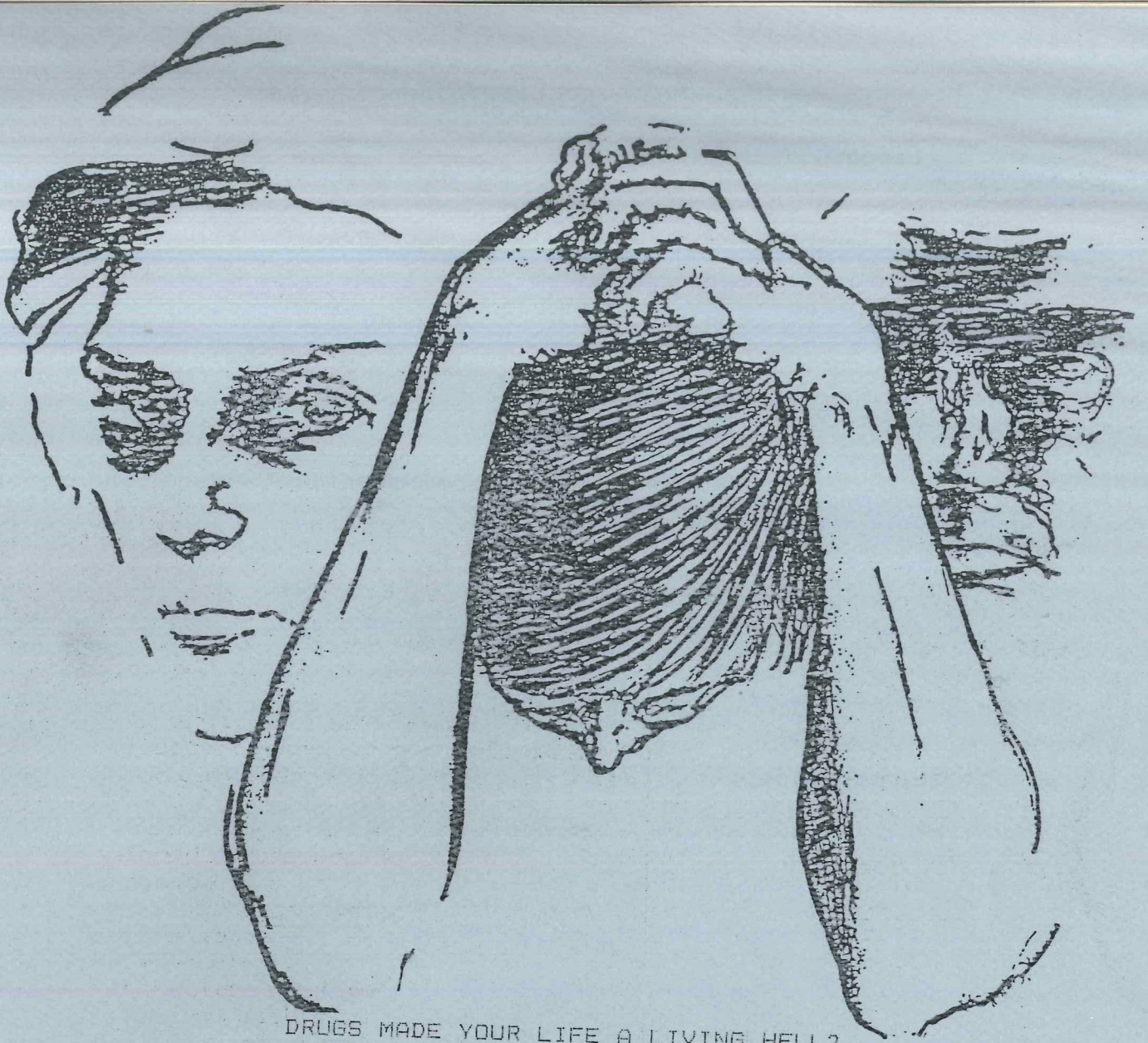
I'll tell you who I am as I sit here so still;
As I use at your bidding, as I eat at your will . . .

I'm a small child of ten with a father and mother,
Brothers and sisters, who love one another.
A young girl of sixteen with wings on her feet,
Dreaming that soon now a lover she'll meet;
A bride soon at twenty - my heart gives a leap,
Remembering the vows that I promised to keep.
At twenty-five now I have young of my own,
Who need me to build a secure, happy home.
A woman of thirty, my young now grow fast,
Bound to each other with ties that should last.
At forty, my young sons have grown and are gone,
But my man's beside me to see I don't mourn.
At fifty, once more babies play round my knee.
Again we know children, my loved one and me.

Dark days are upon me, my husband is dead;
I look at the future, I shudder with dread.
For my young are all rearing young of their own,
And I think of the years and the love that I've known.

I'm an old woman now and nature is cruel --
'Tis her jest to make old age look like a fool;
The body it crumbles, grace and vigor depart,
There now is a stone where I once had a heart.
But inside this old carcass a young girl still dwells,
And now and again my battered heart swells;
I remember the joys, I remember the pain,
And I'm loving and living life over again.
I think of the years: all too few, gone too fast,
And accept the stark fact that nothing can last.

So open your eyes, nurses, open and see
Not a crabbit old woman - look closer, see ME!



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.

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