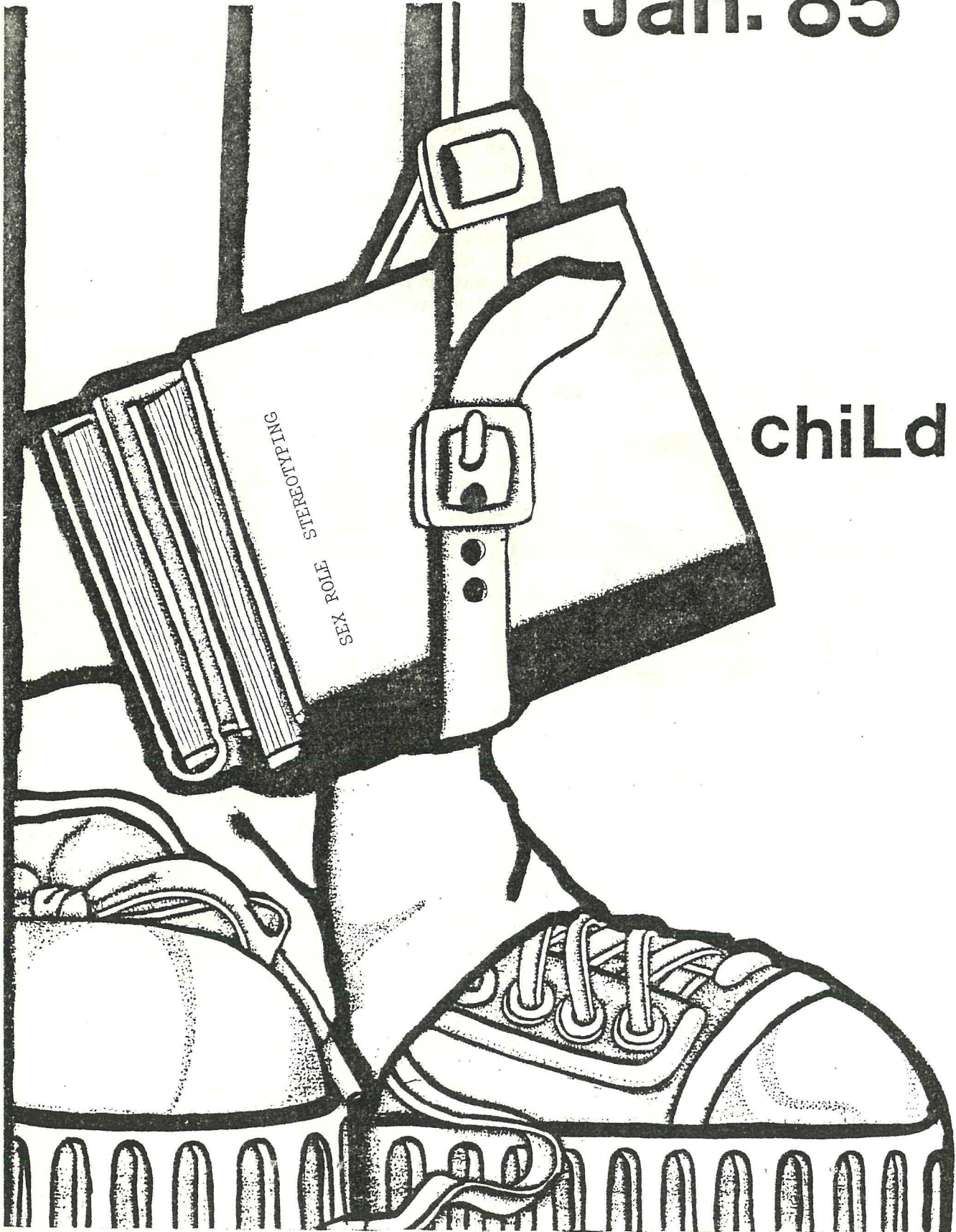


# NEWSLETTER

Jan.'85



LIBERATION  
children's

## EDITORIAL: ON CHILDREN'S LIBERATION

I always feel sorry for the children who visit my house: no toys. Adults bark negative commands at them: stop doing this, stop doing that, don't interrupt, don't touch that. They find adult conversations tedious, and no one is paying any attention to them. In my own childhood, we always had little paragons of virtue held up to us - "such a well-behaved child". A well-behaved child was one who was unnaturally quiet and never fidgeted or interrupted. My brother and I tended to fight and when forced to take naps at midday would kick each other in the groin - very painful.

I feel sorry for children because they are at the mercy of adults - not always wise or loving - who control their lives: where they live, how they live, what they eat and even how much they eat. "You can't leave the table until you've finished up what's on your plate. Think of the starving children in India." How I gagged on bony fish (disgusting) and cold boiled cabbage, reputed to make one's hair curly if one could get it down, so so they said. "Children should be seen and not heard," my mother used to quote the Victorian adage approvingly. "Silence in the penny seats" my father used to roar when we were making a row in the back seat of the car on a long drive. My adolescence was haunted by the fear that my parents did not love me. I was a wretched teenager, with pimples and neuroses. "The best years of your lives" we used to say sarcastically at school, forced to sit for hours at our little desks and be well-behaved and "good": "if these are the best years of our lives, what will the rest be like?" A gloomy prospect. Occasional rebellion when the teacher's back was turned, and we dipped pieces of blotting paper into our inkwells & threw them across the room, hoping to strike some luckless girl on the cheek. "Who threw that?" the teacher would ask, enraged, to be stared at by rows of innocent-eyed angels. "Little ladies" - that was the ideal we were supposed to strive for. Being a little lady meant that one did not eat icecream on the street in one's school uniform; that one was always polite, especially to adults. Little hypocrites.

Many people look back on their childhood with nostalgia - it was a happy time, a time when they were loved and cared for. Freud said that he felt he could do anything because he was sure of his mother's love. People think that children now are spoiled - too many toys, too many material things which we didn't have in our generation. The Badgley report on Sexual Offences against Children - 2 volumes of a staggering 1314 pages - paints a grimmer picture of children in Canada. Fifty percent of our children are sexually abused. This is the horrifying reality of our children's lives. Chapter 10: "Children who were Killed"; Chapter 7: "Physical Injuries and emotional Harms"; Chapter 34: "Genetic Risks of Incest"; Section VIII: 5 chapters on juvenile prostitution; Section IX: the use of children in pornography. Our children need protection - from whom? Often from members of their own family, from their own parents.

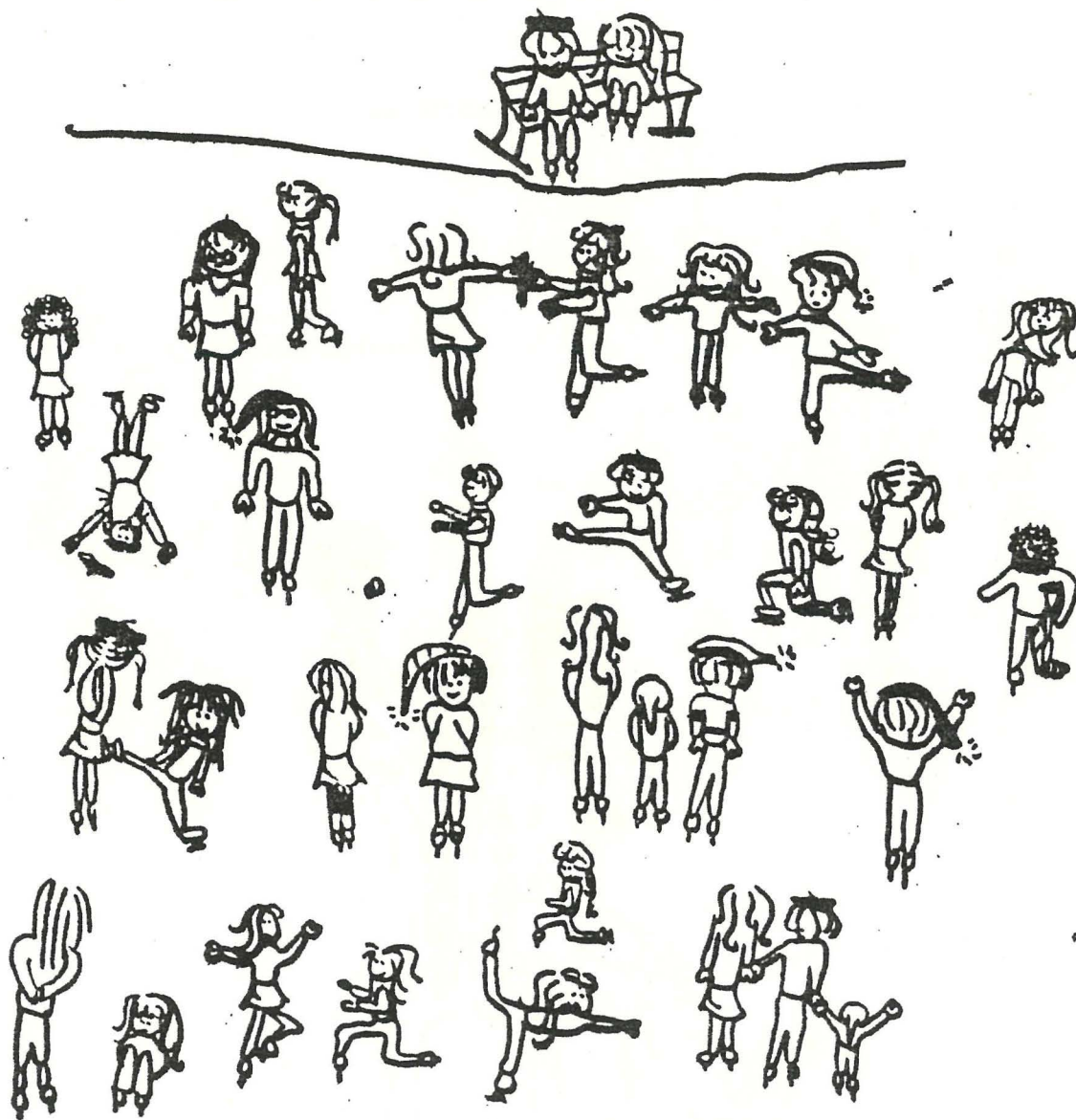
Women's liberation must go hand in hand with children's liberation: both are based on the principle of respect for the individual, and challenge the power-structure which treats both women and children as objects of domination and subjection. It is a scandal that in a country such as Canada, which prides itself on being enlightened and liberal and decent, that half of our children have to suffer the indignity of sexual abuse.

In sisterhood,

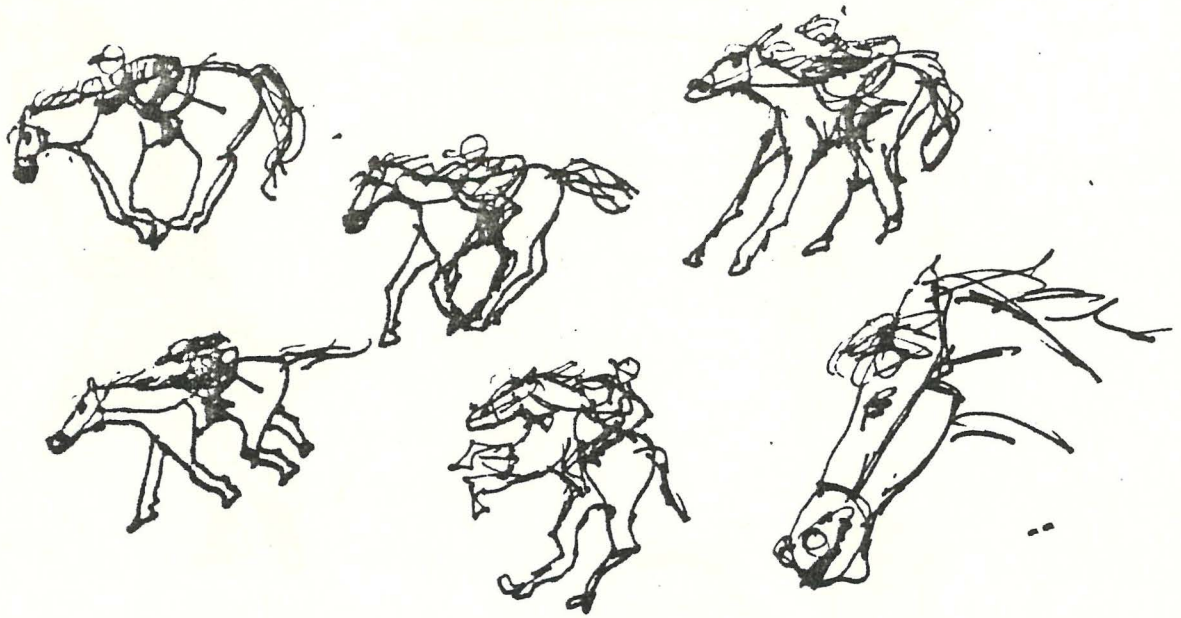
Roberta Buchanan

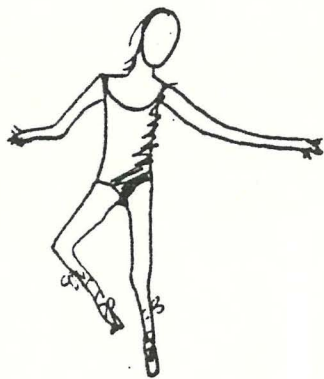
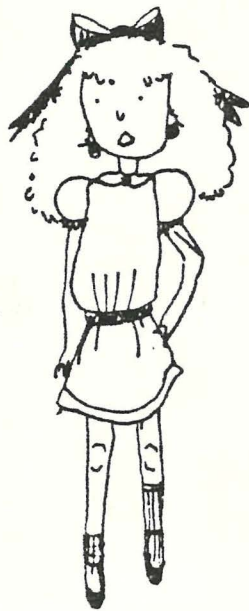
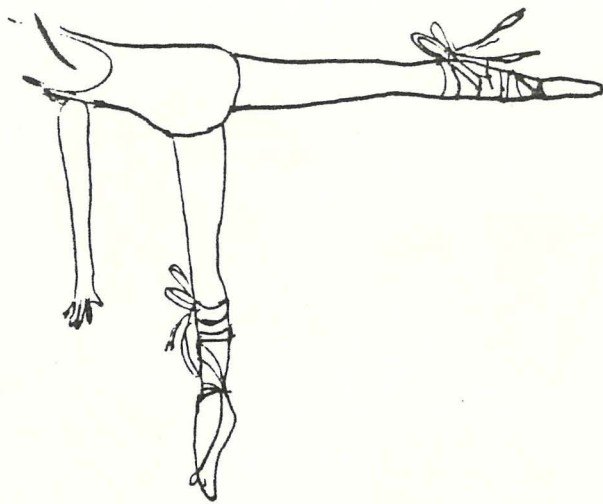


Victoria Holly Francis Scott



Ricky Scott





## "Christmas is for Children" and Violent Toys

As the excitement and hubbub of the annual Christmas overkill begins to die down, I wonder how many war toys, guns and space weapons were sold this year. Contrary to the uninformed opinion of Bette Murphy, in the Evening Telegram, guns and science fiction war toys do increase violent behaviour in the kids who play with them.

In January 1983, Parents magazine printed an article by Leah Yarrow, entitled "Should Children Play with Guns?" In her article, Ms. Yarrow quotes several studies which show that toy guns do have an aggressive effect on children, increasing antisocial verbal and physical behaviour. Contrary to the popular belief that acting out aggression purges those feelings, current studies indicate that acting out aggression, or even viewing aggressive acts only reinforces aggressive tendencies. I was amazed to read that studies of children and toy guns, and of adults and real guns, show that even the sight of a weapon on a table can "prompt aggression by those predisposed to violence." This "weapons effect" as it is called, does not appear to operate when children play with their own manufactured guns. Equally, children who are not allowed to play with toy guns usually outgrow fantasy gun-play at an earlier age.

The attraction of a gun is the sense of power it bestows, and the excitement associated with it. Television is certainly a prime promoter of guns and violence. But my small boys rarely watch television, and still they are interested in playing with guns. In the summer any stick becomes a gun, in winter, even Lego can be turned into a gun. I was interested to learn that making one's own gun leads to a shorter and less violently stimulating play with the gun. A small, but heartening consolation.

As Leah Yarrow, and many others, have said, toys are our children's tools. Let us think carefully about the tools we give them. Tools that are constructive, liberating and life sustaining give children positive messages about themselves and about the world they live in. May this thought live freshly in our minds over the coming year so that Christmas 1985 may show a smaller profit for the manufacturers of war toys and guns.

Pamela Hodgson

December, 1984

An up-date on Coalition News:

- the complaint that was lodged over the Oct. issue of Swank is still before the preliminary court. The defense is arguing that the Charter of Rights allows distribution. The court reconvenes on Jan. 7th. when further evidence will be presented.
- The Nfld. Royal Constabulary laid a charge against local distributors of 54 video tapes, which have been presented to the court as evidence and are now being viewed by the Judge and defense lawyer. A date for the trial will be set after enough viewing has taken place.
- In Corner Brook, Judge Luther fined a video distributor \$4500 for 9 tapes and had the remaining 40-odd erased.
- NAC coordinated complaints laid in every province against the Dec. issue of Penthouse. The Coalition lodged the complaint locally. H. H. Marshall decided not to distribute any of the magazines, after learning that the Justice Dept. and the Constabulary felt there was sufficient grounds for a charge to be laid.
- The Coalition has been awarded a grant from the Secretary of State to cover our work from Sept./84 to April/85 which means that I am working full time as coordinator. Our main goal is to discover willing individuals in communities across the province who will work with the coalition and offer themselves as speakers to their own local community groups. Joan Whelan of Jerseyside has done precisely this. After attending our workshop on the Salmonier Line, she went home and organized a meeting, had us down to show "Not A Love Story" and is now preparing a letter to take to each community group in her area with the suggestion that she would be happy to be a speaker at their meetings.
- The Coalition showed N.A.L.S. to both the Federation of Labour and the Fishermen's Union. WE hope to take the message into other unions so that large groups of men start dealing with the issue. Effort will also be directed to involving Parent Teacher groups, who have been strangely silent on this subject.
- "Man Alive" seems to have raised awareness in the public at large. At last people know what we're talking about.
- It is often more difficult for people in small communities to take the local merchant "to task" for selling pornography. Often they are a friend and in any case their lives intertwine so that it can be very awkward. We are giving thought to strategies that can be employed by the Coalition to make it easier. That was one of the reasons for placing the ad "Christmas is for Loving" in 17 newspapers in the province.

Dorothy Inglis

COALITION OF CITIZENS  
AGAINST PORNOGRAPHY  
P. O. Box 652, Str. 'C'  
St. John's, Nfld. A1C 5K8



December, 1984

An International Conference, will be held on June 5-9 in Halifax, entitled "Women's Alternatives for Negotiating Peace".

The purpose is to bring women's voices to the negotiating tables, to let the women of the world who are in the forefront of the peace movement have their alternatives presented as ways of resolving world conflict. Fifty "peace negotiating women" will come from around the world to meet with fifty Canadian women to discuss the issues of the day. Two hundred other delegates will be sent from their own organizations to meet in workshops for three days with these women.

Resolving conflict, removing violence from our lives is a particular role that has fallen, historically to women. It is past time that these skills were used in the corridors of power, where it counts.

A "happening" of some sort, conference, discussion, celebration, or whatever will take place in our province to feed into the national one. It in turn, will take alternatives presented to the United Nations conference in Kenya.

An organizing cttee is meeting in St. John's to start the ball rolling. NAC is one the spnsoring bodies of the conference. Please contact me, if this interests you.

Dorothy Inglis,  
Advisory Cttee. Intntl. Conference



Rae Perlin

A LITTLE GIRL: AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY, BEFORE AGE 9

A little girl had freckles, pale skin  
Mousey-blond hair parted on one side  
Held back from the face with plastic clips.

A little girl went out to play  
They called her in and pulled her pants down  
Her father whipped her with a sjambok for disobedience.

A little girl ate elephant grass in the park  
It tasted sweet and sharp  
Little girl was happy, the sun shone.

A little girl played pooh-sticks in the gutter  
Made mud pies, climbed trees  
Stole luscious grapes from next door neighbours.

A little girl was sent to boarding-school  
The nuns gave coloured pictures of saints and Virgin  
With crinkled golden edges: treasures.

A little girl in bed with chickenpox, white counterpains  
Her friend caught a fly and pulled its wings off  
A little girl, jealous, squashed the fly.

A little girl was taught to masturbate by another girl  
She practised it with her friend; lost innocence;  
They felt like fallen women, age seven.

A little girl on a farm  
Saw a pig being slaughtered  
It screamed as they cut its throat; the blood.

A little girl swung over the stream  
On dangling willow-branches  
She fell in, her clothes were wet, she cried.

A little girl bought skipping-ropes at the shop  
Made of licorice, and bull's eyes -  
They change colours in your mouth, oh bliss.

A little girl plaited chairs out of long grass  
Thunder was the angels moving furniture in heaven  
Rain-and-sun was monkeys' wedding.

Two older girls jumped into the swimming-pool  
Holding a little girl by each arm, she could not swim  
She plunged down then up, the water rushed past her ears.

A little girl, contd.

A little girl was rowed in a boat by her father  
She saw a green water-snake rippling through the water  
A snake fell from a wild plum-tree on her father's shoulder.

A little girl had a cat called Robin  
Who kissed her awake every morning with her pink tongue  
She was later destroyed for having too many kittens.

A black woman with a piccaninni on her back  
Showed a little girl how milk came out of the breast  
A white jet of milk arcing to the dust.

Black children had only corn-cobs dressed in rags  
For dolls; a little girl had proper dolls with golden hair  
And knitted dresses. She liked theirs better.

A little girl's dress was made by her mother  
Cotton print, tiny blue flowers, short puffy sleeves  
White cotton socks, shoes with straps and buttons.

A little girl was put to bed by her mother  
"Tell me a story, tell me a story," she cried  
Her mother replied, "I don't know any stories."

Roberta Buchanan



Rae Perlin

Women then

Walking, wind whipping her bare legs.  
 why not pants...  
 she was my grandmother.  
 Saturday, hanging clothes on a line  
 why not fishing....  
 she was my mother.  
 Berries, jams, pickles, gingham dresses  
 why not wood or leather...  
 she was my friend.  
 Kissing, touching, talking, feeling...  
 why not.....  
 she was my lover.  
 then....

JANE MATTHEWS

Exchange my blood for ink  
 my feelings for what I think  
 Words for tears on paper white  
 In time this feat I may just do  
 .....blood congeals  
 .....ink dries  
 .....tears fall

JANE MATTHEWS

Patterns

Quilt like stitching in my mind  
 Or brush strokes oh so fine.  
 Words on paper late at night,  
 Pieces of me that feel so right.  
 Tho' against the flow I take flight.

Do I soar in circles or arcing curves,  
 Push straight ahead without the swerves.  
 Words with purpose who to serve?  
 Caught in webs I feel a tug,  
 Am I the spider or the little bug?

Our Cat and a half

My cat is comfort, my cat is fun  
 but I wish she'd learn I've work to be done  
 She sits on my paper, she paws at my keys.  
 Does she censor my words, does she edit my me's?  
 She shares my lunch, she shares my bed.  
 Does she share in the thoughts in my little head?  
 She belongs to me and my daughter too  
 She's a cat and a half, that is so true!

JANE MATTHEWS

JANE MATTHEWS

On Life...3D...

Pushed from the womb,  
we protest,  
but not for long.  
Then we suckle  
at the breast,  
not for long.  
Soon we grow  
and leave the nest,  
not for long.  
Then we marry  
like the rest,  
not for long.  
All searching for lif's  
eternal Quest,  
not for long.  
Soon we're gone.

Catch a cold  
Cough all night  
Eyes water  
nose runs  
brow burns  
feet freeze  
want to sleep,  
have to sneeze,  
baby wants a story  
Please?

A stone has turned exposed itself.  
Dark and dirtied underneath.  
Creepy crawly things abound.  
Life that was hidden from our view,  
Had not a thought before we knew.  
The smooth clean stone; the face we saw,  
Now abhors we look in awe.  
Why does life revolt us so,  
When under stones it must grow?  
Our faces too...hide a life beneath.

JANE MATTHEWS

## Arriving in Managua

The full moon is clouded over in St. John's Newfoundland tonight  
Wonder what it's like in Managua Nicaragua Libre

to think only a month ago I was arriving in Managua  
by plane  
laden with baggage and books,  
planning to get into town cheaply  
Little did I know about buses  
spilling over with people.

The 1972 earthquake destroyed much of Managua  
leaving streets without houses  
people without houses  
Then the revolution  
brought freedom  
but the creditors said:  
<sup>NO DOUGH</sup>  
and NO more spare parts.

From the wrong bus I struggled  
off and into a crowd  
I had instructions  
: go to the Golden Cinema  
then three blocks toward the hill  
and half a block toward the lake.

A young student said he would show me  
the way, though  
because of past experience  
I had a hard time trusting him.

We have to change, he said and  
as we walked over dusty earth  
to a glimmering yellow lamp  
I gulped the heat.

From the first bus a young militia woman jumped down  
in green fatigues black boots a pistol  
in black leather  
at her hip

She bummed a cigarette from some women  
in dresses or skirts  
-- in colour --  
and stood talking  
with them and laughing

Later my friend questioned my lack of trust.  
He was like many Nicaraguans I would meet:  
not accepting  
wanton invasion of country or person;  
determined to fight to hope

17.3.84

P.J. Robinson

In Mexico

In Mexico they eat so many things  
we don't see  
for example I saw a man carving  
meat from the head  
of an animal  
to make tacos.

We are so insulated from hunger  
by imperialism and class  
which become custom  
then assumption  
then neuroticism  
and through misfortune  
or study  
we may come to understand why.

Being in Mexico is being  
in the jaws of underdevelopment --  
women and children who for years, decades,  
have been selling chiclets  
or popsicles from dripping carts  
in hot dry dusty towns  
where in the single green park  
underemployed men take shade.

All it would take is organization  
in Nicaragua they say Revolution is organization..

This dry cracked land  
speaks for itself  
loudly  
it speaks of folly,  
a cheating game,  
it speaks of power being used  
to disorganize  
to misinform  
to deform  
our sisters and brothers.

I ride with a very old woman  
She gives me a guayaba, and I  
I forget to offer her a cigarette.  
She reminds me, and we ride on

P. J. Robinson  
17.3.84

I WANT A GRANT  
TO LEARN TO WASH DISHES  
PROPERLY

I WANT A GRANT  
SO I CAN LOOK OUT THE WINDOW  
AND WASH DISHES WITH MONEY  
SO I WON'T HAVE TO LOOK OUT THE WINDOW  
AND WASH DISHES BROKE

I WALKED ALL OVER CANADA  
I ADVERTISED MY FACE  
ALL OVER THE COUNTRY  
SO PEOPLE WOULD BUY MY BOOK  
AND YOU'RE TELLING ME  
YOU CAN'T GIVE ME A GRANT

STAY HOME, EVERYONE!  
DON'T COME AND VISIT ME THIS YEAR!  
STAY HOME AND CREATE  
THIS YEAR

"I NEVER DROVE YOU CRAZY..."

"YOU NEVER LET ME DRIVE!"

- BAWNIE OULTON



ALL THIS WILL PASS, TOO  
YES IT WILL  
LOVE WILL COME TRUE  
YES IT WILL  
DREAMS WILL COME THROUGH  
YES THEY WILL  
ALL THIS FOR YOU  
YES

THE WORLD WILL GO 'ROUND  
YES IT WILL  
THE LOST WILL BE FOUND  
YES THEY WILL  
YESTERDAY WILL BE A MEMORY  
YES IT WILL  
TOMORROW WILL COME  
YES

THERE ARE GOOD DAYS AHEAD  
YES THERE ARE  
WHEN WE'LL ALL BE FED  
YES WE WILL  
THE DOOR WILL OPEN  
YES IT WILL  
THE SADNESS WILL END  
YES

SAY A PRAYER TO THE LAND  
LIGHT A CANDLE, MY LORD  
MAY TRUTH BURN ETERNAL  
MAY TRUTH BURN ETERNAL  
YES IT WILL  
YES

- BAWNIE OULTON

HE'S A MAN  
SHE'S A WOMAN  
HE SUCCUMBS  
SHE COMES  
HE DELAYS  
SHE DISMAYS  
HE PUTS OUT  
SHE POUTS  
HE CREATES  
SHE DEBATES  
HE LEAVES  
SHE GRIEVES  
HE RETIRES  
SHE PERSPIRES  
HE'S IN PAIN  
SHE'S INSANE  
HE DISTORTS  
SHE ABORTS  
HE WEEPS  
SHE SLEEPS  
HE RETURNS  
SHE BURNS  
HE SOURS  
SHE COWERS  
HE LOVES IT  
SHE'S ABOVE IT  
HE LIKES IT  
SHE STRIKES IT  
HE APPLIES  
SHE RELIES  
HE DESPAIRS  
SHE COMPARES  
HE CONTRIBUTES  
SHE DISTRIBUTES  
HE GOES TO HONG KONG  
SHE GOES ALONG

A Piece of Cake

My cake is too dry to eat  
while blood pours from within me  
and I am alone  
parched for the flow of another kind

I ran through a street  
it was early in the morning  
when sunlight hadn't stirred alley cats  
the only motion within me  
when I arrived home was blood flowing deep  
I wondered why I ran  
the chill of the house less inviting  
than late night temptations

From my window the first dim reflection appeared  
it was then that I decided to celebrate  
morning light  
to eat dried cake  
feeling certain that the blood flowing within  
out of me  
would quench my deepest thirst

Marian A. White

EYEGASSES

Faces steam through glass  
Frames distort the magnified  
Fearsome charges of possibilities  
Create awesome tales  
A Comic book characters life  
Living  
Between this glass and your face

Marian A. White

# CONNIE • KALDOR

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## MOONLIGHT GROCERY

Coyote Records  
543-810 West Broadway  
Vancouver, B.C. V5Z 4C9

Dear Women:

Hello.

We are requesting your help in exposing people to Connie Kaldor's new album MOONLIGHT GROCERY. Many of your readers are familiar with ONE OF THESE DAYS, her first album, and recognize her as a longtime supporter of women's issues. MOONLIGHT GROCERY continues with the same Kaldor wit and incisive commentary on contemporary life.

MOONLIGHT GROCERY is being distributed across Canada in alternative and mainstream record stores. By January 15th the single "Caught in the Crossfire" with "Calais Maine" will be released to popular radio stations. You could help Connie by announcing the record's release in your newsletter and encouraging your readers to request the single after its release.

Thanks for any help you can give us - and enjoy the album!

Sincerely,

Betty Jardine for  
COYOTE Records

(604) 266-8227

enclosure

# CONNIE • KALDOR

MOONLIGHT GROCERY

## New Release

“Connie Kaldor Has What it Takes”

Globe & Mail (headline)

“Indecently Talented . . .”

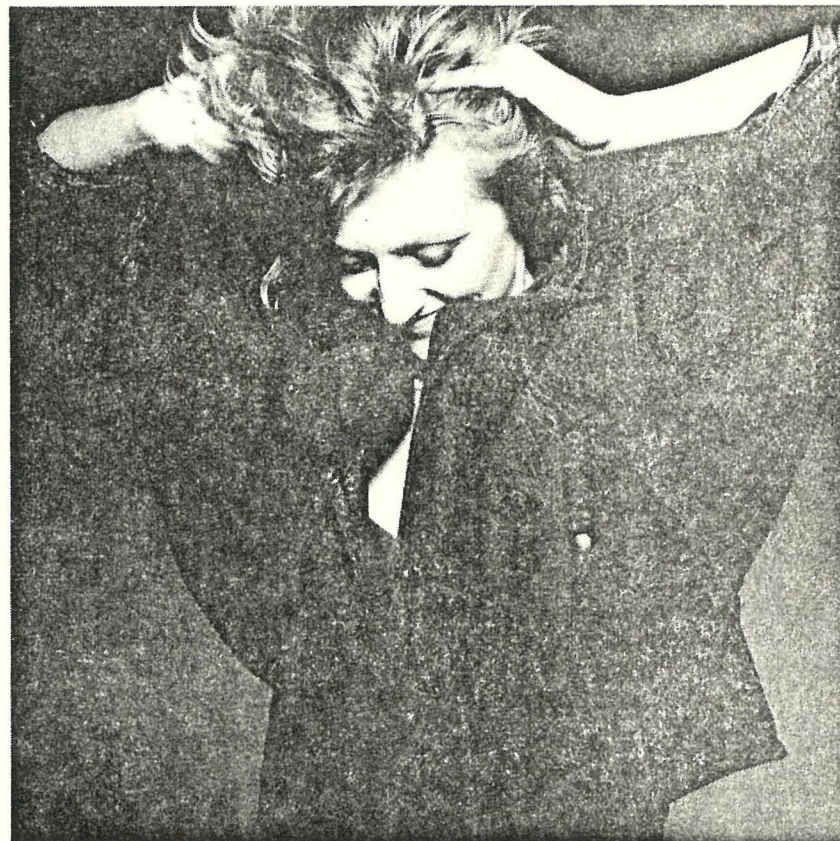
Toronto Star

*Moonlight Grocery* — Connie Kaldor’s long-awaited second album — is finally on vinyl. If you’re expecting an album of pop tunes or (heaven’s to Gordon Lightfoot) folk music, then you’re not one of the thousands who has enjoyed Connie in live performance. Her humour, vision and passion have defied stereotypes since day one.

Check out “Get Back the Night” if you think you’ve got her pegged. Or the song about kids “Caught in the Crossfire” as their parents’ marriage breaks down. “Bird on a Wing” is Connie’s tribute to truck-stop waitresses. And if you listen closely, you’ll recognize West Coast musician *Bim* in the duet “Love or Something.”

This package of goodies can all be purchased in *Moonlight Grocery*. Tying it together is the arrangement and production of well-known producer, Claire Lawrence. Connie’s first album “One of These Days” is still a strong seller and advance requests for the new album indicate that *Moonlight Grocery* will confirm Connie’s reputation as in independent best-seller.

But where is the *Moonlight Grocery* anyway? And why is Connie Kaldor offering a set of fuzzy dice to the first person to take her there? They’ll have to move pretty fast to catch Connie at home in Vancouver — she tours extensively — recently playing Washington D.C., Toronto and Edinborough, Scotland.



Available through: Festival Records  
3271 Main St.  
Vancouver, B.C.  
V5V 3M6



Phone: (604) 879-2931  
(Jack Schuller)

Association nationale  
de la femme et le droit



National Association of  
Women and the Law

COMMUNIQUE

EVERY TWO YEARS, THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN AND THE LAW ORGANIZES A MAJOR CONFERENCE ON IMPORTANT LEGAL ISSUES AFFECTING WOMEN IN CANADA. THE NEXT CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD IN OTTAWA, FROM FEBRUARY 21st to 24th, 1985.

THE TOPIC IS ONE OF CONCERN NOT ONLY TO EVERY WOMAN IN THIS COUNTRY BUT ALSO TO EVERYONE WHO CARES ABOUT THE IMPACT OF NEW MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIES ON OUR LIVES AND FREEDOMS.



**Who's in Control?**

**Legal Implications of**

**Reproduction and Technology**

DURING THREE DAYS OF WORKSHOPS AND PANEL DISCUSSIONS, LED BY EXPERTS FROM CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES, PARTICIPANTS WILL FIND OUT THE LATEST INFORMATION ON NEW TECHNOLOGIES. THEY WILL ALSO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXAMINE LEGAL STRATEGIES TO CONFRONT THE CHALLENGES POSED BY DEVELOPMENTS SUCH AS "TEST TUBE BABIES" AND FOETAL SURGERY, DRUGS LIKE DEPO-PROVERA AND D.E.S. AND BY THE MEDICALIZATION OF PREGNANCY.

.../

LAWYERS, MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS, PHILOSOPHERS AND COMMUNITY  
ACTIVISTS WILL LOOK AT WHO IS IN CONTROL OF REPRODUCTION -  
DOCTORS? MANUFACTURERS? EMPLOYERS? GOVERNMENT?

IN ADDITION, A FULL AFTERNOON WILL BE DEDICATED TO STUDYING  
THE POTENTIAL EFFECT OF THE CHARTER OF RIGHTS ON THIS AREA.

HOW CAN THE LAW PROTECT THE REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS OF WOMEN?

WE INVITE YOU TO ATTEND THIS GROUNDBREAKING CONFERENCE.  
PLEASE WRITE OR CALL FOR A BROCHURE. IT WILL GIVE YOU  
INFORMATION ABOUT THE WORKSHOPS AND PANELS AND WILL TELL YOU HOW  
TO REGISTER FOR THE CONFERENCE.

WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE IT IF YOU COULD TELL OTHERS ABOUT  
THIS EVENT. IF YOU PUBLISH A NEWSLETTER, NEWSPAPER OR MAGAZINE,  
OR PRODUCE A RADIO OR TELEVISION PROGRAMME, COULD YOU PLEASE  
INCLUDE THE PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT ATTACHED SOMETIME DURING  
THE NEXT TWO MONTHS?

WE EXPECT THIS CONFERENCE TO MAKE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION  
TO OUR UNDERSTANDING OF REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGY ISSUES.

PLEASE JOIN US - THIS IS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO THINK ABOUT  
THE FUTURE.

Association nationale  
de la femme et le droit



National Association of  
Women and the Law

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN AND THE LAW INVITES YOU TO ATTEND AN IMPORTANT CONFERENCE IN OTTAWA, FEBRUARY 21ST TO 24TH, 1985, UNDER THE THEME "WHO'S IN CONTROL? LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OF REPRODUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY" .

CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS WILL EXAMINE HOW ADVANCES IN MEDICINE MAY REQUIRE NEW LEGAL THINKING. NOW THAT DOCTORS CAN CREATE LIFE IN A TEST TUBE AND PERFORM FOETAL SURGERY, HOW CAN WOMEN PROTECT THEIR RIGHTS?

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE WRITE "NAWL CONFERENCE, CAMYLLE ENTERPRISES, 39 GOULBURN AVENUE, OTTAWA, K1N 8C7, OR CALL (613) 594-8004.





Ottawa K1A 0A4  
December 10, 1984

Dear Friend:

I would like to draw your attention to the Human Rights Institute of Canada and what I consider to be its valuable work. I am myself a Director of the Institute, for human rights have been my life-long interest and I know how much needs to be done to protect them.

The Institute is unlike other bodies concerned with human rights -- it seeks to protect and prevent rather than to rescue.

To this end, it does expert research into areas where improvements are needed in legislation and policies and presents the results to the appropriate government entities. Its reputation and the respect in which its submissions are held are due not only to the quality of its supporters, but particularly to the high level of expertise and the accuracy of research embodied in its presentations. It is this that the Institute must ensure and for which it must constantly seek funds.

My work as a Senator has shown me that citizens' involvement in human rights is essential.

I recommend the Human Rights Institute of Canada to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Yvette B. Rousseau".

Yvette B. Rousseau  
Senator

HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTE OF CANADA  
INSTITUT CANADIEN DES DROITS DE LA PERSONNE

77 METCALFE ST. SUITE 201  
OTTAWA, ONTARIO  
K1P 5L6  
TEL: (613) 232-2920

November 28, 1984

Dear Human Rights Friend:

Human rights in Canada are under the greatest threat they have faced for many years. Women's rights, as a central part of human rights, are particularly threatened. Before the Federal election, women obtained public promises of major steps toward equality and justice. Now women find that those promises are being ignored.

Instead of the promised action, women are told that their concerns and recommendations require more study. Appointments to key groups disregard women's abilities. Women's protests are surfacing in the Media. The Ottawa Citizen (November 24, 1984) reported:

"Eileen Hendry, acting president of the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women, said she was "very upset" that there was no woman on the 10-member, blue-chip, cost-cutting committee recently set up by Deputy Prime Minister Eric Nielsen. (Nielsen told the House he is still looking for a woman)"

The National Issues Survey currently being distributed by the Progressive Conservative Party to identify the issues for a directive to the Prime Minister does not even mention the issues on which women were promised action.

Federally or provincially, politicians still do not understand that women's concerns are serious issues.

What can women do? They have organized, they have fought, they have waited, they have submitted resolutions and alternatives for action to governments, and still equality remains a dream.

The Human Rights Institute of Canada invites your help to make landmark legal advances toward equality for women. The Institute seeks your support for PERSONS CASE II.

In October, 1983, the Institute appeared before the Joint Committee of the Senate and the House of Commons and presented the results of a study on Canada's legal obligation under international law to appoint women equally with men to public office. We received a

standing ovation. One member of Parliament (Blaine A. Thacker, Lethbridge-Foothills) stated:

"I think if we were a judicial body and this were an application for a writ of mandamus directed towards the Prime Minister, we would have no choice in law but to grant the writ, because it is very well documented indeed and I think it is accurate in de jure and de facto as well."

Senator Lucier added:

"I agree with Mr. Thacker that you have made an excellent case. But what I want to know is why I have not heard it before... You know that we are chauvinistic by nature; you know that we are bull-headed and we are not going to do anything without being pushed..."

We agree, and with your help we will take this case to the Supreme Court of Canada or to an international forum if necessary. Our approach to increasing the number of women in the decision-making process will not be based on affirmative action, a process that is not working, but rather on women's legal right to the corridors of power.

Governments have their legal experts; businesses have theirs. If women want to be effective in their lobby, they too must have legal expertise. With your support and participation, the Human Rights Institute of Canada can give you what you need to get what is rightfully yours.

The Institute depended on volunteers to produce the first phase of PERSONS CASE II. The second phase will be much more costly. We must hire full-time legal experts in international law to expedite our research. Women have waited long enough and fought hard enough for action --- it is time to bring the position of women before the justice system.

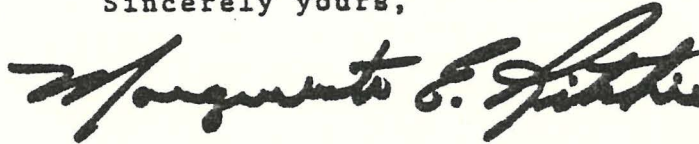
The Human Rights Institute receives NO government funding. Our research MUST remain independent--- INDEPENDENT RESEARCH OPENS DOORS. Only with your help can we do this. We have a proven track record for producing solid, professional and unbiased research --- concise, well-ordered presentation of the facts, that can be made available to member organizations (non-profit groups \$50; corporate membership \$100).

We are hoping that those of you who are able to do so will contribute \$50 -\$100. Remember, the higher the tax bracket, the greater the saving. Those with more limited finances may wish to contribute less, but it all adds up. Individual memberships are only \$25 and all memberships and donations are tax deductible.

A self-addressed, postage-paid envelope is enclosed for your reply. If you wish to place your own stamp over the Canada Post indicia, you will help even more.

We would like to hear from you. If you would like to become directly involved, we would welcome your participation. By working together, we can open doors that have been closed to women far too long, and join in a true celebration of women through the success of PERSONS CASE II.

Sincerely yours,



(Dr.) Marguerite E. Ritchie, Q.C.  
PRESIDENT

P.S. - I was the first woman Federal Queen's Counsel. I was responsible for the research in the successful Reference to the Supreme Court of Canada about ownership of offshore resources off the coasts of B.C. I have been seconded to two different Ministers of Justice as their Executive Assistant. I have been to the United Nations. And, I turned down an appointment as the first woman Judge of the Federal Court of Canada, because I feel my experience, combined with the expertise of our members, can be better used in helping humanity through research. The Institute's members represent a cross-section of Canadians, including lawyers, professors, public servants, some Deans of Law, concerned Members of Parliament and Senators and private citizens with an interest in human rights. Join us and help create a Canada based on justice and equality for all.



CRIAW

Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women

ICRAF

Institut canadien de recherches pour l'avancement de la femme

## CALL FOR PAPERS

CRIAW Conference, 1985, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

WOMEN: SOCIAL AND PHYSICAL ISOLATION

8-10 Nov. 1985

Human existence has three factors: life as an individual, life as a participant in groups, and life as a member of society. Although all three are necessary to attain the fullest life possible, effective and equal participation within groups and as members of society has been frequently denied to women.

Women's exclusion from these facets of human existence indelibly marks our lives. The prevention of participation and communication presents obstacles to the freedom and equality of women in society. It also may lead to the development of women-centred relationships and some uniquely female means of enduring or overcoming isolation.

Historically, women have been isolated by a multitude of factors, including prejudice, language, economics, law, religious beliefs, and geographic location. Two factors have special relevance in Saskatchewan and other similar regions.

Saskatchewan is a vast province with a sparse population. Women in rural areas are separated by physical distance from other women and society at large. It is also a province with a significant Native population. Many Native women are isolated by social and linguistic barriers. Native rural women, particularly in the north, thus experience a double sense of isolation.

The objective of the 1985 conference is to explore the isolation of women primarily caused by geographical or social circumstance. Although other causes of isolation are also pertinent to a comprehensive examination of the current condition of women, we encourage a focus on the experience of rural and Native women.

We invite your participation in this opportunity to present your views on the positive and negative aspects of isolation, and to exchange strategies for ameliorating the negative effects of isolation on women.

Contribution of your personal experience, research work, or artistic endeavours will ensure that the conference will be an occasion for feminist sharing and community. With your input, the conference will be the antithesis of its theme.

Your contribution may comprise:

- a twenty minute paper followed by a general discussion.
- a short presentation in a round-table format permitting a discussion among a smaller number of participants.
- a creative workshop employing your choice of artistic medium (plays, dance, film, prose, poetry, or other performances) lasting up to two hours.

Tentatively, the Program Committee is planning to build the conference around four major themes: the phenomenon of isolation; the experience of isolation; making the connections to end isolation (e.g., networks, skills and information sharing, doing research, data, resources); and celebrating community.

We want the conference to be an opportunity to examine the situation so often experienced by rural and Native women in Saskatchewan and similar regions. While we welcome proposals solely concerned with other causes of isolation, the Program Committee will give some priority to those related to the focus of the conference. The Program Committee will make final decisions by the end of April 1985.

PLEASE SEND A SUMMARY OF YOUR PROPOSED CONTRIBUTION BY FEBRUARY 28, 1985, AT THE LATEST, TO:

CRIAW/ICRAF PROGRAM COMMITTEE CHAIR  
Education 3088  
College of Education  
University of Saskatchewan  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan  
S7N 0W0

(Summaries of proposals should not exceed one typewritten page.)



Rae Perlin



CRIA-W

Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women

ICRAF

Institut canadien de recherches pour l'avancement de la femme

An important new book from the Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women --

KNOWLEDGE RECONSIDERED: A FEMINIST OVERVIEW/LE SAVOIR EN QUESTION: VUE D'ENSEMBLE FEMINISTE

A collection of critical discussions by leading feminist researchers from across Canada, these papers were originally presented at the seventh Annual General Meeting and Conference which was held in Vancouver in November 1983 and focussed on the theme: «Feminism in Action: New Knowledge, New Education, New Society».

The introductory essay argues that women will achieve a Renaissance -- re-birth -- only when they have successfully challenged masculinist knowledge with a feminist re-view. Following is a re-examining of the «traditional wisdom» communicated in a variety of disciplines -- philosophy, literature, history, sociology/anthropology and science/technology. New insights and fresh perceptions reveal that «common knowledge» is common to the developers of that knowledge -- men. Feminists have different ideas.

The final paper in the volume emphasizes the need for women to accept the risks and challenges of creating a change in knowledge and education that may lead to a new society. Contents include:

The Renaissance of Women by Dorothy E. Smith

From Feminism to a New Conception of Ethics by Susan Sherwin

Hindsight is 20/20: The Development, Achievements and Dilemmas of Feminist Literary Criticism by Andrea Lebowitz

What Has the Feminist Perspective Done for Canadian History? by Sylvia Van Kirk

Conceptualizing 'Women' in Anthropology and Sociology by Meg Luxton

Will Women Change Technology or Will Technology Change Women?  
by Ursula Martius Franklin

Production et communication du savoir dans une perspective féministe: Enjeux et défis pour les femmes par Michèle Jean

Creating and Communicating Knowledge from a Feminist Perspective: The Risks and Challenges for Women by Michèle Jean

French abstracts of English papers are provided.

Available in December 1984 from CRIAW/ICRAF. Price: \$10.95 per copy for CRIAW members, \$11.95 per copy for non-members. All orders must be pre-paid.

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Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ copy(ies) of Knowledge Reconsidered: A Feminist Overview/Le savoir en question: Vue d'ensemble féministe. Enclosed is my cheque or money order for \$ \_\_\_\_\_, payable to CRIAW/ICRAF, Suite 408, 151 Slater Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5H3.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
POSTAL CODE \_\_\_\_\_

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T.G.I.F. !!!

Thank God it's Friday - or Thank God I'm Feminist - take your pick.  
Friday, January 25th 5 p.m. at the Women's Centre. SEE YOU THERE!

FEMINIST WRITERS' GROUP -

Interested in writing with a feminist perspective? The Feminists Writers' Group meets every two weeks. For date of next meeting contact Pamela Hodgson at 754-0443.

Marian White leaves for Vancouver on January 20th to attend the Annual General Meeting of Women and Words Association. At the next Feminist Writers' Group meeting she will open the evening with a report on Women and Words. Anyone interested in any aspect of writing or publishing would find this meeting of interest. For information call Marion at 722-7775.



# WOMEN & WORDS

THE ANTHOLOGY

# les FEMMES et les MOTS

UNE ANTHOLOGIE

## Women and Words: The Anthology Les Femmes et les Mots: Une Anthologie

In July of 1983, a conference took place in Vancouver, Canada, which brought women in the field of writing together from across the country. This anthology is one of the ideas generated by that conference. *Women and Words: The Anthology/Les Femmes et les Mots: Une Anthologie* is an unusual and important collection of the work of almost eighty authors in both French and English. There is writing by such well-established writers as Nicole Brossard, Marian Engel, Louky Bersianik and Dorothy Livesay, as well as many others who have never been in print before.

*"All of it is 'real life,' all of it is from the heart, all of it is accessible. Women's writing has finally begun to shed that tone of defensiveness we once needed, and is becoming relaxed and confident. Reading the anthology I thought, well, we're still singing the blues, all right, but there's so much less explaining now, and so much more telling."*

Mary Schendlinger, Room of One's Own

FOR YOUR COPY CONTACT MARIAN A. WHITE AT 722-7775

YES, I SUPPORT THE ST JOHN'S STATUS OF WOMEN COUNCIL

Enclosed is \$10.00 membership/ subscription.

Students & underemployed - \$5.00.

Desperate straits - free.

Subscription only - \$10.00.

Donation \$....

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

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Send to: St John's Status of Women Council, P.O. Box 6072,  
St John's, Newfoundland A1C 5X8

# STATUS OF WOMEN NEWS INVITES YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

## BANISH THE EMPTY MAIL-BOX BLUES!

We're anxious to hear from you. Of course, we love pats on the back, but we learn from constructive criticism, comments and advice, so drop us a line and speak your mind.

## SEND US YOUR ARTICLES.

We welcome articles with a feminist perspective on a great range of topics—pensions, health care, daycare, survival, pornography, reproductive choice, employment and social injustice to name just a few. We are especially interested in expanding our regional coverage. Preferred length: 1000 to 1500 words, typed and double-spaced. Write or call the NAC office and we'll send you a copy of our style sheet for contributors.

## CALLING ALL ARTISTS.

Ever wonder how we come up with such outstanding graphics and photographs? It's all in who we know, and if you'd like your work printed in *Status of Women News* we'd like to know you. Send samples to the Editorial Committee.

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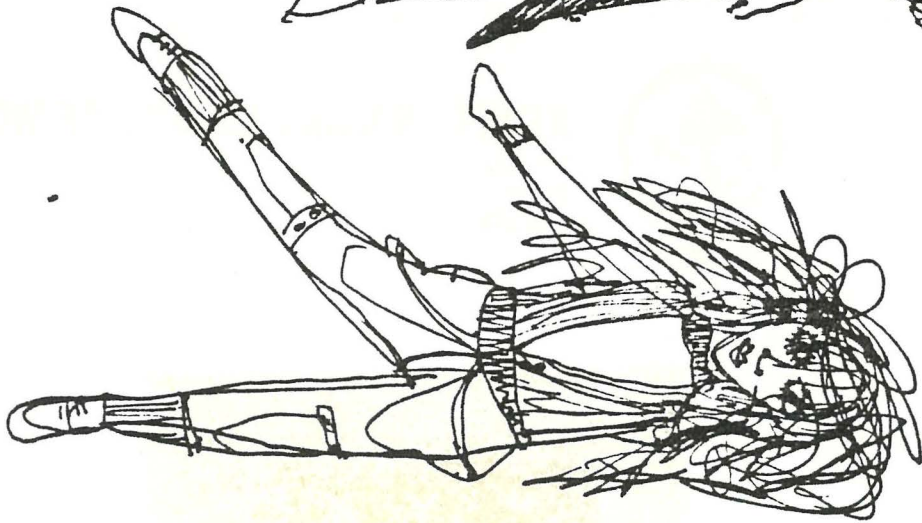
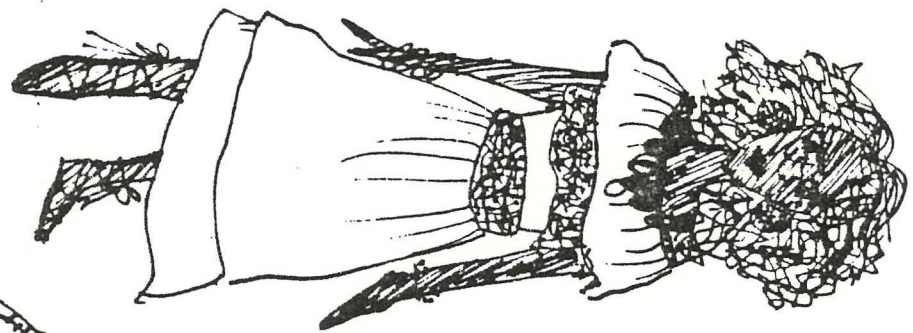
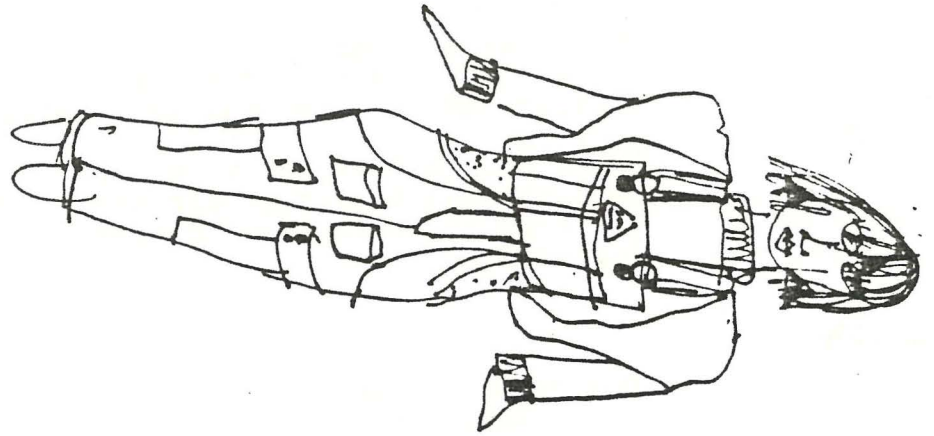
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National Action Committee on the Status of Women  
 Le Comité National d'Action sur le Statut de la Femme  
 40 St. Clair Avenue East, Toronto, Ontario. M4T 1M9

Rate: \$19.95 for 8 issues of *Status and Memo*/  
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1990s Fashion Illustration



The ideas and opinions expressed in this newsletter are of the writers and do not necessarily express the ideas and opinions of the Newfoundland Status of Women Council.

THE NEWSLETTER exists to provide a forum for women's opinions and an outlet for their expression. We welcome letters, comments, book reviews, poems, articles and suggestions.

This NEWSLETTER was produced by Roberta Buchanan, Pat Balsom, Pamela Hodgson and Sandy Stavlo.

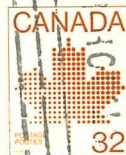
Our next issue will be on MEN. Deadline for copy is January 27 (typed copy) and January 21st for untyped copy. Newsletter staff will meet at 13 Boyle Street on Wednesday, Jan. 16th at 8 p.m. ANY AND ALL POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTORS WELCOMED!



## NEWFOUNDLAND STATUS OF WOMEN COUNCIL

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Phone (709) 753-0220



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