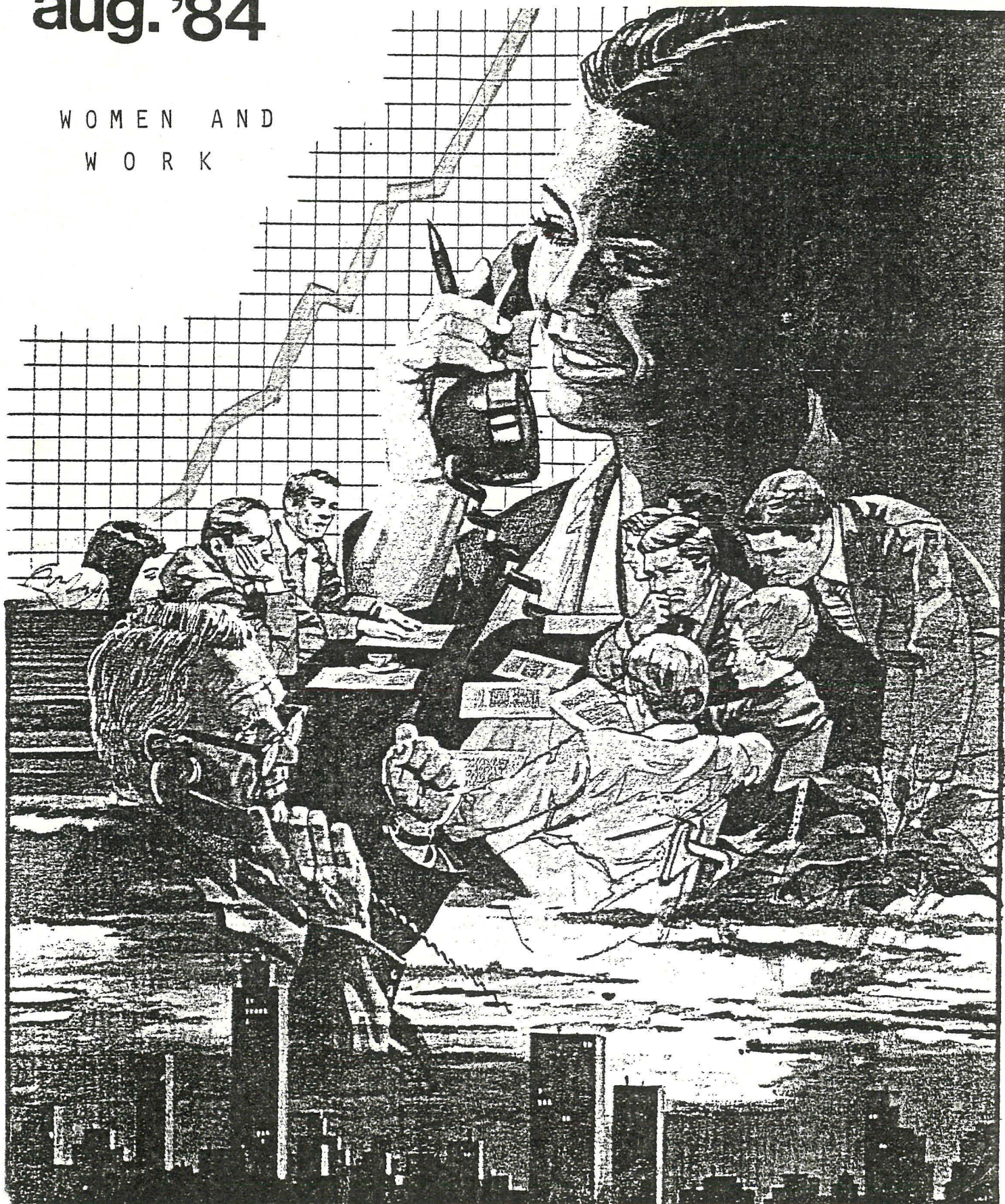


ST. J. STATUS OF WOMEN COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER

aug. '84

WOMEN AND
WORK



EDITORIAL: ON BEING A WORKING WOMAN

The key to freedom is financial independence. I got my first job when I was fifteen, a summer job — I was still at school — pouring tea in a British Railways cafeteria at Victoria Station in London. I had a very large brown enamelled teapot, into which I would measure the tea ("leaf tea" in those days, not teabags) and add to it scalding water out of a hissing urn. Then I had to measure out the milk into a tray of cups, pick up the heavy teapot and quickly fill up the cups. I learned a professional trick to make one's tea stronger by raising and lowering the teapot as one was pouring, thus forcing the hot water through the tea leaves. My second summer job was on the salad bar at Lyons Tea House. One had diagrams of the salads, exact scoops of potato salad, beetroot, laid out in a certain way on the plate. The advantage of working there was that one got a free dinner: I remember the huge buxom cook plunging her greasy hands into the chips and putting them on one's plate. We were too hungry to be queasy. Sometimes as a change I would be put on clearing tables, which was more interesting as one could move around, perhaps have a sly gossip with the other employees if the manageress wasn't looking. I was one of those awful people who snatch away your cup just as you have drained the last drop (or even before), thus forcing you to either leave the restaurant (no loitering) or buy another cup of coffee. I was too young to realize that people, especially older people, often went into Lyons to rest their feet and sit quietly in the warm, and that they might not have enough money for another cup. These jobs were tedious and badly paid — standing over a hot urn all day, or making endless plates of identical salad — "women's work".

When I was 18 I left home and got my first real job, with the grand title of Secretary to the Secretary of the Directors, five pounds a week. A secretary must have tact, discretion, a good memory, an always-pleasant disposition, and be able to do ten things at once without panicking. I had none of these qualities. My memory was especially bad, and I had the capacity of instantly forgetting an important telephone message as if it had never been. My boss, Mrs Jones (Secretary to the Directors) was calm, efficient and charming. She never lost her temper with me, but trained me to write everything down and leave little typed notes on her desk about telephone messages. Despite my grand title, I was the office errand girl and gofer. I had to gofer my bosses' theatre tickets, gofer the director's lunch, gofer his coffee — the phrase "office wife" had not yet been invented — and roll his umbrella. I worked in a posh Bond Street department store, and one of my daily tasks was to go through the Engagements column of the London Telegraph and write an individual letter to the future bride enclosing our brochure of wedding dresses and requesting her esteemed patronage. I was trained in shorthand and typing, could take down a letter at dictation (if not too fast), and knew the correct language for a business letter: "We are in

receipt of your letter of the 12th inst.", ending with "Yours faithfully" -- never "Yours sincerely" which was only for very personal letters.

I was not happy as a secretary. Working 9 to 5 (or actually 5.30, and 9 to 1 on Saturdays) was like an eternal treadmill. I could see no end to it, no escape. I felt like T.S. Eliot's London crowd, streaming over London Bridge into the City to work - "I did not know death had undone so many". I felt trapped. But anyway one was only working until one got married, when one would be rescued from tedium by Mr Right. The smarter girls at work were already engaged and saving up for their trousseaux, dreaming of their three-bedroomed suburban house; no more taking dictation.

I escaped not by getting married but by going to university. I then had a series of "blue collar" jobs in the summers. I worked as a bus-conductor, running up and down the stairs of a double-decker bus collecting fares, with my ticket-machine slung around my neck. The other students told me that you could make a few extra shillings by "fiddling" the ticket machine, ringing up zeros instead of the fare and pocketing the difference. However I always seemed to be in the red when I totalled up the day's takings - arithmetic was not my strong suit. I had to get up at 5 in the morning for the early shift, but it wasn't a bad job - at least one wasn't stuck in an office, and the bus sailed through green fields, past glimpses of the sea, in the Isle of Wight. My next job was in a glass and plastics factory, 9 hours a day, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., two shillings an hour. On my first day I had to pack hundreds of glass test-tubes into a large box. It took me ages, but, finally filled, I taped the top of the box and lifted it up - all the test-tubes fell out through the bottom which I had forgotten to tape. To spend 9 hours a day packing test-tubes is inexpressibly tedious. One could not slack off or go out for a smoke because the Management was watching through special windows from their offices. By the end of the first week I was not only bored out of my mind, I was angry. Angry at the long hours, the tedium, the bosses who drove up in their red MG sports cars and whose brilliant idea of raising profits was to cut the pay of the workers (but not their own pay, of course). I experienced at first hand the division between capital and labour. When I read Marx's Communist Manifesto, I understood it perfectly - not theoretically but from my own experience - the exploitation of workers by capitalists. I understood why unions were needed to defend the rights of the workers, and why capitalists did everything in their power to stop the unions. (Ours was a non-union factory.) After two weeks in the factory, I had surges of rage. I wanted to destroy, ruin, vandalize the bosses' cars. I understood for the first time why young people indulge in vandalism. The rage of the have-not against the haves, the exploited against the exploiter, the rage of the bored, the rage that causes revolutions and riots.

However my co-workers were not revolting. They were glad to have a job, even if at such an awful wage, even at gross discrimination - the women paid lower than the men, and handicapped persons paid lower than anybody. They kept up a cheerful banter at work, joked and sang. They were full of spirit and courage, in spite of the horrible working conditions, in spite of the fact that the women who worked on the gas-burning machines making test-tubes would faint with the heat, and would be propped up outside in the dismal yard until they recovered, and then go back to work.

I now have an interesting and well-paid job teaching in a university, but I am glad that I experienced the opposite. I have never been able to look down upon the so-called "lower classes" or "working classes" ever since, as did my more snotty contemporaries at college, who identified themselves with the elite, the exploiters rather than the exploited. One of my fellow-graduate students (from a rich American family) was horrified when the women workers in the university cafeteria went on strike for more wages. How presumptuous of them! They were not even educated! She never stopped to think of what it must be like to stand all day serving up french-fries or dishing up coffee, of how poorly-paid workers do not pay any less for their food their clothing or electricity.

We know that the majority of working women are poorly paid. According to the Shocking Pink Paper produced by the National Action Committee, women earn on average little more than half of what men are paid. We know that women have the lowest-paid jobs: over 62% of all employed women hold clerical, sales and service jobs. We know that the patriarchal system, despite the Canadian Human Rights Act, cynically keeps women poor. What to do about it? The only remedy is to organize, to unionize, and to demand better pay. If all the secretaries went on strike tomorrow, the nation would be paralyzed! They have the power, but they have not learned to use it. It is the same in the service industries. If women are to be relegated to "job ghettos", they may as well be well paid ghettos.

In sisterhood,

Roberta Buchanan

MS. FIXIT - FEMALE CARPENTER

The general reaction of the public to my non-traditional occupation is one of surprise and/or mild disbelief. The responses have run the gamut from the positive to the negative - "Good for you. It's great to see a lady carpenter". (lawyer); "Working with your hands is close to being holy". (doctor); "Some people must think you're gay". (housewife); "Do you understand it?" (90 year old man). I am often amused but never feel insulted by negative comments. I just remind myself that I am a rare breed.

I am 32 years old and did not undertake the carpentry trade until I was 29. I had been a teacher in Corner Brook and during the years of declining enrolments I was a victim of redundancy. I was laid off; and being slightly dissatisfied with the teaching profession, I did not look for other teaching positions. Both my grandfathers were carpenters and my father's hobby was carpentry. This exposure helped me to make the decision to enrol in the ten-month carpentry course at the District Vocational School in Grand Falls.

After completing the course in June, 1983, I obtained employment in St. John's renovating a house on Gower Street. This project lasted five months and then, I started work on a similar project that lasted six months. When this work was completed I started to free-lance. Through word of mouth I have been kept busy. The variety of jobs and people is refreshing, and I thoroughly enjoy the work.

I have been fortunate in that my co-workers on larger projects have been very accepting of me. As long as I do my fair share, no one can put me down. When the work gets dirty or strenuous I dig in like the rest. My pride and self-confidence as a carpenter have been my best friends. My only regret is that I had not started my carpentry career at an earlier age.

I have recently incorporated (Fiddlesticks Limited) as I plan to delve into furniture design and manufacture. Incorporation protects me when I accept long-term contracts and enables me to receive such benefits as Workers' Compensation, UIC, and Canada Pension.

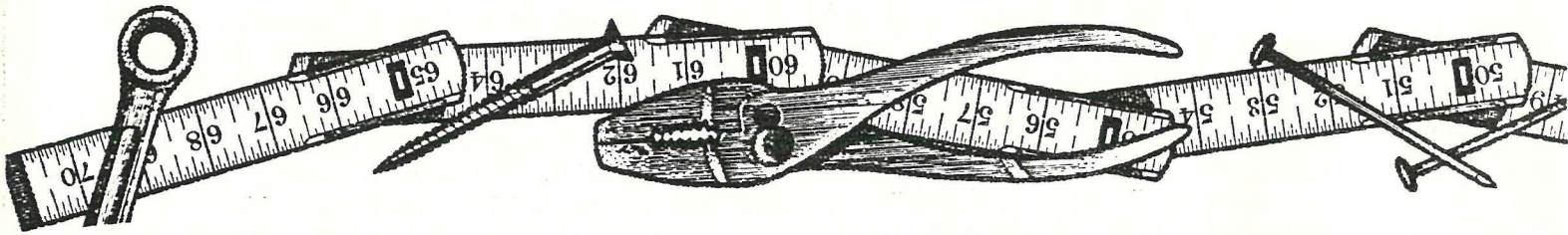
My family is now fully supportive of my career. At first, my mother and sister thought this was a whim and I would forget about it. Now, however, they realize I am serious about my work and show a genuine interest. My brother has been supportive from the beginning. My father, now deceased, never discouraged me.

MS. FIXIT (CONT'D)

I would encourage any female to pursue a non-traditional occupation. Such a choice should be made because you enjoy the work. Do not enter a non-traditional field just to be different. Attitudes about women in "traditionally male jobs" are changing, and gradually more people are accepting women in a "man's job".

If any reader would like more information about a carpentry career or has any questions that I might be able to answer, please do not hesitate to contact me. My telephone number is 753-6310. I would be glad to have a chat.

- Gaye E. Squires



* OUR TIME IS NOW *

CANADIAN WOMEN'S MUSIC & CULTURAL FESTIVAL

WHERE: Kildonan Park, Winnipeg, Manitoba

WHEN: September 1st & 2nd

COST: \$20 (week-end) \$11 (daily) \$6 (half-day)

(Childcare is free but you must pre-register
Call (204)-786-1921).

Tickets can be obtained by writing:

Canadian Women's Music & Cultural Festival
745 Westminister St. Winnipeg R3G 1A5

CRAFTS DISPLAY* WOMENS* BOOKSTORE* WORKSHOPS*
EEMINIST PERFORMERS CONNIE KALDOR, BEVERLEY GLENN-
COPELAND, SUZANNE BIRD, RITA McNEIL, AND MANY,
MANY MORE.

MAKING IT IN A "MAN'S" WORLD

- ANNE M. WEBB

Everyone has a dream; a thought that takes them into some personal achievement or advancement. Some bring this dream into reality. The crystalization of all mind efforts with the physical activity is what makes it happen. That's how the world of the entrepreneur slipped my life into its merry-go-round.

I've always wanted to work for myself, ever since I was very young. The words of a dear loving grandmother delved into my subconscious: "Never depend on another to look after you. Get a good education and a good job." I was only 13 or 14 at that time.

The real opportunity came in 1977, one well worked for at that. I was offered a partnership with another woman, by an independent male distributor, for a home sanitation cleaning systems company. We both took the gamble after an overnight decision, and set up an independent business in Gander, Nfld. I was 24 at the time, single, and for the first time, an employer.

Our company marketed the product through pre-organized demonstrations in the home, through commissioned sales dealers. The product was Filter Queen of Canada. There were 15 employees, both men and women of all ages. Now that I recall, there was one extraordinary saleslady. She was my age, married with one daughter. Every week she'd earn at least \$500 or more. In 1977, that was good pay to take home, for a man or woman. She was an impressionable woman. Cheerful, witty and kind. I was proud of her personal achievement. It seemed the male employees would always loosen their tie knots and clear their throats when Barb walked away with the weekly bonus - week after week.

As an employer in that particular male-dominated enterprise, the women were the top dealers (commissioned sellers). I particularly remember attending business conferences for distributors (franchise) at the big centres out of the province. Needless to say, there were approximately 600 men and 10 women, but I hope more women have made their way to the top. That was my first experience at attending professional, expensive, high energy, motivating sales seminars. I met a few very respectable men, but the majority were there for the party.

In the sales career, women seem to be accepted quite well. I personally experienced this in product sales and in real estate sales. Their less forceful attitude separates them from the stereotyped, foot-in-the-door, clean shaven salesmen.

My present position as an employer is a little different than my past experience in business. My customers now have to come to me to buy my product. At first, this proved refreshing. Now I'm not so sure how I feel. Operating a night club in downtown St. John's, where there are hundreds more, can be a little stressful indeed. The days of specializing is over. It now competition plus!

I've been involved in the night club scene now since 1979. I use the word "scene" because it's just that. It really isn't my idea of a life-long career, but hopefully just a stepping stone along the way. I've actually had males tell me I should hire "good lookin' blondes". Of course, trying to be as tactful and witty as possible I kindly smile and say "What's wrong, I thought you'd like the bod on my bouncer." I think they got the hint! I think most men really do feel that "a body goes with a beer in a bar." I'm also sick and tired of removing unwanted embraces. Other than that, it's not too bad.

Dealing with the administration end of the business, I deal mostly with men, i.e. my bank manager, suppliers, accounting firms, etc. They deal with me on a professional level, and that's the difference. Some have been interested enough to ask how I chose this career, and the ones I've taken time to tell, listened enthusiastically.

From the past five years of experience in the bar business, I know one thing for sure. The women who work for me can handle the complications much more professionally and effectively than the men. Women are truly the peacemakers. The violence that's used in most establishments to remove the undesirables is far from necessary. I'm not saying that physical strength doesn't help, but a kind word goes a long way.

I presently employ three women and six men. We gather for regular meetings to "sort things out", and stimulate fresh energies. As an employer, it is so necessary to understand that every job that's filled by an employee, has to be mastered by the employer. So indirectly, my job is that of a bartender, waitress, dishwasher, public relations officer, disc jockey, advertising/promotions manager, purchasing agent, payroll-clerk, door host, short-order cook, secretary, part-time accountant and go-fer. Even though it's a lot of work with a lot of responsibility, at least I'm working for myself. For me, it's the only way to go.

Making it in a man's career world as a woman, is personally satisfying, not because it's traditionally a man's job, but because I'm working for my own self-accomplishments.

If any woman wants to become financially independent, it's a lot of long, hard hours, frustrating moments, criticism, and envy. However, the only brick wall is the one you personally refuse to climb over, walk around or even demolish. There is always a way.

An old saying I'll always cling to is "you never fail until you stop trying". Think about it!

May I take this opportunity to "toast" all working women.

-Anne M. Webb, Businesswoman
St. John's, Nfld.

WOMAN & WORK: A LAWYER

I work in a profession whose practitioners are less than ten percent female. Therefore, most of my colleagues are male. What can I say about that?

Well, I very much like my work. When feminist issues arise, as they do in every aspect of life I deal with them. The revelation has been that I can do my job effectively and still remain true to myself.

Most of the men whom I work with everyday are able and sensitive people. Occasionally one is not; but sexist ~~hats~~ and ingrained prejudices can be dealt with one way or another—peaceably or otherwise. The fact remains that I'm still there because the plusses by far outweigh the minusses.

A Lawyer

TAKE BACK THE NIGHT MARCH

THE St John's Status of Women Council and the Rape Crisis Centre will be sponsoring a TAKE BACK THE NIGHT MARCH in St John's on Friday 18 September. This is an important event which will be taking place in cities all across Canada at the same time. Thousands of women will be marching.

If you want to join the march, or help organize it, please call the Women's Centre - 753-0220. St John's streets are not safe! It is time we let people know that women cannot be raped or harrassed.

Dianne Duggan
Rape Crisis Centre

OUT OF THE KITCHEN AND INTO THE WAR... Part I

"Out of the kitchen and into the war: the impact of the First and Second World Wars Upon the Role of Canadian and American Women."

"Women Supplant Men Because of War" December 30, 1917. "Women Take 1,413,000 Jobs - 400,000 Former Servants or Dressmakers" March 30, 1918. "Wartime Training of Women Backed" December 18, 1940. "Nation's Women Hold One Factory Job in 4" August 28, 1941. "It's a Woman's War Too" January 3, 1943. The fact that the First and Second World Wars has had a tremendous impact upon the role of American women is evident from the preceding wartime headlines of The New York Times.

The role of women had been dramatically changed as a result of society's need to accomodate war. Charlotte Perkins Gillman once said that the key to equality between the sexes is that women become self-supporting. During the First and Second World War, women were encouraged to be independent, to work for themselves and for their country, and proved that they could do it.

Since most young, able bodied men were fighting overseas, there was a shortage of "manpower" in Canada and the U.S. - "woman power" was needed not only to assist in wartime production, but also to work in peacetime operations. Industry needed women in jobs previously reserved for men. Therefore, the government had to change the image of the traditional american woman, at least superficially, in order to proceed with recruitment campaigns. In the U.S. "Rpsie the Riveter" and "Janes who fly planes" became powerful images for women during the second world war. Appealing to women's sense of patriotism, recruiting posters featured such slogans as, "Longing won't bring him back sooner...Get a war job!" or, "I'm proud...my husband wants me to do my part".

The Great War raged from 1914 to 1918. For four long years, Canadian women "got behind the boys overseas", contributing equally to the war effort. The growth of the munitions industry and the shortage of manpower caused a massive increase in the number of employed women in jobs traditionally inappropriate prior to 1914. By 1917, 35,000 women were employed in munitions in Quebec and Ontario, soldering fuses for twenty to thirty cents an hour. Women replaced men as streetcar drivers in Toronto and Calgary, as tugboat crews on the East and West coasts, and as farmers bringing in the wheat crops in the praries.

Those women who could not find employment, engaged in various volunteer activities and home front campaigns to finance the war. Both workers and non-workers pledged millions of dollars to buy victory bonds. To supplement the food supply, women planted and tended "victory gardens". Others rolled bandages for the Red Cross or knitted gloves, sweaters, and scarves in khaki-coloured wool. Various entertainments, such as card games and dances, were organized by women to raise money to send such luxury items as cigarettes and candy to soldiers overseas. Canadian women from all classes, ages and backgrounds were brought together through their role in the war effort; they had in common their sex, their work, and the war.

(CONT'D)...

OUT OF THE KITCHEN.. (CONT'D.)

In Canada, women's political role took a turn for the better during the First World War. Councils of women were active in every city and in every province. Suffragettes campaigned for the vote to be extended to women. One of the most dynamic Canadian suffragettes was Nellie McClung, who was also known as "Calamity Nell". A suffragist, an active prohibitionist and an author - Nellie McClung became one of the first MP's in the country, demanding changes in divorce legislation and birth control. Other active suffragettes included Emmeline Parker in Saskatchewan, Dorothy Davis in B.C., and Flora Denison and Margaret Gordon in Ontario. Their main goal was the federal franchise. The first step towards this goal took place in Alberta, where women were given the vote in municipal and civic elections in April 1916....

In 1918, women in the U.S. were urged to go to work in order to free men to be drafted. Jobs were opened to women in order to force men out. The number of wage-earning women increased from 65 per 1000 in 1914, to 100 per 1000 by 1919. The increasing labour shortage and support for the war effort "justified" women's search for work. Although they entered "male job" areas, women did not commonly receive the same wage rates as men...

As the number of women in the labour force increased, the U.S. Congress established the Women-in - Industry service within the Department of Labour. It was founded to ensure effective employment of women, to protect their health, and to promote their welfare. Mary Van Kluck and Mary Anderson directed the organization. Although they made many recommendations and set many standards, they lacked the authority to enforce them and encountered resistance from the War Labor Policies Board. Therefore, they concentrated on equal pay for equal work and the right of women to retain their jobs when the war ended and the men came home...

From 1939 to 1945, the demand for Canadian women in industry increased as the Second World War raged on. Sixty percent of all workers at Canadian Car were women. Under the scrutiny of Elsie MacGill, the chief aeronautical engineer at Canadian Car, they worked as turret lathe operators, punch press operators, drillers, grinders and welders. Many reported that although women were doing the same work as men, they were doing it better. The women at Canadian Car manufactured 1,650 Hurricanes, some of which were flown by Canadian fighter pilots in the Battle of Britain. While many women were employed in the munitions industry, others worked as lumberjacks for Great Lakes Paper. All inspectors in the munitions plants were women. In the scientific and chemical branches of industrial war production, women did most of the research.

The Royal Canadian Air Force experienced a shortage of personnel in the summer of 1941. Therefore, they formed a women's division - the Canadian Women's Army Corps. Out of the 17,000 who joined, 2900 of these women were sent overseas during the Second World War. In April, 1945, the Canadian Women's Army Corps was a vital force in freeing the surrounding ports of the North Sea from the Axis powers.

During the Second World War, Canadian women were engaged in extensive volunteer work, both at home and in Europe. ... hundreds of Canadian women assisted the nursing sisters overseas. They played the role of mother, nurse, interpreter and psychologist to thousands of wounded and dying soldiers. Women's organizations provided clothes, food, medical supplies and funds for the assistance of air raid victims and others. They organized Hostess Houses and entertainment for members of the Army Navy and Air Services.

LABOUR FORCE PUBLICATION AVAILABLE

According to a recent Labour Canada report, more than 51% of Canadian women were in the labour force in 1981, compared to only 39.4% a decade earlier. Also, from 1971-1981, the number of female workers almost doubled - 2,972,000 to 4,811,000.

These, and a host of other interesting statistics are contained in WOMEN IN THE LABOUR FORCE, PART 1; Labour Canada's annual publication which provides a statistical look at the growth of female participation in the work force during the 1970's and the first two years of the '80's. The statistical tables and summaries deal with this participation by province, marital status, occupational category, and a number of other categories. It shows for example, that in 1981, 44.6% of female employees worked in community, business and personal service industries, and that women represented 60.8% of ALL workers in the service sector.

Also pointed out are the difficulties women face regarding the dual responsibilities of career and home maintenance. In 1981, 9.1% of all women in the labour force had left jobs within the last five years due to personal responsibilities. Almost half of all employed in the agricultural field in 1981 were unpaid family workers, compared with 6.5% of their male counterparts. These are some interesting facts to be learned from this publication.

WOMEN IN THE LABOUR FORCE, PART 1 is the first of an annual three-part series, and is available (free of charge) by writing:

Public Distribution Centre
Labour Canada
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0J2

ECONOMIC ISSUES COMMITTEE -- SJSWC

PURPOSE: to develop educational and lobbying capacity on economic issues affecting women in St. John's and environs. Much of this will be applicable to Nfld.

SCOPE: The Committee will address some basic issues relating to work and economic development in the area. We will focus on several main targets:

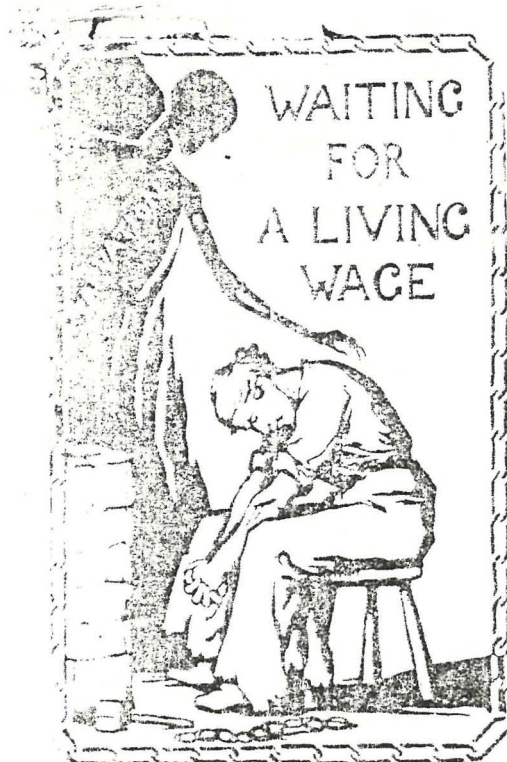
1. Job opportunities for women in Nfld.; this includes job ghettos and non-traditional work possibilities. Access to jobs which pay a living wage is key; most women work in clerical, sales and service where wages are low. Thus, there are two problems which must be addressed: 1) how do women in low-paying job ghettos improve their wages and working conditions? 2) how to get women into the better paid, non-traditional jobs?
2. Related to No. 1 is affirmative action, sexual harassment and equal pay for work of equal value.

FOCUS: In order to raise these issues the committee will gather existing information on women's work in Nfld. and publicize the inequities. Second, the committee will work towards more public discussion of the potential for women's work in non-traditional areas by participating in discussions on women and economic development (to provide a critical framework); one means of doing this is to participate in the discussions on the Environmental Impact of offshore oil; an Environmental Impact Assessment Statement will be submitted to the Federal Government by Mobil Oil (Hibernia) in November and public hearings will be held in the summer of 1985. A one-day workshop on the impact of offshore industries, sponsored by SJSWC and other groups would provide an excellent opportunity to raise the issues and develop briefs for the public hearings. This would allow us to raise the issues of: 1) the need for monitoring of the offshore by women's groups and 2) the issues specifically of a) affirmative action b) the social impacts of oil on women. The latter will address the "intermittent spouse syndrome" (i.e. the impact on families of irregular work schedules in the offshore) and the question of sufficient social services (for daycare, housing, battered women, etc.).

The social service aspect will connect up with other committees of the SJSWC on daycare, porn, and battered women (Transition House and Kirby House). Thus the particular focus on offshore oil development will provide a platform on which to raise these broader issues.

ACTION:

1. Gather info on women's work in Nfld., including info on women's unemployment, as preparation for 2.
2. Organize a small committee to work on one day workshop for Spring 85-- approach Secretary of State/Mobil for money to hold workshop and line up participants.
3. Bring in other interested groups/individuals to forge an umbrella group.
4. Raise economic issues generally (between now and next spring) wherever possible, including the Constitutional Conference in November.



CENTRE REPORT

The centre is looking great! Marian, Maxine, Ann, Pauline and others worked like slaves to clean out files and the library. The place now looks much less cluttered and filing is a joy. Thanks to everyone.

The centre has been pretty busy this summer with a fair amount of people dropping in for counselling, referrals and information. It is unusual to see so many women for counselling in the summer months. I hope this doesn't mean that women's problems are escalating. I prefer to blame it on the heat.

We have also had some interesting guests this summer. Ms. Charlie and Ms. Estelle Disch both proved to be interesting guests. There are write-ups about each in the newsletter.

The funds for the centre have been approved by Sec.State for another year but as yet no money has been received. This means that we grow broker and broker. Hopefully the cheque will soon arrive!

Goodbye to Jane who was here on a four month contract. Sad to see you go. Anne Kavanagh will be leaving in two weeks. Anne has been great. She worked hard in attempting to maintain some sanity in the office. She will be replaced by Joan McGrath who will be here on a ten week project as well. Welcome to the Women's centre Joan!

Goodbye as well to Annette. After 18 months with the Centre, Annette has decided to move to other work. She will be doing some contract work with Rising Tide and then ??? Cuba? Paris? Greece? who knows! We'll miss you Annette. Good luck. (We'll still give you your morning wake up call.)

See you next month. Hope to have some more new faces around here then.

Beth Lacey

PROFILE: BETH LACEY

This is the first in a series of profiles of people working at the Women's Centre or on the Steering Committee. BETH LACEY is a full-time employee at the Women's Centre. Her duties are multifarious - administration, office work, answering the telephone, answering requests for information, responding to the media, liaising with Transition House and Kirby House, and counselling. The following is based on an interview with Beth.

Q: How would you describe yourself?

Beth: I was born in Grand Falls, I'm 29 years old. I'm a radical feminist.

Q: What do you mean by radical feminism?

Beth: There needs to be radical structural changes in order for women to become equal - we have to look at the roots of society, to change them in some fashion. Religion oppresses women - the family unit oppresses women - the medical profession: almost every aspect of society has to be changed in some way. Democracy as we see it in Canada oppresses women because it is male-based. Women have the right to vote but can't really run for politics because they don't have the money...therefore they are not in positions of power.

Q: How did you become a feminist?

Beth: Good question - I don't really know. It was a slow process - I had a feeling when I was younger that things weren't right. I always felt a bit different, I felt different from the people I associated with, always fighting with them. Take summer jobs - the boys always got the jobs in the mill (the paper mill at Grand Falls), while I could only get a job in a supermarket. I didn't want to be any part of these goings on, and I associated it with marriage and the suppression of women - I was determined to go to university and have a career. Living in this society made me a feminist because I felt oppressed as a woman - I didn't become one through reading books.

At university I studied psychology. I felt frustrated with psych. - the research was mainly on men - "he, they, the males, the men", as if they represented the whole of society. A lot of women in Psych. felt the same way. I specialized in Social Psychology. I did some research on the Foundation programme at Memorial, to see if it worked (it doesn't). My paper was published in the Canadian Journal of Higher Education.

My honours thesis was a comparative study of lesbians and heterosexual females. I didn't find a lot of differences between them. I found that lesbians were more independent and more emotionally stable - but then the subjects questioned were "out of closet" lesbians - they had come to terms with themselves and had heightened self-confidence. Very little research has been done on lesbians - it's mostly on male homosexuals. (If anyone wants to read the study it is in the Centre for Newfoundland Studies at MUN.)

For my masters thesis I looked at attitudes towards battered women, questioning 200 college students, male and female. I used the "just world" hypothesis: i.e. that people believe the world is just - they have to in order to survive. People blame battered women: they have to, otherwise it could happen to them. I used case studied in which some women were responsible for the battering and some weren't. The people questioned denigrated the women who were not responsible - it justifies her getting beaten if she is a bad person. They blamed the battered woman. Extrapolate this to doctors, lawyers, police etc....

Q: How did you get involved in the Women's Centre?

Beth: Through Gerry Rogers. I had done some work at Transition House for my thesis and got to know the women working there. I went to Waterloo to do my Ph.D. - I got a good scholarship - but I didn't know what research I wanted to do. I took time off at Christmas to think about it and didn't go back. I'll probably go back in a few years to finish the Ph.D.

My job at the Women's Centre? I love it and hate it. I love it because if I weren't working there I would be there doing volunteer work. I hate it because I'm never off - I even have dreams about it - I bring it home with me. Sometimes it's good, I get good feedback. But then there are the women with housing problems, living in a car - social services won't help them. I love it because I feel I am working for social change, and getting paid for it.

I do a lot of counselling - women who have been raped, beaten, mentally abused; marital problems; incest survivors. Women leaving their husbands, in financial difficulties, problems with daycare; or women having problems at work with sexual harrassment. I do advocacy for women in the legal system. I offer support to women who are frustrated. The Women's Centre is a place of support, a drop-in centre. I try to raise consciousness and heighten awareness - usually successful because they feel frustrated to start with.

Some of the incest victims I counsel - adults, not children - have never told anyone before, or told someone and have not been

believed. They feel they must talk to someone, and they feel that the Women's Centre is a safe place. They feel betrayed by men and they want to talk to a woman. The Women's Centre is a secure place to talk. These women come in because they saw the sign in the window - WOMEN'S CENTRE.

Q: What of the women who never see the sign, who don't happen to pass down Military Road, who don't know there is a Women's Centre?

Beth: We should reach out more. We are the hotbed of feminism - we lobby - we need a person to do just that.

If someone is falling apart you can't say "Here's some glue, go away."

R.B.

If you would like to support the valuable work being done at the Women's Centre, please send a donation to the St John's Status of Women Council, P.O. Box 6072, St John's, Newfoundland, A1C 5X8.

ESTELLE DISCH: SOCIOLOGIST & FEMINIST THERAPIST

Estelle Disch came to St John's to give a workshop in feminist therapy at the Women's Centre. The following is based on an interview with her.

"How did I come to Newfoundland? I think I was led here by the Goddess. We were camping in Nova Scotia and were rained out so came to Newfoundland. We went to Black Duck Brook and saw a house for sale and bought it." Dr Disch is now compiling a slide show on Black Duck Brook, getting the kids there to photograph their own community. She will then show the finished product and get their comments, which will be included in the final version.

"My dad was an alcoholic surgeon...my mother was working class, she had a respect for people. Her dad was a machinist, her mother a stitcher who left home at age 12 to work in a factory. My mother became a nurse." Perhaps because of her background, Dr Disch is particularly interested in combatting racism and classism. She did her undergraduate degree in Political Science, her M.A. and Ph.D. in Sociology. Her Ph.D. thesis was concerned with women's roles in economic structures in Southern Italy. She studied three different types of communities there, and compared her findings with Italian immigrants in Boston. The migrants were more egalitarian in sex-roles; the most egalitarian in Italy was in a subsistence agrarian economy, where women worked outside the home in the fields - a family economy. Women lost power and status when they worked only in the home.

Dr Disch is a member of the Clinical Sociologists Association. Part of her training was in a hospital for alcohol and drug addicts in Boston, on a State of Massachusetts alcoholism fellowship. She found that there was antagonism between the alcoholics and the drug addicts: the former tended to be older and more conservative, the latter younger, rebels, politically aware.

When she got a job at the prestigious women's college, Smith College (Nancy Reagan is one of their alumnae), she found that two-thirds of the faculty was male and they wanted the college to go co-ed. This was voted down by the students. Her male head of department at Smith told her that her Ph.D. dissertation was "pretty good for a girl". "Would you say that to a male faculty member?" she asked him -- "pretty good for a boy."

She now teaches sociology at the University of Massachusetts in Boston, combining this with therapy and counselling at Tapestry, a feminist education and counselling centre. Tapestry is private, non-profit, with no grants and no government support, supported

through client fees. Clients are charged on a sliding scale according to income, the minimum fee \$10.00 per session.

What is feminist therapy? It takes account of context - the context in which the client grew up and in which she is attempting to find her own power. Consciousness raising is included. Women are helped to identify their skills. What of those women who cannot afford therapy? Dr Disch recommends What Color is your Parachute? She has found that most women have been battered, raped, or are incest survivors. Some have been literally fucked by their therapists, sexually abused by them. This is such a big problem in the U.S. that there are now special workshops for such clients. Two psychiatrists who tried to expose this kind of sexual harrassment received death threats.

I asked Dr Disch what her plans were for the future. She said that she wanted to go to Nicaragua to learn Spanish; she wants to do more anti-racist work with white women. She is optimistic about the forthcoming U.S. election: Sonia Johnson is going to run, and women's issues will stay at the top.

R.B.

FEMINIST THERAPY WORKSHOP

Early in the spring I received a call from a woman in Boston, who was interested in connecting with the feminist community in St. John's. Knowing little about her but intrigued by her approach, I invited her to come to St. John's. She said that in return for our time and trouble she would facilitate a workshop on feminist therapy. I agreed.

On July 16th, Estelle Disch arrived in St. John's. What a delight! Estelle is involved with a feminist therapy collective in Boston and teaches sociology at U. of Mass: Boston. Her visit was an absolute pleasure and her seminar on feminist therapy was informative.

About 20 women from Transition House and SJSWC attended. We learned a relaxation and empowering technique as well as methods of feminist therapy. The seminar was interactive with a lot of participation by those attending. Current difficulties were discussed and put into political context, one of the basic tenets of feminist therapy. We were also given a lot of resource material which should prove helpful. Meanwhile, we attempted to fulfill our part of the bargain. Estelle's three day visit stretched to six as she connected with people from Transition House, Kirby House, the Women's Centre and Rape Crisis. We talked and we talked and we ate and talked some more.

We feel so isolated in Nfld. that often the struggles we have seem to be ours alone. In speaking with Estelle one realizes that our struggles are not only similar to others' both in the U.S. and elsewhere but that they are the same struggles.

It felt good to have Estelle here. I only wish she could have stayed longer so that more of you could have had the opportunity to meet her. Fortunately I suspect we'll be seeing her again.

Beth Lacey

THAILAND FEMINIST VISITS

On Friday July 13, the SJSWC had the pleasure of speaking with Ms. Chayasri Charlie of Bangkok, Thailand. Ms. Charlie is very involved with social issues in her country, being a member of the National Social Development Committee in Thailand. We talked about the situation in Thailand as compared to Canada. The standard of living here is much higher and the allocation of wealth a little more equitable. Areas of Thailand, particularly in the east, are very poor and can be compared to Nfld. to some extent. The people are farmers but drought often causes problems and with no social welfare system, survival is often an issue.

Ms. Charlie is also involved in women's issues in Thailand. There is a National Committee on the Status of Women in her country and strides are being made towards equality. Right now, the situation is similar to Canada in that men move more quickly into position of management but education is accessible to women, so there is the hope of change

Ms. Charlie was a delightful woman to speak with and the women who met her felt that they got an understanding of women's issues from a third world perspective. Ms. Charlie thanked us for sharing our ideas on social issues and seemed pleased with the interest we expressed in the Thailand situation.

Beth Lacey

REPORT FROM REGIONAL REP - BARBARA DORAN - OF THE NATIONAL ACTION COMMITTEE
ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

May 1984

In March of this year I was elected by acclamation to the Executive of the National Action Committee. Chaviva Hosek replaced Doris Anderson as President and inherited a very challenging job chairing Canada's largest lobby group. NAC now has 291 member groups from all across the country, representing over 2 Million women - that's a lot of political clout. That political clout is being strongly felt, perhaps for the first time in the history of the Women's Movement, by the politicians and policy makers, Because 1984 is an election year the strong presence of NAC and its member-groups is essential if we are to make any progress towards equality.

At present the NAC office is compiling an Election Kit which will be available to member-groups in the near future. The KIT is designed to maximize our effectiveness in bringing issues of concern to us out in the public arena at election time. The KIT will contain information on how to organize an all-candidates meeting; why all-candidates are strategically important; and how to make sure our concerns are aired at these meetings.

On a local level I will attempt to set up an All-candidates meeting in St. John's, or would be open to assisting any other council or member group who wishes to host one in her community. Please get in touch with me at 753-6937 if you are interested in this project.

A Constitution Committee has been struck by the Newfoundland Status of Women Council, so far membership consists of 5 women. We need, however, much more energy and input than that. This Committee resulted from the resolution coming out of the last Provincial Conference in Labrador. This Committee hopes, in co-operation with other interested women/groups, to follow-up on the resolution of the Status of Women Groups: "BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE DEPT. OF SECRETARY OF STATE BE REQUESTED TO REALLOCATE FUNDS USUALLY PROVIDED FOR PROVINCIAL CONFERENCES ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN TO HOLD A CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE AND PROVINCIAL LOBBY IN THE FALL OF 1984. Cost would perhaps prevent all groups from participating in the planning of this Conference in an integral way but certainly any kind of input that is feasible is ESSENTIAL. This must be a Province-wide endeavour with a Province-wide flavour. If you are interested in this issue, and all of us who fought so hard to have women's rights entrenched in the Canadian Constitution, should be - then please contact the Women's Centre or me and say you want input. The struggle isn't over yet - we can't afford not to take action now with our local government.

At the same time that the Constitutional Conference is being planned, work has to begin on the first provincial lobby of MHA's which would hopefully follow the day after the conference. If funding for the Conference is forthcoming from the Secretary of State, then delegates from all over the Province will have an opportunity to organize and participate in the Lobby. As NAC representative I would be willing to facilitate this Lobby but naturally would need input from other women's groups. If you are interested please call me.

I am pleased to have been given the opportunity to represent the Province on the NAC Executive. A large part of my effectiveness however, will depend on input from YOU. Let me know what issues are of importance to you and how NAC or your NAC representative can help to address those issues.

CONTACT ME at 753-6937.

IN SISTERHOOD,
BARBARA DORAN

NAC

I have just returned from a visit to the eastern coast of Labrador and am still euphoric from the great experience. Mayor Beatrice Watts of Northwest River kindly arranged for women in each village to meet me as the boat pulled into the dock. It was a real privilege to meet in person, the representatives of the Native Labrador Women's Association and learn something of their concerns and priorities. Once again, it became very clear that when women of this province stand together we have the chance to bring new pressures on the institutions that determine our daily lives. We hope to lobby all three parties in November and the women from Labrador will ~~find their problems~~ play an important part in that provincial lobby.

It was a delight to meet with the workers at the Goudie Bldg. in Goose Bay and really great that the women were able to take an hour off for the meeting, which centred on the work and aims of the National Action Cttee.

Fascinating to see that the staff at Mokami S of W decide which holidays they want to observe. Some of the govt. decreed ones don't impress the women very much, so they work on those days and take off days like "International Women's Day, etc.

FLASH!!!! It has just been learned that the great debate of the three leaders on WOMEN'S ISSUES will be televised on all three major networks. This meeting is sponsored by NAC, will take place in Toronto on Aug. 15th. and will have 7 women, representing different regions in Canada, posing the questions. It should be great television. Do spread the word, have "watching" parties and write to the paper, talk to candidates, after the event. Do please get hold of the special edition of "Status" that is just coming out on election issues and what to ask your candidate. We are getting clout, we had better make use of it. (there will be 2000 women in the audience, by invitation only)

Would you believe that our clout is now so strong that negotiations with a corporation that won a special citation from the YWCA because it introduced a n affirmative action program for employees, are now underway to see whether we will let them use their name as sponsors for the debate, in return for a donation to NAC. We are getting as powerful as hockey players.....

Barb Doran is organizing an all-party meeting on women's issues, to achieve similar interest in the election debate, for St. John's

dorothy inglis, NAC VICE/PRES

the Agnes Macphail Fund
.....

STATEMENT BY ED BROADBENT MP

I am pleased to announce an initiative of the New Democratic Party that follows logically out of our convention last July.

At that convention the New Democratic Party's constitution was changed to provide for parity for women on all elected bodies within the party. Today, I announce what is another step forward, the establishment of a fund for women candidates designed to encourage more women to become involved in politics.

The Agnes Macphail Fund was initiated by our Participation of Women Committee and will go a long way towards removing some of the barriers that have stopped more women from being candidates for elected office. Although the rules are not yet firm, all nominated women candidates will be able to apply for a base rate of \$500.00 to assist in overcoming the initial financial barriers facing women. After the base rate, the provision of additional funds will follow a set of criteria designed to assure access for women candidates in financially needy ridings.

The New Democratic Party has acted as no other has on Women's issues over the years. It was the only party to make women's issues a central part of the 1979 and 1980 campaigns. It has been the New Democratic Party that has called for compulsory affirmative action, equal pay for work of equal value legislation and a host of other policies important to women. It is the New Democratic Party alone that has acted on gender parity within its own ranks, and it is the New Democratic party that will continue to be on the cutting edge of women's issues in the future.

It is my hope that the Agnes Macphail Fund will bring in creasing numbers of women to the forefront as candidates for my party and that it will encourage more and more women overall to involve themselves in the process of political change.

For further information contact:

Valorie Preston
Co ordinator of Women's Activities
301 Metcalfe Street
Ottawa K2P 1R9

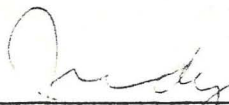
613-236-3613

RETRACTION

At the June TGIF, I was presented with a Choice T-Shirt. At that time I enthusiastically declared I would wear it at our corporate offices, perhaps even on the floor of the corporate suites.

Later that evening, when no longer sampling Shields' excellent choice of wine, I remembered a previous encounter at work which must preclude wearing the Choice T-Shirt. I had chaired a meeting, in the executive floor conference room, of Federal government officials (all male). One fellow wore a pro-life rose on his lapel. Before the meeting began I asked if it was in fact a pro-life rose, and he confirmed it was. At that point I declared there could be no meeting under the auspices of such a statement. He protested and his peers were aghast but I insisted and he removed the rose. Following the meeting I called his supervisor, who was a personal friend and definitely a pro-choice supporter. We discussed the employees' right to wear such statements in the workplace and both of us agreed it was not to be advised, because it was disruptive and you might get a punch in the nose.

Therefore, I must rescind the declaration of sporting a pro-choice T-Shirt, except under field clothes. It would be interesting to hear someone else's opinion or experience.



Rudy

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

(Disagree With CPP Benefits for Housewives)

As a member of the most heavily taxed (i.e. relatively tax "shelterless") groups in society, single wage earners, I strongly object to housewives receiving pension benefits under the Canada Pension Plan. This is not to say that I feel women who keep house and rear children are not doing necessary tasks; nor does it mean they shouldn't receive monetary benefits. My point is that such benefits should come from a source other than the CPP as it now exists.

According to the Green Paper on Pension Reform (nebulous at best), it's been estimated that over the next 50 years the CPP/QPP rates will have to rise to 8-10% of covered earnings, from the current 3.6% in order to pay for benefits currently being promised (which does NOT include payments to housewives); this means a hefty increase in my contributions in order to accommodate these promises.

A salient point in this argument is that wage-earners are not given a retirement pension. CPP is not a freebie or government hand-out. It is basically an investment made by wage-earners; a retirement fund paid into by all workers in order to help secure some measure of retirement security. It is an earnings-based plan into which housewives are NOT contributing. I suggest a logical step if housewives were to receive benefits would be for their husbands to pay into the plans for them, just as they do for group insurance. It is true that one out of three Canadian marriages will result in divorce; so what of the housewife who has no husband? According to the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women, Canada/Quebec Pension Plan credits can be EQUALLY split between divorces upon divorce, but an extremely low percentage of those who are eligible apply to do so. I maintain that educating women to financial facts such as this one is much more sensible in the long run than supporting the ones who are not responsible enough to learn financial survival before they enter marriage. Do we give them fish? Or teach them how to fish?

- Already wage earners support housewives by paying school tax for their children to attend school, baby bonus, welfare, M.C.P. and child tax benefits, and a host of other government programs. And there are a number of other arguments:

- Statistically, there is a greater number of women now in the workforce who do not remain at home, but who work and at the SAME TIME bear the burden of housekeeping and childbearing. If legislation were passed enabling housewives to collect pension without having contributed, these working housewives won't get any "freebie" benefits. (I make no distinction in work as it pertains to the home - or to a salaried job).

(Cont'd.)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR (CONT'D).

- There are also a great number of women working in the "underground" economy, doing full or part-time work where they are paid in cash, with no records kept. They would also qualify for benefits.

- The logic of my having to support women who have made a conscious choice to marry and keep house escapes me; as does paying for benefits which would also go to the wives of highly paid business executives and professional men.

- Finally, the payment of pension benefits to non-contributors would cost \$900 MILLION a year at the outset, which would increase total CPP benefit payments (currently about \$4 billion a year) by 22.5%. Again, this would represent a hefty increase in wage-earner contributions.

It is a dollar and cents issue right down the line, not only for government, but for the single wage-earner (who unlike married workers) get no tax breaks, and whose tax deductions are rapidly overtaking their net pay. Not being an economist, I can only suggest such solutions as having husbands pay their wives' portions, or in dissolving the CPP as it now exists, rebating monies paid in, and increasing old age benefits substantially across the board. The question is - how MUCH must a wage-earner be taxed to support non wage-earners before the prospect of government support becomes more attractive than the take-home pay?

- S. Stavlo

NEED CARPENTRY WORK DONE?

For free estimates contact:

GAYE SQUIRES
11 Maxse Street
St. John's

Telephone: 753-6310

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Arrrrgh! If I see another one of those hideous CABBAGE PATCH DOLLS I'm going to go stark, raving mad!

Did YOU take YOUR doll all over town when YOU were young? I sure as hell didn't, certain things were more important like getting to the playground, pounding that little prig Margaret, or feeding the swans. But these THINGS are everywhere! You see little girls ~~st~~reeling them along at the Malls, on streets, in doctor's offices, concerts, and even at church where they sit clutching the hideous monstrosities with this "look at ME - I'M SPECIAL" gleam in their eyes. (How quickly we teach our children the hoarding instinct).

It's got to be a class thing. I can just see little Janie's mother as they prepare to visit the dentist - the mother thrusts the monster into Janie's arms: "Now you wouldn't want to forget your Cabbage Patch doll WOULD you dear?" When what she's really saying is "Show everyone that your mommy and daddy have the money and caring (but not necessarily the financial common sense) to buy you a \$70 doll.

Maybe I wouldn't mind so much if they were at least NORMAL -looking! Whatever happened to nice dolls with latex limbs and silky hair? These flaccid creatures resemble mongoloid Pillsbury doughmen!

If a doll is supposed to teach a youngster how to eventually parent, why don't they come up with something REALLY realistic - like "Little Baby Poop ' n Screech" - pull the string and clean -up the diahhreah, or vomit, or stop the incessant howling. It may make homes a tad more odiferous, but it'll go a long way towards teaching patience.

Will I ever see little girls carrying their toy Skilsaws around with such joy? Sigh.

S.S.



GOVERNMENT OF NEWFOUNDLAND

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Office of The Deputy Minister
of Justice & Deputy
Attorney General

ST. JOHN'S
A1C 5T7

Our File No. _____

July 6, 1984.

Ms. Maxine Hampton,
Co-Chairperson,
St. John's Women Against Pornography,
Newfoundland Status of Women Council,
P.O. Box 6072,
St. John's, Newfoundland,
A1C 5X8

Dear Ms. Hampton:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter of June 29, 1984, with respect to the display of adult material.

As you know, the control over pornographic material is contained in the Criminal Code. The Federal Government has announced certain changes that it proposes to make to the Criminal Code in this area and has also established a Commission which has held public hearings throughout the country. The question of the availability of adult material and its sale is one that is presently addressed under the Criminal Code and, of course, if complaints are received by the police with respect to the sale of material which is alleged to be pornographic the police will investigate and if there are grounds to prosecute charges will be laid.

However, the Province feels that it does have the authority to amend The Municipalities Act to allow municipalities, by by-law, to control how this material is displayed in order that it is placed out of the reach of children and that the method of its display does not subject members of the public and minors to covers which they may find objectionable.

.../2



Office of The Deputy Minister
of Justice & Deputy
Attorney General

ST. JOHN'S
AIC 5T7

-2-

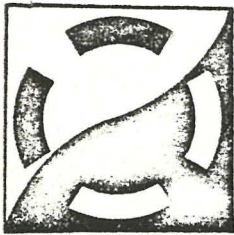
The Minister of Justice has, recently informed the Federation of Mayors and Municipalities that the Government does intend to introduce legislation in the Fall to permit municipalities to control how such material is displayed. In addition, the Department of Justice has prepared a model by-law which it will be providing to the municipalities throughout the Province as a guide to them in controlling the way in which this material is displayed and providing for its display in such a manner as to ensure that this material is not readily available to children.

Yours truly,

Ronald G. Penney

Ronald G. Penney,
DEPUTY MINISTER &
DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL.

RGP/ep



THE MANITOBA ACTION COMMITTEE
ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

MACSW

RECEIVED JUL 27 1984

July 20, 1984

Dear Sisters:

Re: "SISTERS CIRCLE FOR STORYTELLING"
August 30 & 31, 1984

This gathering is for women who are active in women's organizations.

As feminist women, we all share a common goal - the end of patriarchy and its oppression of women. As feminist women, we have learnt different ways of working as feminists. As feminist women, we have encountered different problems and obstacles - and have found different solutions.

The focus of this gathering will be sharing experiences with group process and alternative structures. We are expecting women from across Canada - we have confirmation from United Spinsters in Halifax, from Webspinners in Edmonton, etc., as well as a good representation of active feminists in Winnipeg.

Enclosed is the agenda for this event which is based on input received from questionnaires mailed out in May. If you plan to attend this event, we ask that you complete the enclosed form and return it to us so we can prepare to accommodate everyone in their chosen workshops, and also find billets, if required. Tickets for the Friday night dance (Ferron is performing) must be ordered as soon as possible, as only 300 are available. Tickets are \$6.00 each.

Enclosed is a brochure on the Canadian Women's Music & Cultural Festival which follows on September 1 & 2. We are all very enthusiastic about the festival and the opportunities to share, network and have an incredibly good time!

Kildonan Park is the location for both the festival and the workshops. This park is large & beautiful with lots of trees and picnic shelters which we can use for the workshops.

There will be no charge to attend these workshops, however, since we don't have funding for this event, lunch will be provided at a very reasonable cost.

Please return the reply form by August 13, and we will send more information and final details.

In sisterhood,

Arlene, Donna, Char, Lydia
Louise, Joan, Tanya, Yvonne,
Janine & Pamela

356 - 11th Street
Brandon, Manitoba R7A 4J8
Telephone: 725-2957

224 - 388 Donald Street,
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 2J2
Telephone: 942-2000

SISTERS CIRCLE FOR STORYTELLING

AGENDA

- Thursday noon Lunch at Kildonan Park
- Workshops - Networking
 - Communication
- Plenary
- Thursday evening Ms. Purdy's Women's Club
- Friday morning Workshops - Structural Violence
 - Working in co-operative /non-hierarchal structures
 in a hierarchal society
- Plenary
- Lunch
- Friday afternoon Workshops - Techniques for conflict resolution
 - Funding & alternatives to government funding
- Plenary
- A special "storytelling" using inner/outer circle format.
 Room for questions and discussion.
- Closing ritual
- Friday evening Women's dance at the Festival site. Ferron will be
 performing. (Only 300 tickets are available at \$6 each.
 We must know ASAP if you plan to attend this.)

To Sisters in Winnipeg:

Please advise if you can help with providing billets. Out of town response so far have all requested billets.

Complete & mail by August 13, 1984 to: Sisters Circle for Storytelling
224 - 388 Donald St.
Winnipeg, Man. R3B 2J2

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Phone number: _____

Need a billet? Yes No

Check off one workshop in each time slot:

Thursday afternoon	Friday morning	Friday afternoon
<input type="checkbox"/> Networking	<input type="checkbox"/> Structural Violence	<input type="checkbox"/> Techniques for Conflict Resolution
<input type="checkbox"/> Communication	<input type="checkbox"/> Working in co-operative/ non-hierarchal structures	<input type="checkbox"/> Funding & alternatives

Want a ticket for Friday night's womens dance? Yes No
(If yes, please enclose \$6.00 per ticket and send this A.S.A.P. as tickets are available on a first-come, first-serve basis.)

Additional Comments: (Please use reverse of form.)

Complete & mail by August 13, 1984 to: Sisters Circle for Storytelling
224 - 388 Donald St.
Winnipeg, Man. R3B 2J2

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Phone number: _____

Need a billet? Yes No

Check off one workshop in each time slot:

Thursday afternoon	Friday morning	Friday afternoon
<input type="checkbox"/> Networking	<input type="checkbox"/> Structural Violence	<input type="checkbox"/> Techniques for Conflict Resolution
<input type="checkbox"/> Communication	<input type="checkbox"/> Working in co-operative/ non-hierarchal structures	<input type="checkbox"/> Funding & alternatives

Want a ticket for Friday night's womens dance? Yes No
(If yes, please enclose \$6.00 per ticket and send this A.S.A.P. as tickets are available on a first-come, first-serve basis.)

Additional Comments: (Please use reverse of form.)



RECEIVED JUN 26 1984

coteau books

Box 239, Sub. #1, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan S6H 5V0

June 15, 1984

To All Women's Groups:

The Saskatoon Women's Calendar Collective and Coteau Books are pleased to inform you that HERSTORY has been revived!

After a hiatus of two years, HERSTORY 1985 returns with new information and a striking appearance. This desk calendar has become a familiar item in women's purses, in their offices, in their homes. The calendar includes lively and memorable biographies and essays on Canadian women, photographs, thought-provoking quotes, large spaces for writing important meetings and dates and a functional coil-ring format for ease of entry and display.

We have enclosed an order form for the 1985 HERSTORY. The cost is \$6.95 for each calendar. There is a discount of 5% for orders of 20 calendars or more. To order, simply mail the order form to: Coteau Books, Box 239, Sub. #1, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan S6H 5V0. The calendar will be mailed early in the fall. We will invoice you, with payment due within 30 days, so there is no need to include payment with your order.

HERSTORY will also be available in bookstores throughout Canada. If you are not able to obtain HERSTORY 1985 from your local bookstore, please note your interest with them in obtaining copies of the calendar. However, you can still order from Coteau Books.

We encourage you to let the members of your organization, friends, family, other women's groups and your favorite bookstore know that HERSTORY is again available. The calendar is a functional and practical investment or gift.

We hope that your organization will support this unique and successful venture in women's publishing.

Sincerely,

Gwen Currie (for)
Coteau Books and
Saskatoon Women's Calendar Collective

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WOMEN IN COMMUNITY: A CONFERENCE EXPLORING COMMUNAL LIFE AS IT AFFECTS THE LIVES OF WOMEN -- Dandelion Community, 31 August - 3 September 1984.

The Dandelion Community is based on the values of equality, cooperation and non violence. Being egalitarian means that we have a special commitment to work on challenging sexism. We think communal living can offer solutions to many of the dilemmas women face as they feel pressured to choose between a career and parenting, between independence and a family life. Living in a community means a woman can do any or all of these things.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Janet Rogers is a librarian with a special interest in women's issues. She has worked as a social worker, was a member of the Women's Self-Help Collective and helped to compile the Women's Counselling, Referral & Education Centre handbook on women and therapy Choosing a Therapist.

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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.

Our NEXT ISSUE will be an ELECTION ISSUE, with a POPE JOAN supplement. Deadline for copy is 19 August. Newsletter collective meeting will be 8 p.m. 13 Boyle Street, 9 August. Contact person - Pat Balsom 368-1891.

This newsletter was produced by Roberta Buchanan, Sandy Stavlo, and Linda Gosse.



ST. JOHN'S STATUS OF WOMEN COUNCIL

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