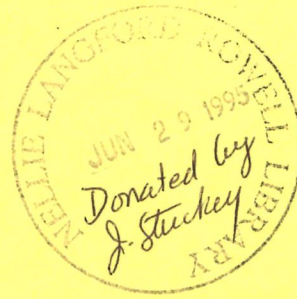


YORK WOMEN'S CENTRE

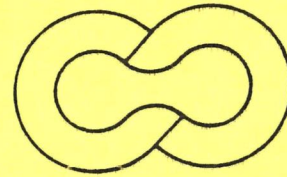


NEWSLETTER



D. Cooper

Virginia J. Rock
Professor of English
Master of Stong College
York University



Our
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JANUARY, 1983

third edition

(page 4)

Editorial

A New Year! Welcome! With little chance to catch our breath from the events of '82, 1983 is howling around us as belligerently as the wind on this cold campus. The success of "Women and Art" week, which featured an art show and sale, a poetry reading by York students, the movie "The Making of A Dinner Party", by Judy Chicago, and a slide show on "Great Goddesses" by Professor Johanna Stuckey, among other events, has served to increase our anticipation of the week of January 17th, celebrating "Women in Politics". Details are listed within the magazine. Take advantage. Give yourself another gift.

Michele Landsberg recently commented in the Star of Jan. 31st that New Year though it is and as settled as women's issues appear to be, there are yet "more bras to be burnt". Some examples are worth repeating:

- . Harley St. doctors in London will circumcize baby daughters of third world countries where parents are affluent enough, even though fourteen deaths were reported in Kenya and this mutilation banned.
- . An Ontario court banned a woman from her husband's study in one case, while in another, the Supreme Court ruled that provincial courts have no right to order a man to stay away from the family home just because he's battering his wife.

. In Kuwait this year, a court ruled that a man has a right to beat his wife provided he inflicts no visible injuries.

. Sally Barnes, chairperson of the Ontario Status of Women Council, has announced that she doesn't believe in equal pay for work of equal value. See Louise's comment on her participation in the McLaughlin Symposium on Affirmative Action . "Oh help!" Sally would deny that she sides with the above injustices; her attitude affirms that they continue.

In recent elections a new co-ordinator, Nedra Brown, and two new members of the steering committee, Ellen Andrulat and Marilyn Marshall, were elected. They will join present members in providing the stimulation they women's centre to develop its evolving character as we continue in our goals or find new ones. Nedra Brown, working with Louise Mahood, will be co-ordinating; otherwise managing, fighting, pleading and cajoling on our behalf. Also entertaining and inviting women from inside and outside the university who have an idea to give, a special project, a good fight that needs to be fought. In the exchange, neither we nor they will ever come up empty-handed. Nedra's warmth and openness will overcome any fears a new member might have in anticipating what might seem a group of militant feminists.

Ellen is a third year student in English with creative writing and all aspects of the arts as her forte. Her suggestions include plays in the bear pit; skits making light of our funny-tragic, always unique, situations. Keeping an open eye to what other groups are accomplishing, Ellen places the emphasis on the new and different. Exploitation of the creative ability of our members along new lines will be her concern as she tackles special projects throughout the year.

Marilyn Marshall, a third year Atkinson student, sometime poet and eager newcomer, will concentrate on the newsletter. Like the others, she would like to see the women's centre more visible. It is here and intensely human. Easy conversation, deep intellectualism, silliness, an ear and coffee. Excitement - peace. As paradoxical as woman herself. Join us!

Marilyn Marshall

Strangers sting

one another,
their echoing eyes
and empty mouths
sliding on silence
the flickered exchange
where eyes advance,
eyes retreat
and a grazing glance
rebounds,
Inverting possibilities
we bruise by each other,
as you
--gallant--
push open the door
for me.

*Laurie
Kruk
1982.*

PROFILE: Virginia Rock

I did not consider myself "suitable" to interview Virginia Rock simply because I have known her for a long time and I was afraid that my viewpoint maybe too biased. Joan Hurley did the interview - a new member of the Centre who has never heard of Virginia. She walked away from the interview totally overwhelmed with rims of material and total confusion - how to organize it? In order to give a full account of Virginia's achievements we'll probably need a full length book. The interview definitely confirmed my perception of Virginia - it was definitely not biased; if anything - my bias only glimpsed at the peak of the mountain otherwise covered by thick fog spread around by Virginia herself.

I do not know whether to call it modesty or a show of great confidence - it is probably neither or both, but judge for yourself. Today Virginia is the Director of Graduate English Studies and considered a leading authority on Southern (US) Literature, culture and history in North America.

In High-School she was approached by her English teacher who offered her financial assistance to continue her studies at the university. When graduated she went on to teach High School and upon her completion of the Masters programme (English and Philosophy) she began teaching at the University. She completed her PhD (American Studies) in 1961 and went abroad to teach in Poland and Germany for three years. In 1965 she came to York University as an Assistant Professor, promoted in 1967 to an Associate Professor and received full Professorship in 1973.

From 1969 to 1978 Virginia occupied the position of Master of Stong College. Today Stong has the reputation of being the most Community-conscious and socially involved college and it is due mainly to the traditions instituted by Virginia. Did you know that there is a Rock dedicated to Virginia Rock just outside the college? The number of publications, honours, committees, that stand to her credit is numerous.

Yes, Virginia is unique. The recognized achievements that

she had accumulated through the years can fill a book, but talking and interacting with her you learn that she is a very quiet person, totally unassuming and always emphasising honours and achievements of others. She never criticises, always helpful, listening, trying to find something positive about you. To get to know Virginia you'll have to be a master of subtleties, undertones - those shaded hues that are never clear to our senses.

She has been involved with the Centre as a Steering Committee member since its inception. She regards her role as an unconditional supporter of the women who run the Centre no matter who they are and what are the policies undertaken (this is my interpretation). Always unobtrusive, assuming her position behind the curtains - her contributions are totally unnoticed. The question is why?

I know that I am to blame as well! (sorry, women, but this time something has to be done and there is a guilt here - a wrong which has to be corrected) because of Virginia's seeming passivity we have taken for granted everything she has done for us. Maybe Virginia herself prefers her anonymity within the Centre but we are trying to build a system in which our contributions are recognized and Virginia herself will assert this stance time and time again but only when other women are concerned. It is time which is long overdue to acknowledge and pay tribute to our

GREAT MOTHER - VIRGINIA ROCK.

Fay Newman

Comment

The Women's Centre sponsored a viewing of the film "Not A Love Story". Powerful! But can anyone really be shocked at pornography? Is it not just an aggressive extension of the general values upheld by the patriarchal society of today. How can we register bewilderment at the objectification of women's bodies in pornography when these same bodies are used to sell a multitude of products from luggage to cars. Should we be surprised to see men portrayed as dominant, aggressive and superior in pornography when our social system is guided by political, religious, and business groups that are headed by men. In most walks of life women are not only seen as passive and submissive but are encouraged to be so. Society's messages give sanction to pornography but eventually both men and women are degraded. Sexuality doesn't have to be reduced to the level of pornography. To borrow from Observer Magazine (January, 1982), "Pornography degrades our sexuality but eroticism celebrates it." Eroticisim takes place though, only when there is mutual respect and sexual equality.

Linda Drige

Sometimes
I just get lonely
lonely
hollow
cold and
distant
Other times
loneliness is an accomplishment
a show of strength
a refusal
an unwillingness to be a part of
all the social bullshit
today
.....I'm just lonely

Kari N. Brown

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION!

Attending The McLaughlin Symposium on "Affirmative Action", one of several on 'Women and Social Policy', on November 2nd, was an opportunity to consolidate ideas on affirmative action for women. The panel of speakers: Letty Anderson, Economics Professor; Shelley Atcheson, Human Rights Director, Ontario Federation of Labour; Sally Barnes, Provincial Advisory on the Status of Women; Johanna Stuckey, Advisory to the President on the Status of Women, York University; and Naomi Black, Professor of Political Science, acting as moderator.

Certainly, this panel of eminent women presented feasible ideas to achieve affirmative action for women. Letty Anderson spoke about the history of affirmative action in the United States since 1940. The first organized body to consider affirmative action for American women, the Equal Opportunity Commission (E.O.C.), was not founded until 1964. The E.O.C. was an ineffective body because it could only suggest, not enforce, affirmative action; however, by 1972 the commission was given the power of litigation. They could then charge firms who practised outright discrimination against women. By 1980, there was a backlog of 100,000 cases of discrimination. Coming closer to home, Sally Barnes announced her endorsement of affirmative action in Ontario

Barnes revealed that affirmative action has helped companies maintain low turnover, but progress to date is slow. She concluded by citing reasons for this slow progress: few job vacancies; and the complex task of universal daycare; an educational system which discourages girls to study maths and sciences; and the retraining and training of women for the labour force outside of the home.

Next, Shelley Atcheson spoke from experience in her professional work. She stressed that the current recession causes women to lose their jobs and traps many in job ghettos. Atcheson also emphasized legislation which forces companies to practise affirmative action policies. The government must realize that two-thirds of the new work force is women. As Johanna Stuckey's mandate in office is affirmative action for the women of York University, she spoke of the history of her office and the reports past advisors have produced (i.e. Mature Women Students and Sexual Harrassment). Stuckey also spoke about related women's resources on campus, including the Journal of Canadian Women's Studies/ Les cahiers des femmes, the York-Y.W.C.A. collection in Founder's College, the Women's Studies degree and our York Women's Centre.

This symposium was all well and good--but most women

and men came to really see controversial Sally Barnes, our so-called representative of women at Queen's Park. There is no need to discuss the inappropriateness of her appointment; let us deal with her as she was at the symposium. Her presentation lacked data, being just an emotional plea of her support of affirmative action. Her vagueness became evident during the question period. When I asked her to comment on Shelley Atcheson's recommendations, Barnes' response was that she had only been in the position for six weeks and needed more time before she could make a firm position. How tactful. Her experience as press secretary for Brampton Bill just paid off. Appearing a bit 'frazzled', Barnes then said, but later retracted, that she would not stay in office unless Premier Davis does not help her. Really, woman, stand on your feet! Once more questions were asked of her; Barnes repeated the same tape about being in the job for only six weeks. One vision this brain with several tape recordings inserted; rewind, click, go, click "...only six weeks..." This is our new representative at Queen's Park. Oh help!

By Louise Mahood

November 30/82

SIX TEARS FOR AMERICA

I-

The horsemen have arrived
Do they want the corn
from our fertile valleys?
the sweet fruits of
our orchard?
or the wise love
of our Sun God
our Inca?

Do they come
attracted by the music
of charangos
quenas, trutrukas
and flues?

II-Empire

They are here,
they are not looking
for corn, but gold
they are not looking for fruits
but silver.
They brought their God
made of hate
their music is the music
of bullets:

The Andes
are crying
with every tear
a child dies
an Indian withers
neglected
forgotten

They are here.
They are looking for gold.

III-Slaves

Where do they come from?
Who has brought them?
which were the painful
boats
in which they cross the ocean?

who are they?

They are the slaves
without land
without brothers
only with hands
only with misery.

Misery
blooming
in the sugar cane.

Misery
becoming a song of whipping
a song of weeping
in our memories.

IV-Plantation

I am white
blindfolded

I do not want to see them.

Take the music of their drums
away
wipe off their faces from the plantation
wash
in the rain their mournful cries
Bury
their bodies in the coffee grain

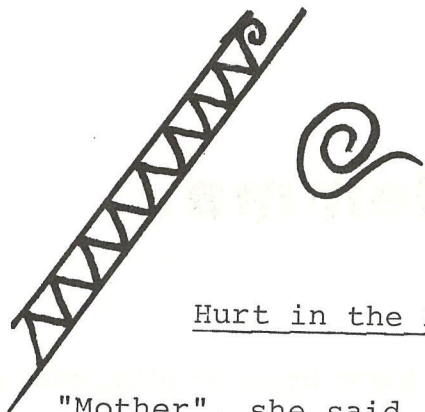
Yes,
I am white
I want all the white tones
the white of the blindness
deafness
hate

I am white,
I am blank of guilt.

V-

They
the Spaniards
took everything.
The gold. Silver. The fruits
But
they forgot to take
the stars, the Andes, the rivers.
The stars
gave the Indian wisdom
the mountains a road of hope
the rivers a site for their cries

Judith Pilowsky
Santos



Hurt in the Afternoon

"Mother", she said. "You are
one hell of a lady
You do not have a job
or a lover.
Why?"
These are her criteria for success.

You please yourself.
You sink into your soul
Too much.

You cross the boundry of interference
And once dare to tell
What you so clearly see
That they do not----yet.

You know
That while you are a producing vegetable
They will eat from you.

In joy, you hope.

The life of production
has a limit
In their automated world.

Remember that, Mother.

The lines are up.
Woven metal that forms a base
Like the tin of the refrigerator drawer
Where sits the shrunken veggies
Unused.

You throw them out in disgust.

A good case for finding
one's own life,
The children will before you
Find theirs.

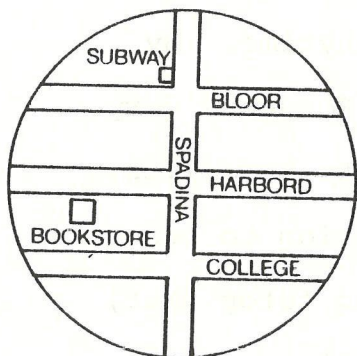


*Marilyn
Marshall*

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a dilemma...

Women have been traditionally viewed as passive, unaggressive and defenceless. Out of this erroneous assumption grew the ideal of man as the natural protector of woman. This meant that women were under the aegis of a man at all times. One wonders what women were really protected from. Now that the protection has been lifted we find that women have become more openly vulnerable targets. The newspaper tells us daily of rape and murder of women caught alone. Obviously it is not true that we are free to go about unescorted, anytime. By ourselves, we feel passive and helpless. For this very reason, we try to avoid drawing attention to ourselves. So when called upon by a threatening situation to react, to make a decisive action or to shout aloud 'Stop that, you pervert!' to a molester, we are naturally hesitant and confused; paralyzed by our anxiety and our embarrassment. To draw attention to the molestation is to draw attention to ourselves as well. This is proven by the rigorous interrogation victims of rape undergo when they decide to take their violation to court. "Rape: the only crime where the victim feels guilty." In less serious situations of assault or unwelcome attentions, the feelings, I have found, are almost identical. I myself

have been paralyzed by these feelings of embarrassment, fear and confusion, when molested by a stranger on the subway. I really felt ashamed! So I did nothing, but passively counted the minutes until I could unobtrusively escape my harasser. Later, I was criticized for this lack of action by a (male) friend. I couldn't explain my inaction, other than by saying simply that I felt paralyzed, and that I didn't want to draw further attention to myself: a woman alone.

Only when women feel they too have the right to act and speak up (loudly, if necessary!) for their freedoms, will we be truly free to travel alone. It is the equality of women with men that will bring on this change, and also the feeling, so long denied, that our bodies belong to ourselves and no one else. We are not man's property.

Laurie Kruek

Atlantis

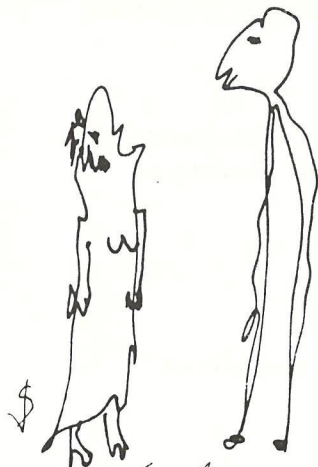
A WOMEN'S STUDIES JOURNAL REVUE D'ETUDES SUR LA FEMME

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Atlantis changed things.*

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*A Journal for the
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SUBMISSIONS ARE INVITED
FOR A SPECIAL ISSUE WHICH WILL FOCUS ON THE SUBJECT OF
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- Scholarly essays which explore any aspect of the subject will be welcome:
i.e. incompatibility, divorce, infidelity, alimony, redefinitions of
marriage, effects upon children, bigamy, re-marriages, lesbian and
homosexual marriages, economic and social pressures, concepts of mating,
adultery, etc.
- All essays must have a literature component and must be interdisciplinary
in focus
- All submissions must satisfy MOSAIC's general standards (see attached,
"Information for Potential Contributors")
- Desired length: approximately 20 pages, double-spaced typing, with Notes
at end
- Send two copies; xeroxes are acceptable if accompanied by a statement that
the essay is not currently being considered for publication elsewhere
- Deadline for Submissions: August 1, 1983
- Address all inquiries and correspondence to the Editor at the above

Of Interest:

January 17-21

Women and Politics - sponsored by C.Y.S.F. Director of Women Affairs
Judith Pilowsky Santos

Monday January 17 - Professor Naomi Black "History of Canadian
Women and Politics" Curtis 110

with films Lady from Grey County and Campaign

Tuesday January 18 - Susan Edwards speaking on women's shelters
films on abused women to be shown.

Wednesday 19 - Women and the Constitution - Pat Hacker
Sonia York

films - Women's Place and Women in Two Cultures.

Thursday January 20 - Panel discussion on Women and Third World
Constanza Allevito (from Centre for Immigrant Women - Italy

women from El Salvador
women from South Africa

films - Double Day (Latin American Women) and Some Black Women

Friday January 21 - films to be shown only in large bear pit

Donna Rosanna - La Quebecoise

note* All films to be shown in large bear pit
All events between noon and 2 pm.
check campus papers for locations.

January 26 - Margaret Laurence
Curtis I from 12 noon - 1 pm
followed by question period
admission \$1.50
tickets available at Women's Centre 102 B.S.B.

February 8 1983 - "The Best Kept Secret"
co-produced by Marshall Gordon and Van Ingher.
Curtis Lecture Hall I
Panel discussion with various noted speakers to be
announced at later date
discussion to follow

February 26 -

Mature Students Conference - "Taking the Initiative '83"
Presented by Johanna Stuckey Advisor to the President on the Status
of Women at York

With opening speaker Prof. Elspeth Heyworth and closing speaker
Prof. Esther Greenglass.

February 26 - con't

A day long event full of speakers and workshops for mature women

Registration \$10 - deadline February 4

Dinner - \$13.50 Special guest Linda Rye-Nye

for more information check with Catherine McKinnon 667-3561

Every Thursday G.A.Y. meets 7 pm.

(Gay Alliance of York) for location check Thursdays Excalibur

What's Happening in Ontario's Universities:

Western University.

The women centre at Western has a new name. They have changed from Women's Issues Commission to Women on Campus. It was felt to "Achieve a positive outlook one should be open-minded and willing to listen to all persons, including men." They have opened all their general meetings to women and men equally, but the informal meetings and the women's drop-in centre is still restricted to Women Only.

Some of the issues they want to work on in 82-83 are: escort van; sexual harassment on Campus-Task force; self-defense course; sexism in books; and all current issues concerning women on campus.

The Drop-In centre is : Room 103 Summerville House
Hours 11:30 am - 4:30 pm Mon. - Fri.
(519) 679-2890

*Compiled by
Franka Adriano*

What's Happening in Toronto:

January 27 - Lesbian and Gay Academic Society at University of Toronto.

- slide show and lecture by Karla Jay
Associate Professor of English
Pace University

location to be announced

January 14 - Kate Clinton
8 pm. Innis College Town Hall
\$5 advance \$6 door

tickets at Women's Bookstore
sponsored by Womanly Way.

Conference February 25,26,27 1983

Equal pay for Work of Equal Value.

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The Centre for Labour Studies
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Mary Cornish, Lawyer and chairperson
equal pay coalition

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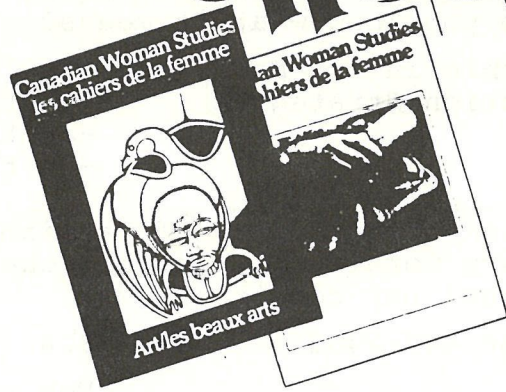

Name of Organization
Lesbian Phone Line

Date of Event
Every Tuesday

Resources for Women

Advisor on the Status of Women	Johanna Stuckey	3561
Emergency Loan Funds	Joan Stewart	2305
Legal Aid (Clasp)	Carol Handleman	3143
Mature Student Lounge		3301
Personal and Family Counselling Groups		
	Ann Carson	3213
Writing Workshop	Barbara Warme	3737
Academic Counselling	Ruth Wismer	487-6154
Counselling and Study Skills		6107
Glendon's Women's Collective	Elaine Day	487-6181
Women's Centre		3484

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les cahiers de la femme**



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