

# HERIZONS

the manitoba women's newspaper

VOL. II — NO. 2

OCTOBER 17, 1981

## PERSON'S DAY

*Achievement of the Past,*

*Inspiration Today*

by Laura Ann Holden

The term 'person' is an assumption. Most of us never question that every man, woman and child is a person; a fellow human being; an individual; an equal; a separate entity with its own right to be. To us, it is a foregone conclusion and not an issue. It should be.

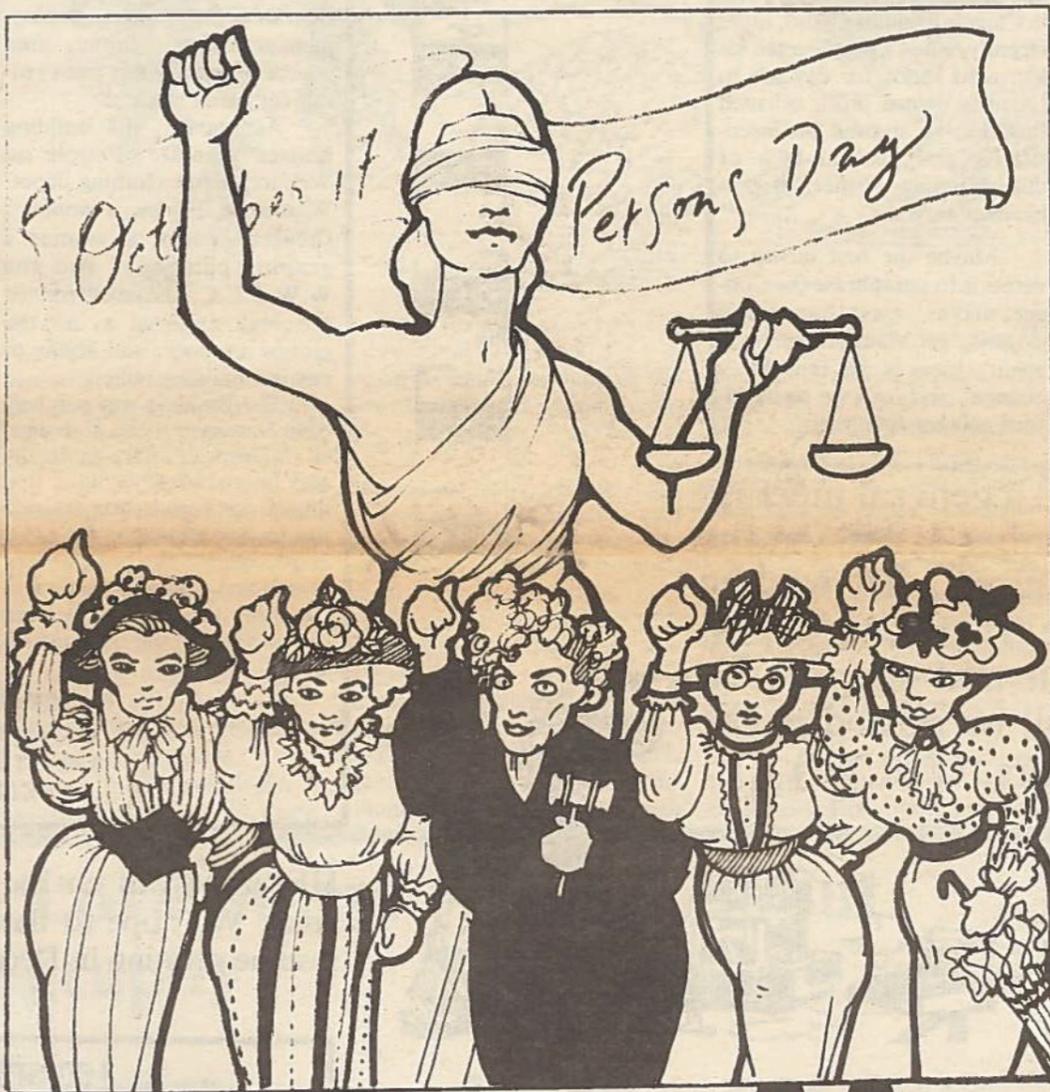
What we are celebrating on this Person's Day, Oct. 17, 1981 is the 52nd anniversary of a moral, social, and political issue brought to light.

The lack of women's rights and status in Canadian society became apparent to and was tackled with guts and unwavering faith by five Alberta women. This dynamic group consisted of Nellie McClung, Louise McKinney, Irene Parlby, Henrietta Muir and was spearheaded by Emily Murphy, the first woman magistrate of Alberta.

More than a decade of struggle began with a case Emily Murphy was trying in 1916. An enraged defense counsellor, unhappy with her 'judgement', accused Ms. Murphy of being a non-person and therefore not fit to hold court. This public accusation might have been blurted out of personal ire and prejudice, but was, indeed, founded in existing law.

The laws concerning women in Canada at that time were antiquated and outrageous. There was, obviously, a pressing need for change and reform. This might not have been clear to everyone yet but it was to Emily Murphy. Yet, in 1916, women had virtually no political clout. It was not going to be easy.

Her home province rallied almost immediately with the ruling in 1917 that Alberta recognize women as people and their right to serve as magistrates. Not to be contented with this strictly provincial gain, Ms. Murphy and her supporters



were determined to extend this change of status to the rest of the country.

The first convention of the Federated Women's Institute of Canada in 1919 gave them the opportunity to platform on a national level. A resolution was drawn up to permit women's entry into the Upper House Canada. This sparked a series of similar resolutions from other women's organizations.

The next major step in their campaign was an approach to then Prime Minister Arthur Meighen to consider Emily Murphy for the next vacant Senate seat for the province of Alberta. He was adamant in his refusal.

Mackenzie King, his successor, was more receptive and yielded to this new and very serious female voice to the extent of promising an amendment to the BNA Act. It was a

promise he was not to keep.

By October of 1927 a formal query had been put to the Supreme Court as to whether or not the term 'persons' in section 24 of the BNA Act of 1867, which defines the eligibility for the Senate, included women. The case was not heard until March of 1928.

Council which opposed the amendment argued that women were clearly not intended for or capable of holding such an austere office, and that this had been understood by the 'men' who had written the act. He also grouped women with criminals, the insane, minors and the retarded, drawing a comparison of their 'similar limitations'. He argued his case well. The Supreme Court ruled against the appointment of women to the Senate.

Disappointed but un-

daunted, Emily and her committee appealed to the Privy Council of Great Britain which brought down its final historic decision on October 18, 1929, there was nothing in the language of the Act to ban women from the Senate.

The struggle had ended in victory.

It was just a beginning. That is what we must remember on this day. We must not be content just to applaud their efforts or remember these remarkable women with heroic fondness.

Person's Day should be a source of inspiration to us; more than just a celebration of our official status as 'persons'.

We owe it to Emily Murphy, Nellie McClung, Louise McKinney, Irene Parlby, Henrietta Muir and to ourselves to take what they have given us, to acknowledge what they and their successors in the last 52 years have accomplished and use it to confront the injustices still to be conquered.

HAPPY PERSON'S DAY, WOMEN OF MANITOBA!

HERE'S TO US! HERE'S TO THE FUTURE!

### Inside:

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pg. 8 — report from Mother Jones

# The Ides of November

by Kathy McCullough

November 17 Manitobans will go to the poles to elect a new government. It will be the time when the public will be able to pass judgement on the performance of the Conservative government. Their four years in power have left its ill effects on Manitoba.

A slowed economy, an increased emigration of Manitobans, and a large deficit are a few results of Lyon's "laissez-faire" politics.

In his public addresses, Lyon reminds Manitobans of the three mega-projects (Alcan, potash and hydro developments) the government has brought to the province. However, there is at the moment no guarantee inherent in these proposed projects.

Lyon also fails to mention the four years he has taken to bring proposed new business here. Evidently Lyon is not aware that the government should work for the people, not only during the year previous to the election, but during its first, second and third years.

Just as the economy has suffered, so have individuals. Lyon's attitude towards women was made public early in his term when he announced in parliament that the Conservatives were some of the best breeders in the world. Oblivious to women's needs and concerns, Lyon has been noncommitted to improvements and change.

Evidence can be found throughout the past four years. When the Conservatives changed the family law bill, they left one of the most progressive bills in Canada impotent. And, more recently, when Lyon directed his increased funds for daycare to privately owned profit oriented facilities, he showed his insensitivity and general lack of understanding of the real problems of daycare.

Maybe the best advice to voters is to paraphrase the Conservatives' past campaign slogans, 'get Manitoba on track again', 'now is the time for a change', and 'can we really afford another four years'.

HERizons will hold a general meeting on Tuesday, November 3, 1981 at the University of Winnipeg. All women interested in the feminist press, PLEASE come out and support us. (Room number will be posted at the foot of the escalators, U of W.)



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HERIZONS

manitoba women!

Dear women:

Recently, the Rape Crisis Centres held their annual regional representatives conference in Winnipeg. These women experienced, first hand, that the Winnipeg Women's Building is in crisis. We are facing winter (already our fingers are freezing to the keys from the cold) with no heat, as our gas has been cut off for non-payment. Surviving the summer wasn't bad, but with winter approaching quickly, we cannot survive without donations to get the heat turned on!

The Building has never received much in the way of funding from the government other than short time summer employment grants, etc. Our only other source of income has been rentals for office space.

At present, the building houses Wen-Do, People on Welfare, a free clothing depot, Women in Trades, a women's theatre group, a women's graphic company, and the W.W.C.E.C. The rents received are very minimal as all the groups are poor, and ability to pay is a building policy.

The Building was purchased in November 1979, and opened with much fanfare nationally and internationally. Since that time, it has been a sheer struggle just to stay afloat. As far as we know, we are the only women owned and operated building in Canada, though we believe some are in the formation stages.

The women running the Building are tired, but determined and stubborn, so they plug on. Many poor women from the area frequent the clothing depot, and rely on the clothes they receive for themselves and their children. Many of these women are on welfare.

Each day, the Building grows a little colder (prairie winters are something else). We have a small wood supply that we expect will hold us for a week or two, but we can only heat one room by this method.

We believe this building is necessary and herstorical, for a woman owned and operated space offers encouragement and support to women of all walks of life. Recently, a lesbian drop-in has formed, and, if successful, it will enable many more women to 'come out'.

Although we know all women's groups are poor, Debbie Parent of the Toronto Rape Crisis Centre suggested this letter, when she saw the women here in such need.

So, as you have guessed, we are in desperate need of money. Our heat bill is \$6,000.00. We've held all kinds of fund-raising events, but we can't seem to gather sufficient funds. We've also had 8 break-ins in the last 2 years. We're asking for donations of what you can afford (we now have a tax deduction number). Any assistance will be greatly appreciated.

(for WOMEN'S BUILDING)  
IN SISTERHOOD  
AND STRUGGLE,  
YVETTE PARR

HERizons will not be publishing a November issue. We hope to have the funds available to resume printing in December.

## Staff

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HERizons — The Manitoba Women's Newspaper may be purchased at the following locations:

Bright's Books — The Women's Building; Clothes Encounters; Co-op Books; Harvest Food Co-op; Liberation Books; Manitoba Action Committee on the Status of Women; Mary Scorer Books; Red River Bookstore; University of Manitoba — U of M Bookstore, the Info Desk and Medusa Hair Stylists.

In The Pas, at Deters' Confectionary and in other areas across the province.

If you'd like to distribute the paper or know someone who would be willing to distribute the paper, especially in Brandon, the North or rural Manitoba, please contact us by writing to Box 551, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3C 2J3.

The aim of this newspaper is to provide an alternative means of communications with a feminist perspective in order to stimulate, to inform, to effect change and to unify women's strengths. It also serves as a public forum of discussion for the women of Manitoba.

The Manitoba Women's Newspaper is currently operating out of Box 551, Winnipeg, Manitoba, for further information call Debbie Holmberg at 772-8170. Views expressed in this publication are those of the writer and does not necessarily reflect The Manitoba Women's Newspaper policy. Submissions are welcome. Editing rights are reserved and submission do not guarantee publication. A self-addressed stamped envelope will ensure that submissions will be returned to the writer. We have applied for a 2nd class mailing permit. Published ten times a year. Price: \$5.00 per year, 60 cents per issue. For institution or business: \$12.00

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MWN's flag designed by Mary Catherine Figurel

"Herizons" conceived by Gerri Thorsteinson

# Bulletins

compiled by Kathy McCullough

## Development: who benefits?

A series of talks and discussions designed to keep Manitobans informed about current issues in international development.

Wednesday, September 16 — The New Technology: An International Perspective. How is the revolution in electronics technology affecting people of the Third World and Canada? Speaker: Anu Bose, Development Education Officer, Canadian Council for International Cooperation, Ottawa.

Tuesday, October 13 — Women as a Force in Development: Experiences from Nicaragua. Unlike their counterparts in most countries, women in Nicaragua have been in the forefront of social change. How are women active and

why? Speaker: Audrey Silvius, Marquis Project, Brandon; recently returned from Nicaragua.

Tuesday, October 27 — Population Control Programs in the Third World: Who Benefits? Is there a population explosion and is population control the best way to solve world hunger? Facts Canadians should know about family planning and reproductive research in the Third World. Speaker: Sari Tudiver, Project Officer, Manitoba Council for International Cooperation.

Monday, November 9 — Bottle Babies: The International Campaign. An up-to-date report on the infant formula issue, the marketing code passed by the World Health Assembly and the measures being taken

for its enforcement. Speakers: Louis Kunkel, INFACT Canada, and an National or International speaker to be announced.

Thursday, November 19 — The Drug Industry: Help or Hindrance in the Third World? A look at pharmaceutical companies, their practices and the growing Third World response. Speaker: Jim Harding, School of Social Work, Regina, Saskatchewan.

Wednesday, December 2 — Making Development Work: What Can We Do? A roundtable discussion about successful development projects, the obstacles they face and the role of Canadian agencies overseas. Speakers: Ed Beaudry, National Projects Selection Committee, Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace and others to be announced.

All seminars begin at 7:30 p.m. at YWCA, 447 Webb Place. No admission charge. Everyone welcome. For more information call: 475-4169. Sponsored by the Manitoba

Council for International Cooperation.

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Gilles Latour, head of Projects Section, USC Canada, is on a speaking tour through Canada. There will be a public meeting, Wednesday, October 21, 8:00 p.m. at the Gateway Room, Fort Garry Hotel. The topic will be USC projects and programs in Asia and Southern Africa.

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Women in Folk Music are sponsoring a series of 4 concerts at the Planetarium Auditorium, 8:00 p.m.

1. Farron — Monday, November 23, 1981.

2. Connie Kaldor — Wednesday, December 16, 1981.

3. Kathy Fink — Tuesday, January 26, 1982.

4. Heather Bishop — Wednesday, February 24, 1982.

The price is \$24.00 or \$7.00 per

single admission. For information call the Folk Festival at 453-2985.

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The Second Canadian Conference on Women of Latin America will be held in Winnipeg — November 28 and 29. Themes of the conference include: violations of human rights in Latin America and the legalization of such violations, latin women in exile — cultural shock and its consequences, women's involvement in the struggle for liberation in Latin America and the social problems of its women and children. A Canadian representative will be elected to participate in the Third Women's National Conference in Chile for 1982. For more information, phone (204) 668-8912/589-2304. Those who would like to financially support this cause, please send contributions to Mrs. A. Madrid, 13-120 Ulster Street, Winnipeg, Man. R3T 3A2.

# Nelliegrams

The Manitoba Action Committee on the Status of Women (MACSW) is a volunteer, non-profit organization working to improve the status of women in Manitoba. The women's issues MACSW is concerned with include pension reform, child care, housing, education, employment, health care, social services, family law, violence, appointments of women, volunteerism, the status of the housewife, and others. Annual membership fees are \$12.50 for the individual and \$15.00 for an institution. Members receive the monthly Action newsletter and are welcome to become involved in the MACSW sub-committees which include Media Monitoring, Action newsletter, Reproductive Choice, Violence Towards Women, and Membership. Two other sub-committees: Women and Education, Women and Unions may be formed if there is membership interest. If you would like to become a member or for more information call 942-2000. Or write MACSW, 209-388 Donald St., Wpg., Man. R3B 2J2.



Federal NDP MPs are focusing their attention on Canada's children. Neil Young, MP (Beaches) and Margaret Mitchell, MP (Vancouver East) are seeking the public's comments or suggestions. Address letters to them at House of Commons, Ottawa, Canada K1A 0A6 (postage not required). Also available is other federal material on children.

obstacles to their full participation and to make recommendations towards enhancing the position of women in the Canadian theatre. Those involved in Canadian theatre and would like to meet to discuss this subject or suggest other individuals or groups, contact Rina Fraticelli, 96A Bellevue Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M5T 3N9.

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IF YOU ARE A WOMAN WHO has experienced or are experiencing any of the following feelings after the birth or adoption of a child...

... crying for no apparent reason  
... feelings of inadequacy and inability to cope.  
... anxiety.

... no feelings for baby.  
... over concern for baby.

... feelings or acts of aggression toward the baby or an older child.

... depression that ranges from sadness to thoughts of suicide.

You are not alone. Post Partum Depression can begin in the first few weeks after birth and can last for many months or even years. It affects as many as one in five mothers. If you are interested in getting involved with a proposed post partum counselling program please call Pam. 775-0418, Women's Health Clinic Inc. We would really like to talk with you!

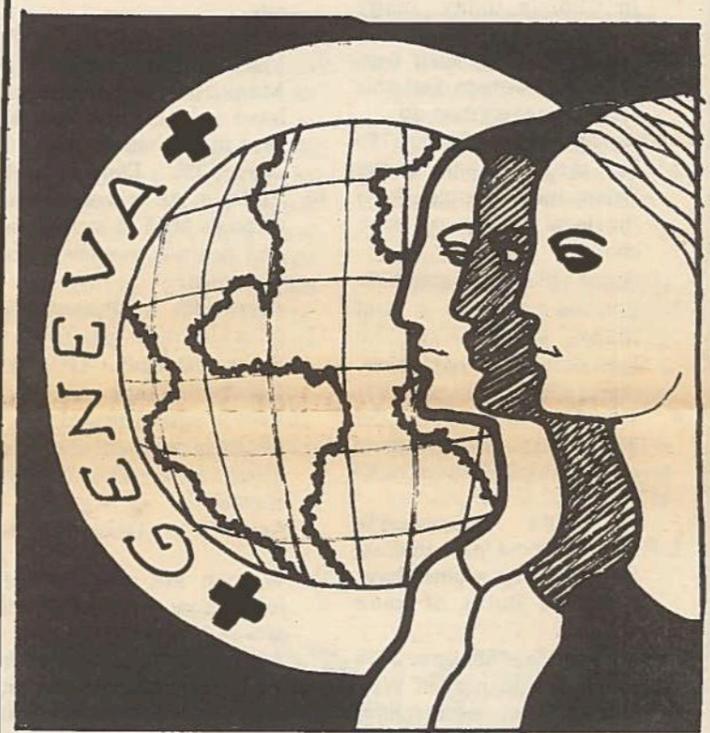
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WOMEN CLEANERS ARE among the most exploited, badly paid and poorly unionized group in the community. Last May the first woman cleaners co-operative, called the "Grime Squad", began in Glasgow. The women range in age from early twenties to late sixties. They say: "Cleaning is the only way that we could earn any money. We know that we have been exploited in the past but this is one way of fighting back. More cleaners should form co-operatives."

Fireweed, a feminist quarterly published in Toronto, is soliciting material from lesbians living in Canada for an anthology of lesbian culture and politics. Manuscripts should be typewritten, double spaced, on 8½x11 inch paper with footnotes and illustrations (if any) fully captioned. Article outlines or proposals are welcome. If submitting visual work please send a photograph or copy — do not send original work through the mail. All submissions must include a S.A.S.E. and a short biographical statement. Submission deadline: October 30, 1981. Send to: Fireweed, P.O. Box 279, Station B, Toronto, Ontario M5T 2W2, Attention Issue 13.

Anyone interested in becoming a member of the Feminist Party of Canada/Parti Feministe du Canada, can or would like to help create a group in Winnipeg, can write to Box 5717, Station A, Toronto, Ontario M5W 1A0.

A national survey by the Status of Women Canada is being undertaken to assess the current status of women in the Canadian theatre, with particular reference to women playwrights, directors and artistic directors. Personal views, experiences, and suggestions will help to evaluate the opportunities for women, discover any



## Women & Health: International Meeting

by Sari Tudaver

Over 500 women, including two from Winnipeg, from over 40 countries attended the Third International Meeting on Women and Health in Geneva this past June.

The conference was sponsored by ISIS, an international feminist information network, resource and documentation centre located in Geneva and Rome and by the Dispensaire des Femmes, a women's health centre in Geneva. It brought together women involved in the direct delivery of a wide range of women's health services those doing research and organizing other women's health and the politics of health care systems.

Workshop topics reflected the broad involvements of the participants. Included were: health, poverty and racism; population control and imperialism; women and madness; sexuality; contraception, pregnancy and childbirth;

breastfeeding and nutrition; abortion; lesbian health, menopause; and research done by women on natural medicine.

The meeting was particularly significant because of the strong presence of women from Third World countries and the opportunities it offered women from Western Europe, North America and the Third World to exchange ideas, experiences and strategies. There were many examples of such exchanges.

Women from Mauritius and the Philippines told women from Canada, England and India about the Free Trade Zones in their countries and exchanged information on health hazards to women working in textile and electronic plants.

Third World women documented how contraceptives and pharmaceuticals banned in North America — such as the

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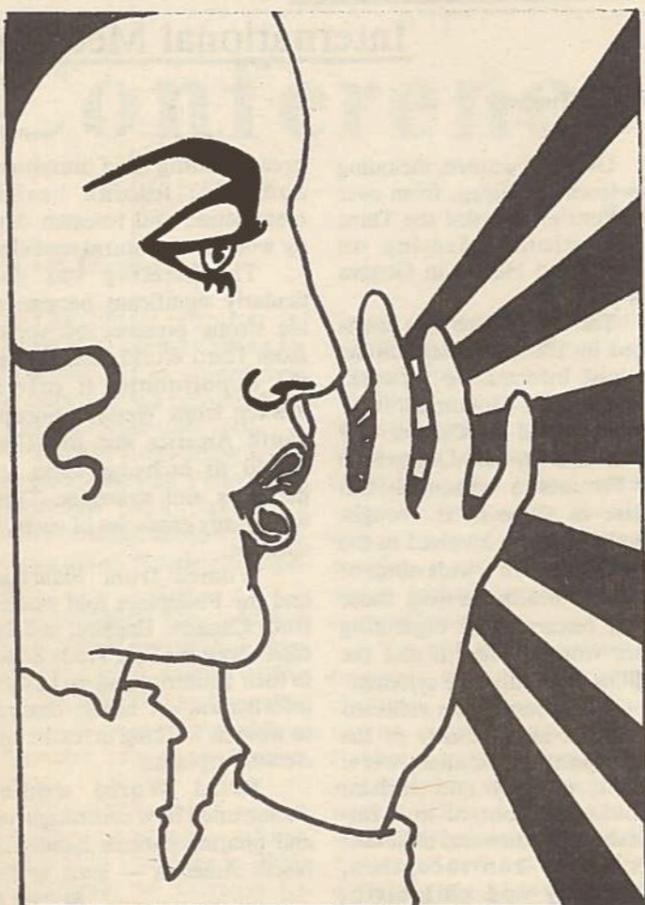
HERizons thanks all those who answered our questionnaire. Your replies have not only served an important role in our feasibility study, but have provided a wealth of story ideas for upcoming issues.”

The following is one of the sections of the self-organizing, diagnostic survey of readers' beliefs, opinions, advice, etc. These respondents' beliefs, etc., are listed in questionnaire order for this section. The percentages are included under each belief.

1. In Canada today, many people feel they lack power enough to shape their own lives; but women feel this lack more than men do. Agree 78% Disagree 7%
2. For the most part in the Orient today, women have the legal status of mere chattels. Agree 57% Disagree 17%
3. For the most part in Asia today, women have the legal status of mere chattels. Agree 69% Disagree 8%
4. For the most part in the Middle East today, women have the legal status of mere chattels. Agree 80% Disagree 6%
5. For the most part in East Europe today, women have the legal status of mere chattels. Agree 41% Disagree 28%
6. For the most part in West Europe today, women have greater legal status than mere chattels. Agree 37% Disagree 35%
7. For the most part in the United States today, women have greater legal status than mere chattels. Agree 51% Disagree 34%
8. For the most part in Canada today, women have greater legal status than mere chattels. Agree 52% Disagree 36%
9. For the most part in Manitoba today, women have greater legal status than mere chattels. Agree 52% Disagree 34%
10. Today's Ad agency commercials tend to stereotype and degrade women more than men. Agree 82% Disagree 5%
11. Clerks in Department Stores, Business Offices, Government Agencies, etc., tend to patronize and belittle their women clientele more than their men clientele. Agree 76% Disagree 10%
12. Women are the butt of jokes more often than men are. Agree 67% Disagree 6%
13. In Canada today, the police tend to treat men more abusively than they treat women. Agree 33% Disagree 16%

# Questionnaire

14. Even given equal creditworthiness and character, it's harder for a woman than a man to borrow money from ordinary lending institutions (e.g. banks). Agree 74% Disagree 14%
15. In today's workplace, discrimination against women is lessening. Agree 63% Disagree 11%
16. The fashion industry imposes significant health hazards upon women now. Agree 52% Disagree 23%
17. Women tend to get psychologically depressed more readily than men do. Agree 52% Disagree 23%
18. The way things are now, if you're a man you can without embarrassment get information about sensitive masculine subjects more readily than a woman can about sensitive feminine subjects. Agree 34% Disagree 21%
19. Today, male experts dominate even the field of advice given to women about typically feminine problems. Agree 74% Disagree 14%
20. From male M.D.'s, women typically do not receive understanding, feeling medical care now. Agree 43% Disagree 38%
21. From female M.D.'s, women typically receive understanding, feeling medical care now. Agree 57% Disagree 15%
22. Even given that most M.D.'s are men now, women patients tend to receive the same standards of medical care as do men patients. Agree 41% Disagree 30%
23. Doctors tend to exploit the childbearing experience with medical procedures that are too sophisticated, or else show a lack of sensitivity to women's true needs in childbearing. Agree 62% Disagree 21%
24. Now, doctors exploit the menopause experience with unnecessary performance of hysterectomies. Agree 53% Disagree 16%
25. Current, routine life cycle medical treatment of women entails more frequent use of radical procedures (e.g. hysterectomies, mastectomies) than analogous life cycle medical treatment of men. Agree 67% Disagree 15%
26. The way things are now, men have more opportunity than women to engage in systematic, regular programs of physical fitness. Agree 46% Disagree 9%
27. The average woman comes under more social pressure than the average man to have cosmetic surgery performed. Agree 74% Disagree 13%
28. Today's variety of birth control methods place most birth control responsibility on the woman, not the man. Agree 95% Disagree 3%
29. Birth control methods should place most of the responsibility for birth control on the woman, not the man. Agree 20% Disagree 10%
30. When it comes to birth control methods, I have adequate choices available to me now. Agree 46% Disagree 44%
31. A woman's sheer biological ability to bear children automatically creates problems for her. Agree 67% Disagree 20%
32. Now, women have little or no say over how their biological reproductive powers get used in their own lives. Agree 44% Disagree 38%
33. Within the typical Canadian family now, women perform more of the unpleasant domestic work than men do. Agree 83% Disagree 14%
35. Today's average woman does suffer from homebound isolation. Agree 57% Disagree 26%
36. These days, most people accept common law wives without prejudice. Agree 52% Disagree 28%
37. Following most marriages now, the wife tends to give up more of her pre-marriage friends than does the husband. Agree 54% Disagree 7%
38. In respect of facilities (e.g., cocktail lounges, clubs, gyms, etc.) available to the average woman now, to help her enjoy an independent social life **within marriage**, women are short-changed. Agree 52% Disagree 27%
39. In respect of facilities (e.g., cocktail lounges, clubs, gyms, etc.) available to the average woman now, to help her enjoy an independent social life **outside of marriage**, women are short-changed. Agree 55% Disagree 28%
40. Married women are unfairly jealous of unmarried women entering into their family's social circle. Agree 46% Disagree 27%
41. Women today suffer widely from acts of violence committed by members of their own family. Agree 76% Disagree 10%
42. Whenever a violent behavior problem occurs within a given family, females tend to be its victims more often than males. Agree 93% Disagree 1%
43. Whenever a violent behavior problem occurs within a given family, females tend more than males to "hush it up". Agree 74% Disagree 10%
44. Where violent behavior problems occur within a family these days, they tend to emanate more from adults than from children's behavior. Agree 75% Disagree 6%
45. In Canada today, women rather than men bear more of the responsibility for childbearing. Agree 90% Disagree 2%
46. By nature, women tend to be more caring, nurturing, life sustaining persons than men. Agree 41% Disagree 40%
47. Now, our schools don't adequately prepare our kids for the lifetime realities they will face as adults; but these educational gaps short-change girls more than boys now. Agree 33% Disagree 7%
48. Our germane educational processes do not prepare girls realistically for the women's roles they will find in the real world. Agree 73% Disagree 13%
49. When it comes to basic knowledge and skills in matters of personal finances, women are unduly handicapped compared with men now. Agree 55% Disagree 30%
50. When it comes to basic knowledge and skills in business matters generally, women are unduly handicapped compared with men now. Agree 68% Disagree 22%
51. When it comes to basic knowledge and skills in political affairs, women are unduly handicapped compared with men now. Agree 61% Disagree 26%
52. The way things are now, the average woman who develops ambitions for a lifestyle beyond her domestic life is made to feel guilty for doing so. Agree 62% Disagree 29%
53. In Canada today, women are more frequently targets for mental cruelty than are men. Agree 71% Disagree 15%



# Responses



- 54. Inherently, women are more vulnerable to physical abuse than are men. Agree 79% Disagree 10%
- 55. Women experience more guilt or shame about their own bodies than men experience about theirs. Agree 76% Disagree 2%
- 56. By nature, men are physically stronger than women. Agree 67% Disagree 11%
- 57. Men have greater opportunity to develop their inherent physical strengths than do women. Agree 70% Disagree 8%
- 58. Inherently, women are more vulnerable to sexual abuse than are men. Agree 86% Disagree 7%
- 59. Now, sexual harassment of women is a widespread, rather than a limited, problem. Agree 84% Disagree 9%
- 60. In my neighbourhood, the risk of being raped seems to be growing now. Agree 69% Disagree 3%
- 61. "Invitation" from the woman's side does not significantly contribute to acts of rape. Agree 69% Disagree 19%
- 62. "Now, society tends to view rape as essentially the exercise of man's socially sanctioned power over a woman." Agree 44% Disagree 40%
- 63. Pornography now tends to exploit women more than men. Agree 86% Disagree 2%
- 64. Now, gay women are exploited by pornographers more than are gay men. Agree 37% Disagree 15%
- 65. The community's support for lesbian women is too scarce now. Agree 49% Disagree 10%
- 66. A general women's newspaper should deal specifically with the problems of gay women to a lesser, rather than a greater extent. Agree 33% Disagree 24%
- 67. Now, female prostitution is more common than is male prostitution. Agree 81% Disagree 2%
- 68. In our society today, men have more sexual freedom than women have. Agree 58% Disagree 33%
- 69. Even aside from matters sexual, men have more freedom than women have in our society today. Agree 63% Disagree 29%
- 70. I'm unlikely, rather than likely, to purchase a new freezer during the coming twelve months. Agree 92% Disagree 5%
- 71. I'm unlikely, rather than likely, to purchase a new washer or dryer during the coming twelve months. Agree 89% Disagree 9%

- 72. I'm unlikely, rather than likely, to purchase a new kitchen appliance (stove, fridge, etc.) during the coming twelve months. Agree 81% Disagree 12%
- 73. I'm unlikely, rather than likely, to purchase or lease a new car during the coming twelve months. Agree 70% Disagree 23%
- 74. I'm likely, rather than unlikely, to take a vacation outside of Manitoba during the coming twelve months. Agree 77% Disagree 20%
- 75. I'm unlikely, rather than likely, to purchase life insurance during the coming twelve months. Agree 75% Disagree 17%
- 76. I'm unlikely, rather than likely, to purchase some general insurance during the coming twelve months. Agree 46% Disagree 43%
- 77. All in all, I'm satisfied with the editorial content of "The Manitoba Women's Newspaper". Agree 49% Disagree 9%
- 78. "Manitoba Women's Newspaper" should give high priority to its role as a bulletin board for upcoming women's activities, now. Agree 77% Disagree 8%
- 79. "Manitoba Women's Newspaper" should give only low priority to a 'switchboard' role which would interconnect the individual parent users of our school system. Agree 36% Disagree 31%
- 80. Manitoba Women's Newspaper should give high priority to a 'switchboard' role which would interconnect parents (and others) who are interested in education alternatives to the formal school system. Agree 44% Disagree 28%
- 81. Manitoba Women's Newspaper should give high priority to its role as a reporter of women's recent activities. Agree 82% Disagree 7%
- 82. Manitoba Women's Newspaper should give high priority to its role as a source of medical advice for women. Agree 90% Disagree 4%

- 84. Manitoba Women's Newspaper should give high priority to its role as a sounding board for women's current opinions. Agree 86% Disagree 2%
- 85. I'm not a regular reader of the Manitoba Women's Newspaper. Agree 47% Disagree 39%
- 86. I've been less, rather than more, active in organized formal women's group(s) during the past five years. Agree 56% Disagree 36%
- 87. In Canada now, the feminist movement is limited to a small minority, rather than widespread. Agree 44% Disagree 35%
- 88. I agree that, men, too, can be feminists. Agree 75% Disagree 14%
- 89. During the next 2-3 years, the women's movement should give higher, rather than lower, priority to law reform aimed at equalizing woman/man property rights. Agree 82% Disagree 8%
- 90. During the next 2-3 years, the women's movement should give higher, rather than lower, priority to single-parent problems. Agree 74% Disagree 11%
- 91. During the next 2-3 years, the women's movement should give higher, rather than lower, priority to promoting community facilities that would aid child rearing. Agree 74% Disagree 10%
- 92. During the next 2-3 years, the women's movement should give higher, rather than lower, priority to workforce re-entry training. Agree 74% Disagree 8%
- 93. During the next 2-3 years, the women's movement should give higher, rather than lower, priority to day care. Agree 77% Disagree 9%
- 94. During the next 2-3 years, the women's movement should give higher, rather than lower, priority to crisis intervention for battered wives. Agree 83% Disagree 5%
- 95. During the next 2-3 years, the women's movement should give higher, rather than lower, priority to crisis intervention for mentally depressed wives. Agree 72% Disagree 13%
- 96. Today, society tends to equate 'feminist' with 'career woman'. Agree 55% Disagree 29%
- 98. If we could change our language, eliminating all expressions which seem to favor men over women, this would help today's average woman significantly. Agree 43% Disagree 42%
- 99. 94% of all survey respondents were females, 6% were males.

- 100. My present marital status is more like 'married' than like 'single'. Agree 52% Disagree 37%
- 101. No survey respondent claimed to lack a formal education. 6% said they had less than a high school education; 23% finished high school; 42% reported a college education; and 29%, a graduate school or similar post-college educational experience. "My formal educational experience is at least college level." Agree 71% Disagree 6%

- 106. I probably will vote in Manitoba's next Provincial General Election. Agree 92% Disagree 7%
- 107. All things being equal, it's harder for a woman than a man to get elected to political office. Agree 89% Disagree 7%
- 108. If I could be born again now with the power of choosing which sex I belonged to, I would choose to be a woman. Agree 72% Disagree 13%
- 109. I feel satisfied with the way my life has worked out up to now. Agree 76% Disagree 10%



- 102. I hold a regular commercial job now. Agree 60% Disagree 28%
- 103. Of all respondents to this survey, 5% say they are younger than 21; 59%, 21-34; 22%, 35-49; 11%, 50-64; and 3% 65 or older. "I am younger than 35 years of age." Agree 64% Disagree 14%
- 104. In 1977, when the last provincial general election occurred in Manitoba, I was eligible to vote here. Agree 84% Disagree 15%
- 105. I did vote in Manitoba's 1977 Provincial General Election. Agree 77% Disagree 22%

- 110. On balance, men and women do not receive equal respect from Canadian society today. Agree 52% Disagree 29%
- 111. I would guess that the status of women in Canadian society will be improved, not worsened, five years from today. Agree 61% Disagree 7%
- 112. I would guess that the status of women in Canadian society will be improved, not worsened, ten years from today. Agree 75% Disagree 6%
- 113. I would guess that the status of women in Canadian society will be improved, not worsened, 25 years from today. Agree 80% Disagree 6%



# Profile on Esther Miller: Cross Country Ski Champ

by Gerri Thorsteinson



If Esther Miller lived in Europe, hers would be a household name. As it is, more people know her name in Europe than in her native B.C.

The lean 24 year old Canadian female cross country ski champion was in Winnipeg to speak at a Cross Country Ski Association of Manitoba (CSAM) conference.

Along with the pioneer Firth twins from Inuvik, NWT, she is one of four women on the national senior team.

Last year at the World Cup in Whitehorse, Miller placed tenth in the ten kilometer race, only three seconds behind Kveta Jeriova, the Russian gold medallist.

When she's not competing in Europe, she lives in Burns Lake, B.C., a small logging town 600 miles north of Vancouver.

Her family collects

trophies, her mum and older sister for track and field, her dad for ski-dooing. Esther wanted her own trophies and took up cross country skiing because "I wanted to be good at something."

She skied with her Swedish neighbor, working hard to keep up with him. In her first race she won a trophy. The third time out she won again and ranked third in B.C.

After this meteoric start she competed at the Senior Nationals in Mont Ste. Anne, Quebec and placed third. At 16, she was asked to join the national senior team.

It was tough at first, and lonely, being the youngest member of the team and spending most of the winter in foreign countries.

A fussy eater, she didn't like the different food, "Even the potatoes taste different over

there somehow!"

Cross country skiers can burn up to 1,000 calories an hour.

Her first race in Austria after a three day diet of junk food was enough to convince her of the importance of good nutrition. Anchoring a relay team she pushed and pushed, double poling, neck and neck with other teams for the last three kilometers. After the race she said "I couldn't even rest my arms on the chair — it took too much energy to lift them."

Esther takes only a two week break from training at the end of April. She says simply "It's addictive. Skiing is my life." With her six foot skis she runs uphill when other might tend to slack off. "You have to have that inborn competitive drive," she said.

If she had it to do all over again she would take some university courses part-time to prepare for a career after she quits skiing. In Europe many top skiers train full time supported by "jobs" with ski manufacturers. In races, the top third receive prizes such as stereos, tv's, and crystal and pewter. Spectators pay to watch; four thousand people may turn out to watch a two kilometer night race along a lighted track.

Esther works back home during the summer, planting trees. She's a familiar sight to local residents and logging truck drivers as she trains — rollerskiing down the Trans-Canada bent over her poles. "It can be funny when tourists drive by, heads turn and they point you out to their kids."

Cross country skiing has its ups and downs, both physically and emotionally. Untangling

your skis and poles after tumbling into a double somersault on a fast curve "you feel pretty foolish as others speed by." She has never injured herself in the sport.

Esther remembers when she thought she had reached the finish line of a race in Norway. She took off her skis and started to walk away but the crowd of spectators soon put her right.

She winces as she recalled getting the mumps just before the '76 Olympics in Innsbruck. She was in quarantine for a week and couldn't train. Although she felt rotten she did compete, but "five kilometers seemed like 50." Despite such disappointment she said the good times outweigh the bad. "You just have to grin and bear it and hope for the next time."

Esther races five kilometer — "a sprint . . . that gives you barely enough time to wipe your nose", 10 and 20 kilometer distances.

After a 30 minute pre-race warm-up suit is drenched with sweat. "Otherwise you'd spend half the race getting warmed up." She loads up on spaghetti, her favorite dish, the night before. Despite nerves she forces down porridge and toast the morning of the race.

She tries to calm herself before race by saying "It's just like any other day — but you know it's different. You train hundreds of hours for a 15 minute race." Esther skis an average of 25 hours a week.

Waxing is all important and can win or lose a race for you, she said. Last year in Whitehorse she had no coach to wax her skis. A Winnipegger, Jack Sasseville, pitched in and finished the job half a minute

before the race, giving her no chance to test out her skis.

Skiing conditions in Canada are colder and therefore, better. Skiers don't have to muck around with sticky klisters — of bubble gum consistency — as in Europe.

Unlike other sports the peak age for women skiers is from 28-32 years of age. At 24, Esther is not sure how long she'll keep at it. While once her goal was to win trophies, now she is pleased as long as she skis well, no matter if she's fourth or fifth.

Times are often close in cross country skiing; last year in Lake Placid a Swede beat a Finn for the gold by 1/1,000th of a second.

Esther's itinerary this year includes East and West Germany, France, the Canadian championships in Edmonton, the world championships in Oslo, then on to Czechoslovakia, Finland and Sweden.

"But you can't ski all your life." In the future Esther would like to take accounting, a subject she excelled at in high school. Still she plans to stay involved with cross country skiing and recently discovered that coaching is fun.

Ted Bigelow, executive director of CCSAM would like to see cross country become Canada's number one winter sport. In Europe cross country skiers are as well known as hockey players are known here. Skiers, like Esther, certainly should be.

## Conference a success

by Gerri Thorsteinson

The small number of females cross country skiing for recreation and in competition was discussed at a convention in Winnipeg, September 26th.

Women from Snow Lake, Flin Flon, The Pas, Pinawa and Winnipeg took part in a brainstorming session to encourage more female participation.

A slide show presented by a young female competitive skier promoting cross country skiing as a fun, healthy and sociable activity will be made available to elementary schools and other groups.

The Jackrabbit youth training program, which originated in Manitoba in 1975, will attempt to increase its

female membership. Currently, about half the girls wind up dropping out.

Why are there so few females involved in the sport? Sadly, peer pressure to be a part of the less active "gang" causes some to quit. The idea of sweating and building up muscles, a lack of knowledge about technique and waxing turns off others.

Lack of opportunity hampers mothers of young children. In some northern towns women meet at a clubhouse, pool a babysitter and go out, led by more experienced women skiers. Cathy Lennox, conference chairperson, would like to start such a group in Winnipeg. If you are interested, con-

tact her at 452-3502.

Cathy is organizing Winnipeg's first annual women's invitational ski day on January 24th, 1982. A short ski tour, luncheon and sports fashion show will be followed by a weight-training demonstration. The latter is to dispel the myth that women who work out this way will look like Charles Atlas.

Cathy doesn't want to scare off possible participants by calling the tour a race. Prizes which, she hopes, will include a trip for two to warmer climes, will be drawn rather than awarded to the first across the finish line. Awards will also be presented.



## NOT A LOVE STORY

a film about

## PORNOGRAPHY

Produced by the National Film Board of Canada

7:30 p.m. — Tuesday, October 27 — Planetarium Auditorium, 190 Rupert Ave. Panel discussion follows the showing.

7:30 p.m. — Wednesday, October 28 — Planetarium Auditorium, 190 Rupert Ave.

7:30 p.m. — Thursday, October 29 — Room 3C100, Centennial Hall, University of Winnipeg. Panel discussion of women opposed to violence against women follows the showing.

The producer, Dorothy Todd Henaut, will be present at the panel discussions.

Restricted Adult

# Hysterectomy or Misterectomy?

by Marnie Pastuck

After six years of worry-free birth control, my body balked at the invasion and I had to abandon the method. I chose health over debilitation. As a result I had to reorient myself after a youth of easy fornication.

I learned some bare facts about my relationships; romantic love flounders when the male prerogative of penetration is excluded from the repertoire of love making. Once this mode of service is withdrawn, I find I am of little use to most men. Socially, sparing easy fellows, (a thousand hours of sexually unrewarded chit chat) is a favor I've come to perform.

From very early in my incipient feminism, a phrase has remained:

"man's dream is to wander the earth like a dog, inseminating women at will".

And so this appears to be the case; my charming company is negated as futile by my unjustified inaccessibility. (Unjustified in that men recognize their mutual property rights and will concede ownership of woman should she be married or living common law, i.e. in service to another man.)

To be a free floating young woman living without copulation at regular intervals is to be queer. Not fulfilling the female function, her part in the "sexual arena/battle of the sexes", remaining unavailable to men and unready to participate in such is to court hostility and reprobation. Denying an attentive man sex is deemed a withdrawal of affection.

As a human being I want love, to meet that "soul mate" some day, being at bottom idealistically heterosexual. But

the fear of unwanted pregnancy, the trial of obtaining abortion, the stasis imposed by the dependent child, the dread of single parent poverty, is enough to keep me celibate.

There is no birth control available without its serious accumulative drawbacks. After a few years of reliance these punishing methods that are false choices take their toll. I say punishing because the message is "give birth or die". Die slowly perhaps under the ministrations of male gynecological authorities in their continuing

first hand the chronic bleeding that can accompany this popular device. I know the weakening dispiriting effect of the menstrual flow aggravated and prolonged without respite.

The fear of pregnancy itself (the apprehension after coitus that gnaws away one's peace of mind until the returned menses) is as effective as footbinding in paralyzing a woman with anxious preoccupation. This continual fear effectively thwarts a human being from open adventurous involvement in life. Millions of women in North

sexual activity. Every "liberated" woman intimately involved with a man must face the disquieting realization that emancipation and practicing heterosexuality might be mutually exclusive.

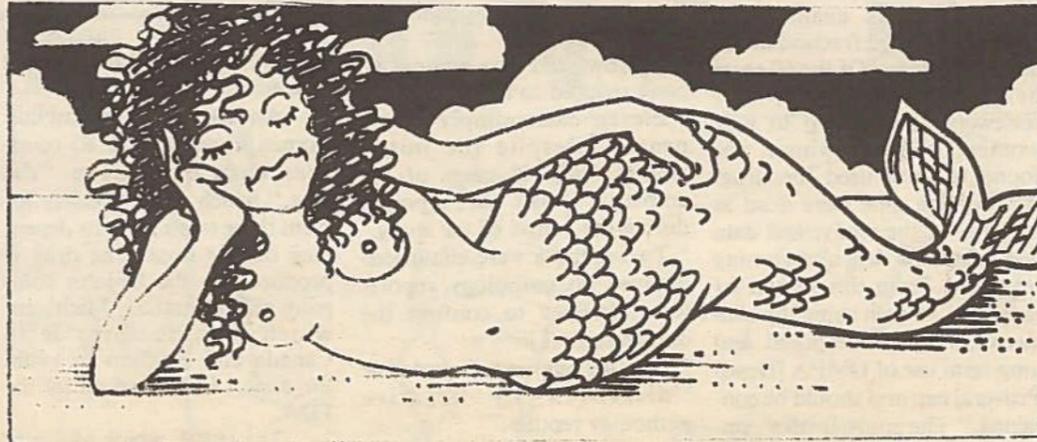
The former mania for purity of the female sex, the rampant double standard has been replaced with desirability and widespread sexual availability. The illusion of freedom (to be multi-orgasmic women), the false choice of injurious birth control further the interests of patriarchy. Still reproducing

Mother Mary's altruism impell us to please and placate and gratify him? In doing so do we sacrifice our health, our youth, our ambitions? What accomplishments fall unrealized in the concern over reproduction? A great many of us know that alliance with a man is not an end in itself. Groomed for matrimony the day to day reality of marriage is often a hollow victory. The only alternative, economic autonomy, is effectively blocked by our fertility. The patriarchy has us by the ovaries, in enjoying union with a man we put to risk full fledged independent identity. As long as penetration distinguishes our sexual relations we are jeopardized.

Is it unthinkable to make love without penile insertion? Are there any men, differing from the norm, who would be sated by involvement short of penetration? Do we possess imagination sufficient to remove the old in and out from our intimate relations and (mindful of the myth of vaginal orgasm) achieve satisfaction?

The male resistance to this idea is evidenced by the reception of Shere Hite's last survey on male sexuality. Her work has been consistently dismissed by (male) reviewers as unscholarly and inept. Their outrage at her suggestion that penetration, thrusting, the missionary position, are all imposed constructs of patriarchal order and not natural, is evidenced by their aspersions on her credibility.

Our lesbian sisters may well be amused by our dilemma. At bottom, I ask, what price do we pay in loving men?



"research and study". We are guinea pigs who obediently swallow their pharmaceutical solutions be it the Pill, DES, or take estrogen replacement till the end of our days. We place absolute trust in "educated men" who view the uterus as a "potentially cancerous organ". We accept our condition as needful of chemical supplements; as requiring surgical means to achieve healthy femininity. We allow our fertility to be managed by men.

The IUD can drain a woman of all vitality. I know

America (to say nothing of the overtly enslaved sister in the Third World) are stunted by worry over fertility. Our miraculous ability to bear child (an option of our biology) is also a yoke. Conjugation with the male is out potential enslavement.

A woman may choose childbirth joyfully, but the school girl, the brilliant academic woman, the artist of whatever discipline, the committed social reformer, the athlete, should not have to suffer the blunting of ambition through

men and sustaining their endeavors as help meets, we accept obscuring romantic myths, we embrace the penis that undermines and potentially sabotages our goals. All under the aegis of "love".

Our burning ambitions wither from impracticability in the desperate juggling act to prevent conception. The key to this bane of our most vital and productive years is penetration by the male.

In essence, I ask, do we love the male more than ourselves? Does the model of

## Not a Love Story: A Film About Pornography

Review by Debbie Schwartz

Pornography — the cancer of entertainments. Such is the content of the film *Not a Love Story: A Film About Pornography*. Produced by Dorothy Todd Henaut and directed by Bonnie Sherr Klein, this 70 minute National Film Board production is a powerful documentary dealing with the prevalence, profit, content and impact of today's pornography.

Bonnie Sherr Klein, filmmaker, and Linda Tee Tracy, Montreal stripper, lead the audience through a tour of peep shows, live sex acts, and strip joints, interviewing both critics of pornography and those who earn their living from it.

Filled with images and messages plucked directly from the porn industry, *Not a Love Story* demonstrates visually the ingredients that sell today's pornography.

David Wells, Editor/Publisher of men's entertainment magazines tells



Bonnie Sherr Klein and Kate Millett

Bonnie Sherr Klein in an interview why he thinks pornography has become so popular. "Men don't want to be equal to women, as simple as that. They would prefer to dominate them."

And dominate they do as explicit footage of porn flicks unveil scenes of bondage and torture.

*Not a Love Story*, although limiting itself to adult pornography, effectively unearths many misconceptions surrounding porn and destroys points in defense of it.

Conversations with women in the industry reveals money as the main motivator for entering the business, in a society where few profitable jobs are available

to women. Weighed against the options for employment, the issue of choice becomes meaningless.

The interviewed participants of porn don't express any claims that they provide an

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ANY SIZE LIVING  
ROOM AND DINING

# Depo-Provera Study Challenged

## Controversy over Safety of Injectable Contraceptive

Released by *Mother Jones*,  
San Francisco

A study that has played a major role in dispelling doubts over the cancer risk associated with an injectable contraceptive was labelled "clearly unscientific". The contraceptive in question is Depo-Provera, which is rapidly surpassing the pill as the favorite of family-planning programs around the world. In 1978 the U.S. Food and Drug Administration refused to approve Depo-Provera for domestic contraceptive use because in laboratory tests it caused malignant breast nodules on beagle dogs. A more recent study revealed that two of ten rhesus monkeys given large and regular doses of the drug developed endometrial cancer — cancer of the uterine lining.

In the November issue of *Mother Jones* magazine, author Stephen Minkin details how a study of nine Thai women has been used to dispel fears raised by animal studies and to justify a conclusion that affects the lives of millions of women around the world.

The Chiang Mai province of Thailand, where more than half the female population have used Depo-Provera, was a natural site for the study. Since monkeys had developed endometrial cancer when given the drug, the researchers set out to determine how many Thai women had developed this particular cancer and whether or not they had used Depo-

Provera.

The initial reports turned up 60 cases of endometrial cancer among women admitted to Chiang Mai-area hospitals between 1974 and 1978. Although the disease generally strikes older women, a surprising number of the cases were among women young enough to have used Depo. The study never determined how many of these women used the drug, reports *Mother Jones*. Instead, the researchers examined a carefully selected fraction of the diagnosed cases. Of the 60 cases originally reported, the reviewers followed up to nine women, none of whom was found to have used the drug. (Five of the nine were dead at the time of the study, and data was obtained by interviewing relatives.) From this sample of nine Thai women came the conclusion that "widespread and long-term use of DMPA [Depo-Provera] can and should be contained." The study further concluded that "the data on monkeys given large doses of Depo-Provera for ten years should not apply to women given normal doses of DMPA for prolonged periods." Indonesia, Thailand and other Third World nations stepped up their Depo programs after publication of the report.

The Chiang Mai study was administered by Malcolm Potts of the International Fertility

Research Program (IFRP) and Edwin McDaniel, an American doctor who has made his home in Thailand for the past 33 years. According to *Mother Jones*, IFRP documents show that Potts believed that a human study "would only provide a weak assurance that Depo-Provera was not the cause of carcinoma of the endometrium," but he felt the research was justified on the grounds that it could be used "by those in favor of continued use of Depo."

How were the original 60 cases reduced to nine?

\* Eleven cases simply disappeared. Despite the initial reports, only 49 cases of endometrial cancer were reported during the period of the study.

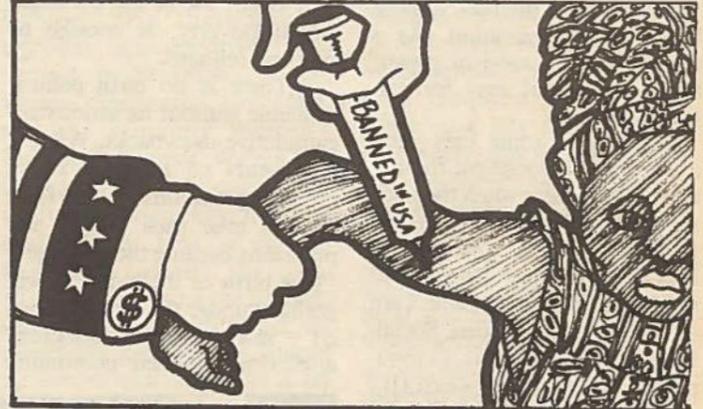
\* Twelve more were eliminated because no pathology reports were obtained to confirm the diagnosis.

\* Another ten were discarded as "disproven by negative pathology reports."

(Author Minkin asserts, however, that "a careful reading of the text shows that rather than being disproven, these pathology reports simply had not arrived at the medical record room in time for the study.")

\* Eleven more cases were eliminated because the women had come from other provinces to be treated in Chiang Mai-area hospitals.

\* Finally, seven more were



eliminated for a variety of reasons, all of which seem legitimate.

An estimated ten million women in more than 80 countries have been given "the shot," which causes sterility for from three to six months depending on the dose. The drug is produced by the Upjohn company of Kalamazoo, Michigan, which manufactures it in Canada and Belgium to avoid the export ban imposed by the FDA.

The IFRP, which Malcolm Potts heads, is funded largely by the U.S. AID (Agency for International Development) and, according to Potts, is devoted to "shortening the time between the development of new fertility-control technology and its use in family planning." In addition to the \$31 million the IFRP has received from AID and other government agencies, it is generously supported by private

population-control organizations and contraceptive manufacturers, including the Upjohn company, the magazine asserts.

A confidential World Health Organization report released after the Potts-McDaniel study gives further reason for concern. The reports say that "there has been a marked increase in admissions for cancer of the cervix and breast" in Chiang Mai province, Thailand. The report does not say how many of the cancer victims were users of Depo-Provera.

*Author Stephen Minkin, who is associated with the National Women's Health Network, is presently in Southeast Asia. Mother Jones editor Mark Dowie, who did extensive research on the article, is available for interview.*

### Not a Love Story,

FROM PAGE 7

Although heavily criticized for presenting a supposed pro-censorship stance, the film unfortunately does not deal with the thorny censorship issue. After dialogue between feminist writers, Robin Morgan, Kate Millett, and Susan Griffin, it is made clear to the viewer that the anti-women power oriented and abusive theme of pornography is an element to be eliminated from our society, by discouraging its market.

Kate Millett says, "What's disturbing about pornography for me is that it's so unsexy." It's all mixed up with old dreadful patriarchal ideas that sex is essentially evil and that the evil in it is female."

I found the tearful and loving exchanges between the women who demonstrate against pornography the only hopeful proponent in the film for *Not a Love Story* cannot offer its viewers any solutions. It probes and holds all of us responsible for the negative depiction of women in por-

nography by accepting its existence without question.

It presents unpopular confrontation before the "fantasy is harmless" argument by stating that the encouragement of "fantasies", preoccupied with violence, will be mirrored in our society.

**Not a Love Story** turns the table on pornography, revealing it to be a narrow-minded, inhibiting and dangerous view of sexuality — an uncomfortable, unwelcome theory for those who profit from it and mouth its benefits.



sterilization in Costa Rica and Puerto Rico could confer with women from India who have long and hard experiences with the U.S.-sponsored family planning programs.

Midwives from the Ivory Coast and other health workers from Zimbabwe, Kenya and Bangladesh discussed the training of paramedics and the development and delivery of good preventative health programs with women involved in European and North American self-help groups.

In the workshop on menopause, women discussed how this stage in a woman's life was seen as a natural and positive phenomenon in Third World countries where maturity and aging were valued, but an illness in western countries where aging for women indicates a decline in productivity and sexual attractiveness.

Participants explored together the ways in which women's physical symptoms and psychological depression might be due to these social pressures.

The conference strengthened existing information net-

works and built new ties. Representatives from the Boston Women's Health Collective, the International Campaign around Abortion, Sterilization and Contraception, Agences Femmes Information in Paris, a national information network in India and ISIS met to ensure further cooperation and to facilitate mobilizing for international campaigns.

The conference was a significant learning experience in indicating the truly international nature of the women's liberation movement. For me, it highlighted how we work and struggle under very different local conditions, but face common problems in eradicating poverty and sexism on a global scale. We were able to define some of the gaps that separate us and the links that bind us — and that is more than a beginning of a meaningful dialogue among participants in this process.

For more information about the conference and ISIS and its excellent publications, please contact Sari Tudiver or Lois Kunkel, at 475-4169.

### MEETING from page 3

three month injectable contraceptive Depo-Provera — were promoted aggressively in their countries by drug companies, international development agencies and governments — and Italian women noted that tampons recently taken off the market in the U.S. have been dumped in Italy. Delegates from Brazil, Belgium and others working to legalize abortion in their countries strategized with Italian women who had recently won a major victory in their abortion legislation.

Women involved in campaigns against compulsory