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HERizons

the manitoba women's newspaper

VOL. II NO. VII

JANUARY 1, 1983

Daycare Advocates Optimistic



Photo by Ron Schwartz

The provincial government's consultation paper on day care standards has been well received by the Manitoba Child Care Association (MCCA) and the Manitoba Day Care Coalition, but both groups are quick to point out that the paper is not without its drawbacks.

MCCA Executive Director Wanda Wishart says a major concern is financing since a commitment to funding for the necessary changes is missing from the paper.

"The standards are very good, but its going to be a major funding project," she said.

Manitoba Day Care Coalition spokesperson Alice Steinbart echoed Wishart's concerns.

"It's not good enough to pass the standards and not have money to implement them," she warned.

Is day care a priority?

Wishart fears that while the current proposals look good on paper, the reality of implementing the upgraded standards may only come as money affords, unless the government establishes day care as a monetary priority.

Community Services Minister Len Evans, who is responsible for the Community Child Day Care Standards Act, alluded to funding problems in an open letter prefixing the paper:

"The financial implications of any new standards can therefore be expected to have some effect on the implementation of the standards and on the means of funding day care facilities to meet the new standards."

The 65-page document, still in the discussion stages, outlines seven types of licensed day care facilities and defines staff training requirements, staff-child ratios, nutrition and other licensing standards. Day care ad-

vocates have been pressuring the province for at least ten years for enforceable standards, so the current proposal represents a long-overdue, first step to achieving better environments for children receiving care, better working conditions for those employed in the field and more security for parents facing a continual shortage of day care spaces.

The need for care

Increasing single family households, deteriorating economic conditions which make it necessary for both parents to work, a decline in the number of private caregivers (many seeking better wages in the mainstream workforce) and a growing awareness of the long-lasting significance of infant and preschool experiences are all reasons for a greater need for child care, according to the paper.

A firm commitment to the principle of day care standards is also entrenched in the paper, recognizing that "day care is supportive of family life," and "every child requiring day care has the right to be cared for in a nurturing and stimulating setting."

The paper outlines staff training requirements, including provisions for a gradual increase in the number of directors and child care workers with university degrees or community college diplomas in the field of child care. While recognizing the importance of other child-related skills, the paper cites a Cambridge, Mass. study that found

that "when caregivers had specific child-related training, they were more likely to spend time interacting socially with the children rather than by correcting misbehavior or directing play activities."

Recommendations

Staff-child ratios varying from 1:4 for children 12 weeks to 2 years, to 1:5 for children from 6 years to 12 years were outlined, as well as space requirements for indoor and outdoor play, and provisions for behavior management policies (particularly one which "prohibits any form of physical punishment, verbal or emotional abuse or denial of necessities").

Insurance that equipment used by children should comply with the Hazardous Products Act and that a wide variety of play activities be included were also outlined, as well as general nutritional guidelines for snacks and meals. Provisions for emergency evacuation procedures, evening and night care, and standards for the care of special needs children are also addressed.

Enforcement problems

Another shortcoming identified by Wishart is the paper's neglect to address the problem of enforcing the standards. The MCCA would like to see the bulk of enforcement responsibility resting with the boards of directors, with the Provincial Day Care Office acting as a resource and support base. The province could employ a

mediator to impose appropriate penalties on standards violators, whether it be imposing a probationary period, putting the centre under administrative receivership or closing the centre.

Wishart warns that a buildup of bureaucratic red tape could further hamper the implementation of the standards if problems such as enforcement can't be worked out simply and effectively beforehand. She says it is imperative that administrative costs don't deplete the number of spaces in centres.

Fine tuning needed

Wishart says the paper "is reasonably good on most accounts," but still requires fine-tuning in areas such as nutrition, staff-child ratios and training. Rural child care workers have already expressed concern that they have limited accessibility to educational institutions, she said. Also, child-staff ratios at School Age Day Care Centres are considerably higher than the MCCA recommended at the law amendments hearing last spring.

Wishart commended the government for spelling out its commitment to children and to parental involvement in the running of centres. Both the MCCA and the Manitoba Day Care Coalition will be meeting with community services legislative assistant Myrna Phillips, Len Evans and Premier Howard Pawley early in the new year to discuss further improvements to the child care standards.

by Penni Mitchell

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much
more . . .

EDITORIAL

**Reproductive Freedom
— A Basic Right**

by Brigitte Sutherland

Access to safe, legal abortion is the most basic right which we demand for our liberation. The medical procedure must be free or affordable to every woman.

I remember the experiences that led to this firm conviction. When I was 17, I began to work as a ward clerk on the fifth floor of the Women's Pavilion. The women who came to this ward were there for gynecological surgery.

The pill was still a gleam in some drug company's research laboratory. Yet, I and many of my friends were becoming sexually active. We were at risk.

The boys in our lives did not always remember, or care to remember, the condoms. We didn't always remember our 'safe' days in the steamy passion pits of the drive-in theatres.

We were learning to be responsible adults, but we didn't always have access to the necessary information.

Every day, I was confronted with the consequences of sexual intercourse. At work I saw women, sad and bleeding, as I helped them into bed after spontaneous miscarriages. I saw women with botched, self-induced abortions after a desperate attempt for a solution.

I worried about my girlfriends as they told me, in whispers, about women they would visit — women who knew about slippery elm and soap solution douches. Eventually, I could tell them, in secret, the name of a doctor who would help them in his office.

Many of the women, young and old, that I met on the fifth floor of the Women's Pavilion didn't know his name. One, an older woman with a number of children, had perforated her womb with the metal end of a Fuller brush. During the operation, they had to remove a section of her bowl that had knotted and twisted around the foreign body in her abdomen. Fortunately, she lived.

A young woman, from the rural area, was fighting septicemia after someone had tried to help her with her problem; the problem that couldn't be named, the problem that couldn't be talked about, the problem her parents were never told about after the poisons in her body won.

I cried when she died. And I have learned from her and many other women that she need not have died.

The right to abortion reminds me in some ways of the right to vote. Women fought for, and now exercise that basic and individual decision. Without the vote, we had no political power. Without access to abortion, we have no personal power to make decisions over our own lives.

We understand personal and political power to be so interconnected as to be inseparable.

There is no sitting on the fence — no compromise possible — for feminists on this issue.

The struggles women made in the late 60's and early 70's for the legal dissemination of birth control information and for the right to access to abortion won us a partial victory only.

Abortion can now be performed only in accredited hospitals, after approval by a therapeutic abortion committee of doctors decides a woman's health is at stake. We have learned in the intervening years that this partial victory leaves too many of us at risk.

- at risk not to find a sympathetic doctor when an unwanted, unplanned pregnancy occurs;
- at risk when birth control failure occurs;
- at risk when we do not live in an urban setting and have no access to those few hospitals with therapeutic abortion committees;
- at risk when we are refused by the committees;
- at risk when we are over their established deadline for the procedure;
- at risk when we are confronted by limited hospital quotas.

When we experience any of the above, we understand how we have no control over our lives without the basic right to terminate an unwanted pregnancy.

As feminists, we are working on many societal reforms as we make our revolution to end violence, racism, sexism, heterosexism, exploitation, and to regain control over our bodies.

In Manitoba and Canada the issue of abortion has again come to the fore due to the recent actions of two men.

Dr. Henry Morgentaler's commitment to open an abortion clinic in Manitoba means he will again be confronting an unjust law which denies women equal access to a safe medical procedure. We must strike down this law.

Joe Borowski has won a decision by the supreme court to challenge the Canadian charter bill of rights for the inclusion of fetal rights. Joe Borowski and his followers are working hard to deny women autonomy and integrity over their own bodies.

They must be stopped before we will again find ourselves barefoot and pregnant at the whims of Laws — of both church and state — made by men. Before they can install a 'fetus watch' that will ensure our wombs and bodies are state controlled. We cannot depend on anyone else to stop this for us.

MOVEMENT MORES

I am not interested in pursuing a society that uses analysis, research and experimentation to concretize their vision of cruel destinies for those bastards of the pilgrims; a society with arrogance rising, moon in oppression, and sun in destruction. Barbara Cameron . . . Lakota

from *This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Committee for the Inclusion of "Sexual Orientation" in the Manitoba Human Rights Act
c/o BAYS FOR EQUALITY, BOX 27 UNIVERSITY CENTRE
UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA, WINNIPEG, MANITOBA R3T 2N2

Dear Friends:

The Manitoba Human Rights Act protects individuals against unfair discrimination. We write to urge your organization to support the inclusion of "sexual orientation" among the prohibited grounds of discrimination in the Manitoba Human Rights Act. We hope you will express this support by writing to the Manitoba Human Rights Commission (200-323 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, R3B 2C1), with a copy to the responsible minister, Attorney-General Roland Penner (104 Legislative Building, Winnipeg, R3C 0Z8), and a copy to your MLA (234 Legislative Building, Winnipeg, R3C 0Z8).

The Manitoba Human Rights Act currently forbids discrimination in employment, rental housing, public services, public contracts, purchase of property, and employment advertising on the grounds of race, color, national or ethnic origin, age, sex, religion, political beliefs, source of income, family status, marital status, or physical and mental handicap.

At present, because "sexual orientation", or an equivalent phrase, is not included among the prohibited grounds, men and women who are homosexual or bisexual may be legally discriminated against for reason of their sexual orientation. Inclusion of "sexual orientation" would prevent this discrimination and the harm done to the lives of thousands of Manitobans who happen not to be heterosexual.

The Manitoba Human Rights Commission is currently reviewing the Act. The Commission will make recommendations for amendments which will go to the Legislature for debate in this fall session.

Enclosed please find a copy of the Brief we are presenting to the Attorney-General. It states our position and recommendation. Also enclosed is a list of religious and secular organizations and institutions who have declared their support for the protection of the civil rights of gay people in law.

We thank you in advance if you do endorse this reform to Manitoba's Human Rights Law, a reform which we know from our own experience is needed, just, and due.

Please spread the word.

Best Wishes,
Joan Miller
Chris Vogel



the manitoba women's newspaper

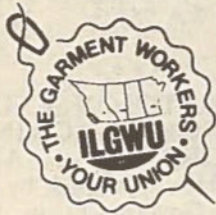
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HERizons is available at:

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- Prairie Sky Books
- Red River Books
- Manitoba Action Committee on the Status of Women
- Women's Employment Counselling Services
- Y.W.C.A. Resource Centre
- and other women's organizations.

The aim of this newspaper is to provide an alternative means of communication with a feminist perspective in order to stimulate, to inform, to effect change, and to unify women's strengths, serving as a forum for the women of Manitoba. HERizons, The Manitoba Women's Newspaper, is currently operating out of 125 Osborne Street S., Winnipeg. For further information, call 477-1730. Views expressed in this publication are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect The Manitoba Women's Newspaper policy. Submissions are welcome. Editing rights are reserved and submission does not guarantee publication. A self-addressed stamped envelope will ensure that submissions will be returned to the writer. Published 18 times a year. Price: \$5.00 per year, 60 cents per issue. For institution or business: \$12.00.

I.L.G.W. Busting at the Seams



by Penni Mitchell

The International Ladies Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU) has accused Tan Jay International Ltd. of union busting, following eight months of the company's refusal to pay salary increases and other benefits to 200 workers at its two Winnipeg plants.

On December 17, the Manitoba Labour Board ordered Tan Jay to pay about \$2,000 in overtime owed to five Tan Jay workers since last January.

Tan Jay has refused to pay negotiated wage increases of 10, 10 and 12 percent to some workers, neglected to deduct union dues from cheques and contribute to benefit and pension funds negotiated under the



Leslie Spillett — International Ladies Garment Workers' Union

agreement, in spite of an October Manitoba Labour Board ruling that the agreement was in full effect.

The company is appealing the Labour board ruling, which defined which workers were covered under the contract. Tan Jay has told the ILGWU the company would sign the agreement if some workers were excluded from the bargaining unit, but according to ILGWU spokesperson Leslie Spillett, the workers aren't going to exclude anyone from the bargaining unit.

"We're going to be fairly aggressive about this. We're going to be fighting back."

To demonstrate their outrage over the company's refusal to honour the workers' agreement, about 50 women protested outside the home of Tan Jay Presi-

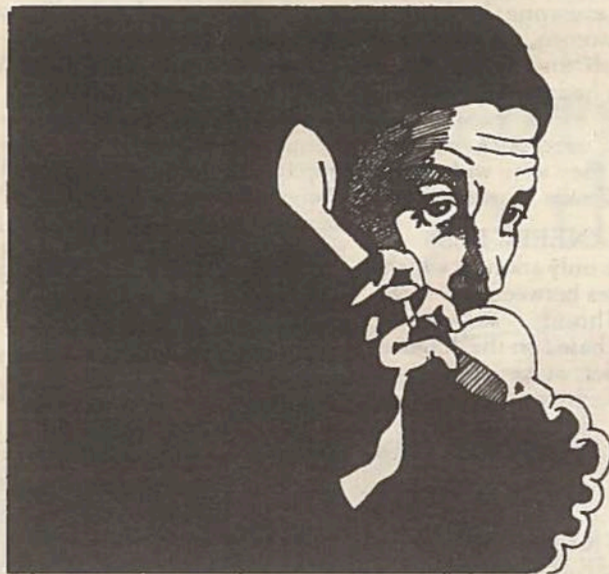
dent Murray Batte. Carrying signs reading "Sign or Resign" and accusing Tan Jay of union busting, the women walked on the road outside Batte's St. Norbert ranch-style home in an attempt to pressure Tan Jay into complying with the labor board ruling.

Spillett says the bottom line is the welfare of the workers, who have suffered without benefits already for eight months.

"We don't want the workers being further hurt by this dispute," she says.

Spillett says the company's preference for spending its money in the courts rather than on already ratified pay increases for workers is a delaying tactic on the part of Tan Jay and a violation of the women's right to union representation.

Battered Women Make Safe Connections



One in ten women married or living common-law are beaten by their partners. (CACSW 1978).

Eight out of ten victims seeking protection in shelters were beaten while they were pregnant. (CACSW 1979).

Forty-five percent of Canadian women live in areas without access to a shelter (CACSW).

A new Manitoba service to aid victims of wife abuse will be the first of its kind in Canada, according to Toni Nelson, spokesperson for the Manitoba Committee on Wife Abuse.

The Committee, which recently secured three-year funding through provincial and secretary of state grants, will provide counselling, personal assistance and legal advice, as well as offer a place to stay for victims of batterings. The program is expected to begin operating within the next month.

According to spokesperson Toni Nelson, the committee will be operated through a network of trained telephone counsellors, and a network of "safe houses" where women seeking refuge can stay. A full time crisis-line coordinator will be responsible for training and maintaining the toll-free service. The support pro-

gram, an integral part of the committee, will involve helping the victim through the legal process if she decides to prosecute or seek a divorce.

Women in northern areas will continue to rely largely on shelters, Nelson says, because it would be difficult to keep safe homes in smaller communities from being publicly known. The committee will also employ a full-time northern coordinator to work with victims and support services in northern communities. In rural areas, a network of safe houses will be established so women may seek shelter in a neighbouring community "so they aren't right smack where the husband is right there," according to Nelson.

A public educator will be on staff to publicize the services of the committee and make contacts in the community and three

follow-up workers will also be employed.

Perhaps one of the more unusual thrusts of the committee will be a program to counsel batterers.

"One batterer will go through 4 or 5 victims," Nelson says, unless he stops abusing women altogether. "Abused women are our primary concern, but the man will just go and find another victim" if his partner leaves.

The service for batterers would be a counselling, self-help group designed to stop the batterer from resorting to physical abuse.

"Why should a wife or companion be a punching bag?" Nelson asks.

The goals of the committee are to support and protect battered women and to reduce the incidence of batterings. Approximately 15,000 Manitoba women are victims of wife abuse.

Briefly — on the HERizon

DIPP STICKS TO MX

Boeing of Canada in Winnipeg will likely be helping to build U.S. missiles with the help of a loan from the Canadian Defence Industry Productivity Program (DIPP).

Boeing is to receive \$120,000 to retool its plant if it gets a contract to build re-entry nose cones for the multiple warheads used on the missiles. New Democratic Party defence critic Terry Sargent (Selkirk-Interlake) said Prime Minister Trudeau's argument that building nose cones was creating jobs and was therefore good for the economy was "absolutely crap."

U.S. President Ronald Reagan's plans to deploy the missiles were recently put on hold when the U.S. House of representatives voted to reject the plan, but Reagan has been pressuring the Senate to give the multi-billion dollar proposal the go-ahead.

Peace groups in Winnipeg were quick to denounce Boeing's intentions, saying the solution to unemployment isn't to build missiles, but to channel money into more productive areas of the economy which will ultimately benefit, not destroy people.

Provincial Economic Minister Muriel Smith said she didn't think Boeing's plans to build the nose cones was worth the estimated 30 jobs it would create, saying Manitoba can't rest economic development on developing ways to kill people.

Big on bombs, short on bread

A survey of 650 Conservative Party convention delegates reveals the average Conservative Party member wants less money spent on people and more money spent building bombs.

They want the government to cut spending on day care, unemployment insurance, family allowance and job creation and pump more into NATO and NORAD for defence. The "average" conservative is a man 46 to 55 years old, who lives in Ontario, who sees no need for better job opportunities for women or minority groups. He is against affirmative action and other rights opportunities for people, such as the right of public-sector employees and essential services workers to strike.

While he is against assistance for "average" Canadians and disadvantaged groups, he does want more assistance to business, by cutting taxes and selling crown corporations to private businesses.

Executive Assistant to party president Peter Blaikie, who helped organize the convention, said the party was really pleased with the results of the survey because it helps party officials know what the membership is thinking.

Re-righting textbooks

Mel and Norma Gabler got into the text-book censoring game 21 years ago in Texas. To their credit, the State Board of Education now states that any textbook in Texas must:

"promote citizenship and the understanding of the free enterprise system, emphasize patriotism and respect for recognized authority."

After discovering that the public school system was polluted with such calamities as secular humanism, loose morals and patriotic indifference, they set about searching every Texas textbook for parts that were counter to their fundamentalist religious beliefs and right-wing political views, according to John Henry Faulk, a Texas author.

Publishers don't like to admit it, but it "is an accepted fact," he says, that some of them have tailored their texts to suit the Gablers, because they have forced several textbook companies to rewrite their texts for the entire country.

Women reject conscription

Women in East Germany have rejected the country's passage of a law which introduced conscription for women 18 to 50 in times of emergency.

The women say the law violates the country's constitution because it had not been first put up for public discussion, as the constitution provides. Passage of the new law follows months of peace activists' lobbying to ease old conscription laws.

"We women declare that we are not prepared to be drafted and demand a legal way to refuse. We refuse to think that one day we will stand in the rows of the NVA (National People's Army) and defend a land which will be uninhabitable, even after a conventional war, which in Europe, would probably end in a nuclear catastrophe."

The women denied the reference that being able to go to war meant the equality of their sex, saying that killing people was contradictory to the essence of womanhood and didn't put them on equal ground with men.

Two of the several hundred women who signed a letter sent to communist chief Erich Honecker protesting the law were seized by East German police briefly after the incident.

Military service has become a hot issue in East Germany recently as the peace movement continues to demand that social service take the place of the compulsory 18-month military service for conscientious objectors.

Volunteers worth billions

A Statistics Canada survey found that roughly 15 percent of Canadian adults are involved in activities on a volunteer basis and according to a Secretary of State report, "this volunteer labor represents an estimated \$3.2 billion investment in Canadian society."

The report recommends that major changes be made to the Income Tax Act to benefit the volunteer sector. It recommends that the section of the act which prohibits charities from trying to promote social, cultural, economic and political change be dropped. This would allow charities, which make up nearly half of all volunteer organizations, to advocate reforms of laws and regulations affecting them.

JANUARY

ACTORS' SHOWCASE IS SPONSORING THE FIRST MANITOBA PLAYWRITING Contest for young people, 18 years of age or younger. Entries should be original works; any type, length, or style and winning play will be staged by Actors' Showcase next spring.

Entries must be received by **January 30, 1983**. For further information contact The Manitoba Association of Playwrights.

THE COALITION FOR REPRODUCTIVE CHOICE has scheduled an organizing meeting for **January 18, 1983** at 7:30 PM at Room 300 Centennial Hall, University of Winnipeg. Please COME as an individual or as a representative of your organization.

WORKING-CLASS LESBIANS ARE INVITED TO SEND ORAL HERSTORY interviews or tapes, personal narratives, journal excerpts, poetry, analysis, or short fiction for consideration in an anthology of Canadian working class lesbian writing. Cy-Thea Sand, Box 24953, Station C, Vancouver, B.C. V5T 4G3.

"LIVING WITH TECHNOLOGY IN THE 1980's" is the theme of the University of Manitoba's School of Social Work Distinguished Visitors Program which runs **January 19, 20, 21, 1983**. Guest speakers include: Dr. Barry Commoner, Barbara Garson, Lynn Mytelka,

Patrick Kerans, Andy Gordon, Roland Penner, Ingar Hansen. All sessions are free of charge and most will be held on the University of Manitoba Campus. For more information contact the School of Social Work, 521 Tier Bldg., U. of M., Winnipeg R3T 2N2 or phone (204) 274-9550.

THE WINNIPEG WOMEN'S CULTURAL AND EDUCATION CENTRE INC. is having their annual membership meeting on Sunday, January 16, 1983. W.W.C.E.C. owns and operates the Women's Building at 730 Alexander Avenue. The membership meeting will commence at 10 AM at the above location. A potluck lunch will provide a break between 12 - 1:30 PM after which the meeting will continue. At 3:30 PM a film showing the production of the Dinner Party, by Judy Chicago et. al., will be screened.

"WOMEN AT WORK" WILL BE THE FOCUS OF THE MANITOBA MUSEUM OF MAN AND NATURE'S "CONCERNING WORK" SERIES FOR JANUARY. "Challenges, Changes and Choices" — are Drop-In information sessions for women on career options, education and training and the changing job market. Presentations will take place during the lunch hour on **January 11, 18, and 25** from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Location: Classrooms on Planetarium level.

'Old Ghettos, New Ghettos and Alternatives' An enjoyable and interesting Saturday, **January 22** for women. The issue of women's work and the

impact of changing technology will be discussed along with entertainment and song. Keynote speakers are Barbara Garcon from New York and Pat McDermott of the Labour Relations Board. Daycare will be provided from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Children's House, 157 Rupert Ave. Children must bring a lunch, to preregister for daycare call 956-2830.

"Women, Power and Politics" — A Panel presentation including Flora MacDonald, M.P. for Kingston and the Islands; Pat Carney, M.P. from Vancouver-Centre and Myrna Phillips, M.L.A. from Wolseley. Dr. Claudia Wright of the Political Science Dept. of the U. of Winnipeg will be the moderator, **January 25, 7:30 p.m.**

All events are free of charge and take place in the Planetarium Auditorium.

FEBRUARY

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN AND THE LAW presents its fifth biennial national conference entitled, **WOMEN IN THE WORKFORCE: AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AND PARENTAL BENEFITS** from **February 23 to 26, 1983** at the Empress Hotel, Victoria, B.C.

phone or write: Women in the Workforce, University Extension Conference Office, University of Victoria, P.O. Box 1700, Victoria, B.C. V8W 2Y2 (604) 721-8475

THE MANITOBA ASSOCIATION FOR CHILD-

BIRTH AND FAMILY EDUCATION (MACFE) is a non-profit consumer based organization that believes prenatal education is only one of the many supports that should be available to parents.

Pre-and post-natal education can significantly reduce both the physical and mental risks associated with childbirth and parenting, and can enhance the development of the family and of society in general.

To find out more about our objectives and philosophies, please contact Linda Plenert (774-2758) or Laurie Carpenter (669-6704).

WANTED, FROM JEWISH WOMEN, FOR AN ANTHOLOGY: narratives, interviews, oral histories, fiction poetry, drama, essays, translations. The anthology, edited by Melanie Kaye and Irena Klepfisz, will depict the lives, history, creativity, resistance and survival of Jewish women.

Submissions from and about Arabis, Ashkenazi and Sephardic Jews from all nations are encouraged. Send manuscripts with SASE to *Anthology*, c/o I. Klepfisz, P.O. Box 128, New Lebanon, New York, 15125. Deadline April 1/83.

MARCH

THE ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN IN PSYCHOLOGY announces the ninth annual national conference on feminist psychology: theory, research, practice and celebration.

The theme "Bonding Between Women" will reflect the diversity of bonding between women, examining friendships, familial

relationships, lesbianism, cross-class and cross-racial bonds, mentor relationships, as well as break the barriers to bonding erected by patriarchal institutions.

The conference takes place in Seattle, Washington from **March 3 - 7, 1983**, and features a concert by SWEET HONEY IN THE ROCK, childcare and provisions for differently-abled women. For further information contact: AWP, Women's Skills Exchange, P.O. Box 31449, Wallingford Station, Seattle, WA 98103.

COMMITTEE ON SEXUAL OFFENCES AGAINST CHILDREN AND YOUTHS appointed by the Federal Government in 1981 welcomes letters and briefs from children who have been sexually abused, as well as from adults and associations concerned with these problems. Recommendations on how better protection can be provided are also welcome. Terms of reference include:

- the extent of these sexual abuses and offenses;
 - how persons committing these offences could be better dealt with to reduce re-occurrence;
 - prostitution by children and youths;
 - the use of children and youths in the making of pornographic materials;
 - access by children and youths to pornographic materials.
- Send letters and briefs to Robin F. Badgley, Chairman, S.O.A.C. Committee, P.O. Box 5067, Station "A", Toronto, Ont. M5W 1N4.

SEX CELL CHANGES AT EXXON PLANT — Wives of some chemical workers at a Louisiana Exxon refinery have been found to have a 20% rate of miscarriage and stillbirth. Prior to their husbands' exposure to chemicals at the waste-water treatment plant, the rate for these women was only 4% according to a study conducted by Environmental Health Associates.

"Little is known about what chemicals might cause a change in the sex cells of men," said Dr. Robert Morgan of EHA. "If there is an effect here, we just don't know which of the many chemicals might have caused it." Virtually every refinery in the United States has a waste-treatment system similar to the one studied, but Exxon turned down Environmental Health Associates' offer to continue the study, and has declined to publish the results of the current study.

Network News

NO PLANNED PARENTHOOD FOR P.E.I. — Due to lack of provincial funding and lack of community support, Planned Parenthood in P.E.I. has closed its office. This leaves P.E.I. the only province in Canada without a Planned Parenthood organization.

Lately there had been a marked increase in the inquiries from the 15-19 age group to equal those from the 20-29 age group. It had been a 10 year effort to reach these teenagers. Do you know that P.E.I. has one of the highest rates of teenage pregnancy in Canada?

Common Ground

MILITARY SPENDING COSTS WOMEN JOBS, STUDY SHOWS. Every time the military budget goes up \$1 billion, jobs for women disappear at the rate of 9,500, according to a newly released study, "Neither Jobs Nor Security" by Marion Anderson of Employment Research Associates of Lansing, MI.

Anderson's analysis shows what a \$135 billion military budget costs the nation:

- 1,733,000 jobs in services . . . women are 54 percent of services employees;
- 1,206,000 state and local government jobs including teachers . . . women are 51 percent of state and local government employees;
- 688,000 civilian construction jobs;
- 609,000 civilian durable goods jobs . . . women hold 25 percent of these jobs;
- 260,000 jobs in the civilian non-durable goods industries, which include food, clothing, printing and publishing . . . women hold 42 percent of these jobs;

The Pentagon has requested a \$33 billion increase for FY83. Anderson's study notes that an annual investment of \$30 billion in the solar energy industry, education, alcohol fuel production and mass transit can generate 1,200,000 jobs nationwide of which 550,000 would be for women.

Copies of report are available for \$2 from Employment Research Associates, 400 S. Washington Ave., Lansing MI 48933.

Women Today



"UNITY DAY WITH BATTERED WOMEN" WAS FORMALLY DECLARED ON OCTOBER 16 BY THE CITY OF THUNDER BAY.

Its objective was to increase public awareness of the problem of wife battering and, hopefully, lead to greater recognition of the issue and support for these women. Women's Centre, in conjunction with the National Action Committee on the Status of Women, participated in a public education event on the streets of Thunder Bay.

Northern Woman Journal

THE COMPANY OF WOMEN makes life more enjoyable for everyone, both men and other women, says a recent study, which found both men and women had more enjoyable, meaningful social experiences when they were with women than when they were with men. *Northern Woman Journal* . . .

WOMEN NEED LESS — Japan is the only country which discriminates between the sexes in livelihood assistance allowances, based on the dubious statistics that women have less caloric requirements than men to survive.

Big Mama Rag

THE "GREENS" NOW HOLD THE BALANCE OF POWER IN GERMANY

having won 5% or more of the electorate which enables them to influence German national policies because the major parties are stale-mated. Petra Karin Kelly is the Federal Chairperson and one of the founders of this party which stands for peace, for ecological environment protection, and for violence-free social and human development.

Petra explains: "Together with many other committed and active women from the Peace and Women's Movements, we, the Greens, fight without violence against all aspects of militarism. We declare our solidarity with women in all parts of the world who are suffering under wars presently because our political, military, and economic posture contributes to these wars."

"We oppose the production of armaments and the sales of arms, and the build-up of the

plutonium economy and the export of atomic installations and the glorification of the military and violence."

"War is always the subjection of the weaker to the stronger, and it is the attempt to confirm inequality. This power relationship, based on violence, we as women know only too well because it is part and parcel of the daily wars waged against women in each male-dominated state. It takes courage for women to stand for a violence-free society and we encourage women everywhere to resist military goals."

Women's International Network NEWS

FEMALE FETUSES ABORTED IN INDIA — The ante-natal sex determinant test in India is now being abused to abort female fetuses. There has been a campaign by women's organizations to ban amniocentesis.

While the problem has not yet assumed the alarming proportions of the burning of brides who bring an insufficient dowry, it is likely to grow because the desire to get rid of unwanted girls is rooted deep in the dowry system.

Misuse of this modern medical test was first noticed six years ago when the country was under emergency rule. The practice was banned in Government hospitals and all publicity was avoided. Now, unscrupulous private doctors have commercialized the test to make quick money by pandering to popular prejudice against female offspring.

Guardian (U.K.)

Clinic Support Grows

The battle between "pro-life" and pro-choice groups in Winnipeg is increasing in momentum as women's organizations in the province publicly declare their support for Dr. Henry Morgentaler's concept of a free-standing abortion clinic in Winnipeg.

Klinik, where a number of women's support services are already offered, was the first to publicly assert that there is a demonstrated need for an abortion clinic in Winnipeg.

The Manitoba Action Committee on the Status of Women (MACSW), a long-time supporter of women's reproductive freedom, has also publicly endorsed the idea of a free standing clinic. The 500-member organization also feels that counselling on procedures and choices regarding pregnancy should be mandatory and that free contraceptive information and contraceptives should be made available on a national basis.

The Manitoba chapter of the

Canadian Abortion Rights Action League (CARAL) has experienced a marked resurgence since Morgentaler first stated his intentions to set up a clinic in Winnipeg, indicating Manitoba women's unwillingness to sit back and watch an opportunity to challenge Canada's abortion laws slip by them.

Close to 200 pro-choice supporters at a recent meeting at the University of Winnipeg donated more than \$500 to support the establishment of an abortion clinic in the city. At the meeting, a coalition was established by groups and individuals actively supporting the clinic concept.

Meanwhile, "pro-life" advocates have demonstrated through recent anti-semitic slurs against Morgentaler, that women's right to choose whether to bear children is not all they are against. Joe Borowski, in press interviews, has called Morgentaler a "Nazi butcher" who should never have survived

his internment in a Nazi concentration camp.

A local french language newspaper, La Liberte, has also attempted to discredit the pro-choice movement by depicting Morgentaler in an editorial cartoon with pointed ears and a beak nose in a butcher's smock and fur skull cap, standing beside garbage cans full of aborted babies, against the background of Auschwitz death camp ovens. The Manitoba Association for Rights and Liberties likens the anti-semitic stereotype depicted in the cartoon to those used by Nazi propagandists.

In the midst of the personal persecutions being waged against Morgentaler, even the Winnipeg Sun has come out in support of revamping Canada's "inadequate" abortion laws, saying proliferators' attacks on Morgentaler's jewish ancestry "says more about the people levelling the accusations than it does about the abortionist"

THE LEGAL COLUMN

Living Together — Part One

By Jennifer Cooper
Lawyer, Newman, MacLean

Despite the lack of hard statistics, most authorities agree that the incidence of unmarried cohabitation, or "living together", is increasing. Since the 1950's, it has gained more social acceptability and Governments have paid increasing attention to the legal rights and obligations which flow from such a union.

"Unmarried cohabitation" can be defined as persons of the opposite sex cohabiting in a conjugal relationship where their lives and economic well-being are fully integrated. It may be as a "trial run" for marriage, or as a chosen lifestyle in and of itself.

At issue is a fundamental, philosophical question: Should cohabitants acquire a status similar to marriage? Does this undermine the sanctity of the institution of marriage? Certainly the trend has been to cause cohabitants to assume rights and obligations very similar to that which they would be required to assume if married. Sometimes individuals cohabit because marriage is legally impossible and they would, in fact, prefer to be married, but often cohabitation is chosen because it accords more closely with the couples' basic philosophy of life. Just how far should the legislature go in imposing laws upon perhaps unwilling recipients?

SUPPORT OBLIGATIONS

In Manitoba, a cohabitee can apply for support for herself and/or her child if she has lived with her cohabitee for at least one year, and there is a child born of the union. In those circumstances, The Family Maintenance Act is made as fully applicable as if the couple had been married. Other relief which is available, besides maintenance, consists of orders for custody of the children of the union, for exclusive occupancy of the home which the couple shared, and orders of prohibition and non-molestation.

If the cohabitants did not have a child of their union, the only relief which is presently available is an order prohibiting the cohabitee from entering upon any premises where the other is living separate and apart, and an order that the cohabitee shall not molest, annoy or harass the other.

Our provincial Government is presently considering changing this law. It has been recommended that a cohabitee should be able to seek support and maintenance even where there are no children of the union if cohabitation has persisted for not less than 5 years and the relationship was one in which the applicant was "substantially dependant" upon the other for support. Ontario has a similar provision and New Brunswick's law is even more liberal in that the required period of cohabitation is only 3 years. Some organizations which have studied the proposal, feel that such a provision encourages financial dependency which is not as a result of energies being diverted into child rearing. Others feel that it will protect the few "hardship" cases who would not otherwise be able to obtain relief.

What do you think? Attorney-General Roland Penner no doubt welcomes comments on the proposed changes which will soon be coming before the Law Amendments Committee for consideration.

Next issue: Cohabitation Contracts.

KLINIK

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- Sexual Assault Program
774-4525
- Feminist/Non-Sexist Counselling
786-8686
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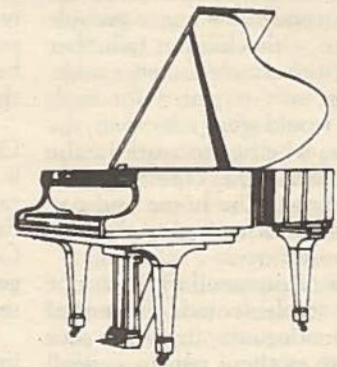
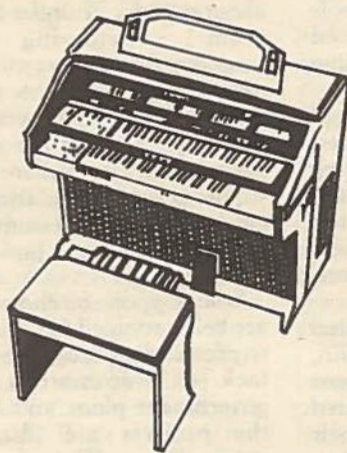
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Welfare Cutbacks . . .

A return to the ancient cure of bleeding the patient has become the doctrine of recent welfare policy by Government.

Provincial and federal government schemes examine their aid to single-support families and diagnose radical surgery.

Across Canada, government bureaucrats or review boards are looking at what can be cut out, cut off, removed, pumped out, squeezed, drained from, and then cauterised.

Recent pronouncements by the Minister of Finance, Marc Lalonde, predict the death of universality in family allowance payments. For now, only the federal 6 and 5 wage control policy has been applied, for a saving of \$320 million over two years.

Monique Begin, Minister of Health and Welfare, has provided a partial remedy by increasing the Child Tax Credit program.

A response from women to this federal see-saw comes from *Common Ground: A Journal for Island Women in Prince Edward Island*:

"At a time when we are calling for greater recognition of our essential contributions to society, when we are exploring new possibilities for financial security, such as payment for housework and pensions for homemakers, it comes as a sharp slap in the face to learn that the tiny incomes we have been able to call our own, are now threatened."

In 1970, the Decade of Women in Canada began with recommendations to the federal Government by the Report of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women. One of the recommendations was to provide women with children (whether living with a male or not) a wage.

This cash payment for each child would give a woman the choice, whether to work in the home to raise her children, or to work out of the home and pay others for caring for her children for those hours.

This recommendation has not been implemented. Piecemeal and inadequate financial supports to mothers, remain — small monthly family allowance payments; yearly child tax credit rebates; and 50 percent federal contributions to total provincial welfare payments.

These payments do not ensure women caring for children a decent standard of living.

This state of affairs sharply contrasts the threat provincial government felt only 60 years ago, when women fought for, and won the vote.

In 1920, the progressive Farmer/Labour government of Ontario introduced Mother's Allowance.

Even though the criteria was based on need, government presented it as a system where women were 'employees of the State to raise future citizens'. If participants worked outside the home as well, they did not have an amount deducted.

This philosophy is no longer seen as a good prescription for a healthy society by governments

and some citizens.

ONTARIO

The telephone rings in the office of a welfare self-help organization in Ontario. A woman volunteer who has been addressing envelopes answers. Another woman speaks into her ear: "You people are lazy bums. You're draining our economy and feeding it to the dogs."

That poor people are responsible for the state of the Canadian economy is a myth presently accepted by many Canadians. It is encouraged and perpetuated by actions taken, and statements made by federal and provincial governments alike.

To make people like the above caller, and governments, understand about her life, Linda McPhatter has joined the Ontario-based Family Benefits Work Group. She explains, "When I was 24 I had a home and a new baby on the way. At 26 I was out on the street with no home and no place to go."

Linda is a single parent who now works in and out of the home. She wants us to know that what happened to her, could happen to any one of us. And it is, in fact, happening to more and more of us.

Linda says women must give each other a hand because they never know when they may need one in return.

"Think about what a sudden change to you and your children would mean", she insists. "How would you cope with problems around daycare, food, housing and a low paying job?"

The Ontario government is changing their long-term policy of Mother's Allowance. Previously considered unemployable, sole support mothers received benefits for the work of raising their children.

Now Frank Drea, Minister of Community and Social Services, is in the process of transferring targeted recipients under the Family Benefits Act to the General Welfare Act, which generally provides lower, short-term aid.

Pilot projects are being tested in various locations in Ontario, which will require sole-support mothers to accept any job offered or lose all, or part of their benefits, according to the Family Benefits Work Group.

The projects are primarily being carried out to test administrative procedures and clarify the effects on departmental staff, reports *Broadside* in an article "Women and Children Last."

Being sold under the ironic acronym of ASPIRE, two of the locations of the Employment Strategy Program are Toronto and Thunder Bay. Living on Family Benefits means living at 40 percent below the poverty line. Women do not aspire to this condition.

All this is taking place under prevailing conditions of massive unemployment, insufficient daycare spaces, and sadly inadequate training programs.

Janet Williams, a Toronto single mother, was made

nauseous by Frank Drea's remarks to women at a Queen's Park rally last June. He said they were an example of mothers who had all day to stand around and that's why he was going to change the system.

She was under severe financial strain at the time, because her welfare had been reduced by \$30 without explanation. She was also taking a secretarial course, not sponsored by Manpower. She says bitterly, "How the hell are we supposed to find work when we are not being trained."

The pilot project scenario in Thunder Bay is described by Joan Baril in *Northern Woman* in an article entitled, "A Fear Like Stone".

"The pilot project scheme was devised without any input at all from the people most affected . . . the sole-support mothers."

Thunder Bay city government has agreed to take over the payments to women on provincial Mother's Allowance. Tempting provincial monies in their coffers, as well as inherent provincial powers are the likely reasons for this agreement, claims Baril.

There is apprehension on the part of some that the program will eventually end up in the financial lap of the city.

Local administrators, however, have assured the "Concerned Moms" organization that the benefits would not be reduced.

Changes to the Ontario welfare system seem to be inevitable. Some officials feel that welfare officials' monitoring of the pilot project will ensure sufficient input into policy changes, taking into account the specific conditions in Northern Ontario.

Joan Baril along with "Concerned Moms", however, worry about the new Thunder Bay program considering them 'employable'. They worry the new category is not just for statistical purposes as claimed, but rather it is a ploy to get them onto lower, city welfare rates.

She says it is this that is the cause for "fear like stone in the heart of mothers . . . how to hold on then?"

Sole support mothers groups are being stymied in their efforts to protest the changes because of lack of information about government plans and because the projects are phased in gradually. The gradual developments mean that there are no major announcements to organize around.

NOVA SCOTIA

Monique Begin recently met in Ottawa with representatives from Canadian anti-poverty groups. She reassured them again there would be no immediate change in the universality of the family allowance payments to mothers.

Marie Hamilton, a representative from Halifax, Nova Scotia was in attendance. She has come away from the meeting with the minister with a question for the members of her self-help group. Begin wants to know if women want changes to the Child Tax Credit program. Do women

want payments made over three of four times a year, rather than one lump sum payment?

Tax credits to low and middle-income earners were introduced in 1979 in the form of cash rebates, to help mothers provide for children under 18. Despite the fact that no specific family income ensures an unsalaried woman adequate support money for herself and her children, eligibility is a family income of less than \$26,330.

Marie has already questioned some of the members of her group and says, "So far, I've had some for it and some against it, but all are most concerned that they won't get a cut in the total amount."

Provincial welfare policy questions are being raised as well in Nova Scotia. Marie recounts a debate reported in the local media on whether the province should make biological fathers of unmarried teenage mothers more responsible for the upkeep of the child.

Another suggestion is to extend welfare payments into the parental home. This would allow the young mother to live in an extended family setting rather than in isolation with her child.

One wonders if the next step by government would be to reclassify these teenagers 'employable' and cut them off assistance because they now have a live-in babysitter — grandmother?

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Abuse of clients by social workers is one of the problems that Welfare ALERT of Summerside, Prince Edward Island fights hard against.

Wilfred MacDonald, a member of this organization, cites other injustices of the welfare system, such as "allowance cutbacks when clients earn small sums of money."

Other examples are, short-term school, or job training, which may have no financial benefits to the recipient, but they result in a reduction in welfare payments.

While citing the above as major issues affecting welfare in P.E.I., MacDonald adds, there is "also the issue of a client being forced to use secondhand goods, both mechanical and material, which are worn out."

These problems, added to life on welfare, lead to deep depression and increases suicide rates, claims MacDonald.

NEW BRUNSWICK

Welfare recipients in New Brunswick and Quebec are worse off than those in other Canadian provinces, according to a recent National Council of Welfare study. Ken Battle, executive director of the council, says a single-parent family of three lives on assistance that is 49 percent below the Statistics Canada poverty line.

Not tying social assistance payments to the rise in the cost of living, results in a continued erosion of the spending power of these families, says Battle.



TABLE FROM WOMEN AND THE NATIONAL COUNCIL 1979. Welfare Payments and other benefits below poverty line in all provinces. Quebec with benefits as low as 60% of the poverty family of three. In Prince Edward Island, are closest to the poverty line, they would provide these families with a minimum.

Difference Between Family Income and Urban Female-Headed Single With Two Children Aged 9 and 10

	Total benefits	Percentage of poverty line
St. John's, Nfld.	\$6,448	60%
Charlottetown	6,772	63%
Halifax	6,508	61%
St. John, N.B.	5,584	52%
Montreal	5,858	55%
Toronto	6,592	62%
Winnipeg	7,130	67%
Regina	7,120	67%
Edmonton	7,126	67%
Vancouver	7,220	68%

QUEBEC

War has been declared on the poor, with the introduction of Bill 30 in January 1982, says Quebec's social agencies and anti-poverty groups.

In addition, in May 1982, the bill's administration was switched to the Quebec Department of Manpower and Revenue. This has resulted in a radical change in philosophy, orientation and application of social assistance law, according to *Communiqu'elles*.

"Priority is no longer given to aide but to work", says authors Judy Gold, Jackie Manthorne and Evelyne Vallée, as they outline the underlying cause for the change in emphasis in Social

Women and Children First



POVERTY: A REPORT BY
OF WELFARE, OCTOBER
its combined are well below the
New Brunswick are the worst,
y line for an urban single-parent
and Saskatchewan, where benefits
ill far from an income level that
sum adequate standard of living.

ome and Poverty Level -
Parent Welfare Family
12, 1979

erty	Benefits as a % of the poverty line
669	71%
198	83
609	71
533	61
908	60
174	67
636	73
997	78
640	73
546	74

welfare in Quebec. Strains on federal coffers have resulted in restrictions on Unemployment Insurance benefits. Unable to find work, increasing numbers of people "turn to welfare as their only means of support."

As recently as February 1982, a document by the Quebec Human Rights Commission to the Province affirmed "the right to financial assistance and social measures which assure a decent life."

However, lately the emphasis is on return to work, using Article 12 of the Social Assistance Act:

"Social assistance can be refused, discontinued, suspended or reduced in

the case of every adult who without sufficient reason: a) refuses or quits a job which they could take or could continue to do."

Bill 30 introduced a six-month waiting period before new applicants receive the special needs money. As well, persons who receive welfare benefits during their two-month waiting period to receive Unemployment Insurance payments, must repay this from their first cheque.

Rollande Guay, in an article in F.F.Q. *Petit Presse*, denounces "the increasing pressure being placed on welfare recipients, especially women, to return to the labour force and in fact, to constitute a cheap labour pool."

Debbie Hughes of the Social Rights Steering Committee in Montreal reports a recent freeze on welfare rates. She adds, mothers with dependent children now "have to produce 10 names for job searches per month."

If after being told to report to Quebec Manpower, mothers don't show up, \$50 is deducted from their cheque for that month.

"Not being able to locate a babysitter to watch the children is not accepted as a legitimate reason," Hughes adds.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

In 1981, British Columbia set the trend in regressive welfare policy for provincial governments across Canada. Using frontman Grace McCarthy, Minister of Human Resources, the present B.C. government peddled enforced work measures and benefit cutbacks.

The financial cutbacks to individuals amounts to \$35 to \$55 monthly, reports *Healthsharing*. Those recipients who were now classified 'employable' were cut off and must reapply for benefits every month.

This policy does not affect seniors or the physically or mentally handicapped. Single parents, unless they have one dependent child under six months or two children under 12, must produce evidence of job searches and reapply for benefits every four months.

In a press release, McCarthy explains that "about 35,000 single parents are working today in B.C. . . . So it is clear that mothers with children can not only work and raise families, but do so very well indeed."

Wishful thinking on the part of Grace McCarthy did not change the June '81 unemployment statistics in B.C., which averaged 8.5 percent for women as compared to 5 percent for men in this month of high employment. As well, McCarthy seems to have misplaced the information that women in Canada earn only 58 cents for every dollar men earn.

In an article "More Than Hardship", Gus Long, member of the Federated Anti-Poverty Groups of B.C., describes the inadequate support services that make this new policy "cruel and unusual punishment" for women.

She points to the limited spaces available in federal and provin-

cial training and upgrading programs, the lack of which forces single parents into the lowest paid jobs.

Lack of daycare is the single largest barrier to accepting paid work. Much of what is available is not affordable. Only 1,000 new daycare spaces were established during this revamping of welfare policy.

"This is only a drop in the bucket", says Gus Long. There are approximately 25,000 single parents on welfare in B.C. who support 40 to 50 thousand children.

Heather Hall is one of these women. She successfully challenged the new welfare policy in April 1982, when her baby was 10 months old, and won the appeal unanimously.

Images, a women's newspaper from Nelson reports, "the nature of this decision challenges the fundamental assumption in the new policy that single women with young children are shirking their responsibilities by remaining at home to care for their children."

ALBERTA

A work-for-welfare plan in Taber, Alberta is the latest mind-boggler from the provincial social services department. Response to the compulsory work plan has run the gamut from "super" to "illegal".

The Minister, Robert Bogle, describes it as "an innovative scheme to match up able-bodied people who want to work, with senior citizens and the handicapped who need help."

"Absolutely the poorest innovation they could make", is the opinion of Prof. David Baxter from the Social Welfare Department of the University of Calgary.

Another twist is that sections of both the Alberta Social Development Act and the Canada Assistance Act declare work-for-welfare programs illegal.

Peter Collins, federal director of social assistance, calls the Taber plan illegal. He recalls a workfare program two years ago in B.C. which was dropped when the federal government threatened to stop federal welfare payments to that province.

Imbued with a secure Alberta heritage, Mr. Bogle said he is not worried about losing the \$190 million contributed by Ottawa annually.

SASKATCHEWAN

The recently elected Conservative government of Grant Devine is beginning a review of the Saskatchewan Social Assistance Plan.

"It is rather uncertain at this time as to the implications of such a review, however, there is a general lack of optimism among the non-government social services agencies regarding any short-term or long-term benefits of such a review", says Morris Eagles, Director of the Welfare Rights Centre in Regina.

"A commitment to deal with the increased needs of people," was requested from Social Services Minister Pat Smith by 50

representatives of the Association of Non-Governmental Social Service Agencies Association (SANGSSA).

The new government's November budget reduced by \$6.2 million, monies earmarked for social services agencies in the New Democrats' spring budget.

"A rise in the number of alcohol and drug related problems, family tensions and breakdowns, child abuse, and wife battering", are reported for the Regina area by SANGSSA.

The coordinator of Women in Need, Vi Snell, explains they are facing funding cuts just when their caseload is increasing. More infants are being abandoned. Adjustment to lower living standards are increasing pressures on mothers and are taking a psychological toll on welfare recipients, says Sister Florence Leduc of Wikiup, a welfare support agency.

As well, women in traditional job categories make up many of the increased rates of unemployment. In the past year alone, Statistics Canada reports increases in the clerical category of unemployed by 1.6 percent and in the sales category by 5.3%.

Regina's unemployment has increased by 80% in this past year. This figure makes up 31 percent of the provincial total, even though the population of the city makes up only 15 percent of the Saskatchewan population.

Saskatchewan Tories have targeted job creation as their number one priority. They see this as addressing the problems of those "legitimately" victimized by the recession and in need of help.

Where does this leave single-support mothers on welfare?

Smith notes that these women make up one-third of recipients. She further notes, that no distinction has been made to date between those unemployable and those unable to obtain a job.

Achieving economic independence for these women was not in the plans of the NDP government, she claims, since no programs or upgrading has been available in the province.

"This program (welfare) has been allowed to continue completely in isolation of the rapidly changing social and economic conditions and we intend to correct this," she reported to her colleagues in the legislature.

MANITOBA

Since the NDP came to power last year, there have been two increases in provincial welfare payments made. This year's 16.5 percent increase and next year's 10 percent keeps approximately 20,000 Manitobans in step with inflation, but still well-below the poverty line.

Since its inception 22 years ago, the Provincial Social Assistance Program has remained virtually unchanged.

The Manitoba Task Force on Social Assistance, appointed by the provincial government to review programs, is currently in the "fact finding and information stage," according to Joseph

Ryant, Professor of Social Policy at the University of Manitoba.

"We will try to make recommendations for the best kind of social assistance program we can conceive of, and still remain eligible for federal cost sharing", says Ryant of the six member task force.

The members have heard from approximately 100 groups, and as many individuals, during the province-wide hearings. As well, they have received hundreds of telephone calls and letters.

The task force will continue to accept written submissions and calls until April (1010 - 330 St. Mary Avenue Winnipeg R3C 2Z5/Phone 944-4916), and they will submit their final recommendations to the Minister of Community Services and Corrections in August.

"A disorganized, confused and complicated patchwork quilt" needing reorganization is how Patrick Riley, a lawyer who handles welfare cases, describes Manitoba's social assistance programs.

Much of this confusion is a result of a two-tier system, in which Manitoba's municipalities, all 202 of them, deliver their services according to their own various by-laws.

Many of the submissions by organizations and agencies have recommended a one-tier system administered by the province.

Work incentive programs were another theme emerging from the hearings. Many felt these programs are presently 'disincentives' and new methods must be found to redesign them if they are to be effective.

"The general expectation that mothers of children work is a more general expectation than it was before. Sadly, mothers of children are now experiencing a backlash", says Ryant.

He explains that the task force members' report will be guided by certain, already declared principles "and one of them is that we would like people to be able to exercise choice whenever that's legitimately possible."

Ryant adds a personal conviction, "I think that people should be free to chose whether or not they would stay home to mind children or go into the labour force and make other arrangements for their children".

The presenter of the submission for the Manitoba Human Rights Commission echoes the above sentiments. Lawrie Cherniack, a lawyer with the HRC, calls the present practice of refusing social assistance to sole-support fathers discriminatory and contravening the Human Rights Act.

He submits to the task force: "It is our opinion that the solution to the problem is not that you should increase your eligibility criteria for mothers with dependent children to decide whether they are employable or not, but that you should assert that as a right of an individual and as a need of society, under circumstances where a single parent wishes to stay home with the child, that this is a valuable thing to do and that it is good for society too".

by Brigitte Sutherland

Video Offensive Launched

CUSTER'S REVENGE

Canadian Customs officials reversed an earlier decision and banned a video game showing General Goerge Custer raping in Indian woman.

The game, marketed by American Multiple Industries and designed to be played on an Atari machine, is one of three "adult" video games with an obvious sexist and racist theme.

Stuart Kesten, president of AMI, says the company hopes to have 750,000 units of the three games on the market before Christmas. Already Colorado motels are featuring it.

What can I say? My voice is soft, feminine and a barely audible sigh in a world of deafening noise. To compound the problem, I belong to a minority noise. To compound the problem I belong to a minority who's rights and dignity have long been trampled on — I am an Indian.

It is difficult to believe anyone will take me seriously. Brought up to be meek, silent, non-assertive, gentle, obliging, a shadow in a boisterous world of men, my spirit has long been warped into that of a fragile butterfly. Only the most attentive, sensitive soul can hear a butterfly cry.

But there is strength in numbers. Strength in a common cause. Strength in a common purpose. Unity and strength in one strong voice; the blend of many voices.

This arrogant act by a huge multi-industry to market "Custer's Revenge" is but one example of the indignity and indecency we Indian women have long been subjugated to. It appals me to know that soon 750,000 machines will be produced that will reenact, in a trivial manner, the horror of assault and rape perpetrated upon a woman; in this particular case an Indian woman; in a brazen fashion that totally degrades her as a human being. If the stereotype of Indian women as being sleazy sluts is left perpetuated in this manner, then we will continually be denied respect, honour and consideration. Who will give respect to a person who is condemned and stereotyped as being worth much less than a street dog?

To live, breathe, exist and move with freedom from needless hatred, mindless discrimination, pointless oppression and contempt, is this asking too much from society? Are we asking for

something that you are incapable of giving? Or are you merely unwilling? For what justifiable cause are you withholding the simple dignities of life to us?

Is there no limit; no end to the assault to Native people's pride and dignity?

The "recreational" technological advancement of machines in this day and age are now being implemented as weaponry in the psychological warfare waged upon Indian people; 750,000 machines. This is a huge number of psychologically devastating, racist, sexist time bombs.

The operation of this "game" literally means that the blatant racism of a white male sexually attacking an Indian woman will be implanted and played over 750,000 times in the receptive mush-minds of American society.

Talk about pre-conditioning. Talk about instilling racism. Talk about demeaning womanhood. Talk about callous victimization. Talk about utter contempt for Indian women and the Indian race.

It is enough that we Indian women are victimized in every major city and rural village in North America, from the desolation of the northern reservations to the cold peaks of the Andes. We cannot walk from one street to another without hearing the sexist taunts and suggestive filth from men who hope their preconceived notions of Indian women are true.

We woman have to watch our children especially carefully because perverts think that no one will miss an abducted Indian child. After all they are just inhuman Indians! No one will care or even notice!

We Indian women have twenty doors slammed in our faces before in weariness and exhaustion we go back to the first

suite we looked at. The one we balked at when we saw cockroaches running up and down the walls.

The same one we are now putting down a damage deposit on, while the slum landlord launches a tirade about "your kind," he's not running a whorehouse, so you better keep that in mind.

We Indian women have learned to endure silently and to die silently. Our lot has long been inadequate housing, disease, poverty and the devastation of spirit that goes with it.

We women are taught to feel guilty about asserting ourselves. If we do, then we are not viewed as intelligent, liberated women. We are viewed with as much incredulity and astonishment as hearing a kitchen mouse suddenly emitting a roar. Then comes the collective outrage. The onslaught to break your spirit.

So it is with sad and tired eyes I look at people like Stuart Kesten, the president of AMI and many others like him. My eyes have looked upon their faces throughout the stream of history and gazed into the naked wretchedness and poverty of their souls. It is with these sad and tired eyes, I now look back to you.

Yes. There is strength in numbers, strength in a common cause, strength in a common purpose.

We ask for your strength. We ask for your support. We ask for your understanding. In short we ask for your love as befit sisters.

It is only together as Sisters of the Sun, we can bring enlightenment, hope and justice to an earth that groans with the injustice of the oppressed; those who's dignity and worth as human beings have been consistently denied — the Woman, Sacred Giver of Life. Sister to the Sun.

To protest the mass marketing of this offensive video game against Native women, please send your letters, telegrams to: Stuart Kesten, President, American Multiple Industries, Northbridge Office, Los Angeles, CA., 90015.

by Coreen D. Courchene

THE MEDICAL COLUMN

Abortion: A Medical Perspective

by J.A. Johnson, M.D.

For the woman struggling with the choice of continuation or termination of an unplanned pregnancy, there are several important medical issues to consider.

First of all, what are the abortion procedures available and at what stage of pregnancy? What are the medical risks of abortion? And, what do long-term studies show about women who have had abortions?

Abortion is defined as the voluntary interruption of a pregnancy, before fetal viability. In Manitoba, abortions are limited to the first trimester, or within the first 12 weeks of pregnancy, and are performed only in hospitals where there are therapeutic abortion committees. These committees consider referrals from doctors and are permitted to approve abortions if they feel that the continuation of pregnancy poses a threat to the woman's health or psychological well-being. This process is time consuming, often up to 4 or 6 weeks and so a woman considering an abortion should see a physician as soon as she suspects she may be pregnant.

The physician performs a complete history and physical examination, including a pregnancy test. Counselling should be a mandatory part of the abortion service and should include a discussion of all options, to enable the woman to make an informed decision.

Techniques used in abortion

There are three techniques in common use for abortion during the first trimester. Vacuum aspiration, or suction curettage, is the most widely used procedure for pregnancy termination at 6-12 weeks because of its safety and simplicity. It can be performed under general or local anesthesia and usually involves a day trip to the hospital. Often, a laminaria tent (actually a piece of seaweed) is placed in the woman's cervix the previous evening to help open the cervix, making the abortion easier to perform.

Dilation and curettage, also known as "D & C", involves the insertion of a sharp curette into the uterus to remove its contents. This procedure has a higher complication rate than the suction curettage. It is usually used for early second trimester (17-24 weeks) abortions performed by injecting solutions such as urea, saline or prostaglandin (a natural hormone) into the fluid surrounding the fetus. This induces a mini-labor and the uterine contents are expelled.

Menstrual regulation (or mini-abortion) involves suction aspiration of the contents of the uterus within 2-3 weeks of a missed period. This procedure, which requires little or no anesthesia, isn't currently available in Manitoba. It is usually performed without a positive pregnancy test since the conventional pregnancy test is not positive until about day 40 of the woman's cycle. There is some risk involved in this procedure, resulting in possible continuation of pregnancy or retained products which may bleed or become infected.

The risks

The medical risks of abortion depend on the stage of pregnancy, the skill of the medical personnel performing the operation and the technique used. Suction curettage before 12 weeks is associated with the lowest complication rate. Complications which can occur include perforation of the uterus, infection and persistent bleeding. Such events are rare when the abortion is performed under hygienic conditions by qualified medical personnel. Abortions done after 16 weeks, or repeated abortions increase the possibility of complications, both short term, as described, and long term.

D & C's have been associated with increased risk of spontaneous abortion and low birth weight babies in subsequent pregnancies.

Birth risks outweigh abortion risks

Studies have shown, however, that for teenagers, the risk of dying from complications associated with pregnancy is five times higher compared to complications associated with legally performed abortions. The risk of dying during birth complications or from abortion complications are both very low.

Follow-up studies of women who received abortions show that psychiatric complications are rare, and that most women are relieved to terminate an unplanned pregnancy. Those who regretted having abortions performed were initially ambivalent or opposed to abortion before they agreed to the procedure. The expression of anxiety, sadness, guilt and regret are normal reactions to be expected following an abortion.

The right to choose

The decision to perform an abortion should be considered on the basis of patient need, as with all other medical decisions. Abortion laws should be removed from the Canadian Criminal Code.

The ultimate goal should always be to circumvent the need for abortion. To this end, there is a great need for provincial ministers of health, education and social services to integrate programs devoted to sex education and provide family planning clinics and abortion services for women needing the service.

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Re/weaving The Web: Sand and Smyth A Pattern to Heal

Reweaving the web of life, Feminism and nonviolence, Pam McAllister, ed., Philadelphia, New Society Publishers, 1982.

"Put into the feminist perspective, nonviolence is the merging of our uncompromising rage at the patriarchy's brutal destructiveness with a refusal to give into despair or hate or to let men off the hook by making them the "Other" as they have made those they fear "Others."

—Pam McAllister

I find myself in tears as I read and reread this book. I remember Robin Morgan in *Not A Love Story*, crying as she speaks of how we live with our rage, our love and our hope. Empowerment is born from love and rage and our determination to save, and to create; to say no to death and hate, and yes to life and each other.

This book is about empowerment. It is made up of over fifty poems, graphics, stories and essays by social activists: against violence towards women, for peace, ecological sanity, social justice, cooperation, healing, self defence, feminist art and culture. The contributors are diverse in views and work, but share a commitment to feminism and non-violence. The two are necessarily linked, in their view. Rage alone will consume us; compassion alone will paralyse us. Together they fuel a real revolution. The revolution starts at home.

"A pacifist feminist's first obligation is to end her complicity in the violence of sexism," says Jane Meyerding. And it ends when we can all live in con-

nectedness with the Earth and each other. "Through us, our mothers connected the human past to the human future" said the Women's Pentagon Action Unity Statement. Feminism and nonviolence seek loving community in place of hierarchy, and healthy growth instead of "life on the precipice."

The first half of the book is theoretical, examining male bias in nonviolence theory, the links between masculinity and war, sexism in the peace movement, feminist resistance to patriarchal power and methods, and peace as a feminist issue.

The second half is centred on practice: resistance to war and war taxes, racism, the slaughter of other species, antinuclear activism, self defence, and interpersonal relationships. Also included is a brief chronology of some of the events mentioned in the text, a concluding list of further readings on feminism and non-violence, and, thank goodness, an index.

I found two topics of immediate interest. One is a revealing, if gruesome discussion of what happens to men during basic military training, to turn them from normal sexists with a modicum of human decency, into brutal, womanhating killers. Womanhating is deliberately inculcated, and sex is linked with violence and aggression.

"This is my rifle," (slapping the gun) "and this is my gun" (slapping the crotch), the men are made to shout. "One is for killing, the other's for fun." The aim of basic training is to turn a man into a thing that kills on command. He must overcome his humanity or learn to turn it off.

To accomplish this, the men are brutalized and exhausted.

They are called 'girls' and 'cunts' and 'fags'. The more aggression they exhibit, the more they are exalted as 'masculine' and 'military men' and 'good soldiers'. Once sexual identity and being a good soldier are linked with aggression, the men are taught that their survival depends on maintaining these links.

The kind of torture and humiliation of women that so horrifies us in violent pornography comes quite naturally out of the kind of images, reactions, and behaviour that are deliberately and skillfully inculcated in the military.

A second telling issue is the problems many of us have working within the malestream antinuclear movement. We know that the survival of the world depends on such work, but it seems like a contradiction in terms of feminism and non-violence, to keep working with some of these men. The movement men are often closely linked, spiritual and emotional twins, to the killer men who will blow us all up. Many antinuclear activist men simply do not see that violence against women is a peace issue, and that they must give up their own lust for power over others as a necessary part of working for healing and peace in the world.

This is a paradoxical book to read. I can gobble it up as food for thought, the heart, the soul. But I can't read just with my head. The words echo so many of my own questions and experiences that I must respond as a whole person.

by Barbara Roberts

Sand and Smyth

The Haunted Pool by George Sand (Shameless Hussy/San Lorenzo, CA. 1976)

Quilt by Donna E Smyth (Women's Educational Press/Toronto.) 1982

Virginia Wolf questioned whether there are differences between novels written by women and men, she suggests, in her work, that "the essential difference lies in the fact, not that men describe battles and women the birth of children, but that each sex describes itself."

Whether or not we are able to reach a satisfiable conclusion, there remains the excitement and pleasure of reading work by women novelists. As women, we are relieved to have positive, dynamic, and three-dimensional characters to identify with. If we do not seek identification as such, we can still be pleased with these portraits of our own sex. We can enjoy the aspects of life and the views on motives and aspirations which are so much neglected in the androcentric novels of many of our culture's celebrated authors.

George Sand's novel, originally published in France circa 1850, has been pretty much lost to the reading public. In general, she is not well-known except for her liaisons with famous men. Like many women celebrated in their own time, she has been written out of history.

Donna Smyth's novel deals with contemporary problems in rural Nova Scotia. She is co-ordinating editor of "Atlantis: A woman's Studies Journal" and teaches at Acadia University.

The two novels, "The Haunted Pool" and "Quilt" have a number of common themes and both challenge the reader to go beyond the expectations of how a story should be told. Sand's is

in the tradition of descriptive narration and, though it is simple enough to make sense of, the modern reader may have difficulty with the perfectly virtuous couple, with the formal dialogue, and with the theme of love culminating in marriage (surely the most exploited theme of our day).

However, the attempt to develop characters and the fascinating descriptions of the peasant life must be commended, and one will not be bored if one remembers the shallow portrayal of labouring women and men normally found in literature.

Smyth's innovative style discards quotations, and ignores the confinements of time, meshing years past with moments passing, revealing whole lifetimes, in what the reader surprisingly discovers is but one day, from cover to cover. Stepping in and out of the characters, we feel that we know them better than they know themselves. We witness their uncertainty in separating inner and outer worlds; dream and reality, conscious and unconscious.

Without an historical perspective, one may be tempted to fault Sand for the idyllic world she presents, and Smyth for the imperfect and often senseless world she presents. One seems to be a foolish optimist and the other a bothersome pessimist.

The life of peasants in 19th century France is rich with tradition. Of course, Sand has chosen characters who emulate the best of the virtues associated with peasant life; that life which is considered idyllic and enviable to city dwellers. There is no attempt to portray all rural inhabitants as perfectly content and humane. There are those who are vain, callous, and predatory, and they

cont'd on page 11

Portraits of Two Spies in the House of Men

Two films. Four Women. Two Artists plus Two Filmmakers equals Four Visions.

One Woman, Paraskeva Clark, is in her eighties and has decided to stop painting. The other, Esther Warkov, is in her forties and is at her work. Both are recently-released films directed by women.

Portrait of the Artist as an Old Lady: A Film about Paraskeva Clark is produced and directed by Gail Singer and released by the National Film Board.

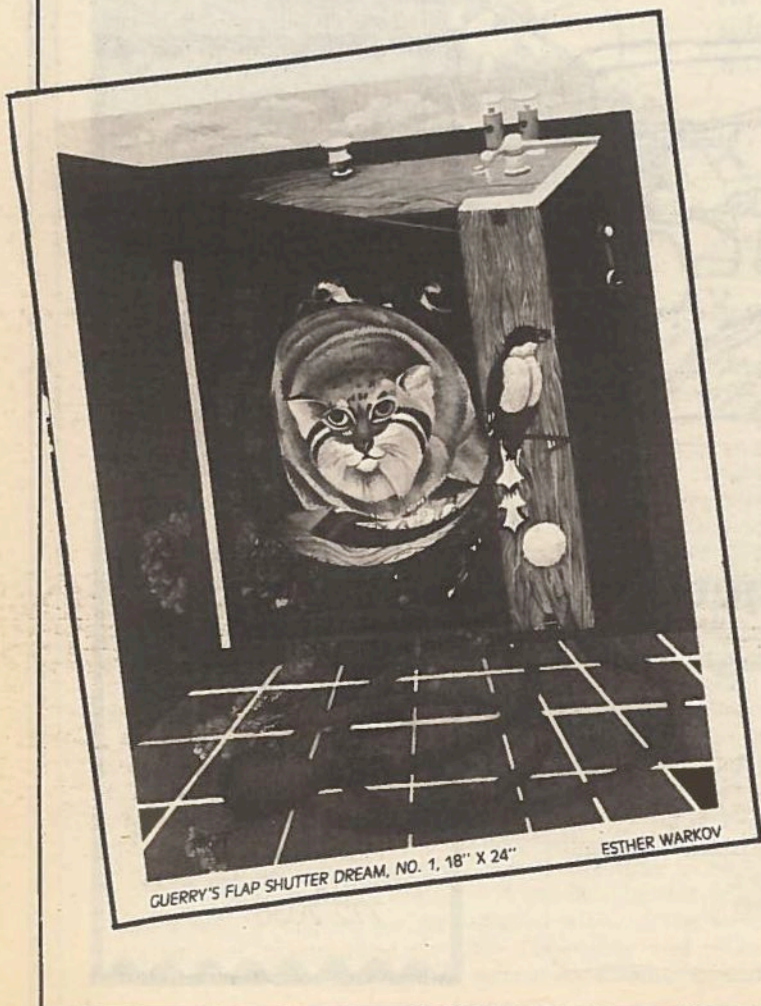
A Spy in the House, a film portrait of Winnipeg artist Esther Warkov, is directed and edited by local filmmaker Elise Swerhone and commissioned by the Manitoba Department of Education.

The techniques used by each filmmaker to tell us about the lives of these two women artists differ from one another.

Portrait is a documentary montage of old photographs, personal recollections and interviews which give chronological glimpses of Paraskeva's life. Both her life and her art are deliberately interwoven with the political facts of being a woman artist.

A Spy in the House shows us a competently verbal artist explaining her work process. It

cont'd on page 11



THE CONSUMER COLUMN

Optical Brighteners

by Marnie Pastuck

Optical brighteners are a category of chemicals widely used in industry and consumer products. They are the most recent method for producing good "whites" in washing and are used in the manufacture and processing of textiles.

Optical brighteners, also known as optical bleaches, whitening agents, and fluorescent bleaches, do not interact with impurities in fabric. Rather, they compensate optically for the impurities' yellowing effects by converting the invisible portion of sunlight into visible blue light. The end result is to whiten material by increasing the level of blue light reflected relative to that of yellow light. They also act to make materials appear brighter by increasing the overall reflected light.

Optical brighteners are used in soaps, detergents, bleaches, blueings, fabric softeners, and acid soaps. They are applied to textiles, paper, plastics, toothpaste, cosmetics, shampoos and waxes.

The world's production annually of optical brighteners is over 44 million pounds, of which 60% is used in washing compounds. There are over 200 chemically different optical brighteners commercially available, and the commonest are the sulphonated amino stilbenes. The core of this molecule is structurally related to the potent human carcinogen diethylstilbestrol, (D.E.S.).

Diethylstilbestrol is a synthetic stilbene with estrogenic activity. It was widely prescribed, to pregnant women in danger of miscarriage, from 1945 to 1965. In the late 60's it was shown as ineffective, (in keeping with increasing recognition that 80% of claims for common prescription drugs are not substantiated).

In recent years, Andenocarcinoma of the vagina (an otherwise excessively rare tumour) has surfaced at an alarming rate in post pubertal girls. Their mothers were all given D.E.S. during pregnancy.

Use of D.E.S. as a feed additive to fatten cattle was banned in 1973; it has been shown to cause cancer in many species of test animals, yet is still available as a "morning after" contraceptive, particularly in college campus pharmacies.

Manufacturers figure amongst the pharmaceutical giants; Ciba-Geigy, American Cyanamide, Bayer, Carlisle, and Sandoz. The optical brighteners are marketed under such names as TINOPAL, UVITEX, CALCELFUOR, BLANCOPHOR, MDAC COUMARIN DERIVATIVES, and LEUCOPHOR, though it's doubtful you'll ever find these listed on the labels of the products you bring into your home.

The World Health Organization has estimated that over 75% of human cancers are influenced by environmental factors, and 90% of human cancers are chemical in origin. The rate of cancer deaths is more rapid than the rate of increase in population. The unwitting and involuntary exposure, for the consumer, results not only in carcinogenicity (cancer), but teratogenicity (birth defects), and inheritable genetic damage (mutagenicity).

We are also at risk to immunological impairment, and psychobehavioural disorders. Different classes of chemicals interact outside the body, in products themselves (in vitro), and in the body (in vivo) to produce otherwise unanticipated synergistic effects. Synergistic toxicity can also result from interactions between specific synthetic chemicals, food additives, drugs, and otherwise harmless naturally occurring chemicals.

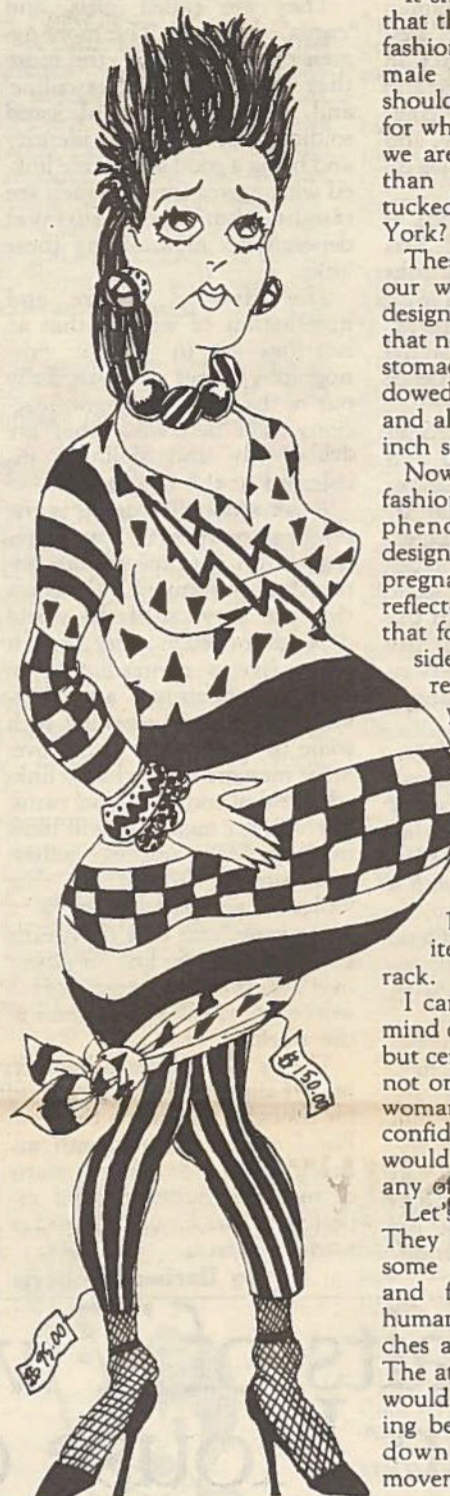
Despite massive usage of the stilbene brighteners, there is a lack of information as to their fate in water, or the products of their degradation. Industry studies admit that environmental influence of toxic compounds from fluorescent whitening agents is not known.

This clearly shows another example of a consumer product, massively used, without adequate knowledge as to the impact on the environment and potential adverse effects on human beings.

From Peter Pan to Punk

Fashion and the Pregnant Woman

by Debbie Holmberg-Schwartz



It should come as no surprise that the world of women's high fashion is, of course, defined by male designers. We women should be very grateful for this, for who knows more about how we are built or what we want, than a small group of men tucked away in Paris or New York?

These same men have graced our wardrobes with wonderful designs, causing us to pretend that not only do we lack hips or stomachs, but we are also endowed with enormous breasts, and all this we balance on five-inch spike heels.

Now, the world of maternity fashions is another complex phenomenon, where the designers' attitude toward the pregnant woman is cleverly reflected. My mother tells me that forty years ago it was considered quite unladylike to reveal a pregnant belly until you ABSOLUTELY HAD TO. Only nearing the seventh or eighth month of pregnancy, it was permissible to race off to the nearest department store, where women could then choose between eight or nine items hanging on the rack.

I can't imagine what kind of mind dreamed up these designs, but certainly it was one that had not only never seen a pregnant woman, but one that was quite confident in knowing that he would never have to appear in any of his fashions.

Let's start with the slacks. They were always made from some crude kind of synthetic, and fit comfortably on any human who stood six feet five inches and had a large rear end. The attractive elastic panel that would accommodate an expanding belly would inevitably roll down with the slightest movement.

The blouses were a real charm. The adorable Peter Pan collars gave that innocent virgin look to even the most obviously pregnant woman. The dresses were most ingeniously practical, for should you be refused a room at the inn, they quickly converted into a family size tent.

Times are different now and fewer of us are getting pregnant. Today's fashions are a desperate response and plea from the same male designers, worried about the declining birth rate and a corresponding decline in sales.

It's their way of saying, "Oh please get pregnant — I won't make you hide your belly anymore. In fact, I think pregnant women are just as sexy as the girls down at the bar." Now we have everything from prego sportswear and lingerie, to executive style suits for the "woman on the move."

With sleek, designer maternity pants, we now have "lacy" stretch panels (you can even see through some of them) and blouses that cling tightly to our breasts and abdomens. I was almost breathless when I saw the latest mini maternity dresses — prego-punk — they must have read our minds, those devils. The likes of Calvin Klein will have us slam dance til the end, then give birth on perfectly vogue delivery tables.

I can't wait for crotchless maternity panties — I may have to invent them myself. Why, we could even deliver in them.

I must add that yes, there are some attractive practical clothes for pregnant women, and yes, women designers are making improvements. I only wish the well-made clothes weren't so expensive, and I can't help but wonder why many designs still reinforce that wise and well thought out message —

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cont'd from page 9

SPIES

becomes clear in her beautifully photographed work that painting is her primary way of expressing herself.

A determination to exert control over their work, and thus their lives, is a common theme that links these two films.

Portrait begins with Paraskeva uncomfortably dropped in the executive offices and cafeteria of Canada Packers, Toronto. Her paintings on the walls are shown fleetingly, as the film sets up a tension between the investment capitalism of the art business, and Paraskeva's passionate socialism.

She tries to recall when a still-life of fish was painted, but is frustrated by a picture securely fastened to the wall. "Chains, chains, always chains with capitalism," she mutters.

A Spy in the House shows Esther in her spacious house, full of bright light, bleached animal skulls, cat hairs and canvasses of sensuous colour. The camera lingers over her images, revealing intimate details — veined, furred, marbelised characters.

Rummaging through stacks of picture books and clippings, Esther talks about, and shows us where she finds her images; images that are eventually bound to one another to interact in a specific space.

We view this suspense-filled process in one of the paintings Esther is working on. Slowly a man emerges, hovering behind a huge camera pointed at the prone figure of a woman.

Paraskeva and Esther speak about how being a woman in this culture affects their ability to be an artist. And through them, the two filmmakers seem also to be

speaking as women who share the condition of gender and artist.

Esther recounts the expectations placed on her by family. If she showed no ambition as a young girl, that was alright, because she would likely have children and marry. When she aspired to become an artist, getting schooling and training herself, she caused them anxiety.

Married in the 60's, she found the demands of marriage and raising a daughter hard to reconcile with her continued need and desire to produce her art.

Paraskeva, trained in Russia, did not paint for long periods in her life. As a young widow with a son to support, she did housework for her in-laws in Paris in the '20's. After her second marriage, to an accountant from Toronto, and more children, her life revolved around cooking, shopping and more of the same.

She rails against the injustices of women's fate — menstruation, child labour, housework: all of this, she says just to produce more men.

The filmmaker, Gail Singer, juxtaposes Paraskeva with only a few of her paintings to show the sparse production imposed on her. They are shadowy, photographed almost furtively in drab lighting.

Only her famous work, *Petrushka*, is dwelled on and discussed in the context of the social upheavals of the Thirties. The message in *Petrushka* had to be surreptitious, and it seems that even in life, a passionate woman artist must exist in this way with much the same strategy.

She is a commodity to many in the film's cast of male characters. They would have preferred to have the camera focussed on them. Yet, it is her personality that shines through as she sings an Edith Piaf chanson and recalls Paris beer gardens; as she recalls a great love.

With an acerbic wit, she recalls the Toronto art scene of the Thirties: "landscapes, landscapes, nothing but Group of Seven landscapes . . . bah." Her social criticism still finds Toronto lacking in passion and social involvement.

A Spy in the House is a beautifully and patiently photographed film. Elise Swerhone shows us a woman, committed and hardworking, who has made a name and a living for herself. Even so, as in the film about Paraskeva, this film director feels some obligation to interject a male authority figure, an art critic. One wonders why she thought it necessary to intrude with his comments.

Esther is always well-rooted in the home of her childhood and seems timeless. She is a woman whose Jewish immigrant heritage is part of her vision and work. Although the art critic would raise doubt, Esther knows about her art. Yet, she and her cats have an understanding not to tell too much about each other.

Please see these two films.

Portrait of the Artist as an Old Lady can be viewed free of charge from the National Film Board.

A Spy in the House will be available through the Department of Education for certified teachers and can be purchased through the Winnipeg Film Group.

by Brigitte Sutherland

SAND & SMYTH

Goodness is absolute in "The Haunted Pool" and this too will jive with the modern idea of the varying qualities of truth which make "absolute" a suspicious concept.

In Smyth's novel, we find another approach to the idea of "good"-in-unlikely-places. In "The Haunted Pool", the main characters are the representatives of "good", while in "Quilt" the characters search for signs that "good" is still a viable concept. Both Sand and Smyth deal with rural inhabitants whose ways are challenged by the modern world.

In "Quilt", however, the characters are aware of that world, and are surrounded by its challenge. Not only does life become progressively complex, but this is precisely because of the loss of faith in the traditional ways of dealing with life's mysteries. The quilt, which figures as the call for a gathering to which few answer, and those

who do are reluctant and doubtful, is a symbol of a life past when communities participated in a common life bonded by traditions.

Witnessing the characters' inability to respond to modern myths, is the sort of experience the modern reader needs to jolt her out of the technological trance that whispers of progress and prosperity for all. Truth appears pessimistic if it is challenging a mentality of "all is well and improving".

Smyth is dealing with the aftermath of the technological revolution, while Sand is dealing with what will be lost when technology infiltrates the peasant communities. Both novelists are saying, "Look here. Did you think you could learn nothing about yourself, about life, from these people?"

by Katherine Szadkowska

cont'd from page 9

are not used to expose the ideals, but to make them more admirable.

The traditions are presented as anachronistic, in a France already transformed by industry and railroads. The narrator, as an observer, brings with her the perspective of an educated, worldly existence. She speaks of the village as "ours", and so combines the cautiousness and skepticism of the outsider with the spontaneity and faith of the participant. There is the sense of celebrating something good that has survived, and the idea of presenting peasant life as an example of "good" is probably what would have most irritated Sand's literate contemporaries.

The modern reader is likely to feel burdened by what appears to be naïveté on the part of the author. Truth is Beauty for Sand, and the modern reader is better suited to complex images of truth's chameleon qualities.

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CORRECTION

Our apologies to Banbury Cross. Their ad should have read homemade rocking horses, not rocking chairs as was stated in our December issue.



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The program applies a unique combination of cooperation among government departments, social agencies, and private industries to provide jobs for a selection of suitable applicants, as well as in the development of job-specific training programs.

One such applicant to New Careers was Sandra Montpetit, who after a 10-year absence from the workforce to raise four children, is now in training to be a Correctional Officer at The Pas Correctional Institute.

Sandra says, "this training program helps women get back into it" and smiles as she adds: "I'm making a man's wage."

At the beginning of her on-the-job training, Sandra received 75 percent of the wages of a Correctional Officer, working her way up to 85 percent of full salary upon graduation.

The 18-month training schedule includes two weeks of classroom work every six weeks. The classroom work includes leadership, communication and group work, among many others.

"What I'm doing is just great, it helps you grow," says a happy Sandra, who found out about the New Careers training program from a recent graduate who is now employed as an employment counsellor in The Pas.

Besides Correctional Officers, there are ongoing training programs for Juvenile Counsellors; Chemical Abuse Counsellors; Teachers Aides; Nutri-

tion/Health Advisors; Aircraft Mechanics; Northern Retail Store Managers; and others.

Depending upon requests from potential employers, new training programs are being designed on a continuing basis to meet their criteria.

One such program is providing training service for the first Canadian Native Child Welfare Agency, the Dakota Ojibway Child and Family Service. The eighteen workers in training live and work in Sandy Bay, Sioux Valley, Birdtail Sioux, Oak Lake, Dakota Plains, Swan Lake, Long Plains and Roseau River.

As well, 28 trainees from 26 Indian Reserves in the South-East Tribal Council, Interlake Tribal Council and South-West Tribal Council areas of the province are being trained as Native Child and Family Service workers.

Marjorie Beaucage explains that much of the groundwork of developing the training programs for these specific jobs is done by New Careers staff involving the eventual employer, as well as taking into consideration the specific needs of the job to be done.

Potential applicants for the program are considered under criteria that includes present unemployment or employment at low-skill, low-paid jobs. Applicants may have little education or qualifications for a desired job. Once accepted by their ultimate employer, the applicants become workers-in-training on the job.

In describing the classwork, Marjorie stresses the importance of adapting the sessions to the specific needs of the individuals in the training group. While all individuals bring different life-skills to the sessions, emphasis is placed on including self-knowledge, and on value

clarification on the part of trainees, as well as the trainers.

The group members become very close and give each other support, share their skills with one another, learn additional skills and are accountable to one another. The development of this close relationship "helps with the stress and pressure of their jobs in small communities," adds Marjorie.

An aspect of her training odyssey addresses conveying knowledge of how to understand and overcome social and economic barriers in communities. Marjorie feels another key component is prevention and community education — the need to deal with issues before they reach crisis proportions. To this end, she teaches issue analysis, strategizing, and understanding how systems work, with the ultimate goal for the workers being to "break the cycle."

For instance, long-term unemployment can lead to low self esteem and frustration, as well as to physical violence in families and communities. The model can be applied to any problem inherent in society.

The continued success of a job training program like New Careers makes some positive impact in rectifying some of these problems. In 1982, 91 trainees graduated from this adult education program.

Findings of a survey of 1978-1982 graduates of the program are that the average family income has doubled and that present labour force participation is 92.3 percent. As well, 85 percent of those presently employed feel that they are using skills obtained in the training program and only 15 percent moved from their original region of residence.

by Brigitte Sutherland

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