

HERizons

the manitoba women's news magazine

A MOTHERHOOD ISSUE

Price \$1.00

February, 1983

VOL. I, NO. 1



Jo-Anne Kelly Silk & Silver

- Exclusive Hand Painted Silk Wearables and Scarves
- Decorative Batik Wall Pieces
- Hand Made Sterling Jewelry

Available at . . . by hand
gallery of craft
122 Osborne Village
475-6380

A raft of policies for a more comfortable retirement.

Social Security will help. So will a pension plan. But if you want a truly comfortable retirement, you almost certainly will need more.

A New York Life retirement policy can guarantee extra income every month for as long as you or your spouse live. What's more, some New York Life retirement policies will not only provide a monthly income at retirement, but financial protection *now* for your family.

I will be glad to help you select the retirement plan best suited to your needs. Call today.

A.M. JEANNETTE FRASER
New York Life Insurance Company
1616 - One Lombard Place
Winnipeg, Manitoba
942-6311



from the collective

You

are sharing with us a very special event in our history, and since this is a "motherhood" issue, we might even call it a rebirth. Yet, it is with some sadness that we leave our tabloid format, but great excitement has been part of our transmutation into a shimmering, colour-covered mag.

An easy-to-read journal on the bus or in the tub, we hope you'll handle and read us with affection and adopt us as your own. While many of the format changes we've made have given us a totally different appearance, Herizons editorial policy hasn't changed. We're still committed to providing a feminist analysis through our coverage of issues of interest to women.

There is something we would appreciate from you. We've included a market survey in this issue for our readers to complete and return to us. It is vital that we compile research on our readers so that we can best reflect your needs; through our content as well as advertising directives.

For current subscribers, the change from newspaper to magazine has an added benefit; you'll be receiving the magazine at the old newspaper rates until your subscription runs out. (Subscription expiry date is on the address label.) So let us know what you think of the new mag and we'll see you again April and then we'll be your dependable monthly.



MORES

*I wanted to go out and change
the world,
but I couldn't get a babysitter.
—Anonymous*

No choice week condemned ... Women's films to be axed? ... Welfare story welcome ... LETTERS

Herizons news magazine is appalled at the misuse of political power generated by your proclamation of a so-called "Respect for Life" week.

As a vital force in the Winnipeg women's community, we are suspicious that your partisanship on the issue of reproductive choice for women is an endorsement of the League for Life's political activities. This is indicated by the fact that the proclamations were all sent to the League's offices and no other organizations were included in the endorsement, and of course of your past history on the matter of reproductive choice.

As a political public figure, you should be gracious enough to own up to your personal politics without having to hide behind another organization's. You should also not be naive enough to think that a dubious "respect for life" proclamation is going to fool anyone into believing that anything but uterine life is being hailed.

As a feminist/humanist organization, we are firmly committed to ending all forms of human oppression; racism, political persecution, economic oppression, the nuclear arms race, as well as the sexist oppression women are subject to. It is unfortunate that circumstances exist which make abortion a necessary option for women. Contraceptives are not 100 per cent effective; often they pose health risks to women. If safe, widespread contraception were available, unwanted pregnancies would be reduced. If men would take more responsibility for contraception and be held accountable to the children they produce (after all, women don't just get pregnant by themselves), women would bear less of the responsibility for being pregnant with and bearing children. If our economic system supported more services and opportunities for mothers and stopped making children an (often unbearable) economic liability, women would not feel so compelled to choose abortion. If sex education were dealt with in schools and contraceptives were open available, if rape did not exist, if fathers didn't molest their children ... I could go on and on.

In closing, I feel the need to stress that abortion is not something women relish; I have never met a woman who is in favor of abortion. Abortion is an unfortunate choice many women make because, after assessing their circumstances, choose not to have a child. It is not something they like to do, any more than people enjoy having their tonsils or appendix removed. Furthermore, it is not your place, as a man who will never face any of the circumstances which lead women to choose abortion, to condemn reproductive choice in thoughtless unison with the League for Life.

Denying women reproductive choice in the matter of abortion is not going to make the world a happier place for children; it is not going to force women into embracing motherhood; it is not going to enable women to suddenly be able to afford to bear children they didn't want or couldn't afford; it is not going to end child abuse. And, it is certainly not going to end abortions; it will only further punish women (economically if they have to pay for and travel

out of province) socially (being forced to bear a child out of wedlock) and generally for something which is not often through any "fault" of their own. How humane is this?

In short, it is tiring to hear the thoughtless dribble of anti reproductive choice organizations, and in this case mayors, who haven't addressed the far-reaching, all-encompassing ramifications of their personal and political philosophies. You should educate yourself, Mr. Norrie, before you hasten to proclaim Anti-Choice weeks every year, because I'm sure that come election time, you don't want to be known as the candidate who encourages the oppression of women and would like to deny them control over their own bodies.

Penni Mitchell
Writer/Editor
for Herizons

I have just read your article in HERIZONS (Welfare Cutbacks—Women and Children First). It was great.

We have been in touch with Joe Ryant and have made a submission to the Task Force on Social Assistance, in which we tried to make two major points (aside from the obvious ones about the position of women in society): first that parenting is work and should be treated as such, and second that the earnings exemptions for welfare recipients are too low and that an "easement formula" which would allow greater earnings and would permit earnings to rise as benefits fall, should be considered.

Gus Long
Editor

Federated Anti-Poverty Groups of B.C.
520 McDonald Street
New Westminster, B.C.

While preparing to send you articles about our filmmaking activities at Studio D, the Women's Studio of the National Film Board, we have been confronted in the meantime with the current issue of the Applebaum/Hebert report which you may have been hearing about. In effect the Report suggests that the National Film Board be abolished and be used instead as a centre for training and film research.

Right now we are asking you and your members to support the existence of the National Film Board through which Studio D operates and functions.

STUDIO D is the only publicly-funded, woman-run centre for women filmmakers in Canada—and indeed the world!

It's staff filmmakers have made such films as PATRICIA'S MOVING PICTURE, I'LL FIND A WAY, NOT A LOVE STORY ... It has employed free lance women filmmakers to produce films like THE LADY FROM GREY COUNTY, IF YOU LOVE THIS PLANET ... Through a program of assistance, Studio D has contributed to the majority of films made by independent women filmmakers in this country, including A WIFE'S TALE, MOVING MOUNTAINS, P4W (KINGSTON PRISON FOR WOMEN).

Studio D is threatened: The Applebaum/Hebert Report on culture has recommended that our

base—the National Film Board—cease producing films and be reduced to a centre for training and experiment. It recommends that the bulk of government assistance for film be transferred to the private commercial film industry, and administered by the CFDC. Nowhere is there any recognition of the abysmal record of the CFDC or the commercial feature film industry vis-a-vis the image of women or the role of women as filmmakers. Nowhere in the recommendations on film is there any provision for the kind of films that we as women need as audiences; that we as women filmmakers need to make to express our perceptions and perspectives.

We ask you to let the Government know how you feel about the future of the National Film Board and Studio D. Include your suggestions for improvements: Do you think we should have more money to produce more films? to enable us to support more independents? that prints of women's films should be available in greater numbers so they are more easily accessible? do you feel that women's films should receive more exposure on CBC?

It is important that the Government of Canada be aware of women's concerns: send your views on the N.F.B. and Studio D to:

Honorable Francis Fox
Department of Communications
Journal Tower North Building
300 Slater Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0C8

You could send copies to your own MP and to: Right Honorable Pierre Elliott Trudeau
Prime Minister's Office
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A2

Very important: Send a copy of your letter to: Studio D, P-43
P.O. Box 6100
Montreal, Quebec
H3C 3H5

The Honorable Judy Erola
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women
Room 707
Confederation Building
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Thank you in advance—we appreciate being able to access this kind of assistance from you. In the meantime, if there is any information or assistance you need from us here at Studio D, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Sincerely,

Joy Johnson
Audience Researcher

Herizons
125 Osborne St.
Winnipeg
R3L 1Y4

13 "ONE MILLION HIROSHIMAS" FILM
at 10:30 a.m. Unitarian Church, 790 Banning St. at Sargent.

"SUSANNA" "PINK TRIANGLE"
"Rape Culture" "Farewell to Charms". Films at 1:30 p.m. and
discussion at The Women's Building, 730 Alexander Ave.

15 "THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION
of Women" MASCW Discussion Series with speakers, 12-1:30
p.m. at 224-308 Donald St. (942-2000) or 7:30-9 p.m. at 295
Balmoral St.

C.O.P.E.—A SIX-WEEK COURSE
on parenting effectively. To register contact River Heights Family
Life Education Ctr. Inc., 621 Oxford St., Penny Yellen at
452-1742.

18 CONFERENCE—
Immigrant Women. Opening Fri. 6:30 p.m. at International Inn.
Conference Sat. 9-4 p.m. at International Centre, 700 Elgin Ave.
772-0346.

MIDWIFERY 1983
2nd Labour of Love Conference, Hotel Vancouver, B.C.—Cost
\$150 for three-day Conference. For information call 261-9471.

19 WOMEN'S SELF DEFENSE
Wen-Do Basic week-end course. Sat. & Sun. 10-6 p.m. \$30 to
register mail cheque to 730 Alexander Ave. or phone
475-2329/783-7889.

21 5TH ANNUAL WOMEN'S BUILDING
Opening Celebration. Pot Luck Supper & Women's Art and Music
6-10 p.m. Women's Bldg., 730 Alexander Ave. Come Celebrate!

22 THE ADOPTIVE FAMILY
A four-week course for parents whose adopted children are ask-
ing questions re their origins. Contact Penny Yellen at 452-1742.

26 PUNK FUNK CLOTHING SALE
with music by "Ruggey Annes" 1 p.m.-4 p.m. Admission \$1
Women's Bldg., 730 Alexander Ave.

28 EXPOSURE "GOING WEST"
from Mon., Feb. 28-Fri., March 4 at University of Winnipeg, 515
Portage Ave. Seminars featuring experts on issues relevant to
Western Canada.

for next month
MARCH

1 WOMEN'S ROLE IN THE WEST
Seminar featuring Sylvia van Kirk, Mary Kinnear and Myrna
Phillips takes place at 12:30 March 1 at U. of W's Exposure '83.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
History and MACSW Involvement. Discussion with speaker
12-1:30 p.m. at 224-308 Donald and 7:30-9 p.m. at 295
Balmoral St.

5 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
Activities on March 5, 6, 7, 8 will include workshops, social,
plenary and march. For more info call the Committee at
942-2000.

13 "WE ARE THE GUINEA PIGS"
A film of nuclear madness. Showing at 1:30 p.m. at the Women's
Bldg., 730 Alexander Ave.



IT'S LIKE A BIRTHDAY
every day at Mount Saint Vin-
cent University. Each mail
brings a bundle of letters, cards,
notes, enclosing gifts—all in
response to an appeal to Cana-
dian women to help the coun-
try's only women's university.

The Mount is asking "women
to help women" by sending \$1
(over \$5 income tax deductible)
to support scholarships and bur-
saries for deserving women of
all ages, and to fund neglected
areas of research into women's
issues.

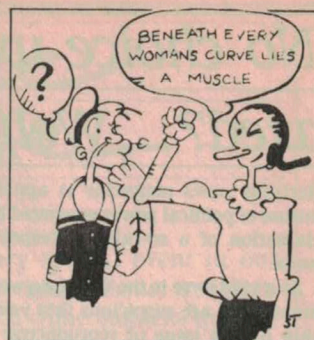
Contributions to the \$1 cam-
paign can be sent to the
Development Office, Mount Saint
Vincent University, 166 Bedford
Highway, Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3M 2J6.

CONNEXIONS IS
soliciting materials to document
the efforts of those working to
create a society free from sex-
ism. For publication early in
1983, the issue is entitled
WOMEN AND MEN, a progress
report on our struggles for
authentic human identity. Send
descriptions of your group,
analyses, strategies, materials
you produce, research, reflec-
tions, projects, programmes, or
events to CONNEXIONS, 427
Bloor St. W., TORONTO M5S
1X7.

SOLICITING AUDIO
tapes of lesbian culture by
Radical Rose Recordings. Tapes
of interviews, informal conversa-
tions, humour, music, stories,
oral history, poetry, lectures,
analysis, and other sharing are
all welcome. Please write for in-
formation before sending
tapes—Radical Rose Recordings,
P.O. Box 8122, Minneapolis,
MN 55408.



INCEST SURVIVORS
Lesbians wanted to fill out ques-
tionnaire on their experiences
for book by incest survivors who
are lesbians. For info/question-
naire write to: Susan Marie,
P.O. Box 304, Oakland, CA
94668.



ANYONE INTERESTED
in collectively pursuing peace
studies—call Regina 774-5610.

FAIR BALL:
towards sex equality in Cana-
dian sport—Have women attain-
ed sex equality with men in
sport? Are they the victims of
discrimination? Can the Situa-
tion be Improved? Authored by
M. Ann Hall and Dorothy A.
Richardson, the new study can
be obtained from the Canadian
Advisory Council on the Status
of Women, 66 Slater St., 18th
Floor, Ottawa, Ontario K1P
5H1.

MOTHER'S
Take-a-Break Program is being
offered by the Manitoba
Association for Children with
Learning Disabilities in conjunc-
tion with the Y.W.C.A. for hyper-
active pre-schoolers. For infor-
mation call Laurie Garcea at
774-1821 or Norma Kerr at
943-0381.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
for sexual assault and crisis in-
tervention programs—Training
will be provided in February
and March by Klinik Community
Health Centre. For information
call Judy Cook Hannibal at
786-6945.

VOLUNTEER POSITIONS
at the zoo—City of Winnipeg
Parks & Rec. Dept. and the
Junior League of Wpg. are start-
ing a zoo school education pro-
gram. Volunteers are needed to
help Gr. 1-6 students learn
about natural history, animal
classification and ecology. For
info. call Doug Ross
832-0167/895-8048 or Aleta
Rae 832-0167/452-1433.

THE UNIVERSITY OF
Winnipeg's Exposure
'83—"Going West" will feature
Women's Role in the West
seminar after lunch on March
1st featuring Sylvia Van Kirk,
Mary Kinnear and Myrna
Phillips.

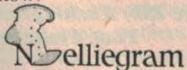
ON THE HERIZON

No Choice Week

It seems Mayor Bill Norrie and the gang at city hall didn't get enough of us last year, so they are considering proclaiming yet another "Respect for Life" week sometime this month. Rumour has it, the week of festivities will include giving gifts to the first baby born during the week and other equally significant celebrations of uterine life.

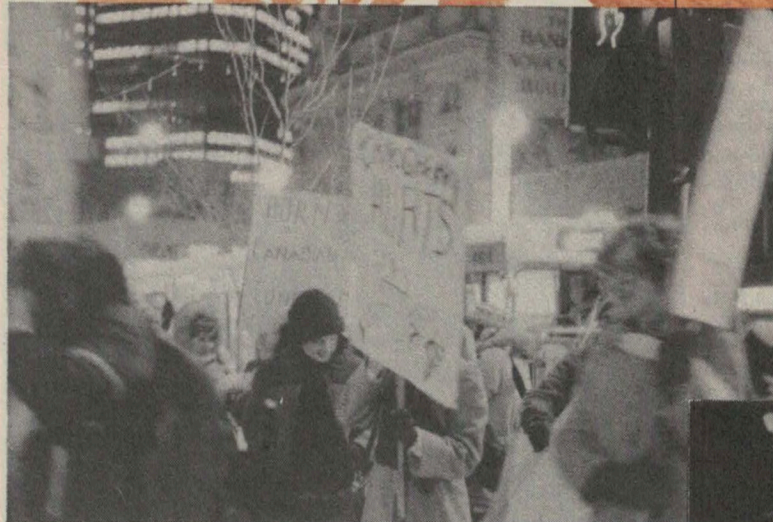
No one knows if the "pro-lifers" respect for life has expanded to include life outside the womb yet, but the rumour mill is doubtful. In spite of their apparent respect for life, the organizations don't include world peace, ending human rights violations, wife abuse or even child abuse as part of their platform.

Still bent on denying reproductive choice of women though, (in spite of life-threatening situations endured at the prospect of bearing children) the pro-lifers aren't kidding anyone into thinking that their respect for human life is sincere. While the final decision on Respect for Life Week has yet to be made, women in favor of reproductive choice have recognized Mayor Bill's political manouvering as an attempt to deny women reproductive choice and are calling his office (946-0196) to let him know.



Bad News: France's socialists go back on abortion promise. Promising to pay 70% of the cost of all legal abortions out of the Social Security Fund last Spring, the Minister for Women's Rights has reneged her promise on the grounds they need to save money.

The reasons for nearly half of France's abortions being illegal is the high cost of legal abortions, inadequate facilities, and a legal time limit of ten weeks.



Nearly one hundred women and male supporters took to the streets in Winnipeg to protest CRCT's licensing of pornography on pay television January 18th. Protests were held across the country to demonstrate that we're not going to let porn profiteers make more bucks at our expense.

Out of the fire—into the Courts

The B.C. Wimmin's Fire Brigade can claim at least a partial victory in its quest to close down pornography stores in the Vancouver area now that some of the outlets have declared that they will not re-open for business.

The owner of the West End Vancouver building that houses Red Hot Video is already trying to evict Red Hot because of the women's protests, which culminated in November with fire-bombing attempts on several of the chain's locations. Five men and women were recently arrested in connection with the incident.

R.C.M.P. have conducted raids on 10 Red Hot Video outlets in the province over the past few months, seizing hundreds of pornographic tapes depicting violence and degradation of women.

While women's groups in the province continue to lobby for an end to the widespread sale of

pornography, B.C. Attorney-General Allan Williams has done little other than appoint a "special Crown counsel" to look into the situation. A police detective notes that they have given porn to the Crown counsel "many times", which, in their eyes violated existing porn laws, was eventually ignored by the Attorney-General's office.

A police detective notes that his department has turned over porn tapes to the Crown Counsel in the past, only have it ignored by the Attorney-General's office.

The powerful B.C. Federation of Women is being credited with "mounting enough pressure to make Attorney-General Allan Williams begin to move against the pornographer profiteers, who have made exorbitant profits on the distribution of tapes which link sexual pleasure to the pain, humiliation and coercion of women." (Nicole Kennedy, spokesperson for the B.C. Federation of Women)

**PORN IS
THE THEORY
RAPE IS
THE PRACTISE**




VIDEO PORN



"DON'T PLAY GAMES WITH Our Bodies Demonstration against video-game trade show at New York Hilton. Continuing in its racist and sexist way American Multiple Industries, who brought us **Custer's Revenge**, are marketing another game called **Beat'em and Eat'em**. The player must manoeuvre a prostitute standing on the street to swallow the falling semen of a man masturbating on a roof above her. These games, advertised in **Playboy** and **Penthouse**, came in packages marked 'Not for sale to minors' and carry the Swedish Erotica insignia used for X-rated video movie cassettes.

Outwrite


 Belliegram

Polish porn

The cries of women's oppression are barely audible these days over the howling of politicians, bureaucrats and newspaper columnists (men, no less), that freedom of expression is tantamount to women's freedom from oppression.

Historically, pornography has been used for more than titillating men and oppressing women: it has also been used by oppressive regimes to diffuse dissent and civil disobedience.


Sound far fetched?

Poland's communist government recently published 200,000 pornographic calendars, allegedly to make a fast buck. As we learned from National Film Board research in **Not A Love Story**, the Nazis, prior to invading Poland during the Second World War, flooded Poland with pornography as a way of diffusing the smouldering dissent of civil disobedience.

Could pornography be a sublime opiate of the masses?

.... One and a half million unemployed Canadians unemployment benefits running out talk of extending military training as a means of coping with 'jobless unrest' combined with little hope for recovery. Along comes **First Choice**, the Playboy channel with the same pornographic messages that have been used historically to alienate people from one another in times of economic and social unrest.

Fortunately(?), Canadians who would be most likely to comprise the 'jobless restless' in the country can't afford the thirty bucks to have their minds distracted by pay porn.



 Belliegram

NEW WAVE OF WOMEN'S expression—Vi Subversa is the lone woman in **Poison Girls**. The band is comprised of her son and his mates. She sings (as well as plays lead guitar) of abortion, housework, mental illness, sex and war.

On their album "Total Exposure", Vi sings to younger men:

I'm not your fucking mother
I'm not your fucking whore
I'm not your baby sitter
or the girl next door

I'm not a pretty package
to titillate your prick
Stuff your revolution
Your insults make me sick
You've had a final warning
We've all run out of time
Better get a lead-lined jock
strap
of the very best design.

Vi Subversa is in a position to understand well the need to take dominant culture by its horns and intervene with strength, defiance and anger.

—Joy Thompson/Kinesis

TAKE THE TOYS FROM THE BOYS



"LADIES, ALL I'M ASKING you to do is to keep the peace," pleaded the chief magistrate as he sentenced them to two weeks in prison. Women, 23 of them, went to prison for such actions as occupying sentry boxes, blockading gates of the U.S.A.F base, moving surveyors' sextants to disrupt daily life at the Greenham Common military base.

They explain with compelling testimony that they did so in order to stop a fundamental law being broken, the 1969 Conspiracy to Genocide Act.

No opposition politician's speech or clergyman's cry of alarm can match the growing impact of the Greenham women's peace camp.


Theirs is an unequivocal challenge to the Reagan and Thatcher governments' plans to place 96 nuclear cruise missiles in bunkers on the sprawling airbase just across the high-chained-linked fence from where the women live.

In mud, under plastic sheets, they have lived here for the past 15 months. They range in age from 17 to 70. Greenham Common is becoming so unique a symbol, said Wendy Chivers, 28, a cook, "because it is women joined together to stop the weapons of war. In the past, we were just there when it was over to pick up the pieces."

European newspapers have mentioned the peace camp almost daily for two months, either on a front page or in editorials.

On Dec. 12, about 30,000 women came from all over Europe and linked hands at 1 p.m. to "embrace the base" in an anti-nuclear protest. They stuck photos and flowers through perimeter fencing—"There were punks next to grannies."

—Spare Rib/Washington Post/Globe & Mail



 Belliegram

Good News: The French government has brought the age of consent for homosexuals in line with the age of consent for heterosexuals, which is 15.

More Good News: A recently passed law that there had to be a minimum of 20% women on municipal councils, has now been raised to a minimum of 25%

—Spare Rib

war and peace


 Belliegram

LONG ISLAND LIGHTING Company loves god and god must love nuclear power plants because he made so many of them. A pamphlet sent to customers in the New York area carried reprints from religious magazines and notes that the sun and stars are nuclear power plants. "It is a sobering thought that god has made more nuclear power plants than anything else."

Big Mama Rag

Homemakers Swept Aside In Pension Report

In the recently released Green Paper—**Better Pensions for Canadians**—the federal government "summarily dismisses any kind of creative changes," according to Georgia Cordes, chairperson of the Public Affairs/Social Action Committee of the Y.W.C.A.

Cordes, who has spoken widely on pension reform for women, credits Health Minister Monique Begin with fighting for many inclusions in the Green Paper which are of vital concern to women. Nevertheless, one of the most serious omissions, Cordes says, is that "homemaker involvement in the Canada Pension Plan is not dealt with in any meaningful way at all."

A report, **Pension Reform With Women in Mind** by Louise Dulude, which was commissioned in 1981 by the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women, stresses the necessity to integrate homemakers, into the CPP at pension credits of half the industrial wage (just above minimum wage).

Liberal policy on this issue is clearly reflected in the Green Paper, which abandons

Dulude's recommendations for homemakers' pensions. Cordes contends that this omission is naive at best and appalling and chauvenistic at worst.

"The Canada Pension Plan is not a welfare program", was a recent statement made at the Manitoba Pension Conference by Robert J. Allen, director-general of planning, income security branch of Health and Welfare. It is apparent government has no compulsion to put into place a pension system that would ensure women independent incomes and security in their old age.

By citing inequities between women in and outside of the paid workforce as a reason not to address this issue, Cordes believes the government's Green Paper "encourages the pitting of women against one another in their struggle for a secure future."

With two-thirds of elderly women now living below the poverty line, women cannot afford to wait any longer for pension reform.

Oddly enough, the refusal of government to recognize

homemakers' contributions within marriage stops upon divorce or separation. In this case, the Green Paper recommends discussion on more equitable pension splitting—as a way to protect spouses. Here, there is acknowledgement (hard-won by women lobbying for changes in family law) of the contribution women's work makes within a marriage partnership, whether she was in the paid workforce or not.

The Green Paper admits that this would redress some of the pension income of divorced women. Some provincial family law provisions would have to be altered to accommodate pension splitting between spouses. While the splitting of pension credits is just, the Green Paper avoids recommending equal division, leaving it up to the judiciary to apportion pensions.

As well, a broader application of the pension-splitting philosophy is suggested in the Green Paper. Dulude, an Ottawa lawyer and researcher for the economic rights of women, says, "what is being proposed now is that we extend this right for equalization to couples who are remaining married, split the pension and give each a cheque." Cordes explains that women's groups have moved beyond seeing this as the only

solution to women's poverty because they know that in most instances, this means woefully inadequate pensions for both recipients.

Dulude suggests this is a step in the right direction. "but we must also have a recognition of the economic value of the work a homemaker performs for others—children, a spouse, parents, adult children."

Another way to integrate child rearing is via the Drop-out clause, which would subsidize homemakers' contributions to CPP while their children were under the age of seven. They would not be penalized within the CPP for this period of wagelessness. This is already in effect in Quebec and has resulted in increasing a typical woman's pension benefits by 25%. Ontario's veto of this drop-out clause prevents all Canadian women from benefiting under the plan.

Claiming that many of these implementations would reinforce "the pattern of holding women primarily responsible for housework and childcare," Reva Landau, in an article "From Paupers to Pensioners" in **Broadside**, has another suggestion. Since more than half of the women who have children over

Attacks On Judy E.

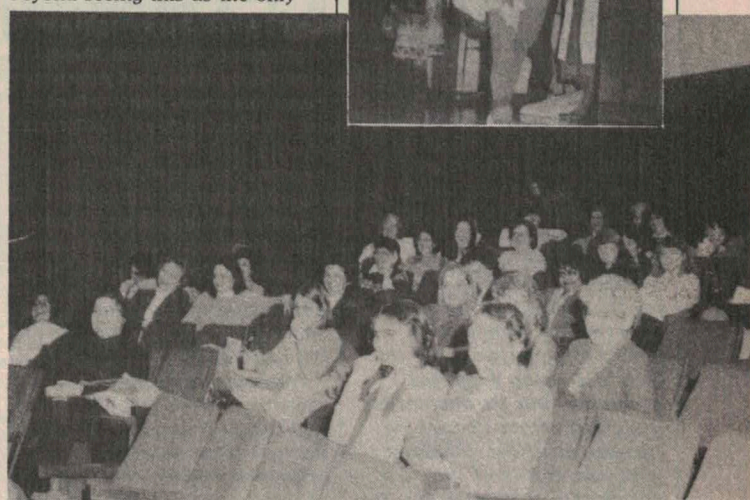
The "spousal exemption" controversy in Ottawa seems to have changed focus; from whether affluent married men should continue to benefit from their partners' dependent status, onto Judy Erola herself, who feels tax breaks should be given to working women.

Erola says the issue has been clouded, partly because she was not explicit in her original statement that single mothers' benefits would not be sacrificed, but mostly by what she calls "the wealthy minority" who feel they have to discredit her entire concept of child care benefits so they can maintain their privileged exemptions. Allowing men to benefit financially from their partners' dependent status only encourages women's dependency, she says, while it does nothing for women who have to work to support their children.

The married woman who works in the home, if she is

seen as making a valuable contribution to society, should not be considered a burden for which compensation should be provided (to her husband no less), but rather as an asset, for which tax breaks are not awarded.

Perhaps ironically, the male ministers who have been quick to condemn Erola, are spouting what women have been saying for years, namely that women who work in the home are making a valuable contribution to society. The problem isn't whether or not they really believe this, but that they continue to maintain that husbands and not wives should be rewarded for the work done in the home. If these same politicians put their political power where their mouths are, the tax money pocketed by husbands could more directly benefit housewives, in the form of cash disbursements or tax credits, rather than exemptions.



About 75 women got together during the Museum of Man (what? no woman) and Nature sponsored conference, "Old Ghettos, New Ghettos and Alternatives" on January 22. Featured were Barbara Garson from New York and Pat McDermott of the Labour Relations Board. The day of events also featured the Nellie McClung Theatre group, Terri Gray, Barb Spence and a 'fashion' show, put on by women from the Manitoba Teachers' Society.

the age of six are not in the paid workforce, they would not benefit upon adoption of the drop-out clause. She implies that all of these women are married and are doing their husbands' share of the housework.

Therefore, Landau suggests that "the contributions should be made by the man who benefits from her work—her husband."

The Green Paper doesn't address the situation of welfare mothers, or those 97% of divorced and separated women whose settlements already do not provide for pension splitting.

Not exactly a "rags to riches" story, at present the CPP replaces only 25 per cent of the incomes of workers. It is with this in mind that the Green Papers expresses concern for the 50 percent of Canadians left out of the employer sponsored plans, but makes no mention of ways to compel companies to institute such plans. Employees should press for pension plans in their workplace and public sector employees, whose sizable pension contributions are rooted through financial institutions, could be influential in pressing for changes, according to Cordes.

The Green Paper is an easy-to-read document and should encourage the very necessary debate on this subject amongst Canadian women. The upcoming, cross-Canada pension hearings "will be the final and greatest opportunity to let government know what we want," stresses Cordes.

The Government of British Columbia has finally given its approval to the "child-rearing drop-out" provision of the Canada Pension Plan. This allows women who leave the paid work-force, in order to spend time at home caring for young children, to drop-out those years of low or no earnings from the calculation of average lifetime earnings as a basis for their pension. Ontario is now the one province withholding support for the "child-rearing drop-out" provision, but its abstention affecting vetoes change as two-thirds of the provinces with two-thirds of the population must approve any in the Canada Pension Plan.

Make your voice heard! Let the Ontario government know where you stand on this pension issue of importance to women in Canada.

BRIGITTE SUTHERLAND

Women in crisis

Women In Crisis, an organization of concerned women in The Pas, will finally be opening a transition house for battered women and their children, after two and a half years of plans and negotiations.

Coordinator Lillian Hart, says this service has been "needed in The Pas for a long, long time."

Training for 15 full-time staff began February 7.

Once opened, Iskeew House will provide shelter for residents in the immediate area, as well as the outlying district. M.H.R.C. (Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation) has provided a grant for the purchase of the 14-bedroom house and renovations. C.C.D.P. (Canadian Community Development Programs) will finance the operational costs. As well, community support and referrals reinforce the necessity for the house.



Nelliegram

FOUNDING MOTHER OF Solidarnosc—Anna Walentynowicz, a welder, was one of the leaders of the 1970 strikes triggered by increasing food prices. Her layoff in 1980 was one of the main reasons for the 1980 strike in the Gdansk Lenin shipyards, eventually leading to the founding of Solidarnosc.

Polish women workers organized unions and participated in strikes, but there is hardly a word about them in the press. Five million women make up 40% of the active Polish work force. Men become factory managers and government representatives; women work as the workers.

Yadwiga Doliniak explains, "Until now women workers were reluctant to discuss their personal problems with the all-

TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES IN Sydney, Australia have been censored—All abortion clinics were informed by telephone that the words "abortion" and "termination of pregnancy" would no longer be permitted under the family planning listings in the Yellow Pages. They could only be listed under "pregnancy counselling". All clinics were told to decide on the phone, whether they would withdraw the listing they had already paid for or agree to the limited listing.

Girl's Own



Batterers charged

Twice as many men were charged with wife beating in Calgary since a new policy requiring police officers to charge offenders took effect last November.

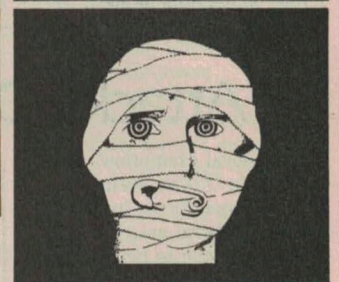
The policy, which takes the burden of laying charges from the victim of the attack, resulted

in 46 police charges during the last two months of 1982, or roughly twice the number of the previous year.

Susan Jarrett, volunteer coordinator for the Women's Shelter in Calgary says however, that the number of charges is still low compared to the number of battered women who seek refuge at the shelter. While the shelter receives many calls from women who have been referred to the shelter by police, she says many women arriving at the shelter say the police didn't charge their husbands.

LOUIS LAWSON HOUSE OF Hope is a refuge which will provide accommodation and support in Waverly, Australia for women experiencing madness. The women involved want to stop the kind of journey many women have experienced and are still experiencing once they enter the psychiatric hospital — lifelong drug dependency, electric shock, lobotomy, institutionalization, loss of self-esteem and loss of independence.

Big Mama Rag



male union delegation. Here in Poland, alcoholism is a social plague. Women workers with alcoholic husbands who beat them wouldn't confide in a man. Now they come to me with their problems."

Differences between the male union leadership and some prominent women became irreconcilable. Anna complained of lack of internal democracy and other leading organizers shared her complaints saying, "the rank-and-file is not involved in the decision-making process. Women have been active during the strikes. They did not participate just to change women's lives, but everybody's—they have to work, take care of the house and the children, and then they have to stand in lines for hours to buy food. We don't think this will change."

—Connexions

"THE MILITARY ARE deliberately using rape as a weapon. They are using it to torture and intimidate women, as a tactic to break up traditional Indian culture in Guatemala," says Carmelita Sanchos of the Justice and Peace Commission now travelling through Europe to publicise what is really taking place in Guatemala.

General Rios Montt, a 'born-again Christian' seized power in a military coup in March '82, continues the governments genocidal policies toward the rural population. The US is considering the possibility of lifting the ban on military aid to Guatemala, suspended by Jimmy Carter because of human rights abuses.

Spare Rib

Workplace Hazards Threaten Reproductive Choice

For women, who are concentrated largely in low-paying, unorganized occupations, the fight for workplace safety represents little more than a collection of horror stories, marked by few successes and even more setbacks.

Even in the organized labour movement, there have been few effective countersurges launched against the bombardment of toxic substances in the workplace.

In many ways, the war has just begun. Workplace hazards are increasing at a far greater proportion than they are being regulated. Of the 400,000 chemical products estimated to be used in industry today, only 13,000 have been classified by

the United States National Institute for Occupational Health, which Canadian industry relies heavily on for assessments and regulations. (National Health and Welfare Statistics).

The recently-released report, **Reproductive Hazards at Work**, published by the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women, is but another chapter in the voluminous history of workplace-induced injuries, illness and death. Intensively researched, **Reproductive Hazards at Work**, reports on specific hazards that threaten the reproductive health of both women and men. In many ways, this marks the beginning of an entirely new age of workplace

health issues. The consequences of identified chemicals, radioactive substances and other harmful factors, no longer affect solely the individual worker, but the lives of their partners and their unborn, or neverborn children.

Defective sperm cause malformities and miscarriage, while fetuses conceived relatively free from hazardous work conditions are aborted or deformed in utero by workplace conditions. Countless others suffer less conspicuous effects as a result of exposure to parents' toxic work environments, and continue to pass those maladies on to successive generations. Respiratory illnesses, heart maladies and organ deficiencies are but a few work-related malfunctions con-

tracted by fetuses.

"Like the canaries that once warned coal miners of the presence of deadly gases, today's workers often serve as the early warning systems for hazards that will eventually affect society as a whole." (**Reproductive Hazards at work**, p. 4).

For women, reproductive effects from workplace environments range from irregular menstruation, defective ova and inability to conceive, to miscarriage, birth defects and problems with lactation. Men suffer loss of libido, impotence, sterili-

health & work

TABLE A
Some Chemical Hazards That May Affect Reproductive Health*

Hazard	Workers At Risk	Potential Reproductive Effect	Protective Measures
Anesthetic Gases (including halothane, nitrous oxide, methoxy-flurane)	health care workers in hospitals and dental clinics, veterinary surgeons and assistants, researchers in animal laboratories.	male workers: sperm abnormalities; female partners of exposed male workers may experience an increased incidence of miscarriages, premature deliveries and offspring with birth defects. female workers: same as female partners of male workers; the fetus: birth defects.	install scavenger units to collect stray gases; monitor air in operating theatre to ensure low levels.
Benzene	workers producing or using solvents, plastics, rubbers, glues, dyes, detergents, paints, petroleum and other products containing this substance	male and female workers: chromosome changes, linked with leukemia and genetic effects in offspring; female workers: prolonged menstrual bleeding and postpartum hemorrhage after chronic exposure; the fetus: birth defects, higher incidence of leukemia, illness from contaminated breast milk	substitute non toxic or less toxic products; take regular workplace air samples; ensure proper ventilation and safe engineering processes.
Beryllium	ceramic makers, electronics workers, jewelry makers, laboratory workers, nuclear technologists	female workers: pregnancy may exacerbate symptoms of beryllium poisoning and cause death; the fetus: may cross placenta and affect fetal development	monitor workplace levels regularly; install proper ventilation and dust collection devices in the work environment
Carbon Disulfide	degreasers, glue makers, paint removers, rubber makers, rayon viscose makers	male workers: decreased libido, impotence, sperm abnormalities; female workers: irregular menstrual cycle, decreased fertility, frequent miscarriages; the fetus: higher incidence of miscarriage	monitor workplace levels and reduce to minimum; ensure that prolonged worker exposure is prohibited
Hormones (including androgens, estrogens, progestogens and synthetic products such as DES)	workers involved in the extraction, manufacture and use of hormones including pharmaceutical workers, laboratory workers, farmers and veterinarians	male workers: sexual impotency, breast enlargement, infertility; female workers: irregular menstruation, infertility, ovarian cysts, breast lumps, cancer of the reproductive system; the fetus: may develop enlarged breasts and other signs of sexual maturity as well as abnormalities of the skeletal system, heart and windpipe; DES may cause cancer in female offspring, genital and sperm abnormalities in male offspring	monitor regularly to ensure low levels of airborne hormones; isolate the process through engineering design
Lead	auto manufacturers, ceramic and pottery makers, electronics workers, farmers, pesticide makers, paint makers and users, typographers	male workers: decreased libido, decreased sperm count, atrophy of the testes; female partners demonstrate adverse effects such as infertility, menstrual disorders, miscarriages; female workers: infertility, miscarriages, stillbirths, menstrual disorders; the fetus: higher incidence of miscarriages, stillbirths, neonatal death; mental retardation can occur; newborns can be affected by contaminated breast milk	sample workplace air frequently; provide adequate ventilation; clean work areas regularly
Mercury	battery makers, ceramic workers, commercial fishermen, dental workers, farm workers, jewelry makers, lithographers, pesticide makers, photographic chemical makers and users	male workers: reduced fertility; female workers: miscarriages, stillbirths; the fetus: linked with brain damage, mental retardation, increased rate of miscarriages and stillbirths	regular air monitoring and good ventilation; enclose mercury processes; check frequency for spills and vapour leaks
Pesticides (including carbaryl, dibromochloropropane, kepone, malathion, 2,4,5-T)	agricultural workers, commercial and household gardeners, pesticide manufacturers	male workers: chromosomal changes, impotence, loss of libido, decreased sperm counts, atrophy of testes; female workers: miscarriages, chromosomal changes; the fetus: miscarriages, birth deformities.	design processes to prevent worker contact with substance; monitor air levels in workplace and keep to a minimum
Vinyl Chloride	workers involved in the production of vinyl chloride and polyvinyl chloride and its related products.	male workers: genetic damage of the sperm leading to adverse pregnancy outcome in female partners; female workers: genetic damage to ovum, miscarriages, stillbirths; the fetus: higher incidence of miscarriage, fetal death and birth defects; may develop cancer after exposure during pregnancy.	monitor workplace regularly; use proper ventilation and safe design to keep levels to a minimum.

Women are especially fair game for exploitation and hazardous exposure to workplace elements because they are mainly in unorganized professions, and therefore lack the collective strength that unions have. Not only are they concentrated in low-paying, non-union jobs, but are often unaccustomed to dealing with the power games being played in the workplace at their expense. Because they are largely unaware to fight the war, they are often its most frequent and least-known victims.

Aside from workplace situations, where they often unknowingly endure dangerous hazards, women are further victimized when they become the carriers of deformed fetuses and endure the anguish of aborting, or bearing stillborn children.

Our recent fixation with prenatal health, which focuses on the mother's responsibility to produce healthy offspring, is juxtaposed by the silent surge of reproductive hazards and the little information available surrounding the issue. Already impregnated with defective sperm or unknowingly exposing a fetus to dangerous workplace environments, pregnant women are hopelessly accountable for factors which may be entirely out of their control. Since the focus has been on maternal-

posure to substances or conditions which results in threats of cancer, which can be transferable to offspring).

Removing women of reproductive capabilities from hazardous work environments, as is commonly practiced in many industries, is to blatantly discriminate against women and at the same time to conveniently avoid the entire issue of contamination in the workplace. In the name of protecting women, they are refused work, or reassigned to other less dangerous (often lower-paying) jobs, yet men who remain are still at risk and continue to produce defective sperm, suffer loss of libido, and pass on their damaged health to their children.

Realizing that men, and not just women, are responsible for producing healthy children is a step toward a more humanistic lifestyle, where a more cooperative, responsible attitude towards child-producing and child rearing can be fostered. Recognizing and demonstrating that workplace health and reproductive health are of vital importance to society as a whole, and not just an individual worker, can be part of realizing that dream.

While the report is rich in information and in citing examples of hazardous work environments, it only begins to answer the question—Who is really to blame?

Chenier notes that "the medical and scientific communities have made few efforts to link the incidence of miscarriages, stillbirths, birth defects, neonatal deaths or other reproductive problems with parental work histories." We have to go one step further and ask who employs the majority of these 'experts' so unlikely to link reproductive problems to health hazards in the workplace and why isn't more government money funneled into testing and regulating workplace hazards?

The report implicates the 'pro-capitalistic' nature of our governments and court systems, but it doesn't go far enough to blame or to question their sense of priorities.

Unless we acknowledge safe workplace conditions as an inalienable right, to be placed above the interests of capital gain, the reproductive health (as well as overall health) of workers and their children will continue to be sabotaged in the interests of industrial profits.

PENNI MITCHELL

who is really to blame?

centered health care and responsibility, the connection between defective sperm and fetal abnormalities is only now being recognized.

The report, written by Nancy Miller Chenier, states that "our industrialized society daily places workers' health and the health of their offspring in jeopardy," and suggests that in combatting the threats of reproductive hazards, "factors such as individual susceptibility, cumulative and synergistic effects, duration of exposure and frequency of high concentrations need to be considered. In addition, to identify and control potential reproductive hazards, all chemicals should be screened for teratogenicity (exposure of fetus or embryo to hazardous environments), mutagenicity (exposing sperm and ovum to hazards) and carcinogenicity (ex-

Workers Clinic Opens

"As a society, the assurance of our health is a most precious right and individual companies do not have the right to threaten it," emphasizes Dr. Linda Murray, the occupational health specialist who will head the new Winnipeg Occupational Health Clinic.

Opening March first, at 98 Sherbrook Street, the Winnipeg Occupational Health Clinic is sponsored by the Manitoba Federation of Labour, which raised an initial \$200,000 and has applied to the Manitoba Health Services Commission for operating funds.

The staff of the Winnipeg clinic will see anyone who suspects they have a work-related illness. As well, Murray feels occupational health workers must be advocates for workers' health, since many people do not have the needed information to make the connection between their workplace and health.

Getting enough political power to enforce safety regulations has been a problem for workers, even though "many of the workplace hazards have been identified as dangerous for the past century," says Murray.

To assure a safe work environment while protecting their jobs, workers must organize into unions, which make their health concerns a priority issue in negotiations. As yet, many more women than men, are in unorganized workplaces.

Work-related aches and pains, or problems related to stress can be easily corrected once iden-

tified, but more perplexing and frightening are the reproductive problems now being identified, claims Murray.

Health problems are easier to pinpoint by health workers studying large groups of workers in particular industries, than the general population.

Occupational medicine is a branch of preventative medicine

occupational
medicine

which has attracted only about 700 to 1000 physicians in the United States. Murray, who also specializes in internal medicine, trained at the largest U.S. facility—Cook County Hospital in Illinois.

She hopes to train another physician in occupational health and lecture on work-place health issues to students and the public. She also points out that since the medical profession has generally been unsympathetic to the labour movement, "most people active in the occupational health movement are self-trained."

With new products (25,000 per year) being introduced into the workplace, the whole community has a stake in ensuring that industry prove their products' safety before people are exposed to them and they are "spread about."

"If we err, we must err on the side of caution," warns Murray.

BRIGITTE SUTHERLAND

Dr. Linda Murray, Winnipeg Occupational Health Clinic



MOTHERING

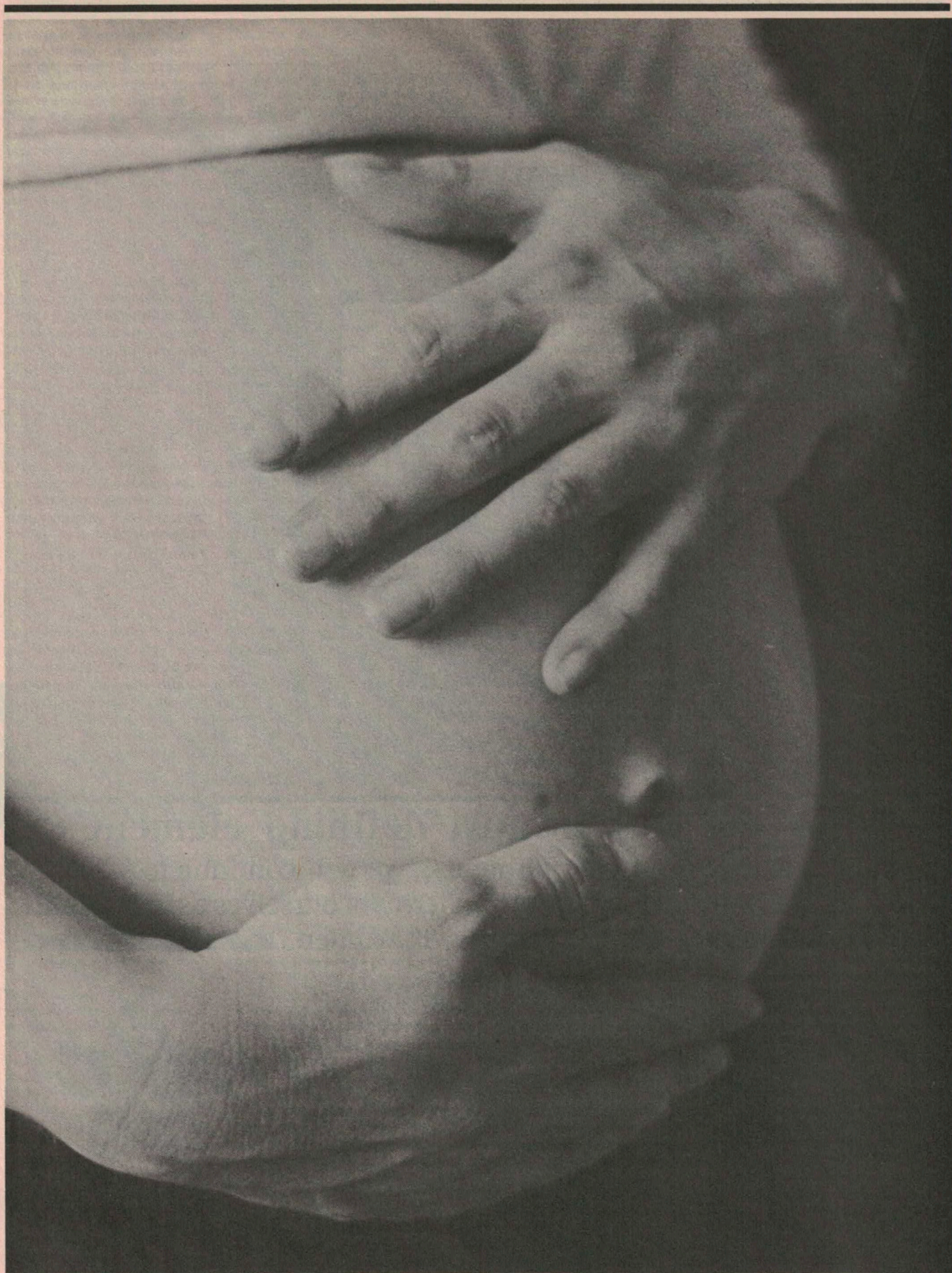


Perhaps the single most defining element of mothering is that it doesn't define us; we will continue to strive to define mothering and motherhood in terms of ourselves as individuals, and collectively as women.



Unfortunately, we can't hope to examine motherhood in its totality in one issue of a magazine. Respecting the diversity of motherhood, and all its social and political ramifications, we've succumbed to the constraints of space and therefore examined only certain aspects of motherhood — mothering as a single parent, the myth of the new father, marriage and motherhood, lesbian motherhood and miscarriage. We've also discussed the political, as well as social and economic ramifications of mothering from different perspectives.





wedlock

I don't have much respect for the institution of

marriage. In spite of this though, I have always said I would get married if I had children. I thought this was an amiable compromise between my quest to be a social revolutionary and the influence of my middle-class upbringing.

I realize now, after eight months of gestating and still never having vowed to obey anyone, that my conditional pledge to remain 'single' was a cop-out. I still haven't found a good enough reason to enter into an institution that exists (if only partially) to formalize my subjugation.

In many ways, being pregnant has reinforced my commitment to boycott marriage. (I should add that I am in a living situation where my partner and I would be legally able to marry, if we chose). Under the law, and scrutiny of societal dictum, marriage purports to "legitimize" my unborn child. This presumption alone would be reason enough to reject marriage, as a legitimate institution, were marriage not plagued with so many other, equally discouraging banes.

The concept of legitimacy, which is dependent on male-ownership through marriage, is oppressive to both women and children, because it threatens them with a blighted social status unless they have a man, who alone can improve their social status and at the same time take away many of their legal rights. This is reflected in the law which dictates that a child must take the last name of its father, if born in wedlock, and the mother's if it is not.

In a similar vein, women are still pressured culturally to take their husband's name and abandon their "maiden" identity and become someone's missus. It's just expected. No explanations necessary. Conversely, a woman who chooses to maintain her identity with her name, whether married or not, is judged and expected to justify herself.

Until this century, it was unheard of for a woman to be granted custody of her own children when a marriage dissolved. Presumably, the woman was at fault for "letting" the marriage fail and was therefore a failure as a woman and a mother. Until a few decades ago, women who left, or were abandoned by their husbands were not awarded financial compensation for their children, and until last month, marriage was still a license to rape.

Marriage is still a reminder for me, of the oppressive history women have been forced to be a part of. Bearing a child is not going to dissipate what history has

taught me. To enter into marriage would be condoning all it has done against the interests of women and children.

Fortunately, society's attitudes are changing. My parents, who ten years ago would have sent me to a workhouse or swept me under the carpet for shaming them, couldn't be prouder to be first-time grandparents. While I haven't been confronted with scrutinous questioning from friends and relatives on why I didn't get married (shotgun-style—isn't that what they call it?), I have been able to discern through the grapevine that I have been cast aside in more than one social circle for not letting my partner "make an honest woman of me." People who choose to think less of an innocent child because its parents chose not to be united 'in god's eyes,' are cruel and heartless people who, ultimately will suffer more from their bigotry than I or my child. I have little concern for them.

The legal ramifications of raising a child out of the traditional "norm" are slowly beginning to change too, so that protections offered families where the partners are married are being extended to offer equal protection to children. The Family Maintenance Act, under which custody, protection and exclusivity orders can be granted, now applies to couples who have lived together for at least one year and have produced a child.

People living in common-law relationships and even those living in traditional wedlock would be wise to enter into their own private contracts with their partners, since most laws which include married partners are not extended to common-law partners and the courts do not necessarily make fair and equitable decisions. Contracts can outline support or custodial agreements upon separation or can make provisions for the child's care during the relationship (i.e. which partners will assume specific responsibilities, including the receipt of payment or reduced commitments in other household areas in exchange for providing full-time day care). Other areas of law, such as property rights, do not necessarily include common-law partners, unless a contract exists.

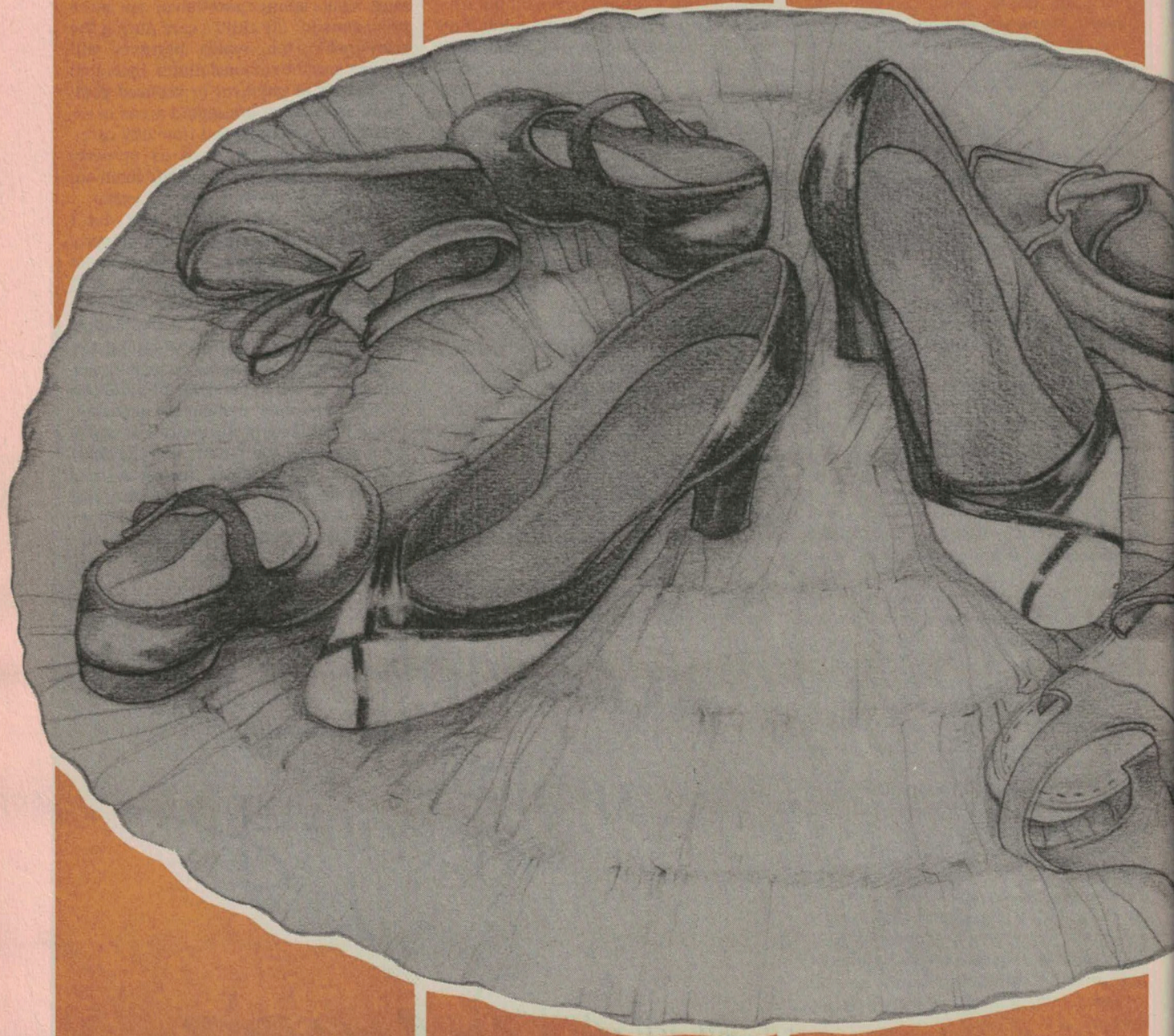
Fortunately, for women who don't marry, their children remain their property . . . in name at least. If a woman gets written permission from the father, or if she changes her name to his, the child may take the father's name, or if the mother (and there's nothing from stopping the father) changes her name to include her partner's as well as her own, the child can have both parents' names as a surname.

As an advocate of affirmative action, I think women should start naming their children after themselves, considering they have endured centuries of compliance to laws which forced them and their children to mold their identities in man's image.

mothering
without
marrying

an honorable estate

Penni Mitchell



Coping

Between juggling work and family, a single

mother often discovers a new-found freedom. Energy once spent on continuing old feuds and endless compromises, is now spent on activities and accomplishments.

Many women, for the first time, have the power to spend their own money. The increased decision-making role is shared with children, leading to self-sufficiency for the whole family. As well, out of necessity, children assume more responsibilities and learn, more quickly, their own capabilities.

For the most part though, raising children alone is a special, yet unrecognized, accomplishment. Lack of support systems and economic pressures are responsible for the heavy workload and burden single mothers constantly endure.

Single mothers, whether employed or not, are subjected to the same pressures of a non-child-oriented society.

Kathryn, single mother of two pre-school age children, spends much of her time feeling "guilty and tired." Assuming the all-encompassing respon-

sibility of financial provision and a balanced family life is an overwhelming job. After separation, financial security becomes the most prominent issue. Not being able to meet each demand, the single mother feels she is not fulfilling her new role, often assuming financial guilt in a society where equal pay is not yet a reality.

After a brief attempt at welfare, Kathryn worked part-time for two years, then recently got a fulltime job. The initial seven months after the separation was spent on legalese.

The case was simple—uncontested sole support to Kathryn and child support payments. During the seven-month process, Kathryn, her 3-year-old son and infant daughter, lived on \$350 a month, relying on a provincial rent subsidy.

Financial relief is available for single mothers through subsidized housing, but because the demand is so high, many people's needs are not met. It is not unusual to encounter six-month waiting lists for housing units.

Also, in the initial seven-month period, Kathryn had to adjust to her new role. From shared parenting to irregular visitations from the father, the adjustment was immense for both mother and children.

Visitations can be difficult to resolve. More financially secure, the father buys more toys and treats than the mother. Often trying to compensate for his infrequent visits, the father does not attempt discipline.

Kathryn comments that, through her children's eyes, "he looks like Santa and I look like the sleigh."

Rivalry between parents is further compounded when a spouse remarries. A new balance must be achieved, focusing on the children's needs.

For the single parent who chooses to stay at home and raise her children, any hope of achieving independence is sacrificed. Work choice is often not an issue for women on welfare, since many have been dependent all their lives and are without work experience and resources. A job may be a remote dream. Child support payments, if existent, are inadequate.

A 1980 National Council of Welfare Report on Poverty in Canada says that 41.5 percent of all female-led families live below the poverty line.

Welfare makes no allowance for babysitting expenses. Until strong emotional support is developed, a mother's life becomes a 24-hour-a-day marathon with her children. Exchanging babysitting services becomes the only solution.

In an attempt to balance work, family and economic problems, more mothers have become part-time workers. However, much needed employee benefits such as health care and sick leave are not offered to part-time workers.

For the full-time working mother, financial independence is still not a reality. Luxuries include adequate life insurance, dental plans, future savings and separate vacations.

Since a woman earns only 60 cents for each dollar a man earns, a single mother, after entering the work force, must still rely on housing subsidies, as well as day care subsidies.

Finding a day care to reflect personal needs is a process in itself and will continue to be so until standard day care regulations are set. Like housing units, good day cares often have long waiting lists.

For mothers concerned with alternative education for their children, finding a day care is problematic. While most day cares have adopted non-violent philosophies, including no physical punishments, no day care has adopted non-sexist policy. Also, day care is not yet available for night shift workers.

Children's illnesses can be a devastating occurrence for a single working mother. Mothers go to work throughout their own illnesses so sick time can be saved-up for children's. For a mother of two or more sick children, relying on a sympathetic (unemployed) relative or friend, or having an understanding boss, are the only alternatives.

In the workplace, a single mother is often competing with men, whose lives are organized and comforted by a woman at home. Assuming both roles means the single mother cannot participate in career-advancing activities such as evening seminars or meetings, out-of-town trips, and overtime.

Time, or rather lack of time, can be a major crisis in itself as rivalry between siblings for mother's attention can become immense. A single mother has to take time out for herself too.

To reduce the concerns and time-consuming restraints of single motherhood, shared parenting is becoming a popular phenomenon. But, for the most part, mothers still assume traditional, solitary roles.

Adopting new alternatives and building support systems is an essential beginning for relieving the societal burden on single mothers.

Doing
Double
Time:
Single Mothers

Patricia Rawson



daddy

A lot of lip service is being paid these days to how

men are discovering the joys of fatherhood. But are they really in it for the whole ball game . . . the never ending cycle of care-giving, with all the forethought, time management, and herculean effort it requires?

I was hard-pressed to write this piece on the myth of the changing role of fathers. Not for lack of material or conviction, but for two other little reasons: a pair of needy pre-schoolers, expert at syphoning off a mother's time and energy.

So, where was their new-type, nurturing, ever-involved father when we needed him? . . . Exactly my premise. It's not as if any mother of young ones is entirely "freed-up" to pursue a goal outside the needs of her children. And, if she is—it's largely a feat of her own making.

With the exception of the trial-by-fire single fathers and the rarer-still househusband (who are given support from the other women in their lives or at the very least "sympathy" from the public at large), few men grapple with the myriad of duties that child-rearing entails daily. In fact, such details appear to escape them. Little wonder that when dad is in charge of the kids, it's called "babysitting". When mom's around it's that and everything else.

Granted, most dads today have done some changing . . . of diapers, that is. They may push the pram, feed the kids, call for a sitter, or tend to a sick child, but they can only do one thing at a time.

And you wouldn't exactly call them self-starters either. How many fathers voluntarily attend to school notices, monitor their children's inoculations, ensure that party invitations are followed-up—presents bought and wrapped, kids delivered and picked-up on time? For that matter, how many fathers plan their own kid's party . . . or harder still, even know where Johnny's socks are kept?

No matter how you look at it, the onus is on mom to keep that ol' ball rolling. Something no less dramatic than noticing baby's low on clean clothes, Joey's running out of medicine, or Paula's due for a dental check-up—and initiating the proper response—is a hard-earned quality lost to most men.

For mom, the ability to do five things at once, with an eye toward tomorrow, is a given. A mother cooks a meal, dries some tears, sees to the laundry, washes up some dishes, and makes a few appointments—all in the same hour. It's not unusual. It's done all the time. Father manages to handle half of this in an entire day, and ex-

pectations are that he should simply drown in accolades. When dad does accomplish such tasks, it's mostly in tandem with mom's instructions, so that even when he is "taking over", the ultimate responsibility still lies with the mother.

Working outside the home, as most women do, does little to shift this imbalance of accountability. Who look after the day-care arrangements? Who stays home when Sally's ill or school's out for the day? Who feels more obliged to turn down an evening out, after a nine hour day, in order to spend time with the kids? All these questions generally lead to the same answer. And what's so "new" about that?

It seems to me, that fathers are especially drawn to the fun stuff where their kids are concerned—the rough-housing and play-times. They are there to "pitch in" on the tough stuff—the housework and custodial care, only when they choose to "help out". The very idea of "helping out" affords a kind of poor back-up relief at best. Fathers aren't much good at picking up the threads, without the day-to-day continuity that true child-rearing demands. To be aware of nutritional requirements, over-all hygiene, and suitability of environment within and beyond the home—takes a commitment to child care in all its varied forms. It just can't be done effectively "in a pinch."

In light of this—the concept "new" father, is but a contradiction in terms. It still implies a role play that reinforces stereotypes, a means of providing contrast. It does nothing to crush the political, historical and religious base; the primordial view of "mothering" and "fathering." It continues to lend credence to the notion that, unless he elects to do otherwise, fathering remains a biological act, and mothering is forever determined as the sacrifice that comes afterward. It's all one big cheat.

What we're really looking toward is an ideal of shared parenting. And parenting does not come to anyone naturally. It is a learning, growing, painfully-gained, oft-times deliciously rewarded experience. Even when fathers can truly see "what's in it for them," equal parenting is a hard-won, up-hill battle. And while it's being achieved, you won't find me being grateful for scraps, or buying this whole so-called "new" father routine.

the new



who needs him?

Shannon Robson



womyn

Try starting a conversation on motherhood in

a group of lesbians. You will always hear these comments and often in this order.

"I never really thought about it before."

This to me is amazing, that womyn who pride themselves on being so aware, involved and committed to feminism could have missed one of the most important issues.

"I don't see it as my responsibility."

Is social change your responsibility? Thousands of us could work hard for 20, 30, or 40 years to change a harsh and cruel sexual assault law. One person with the right power and the wrong belief could wipe all that work out in minutes.

The basic premises of feminism can be taught to and shared with children. In 20 years it will be the children who will affect any changes that we make today.

Think how much easier and nicer life might be if everyone's childhood, including yours, had a feminist base.

Another responsibility issue is directed towards the mother. Is lesbianism about respecting, nurturing and supporting other womyn? Who has more of your respect—a truck driver or a mother? Whose job is more important—a bricklayer's or a mother's? Who receives the most (read: financial) recognition?

"I chose not to have children. I don't like babysitting."

Most lesbians don't choose not to have children, they chose not to be with men. These are not the same thing. The timing of the choice is very important—before or after pregnancy.

My "choices" were very similar to those of many other mothers, both lesbian and heterosexual. It never occurred to me that there were any 'normal' choices besides motherhood and marriage. As a young woman, I had made no choices yet, I just had a knowledge that at some point in my life, probably after I had found the 'right' man, I would be doing both—get married and have children.

When I was eighteen, I was living at home and had \$125 in the bank. I was involved in pre-marital sex and chose not to accept my pregnancy as a reality until my third month. I was too afraid of bleeding to death to have my few attempts at home-abortion succeed.

I discovered an information centre, where I was told I could choose to go to

the States for five days—have a saline abortion; deliver a dead fetus and return home, presumably to inform both my parents and my employer where I had been. So, I 'chose' not to have an abortion. It was three weeks after my daughter was born that I was told about birth control.

Some womyn escape heterosexual, nuclear-family conditioning—most don't. Those that don't are not operating with the same set of options; their 'choices' may not be choices at all.

Even if a woman makes her way through all the propaganda and decides to have a child, does that mean that you won't support her? If a woman chooses a higher-pay, higher-stress job and needs emotional support, will you give yours?

If a woman chooses marriage and is beaten by her husband, will you support her? What about the woman who chooses a man to be her lover and is then raped by him? And the woman who chooses to have children and needs your support. Will you, again, give yours?

"Working outside the home; caring for the kid; political involvement; I don't know how she does it, I sure couldn't."

She often doesn't know either. Mothers are not superwomyn. No woman is. Don't expect her to be stronger than you are. If there is no one there to help, she has to do it. What are her choices if she doesn't?

"I have my cats, that's enough for me. Hahaha."

If every lesbian spent one-tenth of the energy with children that she does with her pets, I wouldn't have to be writing this. The cats are not going to run the world.

"I hate kids."

If you dislike children, consider these things: Children are not as reasonable (in control) as adults. Does their wild energy frighten, frustrate or anger you? When was the last time you behaved solely on an emotional level?

Children see through facades, costume and bullshit faster and easier than anyone else. Everything we do, think or say is up for scrutiny. Often children remind us of our own childhood and can easily touch long-forgotten and unresolved pain and conflict. Children demand a lot of strength. Our weaknesses become quickly evident. Our vulnerability, our lost passions, our misuse of power and love are mirrored back to us from children's faces.

When I was asked to write an article on

lesbian motherhood, I had to decide which issue to address: My fears of having my daughter taken away because I love womyn? My daughter's incredible strength, confusion and fear in relating to a homophobic world and a lesbian mother? Of, my anger at a community largely ignorant and uncaring of my needs as a lesbian mother.

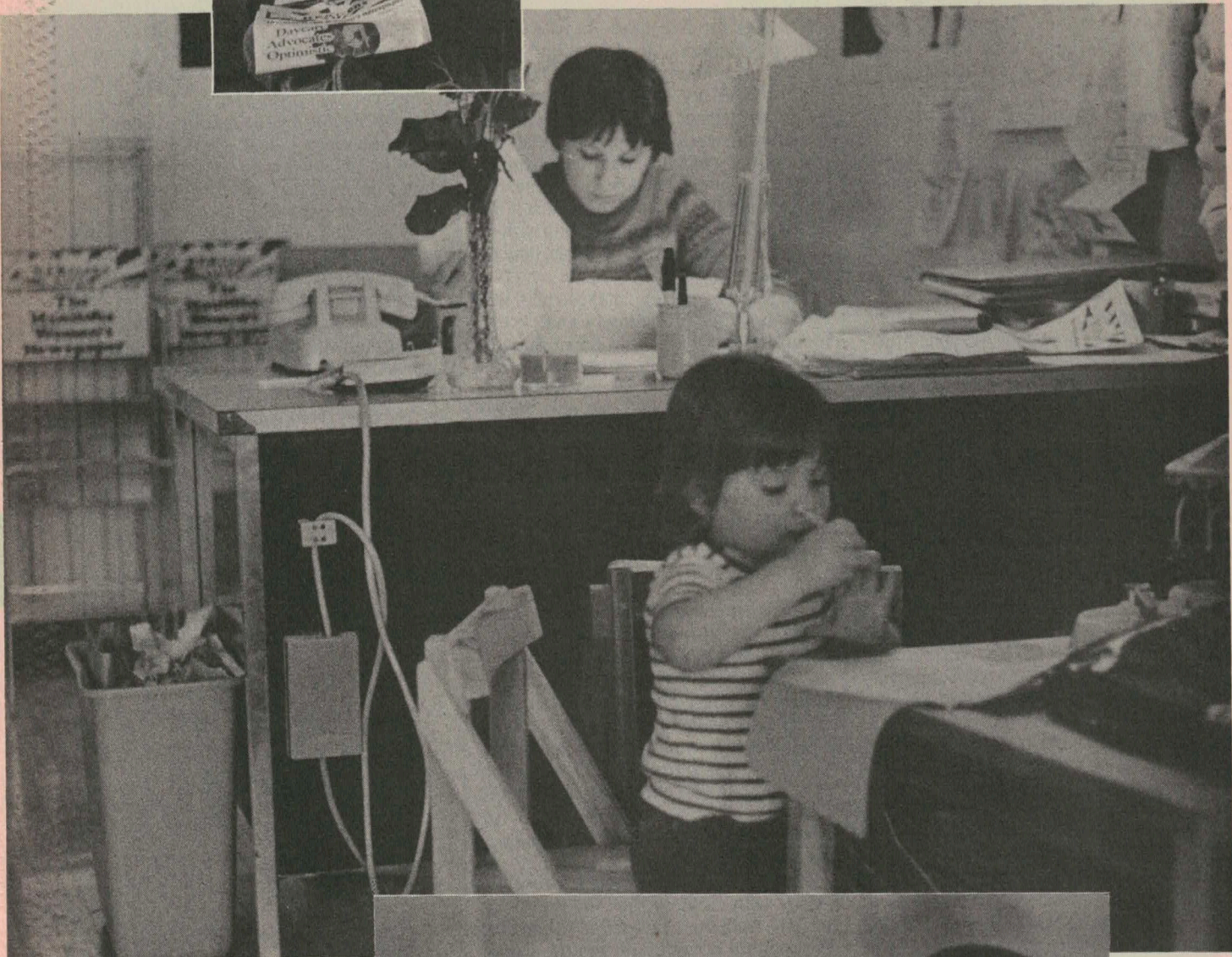
I chose this one, because more than anything else I need the support and strength of the womyn's community. With this, all else will become possible.

With thanks to the author of "Woman-hating/Child-hating" from **Lesbian Insider** for clarity, strength and her ideas on cat vs. child-raising.

Jessica Barker

kids
are
not
cats
••

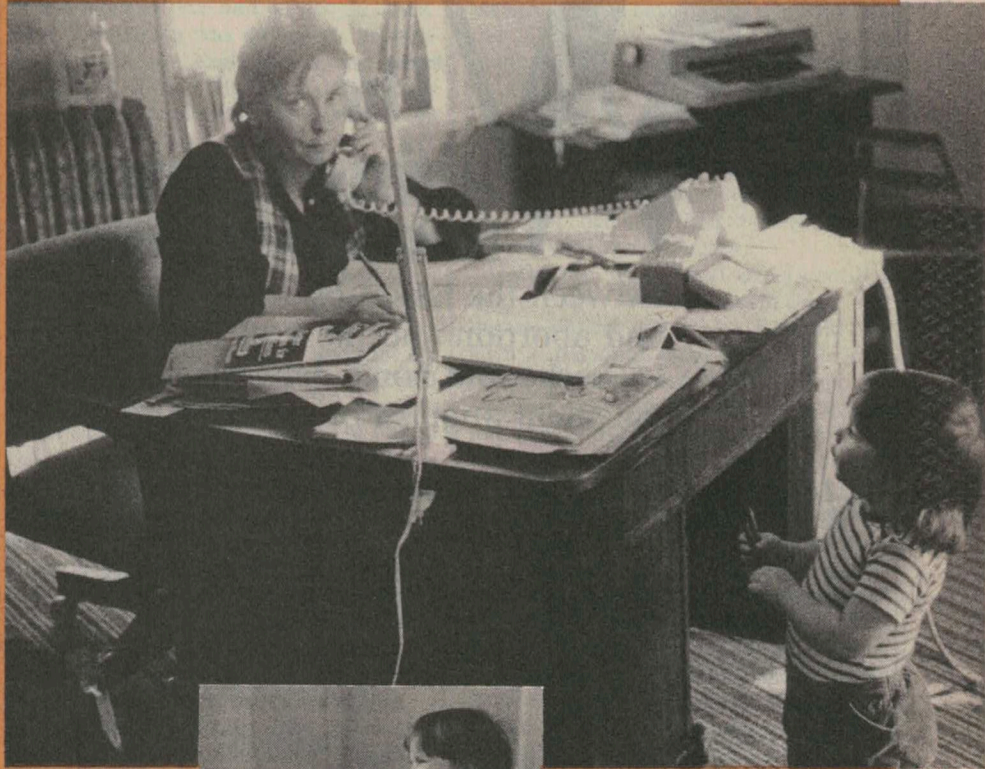
WORKPLACE BABY



Editor emeritus Sarah Schwartz works hard all day to get the news out, but she's challenging more than her managing editor mom's wits by proving that a workplace makes a terrific playplace.



Changing more than diapers



CHILDREN HAVE STARTED A QUIET

revolution in the business world, proving yet again that business isn't a man's world — in fact, it's child's play.

Incorporating children in our workplace is one way women are redefining their roles. We don't have to give up our career in order to mother, or mothering in order

to have a career. Kids in the workplace is a co-operative venture between office staff sharing the frustrations, the happiness and the experience children bring with them. It's a luxury afforded only by few women right now, but an alternative that's proven successful.

photos by Ron Schwartz.

W The Waiting Game

Between the issues of birth control and abortion and those of Lamaze, La Leche and home deliveries, lies the silent anguish of miscarriage.

Fifteen to twenty per cent of pregnancies end in miscarriage. In the majority of cases the cause is not known; it is frequently believed to represent nature's culling of imperfect fetuses. They most often occur before 12 weeks, but can be more devastating in later weeks as the pregnancy becomes more real.

Anne Peppard, who had three miscarriages wrote "When a living child dies, much of the bereavement is centred on what in the child was responsible for the death. But when a woman loses a child in pregnancy, her thoughts focus on herself." She mourns the loss of a function and a role.

Now that more pregnancies are planned with husbands involved in the preparations, a miscarriage has impact on both would-be parents. Three women and their partners in the waiting game who have or had hopes of bearing children shared their feelings about miscarriage.

Janice Larkin, 33, a nurse had an incomplete miscarriage at 12 weeks; the womb began to empty but some tissue remained, requiring a dialation and curettage (D and C), a gentle scraping of the womb. Although it happened three years ago she said "I'll never forget the sequence of events and how I felt."

At 30 she married Bob, a high school teacher after she had travelled extensively

through Asia and Australia and lived with him for three years. Soon after the wedding she became pregnant; everything seemed to fall into place. She thought at the time that she mustn't get too upset if this pregnancy didn't work out, as she had always got what she wanted in life.

At her first appointment, the doctor said the baby will be born July 5th. She thought, "What a strange thing for him to say!"

How could he be so certain? She felt so non-pregnant; it wasn't yet real.

She only bought a small bottle of the iron pills he recommended.

"I never did use them all up," she said. She knew the danger of miscarriage and was afraid to attach too much emotion to the pregnancy. Thinking they had made it through that first precarious period, the couple announced the news to their friends.

The bleeding started soon after, while she was working at a nursing home. Frightened and upset, she called her doctor, who advised her to go home and rest until the labour started. She knew the baby was dead and thought she was coping well with the situation. Now she said "I think if I'd been a farm hand I'd have known more about what was happening."

The labour never did start and she still regrets not following her instincts to go to

the hospital that night. Complications resulted in a one month's stay there.

The ensuing illness almost overshadowed the miscarriage but she still felt as if she had willed it upon herself. Other than Bob, there was no one with whom she could share her grief and guilt. She wanted so badly to talk yet felt she had to keep up a front.

"You can't just lay there weeping and have the nurses come in and give you dirty looks . . . I wasn't going to let everyone know it really hurt me."

At night she'd go over and over what happened. She remembered feeling embarrassed after unloading a recital of events on a friend from Australia.

She felt insecure, as if she had failed as a woman, and wondered if her husband would still love her; "all feelings that, intellectually, you know are ridiculous."

She felt petty for being jealous of other women who were pregnant. She felt anger at well-intentioned nurses at work who said patronizingly, "Oh, don't worry. I had two miscarriages and then three babies."

She thought, "Okay, that's your story but we don't know that."

Bob had many long, anxious nights during Janice's hospital stay; his primary concern was Janice's health. His initial reaction to the miscarriage had been that it was just one of those things and that they'd have time to try again.

A year of tests and hormone shots was to follow. Janice restricted herself, "afraid to run or jump or move" in case she was pregnant. Then, depression set in each time she got her period.

For a year, daily temperatures and the times they had intercourse were recorded. Janice presented the chart to her physician, who asked why they had made love often, but not during the appropriate time of her cycle in that month. "Because the t.v. broke down," she cracked.

Janice constantly felt sick from the shots and the clinical charting was destroying the spontaneity and intimacy of their sex-life. The thought of another nine months before the success or failure of the hormone treatment could be determined was "too much".

As Bob sat cradling their cat, Ushi, he said, "We have to get back to some kind of normalcy and find another direction."

They put in for adoption and have been waiting two and a half years.

The father of a 9 year old daughter from a former marriage, Bob said the miscarriage was more of a loss for Janice than for him.

She still has feelings of ambivalence on seeing noisy kids on the neighbours' lawn but she knows that parenting is an experience she doesn't want to miss.

Janice has given up hope of having a natural child. Now she says, "I'm almost

BY Gerri Thorsteinson

glad that I'll never get pregnant. It's easier not having to worry about going through anything like that again. The decision was made for me. I don't have a choice."

Carole and Tim have experienced two incomplete miscarriages and just recently, a stillbirth.

She said "I was assured that two miscarriages were common and although I was upset, I could accept what happened."

Like other women, she had felt ambivalence about the new role she would be taking on. She just couldn't imagine herself getting big and waddley. She expressed this feeling to a nun while she was in hospital after the first miscarriage. She said, "Next time you must have faith."

Carole felt the same way during the next two pregnancies and the nun's comment made her feel guilty.

Just before the stillbirth, a friend who was eight months pregnant said that while on holiday, another woman had approached her saying how she envied her being at that stage of pregnancy. Carole wanted to say "I do, too!"

She felt fluttering movements and tried to push her doubts aside. Both mothers were busy knitting now that she was past the danger period.

Her first inkling was comparing tummies with a friend due at the same time. Then she noticed there was no more fluttering. An appointment for an ultrasound confirmed the bad news.

"Then came that terrible indeterminable state, knowing you are no longer pregnant, yet having to wear the same clothes because nothing else fits."

Friends were supportive and understanding, especially one who had been through a similar experience.

It was a relief when the cramps started two days later. After 14 hours of labour, the fetus delivered, then a day-long wait and finally an operation to remove the placenta.

One of the hardest parts was the three day stay on the "obs and gynie" floor to be sure there was no infection.

"Hearing babies crying and knowing that you would have no little bundle to take home . . . I wanted to ask one of the mothers if I could just hold her baby for a while," Carole said.

Neither Carole nor Tim looked at the fetus, which couples are encouraged to do. Learning the sex of the child made it all the more real and harder to bear. The news that the fetus appeared normal made the experience even more frustrating.

Waves of emotion washed over Carole. Anger — "All that time I spent trying not to get pregnant." Also "I'm healthy so what goes wrong?" Resignation — "I guess I just wasn't meant to be a mother." Resentment — at seeing other women,

especially pregnant friends and guilt for feeling that way. And time passing.

Tim, a physician himself, had been by her side constantly throughout the stillbirth. She had a vivid memory of him leaving her the night she arrived home from the hospital to deliver another couple's baby. That night he carried the new-born down to the nursery himself.

She felt as if she had let people down. Her obstetrician was apologetic because there was no explanation for what happened. Carole felt like reassuring her that there was nothing the doctor could have done about it.

She said that after each miscarriage you reassess your life, where you're going and how important it is to you to have a child. After the stillbirth, her initial reaction was "No, I can't go through that again."

Two months later, the 75 per cent chance of a successful pregnancy after repeated miscarriages seems an encouraging statistic. The anxiety will always be there but there is also cautious hope that if she's been the one in five to

She felt
as if she had
let people
down

miscarry three times, perhaps next time she'll be lucky.

Erin, 27, had a complete miscarriage (no D and C was required) at six weeks last November. It was an especially frustrating experience for Erin and Norm, a 33 year old social worker, because there was not enough tissue to determine if the fetus was normal. Their son, Brian, was born with a serious genetic defect two years ago and a second pregnancy was terminated after 16 weeks when an amniocentesis indicated the same condition.

The night before the miscarriage, Erin, a part-time nurse, had gone to work, a particularly busy evening on the labour floor. She remembered thinking how ironic it was that she should be tending these women who had just delivered while she was losing her baby. She said "It felt strange not knowing the other staff well enough to tell them what was happening and that I should go home."

Once there, the bleeding and cramps continued all night long. Erin and Norm talked a lot, sharing their disappointment. This pregnancy was to have been the final test to determine whether or not they could have their own healthy child.

The next morning, Erin went to a bake sale at the hospital with her mother. While there she passed the tissue in the washroom and saved what she could for the laboratory tests. "It almost seems laughable now. Maybe that's the only way to release the emotions" she said.

They hadn't told anyone about the pregnancy. Both mothers had had large families and had two miscarriages, but Erin said it just seemed to be something that happened back then that wasn't even shared with their spouses.

Only one friend had experienced a miscarriage and the event was not discussed much with others. Erin said "It's such a personal thing . . . people that haven't been through it can't relate."

Immediately after the miscarriage, Erin felt empty disbelief that she could be pregnant one day and not the next. She felt bitter disappointment that her body had let her down, in spite of all the precautions she had taken. Being a mother was "something special" to Erin and now their orderly plans to have three or four children were shattered. She put on a brave front for others, at times denying what had happened, yet "scrambling to find some comfort."

Like others, she wonders if she is rubbing salt into the wound when on the labour floor. She loves her work, yet, at times she chokes back the tears seeing another couple sharing that special joy at what they have created. At other times she feels anger at the indifference of some, not appreciating what a miracle a new born is.

Reassured by genetisists, Erin still hopes to have her own healthy baby, although Norm is ready to throw in the towel. The strain shows in Erin's lean face — first, that monthly disappointment. Then, if she does miss a period, calculating two dates, an amniocentesis at 16 weeks, and an additional 24 weeks of anxiety. In the meantime they have applied to adopt a child.

Three different women; three different situations. A thread of common emotions—anger, disappointment, guilt, denial and frustration. All three tried to hide their grief yet felt the need to talk. The occasional lack of time and sensitivity of the part of physicians and medical staff was keenly felt.

Sharing their feelings with others who have been through the same experience and felt the same way would have been helpful. But, like other grieving, the pain of a miscarriage never really gets better, only further away.



vintage fashions

801 Corydon Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba
453-5570

KLINIC

If you are interested in exploring volunteer opportunities in the following areas:

**Crisis Intervention
Sexual Assault
Community Services
to Senior Citizens**

Call

Our Volunteer Coordinator
786-6943

545 BROADWAY AVE.
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA

LEGALEYES

Fighting for the Kids

**Jennifer Cooper, Lawyer
Newman, MacLean**

One of the saddest things about the increase in failing marriages is that the children are often caught in the middle. Conflict may come as a result of a genuine concern for the child's welfare, or, unfortunately, it may be a useful way for a bitter parent to inflict pain and suffering upon the estranged spouse. Whatever the reason, custody disputes are becoming increasingly common.

Historically, fathers almost automatically gained custody of the children upon separation or divorce. Similar to his wife and all of the marital property, the children were regarded as the husband's chattels. Gradually, this position eroded and the courts began to favour mothers. By the 1950's motherhood evoked images of stay-at-home females serving up Campbell's soup and cheese sandwiches: they became the "natural" parent to assume custody after a separation.

Nowadays however, parents will often attend in court and the only significant difference in their plans for parenting will be the Day Care Centre that they intend to use. Fathers are more often initiating, and winning, custody battles. Certainly the courts will at least support extensive and liberal access to almost any father who shows a genuine desire to have a meaningful and continuing relationship with the children. It is true that the mother still maintains a slight advantage before the court, especially when she has been the primary care giver in the children's younger years. However, it is always wise to be prepared and the following are some thoughts for your consideration.

- (1) Never leave the children or give the children into the custody of your estranged spouse on the strength of a promise that they will be returned "later". If the spouse decides to renege on the promise, then it may be very difficult to persuade the court to have the children returned. The courts do not like to move children around unless it can be demonstrated that it will be clearly to their disadvantage if they remain where they are.
- (2) Until there is a court order or separation agreement in place, both parents have joint custody of the child and have an equal right to have the child in their care or control. Consequently, you should obtain a court order or written agreement specifying custody immediately after separation in order to avoid "child snatching".
- (3) Be aware of the recent amendments

to Section 250 of The Criminal Code which provide that a parent can be charged with child abduction by removing a child even if there is no court order or a written agreement in place. Although this type of charge will not be laid except with the consent of the Attorney General, there are no guidelines as to when consent would be given to prosecute. This makes it rather difficult, for example, when a woman who is being beaten wishes to remove herself and the children from the home. It may be wise to speak to a lawyer before making any sudden moves.



PHOTO BY MARNE PASTUCK

*Historically . . .
children were regarded
as the husband's
chattel.*

- (4) Consider the option of joint custody. If your only true disagreement with your spouse is that you both love the children dearly, then consider acting in the children's best interests by allowing them to share their time with both parents. An agreement of joint custody requires that you be capable of arriving at some agreement regarding the major decisions in the child's life, such as educational and religious training. Again, this concept can be explored by speaking with a lawyer or by telephoning the Marriage Conciliation Service at 895-5023.

REVIEWS

Tootsie: Hollywood's Feminine Mythtigue

Grinning at me from magazine covers and movie marquees everywhere is that star-spangled, new all-American—Tootsie. She looks like she has the world by the balls, which he has.

In a bizarre way, if this film doesn't have you rolling in the aisles, you can be accused of woman-hating. Nevertheless, I have serious misgivings about this movie's message: Get Dustin Hoffman into a wig and dress, let him experience work-place oppression as a woman—PRESTO—you have a man who makes a better woman than a woman.

After letting Tootsie ruminate in me for a few weeks, I still hate it, and its financial success and popular acceptance worries me. I felt anger during the film, but betrayal at the end where Michael (Dustin Hoffman) walks off into the smoggy sunset with Julie (Jessica Lange). Her lonely, puzzled, angry face of only a few frames prior to this "happy ending" stayed with me as I left the theatre. So why was everyone else chuckling? The line that apparently convinced her and everyone in the audience of their future bliss, was that while he was posing as a woman, and her friend, they established a relationship that can now be culminated to her advantage because of what he "really" has for her in his pants.

This film totally dismisses loving, meaningful relationships between women. There is not one encounter amongst the cast of women that would make you believe women had anything to say or give to each other. Instead, a technologically-constructed Dorothy (Michael) becomes the substitute.

An unemployable, but brilliant young actor (Michael), who can't even play a tomatoe (get the joke), auditions as Dorothy for the part of Kimberly, hospital administrator in a popular Soap, and gets the part by kneeing the director in the groin. Get the drift?

As Dorothy/Kimberly, Michael now experiences women's oppression: he sexually harrasses his agent to take revenge for all the mean things he has said to Michael, the actor; he sexually exploits a relationship with a woman friend of six years; he averts his eyes in the dressing room of scantily clad starlets; he is pursued, in the carnal way, by the drunken lothario chief-of-staff and by Julie's down-home father; he gets called Tootsie and other diminutive endearments by the director, who is a cad and also Julie's lover.

All this oppression makes Dorothy/Kimberly/Michael fight back, but not against

Brigitte Sutherland

the cultural stereotype of looking like a woman. A friend of mine, who saw the film, acknowledged she also had to put on this type of disguise in order to dress for success and get a job. However, she finds it a much more painful process than it is made to appear for Hoffman on the big screen. Maybe this has something to do with the fact that my friend can't afford the supreme technology of three dressers, who slaved endlessly to primp and pad Dorothy, or the make-up designer who spent a year developing the "look", and hours every day realising it.



Women have been questioning the strict ideals that physically and culturally define a "woman," while Hoffman and the film lie to us about how easy it is. If women were just as devoted to get into their characters the way Hoffman is, they would just as automatically fight their oppression in the workplace or at home. The film's preachy pseudo-feminism, mouthed by Dorothy, implies that the audience of women could easily stop men's patronizing attitudes and beatings if only they refused the willing victim status.

Feminists have been doing just exactly that, refusing to be victims, but this glib-

message movie completely denies the anguish and pain caused by taking on this entrenched patriarchal culture; the immense amount of work necessary to demand and get anti-rape and battered women's shelters from government officials, as well as survive the economic liabilities of taking on the bosses.

I knew I was being had all through this film, but my greatest sense of betrayal was in the way the filmmakers dismiss and undercut lesbian relationships, yet, deliberately use lesbian images to entice the audience.

Julie has begun to love Dorothy, has looked for her support and has entrusted her with confidence. Dorothy/Michael returns Julie's love, so here we are on the horns of a dilemma.

In one scene, furtively photographed through a gauzy window, we see Dorothy and Julie standing and talking together in a warmly-lit kitchen. When Julie extends her finger with sweet, white icing for Dotie to lick off, the male audience's groans come hard and heavy.

Women-loving-women scenarios are used extensively to titillate the male audience. Just listening to their responses clarified on whom this joke is really being played. The snickers acknowledge Michael's unique position as his own voyeur, and with the help of the camera lens, Michael and the men in the theatre become partners in abusing Julie's trusting affection. Michael becomes, at once, a woman sharing a loving moment with another woman, while at the same time being a man, knowing he's a man and controlling the entire situation.

Dustin Hoffman's struggles of late, in recent films such as *Kramer vs. Kramer* and now *Tootsie*, are reminiscent of the agonies and soul-searchings of a born-again male. He has approached both films with fervour and both have undergone extensive rewrites to tailor-make them for him.

In *Kramer vs. Kramer*, Hoffman's character proves that a man can be a more devoted mother than the woman who gave the child birth (by the way, at the time of filming he was involved in a custody battle in real life). In *Tootsie*, creating out of his head like Zeus (who created Athena goddess of wisdom), Hoffman brings forth Dorothy. He is pictured in *Peoples Magazine* with his pants down and his hands simulating a vagina and predicts that by the time of his next film he will have acquired a womb. Another role lost to women?

OPINIONS

Recreating Motherhood

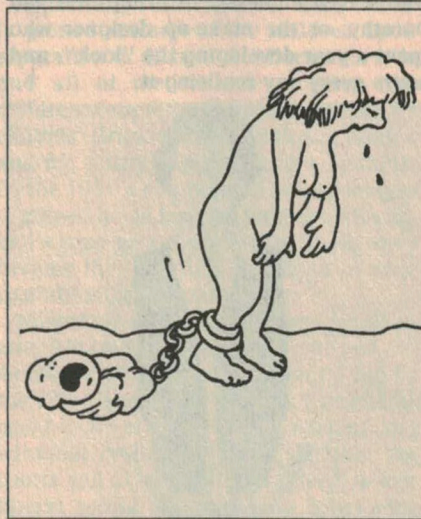
Motherhood for us is the central point around which all other problems of women's history up to today focus. We have always been mothers or potential mothers or even non-mothers. As women we are destined to accept motherhood as the fundamental purpose of our existence.

This acceptance in fact is what brings us to the two culminating moments of our existence and our alienation as individuals: the moment when, seeing that maternity gives us greater prestige we use it as an instrument of power and manipulation; and above all the moment when, in educating our children, we continue to underpin and perpetuate the same patriarchal sexist ideology which dominates us. This means that we ourselves become the principal instrument of our own oppression.

As women, we must examine motherhood as it is affected by four major elements: religion, instinct and sexuality, social role, and birth and cultural dependence. Religion, has always defined women as a function of men—as an object of pleasure, producer of his children, and custodian of the family. Women have been condemned to be lower, evil and dirty, dating back to the concept of woman being created from a mere rib of man. Women's lower status is to be found in many different religions, with frequent reference to the fact that their role is to produce children for men. The Catholic church—so influential in Latin America—sustains the image of the traditional family, opposing any sign of change. The great enemies of the christian family are birth control and divorce which the church actively combats. One of the primordial aims of marriage is the procreation and education of children, and for that the church opposes birth control and defends maternity as much against the couple who does not want children as against demographic policies of population control. As women, we have had to sacrifice everything for the maternal role—our dreams and our desire to live our own lives.

The major role which society assigns to women irrespective of her class, is the biological one of producing children. **Every woman is a uterus, an ovary, a matrix, a womb.** Yet women are also responsible for educating children, and inevitably pass on this strict definition of sex roles to them and thus unwittingly perpetuate our own oppression. Even if and when we enter the labour market, we are made to feel that our work is not indispensable to society and that eventual-

ly our jobs will give way to the most "happy" and "normal" event of marriage and motherhood. A heavy consequence of this is that women are caught in a contradiction: the role of wife, sister and mother contradict that of worker, labourer, artisan, professional or artist: the reality of women's lives does not gel with the image of the "ideal woman" presented to us by the media. Yet if we do not act as we should, do what is expected of us, we are treated as maladjusted and any alternative



The concept of Motherhood, as an instrument of ideological domination

Grupo Feminista Miercoles, Venezuela, 1980

behaviour is seen as negative and is censored.

The act of giving birth is one of the most important events in a woman's life. It is something which cannot be controlled by will, and in which the whole body is involved.

Over the ages, and until very recently, the pain of childbirth has been considered as essential and inevitable. The rise of modern medicine to deal with this pain, however, has not really helped the situa-

tion. In a capitalist underdeveloped country like Venezuela, the medical system is linked to the dominating classes, and to the process of capital accumulation. Medical technology is transferred from the West—especially the USA—and is marketed in the form of sophisticated and expensive drugs and equipment which are used with less care and know-how than in their countries of origin. The western medical system considers birth as a medical act and the labouring woman a sick person. Women have thus become mere patients in an alienating experience of which we have totally lost control.

Upon examination, the concept of "maternal instinct" is often used as an excuse not to educate or inform women about anything surrounding birth and motherhood. It is something assumed and therefore not even discussed. Acceptance of the "maternal instinct" is a powerful mechanism in women's oppression—women are not "natural" if they don't automatically accept motherhood. But there is a whole series of questions never raised about "instinct"—what is an instinct? Can you define it biologically? Psychologically? Perhaps the most important thing to note about maternal instinct is that it can be used to justify women's role as mother, without any reference to her own sexuality. Women's sexuality has been historically seen as linked to reproduction. In a patriarchal society, this is quite coherent, and women have for decades completely negated their sexuality in favour of reproduction. "Having lost sight of our own sexuality and by accepting a purely reproductive union, we have fallen into precisely what patriarchal society wants from us: motherhood. But the uterus-woman will become less and less relevant to a world preoccupied with the problem of overpopulation."

There is a dream that we as feminists are striving for: to be able to reconcile motherhood with simply being; to have the possibility of living a childhood in which we can develop our own physical and intellectual capacities and come to terms with our sexuality; to accept menstruation without shame or fear; motherhood without losing a full life as an individual, enjoyable sexuality without taboos; to be mothers by choice and to take control over motherhood through birth without violence; to begin a new kind of relationship with women, men, children and society.

Reprinted from **ISIS: Women's International Bulletin**.

CONSUMER WISE

The ABCs of UPCs

Ruth Corobow

The introduction of the Universal Product Code (UPC) heralded in a new era for retail food stores—the technology of the optical (or laser) scanner. The series of thick and thin black lines on product packaging decodes to the scanner the product's manufacturer, brand name and package size. In seconds this code is matched with the corresponding code in the store's computer and that day's price for the product is electronically relayed back to the register. Should the scanner be unable to read these black lines, the numbers under them can be manually punched into the computer.

This system has obvious benefits to the retailers: Sales volume, gross margin, inventory control, and reordering can all be accomplished through the master computer. The potential for productivity gains, loss control and collecting marketing data (ie. buying frequency, brand, size, etc.) is substantial.

However, this is not the only issue. Retail food stores equipped with scanners are all quick to remove the prices from the individual products and replace this item pricing with price tags on the shelf only. This eliminates the need for an employee to mark individual items and ultimately reduces payroll expenses. However, consumer groups are concerned with more than employee layoffs. Consumer advocates argue that the removal of item pricing leaves the consumer at the mercy of the retailer.

Without item pricing:

1. A consumer cannot verify prices as they are being 'scanned', nor can they check price lists at home. This means that unless a person remembers the price of each item, or marks the price down, the consumer must accept the accuracy of the computer. A price error in the computer can cause consumers to be incorrectly charged.

2. The consumer cannot distinguish new from old stock without the prices on each item. Profits can be realized by charging new prices on old stock.

3. Sophisticated data-gathering, available through the system, can reveal personal buying habits or credit information. There is potential for abuse of this unprotected and unauthorized assessing of the consumer's personal data.

4. Consumers will lose their price awareness. After a while, a consumer will forget the current price of some of the products on their shopping list. These prices

could then be altered slightly at frequent intervals and likely go undetected.

Consumers' loss of price awareness could lead to price manipulation. For example: retailers may continuously judge price elasticity of the products. By having access to daily sales data, a product's price can be constantly adjusted higher, to the maximum level that will not effect consumer demand for that product.

The computer system will also allow the retailer to quickly adjust prices to respond



to the consumer buying habits. The loss of consumer price awareness facilitates this process. As buying habits change, or as consumers begin to buy certain products, price adjustments may be made quickly to maximize the profits of these trends. Computers can also provide data to quickly analyze the market, such that patterns of sales can be studied and prices maximized, (ie. when strawberries move so does shortcakes, ice cream, and whipped cream).

The consumers' movements and retail associations have both brought their arguments forward to government. On the one hand, consumer groups have expressed their concerns and have asked that a policy on item pricing be implemented in order to protect the consumer. Retailers have maintained that the advent of computer scanning will lead to increased efficiency in their operations and subsequently lower prices and/or better service for the consumer.

What do you think? Let the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs in Ottawa hear your views.

*Create
a new you!*

**with a complete
skin care program
by a qualified
cosmetologist/esthetician**

- facial massage •
- manicure •
- pedicure •
- waxing •
- make-up •

**skin care
consulting
available**

Call Osmond

Sheila's
Hair Styling
940 Portage Ave.
772-2036

**START
THE NEW YEAR
WITH A CLEAN HOME**



- WALL WASHING
- COMPLETE "SPRING CLEANING"
- CARPET AND UPHOLSTERY
CLEANING
- WINDOW WASHING
- MAID SERVICE
- JANITORIAL

"FREE QUOTATION - NO OBLIGATION"

956-0856 (24 HRS.)

STONEMALL 467-5350 • SELKIRK 482-7942

BREADWINNING

Tots and Taxes: Mothers take a break

This is the time of year that our attention turns towards income tax preparation. Drawers are rummaged through, as we round up those necessary pieces of paper that have been accumulating throughout the year.

As a word of encouragement, don't be intimidated by all those tax forms. All that is required is a little bit of organization and a review of the Information Guides made available by the tax department.

Here are some points to consider when preparing your return:

EQUIVALENT TO MARRIED EXEMPTION—This exemption is referred to as such, since the amount of the exemption is \$3,110, the same as the married exemption. You will qualify for this exemption if you meet all of the following:

- (1) At any time during the year you were unmarried or separated from your spouse and did not support or were not supported by your spouse;
- (2) You contributed to the support of an individual living with you (regardless of age) who is related to you by blood, marriage or adoption, and
- (3) The individual is wholly dependent for support upon you, or upon you and one or more other persons related to that individual.

This exemption may be useful to you as illustrated in the following example:

Elaine Jones is unmarried and supports her two children, aged 13 and 18. Assuming both children have no income of their own, Elaine would be entitled to claim exemptions of \$670 and \$1,220 for the 13 and 18 year old respectively. However, if she claimed the equivalent to married exemption for the 13 year old (selected because of the lower exemption) she would be entitled to exemptions of \$3,110 and \$1,220.

CHILD CARE EXPENSES—If you are a mother who had children cared for to enable you to work, you will be allowed to deduct the cost of child care from your income, within the following limitations:

- (1) Your children must be under age 14 for some part of the year or if over 14 years is either physically or mentally infirm,
- (2) The child care payments may not be made to someone you or your spouse has claimed as a dependent or to a person under 21 years of age related to you or your spouse, and
- (3) The deduction is limited to \$1,000 per child to a maximum of 4 children per family. This amount may not ex-

Paula Gardner, C.A.
Arthur Andersen & Co.



ceed $\frac{1}{2}$ of your earned income or, the amount you actually spent on day care.

To be allowed deductions for child care expenses, you must support these expenses



with receipts. Each recipient should include the name, address, social insurance number, and signature of the person to whom you made payments for the child care, your name, the amount paid, and the date of payment. While the receipts do not have to be filed with the returns, they should be retained in case Revenue Canada wants to see them later on.

TUITION FEES—If you were enrolled at a qualified educational institution, whether it is a full-time day, night, summer or correspondence course, you may deduct your tuition fees provided they are over \$100 and do not exceed a 12-month period. Institutions which qualify include post-secondary schools, secondary schools providing certification for courses needed for university entrance, and institutions certified by the Minister of Employment and Immigration which furnishes you with or improves your skills in an occupation. You have the option of claiming your fees on an academic year basis or on a calendar year basis. For example, if you begin an academic year in September, 1982 you may claim in 1982 all your fees paid in 1982 for the full academic year ending in 1983. Alternatively, you may defer the claim of the second term tuition to your 1983 taxation year. This becomes advantageous where you expect your 1983 income to be higher than 1982.

CHILD TAX CREDIT—If you receive family allowance payments for an eligible child you may be entitled to a child tax credit. The child tax credit is a maximum of \$343 per child with possible reductions depending upon family income. The important point to note here is that since this is a credit and not a deduction, the amount of benefit you receive is not dependent upon your tax bracket. For example, if two women claim a \$1,000 child care deduction, the woman in a 30% tax bracket will reduce her taxes by \$300 while a woman in a 20% bracket will only reduce hers by \$200. However, if both women each have a child eligible for the tax credit, assuming there are no adjustments for family income, they will both receive a credit of \$343. Therefore, even if you have no income and are not otherwise required to file an income tax return, you should do so in order to receive the credit.

*NOTE: Some of the above points include changes to the Income Tax Act which have not yet been enacted but, Revenue Canada will be assessing returns on the assumption that they will be passed. If any over-payments of tax result because of legislation which did not pass, refunds will be issued.

PHOTO BY MARNIE PASTUCK

A MEASURE OF CONTROL

I bought a house because I wanted more control in my own living space, the security of knowing I wouldn't move again in a year unless I wanted to, and for a sound future investment at a rate of payment I could afford. Your reasons for buying a house may be very different. Be aware of your present and future needs. This way, the house you buy will give you what you want. Share your plans with an agent who is working to serve your best interests.

Cheryl Tordon

452-9745

9 a.m. - 9 p.m. daily

Block Bros.

SUBSCRIBE

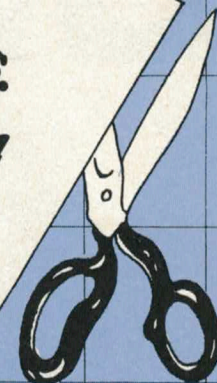
HERizons
125 Osborne St. S.
Wpg. Man. R3L 1Y4

name
address

name
address

Give a gift subscription and we'll send your friend a personalized card of an original drawing in the feminist spirit.

MANITOBA'S
OWN
WOMENS
NEWS
MAGAZINE



individual
institution

12 ISSUES
\$10.00
\$24.00

Manitoba



Friendly 
Manitoba

And friendly is just the beginning...

For travel information
call COLLECT

944-3777 or write:

Travel Manitoba, Dept. 3599
Legislative Building, Winnipeg
Manitoba, Canada R3C 0V8

Department of Economic Development and Tourism/Hon. Muriel Smith, Minister