

the *Manitoba Women's* newspaper

Volume 1, Number 7, November 15, 1980.

Coalition fights book censorship

By Sharon Reilly

On Saturday, November 1, over 150 people assembled at the steps of the Manitoba Legislature to protest Attorney General Gerald Mercier's banning of *The Joy of Lesbian Sex* and *The Joy of Gay Sex*.

The books were censored last year following a complaint by a woman looking for *The Joy of Cooking* who inadvertently picked up *The Joy of Gay Sex*.

Organized by Liberation Books, the Winnipeg Anti-Censorship Coalition also obtained over 2,000 signatures to a petition protesting the censorship.

Speakers to the demonstration represented various Coalition members including Gays for Equality, the Manitoba Gay Coalition, University of Winnipeg Women's Centre, Manitoba Association of Women Artists, Manitoba Association for Rights and Liberties, Women Against Violence Toward Women, Service Office and Retail Workers Union of Canada - Local 3, and Canadian Dimension Magazine.



Speaking on behalf of Liberation Books, Henry Heller noted that although homosexuality is legal in Canada, Manitobans have been denied the right to read about the subject.

Stating that obscenity must be a matter for the courts — not the Attorney General to decide, bookstore spokesperson Susan White announced that as of Oct. 31st, Liberation Books has sold, and will continue to sell, the books. To date, no prosecutions have been made.

The following statement was read at the November 1st demonstration by a spokesperson for the Manitoba Women's Newspaper; a member of the Winnipeg Anti-Censorship Coalition:

The Manitoba Women's Newspaper would like to express its full support for the objectives of the Winnipeg Coalition Against Censorship.

We oppose the banning of *The Joy of Lesbian Sex* and *The Joy of Gay Sex* for the following reasons:

First, this action constitutes an attack on the freedom of individuals to express openly

their sexual preference.

Second, an attack such as this on any individual or minority group is an attack on the democratic rights of all members of our society.

However, this is not just a question of opposing the censorship of minority groups, but of fighting any form of censorship that restricts the free expression and exchange of ideas.

The arbitrary actions of the Government of Manitoba and the Winnipeg police in banning these books constitutes censorship of the most insidious kind. It ignores the due process of law which they supposedly are there to uphold.

Under no circumstances can we afford to forget that the democratic rights we enjoy today were won for us by the struggle of progressive groups throughout our history.

Democratic rights are not simply given, or granted by the state, but must be won through struggle. We must continue to commit ourselves to extend and when necessary, to defend, our individual and collective democratic rights.

Pratt women suspect R.C.M.P.

By Heather Frayne

(WINNIPEG) — Wendy Stevenson, Suzanne Chabot and Katy Le Rougetel — members of the Revolutionary Workers League — believed from the beginning the RCMP were behind their firings in November, 1979, from Pratt & Whitney in Montreal.

"We had no proof," said Stevenson, who has been crisscrossing the country publicizing the women's campaign to win back their jobs. "We just had reason to suspect from the circumstances this was the case."

The women filed complaints with the Quebec Human Rights Commission, which confirmed their suspicions last June. Ruling that the three had been fired for political reasons and that the RCMP, by visiting company management and placing the women under surveillance for two months, had played a "decisive" role, the commission called for their immediate reinstatement with retroactive seniority and back

pay.

The commission has no authority to enforce its decisions, but it was an important victory nonetheless, Stevenson said.

"We haven't got our jobs back yet, but getting this information, getting this proof, was very important to us."

Once hired as trainees in assembly and inspection jobs at Pratt & Whitney, the three took their places in a plant where 150 to 4,000 workers occupied jobs in traditional women's ghettos. Formerly known as United Aircraft of Canada Ltd., the company is a subdivision of United Technologies Corporation, one of the largest aeronautics corporations in the world.

Stevenson said that Pratt & Whitney is likely the most hated company in Quebec because of its anti-union, anti-women and anti-Quebecois policies. The company tried to shed this image with a change in name following a 22-month

strike in 1974-1975 which stripped Local 510 United Auto Workers of its leadership.

While Stevenson makes no claim to skills in a particular trade, Le Rougetel and Chabot are both qualified machinists.

"We had excellent work records and good working relationships with the people in our department, and we also knew that there was massive hiring going on in the plant," said Stevenson. "So it came as quite a surprise to us on November 16th when, two days before the end of probation, we were laid off because of a personnel surplus."

The news was broken to the women individually.

"We didn't believe the story of the company particularly because the three of us were active feminists and members of the Revolutionary Workers League."

The women went to Local 510, which came to their

defence by filing grievances claiming that the layoffs were unwarranted and making complaints to the provincial human rights commission of

political and sexual discrimination. They launched a public defence campaign which quickly attracted broad
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We've uncovered . . .

- letters on page 2.
- harmful sponges on page 3.
- conferences and more conferences on pages 4 and 5
- scrutinizing the second income on page 6.
- harmful tampons on page 7.
- two opposing views on Brilliant Careers on the flipside.

and more . . .

Nelligrams: no lesbian problem?

By Bridgitte Sutherland

ALTHOUGH THE SOVIET Union officially denies that it has any "problems" with homosexuals, there is a special article in the criminal code that states that the punishment for homosexuality is imprisonment for a maximum of eight years. One of the first feminist exiles from the U.S.S.R., Tatyana Mamonova, claims that lesbians are put into psychiatric clinics instead of prison. "There are many contacts between women", she says, "There are small ghettos and a woman is checked well before she is allowed in, because the women there are afraid that she might report on them." Mamonova believes lesbian rights to be an intrinsic element of feminism, and thinks that the Soviet attitude toward male homosexuality, while bad, is not as severe as that toward lesbianism. She thinks this is "perhaps because whatever men do is more acceptable than what women do."

SKIN MAGAZINES MAY be banned by the Carleton University Student Council from the council campus store. "We think it is a gross contradiction to be against sexism on principle . . . and profit from it," says council president Greg McElligott. He feels magazines such as Playboy, Penthouse and similar others are "clearly sexist, degrading to all women and to a civilized society." Journalism professor Tom McPahil objects so such a move, "I think it's a shame that at a university they want to restrict freedom of expression - an elite group deciding what people can and can't read. The next think you know, they'll want to take certain books out of the library." Council vice-president, Dan Loewen, disagrees, "These magazines can still be published and sold and can still be brought onto campus. They can even be bought in other stores on campus." McElligott will try to have the magazines banned elsewhere on campus, "if we were selling a magazine put out by the

KKK its removal would be very easy. It's not so easy against sexism which is just as serious as racism."

REMEMBER THE SLOGAN, "You've come a long way, Baby". Out of the United Nations Mid-Decade Conference for Women in Copenhagen comes the following information - **WOMEN STILL PERFORM TWO-THIRDS OF ALL THE WORKING HOURS, RECEIVE ONLY ONE-TENTH OF WORLD INCOME AND OWN LESS THAN ONCE PERCENT OF WORLD PROPERTY.**



DATELINE COPENHAGEN The one issue that there really seemed to be universal agreement on was the wages for housework campaign, a British-based operation, that is supporting a part of the U.N.'s plan of action that will require all member nations to include the work of women - whether paid or not - in their calculations of their gross national product. The work of women in the home and on the farm has traditionally not been counted as part of the G.N.P. simply because there is no wage for it. But, organizers felt, "if we can get women's work included in the G.N.P. its economic value will be finally recognized and women's contribution to the earth's wealth will have to be taken seriously. Then when we go to ask for child care centers, or for better health care, we can point to those figures and say - this is our contribution and this is why we deserve what we are asking for." This appeal found enthusiastic support both among women from industrialized countries who believe that the economic value of housework ought to be recognized, and

among women from developing countries, many of whom not only perform all the household work but also grow most of the family's food supply.

HOW MANY NETWORKS does it take to report the news? Although the firing of Anna Walentynowicz sparked the first successful strike for Polish shipyard workers, she was ignored by U.S. television. A welder and crane operator for more than 30 years, it was her dismissal for organizing and political activism that caused workers to walk off in sympathy. She then became one of three women on the 13-member board that ran the strike.

IMMIGRANT WOMEN ARE exploited by their employers, they're unaware of their rights or too scared to stand up for them, they're lonely, isolated and confused by a society whose language they don't speak says a provincial task force report prepared by the Ontario Advisory Council on Multiculturalism, the Ontario Status of Women Council and the Ontario Advisory Council on Senior Citizens. The double-plight of immigrant women - sexual discrimination plus a language barrier - has been known for several years now, but little is being done to help them. Among the most exploited, the report says, are the thousands of immigrant women who work as live-in domestic servants, unprotected by provincial labor law. Many of them work 80-hour weeks for \$50. The report urged that domestic workers be covered by Ontario's Employment Standards Act, which would guarantee them the \$3.00/hr. minimum wage, a maximum 48-hour work week, vacation pay and overtime.

Information from: Action, Masenayegun; MS., The Manitoba, Ont. Fed. of Labour, International Women's Press Service and Toronto Star.

Letters



Trudeau taken to task

The following is an open letter to P.M. Trudeau concerning the cancelled NAC/MACSW conference.

Dear Mr. Trudeau:

I am writing to protest the cancellation of the Conference on the Constitution, which was to be held in Winnipeg Oct. 17-19/80. The National Action on the Status of Women has been informed there is no money left for their conference.

This was to be a meeting of women from all over Canada, who want their children and grandchildren to grow up in a Canada they can be proud of. But how can they be proud of a Canada that does not recognize women as persons? Does not recognize women's interest in the things that effect their husband's and children's welfare?

I would be happy to see less of the Canada geese on T.V. I don't watch them anyway and neither do the other people that I have talked to. The money saved on 2 of these ads would fund a number of Conferences. And you would reach a far greater group of people.

It is all very well to have many Minister's and Premier's meetings to talk about Oil,

Energy, Fishing Rights, Mineral Rights etc, but without families to use these services we would have no need for them. People make up the country and it would seem to me a priority that women who bear the children and teach them to become good citizens of Canada should be consulted on an issue as important as the new Constitution of Canada.

I firmly believe that if children are taught at an early age to love and care for other people, to respect themselves and others, we would cut our need for jails and capital punishment at the other end when they have grown up. But when adults are frightened and unhappy themselves, because of unemployment, money problems and this leads to more drinking, the children suffer.

When women are allowed to share fully in the planning of the society of Canada, only then can we say we have a Canada we can all be proud of.

Help us to do this.

Sincerely
Ms. Joyce Harrison
Box 185
Winnipegosis, Manitoba
Canada

M.W.N. corrected on Osborne House

Dear M.W.N.:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Winnipeg Y.W.C.A. I thank you for space devoted to a description of the services offered at Osborne House — our crisis housing for battered women. The centre has been in operation for over six years and has needed constant support, energy and a large time commitment from both the Board of the Y.W. and the staff. However we believe the results have been worth the effort, and we take pride in our contribution to bettering the life of Winnipeg women.

May I take this opportunity to correct some inaccuracies in the article?

Although the City of Win-

nipeg gave us a house rent-free in the early days of the existence of Osborne House, it is not now involved in the funding. They are, however, our greatest user of the service. The Department of Community Services and Corrections of the Manitoba Government is also a user. They have provided us with the present house through the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation, a government agency which covers our heating, taxes, maintenance etc. Community Services have also said they would look at any deficits incurred. This arrangement was arrived at a year ago.

For the two years

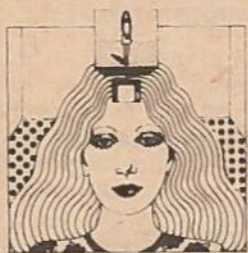
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The aim of this newspaper is to provide an alternative means of communications with a feminist perspective in order to stimulate, to inform, to effect change and to unify women's strengths. It also serves as a public forum of discussion for the women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



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— Barbara Klunder

Native women testing their wings

By Yvette Parr

After centuries of oppression, Canadian Indian women are joining with women everywhere in struggling for their independence. For these women, perhaps more than any others in Canada today, the battle is

far from over.

Historically the Indian woman has had little power or status. Today, the Indian woman's main concern is with money and dignity.

Many Indian women are leaving the reserves to begin a new life in the city that is totally alien to them, with

no idea of what to expect. There are few facilities, and little funding is available, to develop these women's self-assurance and the skills necessary to adapt from reserve to urban life.

Indian women who live in Winnipeg have been struggling for a long time to help Indian women new to the city. One of their objectives is to set up a Transition Centre to temporarily house Reserve Indians while they familiarize themselves with urban life. Many proponents of the Centre are convinced that more notice would be taken of them by both the government and general public, if they were a white organization. While the fight for Native Women's Transition Centre is fully supported by white women's groups, they share the problem of 'no money'.

Although funding remains a problem, a building has recently become available for the Transition Centre. Despite Winnipeg's large and rapidly growing Native population, this development has been relatively slow compared to that in the eastern and western sectors of Canada. However, it is hoped that sufficient funds will become available to open the building on a small scale by December 15th. If successful, the house will provide services for one to three families. Although a modest beginning, it is hoped that getting the project started

may focus attention on the actual much greater need.

The Transition Centre is expected to be staffed by paraprofessionals, along with a professional director. Volunteer staff also will be used as it is felt that the women may relate more readily to ordinary people than to those they see in an authoritarian role.

It is only when women who are most oppressed start fighting back that all women will achieve the rights and status so long denied. The dignity of Indian women has suffered much, but, with the help of her sisters, she is striving to obtain the respect and credit that she deserves. Although Indian men may feel threatened, as Indian women realize more and more that they are not just baby machines and nurturers of the home and family, both they and Metis women are voicing their concerns and needs. As Maria Campbell, author of the

compelling autobiography *Halfbreed* stated in 1973:

"For these past couple of years, I've stopped being the idealistically shiny-eyed young woman I was. I realize that an armed revolution of Native people will never come about; even if such a thing were possible what would we achieve? We would only end up oppressing someone else. I believe that one day, very soon, people will set aside their differences and come together as one. Maybe not because we love one another, but because we will need each other to survive. Then together we will fight our common enemies. Change will come because this time we won't give up. There is growing evidence of that today."

One of the most blatant injustices suffered by Canadian Indian women, an issue

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Sponges also harmful?

(IOWA CITY, IOWA) — A women's clinic here has stopped selling sea sponges as an alternative to tampons after state researchers discovered they contain sand, bacteria and other substances which could be harmful.

Dr. Adel Franks of the Emma Goldman Clinic for Women said the decision was made after William Hausler, director of the State Hygienic Laboratory, said the sponges pose a threat to the health of menstruating women.

Hausler said he wanted to alert women that sea sponges "are not 'natural'. They contain chemicals representative of their environment."

A brochure accompanying sponges sold at the Emma Goldman Clinic for between \$1.25 and \$2 said they could be rinsed and reused for up to six months. Hausler said rinsing "may not destroy all the bacteria present."

He said that as well as chemicals, sand and grit, his staff found several kinds of fungi and bacteria in an

analysis of 12 sponges bought at the clinic.

"There were none we would consider dangerous, but they could be, given the right set of circumstances."

Hausler said although some women began using sea sponges because they feared contracting Toxic Shock Syndrome, two cases of the disease have been reported in Minnesota women who used sponges. He added there is not necessarily a link between the disease and use of sponges, but recommended women use tampons made of synthetic fibres.

"We don't know anything about the manufacture of sea sponges," Hausler said. "Nature doesn't have any controls."

He said the Iowa laboratory may be the first to have done research on sea sponges, adding the results will be forwarded to the state health department and the United States Food and Drug Administration.

From the Associated Press

Jaycees offer seminars

By the Lombard Jaycees

In April 1978, a group of Winnipeg women recognized the need in the community for women to participate equally in the Jaycee organization. A new unit was formed — The Lombard Jaycees. In 1979, the enthusiasm and success of Lombard earned the unit the honour of being chosen Outstanding New Jaycee Unit in Canada.

What are Jaycees? It is a business and professional organization whose objectives are Individual Development, Leadership Development, Community Development and Fellowship. Jaycees gives its members an opportunity to participate in varied training and development programs. Skills developed through these programs are put into action in the community through various projects and activities. Membership in the unit provides an opportunity to meet and associate with progressive young women with similar interests and objectives.

The Lombard Jaycees are currently sponsoring a second series of Personal and Professional Development Seminars at the University of Winnipeg. Seminars held to date included *Sharpening Your Business Writing Style* and *Insurance, Investments*

and *Wills*.

Coming up shortly are the following three-hour seminars: *Personal Growth and Confidence Building* on November 26 — an opportunity to participate in experiments in self-awareness and confidence building.

Lifestyling on January 28 — discussion and small group exercises dealing with the dimensions of life and self and how imbalances lead to stress in the individual.

Developing Management Skills on February 25 — how better knowledge of the basics of management can enhance work skills.

Assertiveness at Work on March 25 — presents the major concepts of assertion, compares assertive, aggressive and passive behaviours with exercises in communicating more effectively, and deals with anger and conflict resolution.

Registration fee for each seminar is \$15.00. To register or to get additional information, contact Donna Gueret at 957-1770 or (after 5 p.m.) 774-8793.

Lombard Jaycees — a dynamic, innovative, growing young women's organization, welcomes new members. Interested? Give them a call.

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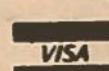
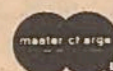
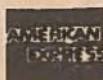
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Conference demands social change

By Gail Marchessault

"To talk feminism to a woman who has no food, no home and no money is to talk nonsense." This was one of the many ringing assertions shouted out for all the world to hear at the Decade for Women Mid-Decade Conference held in Copenhagen July 10-24, 1980. Unfortunately, reports of this important conference simply did not reach the ears of most Manitobans.

The Decade for Women began with the International Year of the Woman in 1975, ushered into being at a Mexico City conference. At that time, goals of equality, development and peace were established.

The Mid-Decade Conference this year set itself two objectives; first, to assess what progress has been made in improving the situation of women during the first five years of the decade, as well as to ascertain what obstacles hinder furthering this goal; and second, to design a specific action-oriented program, the "World Plan of Action", to advance the position of women during the next five years, with emphasis on the areas of employment, health and education.

Another conference is planned for 1985 in Nairobi, Kenya to review the entire decade and to continue to redress the universal imbalance of power that exists between women and men.

Almost 1,200 delegates from 136 countries attended the official U.N. Conference. Nine hundred of these delegates were women and 113 of the delegations also were headed by women. These numbers were an improvement over the ratio of women to men who attended the 1975 conference.

Canada was one of the 23 delegations headed by a man; Lloyd Axworthy, Federal Minister responsible for the Status of Women. Other Canadian representatives came from the Status of Women, Canada; the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women; the National Action Committee on the Status of Women; provincial Ministers from Labour and Manpower and Education; MATCH International; Status of Women Critics from the N.D.P. and the P.C. Party; Canadian Labour Congress; and Canadian members to the U.N.

The conference provided an

opportunity to the various delegates to contribute to a Program of Action to advance the social, economic and political position of women in the areas of government legislation, policies and programs to lead to the recognition of women's contributions and an end to their victimization.

In assessing the progress made in the first half of the decade, Lloyd Axworthy stated that the position of women has become worse — not better since 1975. "Women are the most unequal among unequals — and this after five years of conscious efforts on the part of us all."

Although some progress was noted in the areas of

Alongside the U.N. conference, over 8,000 Non-Governmental Organizations' Forum delegates discussed women's issues in an informal parallel conference. Two of the ten Canadian delegates were from Winnipeg — Mona Brown, a lawyer representing the National Association of Women and the Law, and Lila Goodspeed, a Home Economist, sponsored by the Federation of Junior Leagues of Canada.

contacts made among these professional feminist women was the most rewarding aspect of the conference in the long term. Networks are positive and heartening outgrowth of women's concerns about the issues and definitely a vehicle through which the world's best systems can be shared and promulgated.

For example, Ms. Brown said that the lawyers' network, with which she is affiliated, includes 91 women from 36 countries. This provides relatively easy communication and facilitates the sharing of alternative solutions in the practice of law concerning women. The potential support

women's studies, future research priorities, organizing, female sexuality, women's exploitation by transnational corporations, sex-role stereotyping in textbooks, the relationship between national liberation and peace and much more.

From this over whelming array of information Mona Brown considered the most burning issue discussed at the conference to be sexual stereotyping. Sexual stereotyping touches every facet of life.

"From a very early age, children are presented with the pattern of behaviour and role models that are deemed to be acceptable. For a boy, this will include independent activities, aggression, risks and emotional suppression. For a girl, it means passivity, dependence, good behaviour, and tears when necessary. Boys will be given construction toys, chemistry sets and trains. When they grow up they want to be pilots and engineers and conquer the world. Girls can't wait to exchange their dolls for real babies and their plastic teasetts for china.

Their main occupational model is that of the nurse and teacher. Even if the home environment doesn't discourage or discriminate, the outside world certainly does."

Ms. Brown went on to quote Maria Ellen Hilliard, author of "The Glass Slipper — Removing Sex Stereotypes" and other related books, "We must start educating children from before kindergarten level that a girl's education is as important as the boy's and we must educate women with the knowledge of women's studies."



education, day care, employment opportunities and day care leave, statistics showed significant inequalities still exist between women and men.

Women still provide 66% of the work hours and only 10% of the income. Women own only 1% of the property. Sixty-six per cent of all illiterates are women. Women in many countries remain the last to be fed, are victims of beatings, rape and attack without the benefit of legal protection.

education, day care, employment opportunities and day care leave, statistics showed significant inequalities still exist between women and men. speak of the benefits of the conference. Mona Brown states in her summary report that, "Everyone personally benefitted from the exposure to women from different cultures and most women left the conference further enlightened, rejuvenated, inspired and energized to work for the global values of equality, peace and development, and the improved status of women in the areas of health, education and employment"

Lila Goodspeed said that she came away with an impression of the strength of the talents, knowledge and skills of women.

Both women agreed that the networking that resulted from

is endlessly valuable in terms of time saved from duplicating research and benefits derived from others' experience.

Despite the diversities of the women involved and the politicking that perhaps inevitably occurred, Ms. Goodspeed felt that solidarity existed on basic issues.

And there were pages and pages of issues; sub-themes on women's position in the family, vocational training, curriculum reform, women's mass media,

Women need to be educated into the women's movement as children. Hilliard urged the women at the conference to assist the "little girls of the world who are dependent upon us as they are not aware that they have been socialized and psychologically drained into believing they are less than equal partners in the global community"

Clearly the conference brought about a greater realization that women's rights cannot be achieved in a vacuum but that change must occur in the political, social and economic spheres.





Trades Conference a success

By Dawna Pritchard

Tradeswomen, union representatives, employers, instructors and individuals from provincial and federal agencies attended the first National Conference of Women in Trades, held in Winnipeg, September 26, 27 and 28th in order to develop strategies which would assist women in overcoming the barriers to non-traditional occupations.

As a result of this Conference, 200 delegates resolved to build a national association of

example, the tieless Mr. MacMaster followed through with provincial measures, such as the now operational "women in apprenticeship program" which offers the possibility of more than doubling the number of female apprentices in the province within a year.

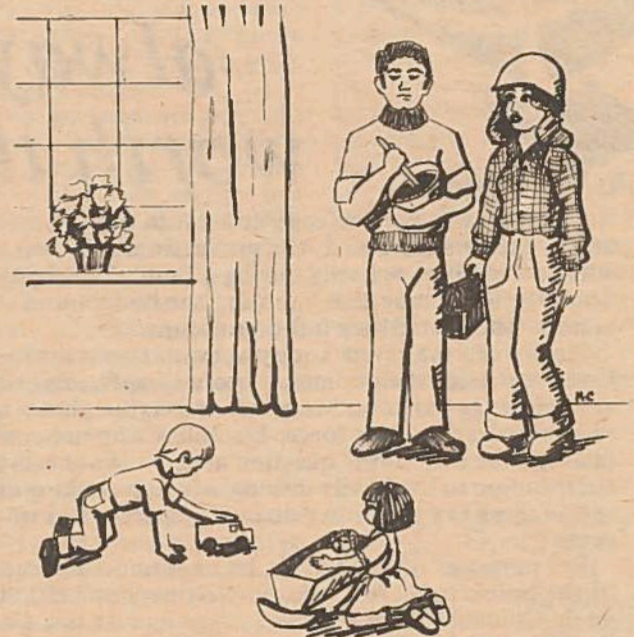
Alvena Boldt and Jonnie Rankin, two women who have retained careers in non-traditional areas since the war years, brought to the Conference a wealth of history and experience. Bev Suek, then

take-out membership with the Manitoba group, having no other local resource to call upon.

The Women in Trades Association appealed to Labour Canada for assistance, at which point Central Region of Labour Canada offered to assume the organizing costs for the Conference and to contribute towards the transportation of delegates.

Actual funding for the Conference was then obtained through a variety of provincial and federal agencies (Canada Employment and Immigration, Secretary of State, and the provincial departments of labour of B.C., Ontario, and Manitoba). A number of private individuals and companies donated materials, personnel and supplies. Although substantially funded from "outside" sources, the Conference was still controlled by the Manitoba Women in Trades Association in conjunction with the National Ad Hoc Planning Committee, a loosely formed group of Women in Trades members across Canada, and of individuals concerned about employment opportunities for Women.

"WIT's timing was perfect", commented Dawna Pritchard, project coordinator. "Given that the May OECD Observer indicated that Canada had actually widened the wage gap between men and women over the last ten years, making its record the worst of all industrialized nations, and that

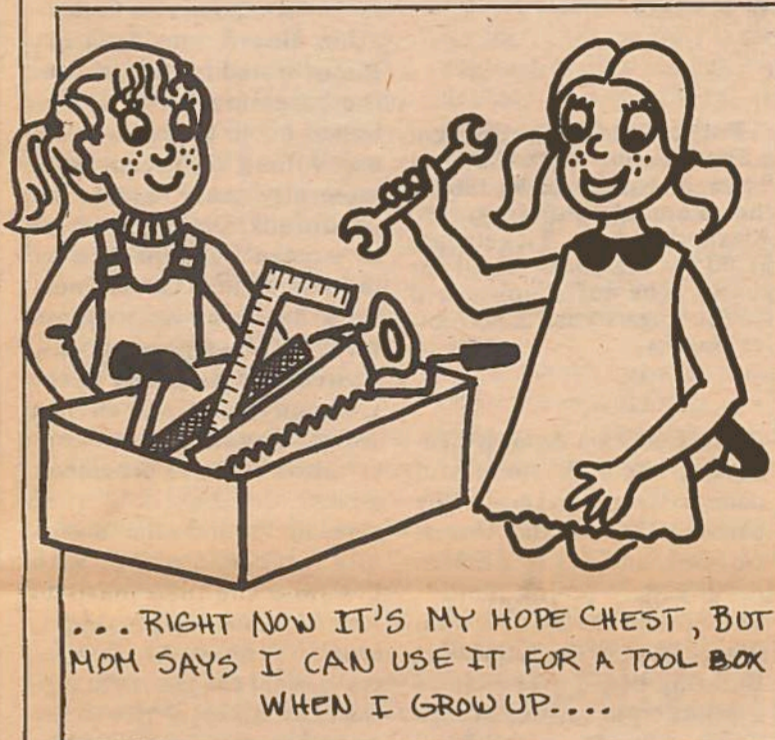


employers in this country are facing a critical shortage of skilled labour, with one survey indicating that 50% of the firms contacted either could not fill or underfilled employment openings due to the inadequate supply of skilled labour, the support and assistance of employers and government in the Conference was more readily attainable."

"Increasing opportunities for women in the trades should be an issue to concern all women", commented one conference delegate. "The trades offer a better wage than the traditional female-dominated jobs. Until

we get equal pay for work of equal value, we're going to have to work on desegregating the labour force. At the same time, it allows us to challenge the old stereotypes and allow people, regardless of gender, to develop individual talents and abilities."

The first National Conference of Women in Trades can be seen as a breakthrough in many ways. It helped build bridges between groups, identified resources and support, and made tradeswomen recognize that collectively they form a very credible and powerful force.



women in trades, and representatives from each province and territory committed themselves to establishing support groups for women in trades in their local area.

Undaunted by air traffic controllers walkouts and last minute changes to the agenda, delegates were overwhelmingly enthusiastic. A majority of the delegates commented that the Conference was long past due and marked an end to the isolation that so many of the tradeswomen experienced as being the "lone" female in a non-traditional job, whether they were mechanics from the Atlantic Provinces, machinists from the northern mining communities, or carpenters from B.C. Employers were impressed by the women's enthusiasm, and several have since offered to personally assist the Women in Trades Association.

The Conference opened Friday evening with addresses by the Honourable Ken MacMaster and the Honourable Gerald Regan, Ministers of Labour for the Province and for Canada respectively. Mr. Regan made a personal complaint against the traditional restrictions affecting men, and with a little urging and a great deal of applause, removed his tie and delivered proposals by which the federal department of labour could assist women.

Following Mr. Regan's

Acting Director for Labour Canada, Central Region and the first Manitoban pre-trades instructor, filled in the more recent history leading to the development of the Manitoba Women in Trades and the Conference itself.

The pace picked up even more on Saturday, with major addresses by Lloyd Axworthy, Minister of Canada Employment and Immigration, and by Don Pollock, Chairman of the Ontario Manpower Commission and President of Canada Wire and Cable, both focussing on the critical shortage of skilled labour in Canada and the need for measures to ensure the participation of women in these areas.

The workshops continued Sunday, and recommendations arising were to be applied as guidelines for the future National Association of Women in Trades. Other highlights included a Saturday luncheon fashion farce, co-hosted (?) by the fictitious fashion editor of Popular Mechanix, and an evening presentation by Leah Cohen on sexual harassment.

The Conference was a long-held dream of the Manitoba Women in Trades Association. The need for such a Conference was quite apparent from the numbers of enquiries received by the organization from individuals across Canada who wished to

The World Plan of Action

By Gail Marchessault

At one point of the Copenhagen conference, discussion turned to an evaluation of the World Plan of Action. Ms. Brown observed that, "the entire conference seemed to fall into the playing of foreign affairs and political games on the part of various countries".

The task before the specialized committees was to review the progress of the 1975 World Plan of Action from the perspectives of historical, social and economic development and to promote international action by the U.N.

According to Ms. Brown, the overall progress review is politically written and "the political nature of the official conference seemed at times to hinder the orderly evaluation of the World Plan of Action".

The "political" amendments that the Canadian delegation found fundamentally opposed to Canada's foreign policy concerned the equation of Zionism with racism. Canada also objected to the establishment of funds and a separate state for the

Palestinian people.

The Canadian delegation indicated its support for major portions of the Program of Action "in particular, those dealing with national mechanisms and with the sub-themes of health, education and employment. The Program contains a number of practical measures aimed at improving the employment situation of women in the U.N. system and the integration of the concerns of women in U.N. policies and programs.

We also support developing countries for a more equitable global economic order in which women occupy a position of equality with men".

Canada had four options: to vote "yes" to the entire World Plan of Action, to vote "yes, with reservation", to abstain, or to vote "no" to the entire Plan of Action.

Telegrams were sent to Ottawa from the N.G.O. delegates and the associations that they represented. After

congratulating the Canadian government on the signing of the Convention, the telegrams indicated concern that Canada planned not to officially support the World Plan of Action.

One such telegram wrote to "strongly urge the Canadian government to approve, with reservations if necessary, the World Plan of Action, and to stress the importance of this document to women in Canada and throughout the world. Anything less than approval with reservation is unacceptable to Canadian women".

The World Plan of Action was passed — 94 countries voted "yes", four voted "no" and there were 22 abstentions. Canada voted "no" as did the U.S., Israel and Australia.

The Canadian delegation's official statement of July 30 emphasized non-concurrence "in the adoption of blatantly biased political references" and "the negative vote which the Canadian delegation will

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A second income

— Is it always worth it?

By Wendy Craig

Many women are perfectly content in their homes and are by today's standard, the professional homemaker, wife and mother; not only raising a family, servicing that family's needs, but also handling the budget and entertaining. This in itself is a full-time occupation.

However, many of today's homemakers are also working outside their homes as professionals, salaried persons or wage earners. Many more may be planning on returning to the work force. For those who are contemplating such action, the question arises: "What is my real contribution to the family income, after all working expenses, income tax and other deductions are taken into account?"

For purposes of arithmetic, let us assume that the lady of the house finds full-time employment at \$150.00 per week. Compulsory deductions such as income tax, Canada Pension and Unemployment Insurance premiums, will reduce this gross sum to approximately \$125.00. In addition to these deductions, should one decide to contribute to a company pension plan or to a supplementary health plan, take-home pay may be further reduced.

If there are children in the the family, the working woman may find it to her advantage to claim one or more of the youngsters as dependents, in which case her take-home salary would be higher. However, this action would affect her husband's earnings considerably with the loss of herself and any children as dependents; thereby raising his income tax significantly assuming his salary is higher than hers.

For example, on a gross salary of \$15,000 a year, the husband could pay as much as an additional \$1,000 in income tax if he can no longer claim his wife and two children as dependents.

Also, depending on the size of the combined incomes, the family could lose part or all of the Child Tax Credit (which for the 1979 taxation year was a maximum of \$218 per eligible child. This credit may very well be increased for the current taxation year.)

These are important aspects that must be taken into account when assessing the benefits of a second income.

There are other expenses to be taken into consideration as well, such as babysitting costs where there are young children, transportation costs, lunches, fashionable attire for the clothes-conscious woman, and personal touches e.g. cosmetics and hair grooming. These all contribute to part of the expense of working.

Since there is less time to spend in the preparation of family meals, the working homemaker will often turn to convenience fast foods that require little or less preparatory time and the family may also find themselves eating out more often. With less time also for the laundry, families sometimes need more linens and clothing such as easier to care for permanent-press wash and wear items to see them through the week.

On the other hand, both husband and wife may contribute up to 20% of their gross earned incomes (to a maximum contribution of \$5,500) to a registered retirement savings plan (RRSP) of their own if they do not participate in a company pension plan. These RRSP contributions will help to lighten the tax load.

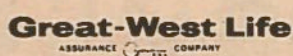
Is working outside the home really worth it? In actual dollars and cents it is not always as profitable as as the gross salary might indicate. In terms however of "personal" satisfaction, it may be rewarding to those women who are career-orientated and desire that challenge.

Wendy Craig is a staff accountant in the Winnipeg Office of Dunwoody & Company, Chartered Accountants.



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JANICE R. FOLEY, B.Comm., FLMI



ns Bulletins Bu



By Bridgitte Sutherland

Native Women Action Group Wanted. Do you see the need for a Native Women's group to initiate: fund-raising activities; workshops to discuss issues relating to native women? If you see the need and you are a woman of Native descent and are concerned about the development and well-being of native women you are welcome to participate. For information contact Theresa at 943-1501.

Women and the Constitution - should women be involved in the constitutional debate? The University Women's Club and the Provincial Council of Women think it vitally important and are sponsoring a public meeting on Tuesday, November 25th, at 8 PM at the Planetarium Auditorium, 190 Rupert St., Wpg. Keynote Speaker: Doris Anderson, President, Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women. For information call 949-3140.

Women and the Law would like to announce their *Speakers Program*. Speakers will be available to discuss various topics with interested groups: Consumer Law; Criminal Offences; Wills and Estates; Family Law; Careers in Law; Landlord and Tenant; Children's Rights. Dates available: Sept. 5 - Dec. 5., Jan. 6 - June 15/81. For information please contact Women And The Law, Robson Hall, U. of M., 474-9773.

Manitoba Action Committee on the Status of Women has established a Speakers Bureau available to groups on the topic "Sexism in the Media". This includes a slide presentation and is a valuable

Y.W.C.A.

from page 2

previously, the Winnipeg Foundation has most generously funded the service at its previous location on Hargrave Street.

Your article states that only 25% of the women who use the service are on welfare. This is true if applied when the women first come for help. Understandably, many of them apply for welfare after they become residents of Osborne House.

learning experience for any interested groups or classrooms. For information contact: 942-2000.

Wen-do Prairie Women's Self-defence classes will be held November 15 and 16 from 10 AM to 6 PM on both days. Registration fee \$30.00 (income adjustable). Call Darlene at the Women's Building, 730 Alexander Avenue, Winnipeg, 783-7889 or 475-2329.

Project Lambda Inc. present a *Fall Harmony Coffeehouse* at 9 p.m. on November 30, 1980 at the Women's Building, 730 Alexander Ave. Tickets are \$1.00 for members/\$3.50 for guests. The coffeehouse will feature singers/entertainer/coffee/Snacks.

The Coalition Against Censorship held a successful demonstration against the banning of two books, *Joy of Gay Sex*, and *Joy of Lesbian Sex*, by the Winnipeg police. The November 1st demonstration in front of the Legislative Building heard greetings of support from various groups across Canada as well local ones. The media coverage was excellent and if you wish to discourage this censorship form continuing and expanding, you can participate by signing the petition at Liberation Books, 160 Spence Ave. or voicing your objection to Attorney-General, Gerry Mercier.

The Canadian Labor Congress present "Our Fair Share . . . Strategies for Equality" Conference, December 4 - 6, 1980 at the Banff Springs Hotel, Alberta. For information contact Mary Eady at (613) 521-3400.

Increased funding would enable us to do the things you suggest: e.g. improve the client/staff ratio, develop day care facilities, enable women to stay longer. We have found that funding the service as it exists has proved so difficult that, although we will not lose sight of these objectives, they will not be in place in 1981 at least.

The staff assures me that in our new quarters "four to a single bed" does not happen. If it happened in our other house it was a dire and unusual emergency indeed.

It is the responsibility of the

The Canadian Union of Professional and Technical Employees is looking for support from individuals or groups to win a crucial demand of paid maternity leave - 17 weeks at 100% salary. Canada is far behind European countries in providing paid maternity leave for its workers. Despite recommendation of a Conciliation Board, the Treasury Board stated to the union at the bargaining table: "The leaders of our Government are not willing to accept paid maternity leave under any conditions. Despite pressure by women's groups all over the country, the Government feels there is no justification for it". This response directly contradicts Article II of the Copenhagen Convention which Canada, after consultation with the provinces, signed on July 17, 1980 agreeing "to introduce maternity leave with pay or with comparable benefits without loss of former employment, seniority, or social allowances". What can you do to support the strike: Write to the government, make a public statement of support, make a financial contribution to the union. For further info. contact Lynn Kaye at (613) 238-7667.

Workers in Poland in their unprecedented and historical strike against the government included as one of their demands 3-years fully paid maternity leave. The compromise reached on this issue ensures for Polish women 1-year fully paid maternity leave and 2 years at half-pay. This achievement could not have been won without the determination of women workers.

Welfare workers to aid our clients to seek legal advice, obtain housing and get psychiatric help if needed. When our staff assists in this process it is on an informal basis. The Y.W.C.A. service is there to provide shelter, food and sympathetic support to women in crisis.

Thank you for the opportunity to clarify these points.

Good luck in the continued publication of your newspaper.

Yours truly,
Margaret Parsonage
President,
Y.W.C.A.

Toxic Shock Syndrome connected to tampons

Toxic shock syndrome (TSS) is a recently recognized syndrome characterized by sudden onset of high fever, with vomiting, diarrhea and muscle pain, followed by the development of sudden fall in blood pressure in severe cases. These symptoms are accompanied by a sunburn-like rash present during the acute phase of the illness, which peels after about ten days, particularly on the palms and soles. The disease primarily affects young women during their menstrual period, although a few cases have been recognized in males and women who were not menstruating.

It has now been established that in cases of TSS, *Staphylococcus aureus*, a bacteria, builds up in the vagina and produces a toxin which finds its way into the bloodstream of the patient, causing the generalized reactions and symptoms described above.

In the United States from January 1, 1980 to September 19, 1980, there were 229 reported cases and twenty-five deaths have been reported in the U.S. In Canada, there have been 14 cases, some reported as far back as 1976. Ten cases have been seen in British Columbia, 2 in Quebec, 1 each in Ontario and Manitoba. There have been no deaths reported in Canada to date. The numbers reported in Canada may reflect the intensity with which physicians have looked for the problem, as well as public knowledge about it.

The incidence of TSS is something greater than three per hundred thousand women of menstrual age per year, with a mortality rate of about 8%.

TSS appears to be associated with the use of tampons during menstruation. One particular product, Rely, manufactured by Procter and Gamble has been voluntarily removed from the market in the United States and Canada. In Canada, the product has not been widely distributed. If, however, the product is still seen on the market in Canadian stores, this should be reported to the Health Protection Branch. There has been no evidence to this time suggesting that any other brand of tampon carries a higher risk factor than the others. It must be emphasized that association does not prove cause and effect. Tampon use is associated with TSS, but the pathogenesis of TSS is not known.

The Food and Drug Administration in the United States has announced that it is requesting manufacturers to label tampons with an appropriate warning that use could be connected with toxic shock syndrome. In Canada, the Health Protection Branch is in the process of meeting with tampon manufacturers to discuss the possibility of revisions to their use instructions and labelling, that will take into account the slight, but statistically definable risk of contracting TSS while using tampons. Tampons are considered as medical devices and if necessary we can require labelling changes by regulation.

Recognizing that TSS is a serious, but low incidence disease, women who are concerned about this condition can undertake one of the following recommendations.

1. Change tampons frequently during menstruation.
2. Use tampons intermittently, e.g. removing the tampons at night, and wearing a napkin or pad.
3. Selective purchase of an appropriate absorbency or type of tampon. e.g. Using the higher absorbent products during the early days of menstruation when the flow is more copious, and changing to regular tampon towards the end of the menstrual period.

Women may discontinue the use of tampons if they so desire, but this is not a medical recommendation at this time.

A woman using tampons who develops a high fever, vomiting, and/or diarrhea during her menstrual period, should remove the tampon and contact her physician immediately. Women who believe that they might have had TSS in the past, should also contact their physicians. TSS recurs in 30% of those who have experienced it, and those women who have had the disorder should not use tampons without first checking with their physician.

Dr. A. J. Clayton
Director General
Laboratory Centre For Disease Control
Health protection Branch
Oct. 2, 1980

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R.C.M.P.

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support from the NDP, civil liberties organizations and community groups.

Five months after being fired from Pratt & Whitney and two months after launching their campaign, the three lost their jobs again - Chabot and Stevenson at Canadair, a Crown corporation, and Le Rougetel at Canadian Marconi. They filed a second set of complaints with the Quebec Human Rights Commission, which has yet to release a decision on them.

"Again, the circumstances around these layoffs were very odd," said Stevenson. "Both companies were hiring, and when we (she and Chabot) asked for transfers, what they explained to us was that there were two women who were allergic to the chemicals they were using, that they had asked for transfer and were therefore replacing us in our jobs."

The bitter refusal of the company to transfer them coupled with comments to Le Rougetel by a personnel officer at Canadian Marconi convinced the women the RCMP had intervened once more. In speaking to Le Rougetel, the personnel officer at Marconi indicated he knew much more about the women's complaints involving Pratt & Whitney than he could

possibly have gleaned from local media.

"So who are we and what is the RWL that the RCMP and Pratt & Whitney are so worried about us?"

The actions of the police beg the question. Stevenson answered it in terms of herself.

For 15 years, she said, she has been involved in the Revolutionary Workers League and its predecessor, the League for Socialist Action. In that time she has fought for women's rights, civil rights, the rights of Quebecois. She has been active in the NDP and ran as an aldermanic candidate in Vancouver elections.

"The Revolutionary Workers League is not an underground terrorist group," Stevenson said. We have a public newspaper, bookstore and offices. Our views are available to be read in our newspaper and discussed at our political forms."

"We as an organization are against terrorism and believe that the way to change society is by informing, educating and organizing people through peaceful activities."

Fully aware of how limited a victory through the human rights commission is, and having had no satisfaction in dealings with the Keable Commission, McDonald Commission and even the Mounties themselves, Stevenson believes there are two courses open to the women now.

The first, to take Pratt &

Whitney to court - an action that will likely take at least two years - is in the works. But up to 90 per cent of those who win such cases receive only damages and don't get their jobs back, Stevenson said.

The second - Stevenson draws a quick breath at the thought of this one, is to take the Mounties to court. She takes courage in the example of the Socialist Workers Party which launched a suit against the American government in the early 1970's over FBI tactics.

That suit has cost more than half a million dollars. Stevenson estimates it would cost a minimum of \$10,000 for the first year alone of a suit against the Mounties.

Is it worth it?

"If you look at the stakes that are involved in this case in terms of women's rights, union rights, the rights of Quebecois, the rights of people in general to have political views, the stakes are such that we must win or we're in big trouble," Stevenson said.

"The RCMP and the companies are trying to force us and large numbers of other people to choose between holding our views and holding our jobs."

If you wish to contribute to the Pratt Three, send cheques or money orders to:

Pratt Three Defence Committee, 4721 Chambord, Montreal, Quebec

women, Prime Minister Trudeau says he does not wish to make any changes without the approval of band councils.

Debra Black, Chairwoman of Winnipeg's Native Women's Transition Centre, of Rights for Indian Women, strongly urges all non-status Indian women to write their Chiefs in Council on this issue.

As more Indian women speak for themselves and expose the injustices, it becomes increasingly evident that all women are far from achieving so called status in this male dominated society.

Native women

from page 3

brought to the United Nations council last year by New Brunswick Malecite Indian Sandra Lovelace, is the loss of treaty rights by Indian women marrying non-status, or non-Indians. Indian men are not similarly affected.

On July 31, 1980, the Winnipeg *Free Press* reported that a moratorium on the legislation had been announced, but would apply only to those band councils wishing to observe it.

Jenny Margetts, President for Indian Rights for Indian Women, fears the moratorium may be simply a delaying tactic putting off permanent removal of the offending clause of the legislation.

While the federal government has stated that it agrees that the Indian Act is unfair to

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My Brilliant Career: a delight

By Yvette Parr

It was a delight to see the creative expertise of many women come together to produce a movie that defines and displays the talents of three gifted Australian women: Margaret Fink produced it; Gillian Armstrong directed it; and Eleanor Witcombe wrote the screenplay.

Historically, *My Brilliant Career* has much significance as it was adapted from the book of the same title written in 1896 by Miles Franklin, a 16 year old Australian girl. Published in 1901, the book is said to be semi-autobiographical in content. It so scandalized her family that she placed an embargo on its reprinting until 10 years after her death, and thus was unavailable for several generations. In 1965, 64 years after its original printing, *My Brilliant Career* was again published.

Although set in the 1890's, the theme is as relevant today as it was then. It tells the story of Sybylla Mervyn, (Judy Davis), a young woman raised in poverty with dreams and aspirations to develop her in-

terest in books, music, and writing. She is an untamed, wild and free spirit; thought by her parents to be ungrateful and lazy.

Judy Davis' portrayal of the role was stunningly brilliant and she has received rave reviews internationally. She has been likened by many critics to a young Katherine Hepburn. Freckle faced, impudent, gutsy and full of spunk, her performance was a delight.

The story tells of Sybylla's conflicting emotions as she first experiences love and passion. She is torn between her need to create, explore and pursue her own life and the first stirrings of love. Sybylla remembers the pain and struggle her mother endured as a wife and mother; it is pointedly brought back when she sees a picture of her mother, refreshingly young and lovely. Her mind reverts back to the now pained, beaten woman, tired from the succession of babies, poverty and the fight for survival. She does not want this for herself.

Time spent at Caddagat, her maternal grandmother's homestead, exposes Sybylla to a world she's never known - a world of books, music, and

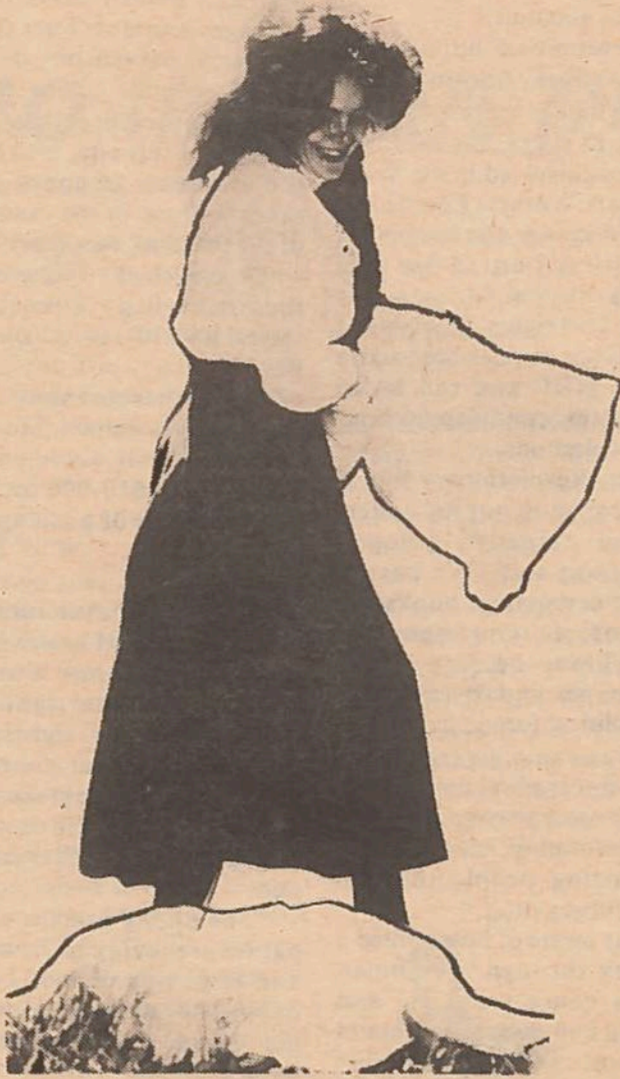
genteel living, and she agonises over her decision to sacrifice this world in order to pursue her creativity.

It was in her teens in the late 1800's that the author, Miles Franklin, experienced the oppression she was later to describe as: "The artificial bonds called feminine".

My Brilliant Career survived to inspire later generations of Australian women and culminated in a film that provides an insight into the struggles of women to obtain freedom from oppression and follow their emotional, mental, and creative instincts.

It is not often that a film of such sensitivity, tenderness, combined with pathos and wit, graces the movie screen. *My Brilliant Career* has won six Australian academy awards including Best Picture of the Year.

It has left Australian shores to delight audiences worldwide, making an outstanding contribution to women's culture everywhere, combining the historical fight for women's freedom, with encouragement for women to expose their talents in the traditionally male-dominated movie industry. Definitely a film all women should see...



Judy Davis As Sybylla Mervyn in *My Brilliant Career*, a movie which discusses a young woman's dealings with society's codes and her own aspirations.

My Brilliant Career: a disappointment

By Gail Marchessault

My Brilliant Career was a good movie, but I won't be speaking in superlatives.

I notes with satisfaction that the director, Margaret Fink, was a woman, fitting for a movie concerned with another woman's life. The acting was well-done. Judy Davis and Sam Neill were highly credible in their roles as turn-of-the-century characters. The photography was interesting. There were several memorable scenes — a rambunctious pillow-fight that embodied the denial and fascination of Judy Davis; and Sam Neill for each other. This romance of "the peasant" and "the aristocrat" was highlighted in a touching scene where the heroine rescues a calf from a muddy bog under the scrutiny of her would-be husband. And there were many humorous scenes which contrasted Judy Davis' off-handed, off-coloured remarks with the Victorian prudishness of the times.

But at the end of the movie, I was disappointed. I felt like I had missed something. Upon reflection, it is my considered opinion, that it was the movie that missed its opportunity to make a statement. The movie lacked substance.

For a movie titled *My Brilliant Career*, it came as a surprise to discover no career development. The story line

was simple. A young women, unhappy with her lot in life as the daughter of poor Australian sheep farmers, gets the opportunity to visit her wealthy grandmother in Canada. She falls in love with the most prestigious bachelor in town and (of course) the feeling is mutual.

The conflict arises when he asks her to marry him and she refuses, explaining that she needs two years to find out about the world and about herself. She writes a book.

It was my impression that she wrote more out of egotistical self-centeredness than any great impetus to self-expression. It was never fully explained why she felt that marriage precluded the possibility of writing. It looked like the pain and suffering that she inflicted on her fiance, and to a lesser extent her family, was arbitrary and unnecessary.

This does not negate the fact of her decision-making. It is admirable and definitely the strength of the movie, that this young woman took the freedom to make her own choice, regardless of its consequences, in an era when women did not make choices about their own lives.

Unfortunately, the statement is wishy-washy. Although she earlier rejected marriage outright in favour of a career, when put to the test, she wants both. (And why not? It is a theme for our time,

also). So she postpones marriage and puts her fiance on hold for two years, with little discussion of his feelings. When her fiance visits her in Australia, presumably after her two year sabbatical from love, it remains unclear whether she outright rejects him or merely extends the postponement until her manuscript is completed. At the end of the movie, it isn't known if she decides to revert to her earlier decision never to marry.

Where did this half-rejection of the traditional role come from? How did she come by these strong feelings of being different? Why was there no evidence of inner torment over the philosophical extremes she was caught between? The characters in the movie reacted to her freshness, her vivacity, her bawdiness, her spoiled and selfish qualities, but never to her desire to be an independent woman. Did she herself?

The framework is there, but the main characters never seem to think or feel the confusion inherent in living out a conflict of roles.

It would be interesting to read the original story by Miles Franklin. Perhaps the author answers some of these questions.

My Brilliant Career provides the fine entertainment. Just don't expect to come away enlightened.

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In Thompson at The Northlander, in Traverse Bay at Traverse Bay Corner; in Steinbach at Son Lite Book Mart; in Beasejour at Western Drug Mart and in other areas across the province.

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

Conference

from page 5

give to signal strong disapproval of the politicization of this conference and its neglect of the critical concerns of women throughout the world".

It is commendable that the delegation refused to endorse the politicization that occurred. But why wouldn't a "yes with reservation" vote register the same degree of Canadian disapproval? By voting no, Canada has compromised the views and rights of women

throughout the world. Canada has also postponed our own commitment to action. Lloyd Axworthy has indicated that Canada plans to attempt to implement all the other elements of the World Plan of Action as soon as it feasible. The Canadian Plan of Action should emerge in the spring of 1981.

This issue will arise again in Nairobi, Kenya in 1985. We, as concerned women, must impress upon the Canadian government that we demand an affirmative action statement and support of a World Plan of Action.