

Connections: A Womyn's Monthly

Vol 1 #6; September, 1995

Halifax, N.S.

Women and Education

**“We spend five years
teaching children
to walk and to talk.**

**Then we
send them to school
and tell them
to sit down and shut up.”***



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*I remember reading this many many years ago, (probably about 25 years ago) in a book, but unfortunately I can't remember which book it was.

The T-shirt— Its History & Growth!!!

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- During WWI, cotton t-shirts were worn by the military and Navy men under the wool tunics for comfort.
- A tremendous growth curve in T-shirt sales began slowly in the U.S. circa 1950. With movies like 'A Streetcar Named Desire' and 'A Rebel Without a Cause' the appeal of the T-shirt was brought to the masses.
- The trend continued through to the 1960s when T-shirts emblazoned with California leisure messages "hot car" prints and surf board designs became all the rage.
- By the mid-1960s, the T-shirts became a powerful voice for the disenfranchised; slogans such as "Stop the War!", "Black Power!", and "Women's Rights Now!" allowed people to voice their demands and feel part of a collective group that they could identify with.
- By the late 1960s the T-shirts evolved into the de rigeur wardrobe of most popular (and even not so popular) rock stars. They strutted around on stage wearing decorated T-shirts. Eventually, their managers began marketing their designs in concert hall lobbies to fans.
- Soon this ignited the demand for all entertainment souvenirs including sports, theatres, and music. Now the tourist demands a souvenir T-shirt wherever they travel. The big attraction of the T-shirt is that it is accessible by price to all incomes. As well as being a medium for messages, the T-shirt is also a great palette for artists.

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uniforms, banners, jackets, crests, etc. In operation since February 1990, I offer high quality work with a quick completion time at competitive prices, and I do all I can to accommodate your needs, including pick-up and delivery. As a political activist screenprinter, I maintain a policy of refusing any artwork that promotes any form of hatred or bigotry or supports drug or alcohol use.

Or call my Cantel cell phone at 452-0119. But beware—Cantel has a weak signal. It doesn't work in or near my house so you may not always be able to reach me at this number. But it's worth a try!

For inquiries, orders, or questions, call Kelly (collect) at 679-1051. Or stop by for a visit. Kentville is really not THAT far away!!!

Alternative Screenprinting
(902) 679-1051 or (902) 452-0119

Contacts

Debbie Mathers

5419 Roome St.

Halifax, N.S.

B3K 2L6

902-453-9475 (phone)

902-453-9475 (fax, but you must phone first)

E-Mail: ab218@ccn.cs.dal.ca

Kelly Dixon

22 Canaan Ave.

Kentville, N.S.

B4N 2A6

902-679-1051 (Call collect)

Quotes of the month:

Rules for Girls and Boys

Girls and boys in the classroom:

Can be strong and brave.

Can do neat work.

Can be kind and understanding.

Why? So each person is the best they can be.

The following are from Images of Ourselves: Common legacies of women 1995 engagement calendar

How burdened we were as little girls with the labels applied by parents, teachers, even school chums. The messages aren't always overt. But even the very subtle ones are etched in our minds and remind us our "shortcomings" long into adulthood. We no longer need be burdened with labels; we are not defined by others.

Schoolchildren perform according to their teachers' expectations. Likewise, what we women achieve depends greatly on what we believe about ourselves.

Subscriptions:

If you would like to receive this newsletter in the mail, subscriptions are ONLY \$8.00 a year - to cover shipping costs. It's costing a small fortune to ship the bulk orders around the province too, so if you'd like to send a little extra, Kelly would not mind.

Advertising rates:

back cover (4 3/4 x 7 1/2) — \$100;

full page inside (4 1/2 x 7 1/2) — \$80;

half page inside (4 1/2 x 3 1/2) — \$40;

quarter page inside (4 1/2 x 1 3/4) — \$20.

Advertising helps us pay photocopying costs, phone bills, travel and mailing expenses.

Editorial:

Well, another issue of Connections is done and as usual, I'm finishing up with my comments on life, the newsletter . . . whatever.

This time I think I'll take a little space to put in yet another request. Deb and I have tried several options for reducing our monetary costs, which for the most part involve the photocopying of Connections. Unfortunately, none have been successful. Therefore, we're asking if anyone out there has any ideas on how to reduce photocopy costs. I'm not sure what I could offer but at the very least I think a subscription for two years and a t-shirt from Alternative can be arranged for the person who gives us a feasible solution which will cut our costs.

I'm amazed when I think of how many women have responded to Connections. Either in the form of contest entries, letters of support, subscriptions, and some even in the form of donations (wow, and thank you, thank you, thank you). It feels like we're getting stronger and better each issue and I have to say that feeling comes entirely from those of you who have responded in any way to our existence. And the response over the last month has been amazing. Again, thank you for the support. Please, keep it up.

Some of the places where you can get Connections

all women's centres in NS

Atlantic News, Morris Street, Halifax, NS

Daily Grind, Spring Garden Road, Halifax, NS

Eos Fine Foods, Wolfville, NS

Mary Janes Alternative Tastes, 1313 Hollis St, Halifax, NS

Mi'kmaq Family Treatment Centre, Whycoomaugh First Nations Reserve, Inverness Co, NS

Murray Manor, Joan Semple, Yarmouth, NS

Nice & Natural, old Tower's Mall, New Minas, NS

Halifax City Regional Library, 5381 Spring Garden Road Halifax, NS

NSACSW, 202-6169 Quinpool Road, Halifax, NS

Odd Book, Wolfville, NS

Planned Parenthood, Quinpool Road, Halifax, NS

Red Herring Co-op, 1578 Argyle Street, Halifax, NS

Seekhers, 324 Main St, Wolfville, NS

Stonewall, Halifax, NS

Women Aware, Port Hawkesbury, NS

Women's Place, Lawrencetown, NS

Next issues

We are currently looking for information on the following topics for the next three months.

October: Women in sport

November: Women and kids

December: Spirituality

If you have any information or know of any resources on any of these subjects, please contact us. We'd love to hear from you.

Winner of our T-shirt contest

Congratulations go to Kate and Carroll of Wolfville, N.S. for sending the most additions to our list of women musicians (212). We will be sending a t-shirt to them as soon as we can get a hold of them!

CALENDHER

If you know of events of interest to womyn to be included in next month's Calendher, please let us know. We believe this could be one of the most useful sections of Connections: A Womyn's Monthly, but it will only work if you send us stuff!

Announcements

Help Deb and Kelly plan, research, and distribute our next issue of Connections. At this point, we are planning to meet on the night of October 5, 1995. Call Deb at 423-9475 or Kelly at 679-1051. (You can try my Cantel Cell phone at 452-0119 - but the #\$\$%! thing does not work most of the time, so you'd be lucky to get through.)

Volunteers are needed to work shifts at the Red Herring Co-op Bookstore, 1578 Argyle St., Halifax. (902) 422-5087 or drop by.

Reel Life: Women's Film & Video Festival. At this point the organizers are meeting weekly and would welcome volunteers. Screenings start in the second week of August. Volunteers can watch lots of films and videos and help decide on the content of the festival. For information call Kim at 453-3953.

Lesbian and Bisexual Women's Health Study. Dept. of Psychology, Mount St. Vincent U. A three year study, starting now, to find out about

the health needs and experiences of lesbians and bisexual women in N.S. Cynthia Mathieson, psychology professor, is looking for women to participate in interviews with one of the research team members. Your stories will be taped and kept highly confidential. A small fee will be paid to the women who are interviewed. Interviews are arranged at a time and place that is most comfortable to the women being interviewed. For more info, call 457-6309 or write M.S.V.U., Halifax. B3M 5M1.

September

Dates Unknown:

San Rogue Festival!! Tarija, Bolivia. To honor the patron saint of dogs

Mid-Autumn Festival!! Hong Kong. A lively colourful festival with lanterns and moon cakes.

Oktoberfest!! Munich, Germany. Celebrated since 1810 in honor of the marriage of Prince Ludwig and Princess Theresa.

Grape & Wine Festival!! Grevenmacher, Luxembourg. Enjoy some fine creations from Luxembourg's vineyards.

Every Wednesday to November 29, 12 noon: Writing for Women, with Linda Burnett, a course presented by Saint Mary's University at the Halifax City Regional Library main branch. You may attend the lectures for free or for credit. (Continues in January.)

September 8: Dalhousie Women's Centre Open House, 4-6 pm. 1229 LeMarchant Street, Halifax

September 9-10: Helen Creighton Folklore Festival, Halifax. Call 425-7946 or 1-800-567-5277 for more information.

September 13: Atlantic Canada Business Computer Show. At the World Trade and Convention Centre and Metro Centre, Halifax.

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422-0087 ext. 45

Sept 13-15, 1995: Employment Equity Conference. Equite NB Equity is hosting a conference this year in Fredericton, N.B. The conference theme is "Celebrating Diversity - The Future is Now", and is directed to designated groups, labour, small business, entrepreneurs, and corporations. Call or fax (506) 357-5180.

September 16: Garage Sale & Swap at Dalhousie Women's Centre. 10 am. 1229 LeMarchant Street, Halifax.

September 19-24: Eastern Front Theatre, Halifax. Call 425-7946 or 1-800-567-5277 for more information.

September 22: Take Back The Night March, Halifax. Open mike beginning around 7:30. The march begins at 8:00 from Grand Parade Square. A reception will follow the march and t-shirts will be available for sale. For inquiries call 494-2432.

September 22-30: Atlantic Film Festival. In various places in Halifax, there will be guides available. The Royal Bank ticket hotline number is 422-6965. The box office is at Red Herring Co-op Bookstore.

September 24 - Oct 1: Rimouski, Quebec. Festival of films for young people. Many screenings, launchings and workshops. Call 1-800-363-777

September 28: Dalhousie Women's Centre Potluck. 6:30 pm, 1229 LeMarchant Street, Halifax.

TBA: Festival of the Goddess in Monterey, CA: Speakers, workshops, rituals, performance arts, and more. Sponsored by In the Grove of the Goddess Magazine. call 408-424-5525.

TBA: Wild Western Women's Weekend: Live country/western music and dancing. Write c/o Intouch, Rte.2, Box 1096, Kent's Store, VA 23084 or call 804-589-6542.

October

October is Women's History Month and Breast Health Awareness Month

Every Wednesday to November 29, 12 noon: Writing for Women, with Linda Burnett, a course presented by Saint Mary's University at the Halifax City Regional Library main branch. You may attend the lectures for free or for credit. (Continues in January.)

October 5: Help Deb and Kelly plan, research, and distribute our next issue of Connections. Call Deb at 423-9475 or Kelly at 679-1051. (You can try my Cantel Cell phone at 452-0119 - but the #\$\$@! thing does not work most of the time, so you'd be lucky to get through.)

October 6 & 7: Access to Independence: a major exhibition focusing on

products, services, and programs for people with disabilities. At the World Trade and Convention Centre. Very inexpensive. call 902-425-8326, fax 902-492-1213, TTY 902-425-8326.

October 6-8: Western Canada's original & largest Psychic ESP FAIR PLUS Health & Wellness Section. Calgary, Alta. Big Four Building Calgary Stampede Grounds. \$12 Weekend Pass. Call (604) 986-9634.

October 16-20: Dalhousie Women's Centre, Halifax, celebrates Women's History Month with a display in the Dal SUB, 2nd floor, honouring women in Dalhousie, Halifax and Nova Scotia history.

October 17: Kate Millet will be talking of her experiences in the women's movement in the 1960s & 70s. Brought here by the Dalhousie Women's Centre, Halifax, in honor of women's history month, Kate will be hosted in the McInnis Room at Dalhousie University. The evening will be fully accessible, ASL interpretation and child care are available.

October 23-29: Reel Life: Women's Film & Video Festival. Call 453-3953 (Kim) for details.


October 25: 5th Annual Entrepreneur & Franchise Expo at the World Trade and Convention Centre. More than 4,500 people visited last year's one day trade show which showcased exhibits by entrepreneurs, franchises & organizations that provide services to small businesses.

Monthly/Weekly Meetings

1st Sunday of each month. **Valley Lesbian Association:** Call Emily at 902-542-2287 ext 2140 for information. (Warning: voice mail is not 100% confidential!)

2nd Sunday of each month. **Juka (N.S. Black Lesbian, Gay, and Bi Association).** Call 429-7922 for details.

Every Sunday. **Safe Harbour MCC.** 7:30 pm in the Universalist Unitarian Church, 5500 Inglis St., Hfx. Call 454-2522.



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Every Sunday. **Truro Lesbian Support Group.** 7 pm. 897-6722 for info.

Every Monday. **Halifax Gay AA.** 8:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Basilica. Spring Garden Rd., Hlfx. Call 461-1119 for details.

2nd and 4th Monday. **Humans Against Homophobia.** Meets from 5:30 - 7:00 in Rm #302 Dal Sub, University Ave, Hfx. All sexual/gender orientations welcome. Call 494-6662.

Women's Recovery Support Group meets Tuesdays 6-7:30 pm. 4th Floor Lord Nelson Bldg, Drug Dependency Office, 5675 Spring Garden Road. Hfx. Contact Kathleen Howell, 424-5920.

Outlet. Lesbians, gays, and bi's meet 1st and 3rd Tuesday in Wolfville. Charlene 542-2287 Ext. 140.

Women's Group for Young Lesbian and Bisexual Women (25 & under). First & third Tuesday of the month. Drop-in/social from 6-7 pm. Meeting at 7 pm at Planned Parenthood NS offices, 6156 Quinpool Rd., Hfx. Call Maura 492-0444 for info.

North Branch Women's Group. Wednesdays at 10 am. Join us at the North Branch Library on Wednesday mornings for two hours of friendly conversation, film, and discussion on what affects you. All women welcome! For further information contact Tina Robertson at 421-6987.

FLAG general meeting. 2nd Wednesday of each month. 7 pm, Rm F108 of the Science Library Concourse, UNB campus, Fredericton. Phone 457-2156 for details.

NGALE General Meeting. 2nd Wednesday. 7:30 pm at Newfoundland and Labrador AIDS Committee offices, 347 Duckworth St, 6th floor, St. John's. Bring a friend. 579-8656.

Last Wednesday. **Central Nova Lesbians and Gays Group** regular meeting. Call 893-2579 for details.

Every Friday. **Stepping Out Al-anon.** 7:30 pm, 6225 Willow St, Hfx.
GLAS (Gays and Lesbian Association for Support) every 1st and 3rd Sat.



Female guitarist
seeks female vocalist
for practice

- possible playing out •
- also available for band sit •

I have experience from
alternative to country.

Call Kate at 542-0496



7:30 pm in the Student Common Rm. Grenfell College, Corner Brook. 634-1066 for more info.

GLAS (Gays and Lesbian Association for Support) every 1st and 3rd Sat. 7:30 pm in the Student Common Rm. Grenfell College, Corner Brook. 634-1066 for more info.

Requests for writing:

Anthology exploring fat oppression and experiences of fat lesbians. Stories, poetry, essays, cartoons, etc. Deadline October 15, 1995. Contact: Womyn at Large, 340 Howland Ave, Toronto, ON., M5R 3B9

Author of forthcoming book, "Secret Lives, Secret Loves", seeks submissions from couples or partners who are still in the closet. How has this affected your life and relationships with family and friends in particular? For more info or for a questionnaire, write Joanne at 10 Pondsview Dr., Willowdale, Ont. M2J 4B4 and confidentiality is assured.

Looking for Lesbians to complete questionnaire or interview for Master's thesis. Confidential/anonymous. (314) 846-9364 collect or call & leave message.

Recovering Feminists Wanted!!! **Women & Recovery: Surviving, Thriving & Reclaiming Your Body, Mind & Spirit.** 48 pg qtrly pub, encourages, supports, & informs women who are confronting emotional, physical, or spiritual challenges. Want your stories, poems, photos. We pay \$\$\$. Sample issue \$5. Sub \$24/yr. SASE for guidelines, ad rates, wholesale/bulk prices. W & R, POB 151947-7, Cupertino, CA 95015-1947.

Might you be interested?!

Women'space: A newssheet by, for and about women The second issue has lots of information about women and the Internet — how to get on and some of the information we can find there. For more info, contact



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Yarmouth, N.S.

Joan Semple
902-742-9625



Schedule of Events

September 8, 1995

Dalhousie Women's Centre Open House, 4-6 pm. Drop by 1229 LeMarchant Street to see our new centre, talk to the staff and volunteers, and have a cup of coffee.

September 16, 1995

Garage Sale and Swap! The DWC has realized that six coffee-makers, countless dishes, innumerable chairs, and an overwhelming amount of other odds and ends may be a little too much for one organization. We are cleaning house and everything will be cheap, cheap, cheap! In addition, the DWC will be selling DWC t-shirts and Take Back the Night shirts. If you are interested in swapping items, the DWC needs end tables, curtains, plants, women's books (fiction or non-fiction), women's videos, lamps, and various other items. Bring your stuff by and we'll swap! Sale and Swap begin at 10 am at 1229 LeMarchant at the back of the building.

September 22, 1995

Take Back the Night March. 8 pm Grand Parade Square. See the ad in this section for more details or call the DWC at 494-2432. T-shirts go on sale September 16, 1995.

September 28, 1995

DWC Potluck, 6:30 pm. Throughout the year the DWC hosts potlucks open to all interested women. Come by with your favorite dish and chat! DWC Potlucks are held in the women's lounge and are therefore one of our few events open to women only.



OCTOBER: (Women's History Month)

The Dalhousie Women's Centre is celebrating Women's History Month, with concentration on the week of October 16-20, 1995. A display will be in the Dal SUB, 2nd Floor, all month, honouring past women in Dalhousie, Halifax, and Nova Scotia history. Watch next month for a complete listing of events or call the DWC.

October 17, 1995

An Evening with Kate Millett in honour of Women's History Month. Ms. Millett will be giving a talk on her experiences in the women's movement of the 1960s and 1970s and her general impression of where the movement is today. Dal SUB, 7:30 pm. Tickets go on sale September 15, 1995.

October 18, 1995

Person's Day celebrations. Events will be held to commemorate the day on which women were recognized as persons in Canada. Call the DWC for more information.

VOLUNTEERS!

The Dalhousie Women's Centre is looking for dedicated women to become volunteers at the DWC. If you are interested or would like some more information, call the DWC at (902) 494-2432 or drop by 1229 LeMarchant Street.



Take Back the Night March

September 22, 1995
Grand Parade Square
8 pm

Open Mike* begins at 7:30 pm
March begins at 8 pm.
A reception will follow.

All Women and Children Welcome

For more information,
please call Heather
at the Dalhousie Women's Centre,
494-2432

*the open mike is for speaking only.

Although this is apparent, let me state that the Dalhousie Women's Centre has decided to be distributed with "Connections: A Womyn's Monthly". The Dalhousie Women's Centre will continue to be distributed with "Connections" for the upcoming academic year. We will post all of our events and various DWC noteworthy items in "Connections". If you need any further information about the Centre and its programming and volunteers, please call us at 494-2432. —(DWC)

Education

Resources

Continuing Education: There are some real gems being offered for women in the Matro area this year. For example, the Halifax City Rec Dept is holding a series of workshops for women only on various home maintenance subjects. Of course there are the usual swimming, tennis, sewing, high school upgrading, business, parenting, self-defense, gym, music, badminton, health awareness, sailing, language, dancing, cooking, computer, life-saving, marketing, pottery, painting, home decorating, aromatherapy, Tai Chi, massage, piano, psychology, dog obedience, poetry... pant, pant... you name it, there's probably a class on it. The Halifax City Regional Library maintains a database on adult education courses held in the Metro area. You can access it at the library or from your computer through your modem by calling Dial-Pac at 421-0636.

The Back-to-School Survival Guide for Women 2nd Edition, Updated and Expanded. By Nora D. Randall with Wendy Jong. Published by the B.C. Network of the Canadian Congress for Learning Opportunities for Women. To receive a copy write CLOW-BC Network c/o Bonjour Books 2135-11871 Horseshoe Way, Richmond, B.C. V7A 5H5 or call 1-800-665-8002. Or you can borrow from the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women on 6169 Quinpool Rd, in the Quinpool Center - above Wendy's.

Recently Alice M. Home, Ph.D. and her research team at the University of Ottawa completed a national survey of nearly 500 women who combine employment, family responsibilities and university studies. If you would like a copy of the report write to Multiple Role Project c/o Alice M. Home, Ph.D. at 43 Templeton PO Box 450 Stn A, Ottawa, Ont. K1N 6N5. Note it is also available for borrowing or browsing at the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women on 6169 Quinpool Rd, in the Quinpool Center - above Wendy's.

The AAUW Report: How Schools Shortchange Girls. A study of major findings on girls and education. Commission by the American Association of University Women Educational Foundation and Researched by The Wellesley College Center for Research on Women. For copies send \$16.95 U.S. to AAUW Educational Foundation 1111 16th St., N.W., Washington, DC 20036-4873 or borrow or browse through it at the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women on 6169 Quinpool Rd, in the Quinpool Center - above the Wendy's.

Inequity in The Classroom, an educational video, aims to correct some of the blind spots of discrimination which are so subtle and pervasive, they're nearly invisible. To order a copy and working guide write to, Concordia University, Office on the Status of Women K-103, 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd., Montreal, Que. H3G 1M8 514-848-4841 Fax 514-848-8765. Or browse or borrow it from the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women on 6169 Quinpool Rd, in the Quinpool Center - above the Wendy's.

Expanding Choices: Math and Science Programs for Girls and Women (Meant to be used by educators). To receive a copy write: The N.S. Women's Directorate, 7th Floor, 5151 Terminal Rd., PO BOX 486, Halifax, N.S. B3J 2R7 or call 902-424-5820 or fax 902-424-0638 or browse or borrow it from the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women on 6169 Quinpool Rd, in the Quinpool Center - above the Wendy's.

Gender Equity Through Physical Education: A resource package to raise awareness of equity issues in physical education. It provides practical ideas for teachers, students, administrators, trustees and parents. Write to Canadian Assoc. for Health, Phys. Ed and Recreation, 1600 James Naismith Dr. Gloucester, Ont. K1B 5N4 (613)748-5622 or fax (613)748-5737 \$14.95 Members, \$17.25 Non-members

Women's Education: An Annotated Bibliography Based on the Holdings of the International Council for Adult Education Resource Centre. This document provides access to 178 international resources on women's education from the 1960s to the present and includes monographs, conference proceedings, reports, special issues of periodicals, teaching resources and reference materials. \$10.00 Write to Int. Council for Adult Ed. 720 Bathurst St., Suite 500 Toronto, Ont. M5S 2R4 or call (416) 588-11211 or fax (416) 588-5725.

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Women's Studies (book/guide). Available at The Canadian Book Information Centre, 1741 Barrington St., 4th Floor, Halifax, N.S. B3J 2A4 or call 902-420-0688.

FWTAO Resources Available at Federation of Women Teachers' Association of Ontario 1260 Bay Street, Toronto, Ontario M5R 2B8:

- Women of Canada Kits, for primary, junior and intermediate available for \$13, \$15 and \$19 or \$40 for all three. Each kit contains biographies and artwork to present role models of successful women's lives.
- Posters of women in non-traditional careers: set of ten posters for \$10.
- Affirmative Action Kit for School Boards: promotion criteria, goals, timetables, handbooks, available for \$10.
- Challenging the Double Standard: classroom and school ideas to eliminate sexism among children. Available for \$2.
- The More Things Change, the More They Stay the Same: research study on the images of females and males in readers. Available for \$4.

Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (To receive info and guides) -- 252 Bloor St. West, Rm 5-200 Toronto, Ont. M5S 1V5 416-964-2551

National Guide to College and University Programs: This publication lists all regular-credit programs offered at more than 350 Canadian universities and colleges. It is produced annually. Write to Human Resources Development Canada, Ottawa Cat. No. LM-071/02/94

October marks the fourth
Women's History Month in Canada.
This year's theme:



*Leaders, Scholars,
Mentors: The History of
Women and Education*

The Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women invites you and your organization to recognize the positive impact of a woman teacher or mentor in your community.

Let's write women back into Canadian history!

Some Magazines for Women in Education

Women's Education des femmes - a feminist connection to the world of learning and education. Published quarterly by the CLOW. Sub. are \$18.19 (GST incl). Write to CLOW 47 Main St., Toronto, Ont. M4E 2V6 or call (416)699-1909 or fax (416)699-2145.

Canadian Woman Studies/Les Cahiers de la femme - A York University Publication. Subs \$32.10 a year. Write to 212 Founders College, York University 4700 Keele St., North York, Ont. M3J 1P3 or call (416) 736-5356.

Radical Teacher. Available at Red Herring

Some Woman-Positive Schools

Feminist All-Girl School in Toronto! Yes we have one. It's called The Linden School - working to help young women develop their "sense of self" by encouraging noncompetitive learning and by training an unwavering eye on women's role in history, science and arts. A "woman-centered" independent school for girls from grades 4 through 10. It does however, charge \$6,800 for admission but only has a student-teacher ratio of 8:1. To read an article on the school see MacLeans magazine, Vol 107, No. 17 April 25, 1994.

Mount St. Vincent University - Bedford. Although they have been admitting men since 1967 (15 percent of the student body is male) this university's mission is to help women, especially older women, native women, women with children, women whose education have been derailed by life. Although the majority of full professors are still male, women make up more than 50 percent of the full-time faculty compared to 18 percent nationally. And two-thirds of the board of governors are women.



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Just a few statistics

- of the 1,166,177 full and part-time students attending college and university in Canada in the 1990 academic year only 21, 297 were First Nations. (Statistics Canada & Assembly of First Nations)
- women were awarded only 11.5% of the total number of Engineering degrees granted by Canadian universities in 1989 (Science Council of Canada)
- women accounted for 41.3% of the graduate student population in 1989 (Statistics Canada)
- women made up the majority (64.2%) of part-time students at the undergraduate level in the 1989-90 academic year (Statistics Canada)
- in 1989 women accounted for only 7% of full professors and 19% of associate professors (Statistics Canada)
- 81% of all women in Canadian universities have been subjected to physical, sexual, or psychological abuse by a male dating partner.
- 76% of men admitted to having acted abusively toward a female date. (Carleton University survey, 1993. Prof.'s Katherine Kelly and Walter Dekeseredy.)

Ways to Reduce the Stress

for Multiple-Role Women in Education: (taken from the Managing a Job, a Family and Studies guide listed in the written resources section.

- Distance Education (correspondence courses, teleconferencing).
- Paid education leave
- Easier access to office equipment (computers, photocopiers) or staff services (librarians).
- Support. From family, friends, educational institution, and workplace. Note: fewer than 20% said they received strong support from the school or workplace.

For Administrators:

- Recognize the heavy load borne by many students. Valuing and accepting these women in spite of their difficult learning situation can help them succeed.
- Increase flexibility in the pace and place of learning.
- Allow credit for prior learning (course or work experience).
- Increase access to available resources. I.E. More flexible student financial assistance policies and increased access to administrative and student services outside regular hours.
- Make child care available to students

For Teachers:

- Make sure students are informed about available resource and encour-

age women to use them.

- Mention that support from partners, family, or friends can help reduce stress and suggest ways for increasing this support. For example, students can try to ensure their families' expectations are realistic.
- Encourage women students to join together in a network to provide support and make the educational community aware of their needs.

For the Workplace:

- Take a pro-active stance towards women who combine work, family, and studies.
- Promote informal support. Allow employees to swap work hours so they can attend a class or meet family obligations.
- Explore various ways of providing paid educational leave. For example, some employers offer paid leave, provided employees remain in their jobs for several years. Others allow employees to set aside a percentage of their wages for a future leave.
- Allow employees to use office equipment or to consult staff when they are preparing an assignment.
- Provide family leave as a way of recognizing the additional burden borne by those who care for children or dependent family members.
- Examine the possibilities of offering alternative work arrangements, such as job-sharing using pro-rated benefits, flexible work hours, or working at home using a modem or e-mail or fax.

Girls face classroom biases report says

Teachers, tests, textbooks cited in creating discriminatory situation (Taken from an article in the Globe and Mail, Thursday, February 13, 1992.)

School is still a place of unequal opportunity where girls face discrimination from teachers, textbooks, tests and their male classmates, says a report that examined virtually all major studies on girls and education.

Girls and boys start school roughly equal in skills and confidence, but girls trail by the end of high school, said the study, *How Schools Shortchange Women: The AAUW Report*, commissioned by the American Association of University Women Education Foundation. (Note: the report is available for borrowing or browsing at the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women on 6169 Quinpool Rd, in the Quinpool Center - above the Wendy's.)

This latest report presents the truth behind another myth - that girls and boys receive equal education," says Alice McKee, president of the foundation, said in the report's forward. "The wealth of statistical evidence must convince even the most skeptical that gender bias in our schools is shortchanging girls - and compromising our country."

The report makes 40 recommendations, including training teachers and changing teaching methods to meet girls' needs, encouraging girls in mathematics and science, toughening school policies against sexual harassment and placing the problems of girls on the agenda of education reformers.

In one study cited in the report, Myra and David Sadker found in three years of observation that most teachers called on boys more often than girls, offered more detailed and constructive criticism and allowed boys to shout out answers but reprimanded girls for doing so.

Teachers who want to help girls in the classroom can draw on a range of teaching techniques researchers have found effective. One such strategy is co-operative learning," in which student study in groups rather than being pitted against one another. Because several studies show girls often learn better in single-sex environments, the report also suggests creating all-girl work groups within a mixed classroom. Researchers also recommend that teachers eliminate sexist language and video-tape themselves teaching to monitor their behaviour toward girls.

(To see a copy of the report or to borrow it go to the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women on 6169 Quinpool Rd, in the Quinpool Center - above the Wendy's.)

Excerpts from "Burying Dead White Males"

by Mary Niederberger The Pittsburgh Press from Daily News, Wed., May 15, 1991.

Instead of the long-standing Western culture courses - dominated by such dead white males as Aristotle, Freud, Plato and Shakespeare - advocates of this new "diversity" promote the study of works of women, gays, blacks and other minorities and cultures.

Students, supporters say, should be able to study the influences and contributions their groups have made to various fields. Additionally, students need to study the history and culture of various groups to understand the diverse world community, they say.

In response to demands ... officials across the country are scrambling to "diversify" their institutions, "deconstruct" their interpretations of literature and include "multicultural" elements in their programs. However, as Jack Daniel, associate professor at the University of Pittsburgh says, "It's not an either/or issue. It's not 'Let's throw out Shakespeare and put in the course on James Baldwin.' That's a gross misrepresentation."

"The people I know are not saying, 'Do not use white males.' They are

saying 'Let's use different races, sexes, etc.'"

Daniel believes the suggestion that white male values are being eliminated to make room for minority issues is being promoted by the white male establishment is a scare tactic to protect its turf.

"I think this whole debate is going on because of certain ultra-conservative people who are frightened to death of change. So they come up with these false arguments."

The new realities .. have not been welcomed overwhelmingly by all students, leading to more challenges for teachers.

A few ways to make the classroom more inclusive:

- include texts which are by, for, and/or about visible minorities, women, lesbians & gays, economically challenged, physically and mentally challenged, etc.
- at Halloween, explain that witches are not evil hags, like the one in Hansel & Gretel, but good women who use herbal remedies to really help people
- for Thanksgiving, have each student contribute food and flags from their ancestral backgrounds.
- Celebrate additional holidays like International Women's Day, Women's History Month, Black History Month, and the International Day to Eliminate Racism.
- Remove toys like earthmovers and dump trucks that reflect the North American desire to "conquer nature"
- Around workbenches, set rules that for every male there must be a female at the bench.
- Think about it!

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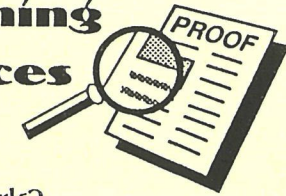
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