

NEWSLETTER

drawer

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR Y. W. C. A. OF WOMEN COUNCIL

RESOURCE CENTRE

P.O. Box 6072
St. John's, Nfld.
A1C 5X8
(709)753-0220

April 1976
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Women's Centre
77 Bond Street

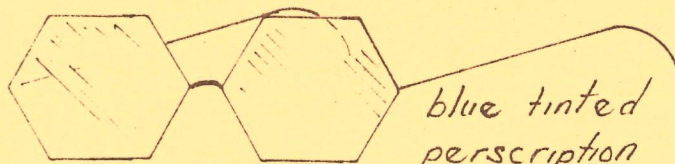


CANADA'S MARGARET TRUDEAU



"The usual rules, girls? Ace, queen, king, jack..."

LOST AND FOUND:



blue tinted
perscription
glasses - can be claimed
at ♀Centre

WANTED:

baby clothes - in good condition.
will be put to good use
please drop them in at ♀Centre.

PLEASE NOTE:

the telephone number
for the ♀centre

is: **753-0220**

(though 1 WY may be finished,
we are not - Contrary to
the telephone company's ideas!)
.....this year we were not
listed.!!!

A NOTICE SECTION SHALL
NOW APPEAR MONTHLY
- PLEASE SUBMIT (FREE)

On the G ♀♀♀♀♀♀♀♀

AT THE WOMEN'S CENTRE

Cathy Memson - an executive member of N.A.C. phoned us to advise us of an up and coming meeting of the Federal and Provincial ministers responsible for social services, which will be held in Ottawa in June. Topic: Child Care. N.A.C. recently sent a delegation to Ottawa to talk with the Honorable Marc Lalonde about Child Care. We will be following this up by preparing another brief on this issue and presenting it to our Minister for Social Services. Hopefully, then the opinions of Canadian women will be felt at the Federal-Provincial Conference. Barb Doran and Nancy Teppler will be doing the ground work.

The Women's Centre has been open each and every day except Sundays. We continue to have women dropping in to use our library, have a cup of coffee, chat, or help develop strategies for change.

April 8 and 9 will find Martha Butler and Marian Atkinson in Ottawa for the founding meeting of a Social Sciences Research Council. The purpose of such a council will be to encourage research into concerns of women.

If you keep your ears open this month you will learn of some interesting doings. For instance Rosemary Brown will be at the Centre April 10.

All of our energies went into International Women's Day this past month. The result was worth the effort! Of the 160 people who spent part of March 8th at the Women's Centre, half of them were not members of N.S.W.C. A new aspect of this year's celebrations were readings by Newfoundland writers from their own works. Performers were Kathleen Knowling, Alice Story, Gerry Rubia, Bernice Morgan, Cassie Brown, Helen Porter, Anne Hart, Joan Horwood and Anne Budgell reading Elizabeth Goudie's book, "A Woman of Labrador." A taping was made of the readings and will be presented to the Newfoundland Archives. Even though Marian Atkinson was sick with the flu, she was able to present a paper on employment. The executive of N.S.W.C. has started work on ideas brought forth by Lillian Bouzanne and Dorothy Inglis during their discussion of the 10 Year Plan, developed at the Mexican Tribunal. Homemakers and the C.P.P. was the theme of the evening talk given by Martha Butler and Yvonne Earle.

I do not mean to play down the importance of all these panels, but I believe that the most lasting efforts of IWD were kindled in private talks throughout the day. To the planners and workers: thank you!!

Wendy Williams
Chairperson, N.S.W.C.

"All in a day's work"

For those who have not visited the Women's Centre (male or female), it was thought it might be of interest to reproduce a page from the LOG kept by the staffers. This is a running commentary on all the telephone calls, visits, and business that goes on at the Centre so as to keep everyone informed.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 7, '76

Opened up at 9:15 - it took me 15 min. to get the door open!!!
Patience, Patience... I guess it takes a gentle hand.

Woman came in to renew overdue library book

Call from woman wanting counseling information - referred her to Nancy.
Les

Woman from family planning looking for a social worker re a family in trouble. She went everywhere looking for some help for this family but was rejected. I told her she came to the right place! In any case I'll follow through with this.

L.L.

Nancy or Mary

J. called looking for Nancy or Mary. I gave her Nancy's home phone no. and said if she wasn't home to call the Centre again about 1:30.

Les

Woman called wondering about sewing courses. I referred her to the crafts training school at Arts & Culture Centre.

Woman called about a friend of hers in an extremely depressed state. Didn't think she was qualified to deal with her. I told her about counselling tomorrow night but said she wasn't sure if she could talk to her about coming in and if not, to call me back and we would perhaps - PHEW! We could have someone go see her.

2 women in from Beta Sigma Phi

Woman in to pay for long distance

phone call.

Nancy - Pls call S. re what I talked to you on phone./ St. called back - she'll be in tomorrow at 2:30 P.M. I'll handle. Nan

Nancy I called Janet from John Howard Society. I'll talk to you about it in depth when I see you
Good-bye!

Great - Nan

Rep. Big Brothers Assoc. coming in to get list of Women's Clubs.

(In Sect'y/State white book or see file - organizations (local & Prov.)

Lillian did IWY Scrap Book. Joan H. in for a chat. Anne B. in; Jillin. Nancy working. Are going nuts with crises, calls and visits.

So what else is new?

Mary

(The Women's Centre is located on the first floor of a remodeled school house once a very proper girls' school. Now it has offices and class rooms for special education. The building is located close to down town convenient for our errands, but also we are surrounded by some of St. John's typical row housing where we are gradually making ourselves known to the women.)



Women's Issues DISCUSSION group

Our Women's Issues group got off to a good start at its first meeting on Tuesday, March 9. The original plan for the evening had been to discuss Lorna Marsden's article "Why Now? The Mirage of Equality." However, following so close to the previous day's International Women's Day program, discussion at first centered on ideas that had been tossed out at various times during the day's activities.

After lengthy discussion it was decided to pass the ideas on to the NSWC Committee to take action on them if they wished. The general feeling of the group was that they wished to continue to concentrate on theoretical issues pertaining to the Women's Movement rather than being "action" orientated. We will discuss the Marsden article at our next meeting on March 30 and have planned future readings, copies of which may be picked up at the Centre. However, if any new issues arise which members wish to discuss, the structure is flexible enough so this can easily be done.

We hope that others will join our group (if only for one night!) when they are able. Just check with the Centre first to see what readings are scheduled.

Diane Siegel

CREDIT UNION anyone?

It was thought that the Women's Co-operative Credit Union had been launched at Fran's party back in January, particularly as we had gotten \$7000.00 in pledges.

However, following research by Fran and myself, and a meeting of the NSWC Committee with Anne Donnelly, manager, St. John's NTA Credit Union, it was decided that since we could

not get a unanimous decision from the Committee the project would be shelved until September at which time Ms Donnelly will be invited to speak to the general membership. It is hoped that following that meeting some firm steps may be taken to set up the Credit Union.

Lillian Bouzane

BORN A WOMAN

The record, BORN A WOMAN, song by Rita MacNeil, is available through the Women's Centre.

Every feminist will want to own BORN A WOMAN. If enough sign up for a copy it will be possible to order at a discount that will make it a worthwhile saving.

* April 10 (Saturday) *
* * * * *
* Fish buffet luncheon - 1 pm *
* - Women's Centre - *
* * * * *
* Meet ROSEMARY BROWN, re-elected *
* NDP member in B.C. A socialist and *
* feminist. We are promised a stimu- *
* lating afternoon. *

April 5



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Time: 8:15 pm

Place -

The
Women's
Centre

Newsletter produced by Susan McNicholas,
Sally Davis and volunteer typists.
NEXT DEADLINE for contributions, April 15.



La Leche League

March 2nd, 1976

Dear people at the Women's Centre:

As the local La Leche League Leader I am compelled to write immediately to comment on the self-help hints about breastfeeding that I found in the last Newsletter.

First, let me introduce LLL for those readers who are not familiar with us: we are an international organization and we try to help mothers who want to breastfeed. Our motto is "Good mothering through breastfeeding." We have been in existence since 1956 and have a Professional Advisory Board composed of very prominent physicians in different specialties. Basically, we function in groups of up to twenty women guided by a leader. To become a leader a woman must have experience breastfeeding at least one but preferably more children, have certain basic beliefs about child-rearing (such as baby-led weaning) and read an incredibly large number of books, articles, notes, etc. on breastfeeding, childbirth, childrearing, counseling techniques, etc. Also we must have attended a series of meetings led by a qualified leader and be recommended by a leader, who assists the leader applicant in the preparation stage. We have regional coordinators, a Canadian HQ and the International HQ which is in Illinois. From HQ we get lots of newsletters and other information to keep us up to date. We also have regional and international conferences. This is just as a background, so that my criticism of the self-help hints won't be rejected as coming from "just anybody."

Now, regarding the hints: 1) Soap and water is about the worst thing a pregnant or lactating woman can do for her nipples. Soap washes off the natural oils of the skin, which are necessary to keep it supple and able to stretch when the baby sucks (the nipple is then stretched right to the back of the mouth of the baby). What the nipples need is stretchability, not dryness or toughness. 2) Massey cream has helped some mothers, but since it has to be washed off (nay, scrubbed off) quite energetically to avoid baby eating it, the scrubbing will undo any good the cream has done. 3) There is something that can be done about inverted nipples, which, incidentally, are not as illustrated. 4) There is a routine that LLL recommends and has been very helpful during pregnancy, regardless of the presence or absence of colostrum (ALL women have colostrum toward the last two months of pregnancy, but it rarely drips by itself).

This is what LLL recommends: to prepare her nipples during pregnancy, a woman should gently rub nipple and areola (dark area surrounding nipple) with pure lanolin, hydrous or anhydrous. (Both available at the prescription counter of most drugstores, the hydrous is creamier, the anhydrous stickier; bought by the ounce, about 75 cents an ounce). Then, gently grasp the nipple between thumb and

forefinger, pull it out as far as it will comfortably go, and twist it to the left and to the right while still stretched. Repeat a few times each day, once a day. This need not be done from early on, doing it the last two months of pregnancy is plenty. Naturally, in doing this, a few drops of colostrum might ooze out. Colostrum is a yellowish liquid also called "first milk." The newborn baby will get colostrum until the milk comes in, and it is loaded with proteins, a natural laxative and important immunological factors. Once baby arrives, apply lanolin after each feeding, no need to wash it off before putting baby to the breast again. Keep nipples dry by leaving them exposed to the air for a few minutes after feeding, and to the sun if possible. Avoid soap, shampoo, rough rubbing (as with a towel) and tight bras. Incidentally, if you buy nursing bras make sure they are not the kind that has a "ring" of elastic material that cups the breast or a plastic shield, and allow for a lot of growing, I went from a 34B to a 40C!

As for inverted nipples, first it should be determined if they are truly inverted or pseudo-inverted. True inverted nipples are extremely rare. Pseudo-inverted nipples look rather flat but when pinched between thumb and forefinger (gently) they will protrude a bit, while truly inverted ones will go further in. If, after this simple test, a woman concludes that she has truly inverted nipples, she should wear the Woolwich shields under her bra for about a month before the due date. These shields are available through LLL and our group here has a pair that can be loaned. Pseudo-inverted nipples will be drawn out by the baby, just grasp areola to make them come out when offering breast to baby.

There are endless hints and pieces of information regarding breastfeeding. Each LLL group offers a series of four monthly meetings where all women are welcome, and these and related topics are discussed.* Please phone and come to meetings if you have any questions. We also have a lending library, a manual for sale and lots of free pamphlets on different aspects of breastfeeding. Right now I am the only LLL leader in St. John's (there is another one in Corner Brook). I had been meaning to write up something for the Women's Center Newsletter but what with my job, three little children and LLL work I never got around to it. Our next meeting is scheduled for March 24 at 8:30 p.m. at 8 Ordinance St. (that's my house), and my phone number is 722-8218.

Let me take this opportunity to congratulate you on the Newsletter, I really enjoy it and look forward to it.

Elena Hannah
753-1200
Ext. 3387

*Leaders also are available to help mothers over the phone.

Canada's MARGARET TRUDEAU

It's surprising that the media has seen fit to give so much coverage to the remarks that Margaret Trudeau made on their recent trip to Cuba and Venezuela. Perhaps the problem isn't so much in what she said as in the fact that she said anything, because women perhaps, like children, should be seen and not heard. Good women that is, and good children.

Good women for instance like Olivia Bennett, who is the wife of the Governor of Kansas, Robert Bennett. Olivia recently had a severe case of housewife's hands, which condition she acquired as a result of having President Ford and other dignitaries come to her house for lunch. Mrs. Bennett did her guests the honor of preparing the meal for them herself, with her own hands. President Ford, according to the National Observer, pronounced her dinner "Wonderful". Mrs. Bennett said that the plates came back to the kitchen clean, almost polished... She knows because that's where she waited out the luncheon. Mrs Bennett said: "It wouldn't have been proper for me to have stayed in the dining room, there's a time and a place for women. and that was not my time or place." NO COMMENT !!!

But back to our own Margaret Trudeau. What she said, and what she sang about, sounded very ordinary and non-controversial ...peace, good will and love. Poets and songwriters have been making fortunes out of such sentiments throughout history, and people have been reciting and singing the same words (perhaps without thinking about their meanings, and certainly, as history shows, without having found a way to put the words into action.) Songs like "What the world needs now is love, real love", were only catchy tunes and pretty ditties until their message penetrated the consciousness of the hippies and the flower children a few years back. But now the message has reached a member of the establishment, the prime minister's wife, and our society in its confusion doesn't know how to react. The prime minister's staff for instance, are most uncomfortable. This is improper, unconventional. What about protocol, that international level of "What will the neighbours think?" mentality. And so these custodians of the Canadian image abroad, hurriedly tried to find the piece of paper on which Margaret had written her song. They must have been in need of additional padding to tuck into their already tightly stuffed shirts!!!

Then the news reporters and commentators did their thing As the Ottawa commentator for Information Morning said this morning "She's rebelling, she wants to be more than a rose in her husband's lapel. This search for identity is not

* uncommon in women her age (she is twenty-seven)." Feminists
* from seventeen to seventy should get quite a charge out of
* that profound statement. The commentator hastened on to
* assure himself that "Margaret Trudeau is not a feminist."
* Dream on, Mr. Commentator. ...He immediately mentions the
* feminists supposed obsession with abortion, and having thrown
* in that emotional red herring, undoubtedly felt that he
* had done his bit that morning to help stem the tide of this
* bothersome women's lib.

* Anyway the Liberals seem to have quite a personality
* on their hands in the person of Margaret Trudeau.
* Conservative Chief John Diefenbaker wasn't long in trying
* to make political hay out of her Mexican address. However
* people who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones.

* I recently travelled with an extremely interesting
* young woman who turned out to be the wife of one of the top
* contenders for the leadership of the Progressive Conservative
* Party in Canada. She is an avowed feminist and an individual
* in her own right in every sense of the word. She has every
* confidence in her husband's ability, and is doing her best
* to fulfill the dual obligation of being her own person and
* being a loving supportive wife. She's young and attractive
* and told me how her husband's campaign managers wanted her
* to buy a black suit so that she would "look older."
* Isn't it a sad commentary on our times when people are
* encouraged to pretend to be something that they are not, and
* when they are being denied the opportunity to be themselves?
* An early philosopher is said to have written "Know thyself".
* Perhaps he should have taken it a step farther and added
* "then be thyself".

* Anyway, I've been watching the campaign of my travelling
* companion's husband with interest and he's doing very, very
* well. For obvious reasons their identity will have to remain
* secret until after their leadership convention. If he's
* as in tune with the times as is his wife, he's bound to be
* a winner. What if he wins, would Canada have another Margaret
* Trudeau to contend with? And south of our border, Betty
* Ford has been making her opinions known. Come to think of
* it, she even danced in China.

* Many years ago Nellie McClung, one of the earliest
* feminists made this prediction: "Women are going to form a
* chain, a greater sisterhood than the world has ever known."
* It really seems that in 1976 the dramatic revelation of that
* prophecy is occurring daily before our very eyes.

* Marie Newhook.

* *P.S. He won !! (Joe Clark)

views *of a teenaged Feminist*

Commentary on IWY 1975 is still coming in. We are very pleased to have received this one from one of our 16 year old readers. These comments show an awakening that for most of the rest of us didn't come until we were some years older.

Why Not? "It takes time to move a mountain," which is exactly what it will take for women to gain an equal status. To me an interested teenager, 1975 was a major breakthrough towards liberating women. Many goals were attained in just 365 days and many more will be reached in the near future. Perhaps the main achievement was our problems were made known to the public. Equality and freedom seem to be rapidly increasing in meaning for women in general. Until recently, wouldn't a female bus driver be frowned upon and surely heads would have turned at the idea of a woman coal miner. Today just a year later this seems to be a fact of life. This was the year for women to put their "two cents" in and to the astonishment of many, the men were actually sitting up and taking notice. No longer were we regarded as merely "cackling hens" or "bra burning bigmouths". It seems to me that the men are afraid that the women will gain not only equality but who knows? Superiority.. Sexism was a growing social disease but it seems to be diminishing. Many women now hold prominent positions in gov't and employees are less hesitant about placing women in an executive job. Just who wears the pants in the family? Many male chauvenists are afraid to admit that the woman is boss because it will embarrass their masculinity. One good example of a woman proving herself regardless of sex was the recent nomination of Flora McDonald for leader of the opposition.

Like the popular cigarette ad says, "you've come a long way baby". The idea of a housewife has changed from barefoot and pregnant in the kitchen to a woman who speaks her mind. In the past years women have also advanced from the silent back seat driver to the one behind the wheel who makes the decisions.

"Abortion" the forbidden word has become a realistic happening. Through the recent case of Dr. Henry Morgentaler, many have increased their knowledge

... con'd page 11

CANADA PENSIONS for the HOMEMAKER

The Nfld. Status of Women supports the idea that all homemakers should be included in the Canada Pension Plan. If you support this idea why not write your M.P., Prime Minister, Leaders of the Opposition Parties, Minister of Health and Welfare - Marc Lalonde who is also minister responsible for the Status of Women. LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!

SAMPLE LETTER

Honourable ---
M.P. for ---
Ottawa

Address
Date

Dear member:

The Canada Pension Plan was brought into being in 1966 to enable all Canadian workers to receive a pension on their retirement. Homemakers have never been recognized as workers in Canada thus they are not entitled to C.P.P. We believe all homemakers, married, single, male or female should in their own right pay into the C.P.P. The rate at which contributions are to be made would be calculated by an independent body based on the economic value of housework. As homemakers will not have any money to use for the C.P.P. contributions, the government must pay both the employees and employers payments.

These proposals are contained in the resolution from the British Columbia Department of Human Resources. I hope you will support these proposals when considering including homemakers in the C.P.P.

Thank you,

Your signature

PROTEST BEAUTY CONTESTS NOW

Beauty contests exploit women. The exploitation starts early with Little Miss contests. Then comes the Miss Teen contest followed with Miss Canada.

THE BEST WAY TO LET OUR OPPOSITION TO THESE CONTESTS BE FELT may be by hitting where it hurts - the pocket book. Let the sponsors of these beauty pageants know that you no longer buy their products.

The Miss Teen Contest is sponsored nationally by Johnson & Johnson, makers of first aid materials and baby products. The local distributor is:

P.C.O'Driscoll Ltd.
Donovans Industrial Park
St. John's, Nfld.

VIEWS con'd from page 10

on this important subject.

Women have a long way to go but I think that the past year has enabled us to find the right path. So will women keep striving to achieve their goals? Why not? Just because the year is over does not mean we should quit because our goals are attainable, with hard work. This verse explains very aptly my views as a teenager who wants to be equal:

Woman was created from the rib of man
Not from his head to be above him
Nor his foot to be walked upon
But from his side to be equal
Near his side to be protected
And close to his heart to be
loved..

We've achieved a lot in just one short year. 1975 International Women's Year! Now its 1976. WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Heather Bruce

HOMEMAKERS in the CANADA PENSION PLAN

The following is a summary of a report given at an N.S.W.C. general meeting and more recently at the evening session of International Women's Day. The history and social implications of Canada Pension Plan were researched and presented by Lillian Bouzane and Martha Butler as an essential prologue to the paper below. *Yvonne Earle*

Discussion concerning reappraisal of the Canada Pension Plan to include homemakers has been underway at the federal government level for several years. One of the first papers from the Ministry of Health (responsible for Women) was tabled in the House in April 1974. At that time Minister Marc Lalonde stated that new legislation must: 1. establish full equality for male and female contributors and beneficiaries, (This was passed and became law Jan. 1, 1975.)

2. consider participation of non-salaried homemakers in the plan. This would recognize the homemaker as a producer of goods and services, and housework as regular employment. It would also give financial independence in later years. Currently financial compensation is made only on the death of the wage earner in the form of the Spouses Allowance. This is paid at a rate scaled on the surviving partners age and dependent children, and is lost in the event of marriage breakdown. Also lost when a marriage breaks down are the years when the spouse could have been paying into a pension plan.

Proposals being discussed and evaluated.

1. Contributions on earnings. This would make it mandatory that the wage earner pay the homemaker a wage. Therefore, two CPP contributions would be made and a single income. N.B. This would not only be unfeasible in low income families but involve a great degree of government intervention

between husband and wife. Housework would still be tied to the wage earners salary and wives would be put even more firmly in a dependant role as employees of their husbands.

2. Voluntary coverage for the homemaker. This would permit the housewife to choose the option of listing herself as self employed and making the appropriate payments. However, this is contrary to the whole operation of the current, compulsory CPP and leaves housewives as a whole in an economically ambiguous situation. A more practical objection is where the housewife will actually obtain the dollars to pay her part of the contribution - she is still dependent on her wage earning spouse!

3. Canada Pension Plan II. This would be a voluntary insurance or retirement income scheme for homemakers.

It would still keep housework in an unequal position with other employment and homemakers separate from other Canadian workers.

Also a whole new civil service organization would be needed to implement the scheme and still benefits would go to only those who could afford to pay without recognition of the value of housework.

Here I must diverge a moment. The above three schemes have been opposed by the federal Advisory Council on the Status of Women and the Canada Pension Plan Advisory Committee for some of the stated reasons and others outlined in their brief of February 1975. In this same brief the ACSW recommended the joint acceptance of proposals 4 & 5 below. This stand has been called "extremely conservative" by other groups of Canadian women, for reasons I shall outline and a very valid alternative has been proposed by the British Columbia Department of Human Resources.

4. Splitting of Pension Credits. This would provide equal retirement credits to both spouses for the period of the

Homemakers - con'd

marriage after the legislation is in effect. a) In families with one wage earner the single pension payment would be credited 50-50 under two social insurance numbers. The scheme falls within the earnings - related, compulsory principle of the CPP and costs of instituting it are a marginal 1% for the first years only.*b) In families with two wage earners pension credits will be pooled and divided by two. As women most often hold the lower paying or part-time job in a 2 income family as well as running the home this division will be of greater benefit to them. Again in the instance of great age differences the older spouse will receive only a partial pension until the younger one retires but there will be no loss of money.

5. Splitting of pension credits on marriage breakdown. (Divorce & Divide) This would entitle each spouse to 50% of the family unit CPP credits accumulated during the marriage period from 1966 forward. It will give retroactive leeway to women who would be penalized for years of marriage from 1966 until the legislation is invoked if their marriage terminates. However this scheme by itself will penalize women who are in a marriage that stays together.

The administrators and supporters of combining the splitting schemes are fully aware of the problems created by common-law partnerships without legal contract and marriages which separate but do not terminate. As yet they have no solutions with regard to pension credits.

The strong objections which have arisen against the splitting proposals point out several fundamental flaws in the schemes. 1.) They do not recognize the independent contribution and labour value of the homemaker. They still tie her to the income of her spouse. Her retirement income will be dependent entirely on his CPP payments, or partially until she goes

back into the labour market.

2.) In single income families it splits maximum after 42 years of maximum credits.)

3.) Discriminates against single parents and common-law partners.

4.) Without the retroactive "divorce and divide" clause it has been calculated that partnership concept will be retained for almost 50 years.

5.) The low income couples are again hit the hardest.

The B.C. Dept. of Human Relations has proposed these alternatives to counteract the objections:

1. An imputed wage for homemakers. This would be a figure calculated for book-keeping purposes on which to base the homemaker's pension credits.

a) It would be independent of the spouses wage and within the realm of economic feasibility for the federal government.

b) It would be of greater benefit to married couples as there would be 2 pensions to average out.

c) cover all homemakers - male/female, single/married, rich/poor.

2. A retroactive splitting clause is mandatory so that all equal benefits for both partners could start immediately.

Personally, I very much favour the B.C. alternative. If government is paying lip service to economic equality for women it is up to us to see that economic equality is what we get written into the legislation. As the possibility of a real wage for homemakers is somewhere in the realm of radical economics and wishful thinking the imputed wage appears a very valid proposal. But to effect any changes in the current Canada Pension Plan, women across Canada must be aware of what is being discussed and then act on it.

*This plan has several side effects. In the event that the wage earner reaches 65 much before the spouse there will be a period of living on $\frac{1}{2}$ the (con'd pg. 21)



Equal Opportunities Commission

This leaflet outlines the provisions of the law on sex discrimination. It describes the role of the Equal Opportunities Commission in eliminating sex discrimination and promoting equality of opportunity generally between men and women.

It is now unlawful to treat anyone, on the grounds of sex, less favourably than a person of the opposite sex is or would be treated in the same circumstances.

Sex discrimination is not allowed in:

Employment

Education

The provision of housing, goods, facilities and services

Advertising

In employment, it is also unlawful to discriminate because a person is married.

Women are entitled under the Equal Pay Act 1970 to equal pay with men when doing work that is the same, or broadly similar.

You have rights to equal opportunities. Exercise them.

The job of the Equal Opportunities Commission

The Equal Opportunities Commission has been created to ensure effective enforcement of the Sex Discrimination Act and the Equal Pay Act, and to promote equal opportunities between the sexes.

The Equal Opportunities Commission has the power to hold formal investigations, and if satisfied that practices are unlawful can issue non-discrimination notices requiring that they cease.

For certain formal investigations, the Commission has the power to require any person to furnish information and attend hearings to give evidence.

The Equal Opportunities Commission has the power, in certain circumstances, to help individuals in the preparation and conduct of complaints in both courts and tribunals; for example, where a case raises important issues of principle.

As well as investigating areas of inequality between the sexes, the Commission has a duty to make recommendations to the Government about the operation of existing law.

The Equal Opportunities Commission is empowered to undertake, or assist others to

undertake, research and educational work.

One of the most important functions of the Commission is to advise you of your rights under the Sex Discrimination Act and the Equal Pay Act – and to encourage you to exercise them.

What is sex discrimination?

There are two kinds of discrimination.

Direct discrimination involves treating a woman less favourably than a man because she is a woman.

Indirect discrimination means that conditions are applied which favour one sex more than the other but which cannot be justified.

For example, if an employer, in recruiting clerks, insists on candidates being six feet tall, a case may be made out that he is unlawfully discriminating.

Your rights under the law

The Sex Discrimination Act 1975 and the Equal Pay Act 1970 both came into effect on 29 December 1975. They could have a considerable effect on your career prospects as well as your pay packet. Be sure that you understand your rights. Basically, they are as follows.

Employment

Employers may not discriminate against you because of your sex in their recruitment or treatment of you. This also applies to promotion and training.

Employers may not usually label jobs 'for men' or 'for women', but there are a limited number of exceptions. For example, in employment in a private household; in jobs where a person's sex is a 'genuine occupational qualification', as in acting; or where there are not more than five people on the staff. In employment it is also unlawful to discriminate because a person is married.

Education

Co-educational schools, colleges and universities may not discriminate in the provision of facilities or, from 1 September 1976, in their admissions. It would be unlawful, for example, to refuse a girl admission to a

The Sex Discrimination Act came into force on 29 December 1975.

This leaflet briefly describes your rights, how they may affect you and where you may get detailed information.

To reflect the realities of discrimination, this leaflet refers to the victim of unfair treatment as a woman, although the law equally protects a man.

woodwork class because she is a girl. The Careers Service must not discriminate in the advice and assistance offered to girls and boys.

However, single-sex schools are permissible.

Housing, goods, facilities and services

With a few exceptions, no one providing housing, goods, facilities or services to the public may discriminate against you because of your sex.

Discrimination must not be used against you in the buying or renting of accommodation. A hotel, boarding-house or restaurant may not refuse you accommodation or refreshment.

A bank, building society or finance house must offer you credit, a mortgage or loan on the same terms that it would offer the facilities to someone of the opposite sex.

Advertising

Advertisements with job descriptions such as 'waiter', 'salesgirl', 'postman', or 'stewardess' will be deemed to discriminate, unless they contain an indication that both men and women are eligible. (Only the Equal Opportunities Commission can bring proceedings in matters to do with advertising.)

Victimisation

It is important to remember that the law will also protect you if you are victimised for bringing a complaint.

Where you may bring your complaint

If you feel that you have been treated unfairly because of your sex, you have the right to take your complaint to a county court in England or Wales, or sheriff court in Scotland. If your grievance is to do with employment, you go to an industrial tribunal.

If your complaint involves education in a state establishment, you must first give the Secretary of State an opportunity to exercise powers under the Education Act.

To Subvert Equality Act

British Advertisers Invent Sex Appeal Without Sex

LONDON, Feb. 25 (AP).—"Wanted: Experienced storekeeper, either sex, provided that they have at least five years experience, are fluent in German and look like Marlene Dietrich in her early 20s."

Many classified ads like that one in a Hampshire newspaper, the Romsey Advertiser, have appeared in the British press over the last few weeks as employers try to get around a new equality law.

The Sex Discrimination Act, which took effect Dec. 29, bans discrimination in employment and job recruitment on the basis of sex. So employers can no longer say in classified ads—a form of recruitment—whether they want male or female applicants for a job.

"People are having to word advertisements carefully to comply with the act and, at the same time, get what they want. It's absurdity gone mad," commented Colin Hooton, managing director of Repete Publicity Ltd., and ad agency at Wellingborough, in the Midlands.

The agency placed an ad in the Northampton Evening Telegraph that was considered one of the more flagrant evasions of the law by the Equal Opportunities Commission, which was set up to police the act.

Text Plus Sketch

"What we really wanted was a miniskirted, blue-eyed blonde," read the text of the ad beside a sketch of a trim young woman in miniskirt and boots, "but under the Sex Discrimination Act, we can't advertise for her, so we'll just say we require a receptionist."

"Nobody took our advertisement frivolously and we made it clear what we wanted," Mr. Hooton said. "We had serious applications from 17-year-olds through to middle-aged women. Significantly, no men applied."

Things did not work out so

well for Eton college, the elite boys' school at Windsor just west of London. The school placed an ad in the Slough and Windsor Express that said: "Somebody to help in the pantry and dining room: a person to share a flat with another woman."

"The new laws have made it impossible for us to advertise for a woman and we thought that phrasing it this way would overcome the problem," said Mrs. Elizabeth Gage-Hardy, matron at Eton's Warre House.

"Instead, all the early calls were from men who obviously thought it was a jolly nice idea to be able to share a flat with a woman . . . The lady the new worker has to share with is the most spinsterous of spinsters and was not amused by the idea of a man living with her."

After politely refusing four men, Mrs. Gage-Hardy said, Eton hired the fifth applicant, a woman.

Not many women were likely to apply to this ad in the Long Eaton Trader: "In celebration of the equal rights bill, all brick-laying vacancies will now be open to men and women alike. Applicants must have a minimum of 38-inch chest measurement and be prepared to strip to the waist in summer."

It was one of thousands of such ads sent to the British Broadcasting Corp. by television viewers, a BBC spokesman said. Some of them are humorous ones have been aired on "That's Life," a weekly program that pokes fun at bureaucracy.

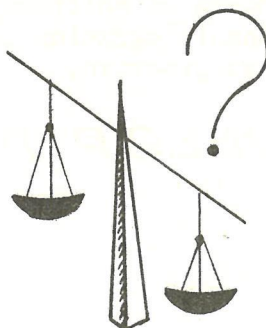
The Sidmouth Herald published this one: "Mechanic required, essentially fully qualified person. Responsible, well-paid job. Permanent. Sex immaterial, provided they are prepared to share gents toilet."

And in the Warminster Journal: "Dental nurse-person required, either sex. Experience an advantage, or suit recent school leaver with interest in people and sense of humor. Uniform comprising white coat, blouse and skirt."

Several advertisers used a dress provision to deter male applicants.

"Bar staff required mornings and evenings," said an ad in the Weston Mercury. "Ability to look good in women's clothing."

The Equal Opportunities Commission took a less than amused view of the ads and an official said the "more frivolous" ones "nearly all showed a blatant disregard for the spirit of the law."



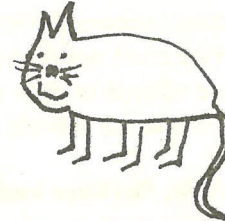
THE ANNUAL MEETING of the NATIONAL ACTION COMMITTEE on the STATUS OF WOMEN will be held in Ottawa April 23-25. We have received \$350 from NAC for travelling expenses, \$175 of which will be used by a member from Corner Brook.

A WORKSHOP on Lobbying will take place on April 26 for those who can stay over.

CHILD CARE



FOR
ALL



THE MAIN CONCERN OF THE NATIONAL ACTION COMMITTEE is the development of legislation which will enable Canadian women to play a more productive and satisfying role in society.

CHILD CARE

In our view the development of public policies related to child care, needs to take the following broad social conditions into greater account:

- ★ Families in all income brackets are much more isolated and lacking in support from relatives and neighbours than they were in the past;
- ★ Regardless of what is or is not done by governments to ensure greater access to quality child care, increasing numbers of young children will be receiving some form of surrogate care for the major portion of their waking hours;
- ★ Only government is in a position to develop the broad scale initiatives which are essential to ensuring that quality child care programs become accessible to all Canadian parents and children;
- ★ The role played by women as parents and in the work world, is and will continue to be integrally rooted in the extent to which quality child care programs become accessible in Canada.

In our view Federal child care provisions:

- ★ Should be removed from the welfare context to ensure that quality child care is accessible to all parents;
- ★ Should be designed to support the growth of developmental and preventative programs for children and families with special social and health related needs, as well as for children of working parents;
- ★ Should be designed to cover a greater share of the capital costs of developing programs;
- ★ Should be designed to enable mothers, and more particularly low income mothers to become increasingly self-sufficient;
- ★ Should be designed to ensure greater flexibility in the types of available child care, i.e. needs of shift-workers, emergency and short-term care, and
- ★ Should encourage the integration of children from differing socio-economic backgrounds in these programs.

HELP DEVELOP BETTER CHILD CARE

THE FUTURE OF MARRIAGE

Jessie Bernard

In the book of the above title, Table 27 provides one of the most cogent critiques yet made of marriage as it is structured today.

NOTE:- In those tables where plus and minus figures appear, the figures are to be read as expectations. If the symptom occurs with more frequency than expected, it is plus; if it occurs with less than expected frequency, minus. A zero indicates that it occurs at about the expected frequency.

SELECTED SYMPTOMS OF PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS AMONG WHITE HOUSEWIVES AND WORKING WOMEN

Symptom	Housewives	Working Women
Nervous breakdown	+1.16	-2.02
Felt impending nervous breakdown	- .12	+ .81
Nervousness	+1.74	-2.29
Inertia	+2.35	-3.15
Insomnia	+1.27	-2.00
Trembling hands	+ .74	-1.25
Nightmares	+ .68	-1.18
Perspiring hands	+1.28	-2.55
Fainting	+ .82	-2.69
Headaches	+ .84	- .87
Dizziness	+1.41	-1.85
Heart palpitations	+1.38	-1.56

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, Selected Symptoms of Psychological Distress (U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, 1970), Table 17, pp.30-31.

Enquire about this book at our Lending Library

Biological Imperative

Mary is a sweet young wife,
They don't come any better.
But she had such a quiet life
When her bold Samson met her.

A brilliant student, Mary had
Worked hard 'til graduation.
Alas, she met her Galahad
Before her situation

As journalist for CBC
Had time to reach fruition.
She hadn't worked there long, you see,
They'd hired her on condition

That, 'til she had worked for a year
Her job was temporary.
(For it was her employers' fear
She'd quit if she should marry.)

Our Mary's parents felt such pride,
Their praise was not unfounded.
But still they hoped she'd be a bride
To make her life...well-rounded.

And then one day the gods above
Descended all upon us,
And blessed our Mary with the love
Of rising young Adonis.

"Oh marry me, my love!", he cried,
"I promise that I'll never
Let your work offend my pride."
He was so very clever.

He hadn't mentioned that he must
Move often round the nation;
And so her plans turned into dust,
She gave up her vocation.

Then her true love desired a son
So she became a Mother.
But he was not content with one,
And so she had another.

In time, her children numbered six
By then her dreams were ending;
For there were always meals to fix
And clothes that needed mending.

An old friend chanced to come upon
Our Mary at a bus stop.
Her eyes were glazed, her cheeks were drawn,
Her hair was badly mussed up.

"Well are you happy, Mary dear?"
I heard that you had married.
What ever came of your career?"
Poor Mary, looking harried,

Seemed at a loss for words to say
And knew that she would insult
Her old friend if she ran away.
But speaking to an adult

Was something she no longer did,
So she was really rattled.
She swallowed hard, her fear she hid,
And to her friend she prattled.

"My hubby's working overtime.
I bought some kitty litter.
It really is an awful crime
The price I pay the sitter."

"I'd love to stay and talk to you
But 'Edge of Night' is on now.
Drop in and see us sometime, do.
I'll find time for you somehow."

The years dragged on. The children all
Grew up and didn't need her.
O'er Mary's life there fell a pall,
She'd passed the age of breeder.

Her knight of old had grown quite bold
And sweethearts he had many.
His feelings for her had grown cold;
In fact, he hadn't any.

Great Zeus looked down from heaven then
And said that he intended
A quick divorce to free this man...
Mary's life was ended.

Sandra Penrose

- - - f e e d b a c k + + + +

I want to make a statement about the Women's Movement and what it has done for me.

Like so many of us, I judge myself and my worth from the feedback- be it positive or negative, that I get from other people. Unfortunately, until five years ago, the relationship I had with most women was superficial and I suppose a little competitive, with men the relationship was usually in a sexual vein. Meeting feminists have changed all that. My first encounter with them being a Consciousness Raising Group. I wanted to join a group as I was desperately trying to adjust and cope having just ended a marriage. I didn't feel I had anything to contribute to the group except my problems, I soon found this was not the case. Yes, I did have a chance to toss out my problems and receive a lot of help, however, we also had discussions every week on some aspect of the Women's Movement, and for the first time in my life I had to make an intellectual contribution. That's not easy when you've never been faced with that. I had to speak, I had to face issues I didn't even realise existed, but what was so beautiful about the whole thing was the fact that people wanted to hear what I had to say! Hence the feedback - and of course the more positive feedback I received, the more I wanted to learn and contribute. I felt very pleased with myself indeed!

This was one of my first challenges and it's challenges like that that helped me grow. I had been living a very sheltered life with my husband and my children in a very small world I wasn't exposed to anything and what's more - I didn't want to be.

The C R Group helped me through a lot, helped me drag the skeletons out of the closet and face them. However, there was one that still loomed large in my life - speaking in public - even to a small group. I had been approached before to go on radio, etc., but would become panic-stricken at the thought. I was so bad that one day while walking through Churchill Square I spotted a well-known broadcaster armed with a microphone heading in my direction. He was doing a "person in the street interview" about food prices - then the fear struck, I turned about face, headed in the other direction as if somebody had shot off a gun at a marathon! I didn't return until I was sure that he and his microphone were gone. Can you appreciate that paranoia?

Then one day a woman called me to go on radio, her encouragement being "they needed somebody witty-- I thought of you immediately". I'd never thought of myself as being witty but this woman did, she was so sure I had something to offer - she had more confidence in me than I did! After much stomach turning, soul searching and hair pulling - I accepted the challenge. Went on the radio - national and shocked myself, I was relaxed and what's more I was coherent - I did have something to say and all of Canada was listening.

I've been approached several times since then to go on radio, I haven't run away, I still have that knot in my stomach, mind you, but I've accepted.

... con'd page 24

GUILTY!!!

. . . OR AM I?

Things happened to me when I was growing up that still bother me. I grew up in a family of 10 children. My mother didn't have time for me. She had too much housework to do. I was the middle child. The oldest were three sisters who had already left home and married by the time I was twelve. I had a brother who was a year and a half older than I so I couldn't get advice from him. Anyway, we weren't the kind of family that could talk together as brothers and sisters. We were afraid to say our feelings to each other, as well as to our parents. I hardly even knew my father who was away most of the time on the boats. I don't even know my mother now and I'm in my twenties. I have no idea how she feels about life.

My father's dead now. Perhaps if he were still alive I could talk to him, now that I have gained confidence in myself. I'm beginning to talk up to my brothers and sisters telling them that I'm going to do what I want to do, not what they think I should do. But still to go home for holidays when we have family gatherings, I am treated as if I'm the only person who has ever made a mistake. My family try to make me feel guilty for what has happened to me.

Having met others who grew up with a background similar to mine, but have fought it, has given me the strength to overcome my guilty feelings. Yet I am still finding it hard to speak about an experience I had with my uncle. My uncle was forty years old at the time with a big family. I was eight years old when he sexually mistreated me. This experience has preyed on my mind ever since it happened. It's only now that I am able to face the fact that I wasn't the guilty one - it was him.

After that experience I had it on my mind so much that it affected my studies. The family noticed the difference in me but I couldn't tell them what had happened to me because my uncle said he would kill me if I told.

I got behind in my school work so I was eighteen when I reached grade 10. Then I got pregnant Why? I think it was because at the time I needed to feel wanted.

My family had never told me anything about sex. When I got pregnant they could only accuse me of doing wrong. They said that I must get married.

AM I GUILTY? - con'd

But I didn't love the guy. He and I were just friends. I told him not to let my father talk him into marrying me.

I was always getting smart answers from my family so it was not pleasant living at home. I decided to come to St. John's and with the help of Welfare found a place to room and board while waiting for the baby. There was another girl in the same room with me but we weren't exactly friends. I was there six months with nothing to do except to walk around and sometimes drop in on a friend.

I was scared to have the baby. No one had helped me to know what to expect so I got hysterical with fear. Afterwards I got to nurse the baby and then someone came and told me to sign something to put the baby up for adoption. But I loved my baby.

The pressure grew unbearable. If I kept the baby how would I support it? I had no job. From all sides I was advised to give my child away. So I signed.

Everytime I walked by a store window with baby clothes and little girls dresses I got a terrible sadness. It was too much. They had me in the psychiatric ward more than once.

One day I got up courage and dropped into the Women's Centre. My whole story spilled out of me between tears. I just knew my life was being wasted.

I've made a start to come back. I hope this that I have told will help parents to learn that having big families is hard on kids. They must do more for their children than just bring them into the world.

I know now that my actions are no different than lots of other girls who grow up in outports. It's been years of unhappiness, but the future holds hope.

As dictated to Sally Davis

Homemakers in the Canada Pension Plan - con'd from page 13

retirement income which may mean some economic hardship. Either spouse will receive survivors benefits, not just the homemaker. Both spouses will be able to claim for disability payments. This would permit many housewives to pay outside help should they become ill or incapacitated.

"RIGHT YOU ARE, BABY"

Many years ago, a small boy who had been playing in his back yard wandered away from home. He was only two or three; and his parents were frantic with worry. He was gone all day, but much to his parents delight a kindly gentleman brought him home safe and sound that evening. The boy had boarded a woods train and the solitary little passenger had gone unnoticed for quite some time. When he was discovered the conductor and other train hands tried to find out who he was and where he had come from, but the child wasn't anxious to cooperate. "Then, what's your father's name?" But there was no answer. "What's your mother's name?" ... To this the boy replied "Her name is Barbara, but Daddy calls her 'Pet'". ... The story did the rounds for quite some time and to this day the husband still calls his wife "Pet".

Nicknames and endearments are beautiful, and our language and relationships would be much poorer without them. I know a woman who calls her husband "ducky", and a man who calls his wife "Mom". Many parents have pet names for their children, and many children address relatives and friends by special affectionate terms that don't mean a thing to an outsider, but to the people involved they are very special and meaningful.

All of which is the long way round of introducing the opposite situation-- times when such charming and tender endearments lose their value completely because they are used indiscriminately. For instance, has anyone called you Dear, Honey, Darling, Sweetheart or Love, lately? If so, I trust that it was at least a friend or acquaintance and not just a radio or television announcer, a receptionist, or an ambitious politician. They each have their own motivation for indulging in such familiarity, though likely they're not aware of it. In some cases it may be just a habit ...albeit a bad one.

One woman I know suggested that it's a habit peculiar to Newfoundlanders and that it's not heard other places, at least not to the extent that it's heard here. May be she's right. In any event even if radio and television hosts have egos that need to be fed by such patronising, perhaps it's about time that their employers reminded them that good manner are required when dealing with the public.

"Yes, m'love", "Thank you dear", "Right you are m'darling",Is there anyone whose emotional life is so empty that they need that from a complete stranger?

I've endured in silence for a long time. But yesterday I heard a local announcer say "Right you are, Baby", to a middle aged woman whose voice I recognized, and I felt sure that the time to speak up had come.

Silence is not always golden.

Marie Newhook

BOOKS

THE MOST TERRIBLE EVENT IN NEWFOUNDLAND SEALING

BY HELEN PORTER

As a child on the south side of St. John's, I grew up with stories of sealing, sealers and sea disasters of all kinds. In 1898, the young man who was to become my grandfather stood on Baine Johnston's wharf and watched the forty-eight frozen corpses from the Greenland disaster being carried ashore. All through my childhood, men with crippled feet or missing legs were pointed out to me as victims of what was always called simply "the Newfoundland disaster." But when I read Cassie Brown's book *Death on the Ice*, which tells the cruel tale of that 1914 tragedy, it was as if I had never heard the story before. I wept for those men and others like them, I wept also for the families they left behind, but I did not weep for their employers, the business firms that sent men to the seal hunt each spring under some of the most appalling conditions imaginable. I felt only rage toward them, a rage and frustration that I have felt often before and which, if I were of a slightly different temperament, would long ago have turned me into a revolutionary or perhaps an anarchist. For Abram Kean (pronounced Kane), the old sealing captain still believed by many to be mainly responsible for the loss of the men, I felt a mixture of anger, impatience and a twisted kind of sympathy.

I remember Captain Kean very clearly, even though I was only a small child when I last saw him. After he retired he walked often down the south side, impeccably groomed, sealskin hat firmly on his white head. This was before I had the story of the disaster straight in my mind, but every time he passed our window I heard rumblings about "old Abe Kean" that I could sense were anything but complimentary. Nevertheless, as Mrs. Brown suggests in her book, caps were tipped to him wherever he went, and even those who detested him gave him a grudging kind of respect.

Death on the Ice is the story of the most terrible event in the history of the Newfoundland seal fishery. Due to a variety of circumstances and misunderstandings, some of them almost unbelievable, one hundred and twenty men sent out to look for seals became separated from their ship, the forty-two-year-old wooden steamer *Newfoundland*, and spent two days and two nights on ice-pans, most of the time in a howling blizzard. Seventy-eight of them died, and many of the survivors were crippled for life. The *Newfoundland*, like most ships of that time, had previously been equipped with wireless, but the equipment had been removed that year because, to quote one of the officials of Harvey and Company, her owners, "it was not giving returns for the money invested." There were several ships not far from the lost party but, because of this lack of communication, each captain assumed the men were on one of the other steamers. Abram Kean, captain of the *Stephano* and father of the *Newfoundland's* skipper, had directed the men of his son's crew toward a patch of seals, instructing them to return to their own ship when they had cleaned up the patch. Their own ship was seven miles away over treacherous ice, a storm was brewing, and the sealers muttered their apprehension. But Captain Abe had said there would be no storm, and had he ever been wrong before?

So there the men were on the ice, lightly clad (for it was mild when they had left the *Newfoundland* early that morning), and with very little food (since it was not believed they would be away from their ship for long). In defiance of Captain Kean's dictum, the storm did come, and the sealers could not find their way back. The minutes went by, the hours went by, and then a whole night went by. The next morning several of the men were dead, and on the morning after that, many more. Some went mad first, others accepted their fate quietly.

Monthly Review of a
work by a Nfld. woman
writer

As Cassie Brown's tale of horror and heartbreak goes on, the reader begins to wonder how any of the men managed to survive. That so many of them (forty-two) did is attribute to the almost incredible courage, compassion and faith of some of their number. Jesse Collins tirelessly encouraged the younger men of his party and kept them on the move. "Let's go fishin', b'ys," he would shout with what voice he had left, and then lead them in a pitiful charade of baiting their hooks. Then he would entice them into a make-believe parade, keeping sharp eyes out for those who were being seduced into taking a nap. At one point when a comrade's eyes were frozen shut Jesse got rid of the icicles by biting them off, thus freezing his own lips.

Cassie Brown, who is a native Newfoundland, has done an awesome job on her first book. She tells the story without embellishment and this is as it should be, for it needs none. She lets the men speak for themselves, with occasional cuts to entries from the ship's log, and an account of the enquiry held afterwards. Her long and meticulous task of preparation, for which she received no grant or financial assistance of any kind, has paid off in a finished work that everybody interested in Newfoundland, in the sea, and indeed in people, should be glad to own. And the next time I hear someone yearn for the good old days when Newfoundland and Newfoundlanders were "independent," I'll lend him my copy and let him find out for himself what it was really like. Harold Horwood did some editing and helped Mrs. Brown cut the book from a much greater length.

Death on the Ice, by Cassie Brown
with Harold Horwood. Doubleday, 270
pages, \$7.95.

Source: Saturday Night
January 1973

I'm feeling very positive about myself these days and find encouragement from the women here at the centre. They haven't given me a new image, but they have helped me peel away my fears, anxieties and insecurities - get to know me and helped me to like ME.

I'm one of the fortunate ones - I've been exposed to women that care that want to help, that want to bring out the best in you, I wish that for other women. There are a lot of challenges in my life I still have to face, but I know now I have a headstart!

Barbara Doran

MARCH 8th at the WOMEN'S CENTRE

I spent a most interesting afternoon at the Women's Centre recently. It was International Women's Day. When I arrived everyone was smacking her lips over the delicious stone soup lunch which made some of us sorry to have missed it.

The film "Anything you want to be" conveyed how we tell our daughter what she can be but in reality expect her to be something else. How true! "The visible woman" showed many marvelous women who have worked for our rights before us.

During the course of the afternoon we even rubbed shoulders with the Honourable Ed Broadbent and Mayor Dorothy Wyatt. But the highlight of the afternoon for me were the readings by some Newfoundland women writers. Helen Porter always seems to reach me - perhaps as I am, so they tell me, middleaged yet sometimes get the urge to play marbles in the mud, too. I am looking forward to Cassie Brown's book and Anne Hart's story in the June Chatelaine. Anne's one-room country schoolhouse in Nova Scotia brought back memories of my first job ever, as teacher and janitor in a 9-grade, 1-room schoolhouse in rural Alberta.

Next year I plan to release myself of all responsibilities and to attend the entire International Women's Day, including the stone soup lunch and the reception in the evening.

Arlene Sproule

[illegible]

Contact the ♀ Centre for further details - 753-0220

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