

NEWFOUNDLAND STATUS OF WOMEN COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER

drawer

P.O. Box 6072
St. John's, Nfld.
A1C 5X8

709 753 0220

Y. W. C. A.
RESOURCE CENTRE

April 1975
Volume II No. 4

WOMEN'S CENTRE
77 Bond St.

women
unite!

SUPPORT
THE
TELEPHONE
OPERATORS!



FIGHT
TO END
SEX
DISCRIMINATION!

this place
exploits women

APRIL 7 - - MEMBERSHIP MEETING

FRIENDS AS WELL AS MEMBERS
WELCOME

The program is YOU. Your chance to say those things you didn't feel like saying at our big gathering on March 8th, International Women's Day.

And your opportunity to hear how our workers are doing on the L.I.P. grant.

Don't get left behind as the women's movement gathers momentum.

BISHOP FIELD AUDITORIUM - corner of King St. and Bond St.

8:15 Please note that the meeting is not at the Centre.

THE NSWC NEWSLETTER AND YOU

Some of our readers already take it as personal commitment to contribute to this NEWSLETTER. Perhaps there are others who would like to but are not sure how they can do it. So here are a few suggestions:

- Send us relevant newspaper clippings, magazine articles, cartoons, etc. that you have run across;
- Take a photo of an activity of interest to women;
- Encourage local organizations to notify us of their activities for IWY.
- Write an article on your thoughts, criticisms and suggestions concerning the women's movement
- Join the Newsletter staff and help make this a better product.

WHEN IS A SPOUSE MALE AND WHEN FEMALE?

If you look up the word "spouse" in the dictionary you will find it defined as a "partner in marriage" with no reference to sex. It probably is too much to expect the federal or provincial governments to change their ways overnight. Perhaps they really are trying but old patterns of thinking are hard to change.

To illustrate - Turn to page 17 of the Income Tax Filing Guide, section 44 and you will find this slip of the tongue, "A married person, not separated from his spouse,---."

And in the Newfoundland Gazette for March 4, 1975 on page 16 you can read the following: "Salary and wages of the applicant and his spouse ---."

Maybe someday we'll make it.

Consciousness Raising - anyone

FOR WOMEN

FOR MEN

Please let the Women's Centre know if you would like to join a group. A few more persons are needed to complete a group for men and another for women.

This issue of the NSWC Newsletter was produced by Jan Black, Sally Davis and our contributors. Deadline for next issue is April 15, 1975.

WOMEN'S CENTRE

DROP IN
*anytime
between*

9am - 5pm

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

1st Monday of each month

April 7th, this month

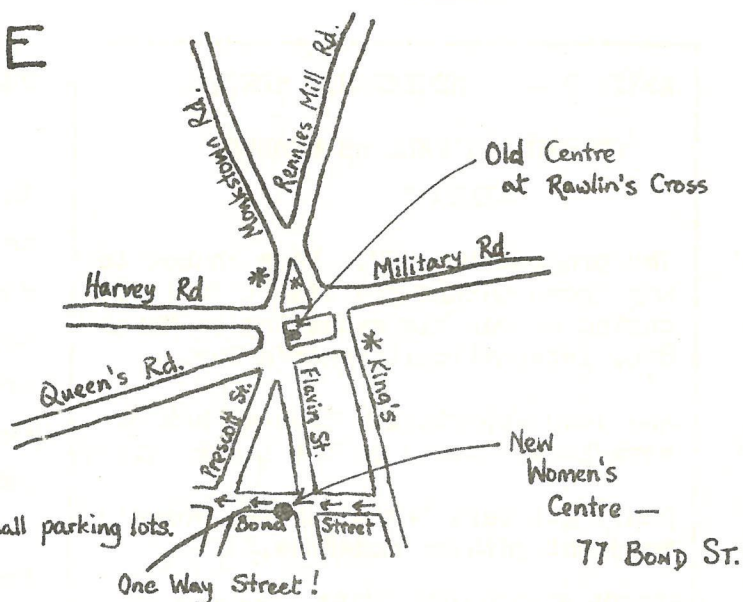
EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

Most Wednesdays

8:15 pm until the wee hours

members welcome, too

* = small parking lots.



Try us Saturdays
in the afternoons

A LOOK BACK AT *International Women's Day*

As those of you who attended International Women's Day celebrations know, the day was a tremendous success. We had approximately 150 people attend the sessions with many new faces among the crowd. Our Day Care service went extremely well and I'm told by our sitters that they thoroughly enjoyed it.

I want to take this opportunity now to express my thanks to all those members and non-members of the NSWC that helped make the day so successful --- our executive committee; our guest speakers; Liz Genge; Sharon Puddester; Elayne Harris; Ray Mackey; The Human Rights Voluntary Communications Resources Committee for Nfld. and Labrador for their funding; and of course our babysitters - Jake, Pick, Manny, Pete and those others who stopped by 112 Military to help out; also, Sheila Ryan who made her apartment available for the day care.

I hope I haven't left anyone out; if I have please forgive me and thank you all. It was a great day - hopefully some day we'll do it again.

Marian Atkinson,
Co-ordinator of IWD Program

IWD News Release

Feminist group to study sexism, discrimination in local schools

Curriculum accentuates "sex stereotyping"

By EARLE McCURDY
Telegram Staff Writer

A lively discussion of sex stereotyping in our schools and the role of women in education highlighted the commemoration Saturday of International Women's Day at the Women's Centre in St. John's.

An estimated 125-150 people crowded into a small classroom in the former Bishop Spencer School on Bond Street for a full day of films and discussions dealing with various facets of the role and potential of women in society.

The seminar on women in education followed discussions of such topics as the suffragette movement, the family, socialization of women, and working women.

Bobbie Gillespie, a graduate education student at Memorial University who led the discussion of education, told participants that women do not have the benefit of equal employment opportunity in that field.

While the great majority of teachers at the elementary and primary levels of schooling are women, she said, men get preference in all administrative positions and hence constitute the great percentage of administrators.

Furthermore, she said, more than three quarters of the province's guidance counsellors are men, and women comprise only 10 to 11 per cent of the faculty at Memorial.

Since the administrative, guidance and university positions pay more money, Ms. Gillespie told participants, male educators in Newfoundland make an average of \$9,000 annually, while their female counterparts earn an average of only \$7,000.

She added that in recent years, as the salaries for teachers have increased substantially, the proportion of men in the field has also increased, indicating that the tendency of our society is to push men into higher-paying and women into lower-paying occupations.

CURRICULUM INADEQUATE
Another area where Ms. Gillespie felt change is needed in our education system is in the curriculum of the Newfoundland school system.

Citing several items from grade four textbooks, she said the curriculum accentuates sex stereotyping.

Women in our schools' textbooks are depicted as fragile and delicate, boys as rugged and adventurous, and the consequence is that many female students lose any adventurous ideas or goals by the time they reach high school, Ms. Gillespie commented.

"The education system reflects exactly what society wants it to reflect," she said. "Educators are very slow to change."

Literature available in counselling offices—as well as the advice offered by counsellors—tends to accentuate these stereotypes, as girls are directed into traditionally female occupations, boys into traditionally male fields, she added.

Participants in the discussion decided to establish a committee of the Newfoundland Status of Women Council to look into and compile a report on sexism and other

discriminatory practices in the school curriculum.

A suggestion that the group pass a resolution vowing to refuse to pay school taxes until sexual discrimination is removed from the curriculum, was rejected.

WORKING WOMEN

In a seminar on working women, Ruth Pierson, a history professor at Memorial University, said the work done by women is regarded in our society as "peripheral," although women constitute more than one third of Canada's labor force.

Ms. Pierson said the type of work done by women—nursing, teaching and secretarial work for instance—is an extension of the work they do at home.

"But the very fact that 56.7 per cent of the women in the working force are married stands in blatant contradiction of the doctrine that women's place is in the home."

The seminar leader told participants she hoped that during 1975, which has been designated International Women's Year by the United Nations, the notions about women's sphere of activities will be brought "more in line with social realities and with her actual social potential."

According to a film on Working Women that was presented after the discussion, the median Canadian income for men is \$9,700, for women \$4,800.

Other discussion leaders, beside Ms. Pierson and Ms. Gillespie, were Hazel Starcher, dealing with socialization of women; Roberta Buchanan, talking about the suffragette movement; and Florence Redpath, discussing the family.

Marian Atkinson, a member of the Newfoundland Status of Women Council (NSWC) executive and co-ordinator of Saturday's program, termed the day's activities "a fantastic success. . . We never had as many people here before. There

were a great number of new faces and we got a lot of feedback from these people."

Organizers had to shift the meetings to a larger room than the one where they started, as the turnout far exceeded expectations.

Ms. Atkinson and NSWC treasurer Jan Black attributed the day's success in part to its sponsorship by the Human Rights Voluntary Communication Resources Group of Newfoundland and Labrador, which underwrote all expenses.

Their sponsorship enabled the council to adequately advertise the event and to bring in four participants from Corner Brook and two from Labrador City, the organizers said.

An interesting aspect of Saturday's activities was the involvement of men.

Ms. Black explained that because of financial shortcomings which prevented the group from obtaining the use of sufficiently large meeting rooms, the NSWC has in the past restricted such events to women only.

But the council threw its doors open to men Saturday, and those who attended included a sprinkling of males.

Also, four men provided babysitting services at the Graduate Students' Union building on Military Road, and this was a "great help" for parents who wished to attend the seminars, the organizers said.

The NSWC wants to further involve men through "consciousness raising groups" for men desiring "an opportunity to talk with others to help in understanding our changing men-women relations."

Ms. Black said the aim of Saturday's seminars was "to get through to more and more women, and to make them aware of our goals," and she felt the turnout "really indicates that women are interested."

EVENING
TELEGRAM

MARCH 10th

1975

On the Gf at Women's Centre ♀♀♀

The Women's Centre is back to normal after the Saturday, March 8th, celebrations for International Women's Day, which were an unqualified success. There were dozens of new faces and much discussion around the speakers' topics. Many thanks to Roberta, Florence, Hazel, Ruth, and Bobbie for sharing their ideas with us. Special thanks to Marian Atkinson for organizing the whole day, and to all those who lent a helping hand. We have the talks taped on video and cassettes to be used by us all. The Batik, made by Ray Mackey, that was being raffled, was won by Carmen VonRichthofen and earned \$61 for the Centre. Donations and new memberships brought the total to around \$170.

Quite a few women volunteered some time to the Women's Centre and I would like to ask all of you who have some time to come and see what needs to be done. The LIP Project workers are in desperate need of women willing to take questionnaires to homes in the city, some to be answered on the spot and some to be dropped off and picked up another day. We want to involve volunteers in every area of the project and in the Centre. There are stacks of newspaper clippings on many topics that need to be put in scrap books and kept for posterity. The library needs someone to check on overdue books and keep all in order. The files need pruning and the telephone needs answering. It is busy all day and we are having another line installed so, more than ever, we need staff people, especially in the afternoon. Anyone is welcome at any time to come in and learn the ropes and take an active interest in any area.

WE NEED VOLUNTEER SUPPORT. If you want to see the Centre survive through the summer and beyond, PLEASE HELP!

Celia Griffiths- Chairperson

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SPECIAL MEETING - 14th April, 1975 - 8:30 P.M. - at the Women's Centre

PROBLEMS OF DIVORCE

What are the problems women encounter while going through a divorce and immediately afterward? On Monday, April 14, a St. John's lawyer, Mr. Frank Fowler, will speak on the legal aspects of divorce. If you have any questions or comments on this subject, please attend. It should prove to be an informative evening for anyone and everyone. Time 8:30.

FOLLOW-UP SESSION - 21st April, 1975 - 8:30 P.M. - at the same place

The following week, an informal group discussion, led by women who have gone through divorce, will cover the psychological and social aspects of divorce. What type of treatment is experienced in the courtroom, how does divorce affect the children, what are the attitudes expressed by friends and acquaintances, how does divorce affect the woman psychologically, etc.

If you feel you have something to contribute based on your own experiences, or have an interest in the problems, you are invited to attend this discussion.

ABORTION - SOME QUESTIONS

1. Won't repealing the law lead to promiscuity and indiscriminate abortion?

2. Is repeal of the restrictive abortion law a religious issue?

3. Is abortion law repeal a Civil Rights issue?

(Prepared by the Canadian Assoc.
for Repeal of the Abortion Law)

AND ANSWERS

No it won't. Most of the advanced countries now permit abortions and some have fewer abortions than we do. England has legal, safe, and free abortions but the abortion rate remains low. England also has a good sex education and birth control program. Even birth control still has opponents in Canada. France and Austria, both Catholic countries, have legalized early abortion. Italy, the most Catholic of all, has laws forbidding birth control and abortion. Italy has a staggering number of illegal abortions from which women suffer and thousands die every year. Few Canadians would like Canada to adopt the Italian model.

Religious, yes - Denominational, no. For the last 100 years, Popes have been taking a strong stand against birth control and abortion under any circumstances, but many Catholics don't agree. Catholics, Protestants, Jews, Unitarians, Humanists, Agnostics and Atheists are working together for repeal. Caral members believe that bringing an unwanted child into an overcrowded world is immoral. Having an abortion, although always a matter of conscience, is often a responsible decision. However, no woman should be pressed into undergoing abortion against her religious or moral convictions. Adequate counselling is essential. And no woman should be pressured into mandatory motherhood because of the beliefs of others.

Very much so. Abortion is an important question which each woman must decide for herself with advice from her doctor. The current campaign to call a fetus a person or a baby, is analagous to calling an acorn an unborn oak tree. In Dr. Henry Morgentaler's appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada, the Canadian Civil Liberties Association intervined, contending that the present law violates the Canadian Bill of Rights by denying Canadian women equal access to a legal procedure.

Letter to the Editor

March 10, 1975

Newsletter Editor
N.S.W.C.

Dear Editor,

If you have room in the newsletter, I would like to share some of my feelings about our March 8 program.

I found the workshop tremendously inspiring. Somebody commented that we were only "preaching to the converted", but I think we shouldn't devalue that: it's important for us to come together, just to BE together, and to share whatever is the female equivalent of "fellowship."

One woman at the workshop voiced a fear that we might become "too much like men." Her comment brought a groan from the audience, but my heart went out to her. Like myself, she was middle-aged, and I sensed the painful struggle she was going through to free herself of all those chains which, luckily, some of our younger women won't have to contend with in the same way we did.

I married in 1950, fresh out of university, and soon found myself with a large house, three children, and a husband on the way up the ladder. I don't think anybody who hasn't lived through those years can understand how thorough was the brainwashing of women. Though I never could reconcile myself to having to put my brain in a box for the next twenty years, the guilt I suffered for having such feelings was at times excruciating. I tried desperately to be both super-housewife and super-mom, and succeeded only in being super-depressed.

I will never forget the day I read The Feminine Mystique. I am not exaggerating when I say it was like a religious awakening. To think that there were actually OTHER women who felt as I did! To find out that OTHER women too felt boxed-in, cut off, unrealized....and that they did so love their children!

I went out and bought six copies of the book and, with the air of The Great Deliverer, gave them to my friends. How happy they will be, thought I, to find out this Great Truth that I have finally discovered! Their reaction, for the most part, was devastating. Two of them suggested I was "an unnatural mother" and stopped calling on me. Three became terribly defensive, declared they were perfectly happy the way they were, and that Betty Friedan must be a lesbian. One friend responded to the book somewhat as I had. We became much closer, and in the years that followed, were able to give each other a great deal of support in our struggle to become whole again.

After all those lonely years when I suffered alone, it is wonderful to be one of a whole room full of women, as we were on March 8, sharing a common struggle and recognizing each other, whatever our ages or interests, as sisters. Even if the workshop did "preach to the converted", that's O.K. Converts need sustenance too.

NSWC's SUPPORT OF THE TELEPHONE OPERATORS

At our International Women's Day gathering, the Corner Brook Status of Women delegate told about the working conditions of operators with the Nfld. Telephone Co. She specifically mentioned about the granting of a cost of living allowance to the craft workers and not to the operators. The gathering passed a resolution to support the operators in their request for a cost of living bonus.

On Monday following three NSWC members attended a meeting of the operators unit of Local 1615, IBEW Union, to find out more particulars about their grievances and to see how best we might support them. The next day it was decided that we would invite our members to join the operators' picket line on Saturday from 11 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

WHY DID THE TELEPHONE COMPANY REFUSE TO GRANT A COLA ACROSS THE BOARD?

The IBEW (International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers) is responsible for negotiating 7 different related contracts. These are determined by the Labour Act which states that collective agreements are to be negotiated for "units of common interest."

In October 1974 the craft workers unit

In October 1974 the craft workers unit of the Union met and passed a resolution to formally request a cost of living allowance (COLA). The Union went to management with this request and when turned down, both the craft workers and operators went out on strike January 17, 1975. During the negotiations, one shop steward verbally requested a cost of living allowance for the operators but this was not accepted since the request should have been formally made in writing. On February 3, 1975 the operators passed a motion to submit a formal request for a cost of living allowance and this was hand delivered the next day.

On February 28th, the company granted COLA to the craft workers only which was based on the cost of living index for the last quarter of 1974 and said they would consider a COLA for the operators based on the index for the first quarter of 1975, according to the Business Manager of Local 1615, IBEW, James Walsh. Mr. Walsh also said that the Company contended that they had given the traffic operators a greater percentage increase. However an analysis of the actual increases show that the

DISCREPANCY BETWEEN THE TELEPHONE OPERATORS WEEKLY WAGE AND THE CRAFT WORKERS WEEKLY WAGE INCREASED FROM \$30 to \$90.

Telephone Operators - con'd, 2

This is another case where a percentage increase further mitigates against the lower wage earner. Mr. Walsh further stated that approximately 50% of the revenue to the Telephone Company comes either directly or indirectly through the operators. The installation of direct distance dialing has meant a reduction in the number of operators required because of this technological advance. It was Mr. Walsh's feeling that along with a reduction in the number of operators should go an increase in the wage packet to the remaining operators.

Mr. Walsh agreed that the two contracts could be negotiated together if the company would agree to this. However, the Labour Act as presently written would not encourage this.

It was our thought that the Union had done a bad job of negotiating which left the operators with such a low wage both absolute and in relation to the craft workers. Mr. Walsh explained that last July when negotiations broke down he wrote to the Minister of Labour requesting conciliation services. At that time a company representative spoke with Mr. Walsh and said the committee could negotiate for other than the wage benefits and the wage could be negotiated when Mr. Walsh returned from his two week vacation. When Mr. Walsh returned, the contract had been signed. Mr. Walsh felt this was a clear case of the company taking advantage of inexperienced negotiators.

Early in March the operators went out on strike for their COLA. This was also an illegal strike. The operators were persuaded to return to work March 10th but were greeted with such hostility that they walked out again the same evening

WORKING CONDITIONS

At the present time operators start at \$92.75/week and go to \$128.00. By September 1976 a top salary after 5 years will be \$140.00. Craft workers, starting April 1st start at \$112.00 and range to \$206.50 after 5 years. Starting October 1st 1976 craft workers will start at \$124.00 and range to \$230.00. If traffic operators have typing and shorthand they can move into clerical work. Craft workers move up into supervisory, foremen,

Telephone Operators - con'd, 3

line foremen, installation, to operating a private branch. Mr. Walsh said there was no encouragement for the operators to transfer to craft worker but agreed that the Union certainly could play a role here.

Areas which need attention by the union -

- ✓ 1. Lack of maternity leave policy. At least one woman was told there was no position for her when she wished to return after having her baby.
- ✓ 2. Dissatisfaction with the pension policy. After 35 years employment a pension of \$115.00 per month is granted.
- ✓ 3. Each operator must sign in and out of the building - this since their first strike. They must also sign out, one at a time, to visit the wash-room.
- ✓ 4. During the snow storm when operators could not get home for meals, the company sent in meals and docked the cost from their pay. Clerical workers were used to handle the long distance calls during the strike and they were paid overtime and supplied with meals for which the company paid.
- ✓ 5. The twice annual merit increase is based on the time taken per call. No explanation is requested or accepted and this discourages the operator from spending any time to try to help a customer.
- ✓ 6. Employees work for the first year without an increase. The first increase was supposed to be automatic according to one employee. This means that an operator starting today receives the same wage as one who has been working for one year.

DEMONSTRATION - March 15

Considering we only had 2 days to organize the calling of our members to invite them to join the picket line, the turnout was remarkable. Our signs were not too bad either. The operators appreciated our support. Perhaps NSWC should consider a follow-up visit or interview of the Telephone Company to further register our disagreement with this Company's labour policies. Look for the next installment in a future Newsletter.

TELEPHONE PROTEST

Many of our members took part in calling the Telephone Company to register our support of the telephone operators demonstration. The resulting conver-

Telephone Operators - con'd, 4

sations with the substitute operators and the supervisors were interesting.

- "The Company is not interested in hearing what the public thinks about the working conditions at the Nfld. Telephone Company."

- "Our job is to record long distance calls and not to record complaints."

BACK TO WORK

On Sunday March 16th, the telephone operators voted to return to work for at least two weeks in the hope that the Union could act in their behalf. The committee (4 executive members of the IBEW Union and 2 shop stewards representing the telephone operators persuaded the operators that the company would not grant the COLA as long as the operators were on the street. Just over one-half of the operators present voted to return to the job.

We are pleased to learn that the two women shop stewards were invited to become part of the official executive of the Union and thus would be part of the negotiating team. This should help to make management more aware of the needs of women, those women who are often fulfilling their traditional role of wife and mother, houseworker, etc. in addition to their paid employment.

Submitted by Shirley Goundrey

POST SCRIPT

Was it a coincidence?

When members visited the Women's Centre after appearing on the picket line supporting the operators, they found the Centre's telephone out of order. It remained so until Monday noon. The media had been informed of this "coincidence" Monday morning.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE APRIL MEETING IS AT THE BISHOP FIELD AUDITORIUM AND NOT AT THE WOMEN'S CENTRE. WE HAVE PROBLEMS WITH THE CITY ZONING LAWS. HOPEFULLY THEY WILL BE RE-SOLVED SOON.



WOMEN'S CENTRES ALLIANCE

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

On March 1st and 2nd, seventy women from across Canada met in Thunder Bay, Ontario, to discuss the idea put forward last October, of a federation of Women's Centres. 50 Centres (Places etc.) were represented as well as other interested groups.

The decisions made at the end of the weekend are these. It was decided by all that the idea of a federation in terms of a structured, hierarchial system with a central body making policy decisions for all Women's Centres was voted out, and more importance was placed on greater regional/cultural contacts and a national network for support on immediate issues, as well as a resource sharing system.

NATIONWIDE TELEPHONE NETWORK SET UP

A telephone tree was set up to relay emergency information to every centre in the country. This system will only be used when a centre is in trouble and needs support. Examples used were the problems the Saskatoon Centre encountered with Otto Lang, and the case of Sue Findlay losing her job as head of the Women's Programme at Secretary of State.

It works like this: Each province has appointed a regional liason contact who will pass a message to the next province as well as to the nearest Centre. That Centre will pass it along to the nearest Centre in the region. For instance, St. John's needs letters of support -- we put a call through to Moncton which is our regional contact. Moncton phones Montreal with the message to start it off across the country. Moncton also calls Fredricton which calls St. John which calls Halifax which calls Corner Brook

etc. So the message has been received at every centre in our region as well as Quebec which will be doing the same thing. AnyCentre which acts on the call must send a copy of whatever action taken back to the Centre which asked for support. The problem Centre must correlate the info and report on it. For those of you who are confused and doubtful you will be pleased to hear that on the eve of International Women's Day the system was tested. Our Centre placed a call to say that "Network Nellie is alive and well and marching forward. Equality for our sisters." Replies are already coming back in letter form to say that the message was received. "Network Nellie" refers to Nellie McClung. It was suggested that Nellie be a code word so that we know that the call is an emergency one.

FEMINIST NEWS SERVICE

The conference voted to support the Feminist News Service, based in Montreal. The news service will act as CP or AP Press does, that is gather and compile feminist news and information, print it and distribute it across the country. So that the compiled information from an emergency Centre will be sent to FNS.

CLEARING HOUSE FOR FEMINIST MEDIA

The Clearing House for Feminist Media has been in operation for some time and has just received a grant to do a "National needs survey." This would gather information on the needs for an archival resource centre and its possible uses to all women's groups. They have offered to assist the Alliance of Women's Centres in our desire to have a source to draw information on what other centres have done, where they are located and what help on problems we

Women's Centre Alliance - don'd

can give to one another. So that while the Clearing House cannot act as an archive for every Centre to deposit copies of their information in one place (hopefully that will come as a result of their survey) every Centre can send a bibliography of what we do and have for others to the Clearing House. So instead of writing to 10 places on how to start a Centre or self-help Clinic etc. we can write to one place and be told what is where.

ATLANTIC PROVINCES STARTING TO PULL TOGETHER

The Maritimes and Newfoundland know each other now as a result of this conference. There is a newsletter coming out of Fredricton which we can have publish our news.

We are getting organized now so that we can support each other. on regional issues and perhaps meet together and plan regional policies.

CELIA GRIFFITHS

YOU GET TO THE TOP, THEN WHAT?

Here's a news item from the Wall Street Journal, Feb. 14, 1975. It might make you wonder as it did me if striving to put women in top managerial positions in the present society is really what we should be striving for.

ELI BLACK COMMITS SUICIDE

On a clear day, the view is breathtaking from the United Brands Co.'s corporate offices on the 44th floor of mid-Manhattan's, Pan American Building ... It was in a office overlooking this vista that Eli M. Black, chairman... worked as much as 16 to 18 hours a day.. At 8:20 that gray Monday morning, the 53 year old executive locked his office doors, smashed his attache case through his office windows and jumped to his death... A rabbi by training, a businessman by inclination, he believed that he could straddle the two worlds successfully by combining business with a social conscience and sensitivity. In the end, the pressure from two worlds split him apart... Can a sensitive man, a man with high moral standards, survive in an uncompromising financial world that demands steadily increasing earnings? Do the very characteristics that investors and shareholders expect from their chief executive officers lead to those officers' self-deterioration?

SD

RESOLUTIONS FROM INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

As well as the resolution that the "Newfoundland Status of Women Council support the telephone operators in their bid for a cost of living bonus", a second vote taken stating that a "working committee be set up to investigate discrimination in school curriculum and forward a report on its findings to The Department of Education," was supported by all. As a result of this motion an education committee has been set up. The members of this group are:

Jane Lewis	Sue Richter
Bobbie Gillespie	Muffett Knowling
Lorraine Trickett	Anne Hart
Alison Earle	Helen Baker

Anyone else interested in helping please let the Centre know soon.

TRAINING FOR TRAINERS

ATTENTION! Businessmen, accountants bankers, personnel-industrial relations officers, lawyers, supervisor personnel, educators.

Did you see an advertisement beginning with these words in the newspaper recently? Two of our NSWC members did and decided to investigate and here is their reaction.

"Don't be turned off by the above ad. It was placed by the Nfld. Institute for Management and Training (Corporation) in order to recruit persons from across Newfoundland to act as local trainers in management development.

Liz Reynolds from the College of Trades and Technology, and I attended the seminar that was held in Clarenville Feb. 28 - March 1, both fitting our - selves in under the "educator" category. We were the only women present in a group of 14 participants and 4 resource people.

Other seminars will be held in Grand Falls (March 14-16) and Corner Brook (April 4--6). If you have a skill, and/or can get concepts across to others, you should be involved in this program. NIMAT plans to use the people that attend these as a pool of resource persons to meet the information/training needs of people in Newfoundland. Current needs are for workshop leaders for NIMAT's small business management programs - effective communication, supervision of employees, filing systems, accounting, etc. NIMAT supplies the course material to the trainer. Other areas should open up in the future.

If you want to get involved contact NIMAT, P.O. Box 731 St. John's for more information."

Judy McGonigal

START A SMALL BUSINESS - WHY NOT?

WORKSHOP

COLLEGE OF TRADES

Saturday, April 12, 1975

10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Lunch prepared by class
in Food Management -
Nominal charge

2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

The morning program consists of a panel of 6 persons each from a different type of small business in St. John's.

In the afternoon there will be a panel of persons to discuss

ACCOUNTING: LEGAL MATTERS: FINANCING: and give COUNSELING

The program will end with a wrap-up conducted by members from the School of Business and Commerce.

----- Jointly sponsored by School of Business & Commerce, and MUN Extension

For more information call Elayne Harris at -
753 1200 3474

+++++ MAKING +++ PATCHES +++++

Try to find someone in your group who already knows how to embroider. Making patches by hand is very time consuming even for someone who already knows how to embroider - at least $\frac{1}{2}$ hour per patch.

Use any heavy denum material. I use mostly tan, black and blue. I use regular 6-strand embroidery floss divided in half and work with 3 strands at a time, knotted at one end only. I use an embroidery hoop to hold the material tight.

I use satin stitch and outline stitch with blanket stitch around the edge.

Draw the design on first. Use a white pencil on black material. I draw the circle with a large size salad dressing cover. For the Women's Symbol and International Women's Year I draw around a cardboard pattern. For ones with a lot of lettering I have found it is faster to make a sort of stencil with part of the letters cut out so I can line up the letter's quicker.

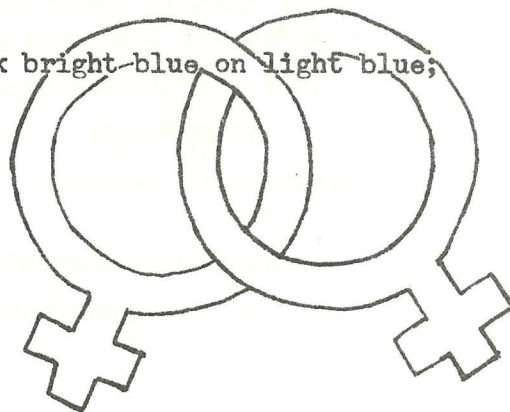
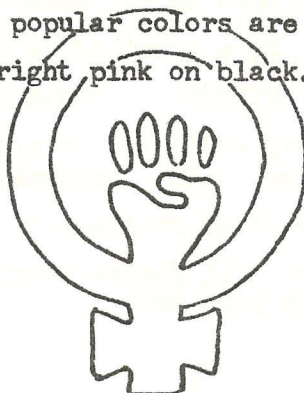
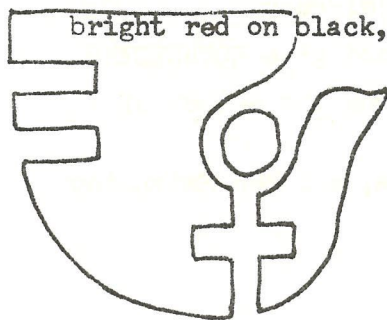
The ones with a lot of lettering I just do on tan because it is harder to draw precisely on black. There are:

WOMEN ARE NOT CHICKS
WOMAN'S PLACE IS IN THE WORLD
SEXISM IS A SOCIAL DISEASE
UPPITY WOMEN UNITE

CALL ME MS. I use different colors and draw it free hand each time. Sisterhood is Blooming. I use an iron-on transfer for the flowers and write on the words.

You can use your own style of lettering.

I have found the most popular colors are a dark bright blue on light blue; bright red on black, and bright pink on black.



A RATIONAL MAN SPEAKS

Well, of course I know what feminism is. It's a style, right? It's a new thing. You all get together and tell each other how great you all are, and then you all feel good. Then you think you can come back into the real world where things get done and change it all. Well, you women have a lot to learn.

Of course you know about people. No one knows better than I do about how sensitive you are to my needs. I've always known that the reason we have such a good relationship is that you know exactly how to respond to my moods. That's what a man needs. Yes, I know you see far more of what's in people's minds and can think of new approaches to problems. But all that doesn't get anything done, does it? I mean, you don't put bread and butter on the table worrying about how the other guy feels, right?

Anyway, you have to convince the employer first. He's not going to consider you for management, any more than he is going to put a guy on the switchboard! Honey, there's men's work and women's work. You can't get away from it. Whether you have the background or not doesn't make it right to put a man out of a job. Any employer knows that. Men have to support wives and families. If women started taking over those well paid jobs, what would happen to those men, and their families? The new Human Rights Code eh? Well, that doesn't sound like human rights to me.

Take the guy for instance. Honey, men have certain needs. We need good clean competition, the chance to get to the top if we really push. And then we like to sit back and relax in a cheerful atmosphere, play a bit of golf on the weekend, have a bit of wholesome sex when we want it. That's how we're made.

Then there are the children. You wouldn't want them to grow up confused about who they are. Unless our sons get an idea of what a strong successful man is, how are they going to make it in a competitive world? If you confuse the girls by going out to work in a man's job, what will it do to their maternal instincts? It could really be bad for the next generation.

You know day care isn't the answer. You've said yourself you wouldn't leave the youngest with these people. Anyway it would take half your pay. Social change? No, that will come at its own speed. We have a bunch of good men in the house and in Ottawa. They'll see that the right changes get made when people are really ready for them. You'll see. Right now they have to work around the kind of society we have. That keeps them busy enough.

Yeah, I didn't really want to bring it up but there's this bra thing. Sure, it's just a question of comfort. Some do, some don't. It's just that I'd rather you did. So would the boys. Honey, I care about the shape you're in!

JEAN CHADWICK

BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS -----Diane Siegel

Our Lending Library has taken on a neat look with the completion of new shelves (thanks to Arnold Betz). The books are in the process of being catalogued so we will have a comprehensive listing. They have also been divided into 2 categories. Books marked reference must remain within the Centre while all others may be borrowed for a period of 2 weeks. At the moment many of the books out on loan are way overdue so it would be greatly appreciated if they could be returned. This would enable us to get them catalogued and put back into circulation.

NEW ADDITIONS: A "bargain" book was purchased by Loretta Kelly for our library for the staggering sum of 40 cents. It is called the Handbook for Home Mechanics. This is an old book (1943) but is good if you have an older home or older appliances, needing repairs.

How to Get Your Car Repaired without Getting Gypped. This is a good book for the car owner who doesn't know how her car works, isn't interested enough to find out but wants to keep her car in safe driving condition without a lot or expense.

And Jill Came Tumbling After; Sexism in American education). This book contains a large collection of writings illustrating the sexism rampant in the schools at all levels of education. It also has suggestions on how the schools can be reformed to permit both girls and boys to achieve their full potential.

Our copy of the Report of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women has been borrowed. Please return as it is a reference book and should not be removed.

Write to Marc Lalonde, the Minister responsible for the Status of Women, and request that the Report of the Royal Commission on the S. of W. be marked down to half price during IWY, and that a supplement be prepared to bring it up-to-date.

A VISIT FROM NEWFOUNDLAND'S MINISTER OF EDUCATION ----- Jean Chadwick

Dr. Jerry Ottenheimer and two nodding cohorts dropped in while on the tour of the building where the Centre is located. A gesture towards IWY, he said.

We asked the three if any action was currently being taken to obviate sex stereotyping in the textbooks.

Ottenheimer: Well these are produced nationally, you know. Us: Well, why don't you commission local educators to produce more of this province's reading material? Besides, that's just a convenient excuse to let large companies print what they like. Ottie and friends: There is not enough volume to get local texts. We can pay less when they are mass produced. Why don't you tell us what your objections are and we will approach the book companies. Us: There's also the issue of career counseling for girls. Ottie: Well, let's set up a meeting so you can tell us what you would like us to attend to - but not for the next two months, please.

1 Courses 2 Courses 3 Courses 4 Courses 5

We have all felt trapped one time or another by some lack of knowledge-- of big things like how we have come to be discriminated against and of smaller but just as urgent things like how to get our cars going, or how to fix a faucet or toilet. It is because we share these limitations that the Women's Centre is giving special attention to courses for women.

Those of us most closely involved in organizing these courses feel that there is real practical value in learning new skills. But also we feel that any-time women acquire skills and strive toward self-sufficiency they become keener and more resourceful participants in our struggle for social justice. We think, too, that the way in which skills are acquired is vitally important. So we will at all times try to have courses that are run completely by and for women (We know that this may not be altogether possible as we are right now having difficulty finding a woman to teach our carpentry course).

We have made considerable progress toward getting the courses off the ground. They will, in general, be informal, about 4 to 6 sessions each, and they will not be expensive. Our LIP grant does not provide enough monies to pay for instructors and materials, so we will have to charge some small fee (\$2-\$5) for most courses to cover expenses. Even so we will not deny any woman access to our courses because she cannot afford them; we urge any woman who wants to take a course but cannot afford the fees to exchange some of her labour time instead helping us with the coordination, telephoning, duplication of materials, etc. that all of these courses require.

There is one other thing we won't do:

we won't offer courses that Extension (MUN) or the YWCA can do better--such as dressmaking or gourmet cooking, etc. And we will try not to duplicate services that already exist and are easily available to women.

Several courses are already set up and are described below. We will soon be sending around a special mailing with more details to our members and to the women who indicated an interest in the courses on International Women's Day. Please:

CALL THE WOMEN'S CENTRE TO SAVE A SPACE FOR YOURSELF IN THE COURSES. ASK FOR
DIANE OR ELLEN

We are also planning single evenings of discussions on special topics that will be open to all women and for which there will not be registration, fees, etc. The first will be on April 14th with a follow-up on April 21st. For details see page 2 of this Newsletter. We will announce other topics and dates as they are set up. Let us know what you would like to hear about.

In addition, Bonnie Leyton will be offering two Yoga classes at the Centre on Saturday mornings. The first classes will meet the 19th of April, and the course will last 10 weeks. The fee is \$15.00; call Bonnie directly to register (437-5839).

FINALLY, WE HAVE SOME NEEDS TOO. We need first and always women to help us coordinate: that means telephoning, duplicating reading materials, getting other materials organized. We need women who have any skills to share; we can build a session or two around any skill or talent. And help in finding instructors. And of course, we need your participation. So please let us hear from you.

COPING WITH THOSE METRES AND GRAMS.

Join us for two sessions on

Coping with the Metric System

Guaranteed to prepare you for the change over.

2 SESSIONS

1

FEE \$2.00

HAVING GOOD HEALTH IS HALF THE BATTLE

- WOMEN AND THEIR BODIES
- WOMEN'S HEALTH PROBLEMS
- SEXUALITY
- REPRODUCTION AND MENOPAUSE
- THE STATE OF WOMEN'S HEALTH SERVICES

4 SESSIONS

2

FEE \$5.00

before the revolution -

- after the revolution

Women in Industrial Societies -
Western Capitalist Societies and in
newly Socialist Societies.

We will read together and compare
the lot of women in North America and
such countries as China, USSR, Etc.

5 SESSIONS

3

FEE \$2.00

ISSUES IN THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT

How we got to where we're at ---

Conditioning in the home and school .

Status of Women in the home
and the feminist response.

What's a housewife. Pay for housework?

How inflation affects women.

Women in the work force.

6 SESSIONS

4

FEE \$3.00

YOGA -----with Bonnie Leyton

Beginners I

Beginners II

Saturdays 10 - 11 a.m.

11 - 12 noon

10 weeks

5

FEE \$15.00

COURSES TO BE ARRANGED

Auto Maintenance

Will meet as soon as weather
permits since the classes are
held outdoors.

Phone now to save a space.

Upholstery

Feminist Fix-It

Carpentry

SELF-HELP PROGRESSING

A report by the co-ordinators

During the past 2-3 weeks we have been very busy revising the copies of the Women and the Law Booklet. Jill has also sent a letter to Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation in reference to the need for day care facilities in the new row housing units. We should know within the next two weeks how CMHC feels regarding this, and we would appreciate your support when notice of the meeting is given.

At a recent meeting at the Women's Centre, we started work on a health referral file. We are also busy gathering information on divorce for our files. If you can help us, please call the Women's Centre.

Jean and Jill have put together a questionnaire for a door to door survey in five or more areas of the city. We need volunteers to help with this survey. It is planned to start the project the first part of April.

Jill and Loretta

NEWS FOR THE SINGLE PARENT

A summer exchange program

Single parents are invited to join a group with other single parents facing similar problems and experiences. To head this initial stage is Alice Walters whose interest in getting such a group going stems back over several years.

There are exciting plans afoot to set up a summer exchange program with single parents and their children. A program has been developed by the Moncton Single Parent Group. We are being invited to provide hosts in Nfld., and in return consider being guests in other Maritime Provinces this coming summer. Interested? Leave your name at the Centre.

ANNOUNCEMENTS - NOTICES

Woman with one three year old child wishes to share an apartment and living expenses with two or three other women, preferably University students.

Phone 753-1878 and ask for Albertha Williams-Lewis. No objections to one or two other children.

Catherine Bailey, R.N., with three years experience in pediatric nursing is planning to start a DAY CARE CENTRE if there are enough parents interested. It would be an all-day Centre, taking children 2-5 years, possibly younger if toilet trained.

The fees would be modest. The facilities will comply with all Provincial and Municipal Regulations.

Interested parents may phone 722-8212

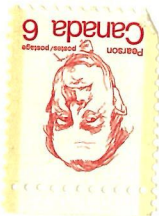
Two NSWC members, Sue Richter and Jean Chadwick, appeared as guest speakers before the Education Comm. of the Canadian Federation of University Women on March 11th. Sue and Jean were well prepared with documentation to illustrate the point that the female sex is far from liberated in the teaching materials used in Nfld. schools. Their presentation was of value to the Education Comm. in their preparation of a report on sex-role stereotyping which they are preparing for the CFUW Annual Meeting taking place this summer.

SPEAKERS ON WOMEN'S ISSUES ARE
IN GROWING DEMAND.

WHY NOT ADD YOUR NAME TO THE
NSWC SPEAKERS BUREAU?

Women's Information Centre
165 Spadina Avenue
Toronto, Ontario

NSWC
P.O. Box 6072
St. John's, Nfld.



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE
NEWFOUNDLAND STATUS OF WOMEN COUNCIL

Name _____ Ph.# _____

Address _____

Donation _____ Renewal ()

New Member ()

I wish to support NSWC and the
WOMEN'S CENTRE financially by
pledging each month a sum of \$ _____

We publish a NEWSLETTER -

members	free
libraries	\$5.00/yr.
organizations	donation
Non-member donation	\$ _____
Send Newsletter ()	

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