

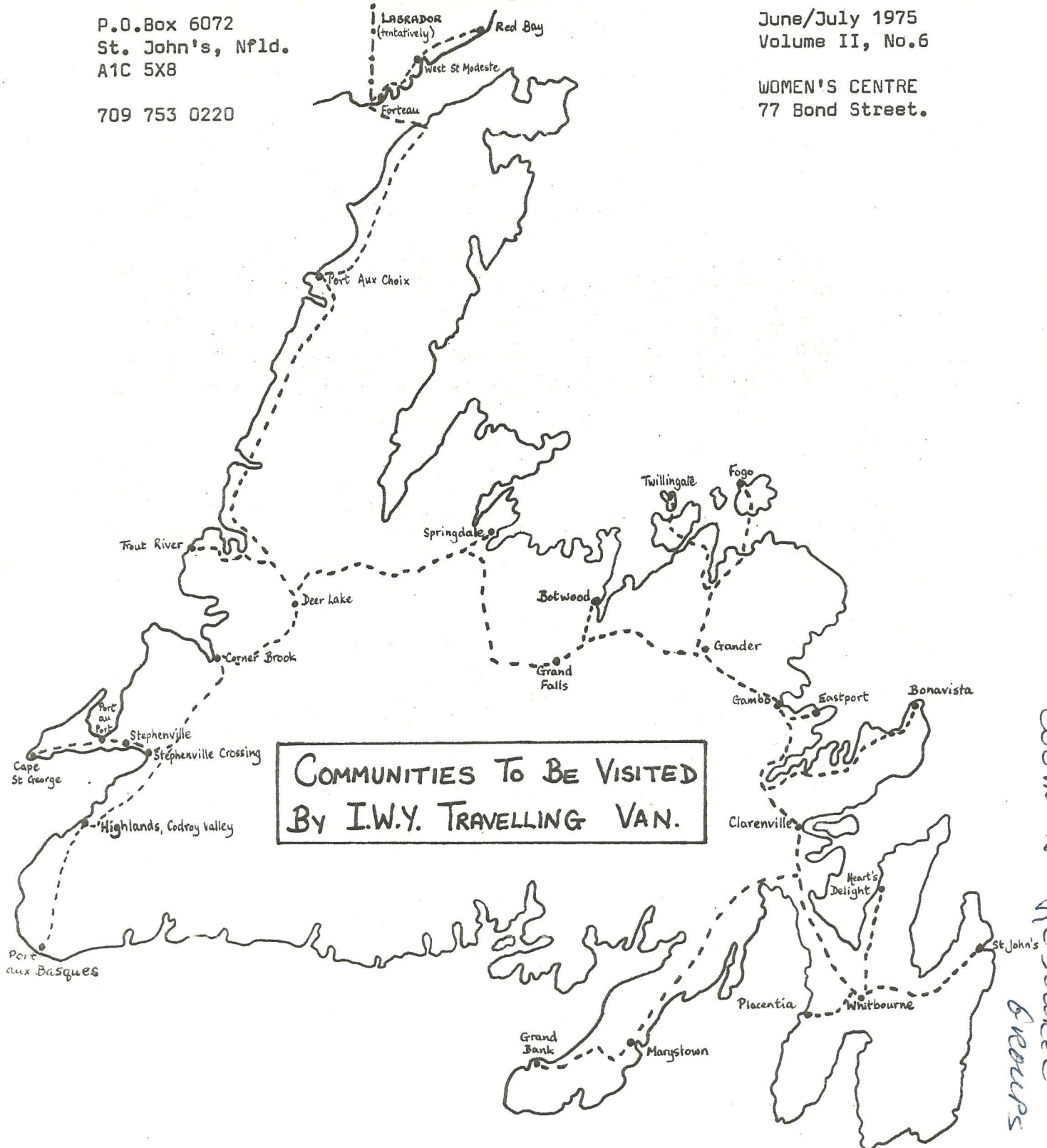
NEWSLETTER

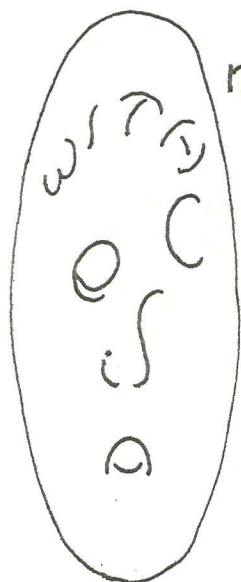
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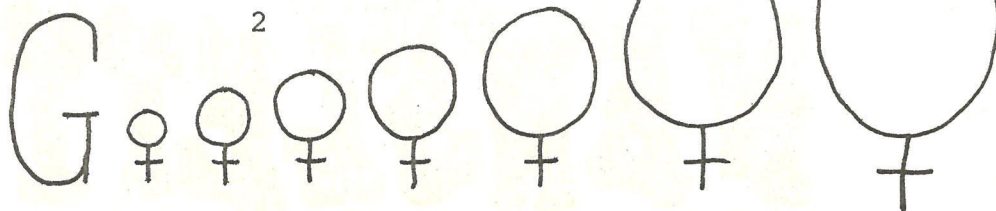
June/July 1975
Volume II, No.6

WOMEN'S CENTRE
77 Bond Street.





n the



This issue of the Newsletter will be for both June and July, so that our editor and staff can have a well-deserved rest. If you have contributions for the next issue, please send them to the Centre.

We especially invite you to write your opinions when you are not in agreement with some issue or stand that comes to your attention. We need to sharpen up our thinking on such concepts as censorship, structure vs. structurelessness in our Council, feminism, what the NSWC stands for, etc.. Let's make our Newsletter a forum for the exchange of ideas that will help us become an all-out women's movement to be reckoned with.

Starting Sunday, May 18th, viewing time to be approximately 2:55 p.m. on CJON TV, there will be a five minute programme (each Sunday) called "WOMEN NOW" written and produced by yours truly, THE WOMEN'S CENTRE. Check your television listings and watch. This time, Celia and Lillian talk about the Centre. The next two concern Day Care with Jean Chadwick and a guest. We will be taping more in the next few weeks and if you have any ideas let us know. This air time has been given to us free of charge by Colin Jamieson and the shows will be running till the end of June. Hopefully, when the summer programming is scheduled we will get more time. Why not call CJON (579-5015) and tell them how much you enjoy these programmes?

The Women's Courses are running smoothly and are well received. The Metric Course is finished and was enjoyed by all. "Upholstery" has ten participants and is half way through. "Women's Issues" has five intense members. "Carpentry" will be starting in a couple of weeks and "Women's Bodies/Women's Minds" will be going by the beginning of June. Registration is still open for "Before and After the Revolution."

An application for funding submitted to the Provincial government has been turned down as has a request for housing for the Women's Centre, made to the Premier (Why did all the retired Crosbies etc., get funds to build a sexist Retired MEN'S Club?) Our committee to look into funding has just prepared yet another application, to the Secretary of State, for running costs and two salaries for next year. We'll let you know the outcome.

at Women's Centre

Celia Griffiths

This issue produced by Jan Black, Nancy Teppler and Sally Davis and our contributors. Deadline for next one 15/Vii

MEMBERSHIP MEETING
WOMEN'S CENTRE
June 2, 1975 • 8:15 pm
friends welcome

Fran Innes

PANEL: WHAT'S THE REAL DOPE ON VOLUNTEERISM?

Iris Kirby

Helen Porter

"The fruit of the human body is the mind. If it's left to lie uncultivated its contributions wither. Its mechanism falters. And something, somewhere dies..." -

And that should frighten you!

IS VOLUNTEERING THE SOLUTION?

- Or is being a volunteer just an extension of unpaid housework, reinforcing the role assigned to women (the helper, a buffer, a supporter in the home) by extending it to encompass the community?

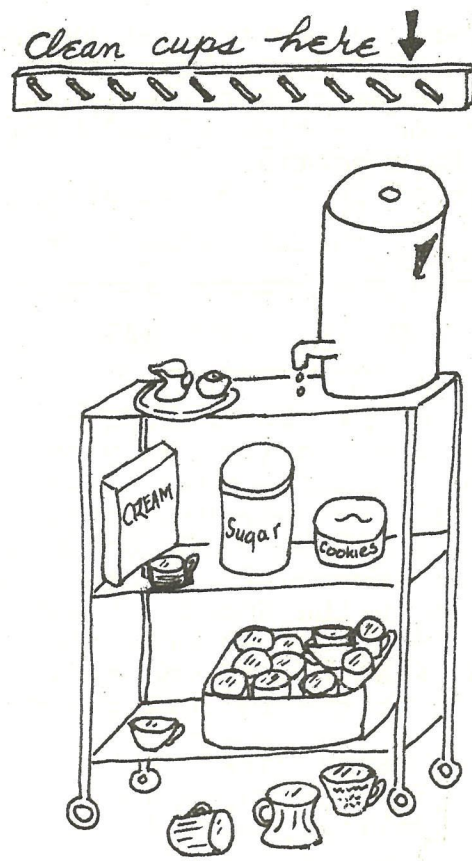
- Is it used as the solution for women who have not been able to seek challenging careers?

- Is it not possible that volunteering reinforces a woman's low self-image?

In other words, let's find out why we need volunteers in the Status of Women today and what it all means in perspective with our own lives and the future of society.

A stimulating evening's discussion is promised, led by three outstanding women.

Clean cups here ↓




WHAT OUR VOLUNTEERS ARE UP TO NOW

We are constantly reminded that without volunteers over and above the NSWC Committee, we would not get far.

Our present volunteers are:
Anne Alexander, Pat Angel, Mary Chalker, Anne Escott, Marilyn Furlong, Muffet Knowling, Janet Marshall, Karen Pearce, Margaret Robertson, Helen Symonds and Nancy Teppler.

They take on a variety of tasks such as the Vertical File, working on newspaper clipping scrap books, maintenance of our lending library, talking with drop-ins, helping the LIP members with their projects, and a bit of cleaning and straightening up.

So far, our Centre has avoided the pitfall that has caused the demise of Centres in other provinces - that of becoming a crisis centre. We know we can readily "burn ourselves

continued on page 6

OF THIS AND THAT

1. The NSWC has become a subscriber to the newly organized "Feminist News Service." We shall be receiving news packets periodically on progress and events occurring throughout Canada in the Women's Movement. News from our own province is to be sent to the regional office at the following address:

Lesley Watson
6160 Murray Place
Halifax, Nova Scotia
(902) 423-3369

(see page 5 for more!)

Eligible to subscribe is any group that pays the fee - \$7.00/Yr. - schools, media, women's centres, government, etc., even the RCMP.

2. June 19th will see Lillian Bouzane off to Mexico City to represent us at the International Women's Year World Wide Conference. "Adios Amiga!"

3. FOR SALE - two electric heaters, 4 and 5 feet long. (good as new - almost!) Make us an offer near \$10.00 and get ready for a Nfld. summer!

OpEN HOUSE

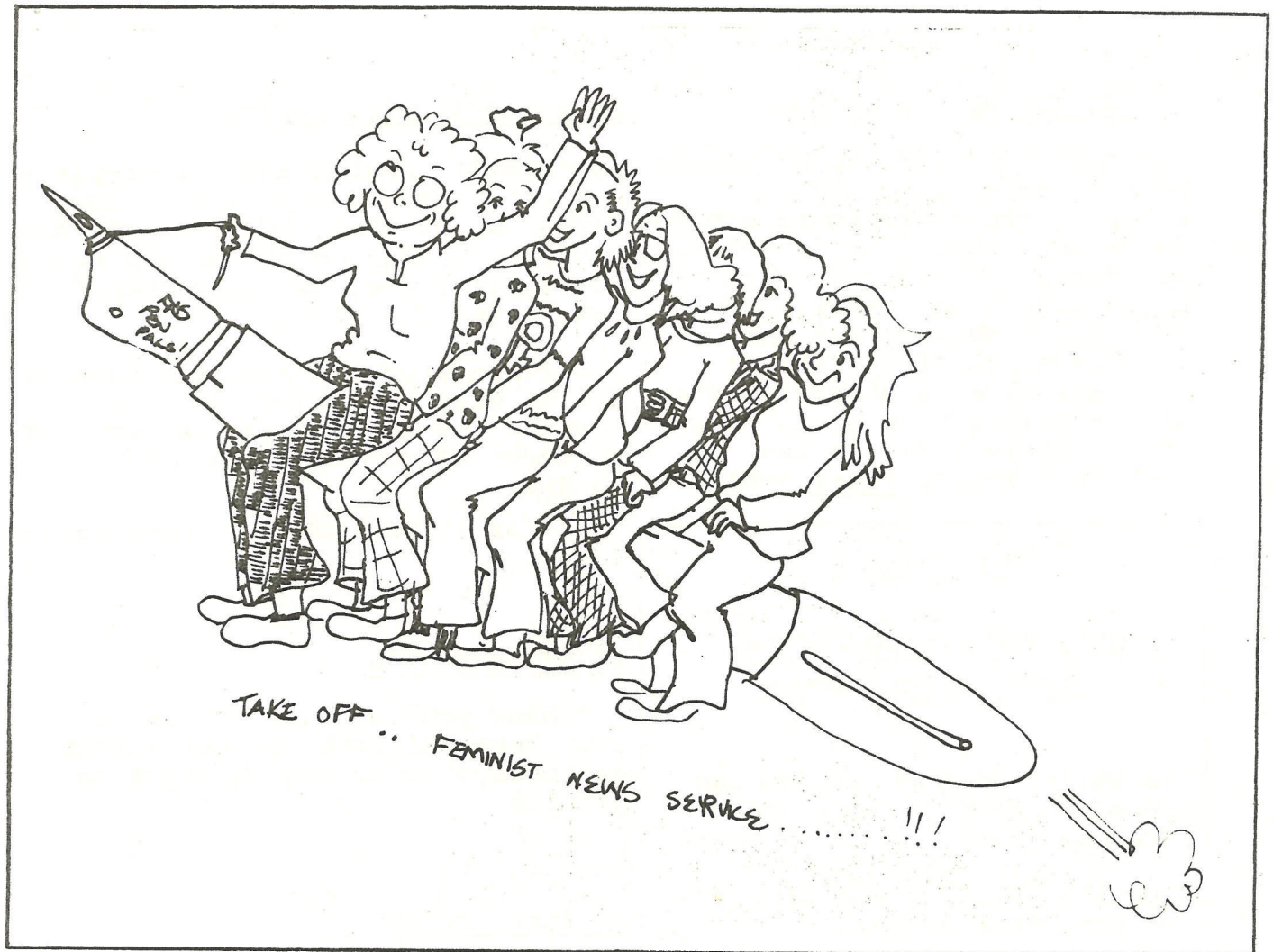
The Women's Centre is open over the summer, so drop in and borrow a book, have a cup of tea and, best of all, try our recent acquisition - a sectional couch. Very comfortable and conducive for chatting with a new friend. We thank the donors!

It will be Open House for the July membership meeting.

REMEMBER

First Monday - July 7th
8:15 p.m.

Members are invited to attend the business meetings held each Wednesday evening, 8:00 p.m.
at: THE WOMEN'S CENTRE



FEMINIST NEWS SERVICE
(background)

The Feminist News Service held its policy and organization conference in Winnipeg on March 27 to 31, 1975, to establish a vehicle for the exchange of news concerning women's issues to women across Canada. Sally Davis attended from NSWC.

Delegates to the conference saw the lack of a reliable communications network as one of the reasons for the fragmented nature of the women's movement in Canada. The women felt that FNS could be an important factor in alleviating the problems of geographic, lingual and cultural isolation.

Delegates to the conference included women from feminist newsletters, newspapers, publications and presses from Victoria, B.C. to St. John's, Nfld.

...VOLUNTEERS - continued

out," if we try to do more than being a referral centre - a stepping stone for women who do not know their rights, nor where to turn to demand solutions to their urgent and pressing problems. While providing a referral service, NSWC at the same time is hammering away at the powers that be to make this society work for its members. That's their job!!!

WHO CAN GO?

ATLANTIC CONFERENCE ON
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Please let us know if you can represent NSWC at this conference.

June 15, 16, 17, 1975 at
Halifax, Nova Scotia.

This is a conference to bring together persons involved in social development, social services and similar work in the Atlantic Provinces.

We have been invited to send a representative and a scholarship will be provided for covering full costs. If available, call the Women's Centre and report to Loretta Kelly - immediately.

You must be a volunteer of NSWC to qualify.

ON THE ROAD WITH MARIAN

She's off! Marian and her co-partner got underway May 21st on the first lap of their IWY tour of the province. See the map on the cover for their route, and last month's Newsletter for details.

The first stop was Port aux Basques. Marion will be sending us a run-down on her experiences as the tour proceeds across from West to North to East.

Look for ON THE ROAD ... next Newsletter.

IN APPRECIATION

A "thank you" to Diane Duggan of Kitchener-Waterloo for her recent assistance regarding an abortion problem.

ROSEMARY BROWN

The feminist and socialist candidate for the New Democratic Party has had to postpone her trip to Nfld. It was originally scheduled for the end of May.

However, NSWC has available a tape of the speech she would have given. This is for loan to individuals or groups during the next few weeks.

CALL THE WOMEN'S CENTRE

FOR BOOKING THE TAPE MADE

BY ROSEMARY BROWN

BOOKS + BOOKS + BOOKS + BOOKS + BOOKS + BOOKS + BOOKS + BOOKS

WE HAVE NEW BOOKS FOR THE LIBRARY

Ms. Means Myself by Gladys Hunt. "The Christian Credo for today's liberated woman." A book about love, God and liberation.

Woman in Sexist Society: Studies in Power and Powerlessness, edited by Vivian Gornick and Barbara K. Moran. A collection of articles by women on women's issues.

The Tool Book, put together through the collective effort of the Dimwit auto group and People's Press. This is a peoples car repair manual that tells you what tools you need and how to use them most effectively in car repair. Appears to be an excellent manual and is one chapter of a book of a potential primer on auto mechanics planned by the Dimwit auto group.

The Feminine Fix-It Handbook by Kay B. Ward. Another excellent fix-it book with everything you need to know to do it yourself. Repairs, refinishing, painting, plumbing, household emergencies, etc... and when to yell for help!

NEVER DONE - THREE CENTURIES OF WOMEN'S WORK IN CANADA by the Corrective Collective.

Not all are in agreement that NEVER DONE is quite the good book its visual appearance would have you think. The illustrations by Colette French are the best part of the book according to the review which appeared in BOOKS in CANADA, Vol. 4, No. 2 for February 1975. The review is critical of the book, disagreeing with the claim that it is a history. Rather the reviewer sees it as "a feminist polemic of a most mediocre nature...rarely rises above the level of highschool satire." BUT according to this reviewer, the real weakness of NEVER DONE is also the basic weakness of the Women's Liberation Movement. Feminists have yet to hammer out a coherent philosophy. S.D.

The Female Revolution has just begun

Sir: Women's Lib, as we all know, is a movement supporting equality for the fairer sex. Women of today, more so than yesterday, have taken a more firm and stubborn stance against the rising of male dominance, or male chauvinism.

We have finally freed ourselves of our cocoons and have, at long last, come to recognize our own merits and potentials. We have risen above the standards of being merely sex objects or men's slaves and have found, after many centuries search, a place for ourselves at the head of society. We have found in ourselves, as women, a desire to grow in our own way. We have learned to accept the challenge, a fierce one we encounter as a result of a generally "male-governed" world.

We have been scrutinized for our liberative efforts but plunge onward, determined as women are. We have developed a greater respect for

ourselves as full-pledged human beings and, as I should have mentioned earlier, have crawled out of our kitchens to find ourselves winning world tennis championships as well as breaking world swimming records. We have attained a more deliberate stand in politics and have even invaded the male realm of the clergy.

After all, who are men to say if we should spend our lives in aprons? Who are men to judge individual potential? What are men, much more than us, that they have the majority of communal opinion? In short, what puts men closer to being superhuman than women?

So men, after posing these questions and reflecting upon the situation for a moment, prepare yourselves! We've only just begun!

Cabrini High School, Curling

Debbie Wells

WESTERN
Corner Brook, Nfld. n.d.

MHAs must give women

EVENING TELEGRAM 2/1/75 justice before the law

Sir: I should like to correct some of the inaccurate statements made by Leo Barry, minister of mines and resources, in his address to the National Secretaries Association.

If the April 25, 1975 edition of your paper has quoted Mr. Barry correctly, then he told the secretaries that he "believes that women in Newfoundland are discriminated against and exploited in many areas," and "corporate hiring practices, including the practices of government, still operate effectively to bar women from top decision-making positions." The reason he gives for this discrimination is that there has not been any great grounds well of popular opinion among the majority of Newfoundland women that changes are necessary. What an admission for a cabinet minister! to declare that he is aware of this discrimination and will not remove it because no one has asked him to do so. Have members of the legislature not the responsibility to give women justice before the law? Is this not what Mr. Barry's job is all about?

While women may not have produced Mr. Barry's grounds well, they have, over the years, made numerous requests to government for better social and economic conditions for themselves and for society at large. Some recent examples include the brief presented to the premier and two other ministers by the group, WOMEN IN PUBLIC LIFE; this brief requested justice in employment and job promotion for women who work for the government. It also recommended that the government implement the 57 recommendations of the federal royal commission on the status of women which fall within the jurisdiction of the province, and one of these recommendations has to do with the concept of equal partnership in marriage about which Mr. Barry "couldn't recall the government receiving any representation from women." After the first meeting with the premier and ministers to discuss this submission, Mr. Moores refused to meet with the group again, cancelling the date for the second meeting.

The human rights committee of the Newfoundland Status of Women Council met with the ministers of the crown in 1974 and pointed out the discrimination that exists both at the government level and at

the corporate level against women who seek "top decision-making jobs." There was also a request from this group that at least one of the positions then open on the public service commission be filled by a woman. Needless to say, the positions have all been filled by men. The Early Childhood Development Association has been trying to get legislation and funding for day care centres for two years. Their brief, which was presented to the government in December 1974 with the hope that some positive action might result, has been ignored.

I am sure there are other women's groups whose requests for changes in government legislation and practices have been treated in a similar manner.

Mr. Barry's reference to the militant aspects of women's liberation having turned off women in the province from promoting International Women's Year is a strange comment. First, to what militant acts is Mr. Barry referring? Who committed these acts, when, and where? Newfoundland women who want change have worked through the medium of briefs, deputations and meetings with government. Are these the militant acts to which Mr. Barry refers?

Mr. Barry would like to see women in the legislature in order to have someone to seek change in the legislation that he recognizes but won't change. Yes, there should be women in the legislature, but has any political party in the past ever given a woman a district where there has been half a chance of getting elected? None that I can find. The few women who have run were always given seats that have been overwhelmingly for whatever party the woman candidate wasn't. Maybe it is time for all women to vote for any women candidates who present themselves, since members of the legislature seem incapable of bringing in legislation that would adequately establish women's rights. It's something for women to think about, and perhaps that is the one good thing that could come out of Mr. Barry's unfortunate presentation.

And one further point: it wasn't Mr. Barry who first requested that legislation be changed to allow women to work in underground mines as he claims; that dubious honor goes to the Iron Ore Company of Canada.

LILLIAN BOUZANE
170 Fortney Road,
St. John's

Group wants more women involved in decision-making

A St. John's women's group wants to see increased numbers of women involved in the political and decision-making process — in industry and on administrative boards and the like — and Mines and Energy minister Leo Barry says he agrees with them.

He was commenting Wednesday after paying a visit to the Women's Centre, Bond Street, operated by the Newfoundland Status of Women Council, at the group's invitation. The invitation was extended him in the wake of his recent speech to a secretaries' group at the Hotel Newfoundland, where he called on women to become more involved in making decisions from key positions within society.

One of the items he discussed with the group, as part of talks he described as "frank and very interesting", was a suggestion that a commissioner be appointed by government to protect the existing rights of women provided under the province's Human Rights Code.

Actually there is more to this than meets the eye, because of the still-confused status of women, often highly unequal in Mr. Barry's opinion, within various areas of law. Provincial jurisdiction in matters of civil rights is one of the few clearly-stipulated areas of provincial jurisdiction in the British North

American.

One area where he expects to see legislation forth coming eventually, which should equalize women's status more, concerns property rights of married women, or more correctly, of women about to be divorced from their husbands. It is presently quite within the law for a judge to rule that a divorced women forfeit all her property to her husband, and he along with the Newfoundland Status of Women Council and others want that changed.

EVENING TELEGRAM MAY 8 1975

CORNER BROOK ON THE LINE

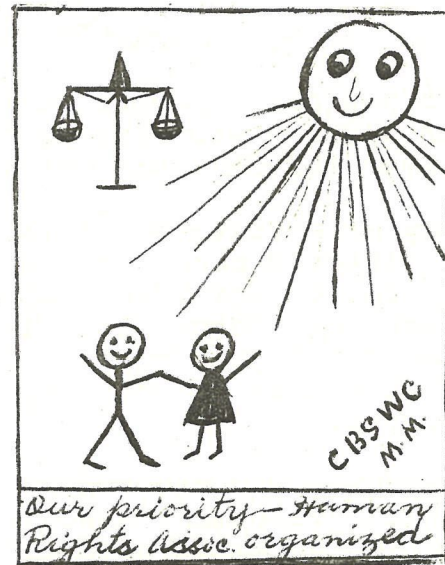
At the instigation of the Corner Brook Status of Women Council, Dr. B. Bhattacharya, of the Nfld.-Labrador Human Rights Assoc., paid a visit to our city and spoke at a gathering of thirty interested people in the Holiday Inn. ...we were disappointed at the small number that turned up to hear the learned man talk on the protection of individual rights. We understand many requests for help are reaching the Doctor from the West Coast and other parts of the province.

An election of officers was held and we were indeed pleased with the outcome. Jim Boyles, CBC radio producer was elected president of the new Chapter. Barbara Sharp, a nursing instructor at Western Memorial Hospital was named secretary, and Ann Shuster, a physiotherapist at the hospital was chosen treasurer. Four persons were also chosen to act as a board of directors with the option of adding more names later.

Since then the chapter has held their meetings in the Women's Centre at 31 West Street. They will probably be obtaining office space in the same building.

We were surprised and encouraged to see the writing of a budding feminist, fifteen year old Debbie Wells of Cabrini High School, Curling. Am enclosing her letter to the Western Star for your Newsletter. Page 7.

One of our members (retired) is presently engaged as a storyteller in a seven week project for pre-school children. She is one of eight women who will be participating in the "unikaktok"



The books are carefully selected to bring joy to both boys and girls.

We have given considerable thought to obtaining stories on noteworthy women both living and dead, with encouraging results, which will be related later.

Mary Mac Isaac

MORE NEWS FOLLOWS

In addition to the above account we learn that the membership is growing for the Corner Brook Council. They are attracting women because of the many activities including working for the election of two women to the school board, and tackling discrimination on the media.

"Would your group care to join us in a media monitoring project?"

If there is a reader of this Newsletter who would like to monitor the media in a province-wide attack, please contact Loretta Kelly at the Women's Centre in St. John's. Let's join Western Nfld. with the East and wipe out sexist remarks from the air!

DAY CARE

If you plug up your ears with cotton, wear ear muffs either over or under 5 stocking caps, then, of course, you will not hear the clamor for Day Care Centres, my dear Mr. Ank Murphy.

Day Care Centres top the list of priorities wherever and whenever children's needs are being considered. The hue and cry is growing louder and more desperate by the day as increasing numbers of mothers are forced into the labour market. Any responsible government official can't help but hear the call to do something, unless of course he/she completely blocks off his/her hearing with cotton, etc.

Day Care was the subject for a Workshop conducted by the Early Childhood Development Association, April 4th and 5th in St. John's. The intriguing title of Guilt, Growth and Self-Respect - The Effect of Day Care on Women was the topic handled by 4 experienced panelists.

The psychologist on the panel, Dr. Lois Hayweiser, began by saying that every adult has two strong drives influencing his/her life - to have children and to be recognized as someone who is needed.

Dr. Hayweiser went on to explain that in the "good ole days" when rural life predominated, big families were in and these included grandparents, aunts and uncles, cousins, etc. all living within easy access of each other. Our psychologist panelist called this the "extended family". Children brought up under these conditions were shared among the various relatives.

THE EXTENDED FAMILY - Living on a farm meant work from sun-up to sun-down. Existence depended on everyone pitching in. Children had their chores and grew up with the knowledge that they were needed. They developed a self respect. Women could count on help from relatives with the care of the many children. Often they had an independent income from the sale of the butter and eggs, so they too had no trouble establishing an identity and self-respect.

THE NUCLEAR FAMILY - Today with the exodus to the towns and cities, the family ties have shrunk to a nucleus of mother, father and children. Father is the breadwinner. Mother does the housework, takes care of the children and is supportive to the husband. She receives no independent income and probably responds when asked that she does not work, she is just a housewife.

According to Dr. Hayweiser, a study has been made which determined that in spite of electric gadgets found in most homes of today, a woman's schedule is as full as when working on the farms in the old days. This is explained by the higher standards for cleanliness and the fact that there are many more opportunities to participate in a variety of activities. Also we should realize that with the smaller family unit, the chores no longer are spread among the rela-

DAY CARE - con'd

tives, but fall most likely on the shoulders of mothers.

The problems women face today seem to stem from the Nuclear Family set-up - a self-destructing unit, according to our psychologist. Children are not knit into an on-going cooperative team with chores essential to the survival of the family. And women find themselves as just cogs, relentlessly faced with endless routines that isolate them and leave no time to be themselves. On top of that they are made to feel guilty if they think about placing their children in Day Care Centres.

The answer seems to lie in Day Care Centres for the solution to the problems faced by the nuclear family. This applies not only to the family where both parents must work, but also for families where the woman is at home. Day Care Centres are the substitute for the extended family.

Since Day Care Centres need to achieve certain standards, the provincial government must be involved in order to provide funding. SOCIETY OWES IT TO ITS CITIZENS TO PROVIDE UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO CHILD CARE FOR ALL CHILDREN WHO NEED OR WANT IT. (as stated in RCR on S. of W.)

1500 men, women and children took to the streets in Montreal March 20th demanding government provision of Day Care Centres. And in Nova Scotia, preschoolers and parents sang, "If you're angry and you know it, stamp your feet" in the lobby of Nova Scotia's legislature, protesting a steep rise in fees for Day Care Centres.

In Newfoundland, many hundreds of names either on petitions or on individual letters have been piling up on Ank Murphy's desk, we are told. The Day Care Act has reached cabinet, but there it sits. Mr Murphy is indifferent. He thinks those signatures represent the efforts of a few busybodies at the Women's Centre. He believes that woman's place is in the home like in the "good ole days" - not recognizing that times have changed since those days.

The argument that Day Care Centres are too expensive is often used by government officials. Expensive? Yes, but not as expensive as the cost of caring for children who grow up to be social misfits. Never forget that the first five years of a child's life are the most important ones. And we must also take into account the well-being of parents who under present circumstances are more often than not frustrated and emotionally distraught because of their inability to cope in a nuclear family set-up.

"If you are angry and want to show it" watch for publicity on coming events in which you can add your voice as well as presence to the growing numbers who want the Day Care Act to be passed now! After all what better time than International Women's Year!!!!

Sally Davis

Bordeaux Jail,
May 3d, 1975.

Dear Friend,

It is obvious now that it is the intention of the authorities to destroy me by all possible means: In spite of the statement given by Quebec Justice Minister Jerome Choquette to the "Globe and Mail" that he did not intend to prosecute me further because I was "Humiliated" enough, he obviously instructed the Crown to prosecute me on 4 more charges of abortion. Yesterday in court (with my lawyer absent, he was not even advised I was appearing) the trial date was set for June 9th. Thus, I have to go through the stress and strains of another trial in spite of the fact that I received the heaviest sentence of any doctor in an abortion trial (even when a woman died as a result of an abortion by a doctor I know of no case where the sentence exceeded mine, whereas quacks often got light or suspended sentences; it was clear from the judgement that I had not been sentenced for this one abortion but for the challenge to this immoral law, which means in fact all abortions that I have done.) Why then the additional charges? I do not know what is in the mind of the Crown, but the effect on me is obvious - it takes away my chances of going to a minimum security prison - I am kept at Bordeaux jail, which after Parthenais and Ste. Anne des Plaines is the worst prison in Canada- ; it takes away my chances for parole or for employment outside, it gives the Crown leverage to impose impossible bail conditions on me as they had done before, and it imposes added financial obligations on me for legal expenses. The Quebec Revenue Department is obliging them by having all my assets frozen for the last 15 months and by refusing to negotiate or to soften their stand in spite of the fact that their case is based on phony charges they are content to sit back and to choke me financially even though the reason to freeze all my assets was that I apparently intended to run away from the country. Now that I voluntarily submitted to the authorities and am in prison they still have not moved to ease on the shackles they imposed on me that prevent me from paying my bills, paying my lawyers or have adequate funds for legal help in upcoming legal battles. I was told by someone who claims to know that the Crown prosecutor boasted of wanting to ruin me financially by multiplying legal procedures against me. I have no reason to doubt that this may be true.

My head nurse is also facing charges of abortion on two counts and I had promised her that I will pay her legal expenses; since my phones were tapped for years and I have good reason to believe that hers were too, it is clear that not only did the prosecutor want to get at her in a most vicious and unwarranted way, but also to ruin me financially. I am now without funds and without income for a long time to come, can't even sell my own house in order to pay my lawyers. My medical licence is coming up for review and I may lose my right to practice medicine. I am in the lion's den subjected daily to indignities and humiliations (which are part of prison routine and added ones depending on the whims of people who are ideologically opponents of women's right to safe abortion.

My only hope is that my friends outside, the public, public opinion, will help me. My morale and spirit are not broken and they will not easily break; but I am worried and concerned about the immediate future. I know I could ease my situation and plead guilty so that I might get concurrent sentences. This would save me stress, expense and aggravation. But it is against all my principles to plead guilty to something which is not a crime but an attempt to act in a humane and decent, compassionate way by helping women who need abortions. If you believe, as I do, that the right to a safe medical abortion is a fundamental human right, and if you want me to

cont.

continue to fight for this right and to help me personally against all the forces of reaction who want to destroy me, I appeal to you to help me financially so that I may be able to defend myself in court. Should a situation arise that I may not need the money thus offered me I promise hereby to transfer it to the appropriate organisations fighting for women's rights or civil liberties as I did when I was able before my funds were seized. I must say I am reluctant to make this appeal. If I do it, it is because I am now pushed to the wall by our enemies and because I am not fighting for myself alone.

I always considered as my goal not only to help people in need but to do whatever in my power so that by my acts and challenge to the law others might be helped as well. I never refused any women an abortion because of inability to pay, a policy widely known by welfare agencies, women's help groups, citizen's committees and others. It is true I had made a lot of money but I earned it honestly by providing a competent and essential, and, in many cases life-saving service. Had I done any other kind of surgery I would have made as much or maybe more money and I would not have had to pay all the legal expenses and be exposed to the harassment by police, courts, Quebec Revenue people, rabid fanatics supported by the Chatholic Church and I would not have to face imprisonment, loss of license and income over an indefinite period of time.

Thus, although reluctantly, I do ask you for a contribution to permit me to carry on the fight. I also ask you for any kind of support for the cause and for me personally. Do everything you possibly can to bring pressure to bear on the responsible officials, M.P.'s, Ministers of Justice, federal and provincial, the Prime-Minister, advisory bodies, public opinion in general, so that the law be changed in such a way as to ensure that women have a right to safe, medical abortions and real access to them without hindrance and delay: and help me personally by protesting my unjust incarceration in spite of an acquittal by a jury and the continued harassment by demanding that all other charges be dropped.

I also urge you to join the Canadian Association for Repeal of the Abortion Laws (C.A.R.A.L.) of which I am a director. Together, we shall overcome this cruel, iniquitous, barbarous law which still exposes women to dangers of death, injury and stress, and victimizes doctors who are trying to help them.

Please help me to continue the fight for justice, humanity and sanity.

Thank you

Henry

Henry Morgentaler, M.D.
Prisoner #118658
Bordeaux Jail
Montreal, Que.

Sisters: - PLEASE GIVE AS GENEROUSLY AS POSSIBLE!

make a cheque to: CLAYTON RUBY in trust - Re Morgentaler
mail it to CARAL, Box 424, Cambridge (P) Ontario
All money will be paid exclusively to Dr. Morgentaler.

"WOMEN'S LIB"

OH CANADA, OH CANADA
 WE STAND ON GUARD FOR THEE -
 A COUNTRY WHERE THE RICHEST
 HAVE THE MOST RIGHT TO BE FREE.

ABORTION, ELSEWHERE, ON DEMAND
 IS FOR THE RICH, WHO LEAVE
 WHILE, BEHIND, THEIR POORER SISTERS STAND
 PRESSED BY LAW AND ALL AT HAND
 TO BEAR WHAT THEY CONCEIVE.

DIVORCE IS DIFFICULT, AT BEST
 EQUAL PAY IS YET A JEST -
 LIBERTY LIES IN SECURITY,
 NOT COMMON TO A MINORITY.

WHY DO I CARRY ON SO
 WHEN MY OWN LIFE'S QUITE ALL RIGHT?
 AM I A WOMEN'S LIBBER
 LOOKING FOR A CAUSE TO FIGHT?
 WHEN I WONDER TO MYSELF IF I REALLY THINK
I'M RIGHT -
 I HEAR SOME OTHER WOMAN'S CHILD
 CRYING IN THE NIGHT.

Nancy Teppler,
 April/75

WHERE I STAND ON ABORTION:

After giving much thought to analyzing the issue of abortion, I have come to the conclusion that it is necessary to separate the question of the morality of abortion from the legal aspect.

We each have the right to live by whatever moral standards we choose on this question without affecting the legality of abortion. This must be so treated that there are no legal restrictions interfering if a woman feels she must choose abortion.

There has been enough suffering!

N.T.

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
CONSEIL CONSULTATIF DE LA SITUATION DE LA FEMME

FOR ACTION NOW

Are you serious about ending discrimination against women? The Advisory Council on the Status of Women urges you to make your voices heard on three Bills currently before Parliament.

What are these three Bills? In brief, they include these provisions:

Bill C-20, given first reading on 10 October 1974, will give Canadian mothers an equal right with Canadian fathers to confer citizenship on their children.

Bill C-16, re-introduced on 8 October 1974, the 'Omnibus Bill' on the Status of Women, will give women equal status with men under the Canada Elections Act; will remove the rigid requirements for maternity leave benefits under the Unemployment Insurance Act; will give women equal status as 'breadwinner' under the Immigration Act.

Bill C-52, tabled for first reading on 17 February 1975, will give working women equal pension rights in the federal Public Service, in the Armed Forces, in the RCMP, and as Members of Parliament.

We urge you to write to your M.P.: House of Commons, Ottawa, Canada, K1A 0A6. No stamp is required. The message could simply state:

Dear M.P. (insert his/her name):

Please push for speedy passage of Bills

C-16, C-20, and C-52. Your constituent,

(sign your name).

Pay a visit to your M.P. in your riding office. At your next meetings, pass a resolution and send it to your M.P.'s and the Minister responsible for the Status of Women, the Hon. Marc Lalonde. Let M.P.'s, those who pass our laws, know your views!

NATIONAL ACTION COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

A Report on Second Annual Meeting ----- Wendy Williams *

Last weekend, I attended the 2nd annual meeting of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women. I arrived in Winnipeg on May 9th to 22° C. weather. Super! Unfortunately, the air conditioning at the YWCA, where the meeting was held, was not to be turned on until May 15th.

Friday night we registered and then attended a wine and cheese party. About fifty women plus one man, representing all parts of Canada, were there, i.e. women delegates from each province, territory and the federal government. The names of some of the groups who sent representation include - Anglican Church of Canada, United Church of Canada, I.O.D.E., Communist Party, Women's Bureau of the Manitoba Dept. of Labour, CUPE, Clearing House for Feminist Media.

Saturday morning started with a business meeting, followed by four plenary sessions. The topics and speakers for these sessions were:

- 1) Equal Pay for Work of Equal Value - Madeline Parent from the Confederation of Canadian Unions. (Excellent)
- 2) Birth Control and Abortion - Josephine Earn of the Family Planning Federation of Canada. (Okay)
- 3) Family Law - more especially matrimonial property - Arlene Gropper, a member of the Family and Children's Law Commission of B.C. (Excellent)
- 4) Child Care Services - Laura Mills, member of the Manitoba Child Care Association. (Excellent)

Saturday night we had a dinner following which Rosemary Brown, a member of the legislative house in B.C., candidate for N.D.P. leadership spoke. Sunday morning the business meeting was still going when I left to catch my plane. What did I learn? - Lots! Some examples:

- I. There is a difference between terms "day care" and "child care services."
- II. Property law is a provincial matter, even though the federal government produced an interesting paper on Family Property. Those provinces which have had Law Reform Commissions to change the present inequities have come up with very different solutions.
- III. Even though I kept my name on marriage, I cannot vote unless I register in my husband's name until Bill C-16 is passed.
- IV. Most delegates had grey hair - not a lot of young radicals who will grow out of it.
- V. Several provinces have an Advisory Council to the provincial government.
- VI. We are not so different from other Canadian Women.
- VII. If we want to change legislation we have to successfully run female candidates.

* Wendy Williams is our most recent replacement on the NSWC Committee which sees to it that our women's movement keeps moving. She replaces Thea Nation, who has moved out of the province. Wendy will bring a fresh point of view and renewed vigor to our forces and will be helpful especially over the summer when volunteers have the habit of coming and going.

FEMINISM AT THE COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

The Heads of Government, or their representatives, of the 33 Commonwealth countries met in Kingston, Jamaica, April 29 to May 6, 1975.

23 out of a total of 380 delegates were females according to the provisional directory. These 23 represented 11 of the 33 countries.

The Honourable Prime Minister, P.E. Trudeau included one woman in his delegation - his personal secretary.

Two of the female delegates were the Honourable Mrs. Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister of India and Mrs. Sirimavo R.D. Bandaranaike, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka.

Two delegates only were specifically concerned with women's affairs - Australia's delegation included the Prime Minister's advisor on Women's Affairs and Jamaica's included the Director of Women's Affairs.

Not surprisingly, women were better represented at the Delegation Secretary level - 44 out of a total of 71.

The final communique summing up the discussions contained 56 paragraphs -- paragraph 52 on women's issues, as follows:

"Women in Public Affairs

While recognising that there was increasing participation by women in the national affairs of many Commonwealth countries, Heads of Government emphasized the need to focus greater attention on the rights of women to ensure the availability of opportunities for them to participate on a basis of full equality in the political, economic, social and cultural activities of their countries. As far as possible existing and future Commonwealth programmes should take into account the needs and aspirations of women and genuine efforts should be made to provide for their full participation in national and international affairs."

Even though the writer of the above account has moved from Nfld., she has not forgotten us. Thank you Shirley Goundrey for sending us this eye witness report.

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

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