

July - juillet 1983

SUDBURY WOMEN'S CENTRE

CENTRE DES FEMMES



UPCOMING EVENTS!!

- JULY 4 Rape Crisis Centre meeting at 7:30 pm
- JULY 12 Women's Centre business meeting at 7:30. All members welcome.
- JULY 19 Native Women's Association meeting at 7:00 pm.
- JULY 27 Meeting of the Sudbury Women's Centre Day Care Committee at 7:30 pm. All Centre members welcome to attend.
- JULY 21 French study group at 7:30. See inside for more details.
- JULY 23 Rummage Sale at Carolynn Campbell's house, 44 Carleton Street from 10 am to 4 pm.

POSITION FILLED! One dedicated worn-out Newsletter Editor has been replaced by one dedicated, still energetic Editor. Free lessons welcome and appreciated.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED : the Women's Recovery Home is looking for volunteers to work in their office during the day. If you want more information or if you want to offer your help, please call Glenda Tappenden at 674-4193.

FUNDRAISING REPORT

Donations from membership (Thank you to all who donated!)

April - \$92.00

May - \$221.07

REMEMBER! We have charitable status and all donations are tax deductible.

AS WELL... We received \$200.00 from the City Grants Committee.

"Whatever women do they must do twice as well as men to be thought half as good... luckily, it's not difficult".



38 Beech Street West, Sudbury, Ontario P3C 1Z3
telephone: (705)-673-1916

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

This year's annual membership meeting was held May 30th at the Senator Motor Hotel. Last year's steering committee decided that a dinner meeting would be a nice change... and so, we drank a little cheer, we ate a lot of good food (there were a lot of second helpings of the Black Forest Cake!) , and yes, we did talk business.

The following amendments to By-Law I were passed at the meeting:

1. Article II, Section III was amended to read, "Twelve members, two of whom must be elected members of the Steering Committee, shall constitute a quorum for a General Membership meeting. Four Steering Committee members shall constitute a quorum for a meeting of the Steering Committee
2. Article V, Section I was amended to read, "There shall be a Steering Committee made up of 7 members elected by the membership at the annual meeting pursuant to the provisions of Article II".
3. Article V, Section V was amended to add the following:
 "(f) Member-at-large;"
 "(g) Member-at-large;"
4. Article V, Section VII was amended to read as follows: "A request for resignation of a Steering Committee member must be given to the Steering Committee member, in writing, two weeks prior to a General Membership and must be accepted by a 2/3 majority vote of those in attendance. The member making this complaint must give notice of the complaint and of the upcoming General Membership meeting to all members."

STEERING COMMITTEE

A new Steering Committee was also elected at this year's annual meeting. We are providing a list of members and their telephone numbers: please keep this handy, as names and phone nos. of Steering Committee members will not be reprinted.

Kathleen Howes	President	560-2799
Maureen Hyman	Treasurer	560-2393
Jennifer Keck	Membership	673-5427
Monique Soulodre	Secretary	675-1537
Vivianne Dembiski	Newsletter	674-3870
Joanne Kuchera	Member-at-large	969-2956
Penny Early-Tough	Member-at-large	897-6658

We have asked all Steering Committee members to provide a little herstory of themselves, so that Women's Centre members can "read all about them". On the next page, some background info. on this week's "feature Steering Committee members"... other members to be featured in future newsletters!

Kathleen Howes has been involved with the Centre since its inception; both as an active member and as past Secretary. Besides being a lawyer in private practice and a mother to 7 mth. old Owen, Kathleen is a member of the Sudbury Rape Crisis Centre, and a Board member of the Industrial Training Centre for Women.

Maureen Hyman is continuing as Centre Treasurer, and has been a member of the Women's Centre since its beginning. Maureen's main responsibility is looking after two-year old Ana, but she also devotes a great deal of time to Project Ploughshares and to the Women's Centre.

Penny Early Tough is a full-time mother who has had many years experience in the Social Work field in Sudbury. Penny has been a Centre member for over two years, and feels that the Centre is the necessary place for women to get together and discuss the issues affecting them. She looks forward to meeting other full-time moms at the Centre. Besides being member-at-large, Penny is also Staff Liaison person at the Centre.

Vivianne Dembiski (that's me, so I'll now drop the third person). I've been a member for a little over a year now, and I am also a member of the Rape Crisis Centre. My main hobbies include improving my typing skills, searching for corrector tape (of which there is none at this very moment), ranting and raving about sexist commercials, and convincing my dear mother that feminism does not make me unhappy.

The first planning meeting for the Affirmative Action forum on Sat., October 22 was held June 9 at the Steel Hall. Representatives of the Sudbury Women's Centre, The Sudbury & District Labour Council, USWA Local 6500, the Sudbury Women Teachers' Federation, PSAC, the Sudbury Women's Action Group, CUPE, and interested individuals were present. Enthusiasm for public education around all aspects of affirmative action was high. Shelly Acheson, Human Rights Director for the Ontario Federation of Labour, spoke about the OFL Statement on Women & Affirmative Action. The next meeting will be at the Women's Centre, Wednesday, June 29 at 7:30 pm.

FRENCH STUDY GROUP : we're starting a new kind of study group at the Women's Centre. We've decided to get together once a month to read and discuss feminist articles in French. Our first get-together will be Thursday, July 23 at the Women's Centre, 7:30 pm. We'll be discussing an article from the March issue of La vie en rose, "Le viol n'existe plus" which is about the new sexual assault legislation. This group is for anglophone women who want to improve/practice their skills in French (or francophone women with a lot of patience). Call Marylou for more info.

SUMMER IS HERE AND THAT MEANS IT'S RUMMAGE SALE TIME FOR THE CENTRE. OUR NEXT RUMMAGE SALE IS SATURDAY JULY 23 AT CAROLYNN CAMPBELL'S HOUSE, 44 CARLETON STREET FROM 10 am TO 4 pm. BRING YOUR RUMMAGE TO THE WOMEN'S CENTRE THE WEEK OF JULY 18. IF YOU CAN'T BRING IT DOWN CALL US AT 673-1916 AND WE'LL COME TO PICK IT UP.

The next meeting for the Sudbury All Gay Alliance is to be held the evening of Wed., July 13. Please call 674-3002 Tuesday/Thursday eve, from 7 to 10 for more info.

The Health Page - June-July

This page is something of an experiment - since I'm interested in Women's health and needed a forum to explore ideas and pass on relevant information to the members of the Women's Centre...

I welcome your input - questions on health you'd like answered - I may not have all the answers,

but I'll certainly check things out!

Future plans for this page will include methods of contraception "female disorders", explanations of PAP smears, venereal diseases, nutrition information... what do you want to know about? Call the Centre & leave your suggestion

"WHY ME?"

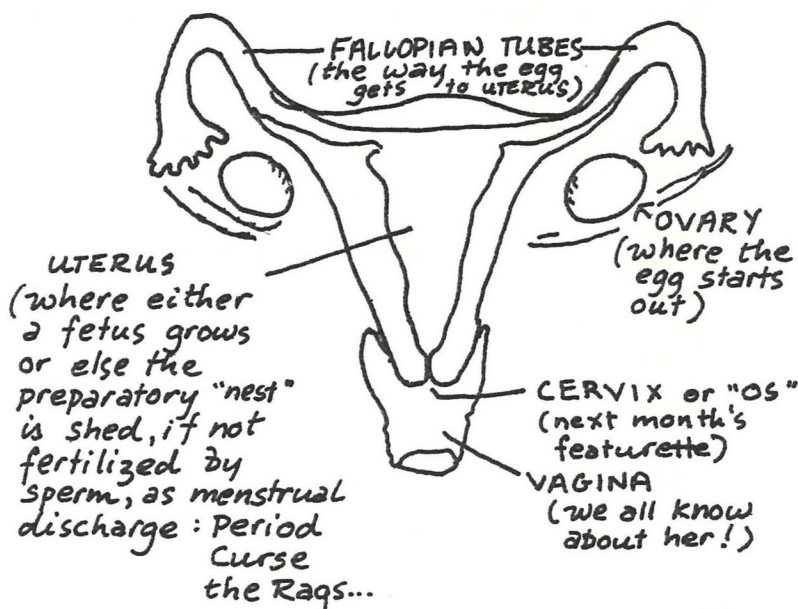
Even though my first degree was in Fine Art (Ottawa U., 1974), I've always been involved in some fashion, with health issues - until I finally took the plunge into the BScN program (that's a Science Degree in Nursing) at Laurentian U. I'll be graduating in the Spring of 1984, ten years after my first degree!

WHERE TO BEGIN?

Begin at the beginning, as my mother always said. Most women have scanty knowledge and therefore minimal understanding, of the internal workings of their reproductive systems. Doctors don't seem to have time to do much more than poke and prod. They aren't there to teach us, they're there to stop us from getting sick or to help us get well. At least that's what they're taught.

TAKE THIS DIAGRAM and imagine it superimposed on your body below your navel. (What the doctor always calls "your belly-button")

Sometimes (if you aren't on the Pill), in the middle of your menstrual cycle, you'll feel a small sharp cramping pain on one side or the other. This is ovulation, or the egg exploding from one ovary, on its way to fertilization (if there's any sperm handy) or to disintegration. If unfertilized, menstruation occurs in about 14 days.



"THAT TIME OF THE MONTH!"

Interestingly, most women either menstruate or ovulate around the Full Moon. Not too strange - we're mostly salt-water - just like ocean tides! See you - Rose Marie

Ce bouquin publié par la Fédération des Femmes canadiennes-françaises se veut "une collection de témoignages des femmes francophones ordinaires sur leur vie". Les recherchistes ont travaillé pendant un an à recueillir près de 500 témoignages ou biographies de femmes francophones hors-Québec: femmes pionnières qui, entre le travail de la maison, le soin des enfants, la couture et le train des animaux, ont trouvé le temps de s'occuper des enfants, d'être sage-femme ou enseignante, et de transmettre les valeurs culturelles francophones.

La participation de ces femmes dans leurs communautés croissantes n'a jamais été reconnu; on ne parle pas d'elles dans les livres d'histoire, on n'érige pas de monuments; on les oublie.

Comme aujourd'hui, la valeur de la femme au sein de sa communauté est restreint à la valeur qu'on lui accorde au sein de sa famille: une femme est soit "la mère de" ou "la femme de" (de fait, la sémantique ici reflète bien notre perception de la réalité; c'est comme dire en anglais Mr. Smith's woman").

Les témoignages choisis pour la publication dans ce bouquin sont à la fois tristes et pleins de joie: tristes parce que ces femmes parlent de misère, de travail long et ardu, d'injustice; pleins de joie parce qu'elles parlent de fierté, d'amour, de folie. Voici donc quelques exemples de ces témoignage

Etre femme à part entière c'est de ne pas être:

la femme de
la soeur de
la blonde de
la mère de
la secrétaire de

"Quand je suis arrivée, y'avait pas beaucoup de de français, mais moi j'ai pas eu de misère parce que je restais à la maison pour élever mes petits. Ça fait que c'est mon mari qui faisait toutes les commissions. Puis lui y connaissait la langue un peu parce qu'y était déjà venu. J'me souviens y'allait au magasin m'acheter des robes des fois... c'était pareil avec mes chaussures. Aujourd'hui on fait pas ça comme de raison".

" Si mon mari avait été de mon dire, on en aurait pas eu tant d'enfants (12). On aurait pu modérer ça. Quand bien même que c'était péché je l'aurais fait pareil. On en faisait d'autre péchés pis on ne s'en occupait pas. Les hommes ça sacraient pis ça buvaient, c'était péché ça. Les hommes, c'est pas pour l'amour de l'église qu'ils faisaient des p'tits à tous les ans. Un homme se mariait pis y'avait tous ses droits. Y pensait à contenter son corps à lui, puis c'était tout. La plupart des hommes étaient comme ça, pis avec ça, ils étaient dans la loi, l'église les encourageaient."

A NOTER! Ce bouquin est disponible pour la lecture au bureau du Secrétariat d'Etat à Sudbury: si vous désirez l'emprunter, S.V.P. composez le 675-0621 et demandez pour Vivianne.

6 DAYCARE COMMITTEE UPDATE: the newly formed DAYCARE COMMITTEE has been meeting regularly to further develop the grant proposal for a Day Care Resource Project. The project will include a registry of local caregivers and workshops for parents, caregivers and anyone else interested in quality daycare.

If you have any ideas on what you'd like to see covered in the workshops, please let us know. You can call me at 675-6518 or call Marylou at the Centre.

Also, we have a copy of the daycare survey drawn up by the local Children's Services Committee and their permission to use it. Watch for it in the newsletter in the near future. If you do not have any children, please pass it on to a friend who does.

Our grant proposal should be ready for submission by early July. If you have any questions or if you would like to be on the Daycare Committee, our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday July 27 7:30 at the Centre.

Christine Peets

BOOK REVIEW

The Double Ghetto: Canadian Women and their segregated work. Pat Armstrong & Hugh Armstrong.

We tend to look to books for answers-here's one which raises some questions about inequality between the sexes. As their spouses' earnings increase, do more women stay at home because they no longer need to work, and prefer to be dependent on their husbands, OR are there more men as top executives because they have had traditional stay-at-home wives to do double parent and household duties and to carry the major burden of civic responsibilities? Would equal pay for work of equal value just mean higher paid job ghettos that are still menial and repetitive? Is it that women's work in the home limits their time, energy and commitment to work outside, OR is it that women's housework only provides them with skills and experience that are transferable to low paid and low status jobs in the workforce?

Women's participation in the labour force varies directly with the presence and ages of children in the home: is this because childrearing is a woman's responsibility OR is it because of social stigma, the high cost of daycare and the fact that women have little to gain financially by working if all they can find is low paid work? Are women paid low wages because of plentiful supply of willing workers, or because their jobs are low status and low skilled, or because of prejudice against women, OR because their work is essential to the maintenance of labour-intensive manufacturing and service sectors where low wages are an economic reality?

Do children learn stereotyped roles in schools with female elementary teachers, higher paid male high school teachers and male principals OR do they learn it in the home by being assigned sex-specific tasks and by accepting stereotyped parental roles?

If you can't find it elsewhere, beg, borrow, or steal it from Marylou - that's how I got to read it! Definitely a book to consider.

Jan Morel

FLASH! FLASH! FLASH! FLASH! FLASH! FLASH! FLASH! FLASH!

Do you realize that women's rights may soon be set back CENTURIES??
Do you realize that women might be forced to return to the dark
ages of backroom butcher abortionists?

THIS IS NO IDLE THREAT. If Joe Borowski is successful in his
legal case, in which he argues that the fetus has the right to
life under the Charter of Rights, there will be NO abortion
available whatsoever. Not only will this end the availability
in the present limited sense: if this case is successful, no
woman or girl can terminate a pregnancy, ever. Even if the girl
is 11 years of age and a rape victim. Even if the woman is
50 years of age with all her family grown. NEVER.

The Sudbury Women's Centre is launching the "PRO-CHOICE DEFENCE FUND",
and we will be raising money to defend those arrested at Morgentaler's
Clinics, to fight Borowski, and to fund our own law case in which
we claim that women have the right to an abortion under our
Charter of Rights, because of the right to "liberty of the person".
(this case was recently begun by the Canadian Abortion Rights
Action League, of which we are members).

We will also be sponsoring educationals on the right to choice.
We plan a forum in September or October, in which the insidious
implications of the Borowski case will be explained, and where we
will hear about C.A.R.A.L.'s case.

If you want to get involved with the "PRO-CHOICE DEFENCE FUND",
or if you want to get involved in this fight for women's rights,
please call Marylou Murray at the Centre. We can use all the
help we can get.



C.A.R.A.L. is a national organization
whose purpose is to ensure that no
woman in Canada is denied the right to
safe, legal abortion. Please show
your support and join. \$25 or what you
can afford. Send to:

C.A.R.A.L.
40 St. Clair Avenue East, Ste. 310
Toronto, Ontario
M4T 1M9 (416-961-1507)

Copies of C.A.R.A.L. newsletters are
available at the Women's Centre.

RAPE CRISIS CENTRE

8

As you may know, the Women's Centre is the information line for the Rape Crisis Centre, so we thought we would bring you up to date as to goings-on in the Rape Crisis Centre.

Things have really picked up since we hired our staff person, Sheila Kelly, in February. Sheila has spoken to several groups of high-school students, groups of employees and, as well has appeared on phone-in radio and television programs. Future engagements include the Sudbury & District Health Unit and hospitals on Manitoulin Island.

A representative of the Rape Crisis Centre has been involved in an inter-agency committee which is looking into improved treatment for incest victims in the Sudbury area. The Rape Crisis Centre has also been asked to participate on the Sudbury Board of Ed.'s Health Curriculum Committee which will be looking into changes in the present health curriculum.

At the present time, the Rape Crisis Centre is looking into the possibility of having an "Acquaintance Rape Prevention Series" taught at the Women's Centre and we are co-sponsoring, along with the Women's Centre, a Pornography Workshop which is set for September. We have also been taking action, whenever possible, in regards to events in Sudbury.

You may recall that recently a 19 year old man received a 5 year sentence for brutally raping a 57 year old Onaping Falls Woman (the Judge felt that the sentence shouldn't be too harsh because of his "youth"). The Rape Crisis Centre wrote to the Crown Attorney requesting an appeal for a harsher sentence. This appeal has been launched.

We also wrote the Executive Director of the Sudbury General Hospital in regards to a copy of a letter we received from a Sudbury woman who complained of overhearing a rape examination while she was in the Emergency Dept. We stressed the need for more suitable facilities for sexual assault victims.

Welcome to a new volunteer who has joined our ranks. The Rape Crisis Centre is always in need of new volunteers. If you are interested in becoming involved, either as a counsellor or as a public educator (speaker, writer, etc..) phone Sheila or Marylou at the Women's Centre.

MEDIAWATCH

Last month's newsletter stressed the importance of SPEAKING LOUDLY against ads. which are offensive to women, and the Mediawatch Committee can attest to that. We encourage all members to monitor local media and to bring offensive media portrayal of women to our attention.

We recently complained about an ad used by the Outdoorsman, which showed a cartoon figure of a woman whose breasts were falling out of a tight leather vest (will someone please explain what this has to do with canoes?),

This ad. was replaced with a very inoffensive cartoon of a man (but of course, he was not wearing a leather G-string!)

One of our members also complained about a matchbook in a local restaurant which read "if your wife can't cook, don't divorce her, bring her to our restaurant". The restaurant in question has received a letter from the Advertising Advisory Council.

During the summer of '83 the issue of "spouse battering" is being addressed in an attempt to initiate a treatment program for those who batter their spouses. The objective of this research is to design a treatment program to be presented to Family and Criminal Court judges, as well as to Probation & Aftercare, as part of the Offenders Probation Order.

However, the project is merely a feasibility study at this point in time. At present, an attempt is being made to evaluate the extent of this crime within our community.

If you are interested in learning more about the project, or if you believe that the program could benefit you personally, please contact Joyce Radford Program Developer, at the Fraternity, 273 Elm St. W., 674-3794. Your input could make the difference.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

WOMEN AND WORK IN THE 80's

SURVIVING THE TECHNOLOGICAL REVOLUTION

WHEN: October 8-11, 1983 (Thanksgiving weekend)

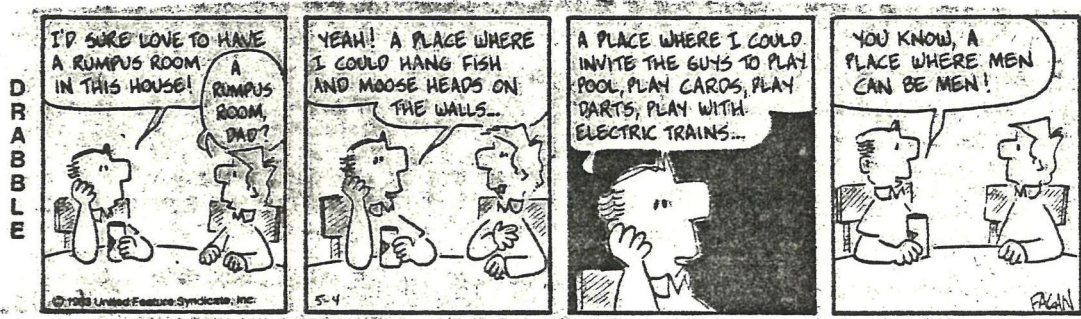
WHERE: Ste. Adèle, Québec (in the Laurentians, north of Montréal)

BY: Canadian Federation of Business & Professional Women's Clubs

OPEN TO EVERYONE

Panelists and workshop leaders required on EFFECTS AND STRATEGIES RE. MICRO TECHNOLOGY.

Contact: Ruth Linstead, Coordinator
536 Richard Ave.,
Verdun, Québec
H4H 2A4
Tel. (514) 768-6066



Consider these alarming facts: on March 8, 1981, the day after International Women's Day, the Toronto Sun's headline read "Fems Embrace Gays"; "Women Alive", an Alberta-based evangelical group, propounds that "women can find a purpose in life only through God and submission to their husbands" and the Canadian Klan has more than 500 card-carrying members and 200 subscribers to the Crusader.

With the daily worsening of our economic crisis, mor and more extreme right-wing groups are forming rapidly, and thanks to the lessons learned from the left during the 60's, these forces have achieved a definite influence in the political sphere of Canada.

As women, we must be aware of the threat posed by right-wing forces: the New Right centres its appeal on emotional social issues, and at the forefront is their claim that a return to traditional, family-oriented issues will cure the country's economic ills.

The New Right uses the romantic ideal of the happy, father-dominated household as a parallel to justify the demand for civil obedience and stronger government control.

It was largely due to the work of Phyllis Schlafly, the New Right's "Total Woman" that the Equal Rights Amendment was defeated in the U.S.

It seems that good ole' Phyllis fears that "equality for all" means that she will have to use unisex washrooms, work in coal mines, and use the men's locker room (at the Golden Door Spa in Los Angeles, no less). On feminism, Phyllis cries, "Man-haters, all of them!" On abortion, Phyllis cries "Murder!" No doubt Phyllis has close ties with the Great White North's Joe Borowski.

The New Right is a very real threat to the gains made possible by the women's movement: daycare, reproductive rights, equal pay for work of equal value, freedom from sexual assault are all targets for right-wing supporters

As women united, we can no longer accept this attack on our rights and freedoms, and we can no longer sit idly while the attack mounts fiercer.

from McCall's magazine, Shirley Streshinsky, on the not-so-weaker sex:

"Somewhere before the first grade, children pick up the conviction that males are stronger than females. But recent studies show that girls and boys are equally matched in physical ability until aged 10 to 13. Male strength continues to increase after that, while the female's peaks at age 15... but the potential for women to increase their strength is enormous- perhaps one of their greatest untapped resources. When women stop being dependent on men to do the physically hard tasks of life, their own lives can move forward. They are not forever waiting for someone to lift the big box or free the jammed garage door."

EDITOR'S NOTE; Ms. Strshinsky has a point. I recently started lifting weights, and I am just now starting to know the meaning of physical strength... and power. What I don't like though, is that, like every other "male domain" women enter, they are valued on different grounds. The appeal for women to lift weights now seems aimed at building a beautiful body,

i.e. one that men and other women admire. At the same time, we seem to be defining a new concept of beauty: strong, muscular women with tight derrières and shapely legs. And so now, all the women who have been starving themselves to look petite and fragile will start "building their bodies"... until "someone" tells us that strong muscular women are passé.

NATIONAL ACTION COMMITTEE

NAC is requesting that each & every woman send a telgram to the Minister of Indian Affairs, demanding immediate legislation to:

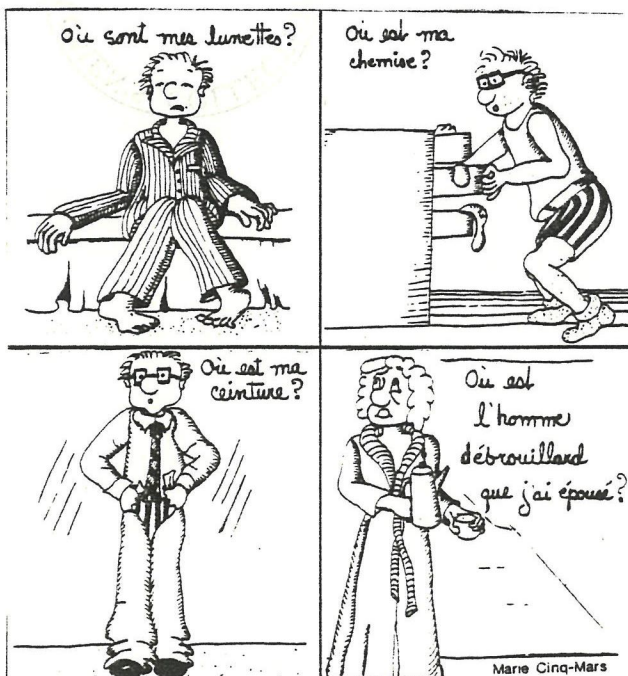
- 1) Reinstate all native women who have involuntarily lost their Indian status under the operation of the Indian Act, and
- 2) Register the first generation children of these women.

URGENT ACTION is needed on this, as Cabinet is presently addressing the matter.

WRITE TO; The Hon. John Munro
Minister of Indian Affairs
House of Commons
OTTAWA, Ontario
K1A 0A6

SAVE MEDICARE!

Write to the Hon. Monique Begin, your provincial and/or national health coalition to oppose extra billing, user fess and premiums which impede access to Medicare services.



THANKS !!

TO ALL THE WOMEN WHO
HELPED MAKE MY (GULP!) FIRST
NEWSLETTER AN ENJOYABLE TASK:
MARYLOU, SHEILA, ROSEMARY, JAN, CHRISTINE
& KATHLEEN.

AND.. A SPECIAL THANKS FROM
ALL MEMBERS TO CAROLYN
CAMPELL, LAST YEAR'S
EDITOR, WHO KEPT US INFORMED,
KEPT US LAUGHING, & WHO
KEPT THE FIRE BURNING!

Vivienne

SUDBURY WOMEN'S CENTRE

38 BEECH ST. W.

SUDBURY, ONT. P3C 1Z3

1-705-673-1916

Canadian Woman Studies
204 F Saunders College
York University
4700 Keele St.
Downsview, Ont.
M3J 1P3

