

VIRAGO

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I AM A WOMAN

What does it mean to be a woman? In a one-woman production at Hamilton Place October 16, Swedish-born actress Viveca Lindfors attempted to answer this question using as her source quotes from artists ranging from Bertolt Brecht, Tennessee Williams, Kate Millett, William Shakespeare, Sylvia Plath, and Anais Nin. The result was a scrapbook of emotional responses that are feminine.

"I used to believe in the days I was pure."

Lindfors' ability to change moods from one role to another without depending on set changes was remarkable. With only a statue and a few stools on stage and a simple dress as her costume she varied each portrayal by only changing scarves and capes.

"...as if my breast were two ripe peaches whose form and color attracted him..."

Most of the roles described women's relations to men, good and bad. However, there were few, if any, expressions that revealed how women feel about other women which could have made the production more complete.

"I want to be free."

Judy in "Why I Want a Wife" received the most enthusiastic response from the predominantly female audience. There seemed to be an automatic identification with the excerpt that described how convenient it would be for every person to have someone performing "wifely" tasks for them.

It was obvious that with her interpretations of the various roles that Lindfors managed to reach the heart and soul of every woman there.



FOR MEN ONLY:



NEW BREAKTHROUGHS IN BIRTH CONTROL

NEW HEAT WAVE KILLS SPERM

ANDROGEN, FLA. July 10--Scientists at Mammary Research Clinic announced today they have developed an entirely new concept in birth control. Based on the findings of Dr. Sharon Suffrage, whose study on heat waves was published last year, the Clinic is testing the effects of heat on sperm production.

Dr. Suffrage discovered that when intense heat was applied to the scrotum, the male's sperm was immediately destroyed. Of course, so were the testicles, but Suffrage thinks this minor problem can be overcome.

In announcing this new breakthrough in birth control, Suffrage explained that she is presently developing a portable hot iron which can be applied directly to the scrotum by the man himself. The hot iron will be marketed commercially by Suffrage Pharmaceutical Co. under the trade name "Hot Rod".

Several thousand male prisoners have been using the Hot Rod since April, and the results look promising. "We have only had 34 cases of third degree burns," she stated, "and we are working closely with the local Burn Unit to see whether or not the patients will recover." Prison officials have noted that since the advent of the Hot Rod, there have been 43% fewer escape attempts. When asked about the correlation between the use of the Hot Rod and the incidence of prison breaks, the warden replied, "Well, the men seem reluctant to walk around lately."

ANSWERS for

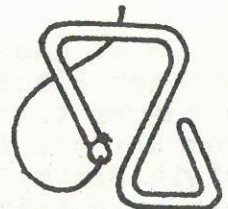
Can you name these IPD's

- A. whirling dervish
- B. silent spring
- C. the drop kick
- D. stiff upper lippy

CAN YOU NAME THESE I.P.D.'s ?



A



B



C



D

ANSWERS: SEE BELOW

INJECTION DECAPITATES SPERM

RUTTING, N.M., July 10--A simple method of birth control by injection of a liquid into the penis has been discovered at the Rutting Clinic by Dr. Eve Weltsmerz.

"Using an ordinary hypodermic needle such as those used by junkies all over the world, the new chemical formula (pat. pending) will decapitate the sperm, thus rendering it incapable of entering the female egg," Dr. Weltsmerz declared.

Experiments on a thousand white whales from the continental shelf (whose sexual apparatus is said to be closest to man's) proved the new chemical to be 100% effective in preventing pregnancy and eminently satisfactory to the female whale since it does not interfere with her rutting pleasure.

This article was taken from "Her-self", 225 East Liberty, Ann Arbor, MI 48108.

I REMEMBER your gifts
your philosophies,
the approach reminded
me of ~~the~~ one before you -
how I hated him at first
I remember how I allowed
my vulnerability - sweep
into your arms - how tight
you held onto me

I remember your
promises, your lies
your threats
"I'll make it up to you"

I feel me - tortured
- cut

to shreds
alone - ah - but
you love me ...

don't you

I left you loving

you



women's centre notes

We're changing the format of the Women's Centre again. We found out women coming to the centre for the first time were understandably more interested in getting to know other women and less interested in the mundane business of the centre that necessarily has to get done. We don't want to be a private club but it seems that's what we are becoming.

We made a decision at the October 15 meeting to meet for business matters once a month. During these meetings correspondence and bills will be dealt with, articles and submissions to Virago will be discussed, and new projects will be decided upon. All women are welcome to bring their ideas and themselves.

On the third Tuesday of each month, the women's Centre will have a less formal

meeting. These will center around specific topics of interest to women. We will have speakers, movies and a lot of discussion. The topics and speakers will be announced beforehand in Virago and if you come to these meetings there is no obligation at all to come to the other meetings unless you are interested. ALL women are welcome.

Because the Women's Centre's hours have been drastically curtailed, chances are if you call there for information, you won't get any answer. If you run into this problem, you can call Betsy Spaulding at 824-3208, Arlene Rosenberg at 821-2024, or Val Fainstat at 824-9051.

The centre's space is available to other women's groups and classes and if you have any ideas about what a women's centre should be like, tell us.

CITY COUNCILLOR MARGARET MacKINNON WILL SPEAK AT THE WOMEN'S CENTRE NOVEMBER 19 AT 8:00 P.M. TOPIC: WOMEN IN POLITICS AND THE GUELPH CIVIC ELECTION. ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME.

Civic elections will be taking place December 2, and this may be an opportunity to clarify election issues.



Redlight Theatre has just closed its first and successful production season. Future projects include a touring production of "What Glorious Times They Had", a comic musical, a radio play, and a workshop for women playwrights.

Redlight Theatre needs good scripts by women. If anyone would like to send any ideas for scripts, or knows of any writers who would be interested in working with Redlight Theatre, please contact: Redlight Theatre, 735 Bathurst St., Toronto. Telephone: 416-536-2597.

I am doing a study of the feelings of women who have had abortions and their reactions to them. If you have had an abortion and would be willing to talk with me about you experience, please call Tricia at 821-9195. All information will be completely confidential.

VIRAGO has been publishing for nearly a year. We hope you have all enjoyed being part of the Women's Centre. Anyone interested in submitting graphics, poems, essays, movie and book reviews or putting the paper together, contact Betsy Spaulding at 824-3208.

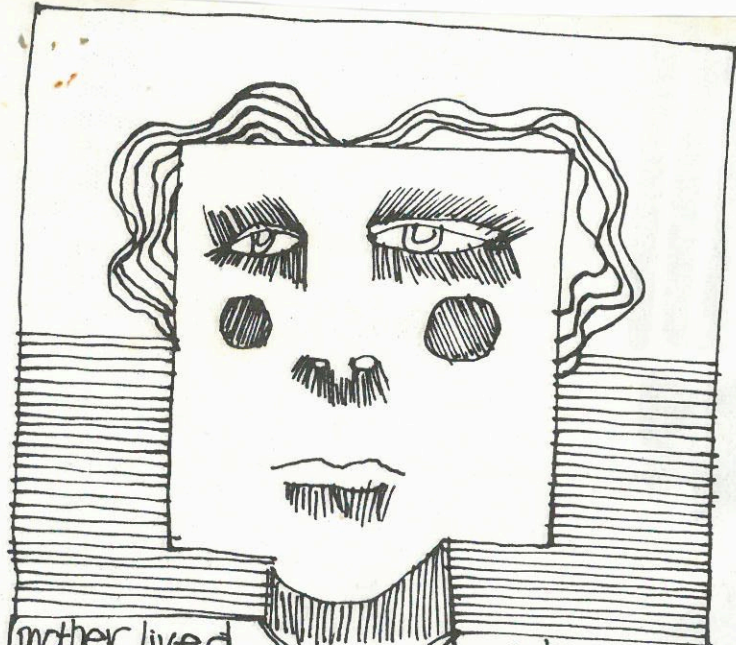
Subscriptions to Virago cost \$2.00 or a suitable donation.

Virago
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Ruth Thompson



Boycott U.S. Grapes and Lettuce



mother lived in a box,
 packed box lunches for
 dad & the kids, worked in a factory
 that made boxing gloves, kept all
 her single girl memories in a
 very locked box, her heart in an
 icebox & was buried in an empty
CEREAL box.
 she looked lovely but a bit pale.