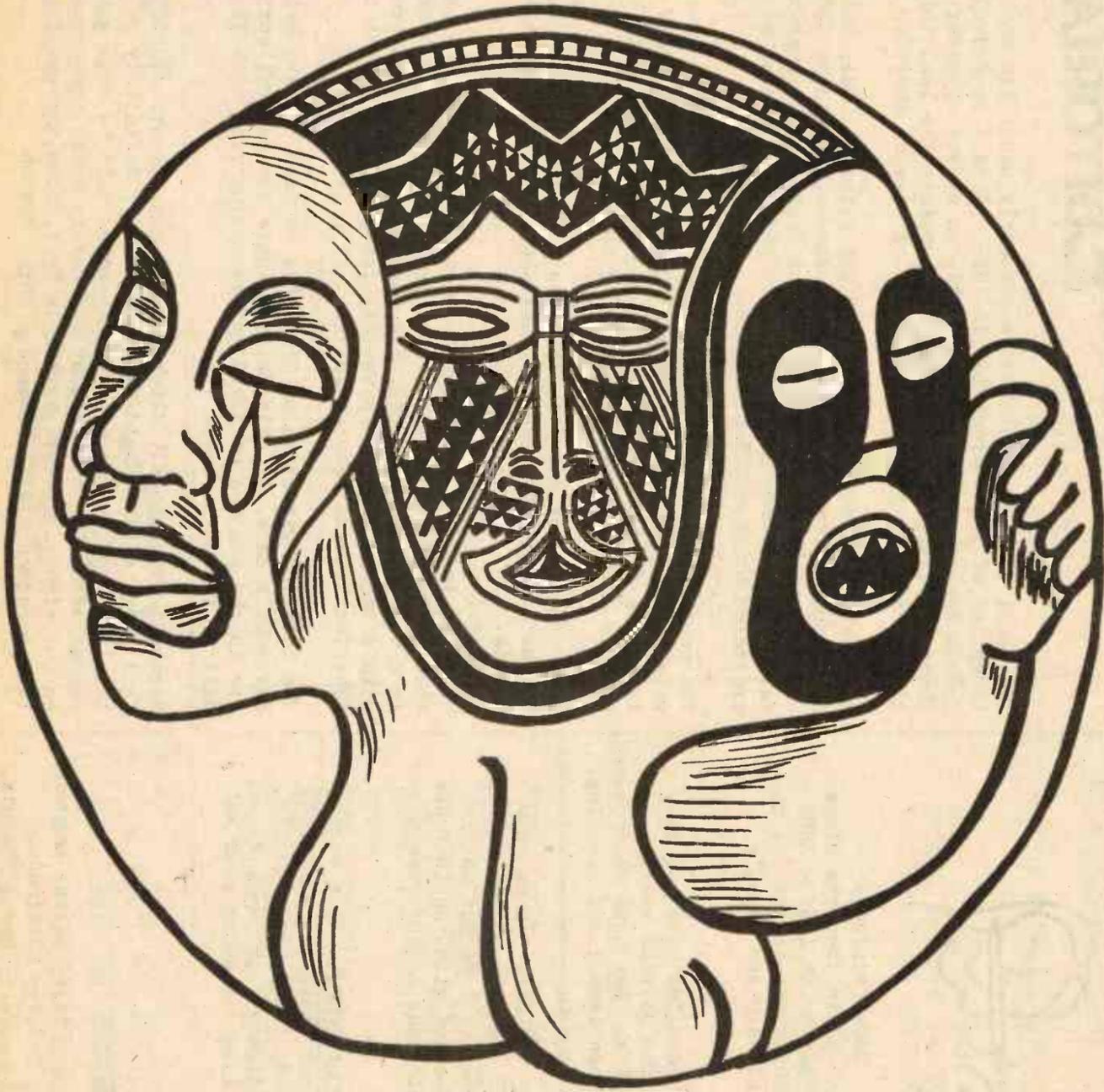


# Northern Woman Journal

90c

Thunder Bay, Ont.

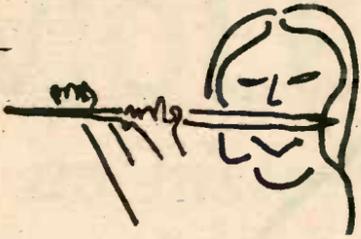
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## sojourner truth

*"I want to keep things stirring now that the ice is cracked."*

# EDITORIAL



**Cover design:** Judy Chicago's Sojourner Truth plate from the Dinner Party. Sojourner Truth 1797 - 1883 dedicated feminist who fought for the abolition of slavery and women's rights.

**Apology:** The beautiful cover on the last issue of the Journal was the work of Anna Firs. Her name disappeared somewhere between layout and printing.

**Address Change:** Please let us know when you move. We have to pay return postage in order to keep our mailing list up to date and with the increase in postage this adds to our expenses.

**Asterisk on your Label:** This means this is the last issue for which you have subscribed. The numbers on the label also indicate (e.g. 7-3, vol.7, issue 3) the issue at which your sub expires.

## Collective Members:

Lynn Beak, Anna McColl, Teresa Legowski  
Noreen Lavoie, Danalyn MacKinnon,  
Roselyn Taylor Perrett, Donna Phoenix,  
Sara Williamson, Viola Nikkila

The legal right to abortion is currently under its most serious attack since the inception of the current law in 1969. In a 7 to 2 decision, the Supreme Court of Canada has granted Joseph Borowski, an avowed opponent of a woman's right to choose abortion, legal standing to contest the law. This means that he has been given the right to argue his point of view on abortion in the courts.

Borowski contends Section 251 of the Criminal Code, which allows abortions to be performed under certain circumstances, should be declared invalid because it contravenes the Diefenbaker Bill of Rights. In his arguments, Borowski maintains that fetuses are entitled to the legal status of persons and are thus protected by the Bill of Rights.

The court also granted Borowski his legal costs, some \$70,000 to date, which were awarded against the federal government. The irony of this is that Canadian taxpayers (you and I) are paying to allow this man to challenge in the courts what is already a limited right to abortion.

This granting of standing represents a marked departure from previous decisions in the area. If Borowski wins his battle, abortion will become illegal again in Canada.

While it is unthinkable that one man could undermine legal access to safe abortion (however limited under the present law), the possibility that he might win is a very frightening one. His recognition by the Supreme court as a person with a right to be heard on this issue was a major victory in his fight to make abortion illegal once again.

The Board of Directors of CARAL has decided to take legal action to counter Borowski's case. At this writing there are several options open to us and we are in the process of deciding, in conjunction with legal counsel, which course will be the most viable.

Borowski is obviously determined to win. We are equally determined to stop him. This legal action could be long and will definitely be costly. But the cost in the lives and health of Canadian women will be even greater if he wins. We cannot afford to sit idly by and merely await the outcome of this blatant attack on our rights. If this battle is lost, even the small gains we made with the 1969 amendments will be gone. Karen Hammond

Reprinted from the CARAL newsletter WINTER 1982

(see page 8)

# Your VOICE

Dear Women:

Congratulations on keeping the Northern Woman afloat in these tough times!

I like the format, sketches, the odd joke, Thunderclaps, literary articles and poems. The Thunderbolts are often rib-tickling, although in reality not so funny. Suggest articles on real-life discrimination in the work force. Of course these would likely have to be based on true experiences and anonymous to protect the people involved.

Keep up the good work!

Elinor (Thunder Bay)

Dear Sisters,

Please renew my sub. I continue to be inspired and strengthened by this wonderful expression of the courage of women.

I was sorry to note the cancellation of the proposed conference on "Women & Mental Health" in Sept. and

I hope it is possible to have it offered at some other time as I feel that women need more guidance and information on this problem.

Thanks again for the many blessings your work has offered us all.  
Love, Valerie Boileau, Atikokan

Dear Sisters:

We are writing this letter to solicit your support for the cause of a group of striking insurance workers in Ottawa.

The workers have been on strike for a first contract since October 1981. Twenty of the twenty-four workers are women. All the workers are underpaid; one woman who has worked for the company for 16 years earns less than \$9,000 a year. No serious attempt has been made on the part of management to negotiate with them; scabs have been hired to replace them, sometimes at higher wages. Unless the workers win the bargaining-in-bad-faith complaint now before the Ontario Labour Board, the union faces a possible decertification. It will be the second time in the insurance company's history that the union has been busted.

We believe that feminists can help these workers win their battle. The strike is indicative of the link of labour struggles women encounter. Typically, this insurance company pays low wages and adopts a patronizing attitude toward the workers. As women their demands are not taken seriously. They lack the strength in numbers which larger bargaining units depend on for a successful strike. In addition, they are the victims of the Ontario law which allows employers

to replace striking workers with scabs. Ontario has no binding arbitration legislation for first contracts as exists in B.C. and Quebec.

All these factors have made this strike a long, hard battle. In spite of the management's attempts to break the strike and the long cold winter on \$30 a week, the women have persisted. Much local support has been rallied but we believe that this is a feminist cause worthy of national support. You can help. Here's how:

-Write letters of support to the strikers, Local 225, OPEIU, c/o Michelle Plouffe, 150 blvd Grebe, Apt. 202E, Point Gatineau, P.Q. J8T 3R4

-write letters of protest to the company president, Gerard Desjardins, 325 Dalhousie Street, Ottawa. Please send copies to the strikers.

-Write letters protesting Ontario's antiquated labour laws to Hon. Russell H. Ramsay, Minister of Labour, 400 University Ave., Toronto, Ontario M7A 1T7. Urge him to intervene in the strike.

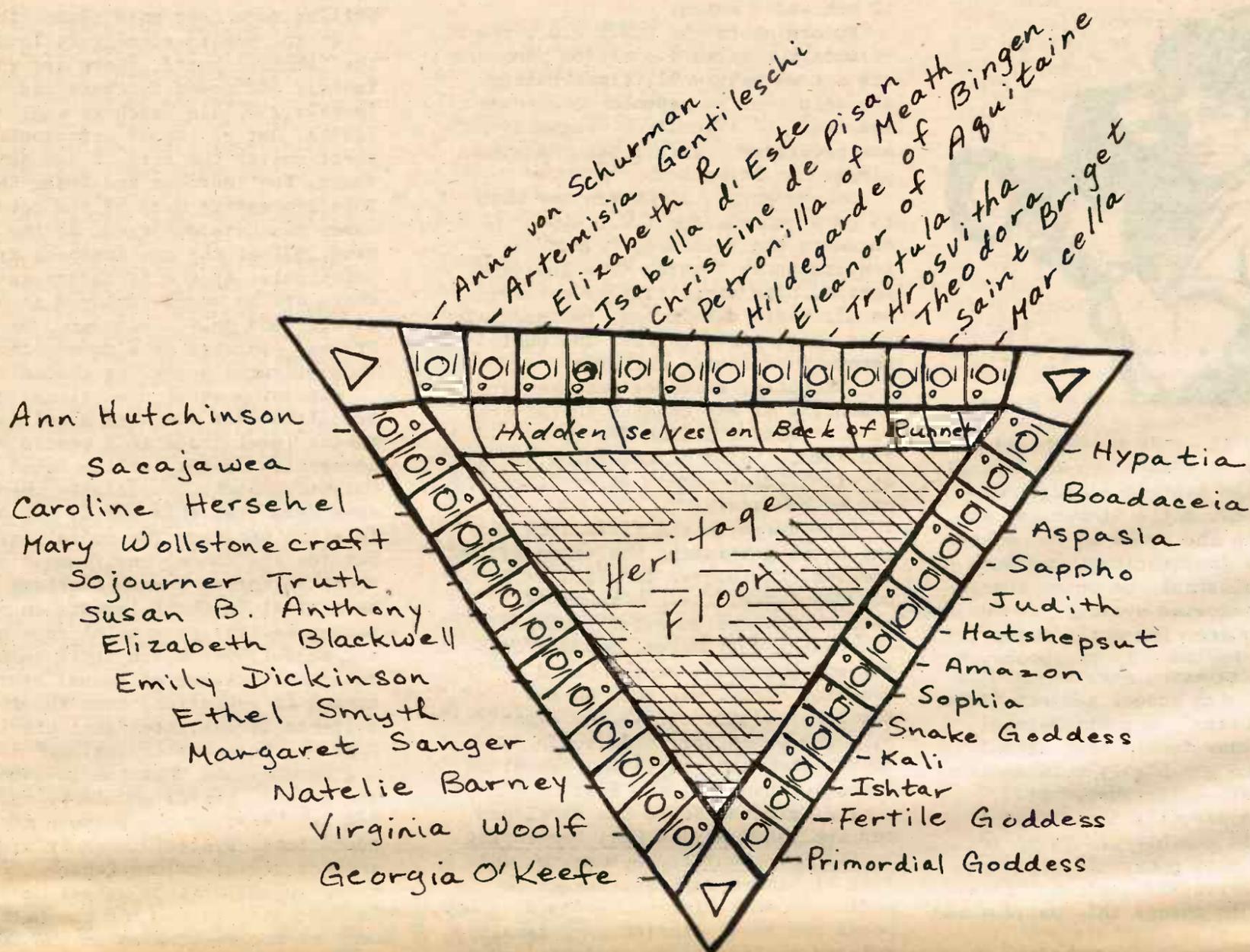
-send money to the strikers to the address above. Make cheques payable to OPEIU, Local 225.

Help these workers keep up the fight - it's a fight for all women and underpaid workers everywhere.

Yours in sisterhood,  
Feminist Action Collective  
P.O. Box 4454, Sta. E  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1S 5B4

cont'd on page 7

# TAKE YOUR PLACE AT THE TABLE



Chicago says" it is possible to trace the changeover from matriarchy to patriarchy in myth, legends, and image of the Goddess. The destruction of women's politics, social and religious authority-- "

Chicago chose the equal lateral triangle for the dinner table as it was an early symbol in matriarchal societies.

The Dinner Party combines images of traditional women ( symbolized by china painters ) with radical women ( represented by women who were politically active.

by joan baril

Eighty thousand people came to the Musee d'art contemporain this April to see Judy Chicago's magnificent tribute to the women of Western history, the multi-dimentional art work called The Dinner Party. This is a record breaking crowd for a museum which usually draws fifty thousand visitors annually.

I saw the Dinner Party on April 17 after enduring a two hour line up in the upstairs corridor of the museum. The long wait was brightened by talking to the other women nearby--part of a tour from the Toronto YW--and by looking at a large wall covered with imaginative triangular quilt patches made for the exhibit by women's groups around the world.

At last the guard beckoned us forward into a dimly lit room. A chain of women viewers were slowly circling an enormous triangular table. Each arm of the equilateral triangle is forty-five feet long.

Like most of the visitors I had rented a portable cassette and earplug and so, as I slowly moved around, I heard Chicago's very clear explanations. She talked about the meaning of the exhibit and the symbols and techniques she used. She also told us about the historical significance of the women whose places were set at the table.

There are thirty-nine place settings each depicting a historical woman and her specific historical period. Placed along the first arm of the

triangle are the women of pre-history and the ancient world; on the second side the women of the Christian era up



Study by Judy Chicago - Mary Wollstonecraft's death in childbirth as embroidered on the hidden (self) inner side of her runner.

to the Reformation and lastly are the women from the 16th century to the present. The final place setting is dedicated, rightly enough, to woman as artist; the last guest at the feast is the American painter and potter Georgia O'Keefe, the only living woman honoured by the exhibit.

At each place there is a large sculptured and painted plate set upon a cloth runner executed in the needlecraft of the period. Every form of needlework seems to be present including some old and almost forgotten techniques. There is weaving, tapestry quilting, white work, bizarre work, Victorian ribbon work, stump work, many forms of embroidery and many others.

The critics focused on the vagin-ality. Ignoring the fact that penises are dangling in every art gallery in North America along side realistic representations of both male and female anatomy, the critics trivialized the Dinner Party as women's genitalia Museums which had previously booked the piece began to cancel out.

Nevertheless through the agitation of women's groups, the show has been

Cont. page 5

# LIBERATE EDUCATION!

CONTINUED FROM LAST ISSUE

by Teresa Legowski



Firstly, there is no revolutionary upheaval to eliminate sexual inequality under the present Minister of Education, Dr. Bette Stevenson. She has risen in the ranks of one of the patriarchal institutions, and sees no need for political action to change the male dominated system. For instance, she sees no need for outlining criteria to be included in textbooks. Moreover, Dr. Stevenson sees no need to change the high school subject title "Man in Society", a controversial issue for many female high school teachers who are highly outnumbered by their male colleagues. Dr. Stevenson apparently feels that if one woman is capable of rising to one of the most powerful positions in the Conservative cabinet, there is no need to change this patriarchal system.

Secondly, the government has encouraged schools to revise their counselling procedures, urging young women in school to consider a full range of occupational choices and alternatives. Judging from the previous statistical representation of women's employment and their education levels, mere encouragement has not been, and will not be, sufficient. Women are not choosing non-traditional occupations, selecting, rather, the traditional "ghetto" jobs. Unfortunately, with the advancement of computer technology, many of these jobs will be phased out within the next five to ten years.

The government has stressed the importance of seminars and meetings that would raise the awareness of senior level educational employees, as well as teachers. One such weekend was held for the Lakehead Board of Education last October, where teachers and principals participated in about 25 workshops on stereotyping. The F.W.T.A.O. emphasized that these sessions were "not too painful". The soft sell, seemingly, is the most beneficial...to the system.

Fourthly, the government "issued memorandums" encouraging school boards to appoint well qualified women to positions of responsibility. A number of boards in Ontario -- Ottawa-Carlton, Toronto, North York and Windsor -- have adopted voluntary affirmative action programs, but have done so primarily as a result of lobbying by the F.W.T.A.O. and the responsiveness of sympathetic trustees.

The Lakehead Board has no such program. However, it has established a committee to develop policy on affirmative action. Although the F.W.T.A.O. has been pressuring for such a committee, it is not pleased with this committee's membership:

12 men and 5 women.

According to the F.W.T.A.O., the voluntary affirmative action programs are not working well, since boards are reluctant to promote women over men, and committee "suggestions" are powerless. Target figures are simply not being met.

Consequently, for women who wish to be promoted, the F.W.T.A.O. suggests the following "super" requirements: a three area qualification, high visibility by serving on all board committees, two specialties, a master's degree, and postponement of having children.

Evidently, stronger measures are essential if any changes in the area of affirmative action are to be realized. Legislation, going so far as withholding grants as an "incentive" may be necessary.

Curriculum is the fifth area in which the government has taken action. However, the degree to which each board enforces the government's recommendations in establishing a non-sexist curriculum, depends upon the enlightenment of the board members. Thus, not only do the levels of sexist curriculum experienced by young women vary from board to board, they also vary from school to school within the same board.

The Lakehead Board has developed and published Anyone Can! Developing Individual Identity, a resource unit full of bibliographies, suggested media, women's history, units of study, poems and short stories specifically related to increasing students' awareness of sexual stereotyping. As well, the Lakehead Board's media centre has established criteria for previewing films and claims to have discarded those items that were conspicuously stereotyped. Family life and industrial arts courses are presently co-educational. The Thunder Bay Elementary Athletic Association now allows girls to play in what were previously all boys' leagues. Additionally, vice-principals are attempting to equalize monitoring duties, rather than designating student supervision tasks in the schools by associated sexual roles.

Therefore, in these small ways, progress is being made, but solely at the elementary level. It must be stressed, however, that these breakthroughs vary from school to school.

Another source of unbiased curriculum originates from the F.W.T.A.O. The organization has published its own resource unit, Challenging the Double Standard, and twenty novel units that celebrate 58 current and historic heroines.

Unfortunately, the controversial textbook issue, previously mentioned, has not been resolved in Ontario. Not only have boards refused to purchase new books, because of financial constraints, but the publishers have rewritten many of the books in terms of animal characters, displaying the conventional, stereotypical male and female traits.

Finally, the government has temporarily relaxed the requirements for its principals' courses for 1981 and 1982, opening its doors to practicing teachers. In the past year in Thunder Bay, 40% of the people who enrolled in the course were women. If nothing else, this certainly has shown to both school boards and government that women are prepared and

willing to accept more responsibility.

At the public elementary level in the Lakehead Board, there are approximately 440 women teachers and approximately 250 male teachers employed (1981). Out of the 77 principals' positions in the city, 2 are held by women, Sue Thornham and Susan Kennedy. This represents 0.3% of the total women teachers employed. On the other hand, 33% of the men teachers are principals. At the Secondary level, there are no women employed as principals, and only one woman, Dorothy France, employed as a vice-principal. These figures speak for themselves.

Assessing equal educational opportunities for women at a policy-making level leads to a severe misconception of the reality found in Ontario schools, especially when one considers that this policy has no legislative backing. The social forces outside the school environment cause these voluntary recommendations to be minimal in their impact. In many instances, the provincial government and school boards are still questioning the existence of sexual stereotyping in education, even though evidence demonstrates that discrimination continues to thrive.

The question that the government and school boards should be addressing is: "What is the purpose of the educational system?" Does it simply reflect social values (which it is doing in the case of women) or does it instigate change for the betterment of society (which is the desire of women)?

Since education caters to the established patriarchal institutions, it is political suicide to allow women to pass through the established filters.

Education has instigated change in society in the past. If it had not, twentieth century humankind would probably believe the world was flat. Knowledge is not static, but infinitely growing, and education is responsible for this growth. No matter how threatening, change is necessary for growth in society. Humankind needs hope and aspirations to avoid stagnation.



"Sure it matters whether it's a girl worm or a boy worm I want an intelligent, hard worker on my hook!!!"

Credit-New Woman-May/June 1978

EDUCATION  
cont. from page 4

Does the equality of women fall into the same category as the revolutionary concept of a round world? I think not. Yet examining it more closely, the concept of equality for women involves changing a person's internal structures, as well as the external political foundations of a patriarchal society.

Is it so difficult to present women and girls as intelligent and independent beings? Are not women strong, steadfast, and single-minded? Do not women work outside the home for financial survival? Are career and motherhood truly mutually exclusive?

Do not men and boys need friendship, help and advice? Do men ever cry? Do men and boys not share in household duties?

Is it impossible for women and men to live co-operatively, joyously, and respectfully in equal and loving relationships?

Despite the odds, the educational system must eliminate sexual discrimination and serve as an example for society. Women shall continue in their vigilant battle to gain equality for themselves and their daughters.

CRISIS HOMES INC.

ANNUAL MEETING

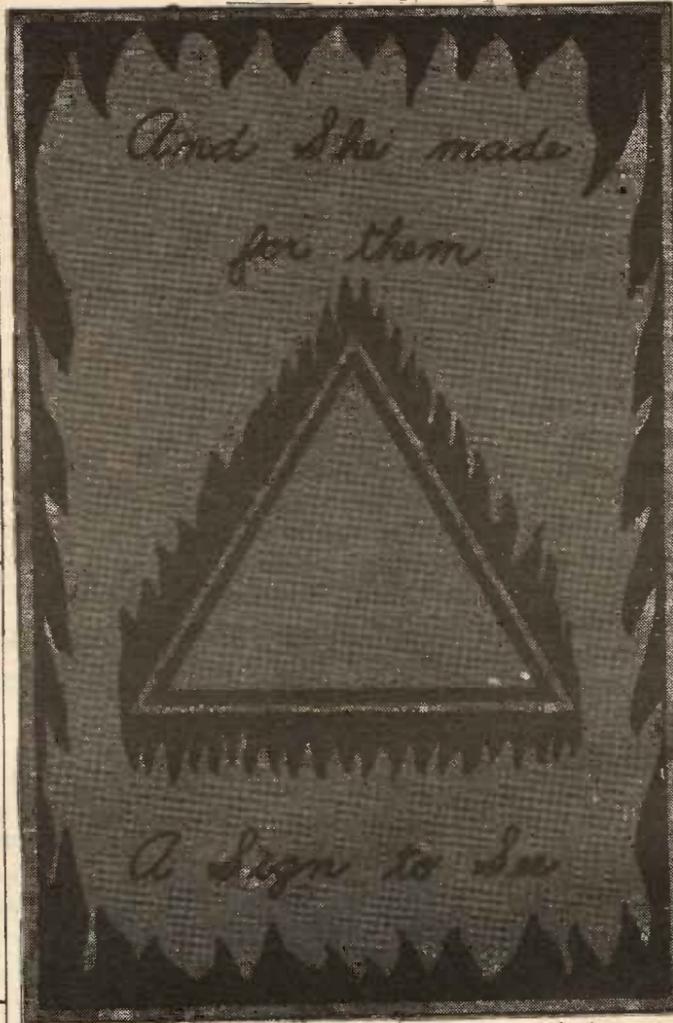
June 1, 1982 7.30p.m.

Crisis Homes Inc. will be holding their election of officers June 1, 1982 7.30 p.m. at the North-western Ontario Women's Centre, 316 Bay St. If you are interested in support services for battered women, please come out and participate. For further information call 622-3855.

Subscribe:

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*IS THERE AN ASTERISK ON YOUR LABEL ?  
PLEASE RENEW YOUR SUBSCRIPTION  
\*\*\*\*\*

DINNER  
cont. from page 3



seen in seven North American cities including Montreal. It has now attracted more people than any other work ever shown by a living artist.

In Toronto early this year, the Art Gallery of Ontario were cool to a delegation of women who asked them to host the dinner party. We're booked, far far into the future, to 1985, was the answer. But after the smashing success in Montreal, the Gallery has changed its mind. The Dinner Party will start on May 21 and run to July 4. My advice is--bicycle, hike, canoe, car-pool, whatever but get to Toronto somehow and take your place at the table.

The table itself sits on a raised dias covered with 2,300 translucent triangular tiles. The names of 999 women important to our history are engraved on these in gold scroll work. The room was softly lighted, the women circled slowly and spoke quietly. The great table, the white cloth, the china, the needlework runners and the tiled dias seemed to glow in the dimness. It took me a little less than two hours to make the complete circuit from the ancient primordial goddess to the present day.

It took Chicago and a team of four hundred craftspeople and researchers six years to set this table. Some of the runners took two years to create. And it cost \$250,000 to produce.

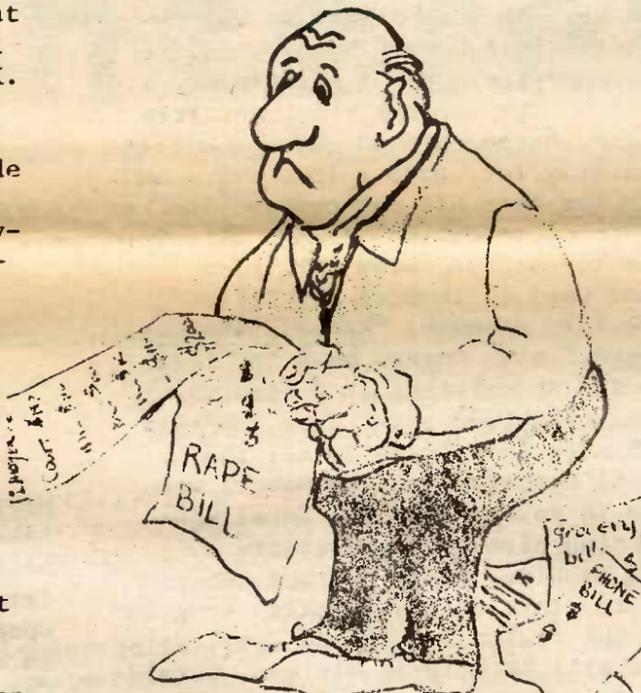
The first show opened at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art in March 1979. It immediately attracted large crowds but mixed reviews. Some critics complained the show emphasized crafts which is not True Art. Others boggled at the designs on the plates.

The designs on the plates, according to Chicago, are based on a stylized butterfly motif, the butterfly being an ancient symbol of rebirth and renewal. Like the butterfly itself, the shape of the design changes and reforms on each plate into (for example) the double ax motif of the Amazons and the ancient goddesses, or into a seed pod fertility design or into a flower or into medieval arches and at the same time the flowing lines also create yin forms such as vaginal ovals. So Chicago's basic design symbolizes many levels of meaning on each plate, the physical as well as the historic woman.

# SUE THE BASTARDS

by Joan Baril

Sue the Bastards. This is just what Veina Smith of Sydney, N.S., a sexual assault victim, did. She sued Dr. P.K. Chaturvedi in civil court and won a \$5000 judgement plus costs. In July of last year Ms. Smith accepted a ride home from the doctor. It was raining and "you assume a doctor won't do anything wrong to jeopardize his reputation." Instead of taking her home he drove out of town to Glace Bay, 19 km away. She claimed he grabbed her so that she couldn't get out of the car, dragged her into his apartment, slapped her and indecently assaulted her. She managed to break free, run out on the porch and scream that she was being raped. Fortunately she was heard by a passing policeman.



However, in spite of the fact that the police rescued her, they refused to lay charges on the ground that there were no scratches and bruises on her body and her clothes were not torn. Ms. Smith had now landed in the limbo of the "unfounded" case.

In Canada, it is the police who judge which sexual assault cases will proceed to criminal court and which will not. The decision is made without the benefit of clear, national guidelines and in many towns masculine bias takes over. The local police decided that Veina Smith's complaint was "unfounded".

But the 19 year old refused to accept that. Claiming the police investigation was "obviously unfair" she took the doctor to court and won.

A civil suit is a weapon available to Canadian rape victims and should be used more often. There are several ad-

vantages to the woman. She initiates the procedure and with the guidance of legal counsel, she can present her side of the story. The onus of proof in a civil case is different from a criminal trial. It is necessary to prove that it is reasonably probable that the defendant raped or assaulted rather than prove it beyond a reasonable doubt.

A plaintiff might claim for specific expenses (such as clothes, psychiatric care), general damages (such as compensation for suffering and humiliation) or even punitive damages. So, a victim can fight back, and win. For more information, contact the Rape Crisis Centre.

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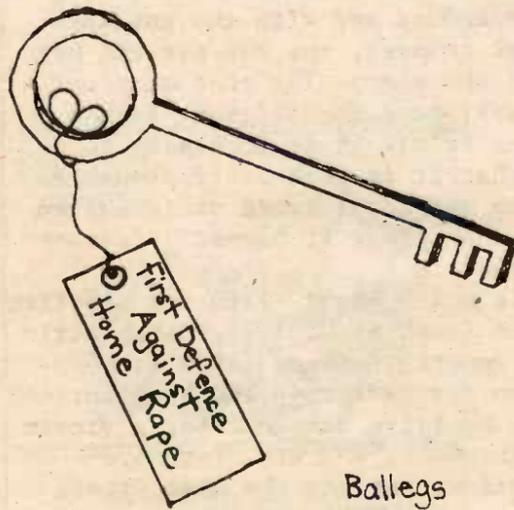
WOMEN AND TECHNOLOGY. June 1982, Ottawa Canada. Joint conference of CRIAW, NAC, and CLOW (Canadian Committee for Learning Opportunities for Women). Contact: Aisla Thomson. CRIAW, Box 236, Sta. B. Ottawa (613) 563-3576.

BY JOAN BARIL

Federal M.P.s are still wrestling with what law enforcement officers consider the major legal problem--how to write into the Criminal Code help for men who are verbally accosted by women on the streets. It seems, shocked legislators claim, that on certain streets in certain cities (Toronto, Edmonton, Vancouver) men are being solicited by women for the purpose of sex and the women cannot be convicted. ●●●● What about women who are harassed by men for sex? you may ask, thinking of the verbal harassment which occurs in all cities, on all streets, at all times, to all women of all ages. A double standard exists. Many legislators and chiefs of police don't see a problem. Convictions are few and in B.C. a man cannot be charged at all ●●●● verbal (and physical) harassment on the streets is also common in Europe. In England, feminists have dumped paint over the cars of "curbcrawlers", men who slowly cruise along the streets calling obscene remarks and suggestions to women walkers ●●●● women passengers in London, England taxi cabs have often complained about sexual harassment by drivers. In response, an all-women taxi company called Labyris has been formed. Only women riders or escorted men are accepted. ●●●● The harassment of women on the London tube is such that WAVAW (Women Against Violence Against Women) have called for segregated cars ●●●● more and more European tourists are refusing to accept sexual harassment. A common ploy is for museum or tour guides to suggest to a woman that she stand in a certain spot to see a picture or a view at a better angle. He then presses his body against hers. When this happened to a young Californian woman last year in the Prado in Madrid, she screamed "Don't touch me. Don't touch me!" He quickly disappeared. This same woman slugged a man on the streets of Rome who started to touch her. ●●●● Maybe women should boycott the "harassing countries" (Italy, Greece and Spain). However a quick local survey mentioned Hyde Park in London, Boulevard Michel and the Paris left bank, Dam Square in Amsterdam and downtown Lisbon. ●●●● Perhaps Canadian women tourists should carry cards with "TAKE OFF, EH" in the appropriate languages. ●●●● Locally the same quick survey reveals that women are often bothered in bars. There were two complaints of touching by male hairdressers, who want free feels along with high fees. One woman told me that after several pats and strokes, the hand lingering a milli-second too long, the hairdresser came so close to do the front part of her hair that he straddled her knees and almost sat in her lap. (almost but not quite) ●●●● the maddening part is the no-win nature of these situations. If you make a scene it's embarrassing and you will be accused of (choose one) a) not being a good sport b) not being feminine c) not being like other women who, according to men, love this sort of thing d) if overseas, not being a good ambassador or e) insulting foreign culture f) being mistaken and imagining the whole thing g) being petty. On the other hand, if you don't make a scene, you will be humiliated



and accused of (take one) a) liking it b) asking for it. Better to be embarrassed than humiliated ●●●● Rapes reported to the Thunder Bay Rape and Sexual Assault Centre increased 100% last year according to Doreen Boucher, Volunteer Training Coordinator. ●●●● How do local rapists plan an assault? The most common method in Thunder Bay is to offer a ride home to a woman from a boogie, party, wedding, bar (etc.) Once she is in the car, the rapist drives out to the country and rapes her. In some cases, he has removed the inside door handles on the passenger side so that she cannot get out if he stops for a red light ●●●● A second method is to cruise a street or parking lot, grab a lone woman and force her into his car or van. The rapist counts on the element of surprise to succeed. ●●●● The third method used in Thunder Bay is to break into a house. "Rapes are always planned," says Doreen ●●●● The local Rape and Sexual Assault Centre received a \$40,000 grant from the city of Thunder Bay. Bravo to all the council members (and the mayor) who voted in favour ●●●● The local Kiwanis club also gave the centre a zerox machine. ●●●● The rape centre will be starting its outreach program into the region in May and June. Workshops will be held in Nipigon, Geraldton, Terrace Bay and Marathon.



Balleggs

●●●● Nasty news from B.C. The provincial government pulled the funding rug from under rape crisis centres because they refused to toe the government's line. At issue is the protection of a client's right to be completely anonymous. The government wants a detailed questionnaire filled out on clients, so detailed that a local person with access to the information could guess a client's identity. The purpose of the multi-paged questionnaire on rape vic-

tims (rather than on rapists) is obscure. It sounds as if an attempt is being made to build a statistical portrait of a "typical rape victim" in order to establish once and for all that it is a particular kind of woman, or a particular way of behaving that causes women to be raped", according to Joni Miller of Vancouver. ●●●● the B.C. government has countered by offering funding to other groups who would allow government access to their files plus limit their activities to counselling of victims. That means no political lobbying, police workshops, public education ie the government gag. The total amount of money which has been withdrawn is \$150,000, about a half more than the \$100,000 the Attorney General gave to rapist-murder Clifford Olsen ●●●●



You can talk to the rape victim but not to the public.

Margaret Phillips, formerly of the Lakehead Social Planning Council has been hired as coordinator for the conference "Women and Pensions. Margaret spent most of a year's leave of absence in a program for women writers in Cazenovia, New York. ●●●● The OAWC conference "Women and the Future" has been postponed until the Fall ●●●● The Northern Woman's Centre, 316 Bay St. received a \$20,000 grant from the city of Thunder Bay. The new Board of Directors elected at the annual meeting in April are Lynn Beak, Teresa Legowski, Danalyn MacKinnon, Margo Morgan, Chris Torrie, Doreen Boucher, Elaine Lynch, Marg Kowalski, Betty Kennedy and Viola Nikkila ●●●● Abortion--the fight goes on. A recent survey of 1400 Canadian adults finds, as have all surveys, that the majority of Canadians support legalized abortion ●●●● The Ontario Federation of Labour annual convention passed a resolution by a large majority in favour of legalized abortion. They also want the Ontario government to permit abortion in special clinics as in Quebec ●●●● Our local M.P. Paul McRae (Liberal) does not support legalized abortion. He voted in favour of the amendment which would enshrine fetal rights in the constitution. The amendment was introduced by Conservative David Crombie. It was defeated 129 to 60. ●●●● A case before the Supreme Court could end the limited form of legal abortion as it is now allowed in Canada. Joseph

Cont. page 8

# DEPO-PROVERA: The 20-Year OLD HYPE!

by Arja Lane

A shot in the arm, and poof, you are sterile for at least three months, maybe six. Don't have to worry about getting pregnant--worry-free sex sounds wonderful--but getting pregnant isn't the only worry behind this injectable contraceptive drug.

I'd like to share some facts with you about Depo-Provera.

The drug itself has been around since its creation by the Upjohn Company of Kalamazoo an American pharmaceutical company, in the early 1960's. Depo-Provera was originally used, and still is, as a pain-killer for uterine cancer patients; but, in more recent years, the drug has been used as a contraceptive by women. During the drug's 20 year history, the studies on its long and short-term safety have, and still are producing frightening results on laboratory animals; but, the hype continues to affect millions of women, mostly in Western Europe and Third World countries.

Opposition to using Depo-Provera as a contraceptive has been voiced by various institutions. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has banned its use as a contraceptive in the States because autopsies on monkeys injected with doses of Depo-Provera showed that the animals had developed cancer of the uterine lining. As well, the Canadian and Ontario Associations for the Mentally Retarded demanded a ban on this controversial drug here in Canada because of the results of a study done by Dr. Donald Zarfes of the University of Western Ontario which documents the connection of the use of Depo-Provera on mentally retarded women who died of breast cancer while taking the drug. According to Dr. Zarfes's study, "The drug has been given to 490 women, usually to halt menstruation for hygienic reasons, though in 24 cases it was prescribed as a contraceptive".

The unhealthy potentials of Depo-Provera don't stop at cancer of the breast and uterus, although for any sensible human those potentials would be enough for stopping its use. The drug's potential to effect congenital heart defects, and other abnormal development in children born after its use by the mother work to make unhealthy news for the future as well.

Despite the fact that the FDA forbids U.S. pharmaceutical companies from exporting products that are banned for domestic use, Depo-Provera is being delivered to family planning clinics in over 80 countries around the world, for use as a contraceptive. Millions of women in Western Europe and Third World countries are being injected regularly with Depo-Provera through the efforts of U.S. population-control organizations, contraceptive manufacturers like the Upjohn Co. of Kalamazoo, and the Canadian government. Yes, you see, the Upjohn Co. of Kalamazoo manufactures Depo-Provera in Canada, as well as in Belgium, to avoid U.S. export hassles. The company's Canadian head office is located in Don Mills, Ontario; and, distribution centres are located across Canada in Vancouver, Winnipeg, Montreal, and Quebec City.

Up until now, Canadian and American women have been relatively well protected from Depo-Provera, unless you are a mentally retarded woman. This protection may end soon though, if Canadian politicians and doctors choose to ignore the obviously hazardous side effects of this drug.

Presently, in Canada, a committee of eight doctors has been appointed by the Federal government to research the safety of Depo-Provera. A draft report of their research has already been presented to Monique Begin, our Minister for Health and Welfare in Canada. This report claims to justify the use of Depo-Provera as a contraceptive. Ian Henderson, who is the director of the bureau of human prescription drugs for the Federal Department of Health and Welfare says, "Although studies have connected the drug with breast cancer in beagles, and uterine cancer in monkeys, there is no evidence that the drug is dangerous in humans."

Echoing this example of total disregard for human sense, but in a more sexist manner is Malcolm Potts, who is the executive director of the International Fertility Research Program in the United States. He justifies using women as guinea pigs to find out the drug's real long-term effects; "We are not going to know whether Depo-Provera is safe until a large number of women use it for a long time." Dr. Potts is one of the people leading the crusade to save Depo-Provera. I bet he plays golf with the owners of the Upjohn Company of Kalamazoo.

And so, the U.S. pharmaceutical company, Upjohn, continues to profit, while our Canadian medical profession and political businessmen stand by, pulling strings that allow for the continued endangering of women's and children's lives.

This whole controversy around Depo-Provera becomes increasingly angering the more you find out about it, doesn't it? For (another) example, the drug is just as effective as a contraceptive when used by men, but isn't because it results in a loss of sexual drive in men. And, because it results in a loss of sexual drive, another controversial use has been found for this 'wonder?' drug. Depo-Provera is used in treatment of male sex offenders in many North American treatment centres. Often, these men have to agree to Depo-Provera treatment as a condition of parole. Humourlessly ironical, but still a profitable use, at least for the Upjohn Company of Kalamazoo.

The continued production of Depo-Provera is just such a glaring example of money-hungry madness--what convenient cancerous use will be found for it in the future? In 10-20 years, when an epidemic in uterine cancer erupts, and we have all these deformed kids around, the ironies and contradictions of Depo-Provera will be even more humourless; but, by then, it will be too late for millions of women and children.

Unless, we do something about it now...



Naranjo, EXCELSIOR. (Mexico)

## letters continued

Dear NWJ Collective,  
I would like to take this opportunity to discuss a matter of educational concern - career counselling in the school system.

At this time of high unemployment and overabundance of skilled professional workers, it is necessary to broaden the spectrum of career opportunities and options. This statement reflects particularly the attitude which must be adopted to improve the future job placement of women in the work force. It is no longer feasible to channel the aspirations of every young female student towards goals in the field of applied arts, or secretarial arts. These job markets are saturated with college and university graduates who are underemployed or unemployed because of the narrow scope of traditional career opportunities.

I do not support discouraging students who are truly interested in the field of social work, teaching, or sociology, but I do encourage that factual statistics be utilized to demonstrate the actual placement in these positions.

My main contention is the abolition of culturally-bound, stereotypic beliefs as to what constitutes "a man's job" and what is "woman's work". With the increase of women seeking career employment, either to supplement a wage, or as the only means of support, and the predicted skill shortages in technical and technological fields, it is time to encourage the involvement of women in the fields of technology.

I am not advocating that all, or most, women be trained for technical fields. I am in favour of supporting women students who are inclined mechanically and desire to focus their skills and ability in the area of high technology.

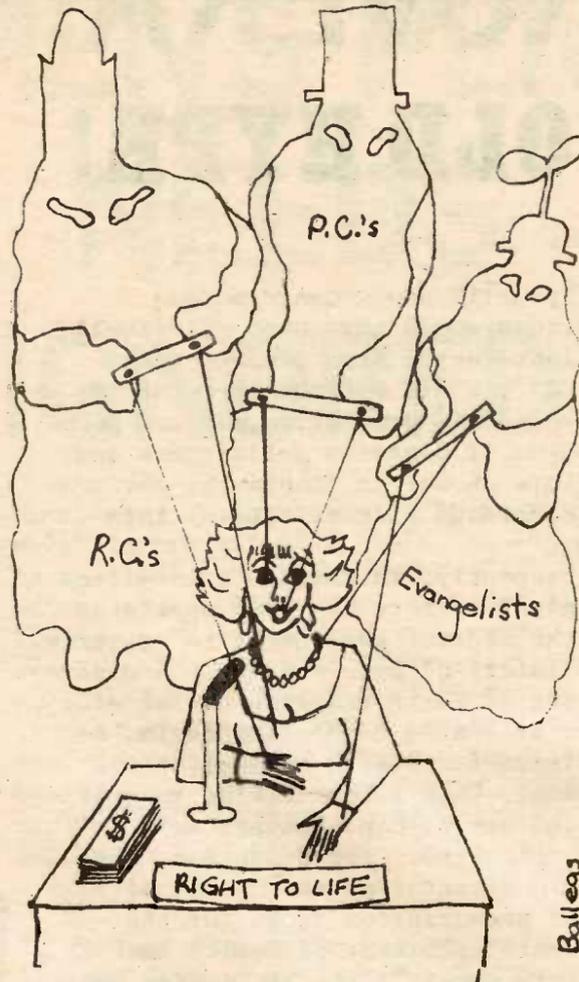
My main theme, simply stated, is to open the options of career choice to both men and women. In our present economic state, it is necessary to recruit the natural resources which transpire from both our male and female students.

In sisterhood, Viola Nikkila

UPDATE.....continued

Borowski has been granted the right to argue before the court that Section 251 of the Criminal Code contravenes Diefenbaker's Bill of Rights. Borowski's legal costs are to be paid by the taxpayers. Borowski was a minister in Ed Shreyer's Manitoba government but he quit politics to devote his full time to fighting legal abortion.

The Canadian Abortion Rights Action League (CARAL) intends to take counter legal action. This is a costly step CARAL needs support; please join ●●●● A major victory and step toward legalized abortions occurred in Spain when the "Bilbao Eleven" were acquitted on the charge of having illegal abortions. The case galvanized hundreds of Spanish women, including actresses, singers, and journalists, to declare publically that they had had abortions. It is estimated that 300,000 Spanish women go through illegal abortions each year ●●●● Legislators in Venezuela and Nigeria turned down legalizing bills in spite of the heavy death rate from illegal abortions ●●●● Filmmakers from Studio D (the women's unit of the National Film Board) who have been researching world wide abortion were horrified to be told by a South American doctor to bring their cameras to the hospital any weekend if they want film of dying women. Any weekend would do ●●●● Kuwait and Turkey will now allow abortion under very limited circumstances ●●●● in all third world countries the death rate from back-street complications is high estimated, for example, to be 10,000 deaths a year in Turkey, according to the New York Times. Feminists point out that although legalization of abortion is a major health issue, third world women and their families often lack decent health care of all kinds ●●●● In the U.S. the battle for abortion right is also occurring at the state level. Many states are considering bills which would require that the husband be notified if the wife wishes a legal abortion and also that both the parents of eighteen year olds or younger sign their consent. Minnesota has such a law now.



*If we let women control their own bodies, then they'll become the puppets of r*

The intent is to reduce abortions by taking the decision away from the woman concerned. The result is also traumatic for the woman if the husband or one of the parents cannot be found or if they refuse to sign. ●●●● In South Dakota all the women legislators--both Republican and Democrat--joined forces to defeat such a measure. In Kentucky the bill will probably pass. The legislation in Alabama defines the I.U.D. and the pill as forms of abortion. It will most likely be defeated but it is interesting to see the growing public emergence of the anti-contraceptive side of the "Right-to-Life" movement ●●●● along the same lines, U.S. federal government is working on measures to restrict the sale of contraceptives to under 19 year olds. Some form of parental notice will have to be given before the teens can get birth control

products. Family planning organizations predict an increase in the epidemic of teen-age pregnancies but groups such as the United Families of America and the American Life Lobby believe the planned measure is not restrictive enough ●●●● Is a dirty joke illegal? What about racial humour? According to Irene Mitchell, local Human Rights Officer, sexist and racist jokes have been considered as one form of harassment in employment and housing situations. Bill 7, the new Ontario Human Rights code specifically prohibits sexual harassment on the job, from landlords or other tenants and from persons in a position "to confer a benefit". An example of this would be a teacher or a government official in charge of rental housing, who might ask a woman for sexual favours in order to get on the list or threaten to take her name off the list if his sexual solicitations were rejected. ●●● The Ontario legislators did not do their personal best when they drafted Bill 7. There is no protection from harassment for gays. Sadly, although a majority of Canadians support legal protection for minorities and women, only 30% favour rights for gay people, according to the Human Rights Commission. ●●●● Children's Rights however took a baby step forward. Circuit Judge William L. Reinecke of Wisconsin has apologized for remarks made about a five year old child who had been sexually assaulted. In passing sentence on 24 year old farm labourer, Ralph Snodgrass, the judge threw the blame on the five year old. "I am satisfied that we have an unusually sexually promiscuous young lady and that this man did not know enough to knock off her advances and allowed the contact to take place." Reinecke was pressured into the apology by the public outcry and a call for his resignation by a group "Citizens for Children" that is also working for the judges's recall. ●●●● A bizarre sidelight on the above case. Singer Connie Francis, who was scheduled to appear on behalf of Citizens for Children, had to cancel her appearance because she received threats on her life if she made the trip to Wisconsin. Francis' career was sidelined when she was raped in 1974.



### Letter from Margaret Laurence

Dear Friend:

I am writing to you on a matter of great urgency. You will undoubtedly be as concerned as I am with a real and pressing threat to the civil liberties of many Canadians -- women and men, medical professionals and their patients.

A legal action brought in Sask. by an opponent of abortion could ultimately deny safe, medical, legal abortion to Canadian women. It could, if successful, make it impossible for health care professionals to counsel their patients about abortion and to provide them with access to abortion.

On December 1, 1981, in a decision which surprised many legal observers, the Supreme Court of Canada granted Joe Borowski of Winnipeg standing to challenge our abortion law. Borowski claims that a fertilized egg is a person, deserving of and entitled to protection of the Diefenbaker Canadian Bill of Rights. Borowski would allow no abortions under any circumstances -- not even in cases of rape or incest.

There are, as you know, many flaws in Section 251 -- our present abortion law -- but should the courts decide that a fertilized egg is a person, even the limited access we now have will disappear.

Women, though, will continue to have unplanned, unwanted and unsupported pregnancies, and, in their desperation, seek ways to terminate them. Canadian women will again be driven into back street abortions, and possible be maimed or die as a result.

The Canadian Abortion Rights Action League, of which I am an honorary director, plans to take legal action to counter Joe Borowski's threats to turn back the clock.

CARAL, unlike Borowski, is not supported by large powerful institutions with virtually unlimited funds. We are dependent upon you, and other individuals like you, to fight the battle which our legal advisors tell us could run to six figures.

Your interest, participation and financial support can make the difference. You can stop Joe Borowski from turning back the clock. Will you?

Yours sincerely, Margaret Laurence

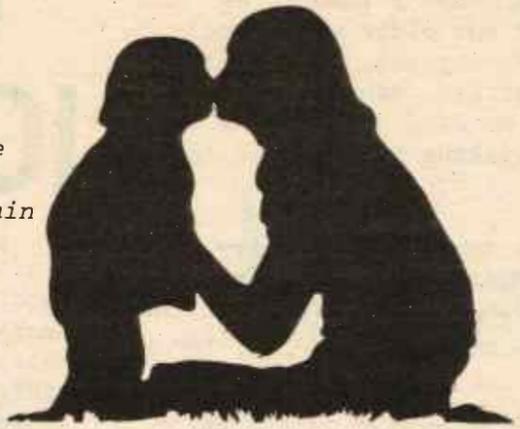


Margaret Laurence

# Poetry

Christopher

Blond smiles  
dazzling eyes  
catch the world  
as you open your hand  
close your fingers  
around your dreams  
so full of trust  
holding on for balance  
if you fall  
you'll get back up again  
wobbling  
and grasping  
all the time  
smiling  
growing.



## Do The Dishes

I watched how my mother lied in her sleep  
And said no fucking way mister.

I made pots after washing them  
bowls big as your head  
Mugs - Kam River jugs  
And I kept washing them.

They have to shine and the silverware comes  
After the glasses  
And then the mud - the incredible mud  
Soaping into cones  
Ice-cream droppings.

Mud Conferences  
The terrible message  
"That's a lot of work"  
Some penance of mine.

The alternatives-  
Do I like doing dishes or-  
women do dishes!  
Anyone can do dishes!  
I'm still doing dishes!

Women are dishes!

I'm drawing them  
Talking them  
Touching them  
Emulating them  
Remembering them.

Eaten alive  
Food on plates  
Dipped in suds  
Slaughtered in their sleeping wake  
Mountainous waves of warm.

I did the dishes!  
What did you do?

Geraldine Van Cram



Love Mom

Rosalyn Taylor Perrett

## constant

constancy  
may be worth something.  
i've been here  
a long time for you.  
letters for 12 years.  
a few hugs  
when we could  
have them.  
flowers  
building onto trust.

you sent me  
away last year.  
ran away from me.  
my arms empty  
of your love  
holding onto air.  
holding off  
a hostile world  
alone.  
so much alone.

one day soon  
you'll come back.  
the chance, my twin,  
that we may touch.  
that eyes may meet  
and recognize again.  
it's in our cards.  
but will you  
let me be there.  
or run far from me afraid.

Diane Stein  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

## SUNRISE

On certain mornings, long awaited,  
as the sun slowgilds the treetops 'cross  
the bay,  
An unheralded performance of a dawn  
ballet commences,  
For the ballerina sunbeams whirl out  
stage centre, front,  
To arabesque and pirouette and even  
pause awhile;  
Rejoice in their reflection of the sea.  
Time calls the tune though,  
While a westwind points the way  
As each performer exits swiftly in the  
dawn  
Save for one, who in defiance,  
leaping high in silent rapture,  
long pursues her gold enchantment;  
then is gone.  
In the sudden hush that follows...  
A lingering pause of unpaced  
heartbeats...  
Across the empty sea there falls  
The saltlace curtain of another day.

Violet Winegarden

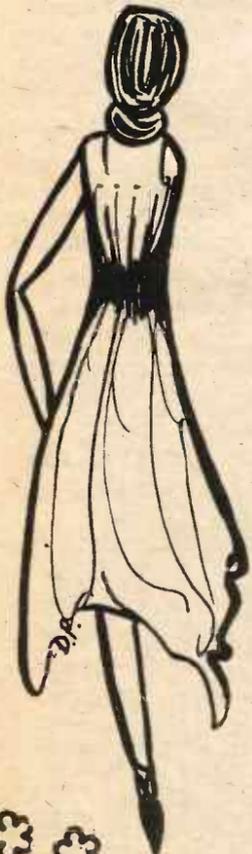
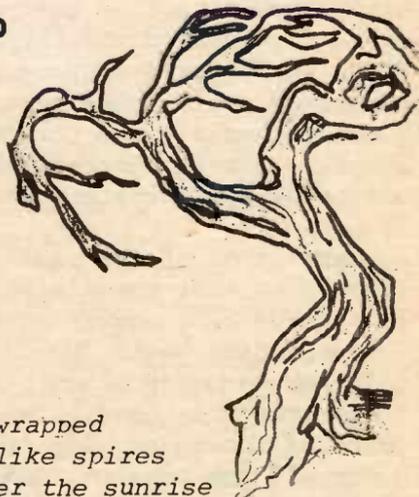
## POETRY

SUBMISSIONS REQUESTED

## Blanket Cry

The night lies, tightly wrapped  
Cocoon-like clouds rise like spires  
Spreading their stain over the sunrise  
Gray high -- lift and mire a blanket cru...  
A smell like something rotting  
A thing once so fresh and fine, protesting  
Its own transformation.

Joyce Michalchuk



# WOMEN'S PENSIONS

By Margaret Phillips

## NEEDS IGNORED

pensions ... a women's issue. An issue not only for older women but for every woman - young, middle aged or elderly; married, single, divorced or separated; working only inside the home or also working in the paid labour force.

Can you expect to live in dignity, with economic security when you are 65? Few women reading this Journal will be able to answer that question affirmatively.

Poverty in Canada is overwhelmingly a female phenomenon. Most elderly women are poor. Our pension system does not serve the needs of Canadian women. The pension system fails most Canadians, but within this sorry picture women are the most disadvantaged.

In her study 'Pension Reform With Women In Mind' Louise Dulude states: "Generally, our pension system is a disaster for women because it reproduces all the economic injustices they suffered throughout their lives. If they lived a life of poverty because they were taught to rely on a man who subsequently failed them, their pensions will almost certainly also be under the poverty line. If they worked full-time outside the home all their lives at dirty and exhausting jobs that paid little because they were done by women, they will get very low pensions as a result. The danger of reforming pensions without substantially improving women's treatment in them is to create two separate but unequal pension systems: a sophisticated and adequate one for men; and an inferior, charity-oriented one for women."

For many women the daily struggle for economic survival leaves little time or energy to consider one's retirement needs. Yet planning for retirement should begin as soon as you leave school. It is particularly important that women consider the pensions issue now. Both the federal and provincial governments are presently undertaking pension reform and the legislative changes that will be made in the next months or few years could significantly affect our retirement provisions for many years to come. As Louise Dulude comments "Pension reform comes in waves. From the shape of Canada's pension system today, it is obvious that in every wave of the past women were unrepresented and forgotten". If the inadequate, stereotyped and frequently sexist treatment of women is to be changed, a determined and energetic involvement of women in the current pension debate is necessary.

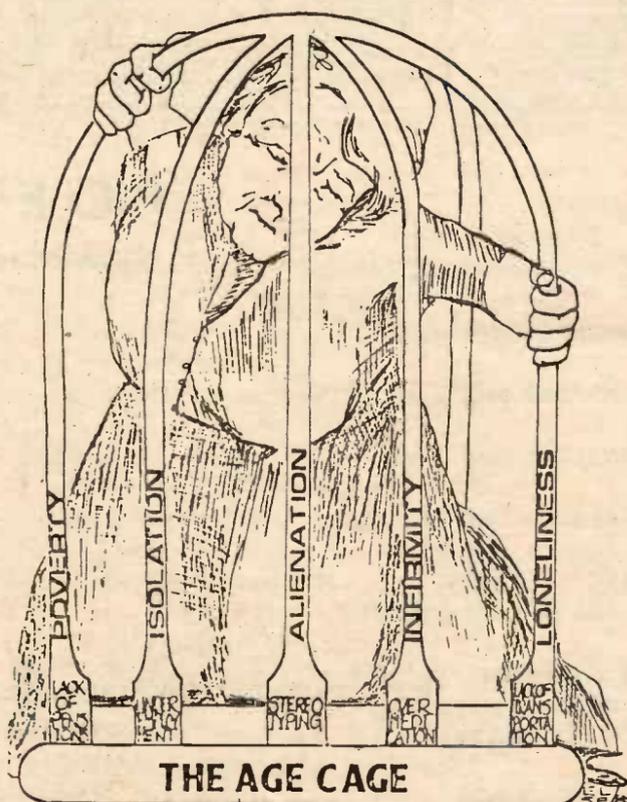
An examination of the present system illustrates that women's pensions needs are ignored in a number of ways. As a starting point let's look at what access to income security women over 65 years of age presently have. The most basic source of income of elderly Canadians is the old age pension (OAS) which is available, upon application, to everyone aged 65 and over, except people who migrated to Canada since July 1977. The problems of immigrant women will be discussed later.) The old age security pension increases every three months to reflect changes in the cost of living index. In April 1982 the OAS pension is \$232.97 per month.

Pensioners who have little or no personal income may also apply for the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS), which is also indexed to the cost of living. GIS applicants are income tested. The maximum GIS benefit available in April 1982 is \$233.89 for an individual alone, or \$180.32 for each member of a married couple. In Ontario the GIS may be supplemented by GAINS which in April 1982 provides \$48.88 for an individual alone and \$74.95 for a married pensioner.

It is important to note that the need for the Guaranteed Income Supplement is extensive. In 1980, 460,000 elderly men and 706,000 elderly women were receiving these supplements.

The other federal benefit for low income senior citizens is the Spouse's Allowance, which is given to married people aged 60 to 64 whose spouses are already receiving OAS and GIS. While this is a needed and beneficial program it must be pointed out that it discriminates against unmarried poor people aged 60 to 64...most of whom are women.

The basic programs offered by the government provide a married couple with an income approximately at the poverty line, but let us remember that the poverty level is established at only 50% of the average Canadian family income. The income of elderly women living alone still falls well below the poverty line. 59.5% of spouseless Canadian women aged 65 and over were living in poverty in 1979 (the last year for which statistics are available).



The Canada/Quebec Pension Plan (C/QPP) is a government sponsored retirement income system to which all employees and employers must contribute. The Plan (which I will subsequently refer to as

CPP) provides retirement pensions, disability pensions, death benefits and benefits for surviving spouses and children of a contributor. Retired employees receive pensions of 25% of average lifetime inflation-adjusted earnings up to a maximum (in 1982 ... \$308 per month). While the CPP has had an important impact on the income of retired men, women as a group have not been so fortunate. The pension is provided only to retirees from the paid labour force, thus the approximately 5,000,000 Canadian women who work only inside the home are excluded from the plan. It is ironic to note that a paid housekeeper is obliged to participate in the CPP. However, if she marries her employer and continues to do the same work she is no longer allowed to participate in the plan.

The CPP provides benefits to the surviving spouse of a contributor. If the contributor dies, the surviving spouse who is not a plan member (usually the female) will receive 60% of the contributor's retirement pension. But if the spouse who is not a plan member dies first, the plan member (usually the male) continues to receive the full retirement pension.

As previously mentioned the CPP is lifetime earnings related. Thus, because of their disadvantaged employment position many women wage earners are not well served. Most women employees are poorly paid. Many women by necessity are in the part time labour force. Consequently, pension benefits are correspondingly low.

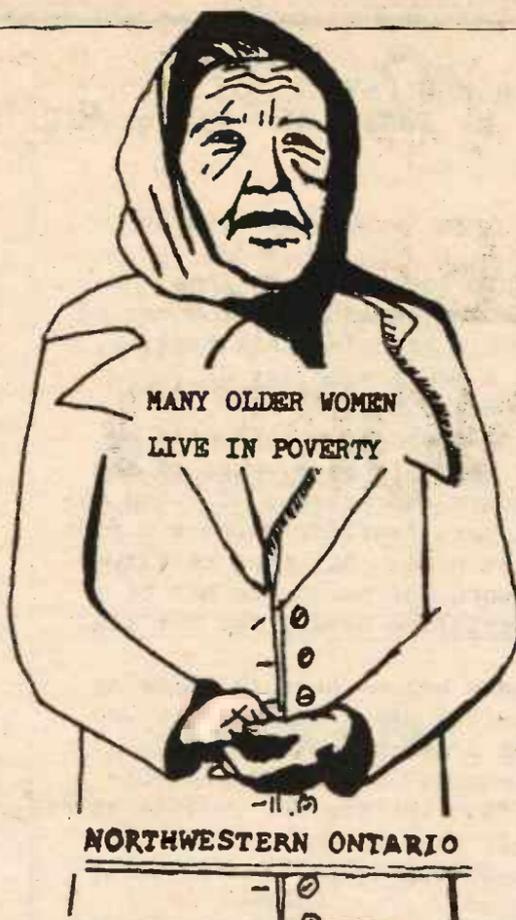
Except in Quebec, women who leave the paid labour force to care for their children will find their pensions significantly reduced. A "child care drop-out" provision to protect the pension entitlements of parents who leave the labour market to raise children has long been advocated. The province of Quebec has enacted a drop-out provision for mothers of children under the age of 7. Because of Ontario veto such provision cannot be enacted elsewhere in Canada.

What about private pension schemes? Aren't workers provided generous pension plan opportunities at their place of work? More than 55% of Canadian paid labour force is not covered by any private pension plan. Only 34% of female earners are covered by employer sponsored plans. Furthermore, access to an employer sponsored plan does not guarantee an employee a pension when they reach retirement age. Because of women's generally disadvantaged employment situation women change jobs more frequently than men, which has serious implications for their future pension benefits. Firstly, the lack of pension "portability" means that pension rights seldom can be transferred from one job to another. Secondly, unless the plan is "vested" an employee will lose the pension contributions their employer made on their behalf, and will only get back their own contributions, with a very low rate of interest. At present most provincial pension laws require "vesting" after a participant has attained age 45 and completed ten years of service for the same employer. This

Continued on page 14

OFTEN PENSION PLANS DO NOT  
INCLUDE SURVIVOR BENEFITS

MOST HOMEMAKERS ARE NOT COVERED  
BY PENSION PLANS



ONLY ONE THIRD OF WOMEN WORKERS  
ARE COVERED BY EMPLOYER SPONSORED  
PENSION PLANS

# Women <sup>AND</sup> Pensions Conference

REGISTRATION FEE...\$10 per DELEGATE (INCLUDES LUNCH SAT)

FRI, MAY 28, 1982 7:30-10 PM

SAT, MAY 29, 1982 9am-4.30

PRINCE ARTHUR MOTOR HOTEL

THUNDER BAY.

All Northwestern Ontario women are invited to participate in the WOMEN and PENSIONS Conference to be held at the Prince Arthur Hotel, Thunder Bay, May 28, 29, 1982. Sponsored by the Northern Women's Centre and supported by grants from the federal departments of Health and Welfare and Secretary of State, the Conference will provide women with information on pensions in Canada, and will give an opportunity to discuss methods of improving the delivery of pensions to women.

Accommodation and travel subsidies are available to delegates from NWO district communities. Day Care is available for children 2 yrs. and older provided that advance notice is given. Conference workshops will be held in English and in French.

Highlighting the Conference will be guest addresses by Ruth Cunningham, Louise Dulude and Monica Townson. As Director of Womens Programs for Confederation College since 1974,

Ruth Cunningham has initiated, developed and facilitated women's programs in response to changing needs of women in education and employment. Ruth Cunningham is a past member of the Ministry of Colleges and Universities Provincial Executive of Womens' Advisors; past vice-president of the Ontario Status of Women Council; and presently is a vice-president of MATCH International.

Louise Dulude is a lawyer and researcher specializing in the economic rights of women. Louise Dulude obtained her BA through evening courses while working as a secretary. She received a Bachelor of Law degree from the University of Montreal in 1970 and was admitted to the Bar of the Province of Quebec in 1971. Ms. Dulude practiced law as Director of a legal aid clinic in Montreal, and then worked in the field of women's rights in Ottawa, first as liaison officer with women's groups for the Department of Secretary of State, and subsequently as a researcher. In that capacity, she prepared seven reports on women, including 'Women and the Personal Income Tax System' (for the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women, in 1976), 'Women and Aging' (also for the CACSW, 1978), 'Women and Poverty' (for the National Council of Welfare, 1979) and 'Pension Reform With Women In Mind' (CACSW, 1981). Ms. Dulude was recently appointed to the Canada Pension Plan Advisory Committee, and in March 1982 was elected to the executive of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women.

Monica Townson, author of the bestseller 'Canadian Woman's Guide to Money' has a long standing involvement with the women's movement in Canada, and is a frequent speaker on 'women and work' and 'women and money'. Ms. Townson graduated from the London School of Economics. She is a former economic editor of Financial Times, and former vice-president and Director of Research for the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women. Ms. Townson currently works as an Economic Consultant in Ottawa.

The Conference begins at 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 28th and will conclude Saturday, May 29th at 4:30 p.m. Registration fee is \$10 per delegate, which includes Saturday lunch.

For further information please contact Margaret Phillips, Conference Co-ordinator, 316 Bay St. Thunder Bay, phone 345-7802 or the Seminar Centre, Confederation College, phone 475-6380.

COME TO THE  
CONFERENCE

# NETWORKING

Beendigen	622-5101
C.A.R.A.L.(Julie)	767-5853
Crisis Homes Inc. (Ieni)	345-7802
Crisis Housing (city)	623-2711
Family & Credit Counselling	623-9596
Free Clothing Depot	345-9222
Immigrant Women	345-0551
Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic	344-2478
Lamaze (bev)	622-5464
LaLeche League	577-9188
Midwest Health Centre Duluth	218-727-3352
Northern Women's Centre	345-7802
Northern Women's Credit Union	345-3112
Rape & Sexual Centre	344-4502
Women & Health	344-8144
Single Parent Women	767-6396
Women's Bureau, Min. of Labour	475-1691
Women's Programs (Con College)	475-6278

## TOWARD A NEW PSYCHOLOGY OF WOMEN by Jean Baker Miller, M.D.

by Gert Beadle

I would like to share some thoughts and feelings that occurred to me while studying this book, "Toward a New Psychology of Women", by Jean Baker Miller, M. D.

To those who have reflected on what it means to be a woman of the past, future and present, I found myself on very familiar territory from the first page. But that territory had widened for me in the use of a new descriptive naming for our reality.

We have become used to thinking of ourselves as victim and oppressor, but a new perception emerges with the words DOMINANTS and SUBORDINATES. It fits our reality so precisely that no one wonders how any other term could do more than confuse us.

DOMINANT...one who has a commanding position or controlling power, a supremacy or pre-eminence over another.

SUBORDINATE...one of lower class or rank inferior. Submissive to authority. Dependant.

To recognize that what is seen as "normal" is the dominant's perception of what is "normal" makes every thought outside the perimeters of that thought "abnormal", so that a great questioning of the self has taken place in the minds of the subordinates.

This questioning has produced an inner conflict, not resolved in many women, because it remains unspoken to a growing number of subordinates who are prepared to risk, by open conflict, in defence of their own values.

It is in the nature of dominants, both politically and personally, to shy away from introspection, to deny the flaws that are inherent in their own thinking and to protect their dominance from question.

The role of the subordinate has been to enforce the dominant's own conception of himself as capable of the task he has set.

The legitimacy of struggle in the dominant's eyes takes place only with peers; in this arena, he competes for advantage without any

question of his right to do so. To struggle with a subordinate, and take a chance on losing, causes a direct assault on his ego (formed by his interpretation of what a "man" is).

He has progressed in every area but the growth of psychological change, which can only be accomplished by introspection. Since the subordinate is a master of introspection it follows that all change comes from the subordinate class, and all division, from the dominant.

The value of conflict permeates this book; inner conflicts lay the base for the open conflicts that must take place before real change can happen. However, it is not woman's responsibility to move into the dominant's culture and cleanse it of the problems that men have created for themselves. That is a diversion which simply reaffirms us as subordinate, "cleaners-up" of messes made by the dominants.

It is within the subordinate class that the spirit of co-operation is necessary to strengthen the pull to affiliation. The "care and share" philosophy is deeply engrained as a survival technique. As the dominant structure pulls farther and farther away from community spirit, there can be no community between domination and servility. There must be conflict. Whatever form it takes, it must begin by refusing to prop up illusions which propagated the two-class system. The author posits, "There is no prop so missed as the one you always denied existed."

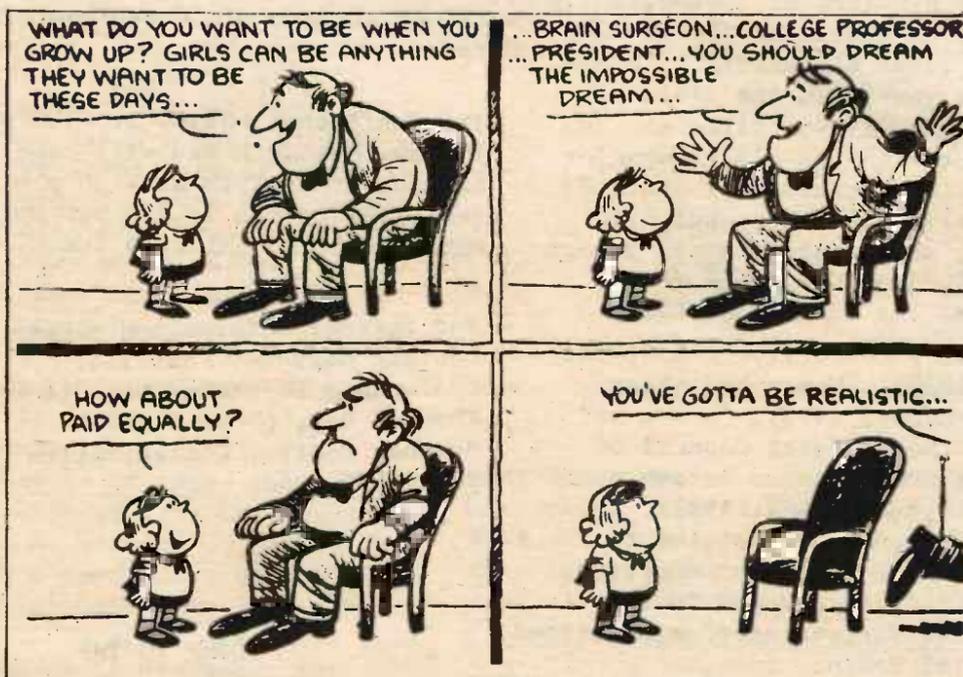
While the dominants must be forced into introspection, the subordinate must see this conflict of wills as legitimate and without malice--a necessary identification for promoting the changes of which she is carrier.

All subordinates are on the move against dominance--children, peasant working classes, to name a few, and each craves the power to change some structure in this culture of the dominant. However, women take a second look at power to control as a negative offshoot of the dominant culture, and spurn it.

The powers women are seeking are the power to authenticate ourselves and create an alternate culture that allows the experience of our subjugation to seep into the mix as positive change in social and institutional structures; the power to risk displeasure at choosing whether or not to have children and how many for our own reasons and the power to be self-sustaining and self-directed.

One does not necessarily have to destroy relationships to actualize oneself. There is always the possibility that the proper use of conflict will change that relationship--the dominants for subordinates at whatever level.

There does remain, however, the possibility of establishing a self-respect that may also encourage a new response from the dominants and for their own sake. Because the community of women make it possible not to have this conflict in splendid isolation, this is the real change the strong woman may find she misses: not establishing an affiliation where strength and weakness can be celebrated and supported.



Etta Hulme, USA

# A Quiz

## ABOUT THE CANADIAN PENSION SYSTEM

Credit National Action on  
the Status of Women

1. What are the three sources of pension income for Canadians?
2. What are the three plans provided by the federal government?
3. What percentage of people over the age of 65 with incomes below the poverty line are women?  
a) 20% b) 50% c) 66%
4. What is the most common definition of the word "pension"?  
a) senior's supplement b) deferred wages c) pensioner payoff
5. If you are a female worker in the labour force and you leave temporarily to have and raise a child, what happens to your contributions to the Canada Pension Plan?  
a) they continue automatically b) they stop c) you can contribute voluntarily
6. The income available from the OAS and GIS plans for the single pensioner in Canada in 1981 was \$5040. What was the poverty line?  
a) \$3300 b) \$4600 c) \$5800
7. Who is eligible for the spousal allowance benefit provided by the federal government?  
a) a widow or widower who has no independent income  
b) any married woman over 65  
c) a spouse (between 60 and 64) of an old age pensioner
8. What does GIS stand for?  
a) Golden Age Information Service  
b) Guaranteed Income Supplement  
c) Gaining Inflationary Spiral
9. What is the "drop-out" provision?  
a) a plan for people who are not Canadian citizens  
b) a plan to allow workers to take time out of the workforce to raise children without harming their pension accumulation  
c) a plan for senior citizens who wish to go back to school
10. What is "portability"?  
a) pension coverage for dock workers  
b) transferring accumulated pension credits from one employee plan to another  
c) being able to collect a pension when you move from one province to another
11. What is "indexing"?  
a) statistical analysis  
b) regular adjustment to pensions related to the cost of living  
c) a special file at Statistics Canada
12. What is "vesting"?  
a) early retirement  
b) ensuring employer's contribution to your pension plan is yours  
c) receiving gold watch and chain on retirement
13. What is the "survivor option"?  
a) benefits for unemployed women  
b) benefits for widows/widowers of employees enrolled in a pension plan  
c) benefits for any spouse who has survived 35 years of marriage
14. What percentage of employer provided pension plans give no survivor benefits to a widow?  
a) 10% b) 75% c) 47%
15. What percentage of female workers in the paid labour force are covered by a pension plan at work?  
a) 25% b) 34% c) 65%
16. What percentage of male workers are covered by a pension plan at work?  
a) 50% b) 90% c) 66%
17. If the average man receives a pension of about 60% of salary, what percentage does the average woman worker receive?  
a) 60% b) 40% c) 20%
18. What percentage of public service employees have pension plan coverage?  
a) 98% b) 50% c) 10%
19. On divorce, are you legally entitled to share in your spouse's accumulated pension credits from the Canada Pension Plan?
20. What about pension credit accumulated from an employee plan?

ANSWERS ON BACK PAGE

# the math mystique

by Joan Baril

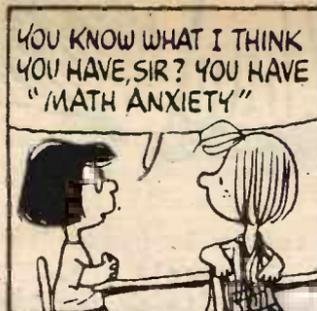
The strange thing about Math Anxiety is that, if you have it, you know exactly what it is; and if you don't have it you can't understand what the fuss is about.

The Fear of Math is neurosis or an irrational fear. A "math avoider" is a person, usually a woman who, according to Sheila Tobias, (Washington School of Psychiatry) determinedly avoids math and all math related programs. She is convinced she cannot "do math".

Women who suffer math alienation often dropped math as soon as they could in high school. Many women find their career paths blocked because they won't enter programs which require Math, even Math at a basic level.

What creates a math-a-phobe? The first cause is the societal forces that shape us as children--that old devil, conditioning. When I was at school in Thunder Bay in the fifties everyone assumed that boys were better than girls in math. The female students and (the few) women math teachers were considered lucky exceptions - sort of born geniuses because we all believed that you were granted math ability at birth--like a gift from the good fairy as in the old tales. Boys got it; girls didn't.

Of course, we all had heard about women students in Russia who excelled in Math and went on to be scientists and engineers and so on. We also "knew" that these studious women were muscular types and dowdy dressers as well which proved the limitations of the Communist system. We dressed as close to the "Seventeen" style as we could afford and eschewed Math whenever possible thereby being feminine and patriotic at the same time.



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Math ability, of course, is not a gift from heaven. It is a learned skill. Successful Math students play around with Math problems, trying various ideas to get the right solution. They know how to flounder constructively. Math-haters believe the myth that the answer should come at once. They lack the confidence to use the trial and error method.

Self-Confidence is crucial in learning math. According to Elizabeth Fennema (U. Wisconsin), confidence is almost as strongly related as cognitive (verbal and spatial) ability to math achievement. In her researches she found that boy children were significantly more confident than girls and the most able boys were the most confident. The boys believed their math ability was the result of skill, but the children believed that when a girl got the right answer, it was luck. No wonder the most able girls were the least confident of all.

There is another reason why girls are less confident in Math. Fennema discovered that math teachers interacted more with boys than with girls: She noted in her classroom observations that teachers gave more praise and blame to the confident boys. On many days, the girls did not interact at all with their math teachers. And the high confidence girls got the least attention from their math teachers.

Conditioning is not a one-shot thing that operates on us in early childhood--and then--zap--we are conditioned.

It is a life-long system of subtle rewards and punishments which influence our actions and beliefs. Being ignored is a punishment - a negative reinforcement for girls with math ability...

Society (and this includes parents, teachers, counsellors and male and female students) believe that Math is not as important for girls as for boys. Parents often don't "notice"

## PENSIONS from page 10

system obviously was developed with the middle/upper class male in mind ... .. it certainly doesn't apply to most women.

Women who have been in the labour force for some years have been victims of sex discrimination in employer sponsored pension plans, which frequently had later entrance ages and earlier retirement for women. By 1982 this discrimination has largely been removed but that may be of small comfort to older women earners. (In one previous job situation I was prohibited from joining the pension plan until I had completed three full years of employment ..the criteria for male workers of this corporation was one year.. thus I lost two years of pension benefits because I am a woman.)

Another shortcoming of employer sponsored plans is the absence (in most plans) of survivor benefits. For once and for all let's dispel the myth that wives are adequately provided for by their husbands' pensions.

Our pension system implies a societal expectation that Canadians will plan for their retirement by personal savings and investments. Such expectation of course ignores the fact that the wages of most female earners preclude the possibility of significant savings, and conveniently forgets that homemakers have no personal income from which to save or invest.



The pension system also seems oblivious to the reality that one in three Canadian marriages will end in divorce. Except in British Columbia, employer sponsored pension plans and R.R.S.P.'s are not usually recognized as family assets to be divided between spouses upon divorce. While the CPP pension credits can be equally split between divorcing spouses, such splitting is not automatic but must be applied for within three years of the divorce. To date a very low percentage of divorcing women have benefitted from this provision. The possible reasons for this may be lack of information about this right, or the difficulty the divorcing wife has in providing necessary documentation (e.g. her husband's birth certificate and social insurance numbers). However, it is suggested that as most

divorcing women are under age 35 and have an immediate and urgent need for cash, they will accept a small cash settlement and forego the long-term pension benefit.

A particularly serious situation exists in respect to pension provision for immigrant women. Until July 1977, people who emigrated to Canada at least ten years before reaching age 65 were entitled to a full OAS pension. Since 1977 the rule is that people who have been here more than ten years but less than 40 get only 1/40th of the pension for every year spent in Canada. As a result only those who have been here for 40 years or more will receive full benefits. This provision was made with the objective of helping people who were deprived of social security benefits earned in other countries because of the absence of reciprocal agreements with those countries. What was ignored is that few, if any, immigrant women qualify for pensions from their countries of origin. As Louise Dulude states "If we insist on retaining the present eligibility rules for OAS, therefore, within a decade or two we will have created a new, mainly female, mainly Third World sub-class of senior citizens in Canada."



Pension reform in Canada is under review. If women's situation in the pension system is to improve, women must forcefully make their needs known. An opportunity to engage in the pensions debate will be provided by the Women and Pensions Conference to be held in Thunder Bay, May 28, 29, 1982. (See Conference details elsewhere in this Journal)

A number of studies recently undertaken make concrete recommendations concerning the necessary changes that must be made in the pensions system. Subsequent issues of the Journal will review these recommendations, as well as report the results of the Women and Pensions Conference.

Resource material used in the preparation of this article includes: the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women's reports - Pension Reform for Women..A Discussion Paper, Women and Pensions Fact Sheet, Pension Reform With Women In Mind (by Louise Dulude), all of which are available from the CACSW, Box 1541, Station B, Ottawa, K1P 5R5; and the NAC Women and Pensions kit, available (\$6.00) from the National Action Committee on the Status of Women, Suite 306, 40 St. Clair Ave. E., Toronto, M4T 1M9.

## MATH cont'd

a girls math ability but boys are encouraged math-ward. Math textbook materials are often the most male oriented of all school material.

For example the American SAT-M college entrance tests, spots male a forty point advantage due to sex bias, according to Lynn Fox in a report for the Ford Foundation.

### Some further notes on math anxiety:

There is no evidence to support belief that boys do better in math than girls either at public or high school level. (Fox, Ford Foundation March 1980). The research is still inconclusive here.

It has also been suggested that there is a biological or genetic difference (or differences in the male and female brain) which could account for differences between the sexes. Math. Until recently it was stated that males were favoured in spatial abilities and some researchers believe that this meant males were better at Math but recent studies shed doubt on all these theories.

### Taking Math and Loving it

Courses for math avoiders are springing up and Confederation College is considering one for this Fall. In these courses the women discuss the math histories. The Math work is done in a non-competitive atmosphere, with non-sexist materials and plenty of encouragement to discuss difficulties without feeling stupid. The student learn how to "read" Mathematics plus learning about different kinds of thinking. And of course, no timed tests or surprise quizzes -- just an exploration of a new (mathematical) world



### THUNDER BAY RAPE & SEXUAL ASSAULT CENTRE

Women from the Centre will be in LONGLAC: May 20th, 9:30 am at the Library for a Community Information Workshop.

MARATHON: June 7, at 8:00, place to be announced.

NIPIGON: June 8, time to be announced.

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# Health Wanted

**THE THUNDER BAY WOMEN AND HEALTH COMMITTEE** concerned with women's health care in Northwestern Ontario ask you to share your experiences with them. All information will be kept in confidence. Their goals are as follows:

**Short term goals:**

TO ESTABLISH A RELIABLE KNOWLEDGE BASE WITH THE GROUP WHICH COULD BE DRAWN UPON AS A RESOURCE IN FUTURE.

TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH OTHER HEALTH RELATED GROUPS ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

**Long term goals:**

TO OPERATE AS A COMMUNITY RESOURCE, TO BE DRAWN UPON FOR INFORMATION AND REFERRALS.

TO PROMOTE A HEALTH INFORMATION NETWORK THROUGHOUT THE NORTHWEST REGION.

**CONDENSED From:**

"The Politics of Artificial Light" by Roberta Rivers  
Healthsharing, Spring '82

Our environment has an impact on our bodies and their biological rhythms. Artificial lighting can be one of the environmental factors affecting health.

Many women, particularly those working women who are also filling the role of mother and housewife, spend most of the day (and night in the case of shift workers) under artificial lighting, often florescent, with little exposure to direct sunlight.

Available studies show a relationship between artificial light and symptoms of, among others, headaches, eyestrain, skin that is pale and sensitive to sun or showing signs of early aging and menstrual disorders such as irregular menses or painful periods.

## WHOLE BIRTH CATALOGUE

The Whole Birth Catalogue is a resource catalogue for anyone interested in women and birth. It includes information on books, birth and educational supplies, herbs and other maternal aids.

The Catalogue costs \$1.50 (plus 50 cents for postage). It is available from: **THE WHOLE BIRTH CATALOGUE**  
20 London Rd. W.  
Guelph, Ont.  
N1H 2B5

## THE FOLLOWING MATERIAL CAN BE OBTAINED

### FROM MATCH INTERNATIONAL CENTRE

401 - 171 Nepean Street  
OTTAWA, Ontario, Canada  
K2P 0B4, (613) 238-1312

- \_\_\_ MATCH brochures and membership forms
- \_\_\_ Newsletters
- \_\_\_ Description of projects

### RESOURCE KITS (Also Available in French)

- Women and Agriculture \$3.00
- Appropriate Technology for Women \$3.00
- Cooperatives and Access to credit for Women \$3.00
- Genital Mutilations: Opinions from Third World Women \$3.00
- Bottle Babies \$3.00
- Women and Contraception: Who's in control? \$3.00
- MATCH Community Animation Kit \$1.50

## THUNDER BOLT

To: Brady Reaume the general manager of Lakehead Living, Thunder Bay's weekly tabloid. Brady resurrected the caption "Wednesday Girl" (put to rest by earlier complaints) which appears under the photo of a female whether she is nine or ninety.



## THUNDER CLAP

HELP HELP HELP

Atikokan Crisis House is in need of a crib. Anyone having one they wish to donate please call Leni at 683-5236, in Thunder Bay.

To: The women producing the television series WOMEN, CONTROVERSY and CHANGE for their laudible and enthusiastic efforts at production, editing, acting, writing and directing.

NOT THE DOCTOR  
NOT THE CHURCH  
NOT THE STATE  
WOMEN HAVE THE RIGHT  
TO CONTROL THEIR FATE

C. A. R. A. L.  
meeting

Women's Centre 316 Bay St.  
June 3, 1982

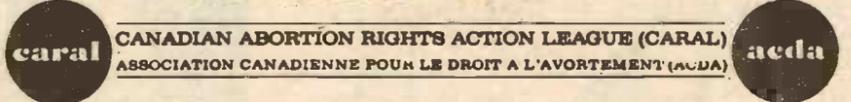


## LESBIAN COUNSELORS NETWORK

If you counsel lesbians and are a radical lesbian feminist or separatist, you are invited to join a network of radical lesbian counselors. We will be sharing theory, techniques, case consultation, workshop ideas, and personal survival ideas as they relate to counseling lesbians.

For more information contact: RUTH BAETZ, Box 242, Rte. 2, BURTON, Wa. 98013, U.S.A.

## FREEDOM OF CHOICE



The Purpose of CARAL is to ensure that no woman in Canada is denied access to safe, legal abortion. Our aim is the repeal of all sections of the Criminal Code dealing with abortion and the establishment of comprehensive contraceptive and abortion services, including appropriate counselling across the country.

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# VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

## *an historical perspective*

by Deborah Gorham

There are two main reasons why our society accepts, if not condones, violence against women—wife battering, for example, or the humiliations of rape trials, or the treatment of child abuse.

First, even though our twentieth century legal system has made great advances towards equality for men and women, our society still sanctions male power and female powerlessness through its economic structures and through other agencies of social control.

The second factor is more difficult to identify clearly, because it operates at a non-rational level, but it is probably of even greater importance than the first: in much of the sexual imagery of our culture, female sexuality is portrayed as dangerous and destructive.

In contemporary society, those improvements in the legal structure that were won for us by feminists in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries tend to obscure the fact that the attitudes of an older, frankly patriarchal tradition still persist. Our western European heritage has bequeathed to us a tradition in which patriarchal control was the cornerstone of the dominant group's conception of both the family and the state, and uncluttered by the rise of democratic individualism in the nineteenth century.

The ideology of patriarchy reached its fullest development in the seventeenth century, and in this period the relationship of power and subordination deemed necessary in the family came to be seen as symbolic of the power relationships that ought to exist at all levels of society. As one historian of seventeenth-century puritanism has put it, "the essence of the social order lay in the superiority of husband over wife, parents over children, and master over servants in the family, ministers and elders over congregations in the church, rulers over subjects in the state".

It should be pointed out that women were not alone in being excluded from power; in theory, all children, all young men, and all poor men shared this powerlessness. But woman's position was unique, in that it was only women who were in theory perpetually subordinate and controlled. Not only did most women have less autonomy than men of equivalent social status, but also being female became symbolically connected with being subordinate. In the ideology of patriarchy, the subordination of the wife to the husband was perceived as analogous to the subordination of man to God—part of the natural order of things.

Today, feminists are working to eradicate such patriarchal features of the law as the husband's right to consortium and his right to select the family's domicile, but it should be remembered that these inequities are vestiges of a much more pervasive system of male domination that goes back to Roman times. The Roman "patria potestas" gave the father-patriarch life-and-death power over his wife and minor children. His control over his daughters continued until they

married, at which time they came under the control of their husbands. Although the position of women did improve to some degree over two thousand years, up until the reforms to English law of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries it was still true that by what was known as the "doctrine of coverture" a wife's person was subsumed under that of her husband. Thus, in becoming married, a woman submitted to remaining a perpetual minor. In theory, she could not make contracts, own property, or sue or be sued in court. (In practice, exceptions were sometimes made). Her children, if they were "legitimate", were in law the children of her husband—she had no legal authority over them.

And what of the husband's right to physical control of his wife? In English law, the wife's promise in the marriage ceremony to obey the husband was reflected in his common-law right to restrain her, and beat her. However I should point out that there were limits, both in law and in custom, to the husband's physical power over his wife. By the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, legal commentators did say that a man's right to beat his wife did not allow him to be "violent or cruel" to her; nevertheless, his right to "restrain" his wife, that is, force her to return to live with him if she ran away, continued to be upheld by English and Canadian courts until the late nineteenth century.

The patriarchal tradition still is relevant to us today. Although many policemen, judges, and lawyers give lip-service to the idea of legal equality between men and women, in fact this tradition is relatively so new that the older tradition, in which



the wife was seen as a child in need of control, is still with us, even though those who subscribe to it are no longer likely to admit to the fact openly.

Now I want to turn to the second factor that I mentioned at the outset: our society still associates female sexuality with danger and evil. I think that this deep-felt tradition is of great importance in explaining

not only why violent crimes against women occur, but also why it is that men, including police officers, physicians, and judges often feel that a woman has violence "coming to her" that she "deserved" to be raped, beaten, or molested.

In this century, women have been perceived as less, rather than more sexual than men, and although this view has been challenged in recent years, it is still, I would suggest, the way many people think a "normal" woman should be. But this view dates only from the Victorian period, and supercedes a much older ideology, with a much longer history.

According to this view, women were seen as sexual devourers. As an example, here is a quotation from a learned fifteenth-century text, in which two Dominican fathers explain why women, rather than men, are likely to become witches: "All witchcraft comes from carnal lust, which is in women insatiable. See Proverbs XXX.

*There are three things that a woman never satisfied, yea a fourth thing which say not, It is end that is, the mouth of the womb. Wherefore for the sake of fulfilling their lusts they conspire even with devils*" Malleus Maleficarum (1484)

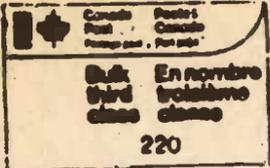
In this imagery, women are quintessentially sexual, forever a temptation to men who are forever in danger. Through the process so well described by Simone de Beauvoir in *The Second Sex*, women represent physicality in the male ideology, both benevolent, symbolizing birth and fertility, and malevolent, symbolizing death and decay. These images of women exist in other cultures, but they are especially strong in the European tradition, where they were maintained and enforced by the imagery of the Jewish-Christian religion. Beginning with Eve the Temptress in the Genesis myth, sexual women are portrayed as gateways to Hell. In the ideology of the medieval Church, the only good woman was an asexual woman, represented by the Virgin Mary. The best place for real women, said the Church fathers, was a nunnery. There, by practicing poverty, chastity, and obedience, a woman might possibly overcome the misfortune of her pervasive sexuality.

In an earlier period, the belief that women were more sexual than men was used to justify male control over women because sexual frailty was presumed to make women less capable of moral judgement than males. Although this belief is not openly advocated anymore, it is there when we are told that a rape victim must have tempted her rapist; it is there when we are told that a woman must have "provoked

her husband to violence; it is there when psychiatrists imply that the daughter, in a father-daughter incest case, must either have fantasized the abuse, or else have provoked it in some way by her own expressions of sexuality.

Until we eradicate both patriarchy and the male dominance of our ideology about female sexuality, I believe that the implicit condoning of male violence against women will continue to be an integral part of our social structure.

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ANSWERS TO THE PENSION QUIZ

1. pensions from the government-- public plans, pensions from the employer--private plans, personal savings  
Government plans account for about 40% of earnings replacement.
2. Old Age Security (OAS), Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS), Canada Pension Plan (CPP) Quebec Plan (QPP)
3. c, 4. b, 5. b, 6. c, 7. c, only if need can be proven, 8. b,
9. b only the Quebec Pension Plan has this provision, 10. b, 11. b only public pension plans are adjusted quarterly, 12. b, 13. b, 14. c, 15. b, 16. a, 17. c,
18. a, 19. yes--you must file for the credit split within three years of the divorce, 20. no--pension income is not considered a family asset in many cases

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