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Northern Woman Journal

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V your VOICE

NORTHERN VOICE

Seven years later, here I am, a feminist, still living in this small northern, one-industry town. It is called Iroquois Falls and is located north of North Bay, about 300 miles. According to the tourist pamphlets, Iroquois Falls is known as the "garden town of the north". I can't help but grin every time I come across the description. Certainly there are a few gardens around, but they can hardly justify the picturesque description Iroquois Falls was given.

So what does a feminist do in a male-dominated town? She tries hard to hold onto her sanity. Mind you, I wasn't always a feminist. When I first arrived, I was your typical, loving wife, who cooked wonderful dishes and anxiously awaited her husband's return from a far off bush camp. Those were lonely days when I was too shy to meet people and rathered the safety of our small apartment. The love of my life was home rarely and long distance phone calls to my family were frequent. Those calls made me feel I wasn't reaching out and touching someone, rather, I felt more depressed because I realized how far out of reach they actually were.

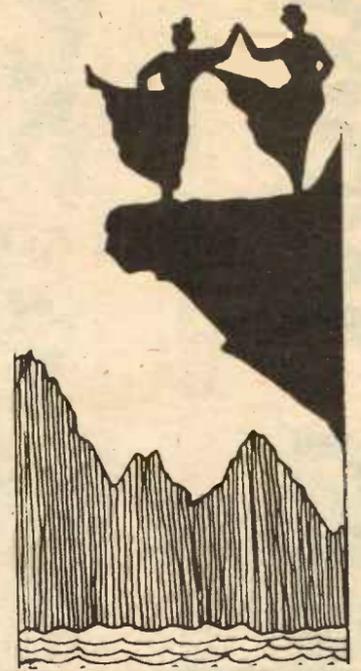
Nothing was familiar to me, not the french I heard around me, nor the constant talking about others which was so much a part of the small town atmosphere. I remember taking my first taxi ride and the driver telling me how much I was going to enjoy living in a small town. He cautioned me. Everybody knew everybody else's business. Coming from Toronto, it fascinated and alienated me to see so much interest in other people's lives. Back home, you were just another face in the crowd. But in Iroquois Falls, people talked about you, though it may not always be good, but at least they knew you existed.

That was my first impression several years ago and the town hasn't changed much. But I have. Due to some very important people in my life, I grew and changed, though I still feel lonely. But it's a different kind of loneliness that has taken over. I feel I am amongst the few feminists who are a minority that share the feminist perspective. To simply acknowledge yourself as such is similar to having the bubonic plague. People fear the word as if being a feminist means being a radical, man-hating woman. How can we make them understand that we are not out to expel them, but to add the word "equality" to their vocabulary.

WELCOME HOME JOAN EDITORIAL

Our readers will be as delighted as we are to know that Joan Baril is back in Thunder Bay. Joan's significant contribution to The Northern Woman is so welcome.

We wish to thank those readers who promptly renewed their subscriptions recruited new subscribers and sent donations. The monies thus received have replenished our coffers sufficiently to publish this current issue. Our long-term finances, however, are still precarious, so we must re-iterate our appeal. If each of you who read this issue found five new subscribers—the Northern Woman would be financially secure. Please help us keep our journal healthy.



Iroquois Falls is isolated from the rest of Ontario in the sense that new ideas and views are slow in being accepted. The graduating teenager in the town tends to hold onto their grandparents views that are stereotyped sexual roles. If you're lucky enough to be hired at the paper mill and protected by a union, you are often subjected to rude sexual comments and sexism at its best.

I feel like a closet feminist sometimes, as I realize how gently I must introduce feminist views in order to reach a greater scope of women and not frighten them away. It can be so frustrating and tiresome because often I feel like shouting out at the inequality and sexism being practiced here. I remain optimistic as I realize change is possible. The wheels of progress have started to turn in the form of consciousness raising and support group which is slowly becoming a reality. Eventually, we hope to reach the women who need a place to go for support and information for whatever the cause.

Alcohol and wife beating are just a few of the more popular problems. They're real and large in number, unlike the facilities for the women. Only recently has a home for battered women been established in our area. For three to six weeks the home offers ten women and their children the opportunity to re-examine their lives with the help of trained staff. This is just a band-aid solution though. Still, what is needed is a place where women can go to share and have access to new ideas, and views which will enable them to realize their self worth.

So while other feminists across Canada are struggling over issues to agree on and fight for, those of us in small communities are plowing ahead to educate women to just feel comfortable with the word "feminist". We have a long way to go. Even if the rest of Canada takes on the feminist perspective, it's isolated towns like Iroquois Falls that will stagnate if we let them. So, we go on.

Kim Gareau

Dear NWJ:

Thank you for the complimentary copy of your journal and a small donation as well as subscription funding is enclosed.

Keep up the great work, please!

Jeanne Edwards

Dear NWJ:

Please renew my subscription and also find enclosed a donation. I hope this helps, as \$5.00 seems such a small amount to pay for all the talent and information contained in the Journal.

Linda Salamon

ALERT

INDIAN WOMEN WHO LOST STATUS

The amendments to the Indian Act allowing reinstatement have passed. To apply for reinstatement for yourselves and your children contact Indian Affairs or the Legal Clinic in your area.

We're always

looking for

good people.

UPDATE

Joan Baril

The official opening is August 23 from 3-6 pm and it's an exciting first for Thunder Bay --- Immigrant Women's Employment Place is a centre run by immigrant women to help women find jobs. It's a self-help centre where women can share their experiences about work issues, discuss what the barriers to employment are and consider strategies. The centre is in downtown Port Arthur ward across from Eaton's, upstairs at 12A South Court Street. The coordinator is Thuy Ly. ♦♦♦♦ Mary Rakowski and Fiona Karlstedt have prepared a handbook to assist women who are considering running for political office. The booklet, a project of the Economic Development Committee of the Northwestern Ontario Decade Council, is a guide for women seeking office at the municipal level. It sets out the pitfalls, and also gives practical information. The guide, which has been published locally, is available to interested women. ♦♦♦♦ According to a survey done by a group of Lakehead University women, the women students want a Women's Centre on campus and it looks as if a Centre will start up this September. The 268 women polled want a centre to lobby for women's issues (seen as a priority by 77.6%), to provide information on women's activities in Thunder Bay and Canada (73%), and arrange self-defence and assertiveness training (56%). The women also indicated they want information on scholarships (72.8%), job creation (70.5%), and health topics such as birth control (61.6%).

Some university women's centres concentrate on helping women thread their way through the enormous amount of material connected with the new disciplines of women's studies. An example is the Women's Resource Centre at the University of Guelph. Not surprisingly 71.9% of Lakehead women who responded to the questionnaire prioritized women's studies as a need.

Other centres focus on health. One such was the Birth Control and Counselling Centre which operated at Lakehead for five years (1969-1974) and which also served as a women's lobby and drop-in centre. ♦♦♦♦

University women often have to battle hard for a place on campus. University of Toronto women have been trying to get a women's building for sixty years. Chief opposition comes from male students and administrators who pretend women's causes have no validity in order to divert scarce funds and resources into activities they find less threatening and more congenial. ♦♦♦♦♦ The



Feminist Counselling Workshop held June 6,7 at the Avila Centre was so successful that Northwestern Ontario Decade Council is attempting to arrange a repeat. Moderator Susan McPhail from London, Ontario guided the group into an understanding of peer/feminist counselling as apposed to the traditional social worker/client model with its innate imbalance of power. Approximately half of the eighteen participants were from the region outside Thunder Bay. Once, what we read about women came to us filtered through the treatment plant of the patriarchal mind. But now, it is axiomatic among feminists that women learn when we speak the truth of our own lives. ♦♦♦♦

The women of Project Mayday, on the North Shore, have just completed their action research study, the result of in-depth interviews and so, for the first time, we have in written form the lives and experiences of women in Ontario single-industry towns --- in this case Schrieber, Marathon, Manitowadge and Terrace Bay.

The women learned interview techniques from Diana Ellis (Women's Research Centre, B.C.) who also helped them to draw up interview guides. The issues which come out of the report will be used as the basis for the Northshore Women's Conference October 26, 27. ♦♦♦♦

Congratulations, Ear Falls Mothers' Action Committee. When the local council cancelled the swim program and supervised beach, the women lobbied successfully to keep the programs available to children. Still battling, the Women's Committee in Nakina against the CN runthrough. They have worked hard to show how the CN phase-out will affect community life. In recent hearings, they weren't even given a place on the agenda. ♦♦♦♦ Bravo to the women of Vermillion Bay who spearheaded the fight against the plan to dump PCB asphalt near their community and forced government officials to reconsider the scheme. ♦♦♦♦ LARC (Lesbian Archives and Resource Centre) near Kenora is open by

appointment (phone (807) 548-4325). Northern women travelling through Kenora should call the day before. Holdings include books, periodicals, clipping collections, pamphlets, memorabilia from lesbian organizations and events etc. Donations of items for the collection or money for expenses are very welcome. Mailing address: LARC c/o Isabel Andrews, RR #2 Kenora, P9N 3W8. ♦♦♦♦ Conferences - it seems every feminist periodical has a list. There is the Canadian Women's Festival '85 August 30, 31 and September 1 at Kildonan Park Winnipeg. In November Charlottetown will host the Farm Women's Conference with the theme "Networking for Action". The Northwestern Ontario Women's Health Education Project is holding its annual meeting with workshop October 18, 19, 20 at Avila Centre Thunder Bay. They'll be working on strategies for the future in women's health issues in Northwestern Ontario. Interested local women should phone 345-1410 Monday - Wednesday. ♦♦♦♦ Anna McColl of this Journal attended the Feminist Periodical Conference in June which was held outside Montreal. She returned with a portfolio bulging with publications including Teen Herizons, a newspaper-style journal of writing by teens published in Calgary, and Breaking the Silence a feminist magazine on social issues from Ottawa.

Also new is The Newsmagazine, a new glossy from Alberta. ♦♦♦♦ The official opening of the first women's centre in Hearst was marked by two days of ceremonies. Town councillor Sheila Lamontagne, and the regional representative to National Action Committee on the Status of Women (N.A.C.) Kathryn Fournier, were the speakers the first day. There was also a wine and cheese party.

There was open house the second day. Margot Blight from Thunder Bay spoke on the varying styled of women's centres.

The Centre, which will offer bilingual services, is a first for Hearst, the result of several years of work by France-Femmes, a local women's group. The Centre defines itself as a service organization to provide counselling, rape crisis work, information, referral and lobbying action on women's issues. It will also set up workshops and conferences. ♦♦♦♦

It must be a joke, a shaggy dog joke - you don't know whether to laugh, cry or ignore it. To Flora MacDonald and all the Tories "It's a landmark", a "major step forward" and they can say it with a straight face.



It's "Employment Equity" a term so meaningless it would make George Orwell blush. It's not much to do with employment and it is only the tiniest shuffle toward equity.

What it is really about is statistics --- reporting statistics. Starting in 1988, companies have to hand in reports telling governments who they employ, detailing how many are women, disabled people, visible minorities and so on; not all companies, mind you, but Crown Corporations and "federally regulated" employers with more than 100 workers --- banks, airlines, the CN.

"Very well," I hear you say, "what happens then eh? The purpose of the statistics is...?" This is where the shaggy dog comes in --- no punch line, no point. According to the act, after the figures are handed in, you, interested member of the public, can pay a fee and see them. On the other hand, consolidation of the various numbers may be made --- and it will be various --- because there are varying methods of reporting --- and may be presented to Parliament.

Well, that's it. This should make the employers of the nation tremble, don't you think? There's no teeth in the act, no penalties for companies who hand in bad reports, no definition as to what a bad report is, no enforcement and no remedy. It's like sending David out against Goliath without his sling.

Michael Sabia, the relevant government official, thought perhaps the Canadian Human Rights might do something, he's pretty sure, and maybe they could lay a complaint if they didn't like what was in the reports even though, he allowed, they don't usually initiate complaints on their own. This is the same Human Rights Commission which was told, some time later, by the Federal Court of Appeal that it could not impose affirmative action programs.

Chavira Hoseh, president of NAC commented, "It seems the government thinks the Human Rights Commission is to be the enforcement agency for "employment equity". If they can't impose restitution, it's useless for imposing "employment equity". ♦♦♦♦ Isn't it wonderful that the

conferences on the Decade of Women in Nairobi received almost as much mainstream media coverage as the visit of the giant pandas. The Globe and Mail sent their expert on women, Michael Valpy who was struck by Margarita Papandreou of Greece who he described as "attractive" and "a most feminine woman who could argue in the language of men" He thrilled at her looks, "Handsome, patrician looking...superbly dressed," but she "gave women hard lectures". While other women "gave flowery speeches", hers were "closely reasoned".

It seems to occur to nobody that instead of colour stories about big names like Mauree Regan, women would be interested in hearing from women like Papandreou, who is, in fact, a tireless grass roots organizer of women in Greece. So much is going on at Nairobi --- two major conferences, 7000 participants, hundreds of meetings and panels. For example under the heading "Media" we find listed fifty workshops at the NGO conference (Non-government forum). Here are some samples: Media, Power Uses, Political Tool; Production and Broadcasting; Women of Colour as Writers; Hands-on Computer Centre; Information Sharing on Peacemaking --- and on and on, each panel as intriguing as the last.

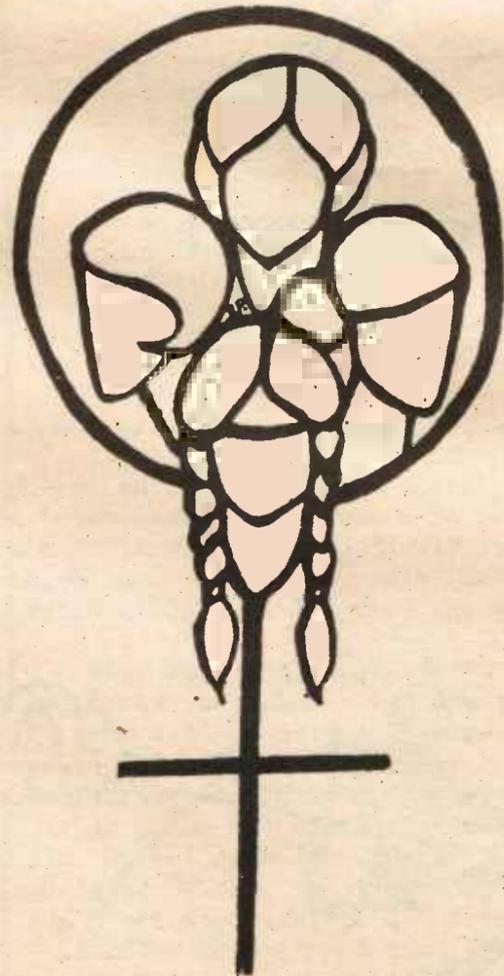
International women's organizations will network at Nairobi. So many of our concerns can only be dealt with internationally. For example the International Feminist Network Against Sexual Slavery will meet there. Kathleen Barry, author of Female Sexual Slavery will be present. The group works to combat the forces which make forced prostitution and pornography invisible, profitable and thriving. ♦♦♦♦ The good news is the follow-up conference to be held at the University of Guelph September 26-29. Registration is open to anyone. This will be a major conference which will bring messages from

Nairobi and cover many topics. The theme is "the significance of women's contribution and status in domestic and international development". Northern women will have their air fare subsidized. Phone Lisa Bengtsson, Secretary of State office, 345-2316. ♦♦♦♦ Studio D (National Film Board) went to Nairobi and intends to put out a film. It will be available for women's community groups. The American Scene. Over the past several years each American state has seen repeated attempts by anti-abortionists to bring in laws to prevent women from getting abortions. Many states have passed "permission" bills to make it mandatory that women considering abortion get

written permission from someone else ie husband, father, both parents. (A similar measure is being considered in Saskatchewan). Then there are "squeal bills" which require doctors and others to inform on women considering abortion. Another type is the bill recently passed by the Illinois legislature this spring. It would allow a husband to get an injunction to prevent the wife from having an abortion. (It will likely be vetoed by the state governor.)

A new ploy is to require the woman to dispose of the fetal tissue. In New Jersey proposed legislation would require women considering abortion or who have had a spontaneous miscarriage to choose "burial, cremation, entombment" at their expense. It would mean, for example, that a woman who miscarried at home, would have to arrange "proper" disposal of fetal tissue or face a fine of \$7500 or 18 months in jail.

All this bizarre legal activity is taking place in a country which has a higher teen-age pregnancy rate and more teen abortions than any other industrialized nation. A report by the Alan Guttmacher Institute concludes that other industrialized countries have more liberal attitudes toward sex than the U.S., easier access to contraception without parental notification and more comprehensive sex education --- all factors that lower teen pregnancy rates.





BOOKS

Stock up for your fall reading with some of the fine new titles available at Northern Woman's Bookstore.

Two recent books by Jane Rule: INLAND PASSAGE (\$10.95) is a collection of short stories "...soul-deep, gentle tales (that) explore the conventional and unconventional relationships in all our lives", while A HOT EYED MODERATE (\$10.95) is a collection of essays.

A most exciting writer that many of us are just discovering is Jamaica Kincaid. AT THE BOTTOM OF THE RIVER is a collection of Kincaid's short stories.

FLIGHT OF THE SEVENTH MOON is a companion piece to Lynn V. Andrews earlier work MEDICINE WOMAN. "This beautiful book weaves rare and profound teachings of the Medicine Path with the remarkable story of a warrior woman's gateway of initiation". Both books are available at \$10.50.

In NO IMMEDIATE DANGER? Prognosis for a Radioactive Earth (\$12.95) Dr. Rosalie Bertell adds new insights to the crisis of nuclear energy and nuclear weapons.

For herstory buffs the reprinting of NOT IN GOD'S IMAGE: Women in HIStory from the Greeks to the Victorians (\$9.95) is welcome. Edited by Julia O'Faolain and Lauro Martines.

Heleieth I. B. Saffioti "... a contemporary pioneer in the theory and research of women's status and roles.." gives us WOMEN IN CLASS SOCIETY (\$12.75)

Highly recommended for all PMS sufferers Katharina Dalton's ONCE A MONTH (\$9.95) "is a clear, easily understood account of premenstrual syndrome, its effects, diagnosis, and complete treatment".

Periodicals available at the Bookstore include Broadside, Voices, HERizons, Hysteria, Kinesis, Women and Environments, Healthsharing, Fireweed, Room of One's Own.

Place your order now for the 1986 Everywoman's Almanac.

VISIT

DOMESTIC ABUSE INTERVENTION PROGRAM

As part of our continuing Family Dispute Unit study, three members of the Thunder Bay Physical and Sexual Assault Crisis Centre, recently visited the Duluth Domestic Abuse Intervention Program (DAIP).

Since 1980 the DAIP has coordinated services to families experiencing violence.

When police attend a family disturbance, if probable cause exists an assault charge must be laid, and the assailant is detained at the jail until court the following morning. An advocate from the Women's Coalition is notified by the jailer and goes to see the victim immediately. She offers support and shares information with the victim about Orders for Protection, and financial and legal assistance. If the victim wishes to leave her home the advocate will assist her in getting to the shelter. Whether or not the victim leaves she is encouraged to participate in weekly groups for battered women offered by the Coalition. The advocate keeps in contact with the victim offering continued support and assistance.

A male advocate from the DAIP visits the assailant at the jail and informs him of the Domestic Abuse Program which involves 12 weeks of group counselling and 12 weeks of an educational group. If he pleads guilty, or is found guilty the DAIP is mandated by the court as a condition of probation. Repeat offences involve a jail term as well as mandated counselling.

Ellen Pence, Director of the DAIP feels that the police policy of mandatory arrest and the clear court guidelines for sentencing are the backbone of the program. It emphasizes to the batterer that violence is a crime.

We were extremely impressed with the level of cooperation achieved by the DAIP, Police Department, courts, probation and the Women's Coalition and the commitment each shows to the program. Those we spoke with were very pleased with the outcome of the project and feel the number of repeat calls to the police has gone down, fewer women are withdrawing charges, and both victims and batterers are getting assistance through the groups.

Videotapes and discussion in both the men's and women's groups focus on the use of power and control in abusive relationships. The emphasis of the men's groups is to get the batterer to take responsibility for his behaviour, while the women's groups discourage the victims from blaming themselves, and encourage assertiveness.

The DAIP is offering a "Community Interventions in Domestic Assault Cases" Conference from Oct. 31 to Nov. 1/85 to share their success and failures with other groups or individuals working in the area of family violence. If anyone is interested in further information on the conference please contact us at 345-1871.

Submitted by Brenda Persson & Pam Dunk

HEALTH

The Northwestern Ontario Women's Health Education Project (NWO W.H.E.P.) a three year demonstration project scheduled to conclude August 31/85, has been granted a ten month extension by its funder Health Promotion Directorate of Health and Welfare Canada, until June 30, 1986.

Judi Vinni has been hired for the half-time co-ordinator's position for the project and will spend the ten month period working with local and regional women who are attempting to form an organization to represent their interests in women's health in Northwestern Ontario.

Over the past three years of operation, W.H.E.P., a health promotion project, developed workshop kits on a range of health topics chosen by women in fourteen N.W.O. communities. The seventeen workshops have been presented in a total of twenty communities by the co-ordinators of the project and late by community women who attended training sessions in Thunder Bay this past year to prepare them.

The health workshops provide information but emphasize group participation so that women can share their knowledge, identify their needs and formulate their own solutions.

Currently a core group of seven women, representing thirty regional women involved with W.H.E.P. are planning a conference to be held in Thunder Bay, October 18-20/85.

"The purpose of the ten month extensions" say W.H.E.P. co-ordinators "is to ensure that workshops are in Northwestern Ontario communities and being used as a resource."



CONCERT

CARRIE GERENDASY

Carrie Gerendasy will be performing at a concert sponsored by Project Ploughshares. The performance will take place on October 5 at 8p.m. in the sanctuary of St. Paul's United Church.

Carrie is an American folk singer who has earned the reputation of being one of Minneapolis' most impressive solo acts. Her high energy presentation, moving interpretations, and genuine concern for using music as a statement, all make for an unforgettable experience. The Mothers' Day March for Peace, Take Back the Night Marches, Anti-Pornography rallies, and ERA rallies are various events at which Carrie has performed..

Tickets are \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for seniors, youth, and unemployed. Tickets are available at the local Peace Coalition Office (345. 0372) or at the Women's Centre.

QUALITY DAY CARE

by MARGARET PHILLIPS

A CHILD'S RIGHT

With growing frequency the situation of day care in Canada is described as "crisis". It could also be called a tragedy. As a society we must seriously question why we tolerate a situation that prevents hundreds of thousands of our youngest children from receiving quality care.

This deplorable situation is not new. (As a social planner I have been expounding the same day care concerns, the same recommendations for some fifteen years.) What is so frightening is that, despite conscientious attempts by many day care advocates, the day care situation not only has failed to improve, but is actually deteriorating. The reality is that nowhere in Canada do we have a comprehensive child care system. Rather, we have a faulty welfare system that will never appropriately serve child care needs.

How long can we tolerate a situation where less than 12% of Canadian children under 6yrs. of age in need of day care have access to licensed, supervised programs?

What possible rationale can be given for excluding low and middle income families from day care services because of prohibitive user fees of \$4000 - 5000 per year, per child? (Only very low income families qualify for subsidy, only very high income families can afford the exorbitant fees.)

What justification is there for exploiting day care workers through grossly inadequate wages -- on average barely 30% of beginning elementary school teachers salaries?

Why do we tolerate a system that inflicts tremendous emotional stress on so many mothers who have no choice but to place their children with unqualified, inappropriate caregivers?

If we value children, if we value families, significant, systemic societal changes must occur ... and must occur soon.

ISSUES

The major day care issues are easily identifiable. They are quality, cost, accessibility. A further, yet inter-related issue is the status and wages of day care workers.

Quality

It should be self-evident that quality care is essential for infants and children in their formative years. The principles of quality day care have been succinctly outlined by the Ontario Coalition for Better Day Care when they state: "Daycare programs must focus on the education, the rearing and the physical care of the child. The education function involves developmental programs concerned with the intellectual, emotional, physical and social growth of the child. The rearing function involves liaison with the home to complement family life and provide the kind of guidance children would receive at home. The caring function integrates health and social services as required. It should include proper nutrition and preventative medical care,

requires adequate provisions for physical facilities and space. In a responsive childcare system, there should be flexibility to allow working parents to select the type and location of childcare that meets the needs of both parents and child. Programs in all locations, should be monitored according to a set of standards and regulations established by the provincial government which embody these principles."

Most day care consumers agree that the preferable choice of a day care program is a non-profit group day care centre. Concern arises with for-profit centres (which comprise 40% of Ontario licensed spaces) as quality may suffer in the cost-saving measures that ensure profit for these commercial centres.

While quality care will vary between centres, at least parents have the assurance that these centres are licensed and monitored. The majority of families, however, must rely on the "informal system" .. i.e. baby-sitters, neighbours, relatives, where no licensing or supervision exists. The care received in these situations is generally unknown and of uncertain quality.

The growing use of the term "informal system" is most unfortunate, because it means nothing more than unsupervised care, and the government trend to include these situations within a day care "system" is distressing. (I will return to this topic under the discussion of funding.)

To date research on quality and developmental aspects of day care has been largely confined to day care centre programs (the "formal system"). The one major study of unlicensed, unsupervised care conducted by Metro Toronto Social Planning Council confirmed our fears about the inadequacy of "informal" care. The study reports that "... the children in these types of arrangements generally received only custodial-type care which ignored their development needs. While their basic physical needs may have been met, the children were more likely to spend their time watching television than engaging in creative developmental activities. Regular outdoor play and excursions, active physical play, creative activities, and nutritious meals and snacks were not found to be part of the program in most private, unsupervised day care arrangements. The providers, who typically lacked training in how to work with young children and had no long-term commitment to the provision of child care, tended to see their work as a stop-gap to tide them over until personal and family circumstances allowed them to work outside the home." (Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women, Day Care in Canada: A Background Paper, 1984)

Numerous day care need studies and inquiries repeatedly set forth the serious problems that parents experience in using unsupervised care-particularly baby-sitters. In addressing the Ontario Federation of Labour



Day Care hearings in 1981, one Thunder Bay mother, expressing her concern about being forced into making inadequate private arrangements, stated "In my son's short life he was fed starches and sugar because they keep children quiet, and were cheaper than fruits and vegetables, and plunked in front of a TV instead of being provided with stimulating play".

A recent study of Thunder Bay child care arrangements (N.W.O. Women's Centre, Project Child Care 1984) found that instability of care arrangements - particularly baby-sitting care was a serious problem for many Thunder Bay families. It was found that of those parents using baby-sitters 44% had had to change sitters one or more times during the previous twelve months. One mother changed sitters 8 times in the twelve month period.

This study also found that "large proportions of those using either care by relatives or sitter care would, if they had their choice, use formal care as their preferred childcare arrangement." This finding substantiates the conclusion of many other studies as summarized by the CACSW report which states "A review of the findings reveals some common trends and patterns in parental views on the form of care considered most suitable for their children they want licensed, supervised care, preferably in a day care centre".

How stressful it is for families who because of accessibility problems and cost factors are unable to exercise this choice.



graphics by ANN-IDA BECK

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Accessibility

The CACSW report points out that in 1982 the ratio of spaces to children had actually declined (see table below). While a modest increase in day care spaces has occurred in the intervening period it has in no way kept pace with the increase into the labour force of women with young children.

For example, in Ontario the percentage of women in the labour force with children aged 3-5 yrs. increased from 58.3% in 1981 to 61.5% in 1983. The increase in the labour force of women with children under 3 yrs. is even greater - from 49.5% in 1981 to 53.2% in 1983. This trend continues. Analysts predict that by 1990 75% of women with children under 6 yrs. will be in the paid labour force.

Recognizing the implication of this trend -- the increasing numbers of children who will require day care -- and considering that in 1982, of the children who needed care only 11.6% were served by licensed, supervised programs, the issue of accessibility of day care spaces becomes paramount. The need for infant/toddler supervised care is even more dramatic, as the 1982 figures show that only 5% of under 2 yr. olds were served. (National Day Care Information Centre)

The availability of day care varies considerably. While few areas are adequately served, and virtually no where can one find an appropriate continuum of infant, pre-school and 'latch-key' services - there are many areas that are totally without service.

The situation in rural areas is particularly critical. For farm women .. whether they are full-time farmers, or working off the farm, or a combination of both (in addition to their household work - which is frequently the sole responsibility of women), the need for day care is acute. As a study by the National Farmers Union of their female membership points out "... many parents have no alternative but to take their children into the barn or field with them while they work. This is not only a dangerous environment for a child but is a source of distraction for the parents who are then more susceptible to having an accident".

No longer can day care be considered an urban phenomenon. Rural children also need day care and policies must be flexible enough to provide the appropriate services.

How accessible is day care in Northwestern Ontario? It varies. During the past fifteen years a number of municipal Councils/Indian Band Councils have initiated day care programs. At present day care centres providing pre-school, and in some cases latch key services, are operated by Geraldton, Longlac, Long Lake Indian Band, Heron Bay, Balmertown, Dryden, Ear Falls, Fort Frances, Grassy Narrows, Kenora, Islington, (Whitedog), Onegaming, Red Lake, Shoal Lake, Sioux Lookout, Whitefish Bay. A community non-profit corporation has recently opened a day care centre in Marathon. Thunder Bay has four municipal centres, the Confederation College Children and Family Centre, and a commercial centre. A workplace day care will open this fall (St. James School) for Board of Education employees.

Whitefish Bay has the only infant care centre in the district. Thunder Bay and Fort Frances operate licensed private home day care programs that accommodate infants and toddlers.

As can be seen by the omissions from the foregoing list there are a number of communities in our district that are totally lacking in child care services. Concerned parents and community members in Atikokan and Ignace have been advocating for day care for years. Recently a strong Terrace Bay committee has formed to promote a day care centre in that community.

Farm women in Northwestern Ontario are also stressing the need for rural day care. In a brief to the Ontario Advisory Council on the Status of Women (Dryden, 1984) Janet Owen and Jacquelyn Hunsperger of the Farm Women of the Rainy River District stated that "In rural areas affordable good quality childcare is non-existent" and discussed the need for childcare when mothers work on or off the farm. They pointed out that "women are often restricted from attending farm meetings because of inadequate childcare and/or lack of finances to pay baby-sitters". They recommended that "day care centres be set up in small hamlets in rural areas so women can leave their children there one or two days a week while they catch up on the essential parts of the farm operation that cannot be accomplished with children in tow. A very important spin-off of this option would be the opportunity for the children to interact with other children, giving them the chance to develop social skills".



The number of day care spaces in Thunder Bay must also be questioned. For example, there are no municipal day care centres (the only centres where parents may apply for subsidy) in Northwood, Neebing, McIntyre or Current River wards.

Accessibility is a Northwestern Ontario problem. For some it means lack of preferred space. For others it means no choice at all.

But even in those centres that have day care spaces available the cost prohibits many families from utilizing these quality services.

Cost

The issue of cost is, without question, the most disturbing problem we face in Northwestern Ontario. It is the primary concern of most parents presently using "formal" day care, and it impinges on the hopes of others who are working to initiate day care in their communities. The funding dilemma has quickly become a crisis and without immediate attention will only worsen.

The crux of the problem is, of course, that governments define day care as a welfare service, providing day care subsidies only to those they judge "needy" and requiring "user fees" from all other day care consumers. The problem will only be resolved when day care becomes a universal, publicly funded (yet non-compulsory) service, as health and education are universal services. A system that rationalizes societal support to parents for their 6 yr. olds, yet denies such support to 3 yr. olds needs to be questioned. Mind you, many arguments against universal day care sound suspiciously like the arguments that were advanced against universal education 100 years ago.

So, at the present time, day care functions under the welfare system and through the Canada Assistance Plan provinces may set up day care subsidy programs based on CAP guidelines which set the social and financial framework for provincial participation. In Ontario, day care is provided under the Day Nurseries Act. The province will pay 30% of the net cost of subsidized day care, the federal contribution is 50% while the municipality pays the remaining 20%.

To meet the financial ability criteria re day care subsidization Ontario employs a "needs" test, as is required for general welfare assistance. (All other provinces use an "income" test criteria which is felt to be less intrusive and more equitable). The "needs" test method determines the amount of family income available for the purchase of day care services after all its approved expenses have been met. People subjected to a "needs" test find this a demeaning experience, as well as a serious

Table 1. Numbers of children under 6 requiring day care and licensed spaces available, Canada, 1975-1982

Year	Estimated number of children under 6 with mothers in the labour force	Number of children under 6 occupying licensed family and day care centre spaces	Percentage of children under 6 with access to licensed day care	Number of children under 6 not accommodated within the formal system
1975	562,000	64,589	11.49%	497,411
1976	620,000	75,330	12.15%	544,670
1977	656,000	73,865	11.26%	582,135
1978	695,000	73,475	10.57%	621,525
1979	721,000	86,780	12.03%	634,220
1980	760,000	92,423	12.16%	667,577
1982	950,000	110,573	11.63%	839,427

Source: Health and Welfare Canada, National Day Care Information Centre, Status of Day Care in Canada, 1975-1980; Day Care Spaces in Canada - 1982. (Figures for 1981 are not available).

invasion of privacy. Another argument against the needs test approach (reported by the CACSW study) is "That it forces a family to contribute its entire residual income up to the full unit cost of day care services, whereas the income test approach establishes a sliding scale usually based on an expenditure of 50% of the amount by which family income exceeds the turning point".

Under CAP, provincial subsidies are only cost shareable with the federal government for families who qualify for subsidy. Provinces are free to provide subsidies to families with larger incomes, but cannot recover the federal 50% of these costs.

Many municipalities have established "user fees" for unsubsidized families that in fact do not cover the full per diem costs of operating the day care program. This practice has come to be called "the indirect subsidy". In 1983 the Ontario government informed municipalities that "the practice of indirect subsidization must be eliminated by January 1, 1986". (It is understood that this date has been extended to September 1986)

The elimination of indirect subsidies will have drastic consequences for day care. Already some Ontario centres have been forced to close, as unsubsidized families are forced to seek less expensive care through relatives or baby-sitters. The N.W.O. Women's Centre study (1984) found a significant use of relative care, which was understandable as, of the respondents using relative care, 59% paid nothing for this child care. There are a lot of generous grandmothers in Thunder Bay! But in our mobile society most young parents do not have extended family available to provide this free service. (And this situation ignores the economic security needs of older women who are thus working without pay.)

As the majority of day care in Northwestern Ontario is municipally operated the future of day care in our region is indeed bleak. A survey of N.W.O. centres, conducted by Margie Bettiol-Young of Sioux Lookout, concluded that "the policy will ultimately cause the closure of centres due to a drastic drop in enrolment." This study found that the anticipated per diem rates for 1986 averaged \$25 (\$18-30 range) however current fees ranged from \$9-14 (average \$12). Without indirect subsidization middle and low-income families cannot afford day care.

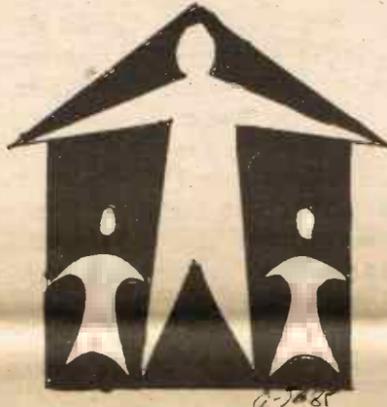
This essentially is the situation already in Thunder Bay where day care fees have increased dramatically ... a 350% increase in the past eleven years, making it more and more impossible for middle income families to afford. The current fees of \$17.50 per child per day are reported to be increasing to \$21 in 1986, thus even further denying quality day care to the average family.

Why are the children of middle income families denied supervised day care? If we believe that all children have the right to quality care it certainly makes no sense. Has this outcome occurred accidentally? Or is it a deliberate policy of the former Conservative government to force married mothers out of the labour force? The statistics previously cited demonstrate that wo-

men's participation in the paid labour force continues to increase despite day care inadequacy. The only result of Ontario's day care policy is that more and more children are denied quality care.

Another very disturbing factor is the Ontario government's trend the past few years to provide funding of support services to the "informal system", thus legitimizing unregulated, unsupervised arrangements as day care, as well as using the scarce financial resources that should be going to the "formal system". The CACSW report insists that with this approach "the goal of developing a comprehensive system of day care services is subverted". The report states that "there is no basis on which to conclude that the provision of such so-called support services in a community actually has any impact on the quality of care delivered to children in informal arrangements".

There is urgent need not only to infuse new financial resources into child care but also to ensure funding priorities recognize the right of children to quality care.



Exploitation of Day Care Workers

The commitment of people working in the day care field has kept day care alive in Ontario. In effect day care workers subsidize parent fees through their low wages. As the Coalition for Better Day Care states "Because of underfunding, day care programs in this province are faced with the cynical choice of either exploiting parents or exploiting staff to avoid exploiting children".

Because of low wages, poor benefits, low status and few chances for improvement, staff turnover in child care programs is high. Staff turnover disrupts the caregiver-child relationship to the detriment of the children. While the wages of day care centre staff is abysmal - on average \$267 per week in Ontario - the income provided to supervised private home caregivers is even more horrendous. For an average of \$12 per day per child home care providers are expected to provide toys, nutritious meals and snacks, equipment and a stimulating program. When the 'hidden' costs of depreciation, insurance and home maintenance are considered the net gain for the provider may be nil.

Day Care: A Women's Issue

Ideally, day care should be seen as a societal issue, of equal concern to men and women. The reality is that day care remains primarily a women's issue.

It is women who experience the stress of balancing job and child care responsibilities. It is mothers who forego job opportunities because of inadequate day care and parental leave policies. By and large, it is mothers who make child care arrangements and who worry about the inadequacy of these arrangements. It is women who provide care - at exploitative (or no) wages. The vast majority of day care centre staff are women, and it will be these women who lose jobs if day care centres are forced to close.

As the Abella Report, Equality in Employment states "For women who are mothers, a major barrier to equality in the workplace is the absence of affordable child care of adequate quality". So when we talk about day care we are talking about equality for women.

But, we are also talking about the right of children to quality care.

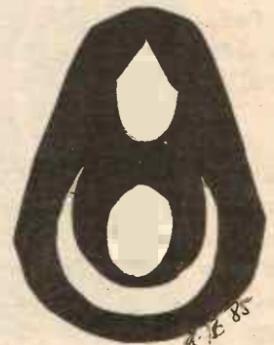
And so, the issue of day care is not only an issue for parents and day care workers. It is an issue for everyone concerned with equality and justice in our society.

What Next

In official discussions of day care policy these essential issues tend to be ignored, but rather are superseded by budget considerations and jurisdictional debates. With a new government installed in Ontario, whose election platform included day care reform, day care parents and advocates have had their hopes raised. However, no action has as yet been forthcoming.

The concerted effort of community people is required to ensure adequate day care programs and policies are developed by all levels of government. A number of groups have formed for this purpose. The Canadian Day Care Advocacy Association is a voluntary organization that addresses day care issues at the national level. In Ontario the provincial advocate is the Coalition for Better Day Care (see article by Joan Baril).

Action is also occurring in Northwestern Ontario. The most notable example is the important work that has been done by the Sioux Lookout Parents Committee who have made presentations to municipal and provincial authorities, and have encouraged media attention to the issues of indirect subsidization and quality care. Dryden also has an active Parents Committee, and recently concerned Thunder Bay citizens have organized the Thunder Bay Advocates for Quality Child Care. (See article this issue)



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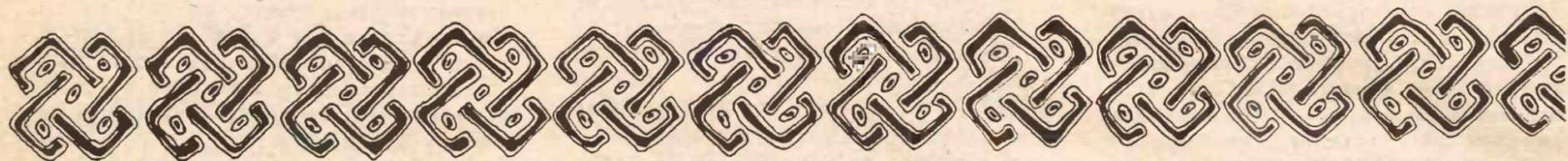
QUALITY DAY CARE (con't)

The Northwestern Ontario Regional Day Care Committee has also been formed to help 'network' and share information amongst all community day care groups. The Committee will provide support to any community organizing advocacy associations, as well as developing links with provincial and national bodies to ensure N.W.O. input. Committee representatives will travel throughout N.W.O. this fall to meet with all interested groups. The Committee would welcome your suggestions - please write: N.W.O. Regional Day Care Committee, Box 144, Thunder Bay, P7C 4V5.

Developing a quality day care system will not be easy ... but it is vital that we organize now to achieve this goal.

"Childcare is a social investment in the future. It is not, therefore, the exclusive financial responsibility of an employer, or a union, or a worker, or a parent. It is a public expense that should ultimately be borne by all taxpayers, much as education is. Childcare should be seen as a public service to which every child has a right. Childcare is not a luxury, it is a necessity. Unless government policy responds to

this urgency, we put women, children, and the economy of the future at risk. Considering that more than half of all Canadian children spend much of their time in the care of people other than their parents, and that more than half of all parents need childcare services for their children, social policy should not be permitted to remain so greatly behind the times." (Judge Rosalie Silberman Abella, Commissioner, Equality in Employment, October 1984)



THE DAYCARE CRISIS

by JOAN BARIL

A coalition - "a temporary combination for special ends" says the Concise Oxford, "Between parties that remain distinctive." It's a short term thing - everyone dances together until the music ends and in this case the music doesn't end until we have a better system in Ontario.

There are some strong partners in the Coalition for Better Daycare - Ontario Federation of Labour, Ontario Teachers' Federation, Action Daycare, The Ontario Social Development Council, for starters, as well as local chapters of the Coalition throughout Ontario.

Janet Davis, who has been travelling across the province on behalf of the Coalition, recently spoke at Ogden Street Community School. She has been a worker in daycare for ten years, as a volunteer and as an employee. As well, she has a resident user in son Keith, age 5. For years, she said, she was "on the borderline", that situation where a woman knows that a slight change in her financial position may mean she will be cut off from her daycare subsidy.

"The whole daycare system is a mess," she says, "The Coalition uses the word 'crisis'. It has always been expensive for those who have to pay full fee - \$350 a month per child is the provincial average and climbing. In Thunder Bay, it could go as high as \$500.00 a month.

In some municipalities such as Peterborough the fee payers dropped out one by one, and the only users are fully subsidized. It's the ghettoization of the system - no social mix for the kids - and daycare, no longer accessible to the general population, becomes a "welfare service."

Those who are eligible for subsidy are treated accordingly - endless forms, monthly reporting. Some cities hire "snoops" to make sure the mother of little Kevin doesn't have a man to stay, or isn't doing typing in the evening after work and not reporting the earnings to the daycare officials.

How does Thunder Bay stack-up against the rest of the province?

Janet gave us the gold ribbon for our daycare centres, "some of the best in the province"; but we got bad marks for excessive paper work. Women have to hand in monthly reports here, whereas other places require reports only every six months. It's not only a "petty harassment" for the mothers, but the administrative excess, the checking, printing, phoning, tracking down, reminding, compiling, etc. and etc., add unnecessarily to our costs.

Thunder Bay is not the only municipality which tangles the parent in expensive red-tape. Women who want to know if they are eligible for subsidy (or partial subsidy) have to go through a needs test. In some places the completion of this requires long forms, sometimes taking two hours, and perhaps a visit to the home by a social worker - sometimes a visit to the applicant's workplace is done as well. The good news is that Thunder Bay has changed its needs test. It now allows applicants to claim more realistic living expenses. This means that persons who have been turned down in the past may be eligible.

The system of funding and subsidies is Byzantine, and like the ancient empire, it is crumbling. The Liberal government has made pledges; it is also written in the famous accord between the NDP and the Liberals. But, political promises sometimes get lost, and daycare is becoming something of a political hot potato again. The mood from the American right, which is drifting across the border, is anti-daycare and anti-women. For example, a Dr. Clarke, of Windsor Family and Children's Services, has publically blamed working mothers for divorce, alcoholism, and family violence. Various articles and books recently published have the same theme. Another ploy to argue that women who want to stay home with their young children get little help from society (true), and

the fault lies with the feminists and working mothers (absurd and frightening.)

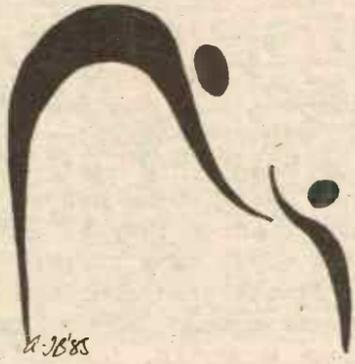
Nevertheless, broad support for quality daycare is widespread. The purpose of the Coalition is to mobilize that support. Local coalitions lobby their local governments. In Thunder Bay, affordability is an issue, as it is everywhere. We also need to allow "purchase of service agreements" to be given to community groups. This means that parents who are Board of Education employees, and who want to send their children to the new St. James School daycare may be eligible for a subsidy. It could mean, for example, that student parents at Confederation College could use the daycare facilities on campus.



PREPARE NOW

The federal Parliamentary Task Force on Child Care is expected to hold hearing this fall. The results of the Task Force deliberations will be very important. Plan now to present a brief to the Task Force, expressing your recommendations for the future of day care in NWO.

DAY CARE ADVOCATES



Concern for the future of day care locally and provincially has prompted the development of a new organization - Thunder Bay Advocates for Quality Child Care. At the organization's founding meeting held recently the following goals were adopted.

Long Term Goal

To advocate for a universal, publicly-funded, non-compulsory day care system which will provide high quality child care services to all children/families who need/desire such services.

Short Term Goals

1) To advocate for the improvement of provincial/federal day care policy and the expansion of programs, including:

a) direct subsidies to non-profit day care organizations/agencies to permit (1) lower user fees, and (2) increased day care staff wages.

b) capital funding to non-profit organizations/agencies for the construction/renovation of new day care facilities

c) maintaining high standards of health, safety and programming of day care services, and of training of day care staff

d) an increase in subsidized day care spaces

2) To monitor the provision of day care services within Thunder Bay, and make representation, as appropriate, to the City for the improvement of municipal day care policy and the expansions of programs

3) To provide support for the improvement of the status, wages and working conditions of (licensed) day care staff/providers

4) To encourage public awareness of the present day care crisis in Ontario/Canada and the solutions to the crisis; and to promote public support for the provision of high quality day care as the right of every child. (i.e. day care as a right not a welfare service)

5) To develop links with non-profit day care groups regionally, provincially and nationally to share information and support; and where appropriate, to work collectively with such groups to promote improved government day care policy and the expansion of programs.

The group plans to survey candidates in the upcoming municipal elections concerning their commitment to day care, and will prepare a brief to the federal Parliamentary Task Force on Child Care which is expected to hold hearings this fall.

Membership (fee \$3.00) is open to all Thunder Bay individuals who subscribe to the aforementioned goals. It is hoped that large numbers of parents, day care workers/providers and interested citizens will join Advocates for Quality Child Care and strengthen the voice of day care in Thunder Bay.



FEMINIST PRESS

Anna McColl

This summer I had the opportunity of meeting with 50 women representing 35 women's publications from across Canada. The occasion was the Feminist Periodicals Conference held in the tiny village of St. Marc-Sur-Richelieu - a forty minute drive from Montreal.

The conference got off to a good start with a relaxed wine and cheese get-together at the women's centre on Rue Urbain. This was followed by an amusing bus ride to St. Marc with Susan de Rosa of the planning committee giving a more than credible performance as tour guide - with admittedly some good-natured prompting from the bus driver.

The comfortable atmosphere established earlier by the warmth of our greeting upon arrival at the offices of Communiqu'elles (the organisers of the conference) wasn't hurt by the choice of location, a lovely old inn the 160 year old Auberge Hadfield situated on the Richelieu river. The accommodation consisted of private rooms in small houses scattered throughout the grounds of the Inn. This arrangement lent itself to late night visiting and partying.

The keynote speaker Greta Hofmann Nemiroff, addressed the importance of women's writing.

Saturday's opening address was given by Eleanor Wachtel, editor of ROOM OF ONE'S OWN (a literary journal out of Vancouver) and author of FEMINIST PRINT MEDIA. Ms. Wachtel stressed the need that we be more radical; reminded us that we live in dangerous times, that feminist publications are the backbone of the woman's movement, and that freedom of the press is for anyone who has one.

Issues raised in workshops covered advertising, the collective process, design on a shoestring, funding, maintaining an editorial policy, power and skill sharing, subscription promotion, recruiting and training volunteers and working with writers.

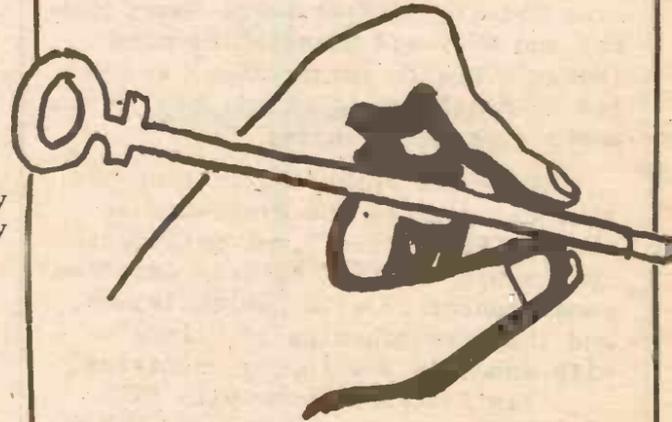
In a resolution at the closing session we voted to act as a group to support any feminist periodicals that come under similar attack to that of Winnipeg's HERIZONS. HERIZONS was attacked for its editorial stand on choice on abortion and on lesbianism by some local religious and anti-choice groups led by their clown prince Joe Borowski.

It was also resolved to undertake a joint promotion and marketing campaign to improve our base of 50,000 subscribers and our combined annual budget of one and a half million dollars. Other resolutions were to broaden our base among women of visible minorities and to research the possibility of having a staff person for a national organization.

The energy and enthusiasm generated by the women at the conference along with Eleanor Wachtel's quote that "Publishing feminist periodicals is an act of defiance against the dismissal of the women's movement" surely strengthened the determination of many to carry on in the face of adversity and to be that act of defiance.

IN CELEBRATION OF CANADIAN WOMEN -

Poetry and Short Stories by and about Canadian Women will be edited by Greta Hofmann Nemiroff and published by Fitzhenry and Whiteside early in 1986. Deadline for this thematically organized anthology is **October 1, 1985**. For further information, please contact Greta Hofmann Nemiroff, The New School, Dawson College, 485 McGill St., Montreal H2Y 2H4.



INTERVIEW

by KIM ERICKSON

749,000 Canadian women purchased tranquillizers in 1979.

A poor Third World woman sells her only chicken to get money to buy tonics and "growth hormones" (anabolic steroids) for her children.

Unrelated statements? Not at all! In fact, when you consider the underlying issues, there is much commonality of experience between Canadian and Third World women. Persuaded by elaborate promotion campaigns mounted by the drug industry that "there is a pill for every ill", people will spend their last rupee, or peso or dollar to buy the vitamin, the hormone, or the pain killer that will restore themselves or their children to health. Whether it is the "medicalization" of social problems (an increasing Canadian phenomena) or the "dumping" of drugs (banned in Canada) in developing countries, the role of the pharmaceutical industry and the role of the (male) medical system in women's lives and health requires careful scrutiny.

SIDE EFFECTS, produced by the Great Canadian Theatre Company of Ottawa, and Women's Health Interaction uses popular theatre to examine these issues. Sponsored by Northern Women's Centre and Kam Theatre, **SIDE EFFECTS** played to a "packed house" in Thunder Bay earlier this summer. The appreciative audience not only were impressed by the important information provided by the play, but were delighted by the outstanding quality of the performance. It was impossible not to be touched by this exceptional play.

The origins of **SIDE EFFECTS** are rooted in Inter Pares philosophical premise that "links" must be made between development issues in Canada and overseas. In 1982 Inter Pares (a Canadian non-governmental development organization) sponsored the visit of two Bangladesh women to Canada. As the Bangladesh visitors, Khushi Kabir and Shireen Huq, met with women's groups across Canada, including Thunder Bay, the concern about women's health and the issue of pharmaceuticals were frequently discussed. Thus, as a followup to Khushi and Shireen's visit, Inter Pares sponsored a workshop on Women and Pharmaceuticals. From this workshop the idea of the play was born, and Women's Health Interaction was initiated. (see WHI article). The "linking" process continued in 1984 when Margaret Phillips (Inter Pares Board Member and NWJ) and Mary Ann Haywood (Women's Health Interaction) travelled to Bangladesh to visit health and women's projects there.

With the enthusiastic response that has greeted the cross-Canada tour of **SIDE EFFECTS**, we anticipate the growing "links" between Canadian women concerned with health issues, and the strengthening of "links" with women in developing countries.

Kim Erickson spoke with **SIDE EFFECTS** actors Mary Burns and Mitzi Hauser about the evolution and the impact of the play.

KIM: This project has quite a long history to it and has been shaped by several groups - Inter Pares, Women's Health Interaction, Great Canadian Theatre Company. At what stage did you both come in?

MARY: Great Canadian Theatre Company (G.C.T.C.) got involved two years ago at a Conference in Aylmer, Que. about Women and Pharmaceuticals. Barbara (Lysnes) went to the conference, and it was there that they said it would be really good if we could have a play that went across the country, and taught people about the issues. So she came back from the conference and talked to G.C.T.C., and it was decided that they would take it on and do this play. She got Janet Irwin, who is the director of the play, and ultimately the writer as well, and they started doing research. I started joining them, and one day a week we'd meet and read, talk about ideas, and then meet once a month with the women from Women's Health Interaction (WHI) and Inter Pares, who were putting out this 'For Health or For Profit' kit at the same time. The first actual thing that happened in terms of putting the play up was a three week writing workshop last May. Mitzi came on for that. **MITZI:** Yes, and then they asked Cynthia Grant to co-direct the workshop with Janet, and basically what happened was that Janet took over the research. She'd come in every day with things that she had culled from various books, and Cynthia was the one who tried to put it all on its feet. She works with Nightwood Theatre in Toronto, and she'd done a lot of collaboration like this with women, so it was quite amazing how she got 2½ hours of material in 3 weeks. She works very eclectically, which is really good. I felt very willing to try anything new, to experiment, and to look into my background. I

think everyone did. Besides being an actor, you are something else as well. Some people had music, some people had dance, some had various other things which they brought in. There were many, many different styles. But it was also a method of getting away from text, and making it a little more symbolic, instead of heavy, heavy dialogue all the time, teaching, teaching to death. You read these things, and then you want to get up and do a monologue about somebody's story, which doesn't make very good theatre.

MARY: It was also an experiment to see what kind of a play it would be, because at this point no one really knew.

KIM: So did you have to hone down all that material after the workshop?

MARY: Janet did. She took it all and condensed it, and basically turned it into the play we're doing now.

MITZI: We did another one in November. That was the conference of the Canadian Health Coalition. So for that November date, Janet had taken all the information that we had brought together and made a script of it. Basically it was four women's stories, interspersed with the drug company scenes. There were Third World scenes in that as well.

KIM: Have there been changes since November?

MARY: The structure is still the same. Most of the characters - all the women, the narrator character, Granny, and the drug company people - are all the same. There are a couple of scenes that have been added, and there may have been something taken away. There's more music. Cathy (Miller) wrote one song for the November show, and then she wrote 3 or 4 more for this one.

MITZI: Different people were used for the November workshop. Oh, the slides were added as well.

KIM: The text material that was used comes directly from women's experiences.

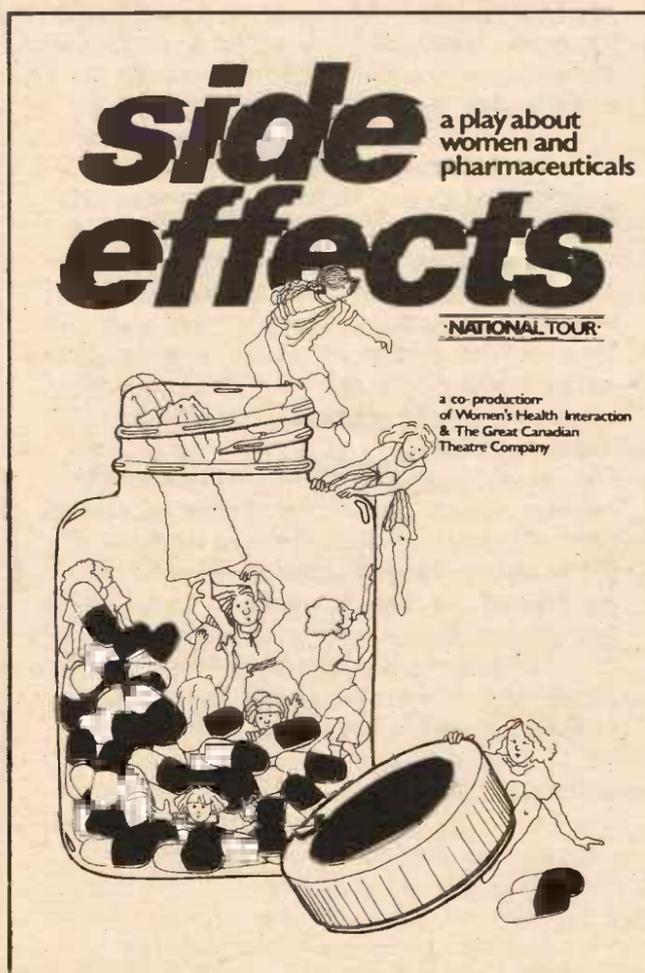
MITZI: Yes, we had two taped testimonials from women, two drug addicts, Mary Ann and Giselle. The other (character) is a composite of the DES. There are two books written about DES, an American one and a Canadian one, so it's put together based on the books.

MARY: The fourth character is Margaret, and she's a fictional character. She came up really in the first May workshop, and then she got developed a little. She is representative of the early 50's premenopausal or menopausal women whose children have left home and they don't know what to do -- that whole syndrome.

KIM: So it's been quite an evolution. This has been an all women's project, even the technical people. I assume that was a conscious decision on the part of the people producing it.

MARY AND MITZI: Yes.

KIM: What's that like for you as actors to be involved in something like that?



MITZI: I was really amazed. I've been involved in these type of things before, but never all women. I was amazed to realize how much censorship I apply to myself when I'm in a group of male and female. And I couldn't believe it! I thought, then I do, I censor everything, every idea before I bring it up if there's a mixed group. With all women the censorship was just gone. And it was like, no matter what you say, it's fine, we'll accept it, you know, because we're all women. So even (if) you give stupid ideas or things that aren't really well thought out, somebody else will build on it and you'll just keep going.

KIM: For me, that's like the process you were talking about, the way that the play was constructed, bringing in all individual inputs, and what you don't use isn't useless.

MARY AND MITZI: No, not at all!

MITZI: Because it's probably triggered somebody else.

MARY: That's right. I think it's really neat that we're all women going across the country. And it's fun because a lot of people are surprised by that. We've come into some town where there'll be technicians at the theatre waiting to help us, and you can see their eyes widen when they see eight women jumping out of the truck, and putting our work gloves on. They sort of think that's funny, and then by the end of the night, they're impressed with how quickly we got the work done. And so that's very satisfying. But I really think that there's a sense, an attitude, just a relaxed quality about the tour that I can't really give any concrete evidence for - but I'm sure that it's because we are all women.

KIM: I'm thinking just now of a project like 'The Club', which we both worked on. There was a feeling of rapport there, but because of other kinds of controls, the kind of structure you're working in, and just taking a part ... I think that's probably a really different kind of project than this one where you've got input on all levels. You may not be doing all the jobs but you're in touch with all the things that are going on.

MITZI: Yes. I mean, we have a technician and we defer the technical things to the technician. But there is always things that happen, such as, map-reading. It seems to me that whenever I'm in a mixed group it's always the men that take over and read the map. Now all of a sudden you get a chance to actually read a map and figure out where you are. You have a flat tire.. you get a chance to do the flat tire. It's in our culture that the women will get the food and the men will look after the car .. that type of stuff. And it doesn't happen anymore because everybody will do everything.

MARY: And it was a conscious effort, and there was a little bit of flak associated with that - you know, why are you going out of your way to look for women for this particular job? It's a difficult thing in a sense to justify, but I think that theatre is a funny thing. It's deceiving. You tend to think that theatre is a very egalitarian place. But it isn't. It is male-dominated like almost any other field.

MITZI: The whole thing of having a director is very hierarchical. He has the final decision and that's the way theatre's built up. Now to have a cooperative theatre company, even though we all have our input, Jan was still the one that had to have the final say. You can't have a piece of work that doesn't have somebody finally saying, this is the way it's gonna be.

MARY: You can, but it takes forever. Sometimes it's just easier, you know, to have someone finally say, OK, this is it.

MITZI: The whole structure of theatre is hierarchical.



Graphic: Horizons

KIM: It must be interesting to do this kind of theatre that's using the medium to inform people about a certain issue. It's really different from theatre that has solely artistic or entertaining aims.

MITZI: Well, it is more or less documentary, in that you follow several people through their lives. It's a build-up and adding, and adding, and adding, so you get a picture in the end of all the issues, as opposed to having a scenario played out in front of you that has a beginning, a middle, and an end. I think we give them the beginning and maybe the middle, but we don't give them the end. The audience has to make the end.

KIM: Is there a difference as far as your personal commitment to the project if you know that these are issues that affect you personally, and all women, in some way?

MARY: I think so. Because of the way the whole thing was set up, some of us have been involved since the very beginning, so our input is there as writers and directors, at least at some stage. I know I'm more involved in this show than in some other shows where I would be given just a script, and this is the kind of theatre I personally like to do the most. I find it really exciting because I think that it really does affect people. The difference I find is after the show when you talk to people, almost everyone will come up to you with a story to tell - either about themselves or someone they know. It's so obvious that it affects everyone's daily lives. So you feel that you've really connected with the audience.

KIM: The purpose of the play, informing an audience, could be carried out in a couple of different ways. Someone could go on a speaking tour, or a video could be done. There are all kinds of different approaches that similar content could be dealt with.

MITZI: The thing is, this is entertainment as well. It's very funny, so in fact, you're using a vehicle that is probably your best access to the audience. I mean, would you rather see a play, or go to a lecture? It's obvious. I'd rather see a play, especially if it's going to make me laugh. And so we coat all the information in humour, which is one of the best ways to reach people.

KIM: Sometimes people's defenses go up more if they aren't allowed to laugh at or with the situation.

MITZI: Yes, it's true. The waiting room scene is one of the scenes that is the least didactic, and yet, people identify with it because everybody has sat in a waiting room and gone through the same things these women are going through waiting for the doctor, and trying to make conversation, and telling their whole story to strangers. I think people really enjoy that scene, and yet it doesn't come up with a lot of new information, but it does bring you into (the scenario).

MARY: A video would reach more people. That's an advantage it would have, and a lot of people have said, why don't you make a video? Maybe at some point that would be good, but I'm glad it's a play instead of a video because it is neat that we are going to communities that don't get to see that much theatre.

MITZI: A smaller community has a difficult time making a video, because of the equipment, the expense. But if they see people making a play, if they see... oh, these people got together and made a play.... ok, we've got an issue we want dealt with.... they could put a play together for themselves. Basically all you have to know is how to talk. With conviction. They could do the same for their own community.

KIM: You've been seeing a fair number of different communities. You went out to the east coast and now you're heading to the west coast. Is there a difference in audience reactions in different places?

MITZI: I think in the larger centres you get more people who already know the issues. Probably we're doing it in the university setting and there are groups that have already been organized around these issues. When we go into a smaller centre, often it's the first time these people have come across the issues. Also, what's more important than the play is the discussion that follows the play. I think there's a lot of information exchanged that informs people of what's going on in their area.



con't. p 14

KIM: I suppose in playing different kinds of halls, too, you're not just playing in a theatre building or a place where some of the people who should be being reached maybe wouldn't think to go.

MITZI: That's the problem with playing in the universities, you see. The people you want to reach don't go to university halls. They go to the community centres. That's where the information is exchanged, and that's where their friends are.

MARY: It is a bit of a problem, unfortunately. Almost everywhere we go, you do have the tendency to be playing to the people who are aware of the issues already. And I think that is a hard thing to avoid. But I think it's good to reinforce the people who are - I mean, the saying 'preaching to the converted' - well, I think the converted need the reinforcement - they need the push.

KIM: This kind of issue is a timely thing to treat because it seems to me that there's a lot more questioning by people right now - ordinary people on the street - of authority, of government and people in power. When we had the PCB spill in the Kenora area recently, for example, people questioned that. Also, with the medical profession, people are questioning what they're doing. All these things represent a demand for better information.

MITZI: I guess it's because they have begun to realize, first with Thalidomide, and then with DES, that everything isn't the way the pharmaceutical companies say it's going to be. These things aren't safe. They say they've been tested, they say they're safe, but from the results, looking back down the line, these things come up and show you that you've got to look after yourself. You think that the doctor and the pharmacists are all in your best interest, but in

fact, you're the only person in your own best interest. What you put into your body you'd better know as much about as possible. "Side Effects" - that's the theme. When does the side effect become worse than the disease itself? Not much that you can put into your body has no side effect, as far as drugs are concerned. Then again, we're into the whole business of making money. Is it better to put something on the market and make money, or do we test it for longer? What's the percentage of dangerous cases - what percentage can we allow and still let this drug go on the market? 5%, 1%, 2%? Profit and loss, that's basically what it is. We're caught in the middle. And the whole business of the generic vs the brand name drugs, which is so topical now, has suddenly brought all these things up.

MARY: It's really a new concept to a lot of people, too. When you first get hit with it, it's almost shocking to suddenly realize (that the) pharmaceutical industry is an industry just like anything else. It's a multinational corporation. Of course they are thinking of money first!

KIM: You think that there's a trust with the people dealing with your health, and if the trust gets broken, well, what does that mean? Who's going to take care of me?

MARY: Yeah, it's a scary thing. And the Third World scenes that we depict in the play and the issues that we bring up about drug dumping and that kind of thing - there've been people who have made comments like 'Well, if that's true...' and you say, 'No, no it is.' And they say, 'Well, if that's really true...' - they just can't quite believe it!

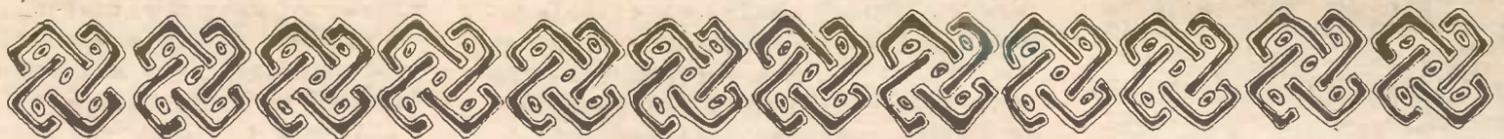
KIM: Well, some of the stories are pretty shocking.

MITZI: They are. That is the word when I first read about those things. We saw a few videos on the pharmaceutical industry, especially as it relates to the Third World. It was amazing! We have evaluations that go out with (the play) to ask, did you know about this information before? was there anything that was new to you? and basically what people don't know about is the Third World information. So if all we're doing is educating them as far as what happens there, then that's good if they know everything else that we have to give them and we're just reminding them of those facts.

MARY: That's one of the major aims of Women's Health Interaction, too. They are very concerned about linking the Third World women with North American women - even in terms of just recognizing what's going on with them, just recognizing what we have in common.

KIM: And then people can decide what action to take from there once they are aware.

MITZI: Yeah, we don't give any answers because we don't know the answers. Nobody really knows the answers except the fact that you've got to start working at getting some answers. So, it's up to each community what they can do. It's up to the person that's watching to decide, ok, where can I do some work - where can I actually stand up and be counted?



WOMAN'S HEALTH INTERACTION

Women's Health Interaction (WHI) is an emerging network of women's, health and development groups in Canada which aims to provide a platform for women to speak out on health concerns. WHI also aims to link local and international health issues through the development of educational resources, exchanges, and networking.

WHI grew out of a Workshop on Women and Pharmaceuticals held in Quebec in 1983, sponsored by Inter Pares, a Canadian agency which supports community development projects in Canada and overseas.

Being a cooperating network, WHI has no formal ties to any one organization but rather encourages participation of a wide range of individuals and groups. At present, the central theme around which participants cooperate is women and pharmaceuticals. People across the country are sharing information and activities on this theme, including health practitioners, consumers and planners. Also involved in the net-

work are community and international development groups, addiction centres, women's organizations, educators and students.

WHI examines why women reach out for drugs, why they are prescribed certain drugs, what their real health concerns are, and how their needs could be better met. WHI looks at the social, cultural, economic and political factors which affect women's health. We study the role of pharmaceutical companies and the medical system and their impact on women's lives, both at home and abroad (drug dumping in the Third World eg).

The overall objective of WHI is to contribute to the creation of a national women's health network which would raise the profile of women's health issues in Canada and provide women with a platform to voice their concerns.

WHI cooperates on the international level with Health Action International, which is working towards the adoption of a code of con-

duct on pharmaceutical marketing practices by the World Health Organization. WHI exchanges information and resources as well as people with Third World women's health and development groups.

In 1984, WHI produced an information kit on the pharmaceutical industry in Canada and the Third World entitled "For Health or For Profit". Recently, WHI has produced an Organizers Manual on women and pharmaceuticals which will be useful to women's and international development groups addressing health issues.

WHI is also beginning to take up the issue of population control/family planning, with a view to establishing feminist guidelines appropriate to industrialised and Third World countries.

For more information about Women's Health Interaction contact them in care of Inter Pares, 58 Arthur St., Ottawa, Ontario. In Thunder Bay, contact Northern Women's Centre, phone 345-7802.

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****NEW** BUSINESS DIVISION--EQUAL OPPORTUNITY MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE PROGRAM** (post-Basic) at present offered part-time (evenings) through the Continuing Education Division.

This one-year certificate program to begin full-time September 1985 is divided into two parts. One semester-September to December-in the College; second semester-January to April-in a field placement environment. Field placements and job opportunities will not necessarily be in the Thunder Bay region.

Subjects in EOM program may be taken during the day or as offered during the evening.

For further information, contact the Director of Equal Opportunity Programs (807) 475-6278.

GENERAL ARTS AND SCIENCE DIPLOMA PROGRAM emphasizing Women's Programs Curriculae may be taken full-time during the day or part-time (evenings) through Continuing Education Division.

For further information, contact the Program Co-ordinator (807) 475-6390.

CAREER PLANNING FOR WOMEN is an 8-week program to assist women entering or re-entering the labour force to understand present employment conditions, to select realistic career goals and to enter appropriate employment or begin suitable training.

Start date -- September 9th, 1985.

INTRODUCTION TO NON-TRADITIONAL OCCUPATIONS (I.N.T.O.) is an 8-week program that helps women to explore opportunities for employment in non-traditional jobs. Students study job search skills, goal setting and plot a career path. Work placement gives women real job experience.

Tentative start date -- February 3rd, 1986.

WOMEN INTO TRADES & TECHNOLOGY (W.I.T.T.) is an 18-week program designed to expose women to all aspects of practical trades training and the world of Hi-Tech.

Start Date -- September 16th, 1985.

For further information on **CAREER PLANNING FOR WOMEN**, I.N.T.O. or W.I.T.T., contact the Chair of Industrial & Motive Power (807) 475-6215, or a Counsellor, C.E.I.C.

BASIC TRAINING IN SKILLS DEVELOPMENT (B.T.S.D.) Academic Upgrading Grades 8-12; English as a Second Language. For further information contact the Chair of Communication Arts (807) 475-6210; or your local Canada Employment & Immigration office; or the Women's Employment Centre, 130 S. Syndicate Avenue, Thunder Bay, ON P7E 1C7 (807) 623-2731.

PROGRAMS

PROGRAM REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

Registration for ALL subjects begins August 6th (5-7:30pm) and commencing August 7th from 9am-7:30pm every weekday except Fridays from 9am-4pm, in the Registrar's Office, Shuniah Bldg.

HWMERS' Fall Fair: September 1st and 2nd at the College Booth.

***NEW*MAIL-IN Registrations:** deadline August 30th. To receive a registration form, call the Community Programs Office (Continuing Education Division) (807) 475-6116. Northwestern Ontario Residents may call Toll Free: 1-800-465-6961.

GS 010 99

PERSONAL FINANCIAL PLANNING (FOR WOMEN)

This elective post-secondary credit subject will give women practical instruction in personal economics, handling money and managing one's financial affairs. Topics covered include budgeting, banking, investing, credit, housing, car ownership, insurance, and other topics which students may be interested in.

DATE/TIME : Tuesdays 7:00-10:00 p.m.

START DATE: September 10, 1985

COMPLETION: December 17, 1985

INSTRUCTOR: Lauretta Johnson

FEE: \$45.00 ROOM: 344, Shuniah Bldg

GS 026 99

ASSERTIVENESS TRAINING (FOR WOMEN)

This elective post-secondary credit subject will provide the student with the skills necessary to negotiate honestly for the things she wants--on the job, at home, in the community. Assertion is not to be confused with aggression. Assertion takes into account the rights and feelings of others.

DATE/TIME : Thursdays 7:00-10:00 p.m.

START DATE: September 12, 1985

COMPLETION: November 14, 1985

INSTRUCTOR: Ivy Cook

FEE: \$30.00 ROOM: 260, Shuniah Bldg.

WOMEN IN MANAGEMENT

This elective post-secondary credit subject will deal primarily with the roles of women in management and the particular skills needed by women to effectively fulfill managerial functions under the constraints which are from themselves, as well as those imposed by the organizations.

DATE/TIME : Mondays 7:00-10:00 p.m.

START DATE: September 9, 1985

COMPLETION: December 23, 1985

INSTRUCTOR: Betty Chalmers

FEE: \$45.00 ROOM: 265, Shuniah Bldg.

GS 143 99

WOMEN & STRESS MANAGEMENT

This elective post-secondary credit subject is intended to examine situational stress in our lives, family, job, social relationships, in conflict, change, developmental crises, etc and the potential sources of stress they bring to every situation because of their personality, their own belief system, their life rhythms and their problem-solving. A lifestyle and attitude approach to changing their stress response will be developed by each individual.

DATE/TIME : Wednesdays 7:00-10:00 p.m.

START DATE: October 2, 1985

COMPLETION: December 4, 1985

INSTRUCTOR: Bert Hopkins

FEE: \$30.00 ROOM: 260, Shuniah Bldg.

GS 144 99

WOMEN & INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT - I

This elective post-secondary credit subject will expand awareness of the role of women in development (economic, social, cultural and political) by: --exploring activities, concerns and issues regarding WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT in the Third World, and --examining links between development issues affecting Third World and Canadian women

DATE/TIME : Wednesdays 7:00-10:00 p.m.

START DATE: September 11, 1985

COMPLETION: November 13, 1985

INSTRUCTOR: Margaret Phillips

FEE: \$30.00 ROOM: 258, Shuniah Bldg.

MT 843 99

Motor Vehicle (WOMEN KNOW YOUR CAR)

In this elective post-secondary credit subject women will learn the basic procedures of car maintenance and general operations.

DATE/TIME : Mondays 7:00-10:00 p.m.

START DATE: September 23, 1985

COMPLETION: November 4, 1985

INSTRUCTOR: Al Bonazzo

FEE: \$18.00 ROOM: 149, Auto Shop, Dorion Bldg.

ZB 293 99

FIRST STEP--COMPUTER PROGRAMMING FOR WOMEN

An introductory course in computer fundamentals designed to give women an understanding of the capabilities and terminology associated with computers. Upon completion, students will be capable of designing some of their own "BASIC" programs such as budget or mortgage payment calculations. Students will have hands-on computer experience.

DATE/TIME : Tuesdays 7:00-10:00 p.m.

START DATE: September 24, 1985

COMPLETION: November 26, 1985

INSTRUCTOR: Anna Melville

FEE: \$30.00 ROOM: 379, Shuniah Bldg.

PORNOGRAPHY AS A SOCIAL PROBLEM

This subject will critically analyze the subject of pornography as a social problem from a feminist perspective, which takes into account the power structures of this society. This controversial topic will look at issues such as: Does pornography promote violence toward women? Should there be censorship and if so should the state be a vehicle to promote it? Does the present laws on censorship protect women from the effects of pornography? Will the changes in the Constitution better protect women against the effects of pornography under the 'Human Rights Option'? These and many more questions will be examined and discussed.

DATE/TIME : Wednesdays 7:00-10:00 p.m.

START DATE: September 25, 1985

COMPLETION: November 27, 1985

INSTRUCTOR: Janis Ay1wood

FEE: \$45.00 ROOM: 327, Shuniah Bldg.

ZM 046 99

TIME MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR THE DUAL CAREER WOMAN

The purpose of this subject is to assist women in applying the management principles of assessment, decision-making, planning, organizing, implementing and evaluation to their life situations in order to achieve a rewarding balance between personal activities and professional responsibilities.

DATE/TIME : Tuesdays 7:00-10:00 p.m.

START DATE: September 24, 1985

COMPLETION: November 26, 1985

INSTRUCTOR: Ivy Cook

FEE: \$45.00 ROOM: 260, Shuniah Bldg.

ZM 047 99

THE TRAVELLING WOMAN

This subject is designed to help today's woman plan her business or pleasure trip effectively. Topics include passport, visa and health requirements, the "do's" and "don'ts" of travelling alone, planning and packing a business/pleasure wardrobe, travel insurance, coping with customs, popular travel destinations, best buys, tips on better travel photography and travelling with special needs. Consideration will also be given to individual needs and interests.

DATE/TIME : Thursdays 7:30-9:30 p.m.

START DATE: September 26, 1985

COMPLETION: November 28, 1985

INSTRUCTOR: Iva Wright

FEE: \$30.00 ROOM: 327, Shuniah Bldg.

ZW 048 99

HOW TO WRITE THE PROPOSAL TO GET THE GRANT

The preparation of proposals to obtain grants for needed community services is a skill. This subject will assist you to understand the expectations of funders and will give you practice in preparing proposals to your greatest advantage. This subject will be of interest to representatives of community organizations, women's groups and voluntary associations.

DATE/TIME : Mondays 7:00-10:30 p.m.

START DATE: September 23, 1985

COMPLETION: October 7, 1985

INSTRUCTOR: Margaret Phillips

FEE: \$20.00 ROOM: 327, Shuniah Bldg.

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