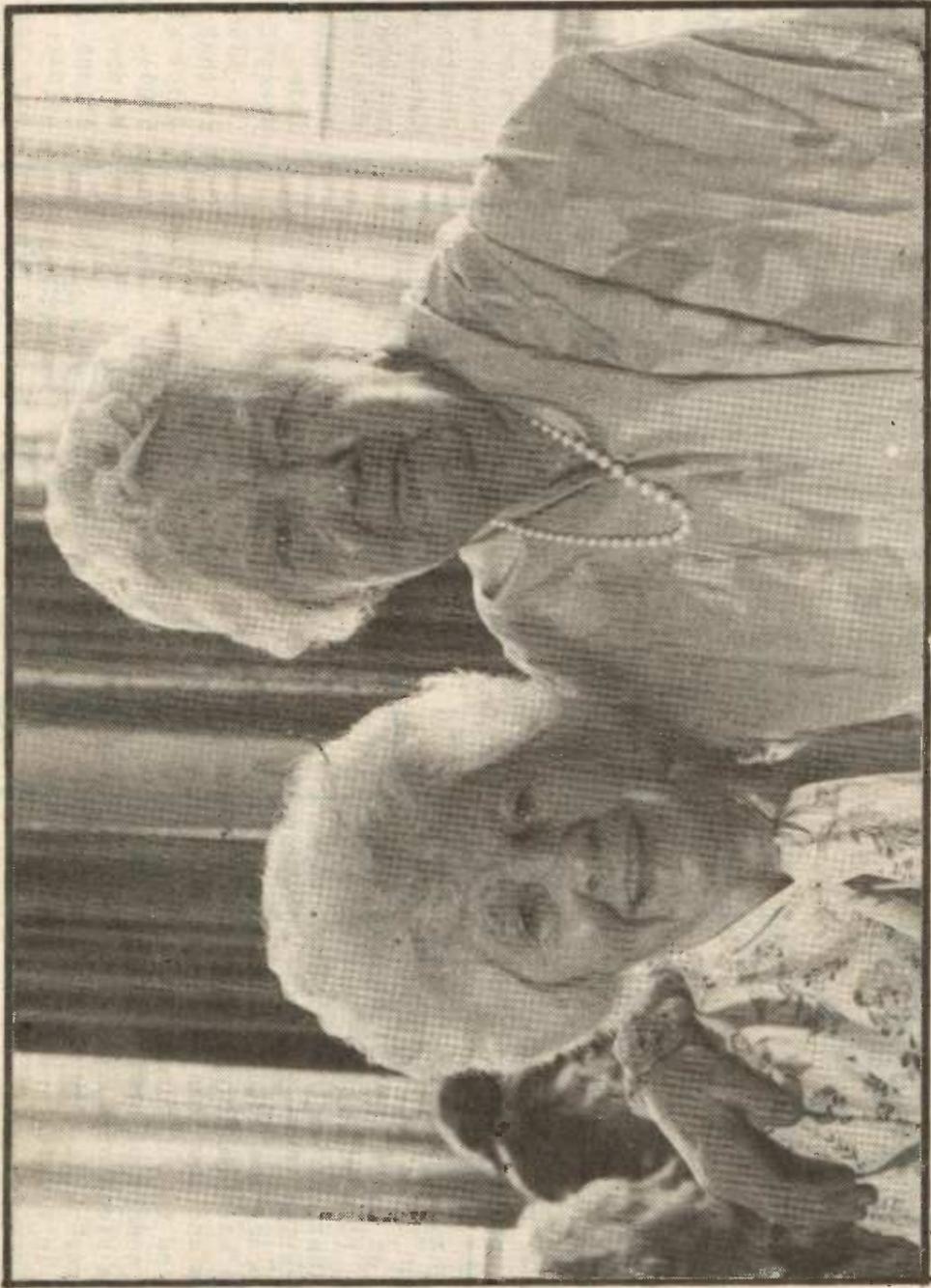


\$1.50

Northern Woman Journal

APRIL 1986 VOL.9 NO.4, THUNDER BAY, ONT.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

MARCH 8 1986

Your VOICE

Dear N.W.J.,

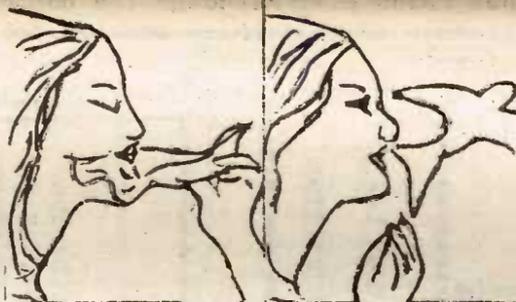
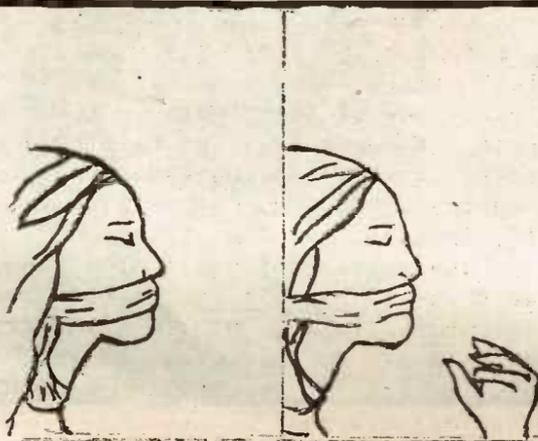
Part of my problem with pornography is that it affects me on such a gut level. I realize in order to appear rational I must (like the pornographers and their supporters) argue the issue of censorship and human rights in a calm, controlled manner, but I can't. When I see these images of women and children in magazines, film and video I get angry. Angry that our society condones this exploitation. Pornography is not just sold "under the counter" any more. We see the hate imagery on our television screens and now it's beginning to be delivered to our homes by Canada Post.

A number of businesses have received a piece of junk mail peddling pornography. It came to the Women's Centre in a white envelope titled MATURE VIEWERS ONLY! It contained a glossy, full colour fold out selling "Highest Quality Erotic XXX Video Movies", which are "totally uncut, U.S. version". The pictures and text were quite explicit about the merchandise.

When a member of the Women's Centre called the Post Office to complain about this, the postmaster explained that Canada Post had checked with their legal advisors and they were within their rights to deliver this type of thing. Since it is our understanding that the Post Office is paid to deliver "Householder Mail", how complicit is our postal system in condoning the spread of pornography in our community?

On an intellectual level it could be argued that our human rights are being violated by delivering pornographic pimp-mail to someone who feels that pornography is synonymous with misogyny. But again my response is an emotional one. I feel pornography is men degrading women. I feel violated by pornographic images. I don't want to see them on television, in movies or in bookstores. I certainly don't want them delivered to my home.

Carolyn P Greenwood.



Feminists in Solidarity

Feminists in North America are trying to raise awareness and concerns about the women's movement in the Third World. The group is particularly concerned about the region of Central America, where women have to face poverty and repression, as well as oppression in work and family life.

Feminists in Solidarity prepares educational programs, direct action and material aid campaigns to forge international links among women.
Contact: Feminists in Solidarity, 108 E Goven Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19119, USA.

Our Voice

Dear NWJ Readers:

Those of you who read the NORTHERN WOMAN editorials understand the financial dilemma that the Journal is experiencing. (In fact you may be getting tired of reading about the financial problems.)

The current situation is that we have scraped together enough money to pay the last printing bill; we are behind in our rent; and we have another publishing date fast approaching with no guarantee of the \$ to pay for the printing. Obviously, some creative money raising ventures must be considered.

One rather attractive possibility is to become a member of the Canadian Periodical Publishers Association, which means that the Journal would be distributed to all bookstores across Canada who would take us, and we would get 45% of the sales. Not only would this bring us new revenue but it would allow the Journal to be widely circulated, thus increasing our fame and prestige.

The only drawback to this scheme is that we have to pay \$100.00 to register with CPPA (and we ain't got the \$100). So we are making this appeal. We need 20 donations of \$5 (or 10 donations of \$10...or 50 donations of \$2) to make this project go. We ask you to participate. Please give your donation to any Journal member, or leave it at the Women's Centre. Thank You.

Other fund raising ideas will be welcomed. Is anyone interested in helping the Journal fund raise? Please call Carolyn Greenwood at 345-7802 with your ideas and support.

RESOURCES FOR WOMEN IN THUNDER BAY...

- BEENDIGEN (Crisis Home for Native Women) 622-5101
- WOMEN'S HEALTH INFORMATION NETWORK #4 Ste. 17, 8A N. Cumberland 344-1410
- PHYSICAL AND SEXUAL ASSAULT CENTRE Office: 345-0894 Crisis: 344-4502
- COMMUNITY REFERRAL LINE (LSPC) 345-4009
- SEC. STATE WOMEN'S PROGRAMS 28 N. Cumberland Street, 3rd floor Lisa Bengtsson 345-2316
- CONFEDERATION COLLEGE WOMEN'S PROGRAMMES. Ruth Cunningham 475-6278
- WOMEN'S DIRECTORATE, Ontario. 435 James Street, P7E 6E3 Joy Fedorick 475-1691
- HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, Ontario. 435 James Street, 475-1693
- FAYE PETERSON TRANSITION HOME 623-6600
- LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S CENTRE C/O Student Union 345-2121
- NORTHERN WOMEN'S CENTRE 69 N Court Street, 345-7802 or 345-5841



SIMONE DE BEAUVOIR, a foremother of feminist literature one of the leaders of the existentialist movement died earlier this week. A novelist, a playwright and historian; she leaves behind a legacy of important work. Perhaps her most famous work- THE SECOND SEX was published in 1949. Her later works, such as THE WOMAN DESTROYED and A VERY EASY DEATH, move us, disturb us, and provide us with comfort while telling stories that we share a common experience with. She will be missed.

cover

I chose this photograph because of the obvious closeness between these women. To me it expressed the enduring friendships which are possible between women. While they are not (strictly speaking) "Northern Women", I felt they typified the feeling of International Women's Day. As women we are interconnected as mothers, daughters, lovers and friends: sisters from birth to death.

Carolyn P. Greenwood.

by JOAN BARIL

●●● International Women's Day, March 8, turned into a women's weekend in Thunder Bay. For film buffs it started on March 7 with a screening of the 1928 classic, "The Passion of Joan of Arc". Later that evening came a party at the Ramada Inn. Two major events were held on Saturday, a conference at Lakehead University sponsored by the university's women's centre, and the "End of Decade" meeting of the Northwestern Women's Decade Council. The day culminated in a concert by Heather Bishop and Tracey Riley at the Heritage Community Centre.●●●

●●● Karen Maki of the Northern Women's Centre startled the four panel members of the Taskforce on Pay Equity by quoting the Bible to them, namely Leviticus 27:1-8 which states the value of a man is fifty shekels of silver whereas a female is thirty shekels. Its about time the situation was brought to an end, Karen suggested, and went on to describe the poverty of minimum wage women and the necessity for an effective pay equity policy.●●●

●●● New faces: Faye Peterson House has a new coordinator, Roberta Couch. As ever it was a busy year at the House which ran near eighty percent capacity last year. The related problem which battered women in Thunder Bay face is the scarcity of affordable housing to move into after the shelter. This concern, as well as the funding for transition houses, will be the focus of the June 6,7,8 meeting of the Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses, in Waterloo. Kenora's new Family Resource Centre has applied for membership but the centre is still not open. ●●●

●●● Women in Crisis-Sioux-Hudson North is the name of the Sioux Lookout transition house which opened last summer with Pat McGinnis as director. From the opening to the end of the year, they ran at ninety percent capacity. ●●●

●●● Another Thunder Bay problem is the lack of feminist counsellors and therapists. In this respect the mental health committee of the Decade Council is bringing in Susan McPhail, a feminist therapist, to do a workshop in Dryden April 14 and 15; Thunder Bay April 16,17 and Terrace Bay 19,20. The workshops are designed for women working with women. Interested women should phone Dawn St. Amand at (807)345-3606. ●●●

●●● The "End of Decade" luncheon and meeting honoured several local women who had worked for Decade Council during the past ten years. Presented with scrolls of appreciation were Leni Untinen, Elizabeth Poulin, Lauri Cunningham, Barbara Street, Leona (Lang) Watson, Bernice Cain, Julie Fels, Margaret Philips, Joan Packota, Lisa Bengtsson and Margaret Lanchok. As well, everyone got a copy of the poem by Leni Untinen. ●●●

●●● Kenora's Women's Place have hired two workers to look into health and legal issues of concern to battered women. KWP is also running a twenty-four hour crisis line staffed by volunteers ●●●

●●● Project Mayday has hired Linda Pattison to work with groups in Marathon, Schreiber, Terrace Bay and Rossport to identify direction's for action. In March, the Mayday women have planned workshops for every Wednesday.●●●

●●● Red Lake women will also run a workshop series starting on April 5 with a look at Women and Financial Management.●●●

●●● Stav tuned for more information about the Northern Women's Conference in Sudbury tentatively scheduled for this coming June. There will be funds available to help Northwestern Ontario women to attend plus lots of "how to" workshops on keeping groups together, lobbying and using the media.●●●

●●● Geralton Women's Conference, May 30,31, will feature Maud Barlow (former advisor on women to Prime Minister Trudeau), and the Nellie McClung theatre troupe.●●●

●●● Women's Health Information Network (WHIN) is offering memberships at five dollars each. Members receive four issues of their perky periodical "Health Network News" as well as access to all information and activities. Send fiver to 8A N. Cumberland St., #17, Thunder Bay, P7A 4L1.●●●

●●● Congratulations to the Thunder Bay Physical Assault Centre which was presented with the Ontario Crime Prevention Award by Solicitor General Kenneth Keyes in recognition of ten years service.●●●

●●● Blame it on Baby. The doctors want the maternity section of the Nipigon hospital closed. (See No-More Labor Pains p.4) Although the doctors' rationale is that there are too few deliveries to keep their "skills sharp" many observers believe the true reason is they don't want to be bothered with pesky babies who have the nerve to be born in the middle of the night. At a public meeting in Nipigon the doctors and a doctor's wife testified that obstetrics keeps a doctor on call, interrupts parties and home life and that it has been disruptive to family life doing the usual twenty-five deliveries or so a year divided among the four of them. When it was suggested that one of them devote his/her practice to obstetrics in order to have at least one set of skills continually sharpened, this too was not acceptable. Too disruptive.

Since women who had personal experiences to relate were not allowed to testify at the meeting, very little was heard about the interruptions to home life, the pain and expense caused by a policy that expects women in labour to go to Thunder Bay for the delivery.

As for the tiny newborn, what about her? Doesn't s/he have a right to the most favourable and safe atmosphere in which to leap into this world; a relaxed and comfortable mother with a helpful and relaxed husband or friend, a birth where the emphasis is on the baby and not on the transportation ●●●

Lobbying Workshop

by CHERYL HODGINS

A Lobbying Workshop sponsored by Project Mayday was held in Terrace Bay on February 8. Carol Quesnelle, a member of Mayday's Board of Directors, explained the reason for the workshop.

"After the North Shore Women's Conference was held here last October, lobbying skills were identified as a major need of the women. After all, before we can get anything from the government, we have to know how to ask for it effectively."

Leni Untinen, who facilitated a lobbying workshop at the Conference, facilitated this one as well. Untinen's vibrant personality and superb communication skills were key factors in the Workshop's success. During the Conference follow-up, when plans for a lobbying workshop were discussed, women who had attended the fall workshop agreed that though the information was invaluable, it was Untinen's charismatic presentation that made it come alive for the women. The message was loud and clear: "get Leni to do the workshop!"

Untinen, who is coordinator of the Northwestern Ontario Women's Decade Council, has successfully lobbied at both federal and provincial levels of government for necessary but contentious issues such as Transition Houses for battered women in N.W.O.

During the workshop she detailed the five components of lobbying: your people, your resources, the other people, the issue, and the strategy. She gave an in-depth analysis of each, their interactions, their individual and collective effect on the outcome of the lobby, a contingency plans to implement when the unexpected happens.

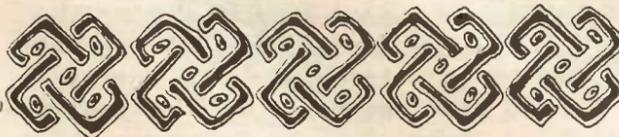
Information was practical, and included suggestions on everything from where to borrow a typewriter to whom to contact in specific ministries.

Untinen emphasized the necessity of maintaining support and cohesion within the lobby group if it was to survive and succeed. She offered practical advice on how to avoid conflict within a group, and suggested ways to cope with it should it inevitably arise.

The significance of statistics was discussed; when to use, and not use, them.

At the end of the afternoon, the women role-played a situation. Half of the participants acted as a municipal town council, the other half as a lobby group.

The exercise revealed to the women just what skills they possess, and the effectiveness of Untinen's presentation.



continued on page 1

NO MORE LABOR PAINS

by KATHY THOMPSON

Women living in the communities serviced by the Nipigon District Memorial Hospital have been forced to have their babies in Thunder Bay—over 100 kilometres from their home. The doctors practicing in this hospital ceased deliveries in November of 1985. They stated that in 1985 there were 24 births at the hospital. With three doctors handling deliveries, this means that on average each physician delivered eight babies.

Soon after this decision was announced, the Committee for Re-Instating a Birth System was formed. CRIBS is comprised of approximately 15 local women, some planning on having children, and some whose families are complete. CRIBS set out to have this decision overturned by first voicing our outrage and concern in the local paper, and then by circulating a petition to Gilles Pouliot, MP Lake Nipigon, who plans to present it in the legislature in April. With a population of 2400 in Nipigon, the 550 signatures proved that this decision was an unpopular one. Due to this public support and outcry, a forum was finally organized in March by Don Ross, Hospital Administrator. CRIBS set out to put together a brief outlining all our concerns.

When the decision was publicly announced, the doctors reassured their patients in a letter which appeared in the paper that they would continue to provide prenatal care, and that women wishing to return to the Nipigon hospital for the remainder of their hospital stay might be able to do so. This was all the information that was given. After speaking with several women who were pregnant, or had recently given birth after the decision was made, it became obvious to us that the labouring woman was on her own. They were discouraged from coming into the hospital for a medical examination by their doctors, and were instructed to proceed directly to Thunder Bay for delivery. This information was quite appalling to CRIBS, and proved that this was a decision that was made in haste by the local physicians, with no consideration given to the risks to both mother and infant. The risk of travelling over 100 kilometres in labour without medical attention was the tip of the iceberg.

In this northern community weather conditions, and traffic can seriously lengthen the trip or cause hazardous driving conditions. There is risk of delivering on the highway, the risks associated with unknown doctors in Thunder Bay (the average patient will see the physician delivering her child once or twice prenatally). The staggering Caesarian rate in Thunder Bay was brought to public attention around the same time as the decision. Twenty-eight percent of all deliveries in Thunder Bay hospitals are delivered by Caesarian section, while the national average is eighteen percent. Therefore, women in our communities are at greater risk of going through major surgery. Several women in the area were having induced labors by physicians in Thunder Bay who were worried about these women being on the highway in labor—there are major risks involved with inductions.

Along with the risk factors, another concern of ours is inconvenience and financial burdens. Some women do not have private transportation available to them, and ambulance service was not provided. The major industry of the community is pulp and paper, which means many fathers could be out in the bush while the mother is in labor, posing another problem for the mothers having to make the trip. Childcare for children at home has to be arranged for an additional 2 and a half to three hours, when fathers visit with the new mother, just for his travelling time. It was also suggested by some physicians, that some women would have to go to Thunder Bay one or two weeks prior to their due date, which poses an incredible financial strain for women without family or friends in Thunder Bay.

Many of the women who have given birth in Nipigon were very pleased and happy with their birth experiences. Very little if any interventions are used here, and it is as close to a "natural childbirth" as you can have in a typical hospital setting. Analgesics are not used as there is no anesthesiologist available; therefore, forceps are not used, inductions are not performed, and neither are caesarians. In the past, when complications arose requiring more



Re:Birth.

more sophisticated technology and facilities, women were sent to Thunder Bay by ambulance. Many other factors contributed to a good birth experience. In a small town, chances are that the laboring woman knows many of the staff, making her more comfortable and at ease. Besides fathers being allowed in the labor room, women wishing to, could have "support" friends or relatives with her. After the birth, rooming-in is allowed in all rooms. Visiting hours are convenient for family and friends providing needed support during the post-partum period. And sibling visitation is allowed any time during those visiting hours with no restrictions. None of these practices exist in Thunder Bay.

All of these risks, concerns, and burdens were outlined in the brief CRIBS presented at the forum with the doctors, Ministry of Health officials, and hospital representatives, along with some suggestions for an alternative birthing system. The first suggestion was to have one physician handle all obstetrical patients. This would enable the one physician to maintain his or her obstetrical skills. Also to train or recruit obstetrical nurses to the area. This suggestion was not acceptable to the physicians, as they explained that one of them would then be on call 24 hours a day 365 days a year. How this would differ from what other physicians who handle obstetrics around the country is not known. They stated that they are currently on call 1 out of 3 nights, and that this added responsibility would burden their family life.

What CRIBS learned from this meeting is that because women in the area are close enough, by the doctor's definition, to Thunder Bay, we would be safer to make the trip. Maintaining their obstetrical skills is obviously not the issue, as this can be easily rectified by having one doctor handle all obstetrics, which they are unwilling to do.

The battle currently facing the committee is to keep the obstetrical facilities at the hospital intact. We learned that the two beds used for maternity patients in the past will now be used for other patients, if necessary. This means that women who are able to return to the Nipigon hospital for the remainder of their hospital stay may not be able to do so if those beds are occupied.

There are plans to build a new hospital here in Nipigon, and it was learned at this forum that complete obstetrical facilities are not included in the plans. Currently in the plans is an allocation of a portion of the emergency room for emergency deliveries. Therefore, the decision made by these four doctors is a decision our community will endure for a lifetime. If another doctor comes to Nipigon to practice who is willing to handle obstetrics, it will not be possible for he or she to do so, as the facilities will not be available. CRIBS plans to lobby the Ministry of Health, and the Hospital Board to keep these facilities. We also plan to present our needs to the Midwifery Task Force recently formed by the Ministry of Health. We feel that a midwife would meet the needs of the community, and fill the loss of this important health service.

We feel that the decision made here in Nipigon will become a trend in small communities across the country due to the decreasing birth rate, heavy work load, and increase in malpractice insurance. We were told by the Ministry of Health that it has already become a trend. This decision was recently made in Blind River, and we were told that it is working out well there. The next community to fight such a decision as this, will be told that it has happened in Blind River and Nipigon, and that it is working out well in those communities. Our Question is FOR WHOM?

Native Women's Status

by LYNN BEAK

STATUS REINSTATEMENT

In Bill C-31 the federal government has introduced new rules governing Indian Status and Band membership. Bill C-31 was passed in June 1985, as a direct result of the Equality Rights section (#15) of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms (which came into effect on April 17, 1985) and the years of lobbying done by dedicated Native women, and the women's groups that supported them.

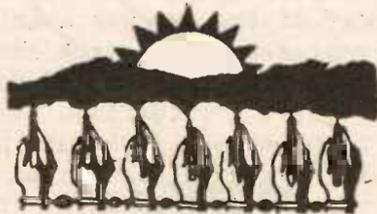
The most important changes brought about by Bill C-31 are:

- (1) separating Indian Status and Band membership so that Indian Status is conferred by Indian Affairs based on the Indian Act, and Band membership may be conferred by Bands based on their membership rules (if they choose to develop rules);
- (2) reinstatement of many men, women and children who lost their Status due to Indian Act rules, or who chose to "enfranchise" and now wish to return to Indian Status;
- (3) initial registration of the children of reinstated people;
- (4) no further conferring of Indian Status upon people (women who married Indian men) who are not of native ancestry;
- (5) elimination of differential treatment of "illegitimate" children;
- (6) recognition of adoption as a means of gaining Status (but NOT losing it) when a child is adopted by Status Indians.



WHO ARE ENTITLED

Indian Affairs will now confer status upon the following groups: people who were registered (or registrable) prior to April 17, 1985, under the old rules; reinstated people; and the children of both groups.



Those who can apply for reinstatement include:

- (1) Indian women who lost Status due to marriage to a non-Indian man (about 12,000 women);
- (2) children of the above women born before Status was lost;
- (3) illegitimate children of Indian women who were protested (where their fathers were proven to be non-Indians);
- (4) children who lost Status at age 21 where their mother and paternal grandmother only acquired Status through marriage;
- (5) any one who enfranchised (gave up Indian Status) and their spouses and children;
- (6) any one who lost Status for a variety of reasons, such as living in a foreign country without permission, completing post-secondary education, entering religious life, or obtaining full-time employment.

HOW TO APPLY

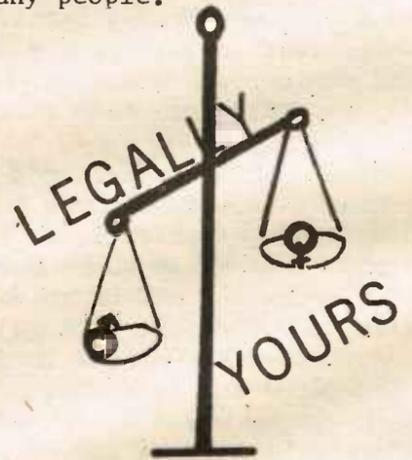
Indian Affairs and local legal clinics have application forms for reinstatement. If a person had Indian Status at one time, they do not need to prove their parentage to Indian Affairs, but must simply provide enough information to determine that it is the same person. Therefore, they will normally need their band name and number, birth date and name of parents, siblings and minor children.

However, if the person who wishes to apply for a registration is the child or grandchild of someone who had Status and lost it, then that person will need to prove their relationship to the person who had Status. In most cases a certified Statement of Live Birth, obtainable from the Registrar General's office, will suffice to provide names for both mother and father. Where the father is not listed (and that information is necessary), the person will need an affidavit from the man admitting parentage, or a Children's Law Reform Act paternity declaration.

Anyone applying for Status should collect all their documents and then complete the application form. Try to obtain as much information from your family as possible, to assist Indian Affairs to locate your family line.

Confirmation of re-registration is taking up to six months, since there are approximately 70,000 to 100,000 people entitled to apply for Indian Status.

Benefits such as education assistance will not be granted prior to the date of the application so hardship will be caused by this delay for many people.



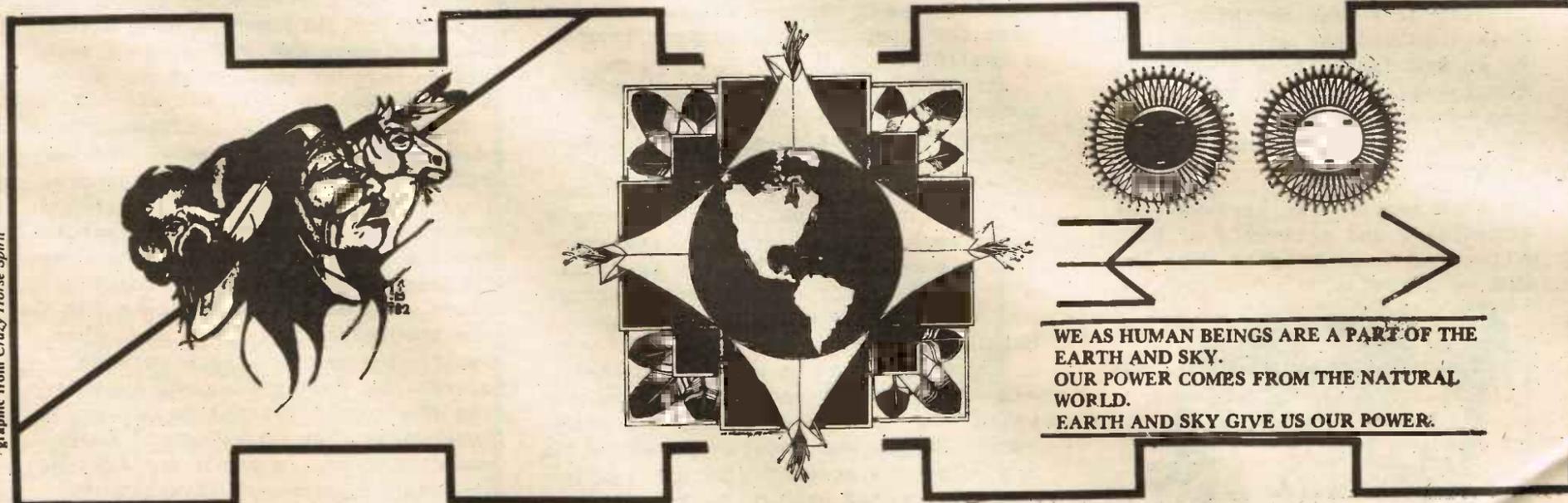
APPEAL PROCESS

Everyone who thinks they may be entitled to registration should apply. It will not be granted to you unless you apply. If an application is refused an appeal is available. The appeal is heard by the District Court in Ontario, and the appeal must be started within 6 months of an official protest decision by the Indian Registrar. Anyone who is refused Status should contact a lawyer to determine if the decision was properly made and should do this quickly, because of the 6 month time limit.

VICTORY

Although the amendments did not eliminate all problems with the Indian Act, they are a victory for women. In future, native women will not lose Status for marrying a man without Status. All women who lost Status, their children, and anyone else who ever lost Status for any reason can now be reinstated. The direct benefits from the Charter of Rights have been few, and we must celebrate the ones we have achieved.

graphic from Crazy Horse Spirit



WE AS HUMAN BEINGS ARE A PART OF THE EARTH AND SKY.
OUR POWER COMES FROM THE NATURAL WORLD.
EARTH AND SKY GIVE US OUR POWER.

UNIVERSITY WOMEN

by GWEN O'REILLY

Women's Centre Coalition Conference

Women's centres exist on university and college campuses throughout the country, each attempting in its own way to improve the status of women. Unfortunately, institutes of higher learning, although frequently considered the vanguard of social and scientific advancement, are also bastions of traditional male domination. The idea of a women's centre coalition has been growing throughout campus centres due to continued threats of closure, funding problems, space cutbacks, and various ongoing battles with administrations, student government, and engineering students. Women's centres everywhere face similar frustrations.

In October, 1985, Ryerson and York Women's Centres met to discuss issues concerning their organizations. It was decided then that these women would initiate a concerted effort to make the Coalition a reality. The major intent of the conference was to develop an increased and continued awareness among campus women's centres of each others achievements and problems, and to establish a provincial and national communication/support structure among centres. Resources for the conference were provided by the Ontario Federation of Students.

On February 7th, 1986, sixty women representing fifteen schools from across Canada (mainly Ontario) met in the middle of a ferocious Toronto snowstorm. The conference commenced with a speaker and a wine and cheese social. The keynote address was given by Johanna Stuckey, a self-proclaimed "Early (circa 1969) Canadian Radical Feminist", and founding member of the first university women's centre in Ontario at York. She outlined the history of the university women's movement throughout the sixties and seventies, and spoke about the recurring problems caused by external attacks or disapproval, internal conflict, and that old devil, burn-out. In summing up, she passed on an important thought:

"...two things I do know now that I did not know in 1969: first, that most people are not logical about sex roles and sexism, and second, that change comes slowly in society at large, and even more slowly in universities and colleges, the bastions of tradition. I used to think (mistakenly) that all I had to do was demonstrate clearly the injustice of society's and men's treatment of women, and they would immediately change."

Johanna learned the hard way. We, as organizers and activists of the eighties, are fortunate to have her wisdom to guide us.



Saturday morning, the group gathered at the Ryerson campus and got down to work. Most of the day was spent listening to representatives from each school introduce themselves and describe their centre's situation. The amount of information, ideas and helpful suggestions shared was astounding.

Campus women's centres exist in an amazing diversity of situations. Some centres, like those at Simon Fraser and McGill, reported a large, annual budget (\$5,000 to \$7,500), excellent space, extensive resource collections and a relatively large membership. The Guelph centre ran and won a student referendum for funding, and now claims \$12,000 to \$14,000 annually from student activity fees. Their impressive budget has not, unfortunately, won them sufficient space. By contrast, Ontario College of Art has one interested (committed!) woman, no funding, space or other means of support. Other centres fell somewhere between these extremes. Space but no funding. Funding but no space. Many are at the mercy of unsympathetic student governments. Ryerson is threatened with closure, Carleton with space and funding cutbacks. York representatives related a frightening story of a persistent lunatic who harassed them with hundreds of phone calls and bomb threats. Waterloo established a personal safety service after two women were murdered on campus during Oktoberfest. Almost everyone had a horror story to tell.



Memberships ranged from 1 to 150 members, with the actual core "organizers" always comprising a smaller subgroup. Political positions were equally varied, and generally governed to some extent by sources of funding. Centres such as Guelph are obliged to maintain neutrality (i.e. no position on abortion, men are allowed in the centre), since their funding comes directly from student activity fees. Several of the more established centres have paid co-ordinators. Regardless of situation, all centres expressed a need for community and support from a coalition.

After a lunch break and a dramatic poetry recital by Taylor Greene, a Toronto performer, the Saturday session continued with more round table discussion. The afternoon also included a workshop on lesbians and straight women working together. This presentation was coordinated by Side By Side, a non-profit, feminist resource group, and presented by Natalie Zlodre and Maggie Redmans.

Starting from the assumption that all sexual/affectional preferences are valid (including bisexuality and celibacy), Maggie and Natalie attempted to deal with the stereotypes and resulting "horizontal hatred" surrounding both straight women and lesbians. They pointed out that everyone, regardless



of preference, has internalized the social biases of homophobia and heterosexism to some degree. Since animosity dissipates group energy, it is important that women understand and confront their own homophobia and heterosexism.

The seminar did indeed reveal many persistent stereotypes commonly (if secretly) held by straight women and lesbians about each other, however, in soliciting these misconceptions, the leaders aroused a great deal of hostility which was not properly dealt with during the course of the workshop.

Sunday's proceedings started off slowly, but soon gained momentum. OFS representatives Leanne Macmillan and Janet Maher gave a seminar on organization and action for women's centres. They discussed the details involved in choosing, or clearly identifying an issue requiring action, recognizing target groups in order to attempt change, and also which tactics and strategy effected the most gain with the least pain. The presentation included information on resources and funding possibilities, as well as outside alliances which might be available to campus women's centres from the surrounding community.

The final session was somewhat rushed, with so much still to talk about, and people slowly trickling out to catch planes and buses. The newly formed Coalition still managed to make some important resolutions. It was decided immediately to announce the formation of the Coalition and send the minutes of our first meeting to women's centres across the country. A list of centres in crisis was circulated and representatives from the centres attending were asked to write letters of support to the student unions/administrations involved. Seven regional representatives were chosen to form the Coalition Committee, whose responsibilities include the development of an inter-centre newsletter, and planning for the next conference, scheduled for the fall of '86. In addition, a resource booklet of profiles of all campus women's centres is being compiled, and should be ready for distribution by the fall. Requests for information have already been sent out, and the regional reps plan to meet at the end of May to put it all together.

Delegates left the conference with a buoyant feeling of renewal and many newly made friendships. A great deal of work and sharing was accomplished over the course of two days, especially considering the majority of the women attending had never worked together before. There is no substitute for the sure knowledge that there are other committed women out there working towards the same goals, and experiencing the same frustrations achieving those goals. The Coalition of Campus Women's Centres is now a reality, and promises to become an effective vehicle for creative and supportive exchange among campus women's centres. Hurray for us!

ENTRY — RE-ENTRY AND EXIT

by JOAN BARIL

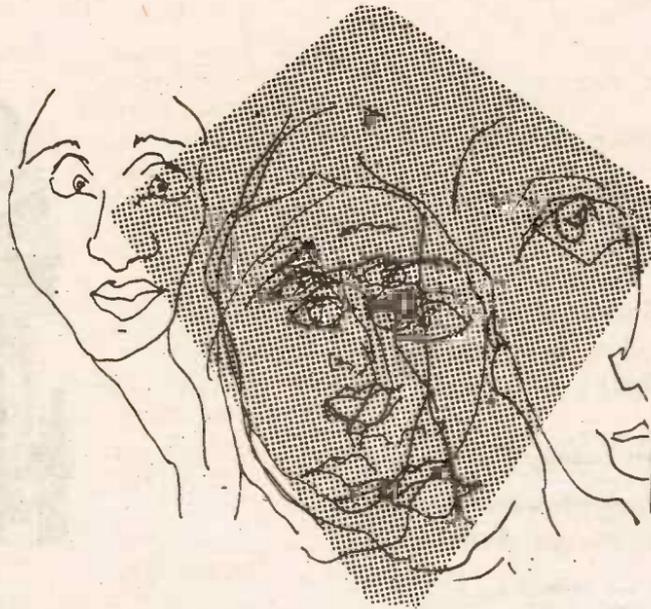
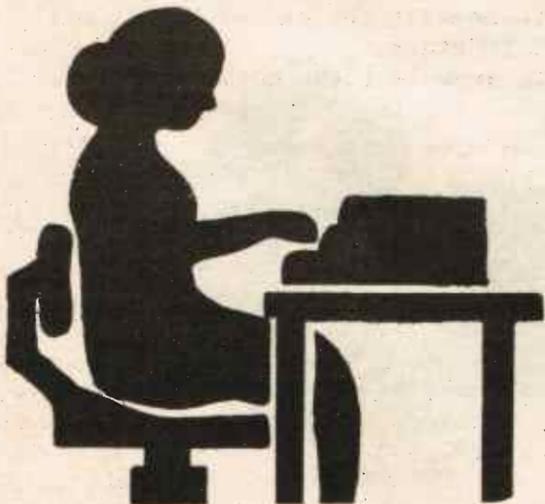
Want to be an educational administrator? Set up your own school? Say no more. If you qualify, the federal government may give you more money per student than it gives to the community colleges. You too can have your own "alternate education system", as one CEIC official phrased it.

And the best part is you don't need any experience, either in education or in the courses your training program could offer. "Anyone can apply." as the CEIC official repeated many many times at a public meeting at the Lakehead Labour Centre March 10 called to explain the program.

The new CEIC offering is called Entry-Re-Entry and it is one segment of the new Canadian "Job Strategy". First, let's see what the program is not. It is not an employee training program. It makes sense, I believe, for the government to give money to employers to train workers or prospective workers—the sort of on-the-job training which has been funded for years; the kind of thing where a typewriter repair business trains people to repair typewriters and perhaps in related fields such as customer relations.

But Entry-Re-Entry is an entirely different kettle of CEIC fish. Through it, the typewriter repair owner may apply to train anything he or she wants; bartenders, cooking, waitressing, secretarial and so on. A proposal is submitted and if accepted "teachers" are hired on contract, eligible trainees are rounded up and eh voila! — mini-school!

Next, our education entrepreneur can collect up to the maximum of \$60.00 per student, per day. So get out your calculators, gentle readers, figure out the take for ten students for a month of twenty teaching days. Now multiply a bit because at least one Thunder Bay entrepreneur is considering up to one hundred students. He'll be pulling in close to half a million dollars. To put your total figure in perspective, consider that Confederation College receives \$24.00 to \$26.00 per student, per day for training federally sponsored students and note that these students receive all the advantages of attending a solid community-based educational institution which offers (besides qualified teachers) such services as health facilities, counselling, and sports programs.



Not to mention a recognized diploma at the end of it all. Students in "alternate educational systems" run by "the private sector" will not receive any piece of paper recognized as anything. For example, trainees in a local program who will study mathematics and English will not receive certification that they have achieved a particular academic grade or level.

Also there is no guarantee of a job after training. In fact concerns have been raised suggesting trainees may end up destroying their own job opportunities. During the course of training, students "on-the-job training" will provide prospective local employers with free labour, lessening the number of real jobs available in the field they are working in.

Who are the prospective trainees and what do they get out of signing up? Entry-Re-Entry is aimed at youth and women who have been at home for three years or more. The trainees will receive a living allowance while they are attending the program or, if applicable, continue on unemployment insurance.

If we ask what women and youth need to enter the labour force, the answer is surely—jobs. Home-bound women also may need affordable day care. But youth and women will flock to Entry-Re-Entry because they get paid to do so, or perhaps they'll be steered into it by social workers or welfare officers or perhaps they'll sign up because the words "training program" have an appearance of offering something worthwhile.

Once enrolled, they are no longer a blot up the unemployment statistics and it all looks so good when the issue of unemployment rolls around at Question Period.

The local women's centre has its own concerns about the type of training offered to women—service, tourist and industry jobs for the most part, waitress, bartenders and retail clerk. But according to Dena Morrison (from the Sudbury CEIC office which will monitor the Thunder Bay program) "not trad" is "downsized" which to you and me means the focus is off helping women into the non-traditional higher paid jobs. In short, after a period of luring women into a brief flirtation with non-traditional occupations, Manpower, it seems, is tossing us back into the cheap labour pool.

CEIC is looking at at least eight projects in Thunder Bay alone, involving 200 students or more. Doubts have been expressed about CEIC's policy to monitor the enormous funds involved, and the quality of instruction from the Sudbury office, 600 miles away, and using one CEIC officer to do it all. However some or all of this monitoring function may be taken over by the college.

Existing educational institutions have complex networks of checks and balances to ensure the Ministry of Education's regulations are met and things are kept honest. Colleges, Universities and school boards have elected or appointed governing bodies. They have inspectors, auditors, internal checks. They have principals or chairmen to monitor curriculum and teaching. They have student councils, appeal systems and local advisory boards. Community training projects such as "Down to Business"² have grown out of community organizations and have community boards. Entry-Re-Entry lacks these checks and in-puts. Local Advisory Councils (LACs), which are now being set up will have an advisory function only.

In a time when the average student loan barely pays for the first trip to the bookstore, when existing educational institutions are being squeezed for funds, when the scholarship system is so meagre that it cannot provide higher education to even our brightest students, when the dream of getting a summer job to pay one's way through winter classes is often just a dream, when apprenticeships have dried up, when the cost of daycare is going through the roof and the subsidy system is collapsing, when government money is needed to help students get a real education, we see our government pumping money into "the privatization of the educational system" and handing out enormous sums to "the private sector" to set up "alternate educational systems".

NOTES

1. English Second Language, \$24.00 federal trainees per day; BTSO (upgrading) \$26.00, other college programs higher.
2. Down to Business is being phased down. "Immigrant women are no longer the focus", says CEIC.



Part One

Easter was ...
a crisp white blouse ... plaid skirt ... tightly curled hair ...
keeping quiet in church when so much excitement stirred inside
as thoughts of easter eggs ran through my head.

Easter was ...
the long ride home in the child filled car ...
bursts of laughter ... shouts ...
tears ... being quiet ...
waiting to get home
as thoughts of easter eggs ran through my head.

Easter was ...
home at last ... children shoving ... father laughing ...
mother giving instructions
Take off church clothes ... no fighting ... no eating before breakfast.

Easter was ...
the smell of bacon cooking ...
children changing ... pushing ... laughing ... running ...
finding a melted hen in a basket by the window.
Easter was ...
a taste of warm melted chocolate before breakfast.

Part Two

Easter was ...
NO LIPSTICK ... NO EARRINGS ... NO HIGH HEELS ...
ISN'T HER SKIRT TOO TIGHT ...
WE'RE GOING TO CHURCH!

Easter was ...
washing again and crying for high heels and lipstick ...
smiling at priests and parents' friends who
whispered "what a nice girl"
as thoughts of tight skirts and boys ran through my head.

Easter was ...
aprons ... cleaning ... keeping the kids out of the chocolate ...
smells of bacon and eggs.

Easter was ...
walking down main street arm in arm with my friend Joyce ...
Laughing in our red lipstick ... clamp-on earrings ...
long tight skirts ... soft sweaters ... bobby socks in high heels ...
hats and gloves that covered heads and hands.
Easter was ...
enjoying the whistles from the boys.



Poetry

Part Three

Easter was ...
40 days of washing curtains ... windows and walls ...
polishing furniture ... baking cookies ... sewing dresses ...
hiding new white socks and black shiny shoes.

Easter was ...
40 days of mass ... rosary ... stations of the cross ...
sorrow ... guilt.

Easter was ...
a night of making maps and hiding eggs ...
quietness ...
butter cookies in the tin ... hot bread on the counter ...
jellied salad in the fridge ...
family's new clothes laid out.

Easter was ...
NO TREATS BEFORE MASS ... EVERYONE TO CHURCH ...
rushing ... pushing ...
silent tears ... smiling.

Easter was ...
cooking bacon and eggs ...
wiping melted chocolate from a little face ...
before breakfast!
... remembering warm melted chocolate.

Easter was ...
keeping children quiet ...
feeding many ... washing dishes ... gossiping in the kitchen ...
playing cards ... laughter ... noise ... tiredness.
Easter was done on Sunday night.

Part Four

Easter is ...
remembering Easter ... gently
kissing the past goodbye ...
letting go
of guilt and sorrow.

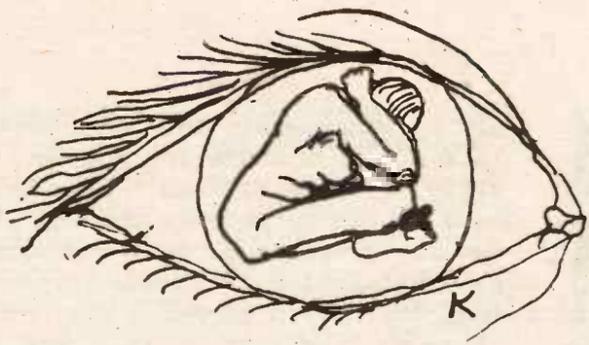
Easter is ...
time alone to love all of who I am as a woman
in Transition
... fallible ... wonderful ... courageous ...
needing ... asking ... receiving ... giving .

Easter is ...
planning a day of ice fishing ...
sharing moments ... a meal ... with friends.

Easter is ...
believing in Parts One ... Two ... Three ... Four ...
believing in Parts Five ... Six ... Seven ...
that are to come.

Carol Quesnelle





Northwestern Ontario
Womens Decade Council
1976-1986

Tears and laughter: pride and pain
From towns and cities, women came.
From isolation they had known
Together they were not alone.

To hear, to talk, to share, to speak
Each one the same, each one unique
To change the rules that kept us still
To bond the female iron will

To feel the power gained in sharing
To demonstrate the strength of caring
To chart the path, to climb, to fall
To work for one, to gain for all

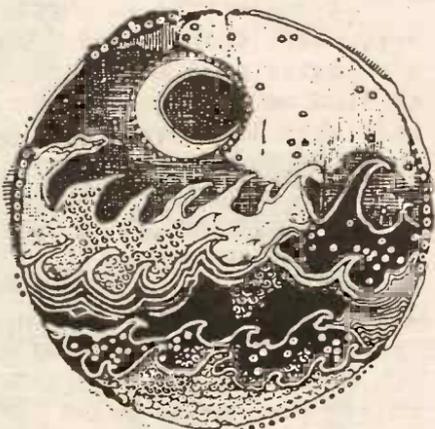
A woman safe, a child's trust
Dreams succeeded, dreams were crushed
To lift us out of poverty
Demanding our equality

Preservation of our Earth
Recognition of our worth
Thoughts we feel, our spoken word
Promising they will be heard.

In the shadow of the dove
Not a cause, an act of love
The Decade ends, goals not yet won
Northern women have begun

-Leni

In celebration of a Decade
of Northwestern Ontario
Women's shared commitment
and achievement.



Blue Collar Woman age: 32

Talk of futures,
Punctuated by nervous laughter
Is always vague.
We sit,
Hunched over beers,
Dreaming to each other of land,
And houses built by woman-hands.

Words ricochet around the table
And the sound of laughter roars in our ears.
Everything seems possible,
No wish too absurd.

We look up,
Still laughing,
As your words shatter our dreams
With the sudden, vivid clarity of all our fears.

" Who the hell is going to hire
a 53 year-old lady laborer? "

Mary-Ann



Wandering the stacks
I search out titles.
("The Loss of A Parent")
("On Death and Dying")
Nothing appeals.

I realize,
With some disgust,
That I am trying
To confront your death
With facts, figures, logic.

How did I believe
That this could be "read-up"?
Was I looking for "self-help"?
("Grief to Grinning: A Step-by-Step Manual")
Perhaps a scholarly rationalization of mourning?
Something I could digest and then discard,
Hoping, also, to discard
The futility of wondering
What you might have thought
Of things
I had never
Been able
To say.

Mary-Ann

JESSE'S STORY

by ROSE PITTIS

Brian Mulrone, if I could write good I'd sure be sendin you a letter. Lyin here lookin at these puke green walls, me, and lookin back at my life which has been that same colour for a long time. I been seein your dog-eared face on the front of a lot of old magazines lyin around the ward and I been thinkin how your social programs with all them social workers managed to help me sell my pride, lose my kids, and trade real life for this psych hospital.

I also been seein that angel-faced old lady of yours on a lot of old magazines. Glorified wife and mother of this land with three kids to look after, always smilin. That smile begins to look like a smirk to me 'cos I know what put it there. Money. What I want to know is if I kept my seven kids with me for so long, with a smile on my face and no money, how come they don't put me on the cover of Chatelaine? How come they didn't give me a goddam go'd medal!

Had my first kid when I was 16, me, maybe ten years ago. The next six years are kind of a blur now. Seems like I was either carryin a kid or feedin one, drinkin or soberin up all the time, with my old man takin a swing at my head sometimes to keep things interesting. So I hit rock bottom, find our Maker down there to help me out of the hole and I quit drinkin. Thats when I start feelin the pain of livin again...

First its the birth pains, then its the beatin pains, then its the pain inside when I see those swings missin me and landin on my three oldest. Thats when I know its time to leave.

So thats the first part over... I drop the old man and the bottle, pick up the kids and the good Lord, and head out of that town down the highway to Thunder Bay where I got a cousin I can stay with.



My cousin's got three rooms, three kids and an old man that drinks. Its good its summer and the kids can be outside all the time, though there seems to be more trouble for them to get into than where I come from. I spend my days walkin around lookin for a place to stay and a job to pay for it. I spend my nights listenin to the kids screamin, and sometimes I get out for a coffee or a bingo.

Bout a month goes by and I start to figure out that it doesn't much matter if I find a job, cos there isn't any places to live anyway. My moneys almost gone, my cousin's goin crazy just havin us there, and I have this strange feelin my kids are doin stuff they shouldn't on the street. Around then there were times I'd be so tired of tryin, it took the last of my strength to get me by that hotel door and into that coffee shop.

So I use my cousin's address, ignore that twistin pride in my belly that says me and my old man never asked anyone but family for anything, and head out to get signed up for welfare. They all talk a different language down there. I sort of feel scared of them for a while, especially this women who comes to ask questions about my kids and where I'm livin. Says she's my social worker and seems there's some problem with me livin with family that's got a bit of money comin in. So I borrow some money, enough to move me and my kids into a motel for a week, the kind of place I swore I'd never see again after I quit drinkin. And they give me money for movin out of a family place and into this hole.

Seems there's this cheap housing the city's got but you have to be on a list. Always thought you got points from the Lord for havin good healthy kids and standin on your own two feet but this place gives out points for just the opposite. The worse off you can prove yourself, the more points you get, and the higher up on the list you get. So I scrounge up my points, ignore that twist in my belly again, and end up with a place to stay and a

bit of money comin in. Only trouble is I'd feel a whole lot better if Billy, my oldest, didn't keep comin home lookin worse than when my old man lay a beatin on him, and nothin to say for himself. Seems I spent so long just tryin to get a job and a place to stay that I forgot how to talk to my kids.

I still don't have much time to be with my kids. Money is real tight. Food for seven kids, some stuff for the house, clothes for my four oldest for school, pay back some of the money my cousin lent me, the cheque just won't go that far even with the clothes and stuff my social worker finds me. Never mind that sometimes I get so sick inside for my town and my old man and the bush that I got to get out of the house and spend some money on goin for coffee or bingo to talk to some people I know from around where I come from. Around this time I'm still tryin, you know...



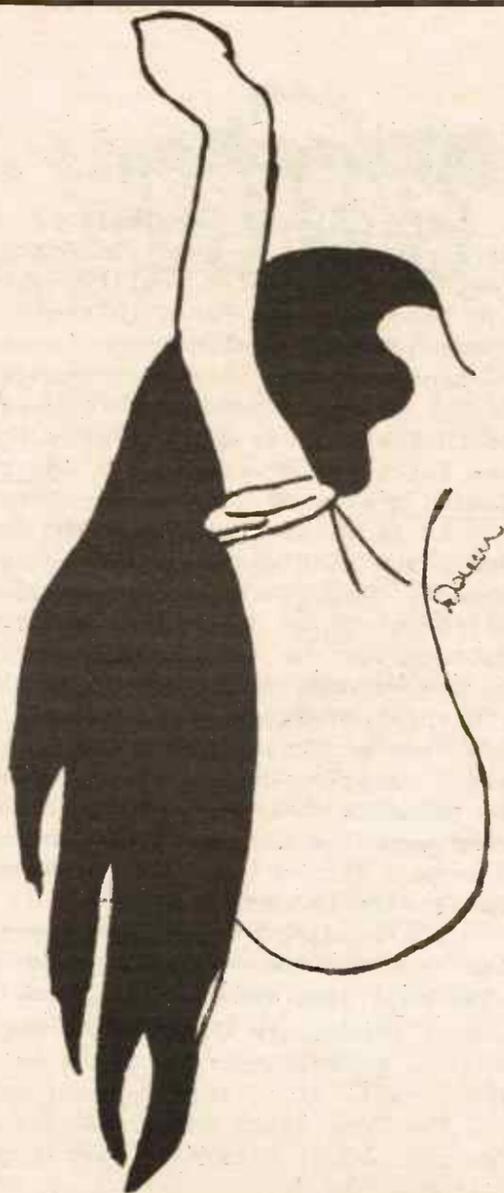
Maybe a month down the road from that time my body starts to give out on me and I got to go to the doctor. Somehow its hard to get all this next part straight in my mind. I guess my social worker gets me someone to come in and help me with my kids during the day. Called a homemaker. Seems like an OK person but used to be able to make my own home, me. Now the doctor tells me I have to go into the hospital for tests, and with some trouble my kids get into and not going to school the way everone says they should, some woman comes round askin questions. I can smell children's aid on her a mile away and the next thing I smell is that fear sweat comin out of my own body. This one seems to be just lookin not stealin but now I can't go in for tests and leave my kids at home waitin for her to show again.

I don't like to complain so much but, Lord, those pains weren't getting any easier so I get my social worker to find me someone to take care of my kids when my cousin can't and then go into the hospital. Seems like its a bad joke they're all playin behind my back. Sitter quits, my cousin goes on a binge, nowhere for my kids to stay. So here I am in the hospital with tubes and bottles hangin off my body and that woman comes back to check on my kids and she and my social worker say they can get real good homes for my kids...but nowhere for them all to go together. Around this time is when I stop tryin for awhile

continued on page 11

... continued from page 10.

Then my brother comes through town. He's off the bottle lookin for a job and no place to stay. I get out of the hospital and they give me my kids back. I have to go into the hospital for an operation from those tests soon so I figure my brother can look after my kids. Only trouble is I find out some rules I didn't know about. My brother can't live at my cheap housin maybe cos he's not on welfare and he can't give my address so he can't get welfare cos he's not supposed to be livin there. He's got no money to get another place, doesn't know anyone in town and, me, I got no energy left to help him out. They can't find me another woman to stay with my kids so I say why don't they hire my brother as a homemaker to keep my kids at home and save them a whole lot of money as well as savin my family. They look at me as if I'm just some crazy old woman even though I'm only 26 and used to be able to think straight once in awhile.



This next part is kind of hard to tell, even to myself. I got no choice but to go into the hospital, say bye to my brother who's headin out to look for work down by Marathon, watch them take my kids and send them all over town to those good homes where they got no real family. Except one other choice... I got a bottle of pain pills the doctor gave me to keep me goin til I get in for my operation.

Oh Lord, those beatin's my old man gave me were nothin to the one you're layin on me now! I've been in the bush, nighttime, in the middle of winter alone and half drunk out of my mind, and I've seen the way out better than I can see the way out of this one!

So I take those pills down, me, with some tea to make them go down smooth and I wake up lookin at these puke green walls and pretty pictures of you and your sweet old lady, Brian Mulroney. You can take those social programs and shove them and you can take a look at this slash across the dog-eared face of your wife too. I give up my old man, the booze dreams, my land, my kids, and now I just realized I give up the Lord.

I got nothin but a bit of that old twistin pride still left in my belly, and its whats goin to get me out of here.

Depo-active

DEPO-PROVERA...

is an injectable synthetic hormone now being considered by Health and Welfare Canada as a contraceptive. BANNED IN THE UNITED STATES, this drugs safety has not been proven. Many people feel that there has not been enough research on its long-term effects. It often given to women without their "informed consent". Women's groups, health, consumer and international development agencies have joined together to delay approval of Depo Provera for contraception until its SAFETY HAS BEEN PROVEN.

As a country manufacturing Depo Provera for export, we should be concerned that it is available "over the counter" in many Third World countries where women are not adequately screened nor monitored for side effects.

ACTION...

In November '85, the CANADIAN COALITION ON DEPO-PROVERA was formed to voice our shared concerns for the safety of this drug.

The Coalition is now close to eighty member-groups strong.

In November, approval was imminent.

By mid-December, decision for approval was delayed until March.

In mid-January, it seemed that the decision was postponed until early summer.

Members of the CANADIAN COALITION ON DEPO-PROVERA have been writing to their Members of Parliament and to the Minister of Health and Welfare to voice their concerns as to the safety of this drug and encourage you to do the same. The Coalition is demanding changes to the drug-approval process so that consumers can participate in the drug approval process.

GET DEPO-ACTIVE...now...

Contact the CANADIAN COALITION ON DEPO-PROVERA, c/o 58 arthur St., Ottawa, Ont. K1R 7B9. Get in touch with a women's centre or women's health centre in your area. Write to the Minister:

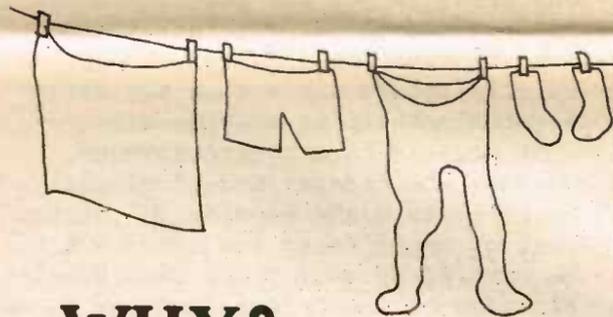
The Honourable Jake Epp
Minister of Health and Welfare
16th Floor, Brooke Claxton Building
Tunnyr's Pasture
Ottawa, Ont K1A 0A6
or to your Member of Parliament
(no postage necessary!)

The Canadian Women's Movement Archives

While the purpose of these archives is similiar to that of others - research and preservation, the collection is anything but conventional. In an effort to collect information on the Canadian women's movement, written documents (periodicals, minutes of meetings, correspondence and journals) are catalogued, but posters, buttons, graffiti, tee-shirts, flyers women's oral histories and signs also find a place.

The women at the archives are trying to redescover and rebuild the continuity in women's lives - to take advantage of the experience of all Canadian feminists. They encourage women's groups to keep records and to preserve and make those records easily available to other women.

Contact: Canadian Women's Movement Archives, Box 928, Station Q, Toronto Ontario. M4T 2P1 (416) 597-8865.



WHY?

by Cheryl Hodgins

I was cleaning the bathroom the other day when suddenly, somewhere between pouring the javex into the toilet bowl and wiping the tub with comet, the following questions occurred to me.

Why don't men feel guilty about leaving their children with babysitters while they work?

Who looks after the children and who searches for a replacement caregiver when she cannot, or chooses not, to do so?

Why don't more men choose the occupations of full-time parent and homemaker?

Why aren't men ever asked "If ya wanted to be an engineer (or pipefitter) why'd ya have kids?"

Why don't more men support the idea of government funded daycare?

Though I tried very hard, I just couldn't think of a logical answer to these questions. Maybe someone else can. Now, you'll have to excuse me. The bathroom needs to be cleanedagain.

DAY CARE NEWS

By MARGARET PHILLIPS

TASK FORCE

There is much activity regarding day care at all levels. Federally, the Report of the Task Force on Child Care (the Katie Cooke Report) has been released. From their comprehensive study of child care and parental leave in Canada, Dr. Cooke and her committee members concluded "that the child care situation is in a state of crisis, and that serious consequences will result if steps are not taken immediately to rectify the situation!"

The Task Force has put forward a number of important recommendations with the underlying premise that "federal, provincial and territorial governments must begin now to develop complementary systems of child care and parental leave that are as comprehensive, accessible and competent as our systems of health care and education."

To achieve universal day care (by the year 2001) the Task Force recommends short-term and medium-term strategies. The immediate priority must be the stabilization of existing services; increasing supply; improved variety of services; and the reduction of user fees. To facilitate this immediate goal the Task Force recommends that the federal government provide "good faith" grants of \$4 per day per space for infant, disabled and special needs children; \$2 per day for pre-school spaces; and \$1 per day for "latch-key" spaces.

In the medium term a new federal-provincial cost sharing arrangement for day care is recommended, whereby the federal and provincial governments would provide 50% of the cost of child care; the other 50% to be covered by user fees. (The subsidization of low income families to be continued during this period.)

While this proposal would make day care accessible to significantly more families, the Task Force recognizes that only a universal system will make day care available to all children. The Task Force states "In the long term, we would see licensed child care being fully financed by public revenues, for, as long as user fees are a feature of the child care system, some children will lack access to the services they need..." The Task Force believes that the incremental approach is "the most realistic and responsible way to reach this goal under current fiscal conditions".

The report makes further recommendations dealing with capital funding, taxation issues, research, and day care programs for public service families.



The studies and analysis of child care needs, present inadequacies, and concern for quality, which have led the Task Force to their recommendations, reflect the issues and concerns that have been enunciated by day care advocates for years. Nonetheless, it is notable that the Task Force has a vision of a comprehensive system of quality day care.

It is vital that the Katie Cooke Task Force findings and recommendations be kept in the forefront of public/political attention, and that advocacy for the implementation of the key recommendations be maintained. With the current federal Special Committee on Child Care (more on this later) embarked on yet another study, the valuable recommendations of the Cooke report could easily be obscured. We cannot afford to have the Cooke report side-tracked.

The mandate of the Task Force also involved the study of parental leave policies, which were found to be most inadequate to meet the needs of today's families, and compared unfavourably with other jurisdictions.

The Task Force concluded that even the modest maternity benefits available had serious gaps.. eg the requirement of working for the same employer for at least a year; the exclusion of domestic workers, farm labourers, students and self-employed; the low level of replacement benefits (53% or less for most employees). The report concludes that "As a result of the various exclusions, conditions and low level of benefits, only about half of all women workers who give birth each year claim Unemployment Insurance benefits... Adopting parents and natural fathers are even less fortunate, being ineligible in most jurisdictions for leave or benefits, or both."

To address these inadequacies the Task Force makes a number of recommendations which recognize the equal partnership of parents in meeting family responsibilities and which insist that government has a responsibility to assist parents to effectively carry out their dual roles as workers and as family members.

Recommendations include: a five day annual paid leave for family related responsibilities; reduction of the qualifying period for parental leave to 20 weeks; increased duration and level of birth and adoption benefits; paid leave for the father for birth related responsibilities; Unemployment Insurance maternity benefit coverage for the self-employed; and for part-time employees who work 8 or more hours per week; and the deletion of the two-week waiting period for U.I.C. birth and adoption benefit claims.

The Task Force report is worth reading. It is available for \$9.95 from: Canada Government Publishing Centre, Supply and Services Canada, Ottawa, K1A 0S9. The research studies conducted for the Task Force have been published separately and are also worth perusing. They are

available (free) from Communication Unit, Status of Women Canada, 10th Floor, 151 Sparks St. Ottawa, K1A 1C



SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON CHILD CARE

Not to be confused with the Katie Cooke Task Force (which was appointed under the previous federal Liberal government) is the parliamentary Special Committee on Child Care, appointed last fall by the Conservative government, and composed of seven politicians (5 Conservatives, 1 Liberal, 1 NDP). This Special Committee is yet again studying the child care situation in Canada, and is presently touring the country holding public hearings.

While it may seem frustrating to have to retell the day care story to yet another inquiry, it is absolutely vital that day care people make their views known. This may be our last chance to influence day care policy.

Day care parents, workers and groups are pressing to have the Special Committee hold hearings in Northwestern Ontario, recommending hearings in both Dryden and Thunder Bay to adequately cover the region. A firm commitment from the Special Committee is yet to be received.

Many people have advised the Committee that they wish to make a presentation. In addition to those groups/individuals who will 'present' at the hearings, it is very important that all people concerned with the provision of quality day care write to the Committee. (Special Committee on Child Care, Room 308, 151 Sparks St. Ottawa.)

For more information contact your local day care parents group, day care centre, Women's centre, or the NWO Regional Day Care Committee Box 144, Thunder Bay, P7C 4V5.

INDIRECT SUBSIDY ISSUE

As previously discussed (NWJ Vol. 9 #2) the elimination of the "indirect subsidy" to municipal day care is the major NWO day care issue. The Minister of Community & Social Services has announced the postponement of this policy to December 31, 1986. This is certainly a welcome relief - but it is only a temporary solution. Long-term solutions must be found.

It is therefore encouraging to learn that the provincial government appears to be seriously addressing the day care accessibility/affordability issue. At a recent meeting of the Ontario Coalition for Better Day Care, Gerry Duda, Senior Policy Coordinator, Ministry of Community & Social Services, updated the Coalition on the Policy Review being undertaken, indicating that day care reform remains a high priority, and that the direction will be toward "making it more of a public service". (Coalition Newsletter March/86). He further "agreed with the Coalition that it did not make sense for the province to be enforcing its instructions to municipal day care centres to increase their fees to full per diem costs at the same time as the government was conducting a full scale review of funding alternatives. He agreed that easing the problems of affordability created by eliminating the indirect subsidy were the very thing that the province was attempting to deal with." Further discussion indicated that COMSOC officials will be asked to relax their position of pushing municipalities to full per diem fees in 1986.

While this is all positive information day care parents/advocates cannot relax. We know that in NWO COMSOC officials are pressing hard to persuade municipalities to raise their fees, as well as suggesting program changes that could adversely affect the quality of programs in our municipal centres. (See Thunder Bay news below) Day care parents must encourage their municipal councils to resist the local Ministry pressure, and keep day care accessible, affordable and high quality. We must avoid the tragedy of forcing families out of day care, forcing day care centres to close.

THUNDER BAY

In this respect we are delighted to report that the City of Thunder Bay is taking real leadership by urging the province to retain the indirect subsidy.

This, and other positive actions, arose from the City's Community Services Committee meeting on March 10th. With day care children and their parents packing Council Chambers, the Community Services Committee gave a sympathetic hearing to the briefs submitted by Thunder Bay Advocates, NWO Regional Day Care Committee, C.U.P.E., and individual parents.



The issue arose because City administration put forward a report which included a number of recommended changes that would seriously affect the quality of Thunder Bay's municipal day care, and jeopardize the existence of the centres.

Administration recommendations that were of greatest concern to parents included the change from attendance-based to enrolment-based fees, which is particularly problematic to families who face sudden lay-off and recall work situations, and is fraught with potential problems of children being taken to day care when they are sick because families can't afford to pay twice for the same service. No analysis had been done by administration of the number of families who would be forced to withdraw their children if enrolment based fees were effected.

The recommendation to close 2 of the 4 centres during the summer totally ignored the needs of the children for security and consistency of familiar staff. Nor did it address the transportation/affordability problems parents would face. Not to mention staff morale. Administration's undervaluing of day care staff's work was further evident in a recommendation to utilize supply staff and 10 month contract work. The economic need of day care workers, who are already underpaid, to work a full year is ignored, as well as the impact of such staffing arrangements on the quality and continuity of care offered to the children. Thankfully, City Council deferred all these recommendations.

It is our understanding that district COMSOC officials have been pressing the afore-mentioned changes to many day care centres. We hope that other municipalities will also resist this backward step.



DISTRICT NEWS

SIOUX LOOKOUT Parents Group has mounted a post card campaign, addressed to the Premier of Ontario. Anyone concerned with day care is asked to sign and send the post card which states "I support a universally accessible, publicly funded day care system which will provide high quality child care services". Please support this campaign. Contact your local day care centre for the post cards.

GERALDTON parents have organized a Parents Group and have prepared a brief to the Special Committee.

TERRACE BAY's Town Council approved a request by the Day Care and have appointed a Day Care Advisory Committee composed of Town Council and parent representatives. This Committee will further investigate ways and means to develop a day care centre in Terrace Bay.

The BIG TROUT LAKE Women's Group have placed day care at the top of their priorities, have conducted a needs survey, and are working toward obtaining a day care centre in Big Trout Lake.

The NWO Regional Day Care Committee is planning to organize regional forums in the early fall to involve parents, workers, municipal officials and others interested in developing strategies to ensure NWO day care needs can be met. For more information contact the committee at Box 144, Thunder Bay.

Lobbying

...continued from page 3

Said Quesnelle, "I was impressed by the skills that we women already have." "Often," she said, "we have skills but are not aware of them, therefore we do not utilize them fully. Leni was able to bring these skills out in us."

Quesnelle was not the only participant who was pleased with the workshop. Rosamund van Leeuwen also found the information extremely useful.

"It increased my confidence", she said. "Knowing how to lobby and who to approach with requests and grievances gives a person confidence, not only in their ability to do it, but also in the potential success of their efforts."

Untinen advised that when presenting information and a request to the appropriate persons, the subject must be thoroughly researched and presented in clear, precise language, but added that the information did not have to imitate an academic thesis. "Writing a brief is not a mysterious, complicated process, that only someone with a degree can do," she said. "Many effective briefs have been written and presented by persons with limited formal education."

Participants learned much and were enthused by the workshop. But Untinen cautioned that lobbying is often "a long haul" and told them not to get discouraged if their first attempts fail. "Just be persistent" she said. "And regardless of the outcome, celebrate your courage for trying!"

by LENNY ASHTON

read any good books lately?

Connoisseurs of short stories are in for a delightful treat. In a book titled "DARKNESS", Bhareti Mukherjee has compiled twelve outstanding short stories for your reading enjoyment. The setting for some are Canada while for others it's the U.S. What they all have in common is their elegance and sedulity.

The characters in the stories are semi-assimilated Indians (from India) who are trying to bond themselves to a new community and lifestyle, yet unable to discard their sentimental attachments to a distant homeland. Their tribulations kept me so riveted, I was unable to put the book down until I had read it from cover to cover.

Bhareti has also written two novels and a travel memoir which she co-authored with Clark Blaise (her husband.) Have you read any of these works?

While we're on the subject.... Have you read a good book lately that you would like to recommend to others? Just fill out the form below and submit it to me at the Northern Woman Journal and I will acknowledge your returns in the next issue of the paper.



cayenne

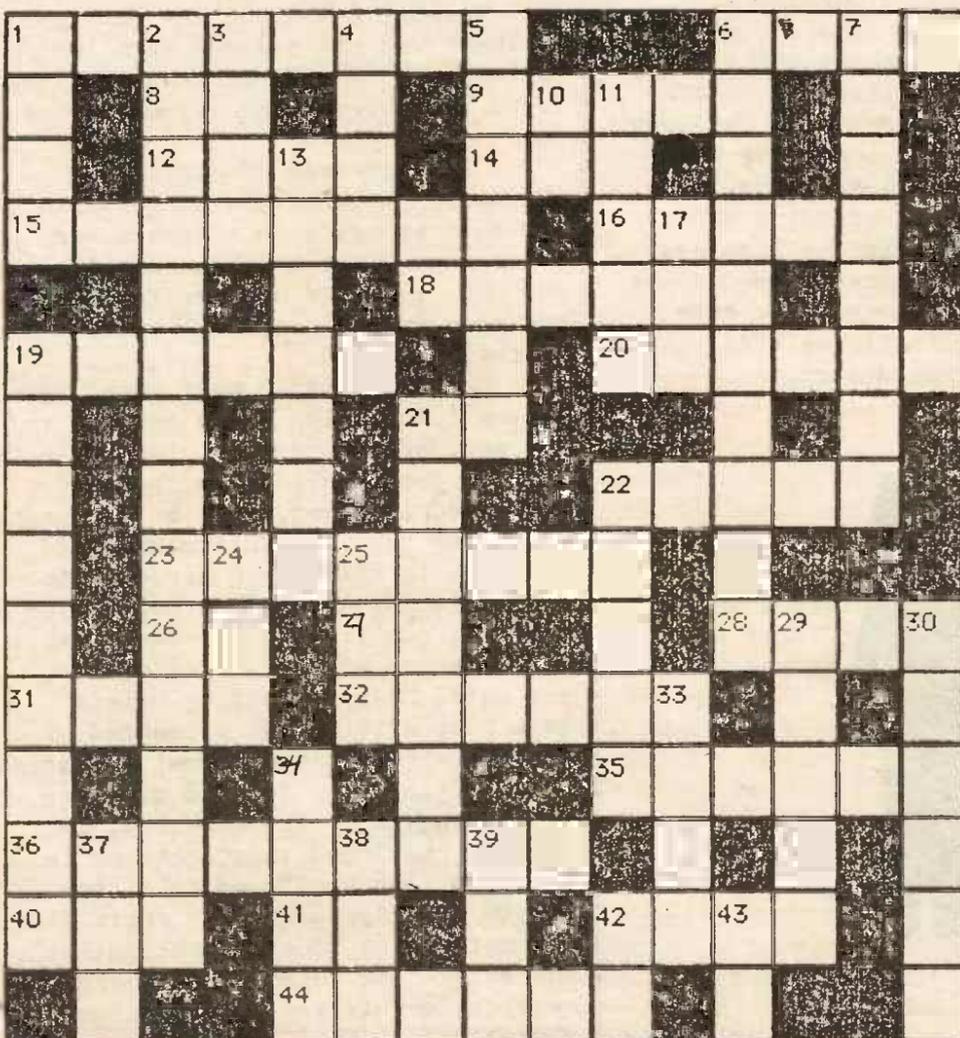
TITLE: _____

AUTHOR: _____

COMMENTS: _____

YOUR NAME: _____

WOMAN WORDS



ACROSS

1. A movement supporting sexual equality.
6. _____ and lascivious.
8. _____ is.
9. Ancient British tribe led by Queen Boadicea.
12. Male lioness.
14. Yes _____!
15. Wrongful entry.
16. Last letter of Greek alphabet.
18. Physical or social support.
19. The female Egyptian enigma.
20. Asexual reproduction.
21. "____ and out"
22. Gertrude's companion.
23. The forefront of a political movement.
26. Preposition.
27. In or on the position of (Conj.)
28. Holly _____.
31. Found in belly buttons.
32. Birthplace of Sappho.
35. Spreads out.
36. Ferron album.
40. Sweet potato.
41. 3.141 (22/7)
42. Female (Greek)
44. Original lesbian poet.

DOWN

1. Worry, as women often do.
2. Discrimination (oink)
3. Egyptian goddess of fertility.
4. Ms. Campagnolo.
5. A specific task or responsibility.
6. Women's _____.
7. To victimize subtly.
10. Channel Islands (abb)
11. Judy _____.
13. What every woman's entitled to.
17. _____ wheels (see pist head)
19. Possession of sexual power.
21. Within the uterus.
22. Bye bye baby (spanis)
24. Insect.
25. She's quite a _____.
29. Greek muse of love poetry.
30. Any woman can. (Parachute Club)
33. Hysterectomize.
34. All the better to kiss you with.
37. Ingest, chew and swallow in turn.
38. _____ Farrow.
39. Short sleep.
42. Chinese board game.
43. _____ means _____ (word frequently understood as 'yes' by men)



Women and words: an open letter

An Open Letter to the Members of Women and Words and to the Community of Women

We want to thank the women from across Canada who shared in the vision of the 2nd Pan-Canadian Conference of Women and Words and who sent in comments and suggestions for workshops; however, the black women and women of colour have withdrawn from the organizing committee, and we understand there will be no Pan-Canadian Women and Words Conference in Toronto in the summer of 1986.

Any organization that fights sexism must also confront racism. It was our understanding that the conference was to address the theme "Diversity is strength", which in our understanding meant seeking the full participation of women writers (both self-identified and not) who have been traditionally excluded from the mainstream and ensuring that the conference address both the local and national concerns of women so that it would reflect our diversity of language, race, class, sexuality and geography. We were also committed to increasing the representation of older women, younger women, physically disabled women and poor women. The focus was not to be on women writers of the dominant race/class/language, but rather on the women whom the larger society has tried to mute.

In the interest of time, we will give but few of the incidents that led to our withdrawal.

That we sought to draw in black women and women of colour was seen as exclusionary rather than affirmative, with the result that, we were told we ought to have done more to make white women comfortable in participating in the committee.

It is an outrage that we who have been excluded from all levels of the dominant society since colonization began 500 years ago are now expected to make white women's comfort a priority.

We were criticized for not being "conciliatory", i.e., for challenging racist remarks, for not smoothing over "unpleasant" moments.

We were criticized about how slowly we worked, how information about the conference took long in filtering through the "white" women's literary community.

What was ignored is that in our efforts to preserve the vision of the conference most of the active work - the outreach, the phone calls, the rental of office space, the incorporation of the society, the raising of funds, etc. fell on the black women and women of colour.

There were complaints that white women in the organization "felt like minorities," indicating that they believed their concerns would not be addressed.

To assume that we would exclude issues that did/do not appear to affect us directly is a projection and an insult.

It was suggested that we were being unrealistic in wanting to address racism/multiculturalism and bilingualism.

What then was the conference about? Are we to believe that women's writing is divorced from these issues.

In withdrawing we wish to point out that:

It is not our responsibility to comfort and reassure white women who are unaccustomed to working with black women and women of colour.

Racist remarks and attitudes are not open to conciliation and negotiation.

Any women's conference that does not seek to address a diversity of issues affecting the lives of women serves only women of the dominant race and class.

It is not the task of black women and women of colour to educate white women about racism.

In closing, we'd like to say, that just as we have worked successfully in the past with white women who are confronting their racism, so too do we, in the words of Audre Lorde, look forward to working with "...all women who can meet us, face to face, beyond objectification and beyond guilt." Unfortunately, the Toronto Women and Words Committee does not appear to be the place.

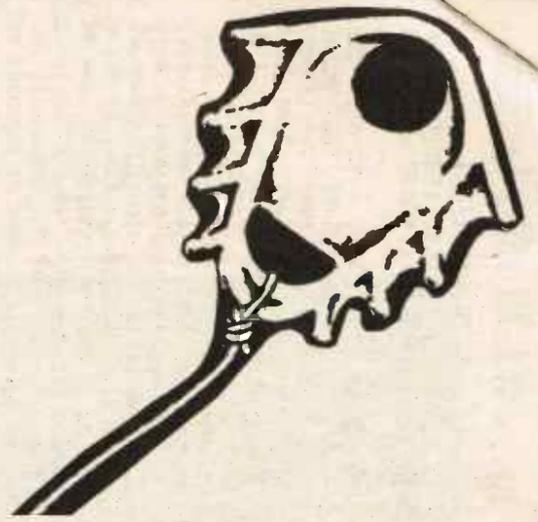
Makeda Silvera
Sharon Fernandez
Michele Paulse
Stephanie Martin

Last call!

The Dalkon Shield is an intra-uterine device (I.U.D.) marketed by A.H. Robbins Company in the 1970's without enough testing for safety and effectiveness. In mid 1972 the company was warned of its dangers by one of its own consultants. Only in 1975 was it withdrawn from the U.S. market after causing: septic infected abortions, perforations, pelvic inflammatory disease (P.I.D.), infertility and death. In 1974, A.H. Robbins offered it to the U.S. Aid Population Office at a 48% discount for distribution in the Third World...a bargain! In 1980, clinics in El Salvador were still inserting the Dalkon Shield in women.

In December 1983, U.S. District Judge Lord shared these words with reps from A.H. Robbins..."Nine thousand women have mad claims that they gave up part of their womanhood so that your company might prosper." and "This is corporate irresponsibility at its meanest."

In 1985, the A.H. Robbins Company filed for bankruptcy protection in



an American court. The court has approved an official committee of Attorneys which has established a 2-step procedure for filing claims in the U.S.

1. Write to:
DALKON SHIELD
BOX 444
Richmond Virginia, 23203.

Give your full name, address and telephone number and state that you are making a claim against the A.H. Robbins Company. Send your claim by registered mail in sufficient time to ensure that it is received on or before April 30, 1986. The postmark will not govern; the claim must be received by the deadline.

2. You will receive a questionnaire upon filing your claim. Complete and return this by July 30, 1986. You may wish to file a claim even if you have no present health problems. If you miss the deadline and health problems occur in the future, you may have no recourse.

You may also initiate a lawsuit in Canada against the Canadian subsidiary of A.H. Robbins by issuing a writ and statement of claim. These proceedings could be adjourned pending an offer of settlement from the Committee of Attorneys. If the offer is not satisfactory, the Canadian action could then proceed.

Medical records are necessary to establish a causal link between use of the Dalkon Shield and health problems. A lawyer can advise of the medical evidence required to establish a claim.

The Winnipeg Women's Health Clinic has retained a lawyer to apply to the American Court for an extension to the deadline. At present, however, that April 30, 1986 deadline for filing claims remains a critical one.

CREDIT: WOMEN'S HEALTH INTERACTION
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WOMEN AND THE LAW

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****NEW** Business Division-EQUAL OPPORTUNITY MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE PROGRAM (Post-Basic)**
 This one-year certificate program 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 the EDM Program may be taken during the day or as offered during the evening through Community Programs.

For further information, contact the Director 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 Community Programs.

For further information, contact the G.A.S. 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.

Tentative Start Date -- September 1986.

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 actual job experience.

Tentative Start Date -- September 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.

Tentative Start Date -- September 1986.

For further information on **CAREER PLANNING FOR WOMEN, I.N.T.O., W.I.T.T.**, contact the Chair, Industrial & Motive Power (807) 475-6215, or Women's Employment Centre (807) 623-2731.

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 Secretarial & Hospitality (807) 475-6318, 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

REGISTRATION INFORMATION
 Commencing Friday March 21, 1986 registrations will be accepted in the Registrar's Office (Shuniah Building) daily from 9:00a.m. to 7:30p.m. Monday to Thursday. Fridays from 9:00a.m. to 4:00p.m. For further information contact Community Programs at (807) 475-6116.

GS 143 (99)

WOMEN & STRESS MANAGEMENT

This elective post-secondary credit subject is intended to examine situation stresses in our lives, family, job, social relationships, conflict, change, developmental crises, etc, as well as 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: April 9, 1986
 COMPLETION: June 11, 1986
 INSTRUCTOR: Bert Hopkins
 FEE: \$30.00 ROOM: 331, Shuniah Bldg

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Northwestern Ontario residents may call TOLL FREE 1 - 800 - 465 - 6961

WT 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 operation.
 DATE/TIME: Tuesdays 7:00-10:00 p.m.
 START DATE: April 8, 1986
 COMPLETION: May 13, 1986
 INSTRUCTOR: Dave Wirta
 FEE: \$18.00 ROOM: 149, Dorion Bldg Auto Shop

ZW 013 (99)

TOWARD CHANGE: WOMEN & DISABILITIES

An opportunity for women with disabilities to come together to address difficulties they face in their daily lives and to make effective changes that will enhance their self-image and increase their coping abilities. This will happen through a combined process of presentations, films, discussions, skill sharing, etc.
 DATE/TIME: Mondays 7:00-9:30 p.m.
 START DATE: April 7, 1986
 COMPLETION: June 16, 1986
 INSTRUCTORS: Margaret Buffington/Wave Watson
 FEE: \$25.00 ROOM: 160, Shuniah Bldg

Feminist



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- p4 NO MORE LABOUR PAINS
- p5 NATIVE WOMEN'S STATUS
- p6 UNIVERSITY WOMEN
- p7 ENTRY-RE-ENTRY AND EXIT
- p8 POETRY
- p10 FICTION: JESSE'S STORY
- p11 DEPO-ACTIVE
- p12 DAY CARE NEWS
- p13 INDIRECT SUBSIDY
- p14 BOOK REVIEW/CROSSWORD
- p15 WOMEN AND WORDS

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