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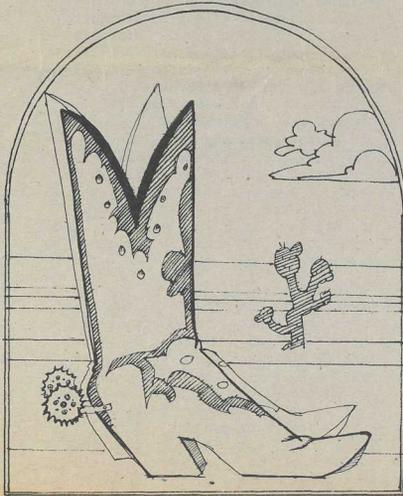


elections

JUNE

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summer of 74

- Bobbie Patrick

Get along, little doggie!

Jennifer has her eye on you, in her jeans, boots, and Stetson, a coiled lariat on her saddle horn. Jennifer? Possibly Jennifer, Babs, Judy, Susan, Rosemary, Deborah, Julie, or Carole. A rancher in B.C.'s north central interior contacted the Placement Officer at Simon Fraser University to ask for eight women students to work as cowgirls this summer alongside the several cowboys he has on hand. This isn't a dude ranch. It's the real thing and the women are doing a number of regular cowperson(?) tasks. It delighted this reporter to hear of it (and aroused her considerable envy) in the course of a survey of universities, colleges, Manpower centres, and various levels of government offices on summer employment prospects for women students.

It's a bright picture, thanks to prodding by Kathleen Ruff, Director of the Human Rights Commission; a fairly healthy economy; substantial government financial assistance; and quite an encouraging degree of awareness that we are moving - even if it sometimes seems slowly - into an era of non-sexist job opportunities.

Generally, job listings do not differentiate as to sex. (We'll forgive the rancher. After all, he has several male employees already.) The jobs available are simply posted, or

information about them conveyed to would-be workers in interviews, and it's then up to the applicants, female or male, to take it from there. This makes it impossible in many cases, at this stage anyway, to obtain precise information on just what sort of work women are getting. UBC intends in the Fall to ask returning students to complete an information card on their summer jobs, and a report on these will be compiled between September and Christmas.

But there is some general information available now. Both UBC and Simon Fraser had highly favourable news on opportunities for students. The UBC Placement Officer, Cameron Craik, said his office had been very busy with requests for workers, men or women, and mentioned particularly a breakthrough for women in forestry. At SFU, the Placement Officer, W.L. Roberts, described the job outlook as really terrific, with federal and provincial help most effective, and employers, generally, being extremely fair.

Similar good news came from Kerry Croll, Branch Counsellor for Student Placement at B.C.I.T., who said it was a good year with excellent job opportunities.

Lillian Baske of the Canada Manpower Centre for Students reported that

about 40 percent of the jobs filled in April went to women. Ms. Baske said the jobs for women still tended to be somewhat traditional - mainly in the clerical and services fields, but that more women were being taken on in Customs work, as Immigration Officers, and rather interestingly, for example, in research on salmon fry. She also told of a woman student hired by a mining exploration company to do some cooking, but also some "expediting" - which, in this case, meant maintaining contacts with bush camps and arranging for supplies and equipment to be sent in and out; quite a responsible position.

Dave Zirnhelt, Director of the Federal Opportunities For Youth programme in B.C., said he was quite happy with the way things were going. OFY accepts applications for group activities and women are involved in a good share of these in work relating to such fields as the media, legal aid, single mothers' problems, and so on. A special interest is taken in minority groups encountering difficulties. Sometimes women form such groups. Mr. Zirnhelt said that if applications for financial backing for two projects - one for men and one for women - were received from a town or area in which women were having trouble finding jobs, the government's support would go to the proposed women's project. Overall, the balance appeared pretty close to

even, as between women and men, in percentage figures he gave me, covering some 1200 jobs in Greater Vancouver and the Fraser Valley for university, community college, and high school students, plus a few non-students.

One sour note: SFU got a call from a garage employer who wanted women students to man the gas pumps at his station. Two women who investigated the offer returned with the information that they had been asked if they would mind stripping for nude photographs.

Because the provincial government is providing several million dollars in municipal grants for summer projects for students this year the survey included a check on ten municipalities, ranging from the lower mainland to Chilliwack. We were interested in finding out what sort of jobs were available and whether women and girls were getting a fair shake. By and large, they are.

Much of the work is of an environmental nature - planning studies on the environment, establishing ecology centres, maintaining boulevards, and doing guide work in nature parks. There are also jobs in playground supervision, swimming instruction, lifeguarding, traffic checks, Fine Arts programmes, helping with handicapped children, and assisting community family workers. Matsqui will have a big problem in controlling ragweed, and women will be as welcome as men to work on this. In most of the fields mentioned several municipal officials believed that women and girls would predominate.

Generally, with a few exceptions to be noted shortly, I was assured that whether any applicant could do the available job was what counted. Sex didn't matter. You may have read in the press some weeks back that the Chilliwack Council passed a resolution declaring that as close as possible to 50 percent each, female and male, should be given summer jobs. An official in Haney thought this was as bad as discrimination; could, in fact, be taken as such. He said the jobs should be allotted on a first come, first served basis. A Richmond spokesman said that if the summer programme turned out to involve 45 females and 5 males, O.K.; and O.K., if it was the other way round. This

seemed to be the general view. Whoever could do a job and got there first should get it.

Most of what seem to be known as "labouring" jobs - cutting trees, clearing brush, digging ditches etc. - are done by regular municipal employees, but some of this work is available to students and it was here that the exceptions I mentioned came to the fore.

One municipal official said these were hardly the sorts of jobs in which women could participate. Another municipal personnel representative said women couldn't do heavy work because of Labour Department regulations. Not true. Officials in two municipalities said job hiring for labouring was left to foremen, some of whom had been around for a great many years with some pretty traditional attitudes. Here and there I encountered officials who believed that digging, shovelling, and axing should be handled only by men but who also admitted that they were perhaps being somewhat old-fashioned. I got the impression in some cases that a little persuasion was all that was needed.

An official in a very large municipal Parks Department said something went against the grain with him in the idea of women doing heavy work. He said he held women in "high esteem" and mentioned that it had upset him to see a woman pounding rocks in a civic waterfront project. But he did concede, after some further conversation, that there were labouring jobs women could fit into, that he supposed they could look after themselves, and that if there was an opening for which a capable woman applied, she should be considered.

There was a similar response, in the end, from the hiring engineer in an upper Fraser Valley city, who told me he wouldn't put a girl to work digging ditches, or cutting blackberry bushes, or cleaning out pig pens. "Why?" I asked. He said he still regarded girls as girls and wanted to keep them girls. "But suppose," said this gadfly, "that a girl wanted to dig ditches or clean pig pens and was physically capable of doing it?" Pause.... "Well, I guess I wouldn't turn her down."

Perhaps that would be a satisfactory enough note to end on. But I would like to relay a bit of encouraging information about non-traditional jobs for women generally, obtained from Chris Waddell, Director of the Women's Bureau of the Provincial Department of Labour. She says that, quite apart from the service fields, practically every industry in the province is hiring women. Some are doing it on a token basis but others are going beyond that.

The Endako division of Canex has hired 17 women on the same basis as men. They are currently on an apprenticeship programme in such capacities as dump persons, mill labourers, and product packagers, working towards full status at the company's open pit mine at Fraser Lake.

Cheering, too, is word that a large interior mining and smelting company is in the exploratory stages of taking women on in similar apprenticeship programmes.

Ms. Waddell says that women are driving cement trucks in some areas. A woman, again in an on-the-job training programme, is employed as a faller in a logging operation near Cranbrook. This is believed a first in the province. Several forest companies have been employing a few women in such jobs as painting and stamping logs, setting chokers, and operating boom boats. And the B.C. Forest Service is using women on fire suppression crews, as drivers and dispatchers, and as scalers.

There is not the same degree of bias in some interior regions as there is in the cities against women doing heavier work. It's well known in the interior that women can drive large trucks and tractors and do a lot of other so-called "male" things. Many do them in their daily farm, orchard, or ranch lives.

Ms. Waddell says forward-looking employers in the interior realize that women are needed as workers, particularly in developing the north. True, in many cases it's because there aren't enough men. But a foot in the door is a foot in the door, wherever it is and for whatever reason.

A concerted and sustained push will get that door open.

action for women

Action Strategy for Women was the focus of the day long May 25th conference at Capilano College in North Vancouver, B.C. It was unanimously agreed among the more than 175 participating women from across the Province, that there is a serious need for solidarity which a proposed BC Federation of Women could achieve.

The Federation would act as an umbrella for women's groups as well as for individual members and could provide an internal communications network and also work as a lobbying force.

A steering committee, with representatives from the attending groups was set-up to plan a September 14th founding convention for this new federa-

tion. The committee will also be responsible for planning a shadow legislature in Victoria for October to pass laws that government has neglected to pass. It was felt, "If they cant do it, then we will." This demonstration would be in support of the Affirmative Action Bill #37.

Workshops discussed other possible tactics to improve the status of women. Suggestions included: an independent women's political party, a women's credit union, a women's publishing house, caravan demonstrations serious questioning of political candidates during their campaigns and the implementation of the "Each one/Reach one" consciousness raising technique.

Panelists included Su Riskie from Women in Teaching, Linda Shuto from B.C. Teacher's Federation Task Force, Kathy Stewart of the Vancouver Women's Health Collective, Gene Errington of VSW, Sharon Yandle, BC/NDP Women's Rights Committee, and Annette Khouri of the BC Committee to Defend Dr. Morgenthaler.

They described their personal efforts over the past five years to change legislation and sexist attitudes.

The panel criticized the government and other institutions for being "abysmally ignorant" on the topic of women's rights, for ignoring educational briefs, for making irrelevant recommendations and for not enforcing new codes.

downtown east vancouver

A group has been formed to organize a Women's Centre in the downtown east section of Vancouver. The Centre would fill the needs of women whose lives are affected by drugs, alcohol and prostitution. The following article outlines the objectives of the centre. We wholeheartedly endorse these aims and ask you to extend your support by contacting Lois Brammer, Downtown Community Health Society, 373 E. Cordova St., Vancouver. She'll let you know who should receive letters of support.

WOMEN'S CENTRE

In the downtown east area of Vancouver at any one time there is a population of approximately 200 women whose lives are radically affected by drugs, alcohol, and prostitution. Many of these women live in the skid-road hotels. Their lives have so little stability that they carry their belongings from one hotel to another in paper bags. It is common for any of these women to be in the area for only from two to six months at a time. Their residency here is usually interspersed with two to three month sentences in prison on charges of soliciting, drunkenness in a public place, or possession of drugs. This pattern of movement between the downtown eastside and the prison system has created a fluctuating population, and the total number of women involved far exceeds the 200 or so to be found at one counting.

These women have limited contact with the larger community in Vancouver. Some of their contacts are through their customers if they are prostitutes, a situation that is hardly likely to engender fond feelings for the "straight" world in the woman. Most of them are routinely involved with such social services as the police, who arrest them, the courts, where they are tried, the prisons to which they are sentenced, and the probation department to whom they are assigned in the vague hope of rehabilitation. (It is generally conceded by any of these services that rehabilitation is not often achieved by these means). Again, these situations are rarely on a friendly basis and are far more often perceived as punitive by the women. One of few positive links with the larger community is through the nurse from the Department of Public Health, V.D. Control, a woman who has worked in the area for about 30 years, and ourselves, who have been working in this field only since last summer. The result of this sort of contact is isolation. These women distrust social services generally and fear contact with the community resources; being quite aware of a prejudice against them. They feel trapped in their particular lifestyle, and unable to break out by any acceptable means attempt in strange, often self-destructive ways (i.e. suicide by drug over-dose, or arrest and conviction on some minor charge).

It would be expected that there should be some sympathetic agencies in this district, but this is not the case. There are approximately seven thousand people in the downtown east area; the majority are men. Consequently the agencies and social services in this area are mainly designed to meet the needs of men. Although some agencies offer services for both men and women, many women are reluctant to use these facilities because of emphasis on male services and staff. Therefore the existing agencies focus their services to the needs of the majority of their users, men. What is needed is a service aimed at the needs of the women of this area and staffed by women who understand these needs and problems.

The staff will be selected from women who have either been involved in the type of lifestyle existing presently in the downtown east area or those who demonstrate a firm awareness of the problems encountered in this area. Each staff member will receive training to insure a good background in the resources available, in crisis intervention, and counselling.

The project will not be sponsored by any one organization. Instead it will be closely allied with other services in the area, thereby having access to back-up services. Members of the board of directors have been chosen from those agencies and professions that play a vital role in the lives of east end women.

We also hope to employ as many from the area as possible and will encourage community involvement (i.e. in the drop-in activities).

The _____ Women's Centre will provide service to women in the downtown east area. It will be a link between the existing services, the community, and the women of this area. The centre will function to bring services and provide alternatives to women wishing to move the focus of their lives away from this environment. The centre will be open on a twenty-four hour basis and working closely with the Elizabeth Fry Society, Children's Aid Society, Welfare and Rehabilitation Services; the Women's Employment Boutique, health and other agencies, will provide counselling and crisis intervention, health aid and information, employment information and recreation. The staff will deal with such special problems as isolation, prostitution, drug and alcohol dependency, and legal conflicts. In addition, women will be able to come in to work out difficulties in day-to-day existence with counsellors and other women in the area. Supplemental referrals to other agencies will be made as well to work out long term solutions to a woman's problems.

The objectives of the centre are:

- to relieve the social isolation, providing alternative lifestyles and aid in achieving changes
- to provide a more constructive

gathering place than is currently available (i.e. pubs, clubs and street corners)

- to expand and develop the women's leisure activities through recreation programmes
- to provide group and individual counselling to develop more constructive behaviour patterns
- to bring some of the services available to the rest of the community to these women who particularly need them
- to employ women from this area in an active role in the community

The most valuable assessment of the effectiveness of the project in reaching our objectives will be the judgment of the women for whom the project is intended. Accordingly, they will be asked to evaluate the services received and to suggest additional services that they would like to see in the area. In addition, the counsellors and any other persons involved in offering workshops, discussion groups or the like will be asked to assess the use to which the service was put and the value of the service. These progress and value assessments will be ongoing. Although individual records will, of course, be confidential the assessments, especially those received from the clients, will be invaluable in further understanding the problems encountered by the women and the values of various plans in attempting to deal with them.

law classes

This summer, the Vancouver People's Law School will continue to offer free law classes in the Vancouver area. If you have not received a schedule, call or write to the law school and we will send you one immediately.

A NEW COURSE is being taught this summer:

WILLS AND ESTATES will be taught August 19, 20 and 21. If there are particular areas that you would like to see covered in this course, let us know!

A course entitled LEGAL RESEARCH will be offered at the UBC law library (see schedule). This course will be an introduction on how to use a law library.

As well as giving courses in the Vancouver area, the law school plans to travel to centres in British Columbia which do not have the advantage of free legal education. We are asking groups to contact us if they are interested in either video tapes or booklets. We hope to travel to Campbell River, Nanaimo, Prince George, Nelson, Castlegar, Kamloops, and Kelowna.

vsw executive elections

Elections to fill positions on the VSW '74/'75 Executive Committee will be held at the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, Tuesday, June 18, at 7:30 PM in the Board Room of the YWCA, 580 Burrard St., Vancouver. It is imperative that all members in good standing attend and vote.

The nominating committee presents the following list of candidates:

CANDIDATES FOR EXECUTIVE OFFICE

PRESIDENT - 1 Elected

Roberta S. Schlosberg - Roberta worked on the Vancouver Status of Women Ombuds Service 1972 - 1973. During this time she wrote "Know Your Human Rights" information paper, and the V.S.W. Child Care position paper. Obtaining Transition House, was and is, a priority of Roberta's. She, presently, serves on its board of directors.

Roberta obtained a B.A. (Sociology) 1972 from U.B.C. Her working experience has included sales, clerical work, library-assistance and serving as house-mother for "emotionally-disturbed" teenagers.

In the past year, she has been employed as a research assistant at U.B.C. Her interests include writing, reading, hiking and sewing.

All of the V.S.W. research and representation in the area of child-care over the past year and a half is due to the efforts of Roberta Schlosberg.

VICE-PRESIDENT - 3 Elected

Nancy D. Conrod - Nancy has worked on the V.S.W. Ombuds Service since August, 1973. She wrote the Status of Women position paper on Labour Legislation, and testified for the Status of Women at the Law Reform Commission hearings on the Landlord and Tenant Act.

Recently she has been a member of the working committee on property (Royal Commission on Family and Children's Law)

She received A.B. Magna cum/auode, (Radcliffe) 1966, and her law degree from North Western University (Chicago) cum/auode 1969, spending the two previous years at the Harvard Law School.

Her work experience has included being attorney-advisor, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, (Chicago). Nancy Conrod's interests include women in the labour force, Family Law, skiing, hiking and textile crafts.

OMBUDSWOMAN

B. Gene Errington

Gene has held the position of Ombudswoman since the fall of 1972. While spear-heading briefs on numerous aspects of legislation, she has well represented the V.S.W. on committees and at hearings.

She is:

-a member of the Family Law Subsection, B.C. Bar Association
-A working committee member of the Royal Commission on Family and Children's Law.

-A board member of the B.C. Civil Liberties Association.

-A board member of the Senate of the University of British Columbia.

She has received M.S.W. and an M.A. (Sociology) degree from U.B.C. Prior to her work at the V.S.W. she was a social worker for the Provincial Department of Social Welfare and later for the Vancouver Neurological Centre. Since her appointment, December, 1973, Gene Errington has been serving as a Human Rights Commissioner for the Province of British Columbia.

Her interests include ballet and music.

SECRETARY

Jessie Parker

Jessie has been one of our most indispensable volunteers. She has worked in our office every Thursday morning since September 1973.

She has worked for many years as a legal secretary and is now retired.

She has proven herself to be truly a reliable, competent contributor to the Status of Women Organization.

Her specific interests are Canadian and World political and Social Systems.

TREASURER

JUDITH BEZEREDI

Judith has served as Status of Women Treasurer 1973 - 1974.

She holds B.B.A. and M.A. degrees. In the past she has been accountant-auditor for Chartered Accountancy firms in Vancouver. Prior to her recent promotion in Crown Zellerbach, Judith was Credit Manager for the company.

Judith Bezeredi has a wide background in Medicine, Law, and Economics and is presently doing graduate work in the latter.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Glinda Sutherland

Glinda Sutherland has been on the staff of V.S.W. since March 1973. She spent her first months working with the education group during which time she filled many speaking engagements. She is presently employed on our ombuds service and is co-producer of the V.S.W. television programme "Woman Alive." Ms. Sutherland is member-at-large on the current V.S.W. Executive.

She received a B.A. (sociology) from the University of British Columbia. Among her interests are cooking, ballet, theatre, and television production.

NOMINATIONS OFFICER

Hanne Jensen

Hanne has served as Vice-President of V.S.W. 1973-1974. She has also done volunteer office work, ombuds work, and speaking.

She was educated in Denmark and worked there as a legal assistant.

In Canada, Hanne has worked in Sales and Marketing. She is presently employed as a Human Rights officer for the Province.

Hanne has a wide interest and experience in employment for women. She was one of the first women to lay her job on the line, by filing an equal pay complaint with the Human Rights Commission, and won!

MEMBERSHIP OFFICER

Anne Howarth

Anne was a volunteer staff member at our office from the summer through Dec. 1973. While a volunteer, she was very active with the orientation committee, and has encouraged many women to participate in V.S.W. activities.

Anne was involved from its inception with "Women for Political Action" in Toronto and has actively participated in six political campaigns.

In her current job with WIN (Women's Independence Necessary), Anne works for single parent women and deals with problems of welfare, employment, housing, daycare, and self-upgrading.

Anne was educated in England and at Seneca University, Toronto.

Her interests are Canadian History, Law, Politics, The Women's Movement in Canada, Music, and Traveling with Family.

Monica Mui

Monica Mui is the membership officer for the '73 - '74 executive and has been bookkeeper for V.S.W. since 1972. She is a member of the orientation committee and one of two people responsible for a 10,000 dollar grant from Secretary of State to hire volunteer organizers. Ms. Mui is a member of the newsletter committee and is involved in various workshops. She has participated in the planning and organizing of a Youth Conference dealing with Multi-Culturalism.

Monica has a B.A. in Sociology with a background in Fine Arts. She enjoys working with groups of people as well as music, "anything that

moves on stage or screen and participating in sports that don't require a great deal of physical stamina, for instance, weight-lifting is out."

NEWSLETTER OFFICER

Diane E. Ryals

Diane is presently working on the newsletter committee and writes for "Kinesis".

She has appeared at orientation meetings and has done volunteer work on the Ombuds Service.

Diane holds a B.A. degree (Political Science). She has held various positions as a computer systems analyst and a programmer analyst. In the past, she has taught in this field and is presently working in this area for the Department of Human Resources.

Diane Ryals has a wide background in newsletter writing and editing; her other special interests include Women in the Labour Force and Art. Diane brought an equal pay case before the Federal Government with the assistance of V.S.W. (Feb. 1973 - April 1974)

MEMBER AT LARGE

Bobbie Patrick

Bobbie has been a regular volunteer at the Status of Women two days per week, for several months. She has introduced a much needed method of recording data and phone calls and has contributed enormously to the smooth operation of our office. She is a writer for "Kinesis", and active generally in the newsletter committee.

She was educated at U.B.C. and has completed a year of graduate studies.

Bobbi worked for 25 years as an editor for the C.B.C. News Service and is now retired.

Her interests include, "All aspects of Nature and Conservation, Astronomy, Music, Films, Reading and Outdoor Rambling and Poking About."

She is concerned with emotionally disturbed people and is a volunteer at the Psychiatric Ward of Lions Gate and at Sunny Hill Children's Hospital.

Dr. Helga E. Jacobson

Dr. Helga E. Jacobson has held the position of Chairperson-Speaker's Bureau 1973 - 1974. She has also been a member of the Working Committee on Property of the Royal Commission on Family and Children's Law. Helga is a Social Anthropologist in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, U.B.C. She is greatly concerned in her teaching and research with the situation of women in Canada. Her specific teaching areas are Women's Studies and Urban Anthropology.

In the course of the research, Helga has visited the Philippines, Japan and People's China.

She is generally concerned with problems of education and is interested in finding more and better ways to make connections between the university, community, and society.

Anne Petrie

Anne has served as Vice-President of Status of Women (1973 - 1974). Prior to this she worked as an Education Staff Member, and was Newsletter Editor. During the Fall of 1973, Anne produced the V.S.W. television programme "Woman Alive".

Anne received her M.A. (English Literature) in 1973. She has taught at U.B.C.; co-ordinated Women's Studies, U.B.C.; and did research for the channel 10 programme, "S.F.U. Today".

Anne Petrie is presently employed as a Researcher and Interviewer for the C.B.C.'s "Good Morning Radio" programme.

Diana R. Douglas

Diana has been active in the Vancouver Status of Women for the past year. She has participated in orientation meetings and has put a great deal of effort into organizing a consciousness raising group for the North Shore Women.

Diana apprenticed in the Retail Book Business in Toronto. Since moving west, she has had extensive experience in the publishing business, as Warehouse Manager, Publisher's Representative, Manager and Owner of her own bookstore, and now a partner with her husband in Self-Council Press Ltd., a firm which publishes law books for the layman (women).

Her interests are: Reading, especially Feminist Literature, Playing the Bagpipes and "trying to keep physically up to my six year old son and one Labrador dog."

Louise R. Mattson

Louise has been a member of the Status of Women for the past year, has participated in orientation meetings, and has been active in forming a consciousness/discussion group for Coquitlam women. She is the Status of Women contact person for that area.

Louise has her R.N. from V.C.H. and has worked both there and at the Royal Columbian.

When asked to consider running for member-at-large by one of our staff, she replied:

"I'm not sure I have anything to offer this position...but this might be a start for me...I feel I'm just starting to wake up. Being a member-at-large will be a real learning, personal growth experience...and the time has come for women to stop refusing to get involved."

Reva Dexter

Reva worked with the Status of Women Education Staff 1972 - 1973. She has held the position of Education Chairperson, 1973 - 1974. She has been a co-ordinator U.B.C. Women's Studies, and a seminar leader, Women's Studies U.B.C. and S.F.U.

Reva is a teacher, and has been a guidance counselor for two years. She holds a Masters Degree in Counselling (Columbia).

While working with the V.S.W., Reva organized the High-School Public Speaking Programme, and chaired the committee who produced "Kit for Counsellors, Explaining sex stereotypes."

Reva Dexter's interest is "The World".

Carolyn Gibbons - From September 1972 to January 1973, Carolyn worked as legal counsel for the V.S.W. She serves on the Board of Directors of Transition House.

She graduated in 1968 from the U.B.C. Faculty of Law and was admitted to the B.C. Bar, October 1969.

She practised law in Vancouver October 1969 to May 1972.

Since January of 1973, Carolyn has been Legislative Director of the B.C. Federation of Labour.

Carolyn Gibbons is on the Board of Directors of the Vancouver Community Legal Assistance Society, and the Legal Aid Society of B.C. She is a lecturer for the Vancouver People's Law School.

June S. Dunlop

June was an organizer of the B.C. Status of Women Council. She was greatly instrumental in obtaining Transition House and presently serves on its Board of Directors.

A registered nurse, she has done graduate work (McGill) in psychiatric nursing and teaching supervision.

Over the past year she has co-ordinated the West-Point Grey Information Centre. Presently, she is a community development worker for the task force, organizing for the election of community resources boards for Dunbar-Point Grey-Southlands.

June Dunlop's interests include Transition House, Co-op Housing Foundation, and funding for information centres.

Nancy Denofreo

Nancy has been the Status of Women contact person for Richmond, Delta and Surrey and has been helpful in forming consciousness raising groups in those areas. She has also been involved with our education group.

She has a Masters Degree in Social Work but has held a wide variety of jobs, "Some well paid, some not." For the last three years, she has been at home with her three children. "with predictable damage to all concerned." cont. p6

chatting with jan

Introduction

The reason why I wanted to introduce Jan to you was the fact that she went through two experiences which I consider of great interest to many of us. She obtained her own divorce without the aid and expense of a lawyer, and she subsequently changed her name. She did not revert to her maiden name but created an entirely new name to suit her own needs, not to acknowledge her affiliations with others.

In the course of our talk we came up with some exciting ideas which should be shared with you. We followed these ideas and veered off the original course of the interview. Therefore, we are presenting you with a "potpourri" of ideas.

Q. Jan, you married very early. Would you like to talk about what influenced you to do this?

Jan: I grew up in a small mill town where the social structure is very tightly knit and very conservative. You either followed the rules and were a good girl or else disregarded them and by doing so excluded yourself from the community. You could either try to cope with this or you had to leave. There were no shades in the social code; no anonymity, no alternate lifestyles to relate to as examples, no downtown to go to and get rid of the frustration. So I followed the pattern of the "good girl" and got married pretty young. In a community like this there is no way, especially for a girl, to learn how to assume responsibility. Marriage meant simply shifting your (conditioned) desire for stable surroundings from parents to husband.

Q. What was your marriage like?

Jan: After having attended university here for a year I convinced my boyfriend to come too. I took fine arts - mainly on opposition to my father who wanted me to take science. I got married after the second year. Life was mostly going to school together and trying to support ourselves, plus, of course, doing all the chores expected from a good wife. I wanted a mythical security that I thought

marriage was supposed to provide. I allowed myself to be defined by my husband. I followed his lead and carried out his fantasies for our life together. We worked at the same jobs (as child care workers) and spent all our time together. His friends were my friends. I had no sense of self. After four years my identity was submerged in his. I broke out of this routine by becoming involved with another man who became my lover - an act that society would call an irresponsible thing to do, but for me it was actually the first RESPONSIBLE act in my life. It was my very own decision and I had to stand up for it and deal with the consequences on my own. I was issued an ultimatum - either my husband or my lover. I went away for a week to think it over and realized there was no either-or. The struggle was for myself and my own growth. I could not do this by transferring allegiance from one man to another. With this realization, I (my ego, self, whatever you want to call it) was born. About six months after leaving my husband, I got to the point of wanting all bonds broken - physical, emotional and legal. The legal aspects were subtle but real. I was still legally his wife even though he was living with another woman and I was on my own. That legal bond bothered me. He did not feel the pressure, and if we were to get a divorce, he wanted to be the one to start the proceedings. So, I left it with him. But after six months nothing had been done.

Q. Why do you think he didn't follow through with the divorce?

Jan: I don't know, but I figure he wanted me still to be dependent on him in some way. Anyway, I decided to get it over fast. This involved taking the role of the "accuser". It is a shame that terms like that still have to be used in B.C. and that one person has to sue the other for breach of contract and lay "fault" on him or her. Ideally, we both wanted to go to court and say: no blame, just - it's over. I bought a booklet by Kayce White; How To Do Your Own Divorce, for four dollars. It took some time to get used to the legal expressions and the whole procedure, but with a little effort I found it easy enough to understand. I believe the so called divorce kits

for \$ 50 are a waste of money. The divorce procedure was briefly as follows: a) fill out application forms available at large stationery stores b) have someone (preferably the sheriff, it's cheaper) deliver the divorce notice in person - It is even cheaper to have the other party go down to the courthouse and be told there by the sheriff. c) produce a witness, in this case, someone who could testify that my husband was living with another person. d) wait (6 weeks in my case). e) go to court with the witness.

The judge was very friendly and it was all over in no time at all. Actually, a real anticlimax after all the effort and nervousness. (I was nervous at court!) Neither property, money, or children were involved. The whole experience cost \$ 45, booklet included. And to celebrate, the witness, myself, and my new ex-husband had a lovely lunch at a French restaurant!

Q. What about changing your name?

Jan: I could have gone back to my maiden name right at the divorce without difficulty, but I felt that I had changed so much from the girl I had been under this name that it would not identify ME anymore. And certainly, I did not want to keep my ex-husband's name in which I never had felt at ease anyway. I chose a name I really liked and which had some meaning to me. The rest was filling out forms sent for from the vital statistics Department in Victoria. I had to publish the change in the B.C. Gazette and in a local newspaper and send back a clipping of it together with the forms. After a short while I got an impressive looking certificate with my very own name.

Q. What were the reactions of your friends and family?

Jan: The women friends really got off on it, but my parents were shocked and strongly resented it. They kept sending me letters in my old name and I finally had to make it a big issue. So somehow managed to accept the fact.

Q. How do you feel about this experience in retrospect?

cont. from p.5

Her interests are "myself and other loved ones, the Women's Movement, Natural History and Explosives.

Janice Booth

Janice has been associated with the V.S.W. since its inception. During this time, she has served as Member-at-Large, written for the newsletter, and been involved with the education and family group. A very special interest of hers is Transition House and she presently serves on its Board of Directors.

Educated in England, Janice has taught elementary school for ten years.

Janice Booth is Secretary of the Pre-School Executive. She is greatly concerned with the need for more Transition Houses and has been working for these during the last 18 months.

Robyn Pedersen

Robyn Pedersen is a very active member of V.S.W.'s Orientation Committee. For several months, she has been in charge of phoning new members in order

to introduce them to V.S.W. activities. She has travelled widely and worked in Australia, England, and Canada. She is currently an employee of Braun Electric Canada Ltd. For the past fourteen years she has worked primarily as a personal secretary although her duties have included some writing and public relations work. Ms. Pedersen is also a member of the Vancouver Folk Song Society and helps to publish their monthly newsletter. Among her hobbies are arts and crafts, cycling, swimming and reading.

Jan: Great! I feel that I really became myself, or at least, started the process of becoming myself and finding out about me which is an ongoing process. I had to make my new friends, friends who dealt with me for my own sake and not because I was the wife of somebody or other.

Q. You are living with Ron now?

Jan: Yes, but it took me close to two years till I was ready again to share daily life with somebody. During that time I concentrated on myself. I had a lot to catch up! I decided then, that if ever I was to live with somebody again it would have to be on different terms - and we are continually working it out. I insisted to have a part of my life that belongs to me and to have literally a room of my own, a place where I can go to and deal with myself. Ron has his part and we both share a third part together. This way we keep a way open to our personal development and are able to face each other as whole individuals.

Q. Jan, your work is quite a big part of your life. You have made a successful career very quickly in government administration. In your work you put a lot of emphasis on women. Can we hear more about that?

Jan: Well, I had different jobs doing child care work. I had an OFY (Opportunity for Youth) project using theatre techniques to work with kids. Then I decided to put in an application for the job as project officer, though without too much hope. But, I did get accepted. Basically OFY programmes give grants to groups which are somehow related to the community and balance the development of the individuals with the benefits to their community. My priorities in funding have been with women's groups who have applied for support. The concept of direct funding to people to allow them to experiment with their ideas is an exciting one, and unique in terms of government support. OFY, being designed for summer work for students is short term funding (three months) at low salaries. But because of the lack of any funding programme designed to realistically meet the needs of women, it is one way to get direct funding. I have mixed feelings about both the granting system and the type of programmes women are involved in. The women's movement is highly service oriented. This is necessary in order to provide for women's needs, but services are not by nature financially self-supporting. So, we have an ongoing unsatisfactory situation with women having to continually seek out funding to support their work. The situation parallels getting an allowance from fathers and household money from husbands. I would like to see women becoming more self-sufficient - becoming entrepreneurs and developing businesses that service in the market place. Personally, I'd love to start some kind of business, I believe it is a real challenge. I've read about women owning and manning construction firms, womens' banks, women tool manufacturers and it sounds really exciting.

Q. Don't you think women might fall in the same trap as men - the race for profit at any price?

Jan: Not necessarily. Of course, business has to make profit, but it is up to you to decide how much and in what way. Women could adapt their business structure to meet women's needs, perhaps more socially oriented, less hierarchic, in a rhythm more natural to women, and not the rigid pattern usually laid upon them by male employers. I do not imply there would be no discipline, but there might be a different kind, a more sensible way.

Q. You think of day care facilities at work?

Jan: Yes, for one example. But there's a lot more to it than that. Why don't we have something like a "downtown women's club" with interested women from business and professions meeting regularly and discussing things like that?

Q. Sounds great. Women with talent and initiative need support. Women have to start trusting each other in business and professional matters. I find that a lot of women automatically turn to men for professional services. They have to overcome the prejudice they have from their male oriented upbringing. There is still a deeply rooted patriarchal attitude in many of us. We have to encourage women who already have the necessary skills to help each other. We have to cross the lines of working and non-working women, blue collar and white collar women. We should promote and support women who offer all kinds of services and knowledge. We should as easily turn to women doctors, lawyers, architects, business persons as we do to their male counterparts. We have to free our set images of professions being for men only. I do not want to say that women are necessarily better, but they are at least as good. They are an alternative we should encourage. But sorry, I got carried away. I think your idea of bringing women interested in business and professions together simply great. Would you be willing to pursue your idea and organize something like this if I mention it in KINESIS.

Jan: Sure, I would! Give my address and all.

Which I herewith gladly do, hoping she will be flooded with sincere and enthusiastic (but realistic, it's business) mail and phone calls.

Ms. Jan Cornflower
OFY, 326 Howe Street
Vancouver
688-7791 (during the day)

I think we women are really great, though we sometimes need to be reminded. Now more than ever in history, women have a chance to free ourselves and become whole human beings.

V. Hotz



KINESIS is published monthly by the Vancouver Status of Women. Its objective is to provide an open channel of communication between the members of the organization and to promote understanding about the changing position of women in society.

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CORRESPONDENCE: Send to: Vancouver Status of Women, 2029 W. 4th Ave, Vancouver 9, B.C., Telephone: 736-3746.



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In determining your donation we ask you to balance your own financial position and the fact that KINESIS costs approximately \$3.00 per person per year to print and mail.



THIS IS TAKEN FROM: "HAPPINESS IN MARRIAGE" BY CLIVE W. BARBARO.
 IT RECEIVED THE ADVICE TO HUSBANDS AND WIVES TO SHOW HOW SEX ROLES
 ARE TAKEN FOR GRANTED.

FOR WIVES

FOR HUSBANDS



1. Do you allow your husband an appropriate amount of the family income to spend as he chooses, without accounting?
2. Do you still "court" him with an occasional gift of flowers, by remembrance of birthdays and anniversaries, by unexpressed attentions?
3. Are you cooperative in handling the children, taking your full share of responsibility and also backing him up?
4. Do you make it a point never to criticize him before others?
5. Do you share much of your recreation hours with him?
6. Do you show interest in and encourage him to develop intellectually?
7. Do you show as much consideration for and courtesy to his relatives as you do your own?
8. Do you enter sympathetically into his plans for social activities, trying to do your full share as hostess in your own home and, when you are a guest in the homes of others, trying to make him appear to the best possible advantage?
9. Do you make an effort to understand the peculiarities of masculine psychology and to help him through his varying moods?
10. Do you tell him at least once a day that you love him, and act as if you meant it?
11. Do you give spiritual leadership to your family?
12. Do you encourage your husband to talk things out?

1. Do you try to make the home interesting, attractive, cheerful, a place of rest and relaxation - devoting as much thought and study to that as you would a job downtown?
2. Do you encourage your wife to spend some time with her women friends?
3. Do you serve meals that are enticing in variety and attractiveness?
4. Do you handle household finances in a business-like way?
5. Do you keep yourself attractive in appearance, in order that your wife may be proud to have everyone know you are her husband?
6. Are you a good sport: cheerful and uncomplaining, punctual, not nagging, not insisting on having your own way or the last word, not making a fun over trifles or requiring your wife to solve minor problems that you should handle alone?
7. Do you belittle your wife's ego, not comparing her unfavorably with more successful women but making her feel that she is successful?
8. Do you prevent your father and other relatives from intruding upon you and show courtesy and consideration to her relatives?
9. Do you take a sympathetic and intelligent interest in her business?
10. Do you cultivate an interest in her friends and recreations, so you can make a satisfactory partner of her leisure hours?
11. Do you encourage her to talk things through?
12. Do you encourage your wife and your children in the things of the local?

june

June 11 Media Action
7:30PM, Office

June 18 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
ELECTIONS
7:30 YWCA

June 27 Orientation
8PM, Office

June 13 Orientation
8PM, Office

June 25 Media Action
7:30PM, Office

do it now

It is Federal Election time and we have an excellent opportunity to make our voices heard. Our M.P.'s are supposed to represent us--surely inflation and unemployment are not the only issues. We must question all candidates as to their stand on women's rights and let them know that the only way to the woman's vote is through positive statements and positive action on the feminist issues.

At the recent Women For Action Conference it was agreed that as many of us as possible would attend all candidate meetings and raise questions from the floor concerning specific points. A few of those priority demands are as follows:

-demand repeal of the Criminal Code Provisions on

Abortion.

-demand that the standards of evidence in a rape case be made the same as standards of evidence for ANY assault case.

-demand that the Indian Act be amended to allow an Indian Woman, on her marriage to a non-Indian, be able to retain her Indian status and transmit her Indian status to her children.

-demand institution of a no-fault divorce law and demand that the Divorce Act be amended so that the 3 year separation period be reduced to 1 year.

-demand that provision be made to include Housewives in the Canada Pension Plan.

-demand more action on the implementation of recommendations made by the Royal Commission on the Status of

Women. Only 34% of the recommendations that fall under Federal jurisdiction have been fully implemented.

It is only by our attendance at all-candidate meetings that we can be sure that the issues important to us will be raised. Follow through on unsatisfactory answers by letting candidate know that he/she has lost your vote and those of other concerned women. After the meeting send further letters to the candidate and comments to the editorial pages of the newspapers.

The name of the game for candidates is vote-getting. Our power lies in letting them know that we will not allow our vote to be wasted on those who have no positive policy on women's issues.

D. Bissell

ORIENTATION

Speakers for future meetings are as follows:
On June 13 a member of the Women's Health Collective will be speaking. The speaker for the June 27 meeting has not yet been confirmed. The July 11 meeting will be devoted to a discussion with a member of the Rape Crisis Centre. And on July 27 Lee Grills, a former member of N.O.W. and a current member of VSW will share her experiences with new members. (See May KINESIS for an article by Lee.)

ELEMENTARY ACCOUNTING

Judith Bezeredi, our Treasurer, has offered to give a course in elementary accounting to all women interested in learning the basics. It will be held in the VSW office. The time and length of the course will be announced as soon as we receive the response as to how many women will attend the classes. This would be a good opportunity to learn and/or improve skills and job opportunities. Please write or phone if you are interested in enrolling. Let us know before JUNE 30, 1974.

P.S. IT'S FREE

ELECTIONS

Another election is in the offing - our third since VSW was founded. This gives us another opportunity to get out and support women candidates. Now is the time to join the party of your choice, or just go out and work for it to find out what politics is all about. Until we have equal representation in government, we will never really have equality.

Watch your papers for women candidates in your area and offer to help in their campaign.

Joan Wallace, past president of VSW, is running under the Liberal banner in the riding of Burnaby, Richmond, Delta.

The incumbent is Conservative, John Reynolds. See next months issue for a story on other women candidates.

WOMAN'S RESOURCE DAY

The Pioneer Women's Asso. will hold a woman's resource day on Wednesday, June 19th at the Sheraton Plaza 500, 10AM - 12PM and 2-4PM. Ten women's groups, including VSW, Vancouver City College, the Women's Health Collective and UBC Women's Resource Centre, will be represented. The event is open to the public and admission is free. Day care may be available. For further information contact: Mrs. Bertha Solman, 731-7644 after 3PM.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

The Royal Commission on Family & Children's Law will be holding meetings in Vancouver soon. Among the topics of discussion will be matrimonial property & maintenance, adoption, legitimacy, protection of children, custody, young people and the law special services to children, and they way our present court system is set up to handle these problems. Times and places of the meetings are as follows:

Monday,	1:30 - 4:30	7:30-10:00PM
June 17	First United Church	Macdonald Elementary
	320 East Hastings	1950 East Hastings'

Tuesday,	same as above	same as above
June 18		