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FEDERAL ELECTION JULY - AUGUST

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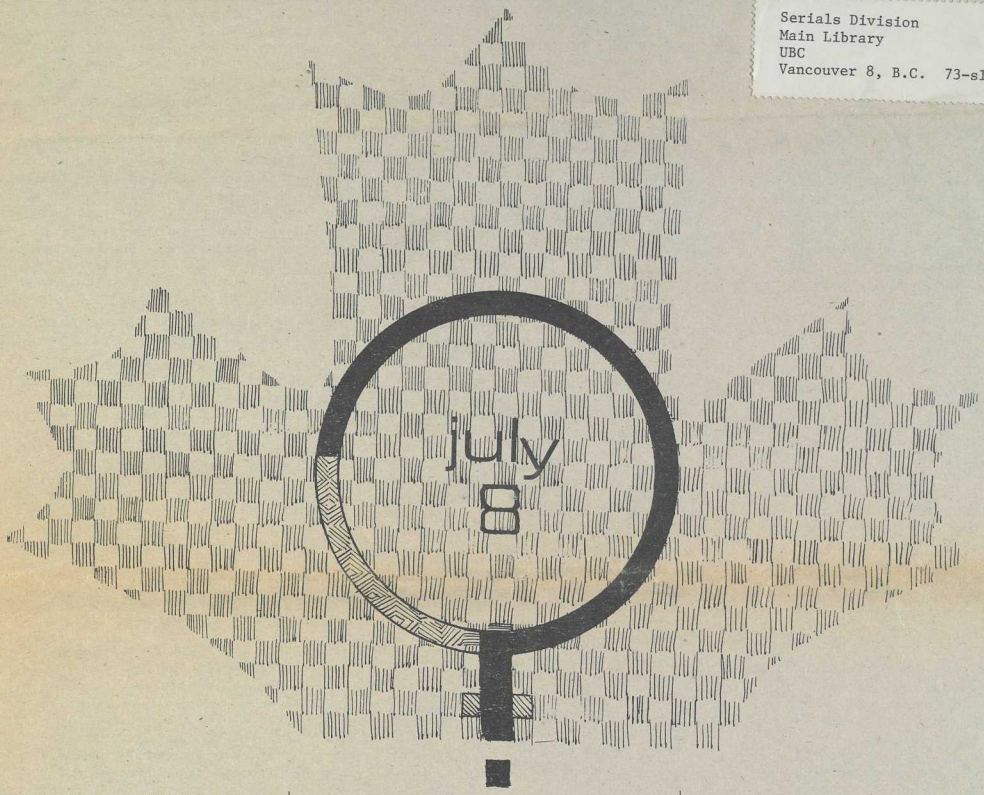


"I'D HAVE LIKED TO HAVE VOTED FOR YOU, BUT IT'S A MAN'S JOB."
- Woman to a woman, 1974

That statement is one that an unsuccessful woman candidate for the NDP federal nomination in a B.C. riding is still getting-apologetically-from both women and men several months after the nomination meeting. To us it is an appalling statement. But it will recur repeatedly in one form or another as a sort of leit-motif, in both the facts and opinions, in what I can only call a dirge that follows.

I did not set out to compose a dirge. At the Newsletter meeting at which we planned the July edition I was assigned to do an article on the women candidates in B.C. in the coming election, with their views on several issues we consider of vital importance to women. I've talked to the candidates and I have their views. But I just can't present them and let it go at that.

What we have to look at is the status of women in federal politics in Canada more than half a century after we got the vote. The picture is frightening. It seems almost academic to report that women candidates in B.C. are deeply concerned about human rights and child care programmes, for example, when the reality overshadowing their concerns is that there are only 10 of them. 10 out of 110. And the ratio in B.C. reflects the equally bleak national scene.

I am going to take up some of your time with the facts and opinions I mentioned. They contain a message. The facts will be in capital letters. They are statistics, or conclusions based on scientific research. There is no argument against them. Some of the opinions may elicit rebuttals but I think many are facts, too. When I put them all together I felt anger and despair.

HALF AS BETWEEN FEMALES AND MALES, BUT IN THE HIGHER AGE BRACKETS THERE ARE MORE WOMEN THAN MEN.
CANDIDATES IN THE ELECTION, BASED ON FIGURES AT PRESS TIME, WITH SOME DISPUTE IN 2 OR 3 RIDINGS: WOMEN 137; MEN 1073.

THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER FOR CANADA REPORTED SHORTLY BEFORE WE WENT TO PRESS THAT APPROXIMATELY 13,500,000 PEOPLE ARE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IN THE 1974 FEDERAL ELECTION. THE TOTAL POPULATION OF CANADA IS ROUGHLY HALF AND

"Men in positions of power intellectually know it's the right thing for women to be in politics, but at a subconscious or emotional level they feel it's not appropriate." - Joan Wallace, Liberal candidate.

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS HAS 264 MEMBERS. THE LARGEST NUMBER OF WOMEN EVER ELECTED TO IT WAS 6 IN 1965.
"A tremendous resource of women is wasted in our society." - Simma Holt, Liberal candidate.

THERE IS 1 PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE WOMAN CANDIDATE IN B.C.
"If a woman wants in, it's up to her to push her way in." - Gladys Chong, provincial president of the Progressive Conservative Women's Association and national vice-president.

THERE ARE NO NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY WOMEN CANDIDATES IN B.C.

"The only good thing that could come out of this is that it may shock NDP members out of their complacency, out of the view of the party as not discriminating against women because it is socialist." - Betty McClurg, unsuccessful candidate for nomination.

"The women know the men will look after their interests." - A male NDP candidate.

THERE ARE 2 SOCIAL CREDIT WOMEN CANDIDATES IN B.C.

"Women are just not coming forward. I would like the answer."-Ted Adlem, federal president for B.C. of the Social Credit party.

"Women will not have an equal opportunity to take advantage of... steps to power as long as they are hampered by their own diffidence, the disparagement and hostility of others, or by lack of mobility due to family responsibilities." - The Royal Commission Report on the Status of Women in Canada.

SCIENCE HAS FOUND NO EVIDENCE THAT WOMEN GENERALLY ARE LESS OR MORE INTELLIGENT THAN MEN GENERALLY.
"I think the old saying is true that to be equal, a woman has to be very much better." - Frances Elford, Liberal candidate. "Women have to be really exceptional to get anywhere in many areas." - Betty Greenwell, Communist Party candidate. "The more women can prove themselves to be equal, the faster they will achieve their goals." - Marg Gregory, Progressive Conservative candidate.

AT THE VOTING LEVEL WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION HAS BEEN VERY LITTLE BEHIND THAT OF MEN'S.

"I think many women are apathetic, or just plain lazy. I was." - A woman who joined a party association and quit after a year.

"It's women's own responsibility. Perhaps they haven't had much encouragement. But if you wait for encouragement, it may be a long time in coming." - Hilda Thomas, unsuccessful candidate for NDP nomination.

FOR A PERIOD OF 4 YEARS, REACHING INTO THE FIRST 2 YEARS OF THIS DECADE, 1 WOMAN SAT IN THE CANADIAN HOUSE OF COMMONS.
"No country can make a claim to having equal status for its women so long as its government lies entirely in the hands of men." - The Royal Commission Report on the Status of Women in Canada.

WE ARE 6 MONTHS SHORT OF THREE-QUARTERS OF THE WAY TO THE 21ST CENTURY.

There's plenty more. But that's enough for the message. We've had it before. It is being conveyed again because it is frightening and not something to slough off. Or shall we again? Either we care, or we don't; either we shrug, or we act.

It is obvious that political power in this country has never been anything but a male preserve. For all the professed enthusiasm for women candidates, the entrenched party hierarchies - with some exceptions at one level or another, or among some individuals - have shown no real willingness to give any significant number of women a chance to demonstrate their capabilities. In some instances where women are nominated they are not given a fair share of the party budget for campaigning.

I am in a dilemma at this point in reference to the B.C. situation. Kinesis is not a vehicle for any political party and does not want to be regarded as such. I did not mention the Liberal party in my statistics. But I want to be fair. I think I can best do this by presenting some more facts.

7 Liberal women sought nomination in B.C. and 4 were nominated. There were no women Liberal candidates in B.C. in the 1972 election.

3 Progressive Conservative women sought nomination and 1 was nominated. There were no women Progressive Conservative candidates in B.C. in '72.

2 women sought nomination for the NDP. Neither was nominated. In '72 the NDP had 1 woman candidate.

2 Social Credit women sought nomination and received it. In '72 the Social Credit party had 2 women candidates in B.C.

2 women were nominated in '72 from other than these 4 parties for a total of 5 women out of 108 B.C. candidates.

Among the Liberal, Progressive Conservative, New Democratic, and Social Credit parties, as far as nominations are concerned, there have been advances in two instances, no change in one, and a decline in the other.

Let us be wary, though, in talking of advances at whatever level - nomination or election. Perhaps we thought we were getting somewhere, granted on a pretty miniscule scale, when 6 women were elected in 1965. 1 woman was elected in 1968.

To return to the message. It says something else, if we will honestly acknowledge it, and that is that we have not been trying hard enough. All honour to the suffragists, who must have collapsed with exhaustion when they got us the vote 56 years ago. But surely it has been brought home to us by now that it wasn't the end of the war. Old enemies remain the enemies of today: prejudice, obviously not limited to men, and apathy. We fought them before and won a battle. But voting is involvement at a very limited level and is not achieving our goals with the urgency required. Voices must be heard. For the most part now we can raise them only at campaign meetings to question all those male candidates about issues that concern us as women. They'll be quick with assurances. But what place will such issues have in their priorities when they are once more safely ensconced in "the parliament of the people?" Voices must be heard where it counts.

Grace MacInnis, who ran into a virtual stone-wall in trying to get day care programmes and other forms of help extended to women and men, says such matters as finance, banking, and railways hold the prime interest of men in power. Make no mistake: women in power would be interested, too, in finance, banking, and railways. But they would also, because of personal experience, and knowledge and concern about the experience of others, be acutely aware of fields in which the need for action has been disgracefully ignored.

Certainly there are practical problems confronting women who might want to get into politics - family ties, job security, mobility, and financial limitations. But surely there are today many outstandingly capable women in a position to put themselves forward for nomination. If a sufficient number of them were elected, they might be influential in ensuring that those encountering difficulties could follow them.

So, isn't the real message that we have to fight again? For most of us this will mean working with determination to see that capable women, whose stand on major issues we support, are considered as candidates; working again for their nomination; and, if they are nominated, finding some extra sources of strength in working even harder for their election.

I said that when I put my "dirge" together I felt anger and despair. In the March Kinesis one of our members, writing of injustice personally suffered, quoted from Faulkner. It has never left a corner of my mind and I'm going to quote it again. I cannot think of anything more sustaining.

"Some things you must always be unable to bear. Some things you must never stop refusing to bear. Injustice and outrage and dishonour and shame. No matter how young you are or how old you have got."

I am still angry. But I know that resolution must replace despair.

Perhaps there are some questions before I leave the platform and let the candidates speak. A woman over there?

"Yes. You've been handing out statistics and opinions and advice very freely. What are you doing?"

This. On the two days a week I have been able to spare - and some evenings - I have been answering phones, compiling lists, putting circles and dots on constituency maps, and knocking on doors on behalf of one of the women candidates in this election. Not, ultimately, because she's a woman. But because she has not stopped refusing to bear injustice.

We want to thank the candidates for taking time from their exhausting schedules to provide us with their views. They were asked if they'd like to say anything about the Women's Movement or women's position, generally, and if they would comment on four issues that we believe are of major concern to women. These are Human Rights, Child Care, the Canada Pension Plan, and Abortion.

Frequent reference was made in the questioning to the recommendations of the Royal Commission Report on the Status of Women in Canada and to the opinions of the Advisory Council on the Status of Women, which four months ago published a summary of what has, or has not, been done to implement Commission recommendations which fall within the federal jurisdiction. In its report the Advisory Council also set forth, in some instances, its own

an interim period of 7 to 10 years, a Human Rights Commission should have a division dealing specifically with the protection of women's rights. It is recommending to the government, instead, that such a Commission realistically represent the female-male population ratio. And whereas the Royal Commission called for further amendments to the Criminal Code, as it re-somewhat different position from original recommendations. It has, for example, abandoned the view that for lates to abortion, a majority of the Advisory Council's members want abortion removed from the Code.

General party policy statements have been left for you to take note of in the media. What we are primarily interested in, for t the purposes of this article, are the candidates and their views on the issues mentioned. We are taking the liberty of using first names. The women had such a variety of suggestions as to how they might be referred to (Mrs. - Ms. - first name - and surname, with no Mrs. or Ms.) that we decided to call them as we would a friend.

We regret that, although every effort was made to get one, a statement was not available, up to press time, from one of the women candidates - VIOLET SHARP, who was nominated by acclamation to run for the Social Credit party in Okanagan-Boundary.

the candidates

MARG GREGORY -
Progressive Conservative -
New Westminster.
Nominated by Acclamation.

Marg has been a systems analyst for many years and is now a personnel consultant.

She hires for firms which want computer people, office managers, etc. and reports that she has had no problem in placing women in good positions. She says she has never encountered discrimination in either her own personal job experience or in her current work of placing others.

A statement she made is "I believe a woman is as equal as she wants herself to be." But she concedes that discrimination does exist in some areas.

Human Rights Commission: wholeheartedly supports the establishment of such a Commission and is particularly anxious to have it direct special attention to rights for women in such areas as separation matters, equitable maintenance provisions - situations generally in this part of the law where women are not justly treated.

Child Care: Agrees that federal funding is needed to establish more facilities on a cost-sharing basis. Where facilities are available a woman making a thousand a month can afford to pay. But women in the lower income brackets need financial help.

Canada Pension: One of main platforms is that housewives - either spouse at home - should be allowed within the provisions of the Canada Pension Plan. "Otherwise they are third-rate citizens. No woman - or husband - who chooses to remain at home is a third-rate citizen."

Abortion: Thinks it should be removed from the Criminal Code, "But I do not approve of abortion except in cases where a woman's actual physical existence is at stake." There are plenty of birth control methods available. If birth control has not been used, or has been used unsuccessfully, then the answer is adoption. There are numerous couples who want to adopt children. Why should they be deprived of them, if

they can't have them themselves?"

Thinks birth control should certainly be taught in the home, and possibly in the high schools. By all means, if it will prevent tragedies.

Although personally opposed to abortion, except in the circumstance mentioned, Marg says that if she is elected and the matter comes up in parliament, she will go to the people of her riding for a poll on the issue and will vote as the riding majority wishes.

She is vitally interested in all concerns of the people the New Westminster constituency embraces and, if elected, plans to open a full-time non-partisan office to record complaints and suggestions.

BETTY GREENWELL -
Communist Party - Vancouver Centre
Nominated by Acclamation

Prior to her marriage Betty worked for the Plant Pathology Lab. of the federal Department of Agriculture. She has been active in local community organizations and civic politics for 20 years. The immediate past president of the Hastings Community Association, she has been an active worker for the Committee of Progressive Electors, and has also served as vice-president of the Vancouver Parent-Teacher Council.

Betty says traditions in society make it difficult for women. As noted earlier in this article, her view is that they have to be exceptional to get anywhere in many fields. One of her particular concerns is the need to end discrimination against women in all spheres of economic, social, and political life - to obtain for women equal opportunity and equal pay in all areas. She wants discrimination against unmarried mothers and their children eliminated and says maternity leave from work should be provided with full pay. Speaks of an area of discrimination against women members of her party who might want to get into politics. There is still more discrimination against a woman working in an office or profession running as a Communist than there is against a man, whose right to run in elections is now generally recognized by employers.

Human Rights Commission: Would agree with the Royal Commission original recommendation that for an interim period special attention should be given to protecting the rights of women. As for representation reflecting population ratio, definitely wants women to participate but is opposed to tokenism.

Child Care: Agrees on the need for more federal funding. "Day care should be a right for every child."

Canada Pension: Is in favour of equal pension rights but thinks that eventually pretty well all women will be working in social production.

Abortion: Should be removed from the Criminal Code and adequate medical facilities should be provided to enable women to freely exercise a right to obtain abortions.

Betty says that in the constituency in which she has been nominated the exploitation of women is particularly severe among the large number of

new immigrant workers. They are forced to take low-paid jobs, do the hardest work, and are discriminated against in pension credits and technical training. "Immigrant women are the chief source of sweat shop labour for the monopolies."

FRANCES ELFORD - Liberal - Victoria
Nominated by acclamation.

Frances, a former Lab technician, has served 10 years on the Oak Bay municipal council - six as a Councillor and four as Mayor.

Speaking of the Women's Movement generally, she says she recognizes that there are still some inequities to be corrected. For her this is not a top priority in itself but holds a place with several other issues. She believes in equal pay for equal work and that any woman capable of doing what is normally regarded as a man's job should be given equal consideration. "I am not a militant "Women's Libber", but I do feel that the recommendations of the Royal Commission report should be implemented as quickly as possible."

Frances is optimistic about the way things have been going. She says that, generally, the situation for women is improving. They are now in positions they would never have been in a generation ago. "Men are catching on."

Human Rights Commission: stresses that solutions should be sought for problems encountered by all, not those of women only. Says she can't think of any valid reason to be brought against the original proposal for a special division for a while to look after women's rights, but now that the ACSW has dropped this she agrees fully with its recommendation that a Commission realistically represent the population ratio.

Child Care: In complete agreement with any legislation that will speed up the provision of adequate and well-staffed child care facilities. There should not necessarily be financial help for the wealthy. If they can pay, they should. But sufficient assistance should be given to the predominant number needing it. Agrees absolutely that more federal funding should be available.

Canada Pension: In full agreement that housewives, or husbands at home, should be able to contribute, and benefit, as per the Royal Commission's stand.

Abortion: Favours removal from the Criminal Code. It should be a matter between a woman and her doctor. Doesn't approve of hospital abortion committees - doesn't think they are working well. Would certainly retain "health" as a ground for abortion, but also says that "For whatever reasons a woman can convince her doctor that an abortion is needed - for example, that she has all the children she can cope with or afford - if her doctor feels that completing the pregnancy will affect her or the child, then the decision should rest between the patient and the doctor." Somewhat concerned about the business of repeaters. Wonders if taxpayers should be providing this service 4, 5, or 6 times.

Frances says she was always treated as an equal in all her experience in municipal politics and enjoyed working with male colleagues.

ANNE BOYLAN - Marxist-Leninist
Vancouver South

"Working class women know they will never get anything from the Canadian parliament except more repression, more bureaucracy, and more rules and regulations designed to maximize the exploitation of the working class on behalf of the monopoly capitalist class."

"We working class women know that every time we shop for the necessities of life - food, clothing, shelter - that the monopoly capitalists are cutting our hard-earned wages and are trying to shift the burden of the economic crisis looming on the horizon on to the shoulders of the working people."

"Most women workers in Canada are super-exploited, have no unions to defend their economic interests, and meet many kinds of social discrimination. Especially oppressed are our class sisters from Asia, Latin America, Africa, and other countries, who are forced to work in Canada at miserable wages, with the worst working conditions."

"Progressive-minded women intellectuals and professionals should unite with working class Canadian and immigrant women workers and broaden the fight for the emancipation of women to the whole class of oppressed women. Only under socialism will the material basis be laid for the complete emancipation of women and the elimination of all forms of social discrimination such as male chauvinism and racism."

LEANNE AVERBACH - Marxist-Leninist
New Westminster

"I....denounce this election as a a complete fraud, organized by the bourgeoisie to sort out differences among themselves as to how to best rule the working class and increase their profits to the maximum."

"Only when the working class as a whole unites to smash up the capitalist state apparatus - government bureaucracy, police, army, prisons and so forth - and establishes its own class rule with a state that serves the 80% of Canadians who are working people, and which fights to the end for the independence of Canada from U.S. imperialism, can we build socialism in our country."

"Women must not be diverted by various sectarian trends into political dead-ends. The interests of working class women are the same as those of working class men, the complete overthrow of the monopoly capitalist class, the overthrow of U.S. imperialism which, aside from

the capitalist class itself, is the root cause of the economic crisis now facing the working class people of our country."

"I call upon working women to reject the parties of capitalism, of national sell-out, and social oppression."

SIMMA HOLT
Liberal - Vancouver-Kingsway
Nominated by Acclamation

Simma is, and has been for many years, a general reporter and feature writer for the Vancouver Sun. She has covered every beat in the city but her primary interests as a journalist lie with the courts, crime, correction, human welfare, youth, and the family. She has completed three books, is writing a fourth, and doing research on a fifth.

Simma says she started her career with the handicap of being a "token" woman. She was told at first that she would have to be part of the "Women's Department", although she was allowed to do

general reporting. Believes very strongly that there should be equal opportunities for women and men, and that the best person should get the job. "If it's a man, O.K. But if it's me, I should get it." Women offer a new dimension and society should be using more of them. Feels that more and more women should apply for higher positions for which they are qualified. One day it will be said, "Why not?" And goals will be achieved.

Human Rights Commission: Believes in the rights of all people, but can't object to a catch-up programme for women or others discriminated against. As for representation reflecting the population ratio, we should pick the best people we can find and hopefully we can find qualified women. Agrees with ACSW statement that Commission members should not necessarily be lawyers. Says "The sooner we get lawyers off our boards and 'people' on them, the better."

Simma is very concerned about the civil rights of children. Says we're always putting the rights of adults first, but many children get beaten or otherwise maltreated and can become emotionally and psychologically destroyed as a result of this. "Human rights for all, women and men, children and adults, should be a fact of life."

Canada Pension: Fully agrees that the spouse at home should be entitled to provisions.

Day Care: Does not disagree with government sharing of some costs. But wants to see industries, institutions, companies, and unions working on this and providing day care centres in or beside the place of work. "Industry and unions are rich enough." Wants parents to have access to their children in coffee breaks and lunch hours to give the children a continuing sense of security. It would be better for the well-being of both. Doesn't like "Big Daddy" philosophy of the government entirely taking care of us. "If we don't put something in ourselves, we have nothing."

Abortion: Admittedly ambivalent but does think it should be removed from the Criminal Code. Thinks a woman has a right to make decisions about her life, but "I hate the idea of abortion." Wonders what it is doing to some women, to their psyches. Perhaps some will end up in mental hospitals full of guilt and regret. Would like to see research done on this. No disgrace today for an unwed woman to have a child. Adoption could enrich many people's lives. But then some children who don't get into good adopting homes end up in prisons or mental institutions at a very high cost to taxpayers. Would approve abortion in cases in which it is felt necessary, if it is a matter between a woman and her own doctor, who is presumably sympathetic and a friend, someone known and trusted. Abominates present hospital committee system, "with its arrogance and power over woman and its strange, impersonal atmosphere." What is needed is an expansion of birth control education

Don't want to be an either/or woman. "Sometimes there are six ways of dealing with a problem - and not any one is necessarily entirely wrong."

IONA CAMPAGNOLO - Liberal - Skeena
Nominated by acclamation.

Iona is currently sales manager for CHTK radio in Prince Rupert, in charge of advertising sales for radio and TV in the Prince Rupert area. She also conducts a daily radio programme of interviews and information.

She served as chairperson of the Prince Rupert School Board for 5 years and has been a member of the city council since 1972.

Iona is concerned about equal rights and opportunities for women but for these objectives, too, for all suffering discrimination. "Women's rights and opportunities are not my top priority at the moment - the general needs of the people in the Skeena riding hold a greater priority. But as long as I'm breathing I'll be working for all against whom discrimination exists."

"I think the best advertisement for equality for women is for women to do a good job in everything they undertake. As they move into various areas where they have not been before, and if they function well and fairly to all - women and men - they may fill a spot in the hierarchy in a way which will lead to more women coming in."

Human Rights Commission: agrees with ACSW on make-up reflecting population ratio but is dead against token women being appointed to anything. They must be qualified.

Child Care: agrees with Royal Commission report on the need for an expansion of federal funding for Day Care centres on a cost-sharing basis for building and operation. But is very concerned that the quality of staff be good.

Canada Pension Plan: says that making it possible for the spouse at home to contribute and benefit is fine in principle - certainly it should be done. But she thinks a great deal of study is needed on a satisfactory way of making it feasible.

Abortion: agrees with the ACSW majority opinion that it should be removed from the Criminal Code. But she believes that there need not be so many abortions, that abortion is dehumanizing to women and weakens the case for their general integrity. Much more emphasis should be put on contraception. As for hospital committees, not completely convinced that the committee system works in all sorts of places. But perhaps there is a need for some checks and balances.

Iona is in what she calls a male-oriented riding and "There is no way I could win without men."

EDITH GARNER - Social Credit - Vancouver Quadra.
Nominated by acclamation.

Edith says she gives her one hundred percent support to all the Women's Liberation movements in whatever form they are taking. She says the old standard was, "Father, the woman thou gav'st me, she did tempt me." Women's Liberation is saying, "Father, the woman thou giv'st me, she does tempt me, and she counsels me with the wit of a woman's wisdom, and we walk together all the days of our life, and life is good."

Edith pointed out, with great resentment, that the receipt she got on the filing of her nomination papers referred consistently and only in its wording to "he" and "his." There was no mention of "she" or "hers."

Human Rights Commission: Believes women and men should be treated as free human beings and that the least possible government is the best possible government. Says taxpayers' money should be provided directly to individuals in the form of a Canadian dividend, which would do away with unnecessary government bureaucracy. Does not believe in all sorts of programmes and boards being set up. Taxpayers' money should not be spent on red tape and government bureaucracy which is not going to do the individual any good.

Child Care: Support a certain amount of public day care but, again, say that federal funding should be provided directly to the individual. A mother should have a free choice as to whether or not she wants to work full-time, or part-time, or not

to work at all. The present system does not provide this choice. The dividend system would not prevent anyone from working who chooses to do so.

Abortion: Would recommend amendments to the Criminal Code to liberalize abortion laws to give the maximum amount of freedom to persons in need. "I feel that prevention is better than cure anytime, but, in cases where abortion is being considered, I regard it as involving a personal relationship that concerns only a woman, a man, and their doctor. Other approaches deprive people of human rights."

As a general comment, Edith says her interest has always been for the welfare of

people and her country. "I am opposed to having people's freedom shafted on any count."

She says she has a political background by "blood and inheritance" and is very anxious to see more women in politics.

JOAN WALLACE -
Liberal -
Burnaby-Richmond-Delta
Nominated by Acclamation

Joan began her career as a reporter and rewriter for the Vancouver Sun, later turning to freelance business writing and public relations work. Her articles on such subjects as industrial psychology, productivity improvement, data processing, and management consulting have appeared in such publications as The Financial Post, The Star Weekly, The Globe and Mail, Canadian Business, and The Canadian Chartered Accountant. She has been a leader in the Women's Movement in Canada, is a past president of The Vancouver Status of Women, and is one of two B.C. members on the federal Advisory Council on the Status of Women.

Joan says her mother was a feminist and she was brought up to think that women were just as competent and capable as men. But, as did Simma, she encountered discrimination in her newspaper work. Through involvement with the Status of Women she became more and more aware of the extent of discrimination women suffer, and then realized, as she thoroughly delved into the subject, that discrimination was widespread against men, as well as women, on such ground as sex, age, marital status, race, and colour.

Human Rights Commission: Definitely needed and representation should reflect the population ratio. Present Bill of Rights does not ensure justice. Has been ruled by the Supreme Court not to take precedence over certain federal legislation. Particularly incensed at discrimination in the Murdoch and Lavell-Bedard cases.

Child Care: In favour of full implementation of Royal Commission's recommendations for expansion of federal funding. Says the federal government has money available for assistance within the limits in which it is willing to share costs but some provinces are not asking for it. Thinks pressure should be put on provincial governments to take action in this area.

Canada Pension: Very much in favour of bringing spouse at home into provisions. Most spouses at home are housewives. They work just as much as the husband and free the husband to go to his job. Inequitable, too, that if a marriage breaks up after 20 years or so, and the husband remarries, his new wife will get the pension benefits if he dies, while the former wife, who contributed labour and support for a very long period, will get nothing. Action on this whole issue one of my top priorities.

Abortion: Should be removed from the Criminal Code. Consider it a matter to be left to the conscience of the woman concerned in consultation with her doctor. Changes will not be achieved without pressure. Women who want the abortion laws liberalized should be writing letters to the Prime Minister and the Minister of Justice.

Joan feels there is a desperate need to get more women into government. "The only way we are going to improve the status of women is to bring more women into politics, where the major decisions affecting our lives are made."

Says, if elected, her overriding priority will be to represent the people of Burnaby-Richmond-Delta and speak out about their needs and concerns.

"But half the constituents are women and I would devote a proportionate part of my time to their interests."

The election is nearly here but it's not too late to help. Financial contributions, personal recommendations, and time volunteered for whatever way in which we can be useful are all part of an effort. And effort is the name of the game.

B.P.

A final note. This article was completed - except for some needed last-minute statistics, and statements from two or three late nominees - before the national candidates' list was published. The list shows that there are nearly twice as many women running in this election as in the last one - 137 compared to 71. The percentage in relation to the total number of candidates has risen from 6.3 to 11.3. Effort obviously has been made. But I think most of what has been said remains valid. 11.3 percent is not a high ratio or anything approaching a reasonable one.

In fairness, in view of some statements that were quoted earlier, I feel note should be taken of the fact that, while there are no women NDP candidates from B.C. seeking a voice in the national parliament, there are a number of women NDP candidates in other parts of the country.

I hope on the night of July the 8th we will find that, as the number of women candidates as a whole has risen, there will be at least a proportionate increase in the number winning election.

B.P.

ombuds at work

Ombuds activities

By popular demand - a partial list of what ombudspeople are doing.

Glinda, Nancy and Gene are/were involved separately and/or together in the following projects:

Action for Women Conference - helping plan, speaking, leading workshops

Affirmative Action Conference (Victoria) - speaking, leading workshops

A Women's Resource Day (Vancouver)- helping plan, speaking

Human Rights Commission public hearing, (Prince George)

Canadian Association of Statutory Human Rights Agencies annual conference (Winnipeg)

Women in Sport Conference (Toronto)

Royal Commission on Family and Children's Law - working groups on: Family Court Support Services; Property; Maintenance; Criminal matters heard in family court.

Police Commission Task Force on Women

Family Law sub-section of the B.C. Bar Association

Production of "Woman Alive" Channel 10

Provincial Advisory Committee on sex discrimination in the public schools.

Presentation of brief to Royal Commission on Family and Children's Law public hearings.

Project on immigrant women in the labour force (with YWCA and Multilingual Information Centre).

Advisory board of Transition House.

Liaison with Canada Manpower APPRENTICESHOP and training branch.

UBC Senate Committee on increasing the enrolment of women in traditionally "male" faculties.

Plus miscellaneous speaking engagements and radio appearances in addition to our day-to-day work with individual women facing problems of discrimination.

This is only a partial list. Watch this space for further details. of the Appeals Court. The judges ruled that article 45 of the crimi-

election questionnaire

(WCNC)---Women want to elect politicians that are responsive to the needs of their changing lives in today's society. With this in mind, we presented the following questionnaire to B.C. candidates, women's grops and the media.

1. Approximately one out of every five Canadians is poor. A large percentage of welfare recipients are women with children. There are more than 200 organizations for the poor in Canada led mostly be women. What is your proposal for remedying this problem? Are you in favor of a guaranteed annual income?

2. Women make up about one third of the Canadian labour force. Approximately one qurter of these women are mothers who are working out of necessity and for whom childcare is a serious problem. What is your plan for improving the inadequate childcare situation?

3. Reported and unreported rapes have increased drastically over the past few years, nationwide. There is also an alarming increase in the use of violent weapons during rape. "Proof of credibility" laws make rape trials humiliating for a woman who must make her sexual history public, while the sexual background of the alleged rapist, on the other hand, is considered inadmissible evidence. Conviction of rapists is extremely low and their sentences are lenient. Given this situation, it is understandable that the unreported rape cases remain on the increase. How would you change current rape laws?

4. No birth control method is 100% effective. Those recognized as the two most reliable, the Pill and the IUD, cause serious side effects for many women. Also, it is illegal to advertise them. Figures in 1970 show only one out of every 40 general hospitals in Canada had family planning clinics Do you favour removing abortion from the criminal code and from the public realm, thus making it a private matter between a woman and her doctor, as are contraceptives.
5. A large proportion of older women, of whom many are divorced or widowed, find themselves with little financial security.

   It is estimated that at least 11% of Canada's 8 billion annual gross national product is the result of work done by women in the home. Yet, their contribution to the economy is neither recognized officially in GNP calculations nor covered by existing pension plans.

   What are your proposals for assuring financial security for housewives? Are you in favor of including them in the Canada Pension Plan?

6. A Large proportion of divorced and separated men are delinquent in making alimony and child support payments. This leaves many women in serious financial difficulty and unable to afford to bring their spouses to court to secure payment. For many, the only recourse is to go on welfare. Do you favour government collection of delinquent maintenance payments?

* Figures appear in the 1970 Royal Commission Report on the Status of Women

Ed. Note: We would like to pose another question:

There is no Federal legislation to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex. Therefore, women working for banks, telephone companies, airlines, any employer operating under federal charter, are unprotected. These Businesses are not bound by Provincial Legislation. Although encouraged, complaints to the Federal Department of Labour have proved fruitless, since the Department refuses to take a stand.

Women have traditionally held low paying jobs, are discriminated against in terms of advancement. The United States has enacted an Affirmative Action plan. B.C. is considering similar legislation. These Plans require that all aspects of employment and education, including hiring, promotion, superannuation, training, re-training, and access to jobs, be made equally available to both sexes.

Would you press for a Federal Human Rights Act that prohibits sex discrimination? Do you support an accompanying Affirmative Action Plan to facilitate enforcement of the Human Rights Act?

wcnc

You will be pleased to learn that the Federal government's Department of the Secretary of State has funded a communications network for women in British Columbia and the Yukon Territory.

The six month grant which began May 15 will make it possible for urban and rural women to more readily exchange ideas and information and to improve their links with the media, educational information and government.

In order to accomplish our goals, Carol Gordon, with a background in photojournalism will travel throughout the province and the Yukon during the next six months attempting to involve as many people as possible. Karen Richardson, with writing and organizational experience, will work with groups in Vancouver.

The mainstay of this network will be amonthly news packet geared to the specific needs of the recipients. Subsequent packets will include lists of women's groups, lists of newsletters, data on women's groups, reports on specific issues, and creative materials.

As you can see we will have to depend heavily on a constant stream of feedback from you in order to keep our information and materials up-to-date and relevant. We encourage people to subscribe to women's newsletters to which our packets will be distributed.
We invite packet recipients to duplicate, reprint and distribute materials in these packes, where possible. This would include sending packets to local media. If you have any problems handling you communications with the press, we will gladly pass on suggestions we may have.

Carol's first trip is scheduled tentatively for early July and will include northern B.C. and the Yukon. Late July and early August, she plans to visit people on Vancouver Island. The Lower Mainland and the Interior will be visited in August.

film tour

In September, "Women and Film" will present a province-wide festival of films, slide/sound, video, printed information, and an art exhibition.

This is an invitational exhibition open to all women artists in B.C. The material which will go on tour will be limited due to the lack of space available for transporting it, but each town we visit will present additional local work.

The purpose of the exhibition is to give representation to the diverse origins, content, and directions of these works and to perhaps give some focus to any cultural or social patterns which may be inherent in them.

Instructions for submitting artists can be obtained when requesting an entry form from:

ISIS - Women & Film
1520 West 6th
Vancouver, B.C.

There is no entry fee. All work should be submitted before July 10th, 1974

SUMMER INVOLVEMENT PROGRAMME

A tremendous amount of power, (generated by people, by activity) is required to further the social changes that concern us. As a voluntary, non-profit organization, Vancouver's Status of Women Council must both serve and be assisted by the community in order to achieve these ends. Under a Federal Government Student Community Service grant, six additional staff members have been acquired. Throughout the summer months, these people will be organizing projects and expanding upon areas of service already existing within VSW. Primarily, the intention is to get more members, old and new, actively involved in the work of the organization. It's hoped that whatever is accomplished, whatever is established this summer, will carry on and will continue to serve the needs of the individual, the needs of the community, the needs of Status of Women, and that those newly involved will remain involved.

Here are some initial plans, programmes and ideas, some concrete, some vague. All have energy and more energy is needed to see them through. As you read, you might consider where you fit in.

Research Projects: Fact-gathering is a necessity. This is especially true in the area of institutionalized discrimination. Women - in the labour force, in male dominated faculties at universities, in situations requiring legal protection - are at a disadvantage. This is publicly acknowledge to only a certain extent. Research and communication of results (to the institutions involved, to the public) is necessary if there is to be improvement, Nancy Jackson is interested in creating research committees, in assisting and advising you in this. If it's your concern, call Nancy at the office.

News Service: As of May 15, the Western Canadian Women's News Service (WCN) came into existence. With this, the exchange of information and ideas between women's groups has and is to be improved. Papers such as Kinesis will be serviced all over the province. Gisela Filion is the student assisting Karen Richardson and Carol Gordon in establishing the WCN. Submissions of photography and written material are desired. Contact Gisela if you are able to contribute or aid in the much needed production of news packets.

Production of Kinesis: Typing articles, editing, proof-reading, layout and mail preparation are all essential in the creation of Kinesis each month. It is hoped that a core group of people could become and remain responsible for this important technical side of the newsletter. Experience is unnecessary - rather, this is an opportunity to learn the mechanics of production. There are meetings for this purpose. By calling Terry McNeney you can find out the details and become a member of such a work force.

Health Programme: The female body, in health care, in sports - a decidedly major concern. In co-operation with the Vancouver Women's Health Collective, a health group is being offered through VSW. With this, women can learn more about physiology, anatomy, birth control, pregnancy and abortion. Also hoped for, are a permanent health column in Kinesis and a more extensive health library in the office. Bonnie-Mae Newsmall is the person to contact. To see Bonnie-Mae as well, are any of you interested in sports and physical fitness? A higher degree of fitness in all of us is desireable. A number of things can be done in this regard - from establishing research and action groups to investigate the adequacy of school and community programmes for girls, to actually starting some group activities ourselves (hiking, cycling, team sports). Whatever your concern, get in touch and see what can be done.

Writers Workshop: Many women hesitate to express themselves in writing - due to lack of experience, knowledge or confidence. The printed word is a powerful and theraputic tool, the use of which should be promoted. Within a workshop situation, inspiration, encouragement, and criticism can be offered, creativity and productivity can be fostered. Such forums are now being held at the Status of Women's office, 8:00 p.m. Wednesday night. Prose, poetry and journalism are all under consideration. There is the possibility that a Kinesis supplement, devoted to the seminar products, will be published at some later date. Call Barbara Tomlin for more information and come see what you offer the workshop, what the workshop offers you.

Art Programme: Artists are the individuals in society most concerned with communication. As such, they are often responsible for promoting causes. In this case, it is the social and historical position of womankind. Renee Van Halm is working with a group using silkscreen and other processes to create posters and graphic statements. These are an excellent expression of changes already with us, changes desired and changes to come. This sort of production offers an additional outlet for women artists, as well as allowing an interchange of ideas. In conjunction with work sessions, Renee hopes to establish an information centre, whereby artists can find access to details on grants and the presentation of exhibits. If you are an artist with ideas, designs, needs, make a connection with the programme.

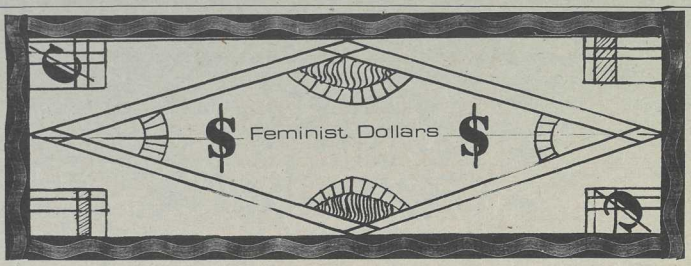
Unquestionably, there are a variety of offerings, a variety of needs. Others are already busy and involved. The prospects for getting something done, for creating viable programmes, are good. Involve yourself if you can, the student-hired help is available to you until September 15. Take advantage of it and call with your questions, suggestions and committments.

orientation

Orientation meetings will continue to be held every second and fourth Thursday of each month all through the summer. We meet at 8 p.m. in the VSW office at 2029 West 4th Avenue. Our summer workers have been developing some terrific new projects for our members to involve themselves with -- there is an article about those projects elsewhere in this issue. On July 11 the Rape Relief Centre will present a speaker and on July 27 Lee Grills will lead discussion on general topics concerning the women's movement. We want all members, new and otherwise, to know that they are welcome to attend any Orientation meetings they wish. Discussion gets lively and interesting!!

We would like to begin to make a super effort to reach the younger woman--namely the high school student. A lot of teenagers have feelings and questions about women's rights but are afraid to ask and discuss because of the static that gets dished out to "Women's Libbers". We would like to know if there are any young women interested in attending a workshop at our office and learning more about the work that the VSW does, and how they can become involved in it, too. We have this sneaking suspicion that there are thousands of teen-age girls out there who just need a bit of encouragement and then they will be well on their way to becoming aware of how much they can grow, of how much work needs to be done, and of how they can do something about it. It would be really marvellous if this sort of thing could eventually grow right into the high schools. If you are a student or if you know of any students who might be interested, please contact Diana Bissell at 736-3746.

D. Bissell



we need your money

VSW published Kinesis as a service to members in good standing. The paper serves to keep members informed of women's issues, to educate new members, to provide a place for women to share ideas and information. High school and women's studies students have used it as a research aid. In addition, many libraries subscribe to Kinesis, thereby increasing awareness of the women's movement in the community at large.

Because none of our grants cover the cost of publishing a newsletter, we depend on your membership dues to continue operating.

We allow an ample grace period for members whose fees are overdue before cutting off their subscription. However, our membership fund is now depleted. We urge all members to check with our office about the due date for their membership fees.

Membership is by donation. But, we ask you to balance your income with the fact that it costs approximately $3 to $4 per year per person to print and mail the newspaper.

Any additional donations to help defray operating costs would be greatly appreciated.

health hazard

A chemical so deadly that it can cause birth defects, mutations, cancer, neurological damage and even death is being used on B.C. apples and Anjou pears as recommended by the B.C. Department of Agriculture. What's more, this chemical, a phenoxy herbicide called 2,4,5-TP (Silvex) used in this case to control apple drop cannot be washed off orppared away as it penetrates the entire apple and becomes bound in the pectin of the fruit. Our food and Drug Directorate have NOT established a legal residue tolerance level. The FDD are not enforcing their law in the case of apples treated with Silvex.

Will a residue be in the apples when bought in the supermarket? The B.C. Department of Agriculture admits in their Tree-Fruit Production Guide 1974 that it will. Tests done show that it can become bound in the pectin for over 13 weeks.

Silvex is a close relative of the notorious 2,4,5-T found by the Bionetics Report in 1969 to be an even more potent birth deforming agent than Thalidomide when used on test animals. Silvex has the same parent compound, 2,4,5-Trichlorophenol, as 2,4,5-T. The deadly tetra-dioxin (TCDD) is an ever present contaminant of 2,4,5-TP. Just to give you some idea how deadly this contaminant is - 42 micrograms will kill a grown man. In other words, one teaspoon will kill 72,00 people.

Massive documentation ot the destructive power of these deadly chlorophenols are pouring in from around the world. Science magazine wrote of Vietnamese mothers giving birth to monstrous babies. In fact, many mothers had to be deliverately relieved of their "bundle-like" fetuses or they would have bled to death. After bein aerially sprayed with "Agent Orange" thousands of animals died and pregnant animals aborted their young.

Women in Sweden gave birth to babies born with incomplete closures of the spine and skull and similar reports have come from New Zealand where the phenoxy herbicides are now banned. Men died of lung cancer and skeletal malformations in Sweden. In Globe, Arizona, mothers miscarried and girls as young as 12 have had to have hysterectomies because of vaginal hemorrhages.
Others like Dr. C. Taylor, a biochemist from Malibu,had serious blood disorders after an aerial spraying of the Angeles Forest behind her home. Meanwhile, in New Mexico, two ranchers, Mr. Lewis Trotter and Mr. John Mayo lost their entire herds of cattle when the U.S. Government sprayed Silex to kill the Salt Cedar trees that border the Rio Grande River. When the veterinarian, Robert Blake autopsied the animals he found that every major organ in the bodies were degenerated. It was as if Trotters 18 month old cattle had DIED OF PREMATURE OLD AGE. Will the herbicide do the same to human organs?

Mrs. Nettie Freedlund, a farmer's wife in Wisconsin, miscarried after an aerial spraying of 2,4,5-T and so did her neighbour. Many of the Freedlund's pigs died and pregnant pigs aborted their young. Those that managed to carry their young to full term gave birth to dead piglets. Next year's batch of piglets were grossly deformed and blind. Neighbours down the road from the Freedlunds also lost cattle and calves were born blind and stunted. Some of the cows sloughed off hugh pieces of their intestinal linings as did Mrs. Verna Butcher from Portland, Oregan when exposed to the caustic fumes coming from Chipman Chemical's Smokestack. They were manufacturing 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T. A small community in the Ozark Mountains in Arkansas had their drinking water supply contaminated with 2,4,5-T after a farmer on the hillside above the town sprayed his rangelands. Six out of eight pregnant women in the community subsequently miscarried and one of the babies was born seriously deformed.

Mr. Robin Warren of Nova Scotia lost a quarter of a million acres of vegetables over a period of three years. And 22 calves were born dead and deformed. Those that managed to survive were stunted and no larger than dogs. Mr. Warren and his wife suffered from a thyroid condition after the Nova Scotia Dept. of Agriculture sprayed his land with 2,4-D, 2,4,5-T and Dicamba. An epidemic of enlarged goitres has been reported by the Health Protection Branch in the Prairie provinces. I wonder if public health officials have checked those affected for residues of phenoxy herbicides because they are extensively used on cereal crops in the Prairies and 2,4-D in particular has an affinity for the thyroid gland.

Why are our authorities turning a blind eye and a deaf ear to the mounting reports of illnesses caused by the phenoxy herbicides. Agriculture is the largest user of these chemicals and they have found them to be a quick, easy, and cheap method of getting rid of unwanted weeds and trees. Again - economics takes precedence over risks to the public health.

I urge every woman of child-bearing age and pregnant mothers not to buy apples and Anjou pears from the Okanagan this year because there is no way to tell which apples or pears have been treated with this chemical.

Merriam Doucet

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON FAMILY AND CHILDRENS' LAW RESPONDS

law commission

Jane Auxier has been asked by the Royal Commission on Family and Children's Law to write regarding the article on the Unified Family Court pilot project which appeared in the April issue of Kinesis. They are concerned because they feel a number of points in the article are erroneous. She points out:

1. "No attempt has been made to consult with a good industrial architect about the layout of the building or about the use of informational signs to minimize confusion". This is totally incorrect. The Commission is using the services of both Fran Provost, an architect previously with Graham Brown & Associates, and now with the Justice Development Commission, and Beverley Nielsen, a design consultant from the firm of Jacobson Kaye & Associates. In Delta, the pilot project will be housed in the existing Court House, a new building which has incorporated the informal atmosphere we wish the Family Court to have - for example, there is no raised dias for the judge, merely a grouping of tables. There is also an attractive court yard opening off the court room which can be used by the parties during a break in the proceedings. This Court also utilizes information signs very well. In Richmond and Surrey, new facilities are being built and, unfortunately, we're running into delay with the construction strike forcing us to use rather makeshift quarters in the interim. The plans for the new buildings are anything but institutional - they incorporate a nursery for the use of those mothers unable to get a babysitter on court day, attractive waiting rooms affording the parties more privacy than they now have, attractively landscaped areas without "Don't walk on the grass" signs, for use on those rare days when the sun shines, etc. And, the information signs you mention along with people to minimize confusion. We're also hoping to try different scheduling tactics to minimize the waiting period so many have to undergo - for example, have several parties appear at 9:00, several at 10:00, etc., instead of the entire court list being asked to come at one time. Also, with regard to scheduling, we intend to hold court on evenings and Saturdays, to avoid parties having to take time off work to attend.

2. "Representation": First of all, let me emphasize that court will be a last resort in family matters. (This hardly profits the lawyers, contrary to your criticism). We really feel that many of the disputed matters such as maintenance could be resolved out of court if someone could sit down with the parties and go over their situation - including, in the case of maintenance, examining income tax returns, T4 slips, etc., to get a clear idea of the financial picture. If the parties do reach an agreement, they may not wish to go to court at all. The new Act provides for an agreement between the parties to be enforceable by the court without having to actually be made a court order. If they do wish to appear in court, separate legal counsel would not be necessary - rather the family advocate, or even the court clerk could present the facts to the judge and explain that an agreement has been reached. It is only when agreement is impossible that legal counsel becomes necessary. For the purpose of the pilot project, the Legal Aid Society has come up with a fee schedule more attractive to the lawyers, and we're optimistic that legal counsel will be retained promptly for all those requiring it. As far as who's entitled to legal aid, the "test" is very wide - it really amounts to a question of whether paying a lawyer would be a hardship. The role of the Family Advocate in this set up is primarily to represent children in contested custody matters or PC matters, ie: it is now required that children have a right to counsel in matters affecting them.

3. Make up of the Pilot Project Committee. Your article criticizes the absence on the Committee of persons who had used family court. Perhaps your point here is well taken, in fact, I understand this criticism was raised when the Committee was sitting. I think all the members were relying on their own work experience, however, and feel those members from SWC had sufficient feedback from people using family court to quite adequately present their concerns.

4. Public Hearings: Your error was corrected in this regard but I feel I should expand on it. The Commission had held hearings at various locations on Vancouver Island, the Prince Rupert area, the Cariboo, the Kootenays, the Okanagan, the Fraser Valley and areas just outside Greater Vancouver - such as the North Shore, Burnaby, etc. Apart from the radio and newspaper publicity given to these hearings we conducted a further publicity campaign by telephone, contacting all those groups in the area which we felt would be interested - women's groups, Human Resources, various groups made up of handicapped persons, schools, public health, etc. The large turn-outs we had - particularly in the Vancouver area - could seem to speak for itself. We certainly feel we learned a lot from those attending. Further public hearings will be held in Vancouver proper.

5. Counsellors: I mentioned a part of their role earlier - to help parties resolve some of their differences before going to court, but in view of your remark that, "Reconciliations are not always commendable", I wish to emphasize that reconciliations will generally not be their aim. Rather it is conciliation counselling - helping them to "close the book gently". A number of the counsellors hired have come from Probation. Others have been with Human Resources, and with the Children's Aid Society. I think it's safe to say that all of the employees hired were dissatisfied with the current Family Court set up and are enthusiastic about being in on the ground floor in helping change it.

Jane adds, "I hope this letter allays some of your concerns and, hopefully, you'll be able to share this enthusiasm. I'd be interested in hearing further from you."

We are very concerned by the section of the reply dealing with representation. Acrimonious adversary proceedings in marital matters are obviously unpalatable and often damaging to the parties. However, we do not like as a substitute, the prospect of two legally unsophisticated people sitting down with someone who is not expert in family law (even if an expert is on call) and working out together conditions which may affect their legal status and rights for the rest of their lives. People dealing with the court system have a right to independent, expert, legal advice and representation. We disagree strongly with the idea that a court system or court personnel can limit that right according to the means of the parties and the staff's conception of what is "good" for the parties.

new executive

On June 18, at the Annual General Meeting the new executive committee of VSW was elected. The results are as follows:

President - Roberta Schlosberg
Vice President - Nancy Conrod
Ombudswoman - Gene Errington
Secretary - Jessie Parker
Treasurer - Judith Bezeredi
Public Relations - Glinda Sutherland
Nominations Officer - Hanne Jensen
Membership Officer - Annie Howarth
Newsletter Officer - Diane E. Ryals
Members-at-Large: Bobbie Patrick, Jo Lazenby, Carolyn Gibbons, Reva Dexter, Nancy Denofreo, Diana Douglas

non-sexist learning

A Provincial Advisory Committee on Sex Discrimination in Public Education is now in existence, a welcome result of much persistent consciousness-raising of Department of Education officials by women teachers and women's groups in the province. The purpose of this committee, which met for the first time in Victoria on June 11th, is to advise the Department of Education on ways to eradicate sex discrimination in the B.C. educational system.

The committee is composed largely of representatives from the Vancouver and Victoria Status of Women, the Human Rights Commission, the B.C. Teachers' Federation, Women in Teaching, Co-op Pre-school, and the P.T.A. The B.C. School Trustees Association has yet to respond to an invitation to send participants. The chairperson of the committee is J.R. Meredith, Superintendant of Instructional Materials for the Department of Education.

The priorities for investigation and action have yet to be spelled out in precise terms but will likely include the review of curriculum materials for sexism and sex-role stereotyping, the correction of discriminatory practices prevalent in schools and the teaching profession, teacher education, working with publishers, and the creation and implementation of positive programmes and materials into the system.

Concomitant with these plans the committee hopes to widely publicise their findings and encourage more interest and discussion about these issues on the part of educators, students and parents. To this end the committee welcomes from you any ideas, recommendations or evidence of discriminatory practices in education about which the committee should be informed.

Several of the members expressed enthusiasm about the future and progress of the committee. For one thing the majority of members seems to be in agreement about the nature and extent of sex discrimination in education. There is likely to be little time wasted trying to convince participants that indeed there is a problem to be tackled. Secondly, the Department is prepared to immediately hire a consultant to work with the committee to ensure that their recommendations are translated into action.

- Sheila Purdy

letters

Dear Women of Kinesis:

It has just been brought to my attention that in your paper you mention that the Pedestal is published by the Vancouver Women's Bookstore. Please let me correct this.

The Pedestal, now called Women Can is not published by the store. It never has been. It's true however that the Pedestal was at one time the newsletter of the Ancestoral Vancouver Women's Caucus.

The paper is published by an independent collective called appropriately enough, the Pedestal Collective. We share the same address because the Bookstore was the only women's group to kindly donate rent-free space.

I hope you will, in future issues, be able to use this information as we on the collective think it's important to note that Vancouver does have an independent Women's paper.

In Sisterhood

Pat Smith
for the Collective

Dear Editors,

Your newsletter has improved tremendously over the past few months. I especially enjoy the issues exploring a single topic.

I enclose a check for membership.

Risa E. Levine

notices

Transition House needs a monkey wrench! Have you ever tried to do your own plumbing repairs without one?? Actually, there is quite a list of things that Transition House could make good use of and we're hoping that all of you who read this will take a good look around your house or apartment and call us if you have any of the material.

One thing never changes at Transition House--there are always kids around. They have a need for STURDY toys, trikes and wagons, children's records, crayons, paints and other craft materials, dress-up clothes, fabric for doing hobby things with, books and magazines.

Also needed are gardening tools, a rollaway cot, foam mattresses, (single bed size), clean blankets and pillows, working alarm clocks, house fans, a chrome clothes rack, bedside lamps, an enamel utility table, that monkey wrench again and an old pup tent if anyone has one lying around--and some BUNKBEDS!

One of the dreams of the staff at Transition House is to have their own freezer in order to take advantage of in season vegetables and to make bulk meat purchases. If anyone has or knows of an unused operative freezer please call and we will gladly take it off your hands. And if any of you are handy enough with your carpentry tools, or know of someone who is, would you consider making your abilities available on a voluntary on call basis to the House? IF YOU HAVE ANY OF THE ABOVE ITEMS TO OFFER PLEASE CALL DIANA BISSELL AT THE OFFICE - 736-3746.

Women living in the Maple Ridge area have formed a Status of Women group. They are attempting to raise funds to establish a Women's Centre to promote educational and health programs. They plan also to set up a Transition House if funds permit. The addresses of both the Women's Centre and Transition House will be available as soon as they are organized. In the interim, anyone in the Maple Ridge area needing information or aid can contact Amy Wood, 21695 Exeter Ave., Maple Ridge.

Since Maple Ridge is a small community, the organizers have decided not to establish separate legal services for women. Instead, they are directing their energies toward the creation of a legal aid service for the whole community. They do demand that there be women paraleglas in attendance, as well as a woman representative on the Board of Directors of Legal Aid. Women are still referred to the Women's Legal Aid Clinic in Vancouver if the need arises.

The group is organizing a Cancer Forum For Women Only scheduled for this fall. Features include a film, a female doctor to speak on self-examination for signs of cancer followed by a question period, and child care during the forum.

The Maple Ridge group urges all Women's Rights Groups to compile lists of book titles to be presented to their public libraries so that they can provide displays of women's books during International Women's Year.

A.W.

Vancouver Women's Health Collective is now publishing a monthly newsletter containing news items, articles and book reviews regarding women's health. Subscription rate is $2.00 per year.

OUR NEWSLETTER
V.W.H.C.
4197 John Street
Vancouver
873-3984

The North Shore Women's Centre held another meeting in West Vancouver on June 10th at St. David's United Church. 25 Women enthusiastically put forward their ideas on education, possible political involvement, and participation in the B.C. Federation of Women - even considering the possibility of a North Shore Women's Pub. The group hopes to provide a place where community women can join together to learn about and take action on issues of importance to them. Chairperson was Ms. Andrea Kiss. Officers were elected and another meeting was called for July 2nd at Capilano College, Room C119 at 7:30 p.m. All interested persons are invited to attend.

Pat Pope 926-1492 or 980-7511 Loc.242

fine arts

WOMEN SPOTLIGHTED BY VANCOUVER ART GALLERY

The contribution that women have made and are making in the development of our cultural environment has been consistently significant, though often unrecognized. What we have witnessed and been a part of in the last few years has been the real emergence of women in all fields as a potent force. The political nature of this emergence, coupled with the sensationalized and for the most part deprecating media coverage it has received, has distracted attention from the new directions in which women's art has been moving. To remedy this neglect, the August programme of Special Events focusses on Women in the Arts, a series of noon hour and evening events - performances, lectures, discussions, and workshops - that will acknowledge and make visible these accomplishments. We invite you to participate in this exposition and celebration of women's art.

Wednesday, August 7
12:10 - 12:50 PM
Lynda Boothby - Soprano

Thursday, August 8
12:10 - 12:50 PM
Avis Rosenberg
Illustrated Lecture
WOMAN AS OTHER, IN THE ART OF MAN

Friday, August 9
12:10 - 12:50 PM
Evelyn Roth
SCULPTURE IN MOVEMENT
A performance of sculptural wearables.

Monday, August 12 &
Tuesday, August 13
12:10 - 12:50 PM
Diana Eckstadt
Teresa Gillen
TRANSCENDENTAL MEDITATION
Philosophy and objectives of SCI (Science of Creative Intelligence) and TM (Transcendental Meditation as related to the arts.
PARTS 1 & 2

Wednesday, August 14
12:10 - 12:50 PM
Lakshmi
Veena - Indian instrument

Thursday, August 15
12:10 - 12:50
Joan MacIntyre
Theatre, Music, Dance

Friday, August 16
12:10- 12:50 PM
REEL FEELINGS
Video Workshop
Registration : 15
Session: $2.00 per person

August 14, 15, 16, 17
8:30 PM
MARKET PLACE THEATRE
Wednesday, Aug. 14 & Friday, Aug 16 - Our Town, A New Canadian revue in 2 parts by Thomas Cone
Thursday, Aug.15 & Saturday, Aug. 17 - The Exception and the Rule (Berthold Brecht)

Wednesday, August 21
12:10- 12:50 PM
MICHELINE PELLERIN
French Canadian Folk Songs

Thursday, August 22
12:10 - 12:50 PM
WOMEN IN LITERATURE: A FORUM
Novelists Audrey Thomas and Jane Rule discuss their work with Elizabeth Komisar

Friday, August 23
12:10 - 12:50 PM
CANADIAN WOMEN ARTISTS NOW
Glen Allison

Tuesday, August 27
WOMEN'S THEATRE CO OPERATIVE
Review of popular pieces

Wednesday, August 28
12:10 - 12:50 PM
Patricia Hoy
PIANIST

Thursday, August 29
12:10 - 12:50 PM
POETRY READING
Judith Copithorne
Carole Itter
Pat Lowther

Friday, August 30
12:10 - 12:50
ANNA WYMAN DANCERS
Improvisational and Experimental Dance

THE PERFORMERS

First to perform will be Lynda Boothby, a soprano, who is currently studying music in London. According to a letter from her reproduced in last April's issue of Vanguard, one is given the impression that between strenous voice lessons, Ms. Boothby spends a great deal of time learning new scores such as Hadyn's Creation, on London's tube system; meanwhile broadening her appreciation of the operatic virtuosos. What she will perform at the art gallery has yet to be announced.

Avis Rosenburg will, through a slide lecture (with, as she notes "a lot of slides") talk about the objective attitude which men have taken throughout the centuries of art history towards women. THE WOMAN AS OTHER IN THE ART OF MEN. By looking at the image of women, she will explore the concept of "man being the ONE and women being the Other." Women who have not had a free hand in the creation of her own image remains the objective extension of a man's idea.

Evelyn Roth will present a jersey fabric construction of 2 to 5 people assisted by Karen Rimmer who will add her dance ideas to the performance. In her works, Ms. Roth is concerned not only with aesthetic statements but also with ecological and environmental impact, as she very often involves recycled materials, for example her video tape works. Recently she has performed her works at the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam and the University of Paris. Her future plans include making a film of wearables in a beach setting and a performance at the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

Evelyn Roth

A concert on the Veena is to be presented by Lakshmi, a Phd student of physics at SFU. A native of southern India where she learned to play this instrument at the age of ten. The Veena is part of the carmatic music of southern India and is like a large Lute and an ancestor of the more familiar Sitar. She states the the Veena "is one of the most vocal of instruments and an expression of the nuance and the subtle ornament of South Indian music".

"Reel Feelings is an all-women media collective whose aim is to change the images of women as presented by the media." By way of comparison they will explore the media stereotype and the image we have of ourselves. This exploration will take the form of a video workshop.

Micheline Pellerin is from Montreal and is presently studying music at Vancouver City College. She will give a concert of traditional French Canadian as well as old country French songs. She describes the folk song as "a mirror which reflects tradition, culture, beliefs and tales of a specific ethnic group".

Transcendental Meditation under the direction of Diana Eckstadt and Teresa Gillah, two women who relate their experiences with consciousness to an artistic statement. That is believing in the "evolution of artistic consciousness in the individual", is achieved through transcendental meditation and the "Science of Creative Intelligence".

Women in literature will be represented by an open forum moderated by Eliza Komisar and will provide the audience with an opportunity to explore the "hazards and 'highs' of the writing profession". Audrey Thomas and Jane Rule will be discussing their work and drawing from their experience as women in literature. Among the topics to be discussed will be the actual concept of women's literature and Canadian literature. Works by Ms. Thomas include: Ten Green Bottles; Mrs. Blood; Munchmeyer; Prospero On The Island; Songs My Mother Taught Me. Those by Ms. Rule are: Desert of the Heart; This Is Not For You; Against The Season; Theme For Diverse Instruments, and a non-fictional work, Lesbian Images.

It promises to be an exciting and informative month. Take part and tune yourself into what women are doing as vital artists and individuals.

Renee Van Halm

WHY A WOMEN'S ART SHOW?

LUCY R. LIPPARD

In a few years, shows like this one will hopefully be unnecessary. For the time being, however, discrimination against women pervades the art world in subtle and often cruel forms. Women's shows serve to point out that there are indeed a huge number of unjustifiably unknown women artists, that they are not inferior to male artists, and, perhaps, that their concerns and sensibilities, like their experiences, are often different from those of their male colleagues. Whenever there is a Women's show or a Black Artists show, or any similarly "segregated" event, objections are raised on the basis that art is art and has no sex and color. That's all very well. *Art* has no sex and color; but *artists* do, and there has been unmistakable discrimination against artists of a certain sex and a certain color. A women's show is no more arbitrary a manner of bringing together a group of art works than is a show of "artists under 35", or "German Art Since 1945", or artists who paint people or landscapes or cats or abstractions. When you enter an exhibition you have to look at what is there individually, no matter how vague and arbitrary the label under which it is hanging. If you can't enjoy good art because it is hanging with other art by one political group or another, but you can enjoy good art if it is hung under the imposition of a movement or a jury or a theme or a curator's whim, then you probably aren't enjoying art anyway.

The most obvious manifestation of discrimination in the art world has been the absence of women's work from major galleries and museums. A couple of years ago even a sympathetic observer could dredge up the names of no more than 20 women artists who were known at all. Even other women artists had trouble doing so. This I suspect, was as much a psychological block on their part as a physical fact, having to do with not wanting to be identified as a "woman artist", a curious complaint since most of these people were perfectly ready to assert their femininity on all other levels. A simultaneous pride in uniqueness and underlying inferiority seemed then to affect the ranks of women artists themselves. Yet once the protests and meetings and shows began, women's own memories loosened up to the point where endless friends from art school who had been working away in silence suddenly began to surface, and groups began to get together for consciousness-raising, for esthetic discussion, for political actions, to remedy the years of suppression.

Grisly tales of maltreatment and inhumanity emerged from these sessions, including those from art school students whose professors classically discouraged them by saying things like "There are no great women artists and never will be" (see Linda Nochlin's answer to this in *Art News*, Jan. 1971); "Women can't use power tools"; "Women can't be sculptors"; or "All successful women sculptors are Lesbians"; "Sleep with me and I'll get you into Graduate School"; and, above all, "you'll just get married, there's no point in spending so much time on your work." This treatment was often handed out by well-meaning men so conditioned that it never occurred to them that they were making it impossible for many women to continue working. The survivors became understandably reluctant to identify with other women's art (understood as inferior art), thus encouraging the isolation which, until recently, made so many women artists accomplices to their own professional murders.

Nor do women art students have role models with whom they can identify, for although some 75% of the undergraduate student body in art schools are women, approximately 98% of their instructors are male. Thus it becomes clear to these students that women can't succeed when so few women teach, lecture, are invited as visiting artists, or are included in shows of such schools. Organizations like the Women's Art Registry*, a slide collection used by the organizers of this present show, and founded in response to the constant comment that "there are no women working in light, kinetics, conceptual art, large sculpture, etc."; like WEB (West East Bag), an international network of women artists' organizations; like the artists' consciousness-raising groups all over the country; like Women's Centers and Women's Co-Op galleries; these are beginning to indicate the tip of the iceberg that is women's art, and, at the same time, are beginning to provide ways for women who have followed husbands and families outside of the major art centers to keep in touch with each other.

*To be included in the Women's Art Registry, send four slides (labeled with your name, titles, dimensions and media), plus your name, address and phone number and any biographical information you wish, to Women's Art Registry, 138 Prince St., NYC 10012. They will be used by the organizers of exhibitions, writers, teachers, and potential employers. If you can afford it, a contribution to cover expenses will be much appreciated.

I joined the women's movement in 1970 when a group of artists got together as the Ad Hoc Women Artists' Committee to picket and perform guerilla actions at the Whitney Museum, whose staff was visiting almost no women's studios and including almost no women in the Annual Exhibitions. (We were successful in raising the percentage of women in the show that year from 4½% to 22%, and to 25% the next year; the other New York museums are worse than the Whitney). I became involved for endless reasons, but the most public one was the fact that as a working critic for five years, I had been guilty of the same lack of seriousness towards women's work as the museums and galleries. Although I had been an artist's wife and had had my own infuriating experiences in that role, I continued to go to men's studios and either disregard or patronize the woman artist who worked in a corner of her husband's space, or in the bedroom or kitchen. I was, I think, unconsciously responding to her sense of inferiority and insecurity as well as my own (my "reputation" depended on male support, etc.). And I was swallowing that ridiculous statement that all women are part-time artists, whether they are self-supporting or married or mothers.

Now, two years later, a lot has changed, but there is still an immense amount of changing yet to be done. One no longer hears, and expects to hear as a matter of course, comments from dealers like "I can't have a woman in the gallery, they're too difficult", or "We already *have* a woman", or "Collectors won't buy women's work", or "I liked her photographs but she was so pretty I didn't go to the studio because it might have been for the wrong reasons". Nor does the art press dare use the term "feminine" in a value-judgmental context, something that once caused many women to be literally afraid of using delicate line, sewn materials, household imagery, or pastel colors (especially pink!). Today the greatest compliment a woman artist can receive is no longer "you paint like a man".

The work in this show demonstrates a range of styles and ideas that make it impossible to pin down what a "feminine art" would be. Yet this remains one of the most fascinating aspects of suddenly being exposed to so much more art by women. There is no question that female *experience*, socially and biologically, is different from that of the male. Certain elements, such as circles, domes, obsessive repetition, over-all or particularly textural and sensuous emphasis, and centrally focused compositions, appear more frequently in women's work than in men's. But until women's place in society is indeed equalized, and extensive studies can be made of women's work freed from oppressive conditioning, it's anybody's guess as to why.

From the "Women's Kit"

labour

The 4th Annual Conference on Women's Rights was appropriatly held on Mother's Day weekend. Unfortunately, this meant that many of the Federation of Telephone Workers delegates were unable to attend. Mother's day is the busiest day of the year for long-distance operators. It also holds the record for "reverse" charges.

Linda Shuto, B.C. Teachers Federation gave us a stirring address -- telling us of the frustrating attempts to get a Women"s Studies Course included in the Secondary School cirriculum. The "Provincial Secondary Advisory Committee" wants a "Peoples Studies Course" instead.

Carolyn Gibbons, Legislative Director, B.C. Federation of Labour, in her talk on "Women and the Law" reminded us just how much we need law reform both Provincially and Federally. There is so much discriminatory legislation, usually badly interpreted by the courts. One of her examples was the infamous "Murdoch" case.

Kathleen Ruff, Director, Human Rights Act, spoke on this progressive piece of legislation. She hopes the Act will be proclaimed in July. (Perhaps we should lobby our MLA's regarding this.)

Chris Waddell, Director, Women"s Bureau, Department of Labour, told of her work with unorganized workers, new Canadians, and students. Her department provides the public with information regarding the Labour Act, and will investigate suspected violations.

A sparkling highlight was the address by Jean Bezusky, Associate Registrar, Labour College of Canada. It is interesting to note that while only 3% of the graduates of the Labour College are women, (and Jean is one of them), that she was able to get the appointment as Associate Registrar. When Ms. Bezusky was a student at the Labour College, the only female at the time, the students has informal get-togethers in taverns. They chose a "men only" bar. Ms. Bezusky went along, and when they came out, this gusty 21 year old girl was sitting on the steps reading a book by a flashlight. They changed their get-togethers to a desegrated bar. Jean tells me there are still "men only " bars in Montreal.

Workshops revealed that while many delegates wished to get more active in their unions, many of them felt they were ignorant of Parliamentary Procedures etc., this led to the information that many unions hold seminars and schools giving instruction in these subjects, and also in Shop Steward instruction, Grievance Procedures, Arbitration, Collective Bargaining and Labour Law. Courses are also given by the Vancouver and District Labour Council, and the B.C. and District Labour Council.

We were in agreement that the "union " way was the only way to obtain decent salaries and working conditions. It was pointed out that B.C. Federation of Labour is glad to give advice and assistance to anyone wishing to any group of employees wishing to organize.

The Conference voted to send a telegram to the powers that be in Quebec protesting the overthrow of the jury decision acquiting Dr. Morgantaler.

We agreed to ask our local unions, to work through the B.C. Federation of Labour for the establishment of a Ministry of Women's Rights. We wish them to again protest the discriminitory separate minimum wage rates for people under 18. (The B.C. Federation of Labour has been the only group to protest so far.) We also agreed to ask our local unions help in suggesting to the Department of Education, that Parliamentary Proceduar, Rules of Order, and Public Speaking be included in all English Courses in our Secondary Schools.

Great enthusiasm was generated by this conference among all delegates. Hopefully, next year's conference will be even bigger and better.

"I hope women in the labour movement, and all those who are organizing, or wish to organize, will keep us informed of their progress. Let us know of any newsworthy items. Muriel Warwicker

CONCERNING WOMEN AND YOU

Dr. Katie Cook's excellent resume "What Has Been Done?", the story of various government departments' progress in implementing recommendations contained in the Royal Commission on the Status of Women Report, has been published. Supplies have been ordered and will be sent to you as soon as available.

More news from directions about women gaining full equality in the labour force...Cassiar Asbestos have women on staff both in B.C. and the Yukon. In the B.C. operation 12 women have moved up from entry level jobs and a few have progressed even further, working as "dumpmen". ...MacMillan Bloedel have publicly stated that their policy is one of equal opportunity in employment in all locations; their Chemainus mill now has two female employees, one on the green chain and the other a trip drop sorter (the first women in the mill since World War 2!)

An interesting trip for me to Pemberton was highlighted by the mill foreman at Evans Products shutting down the mill to allow me to talk with 13 or the 60 persons on shift who are women. Some have been on the job for better than two years. What they like most is the pay. This particular mill foreman suggests that women could be trained as saw filers - anyone interested in this apprenticeable trade training?

Sonia Blum, Coordinator, Women's Employment in Ottawa, has left us for a post with the Privvy Council. Sonia has, in a very short time, sone much to promote the cause of women often in a very hostile climate - we hate to see her go, but wish her luck.

Discussions are taking place to determine the feasibility of recruiting and training from the Squamish area to work in the box car plant under construction there - we hope this will provide an opportunity for women in Squamish to become part of the labour force.

From Bob Diether, Forestry Consultant, Employment Development Division.. There are crummy women drivers everywhere, but only B.C. has women crummy drivers.

domestic work

"Liberated women deny to their domestic or private household employees - those who free her (the liberated woman) from the need to stay home - the same advantages they seek for themselves. Private household employees are among the lowest paid and least protected workers in the labor force," says Doris B. McLaughlin of the Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations at the University of Michigan.

Career women who espouse the principle of women's liberation are seeking a better society and working conditions. They have no interest in providing such opportunities for women who work in their homes. Having been a domestic day worker myself, I can attest to this. I worked for a middle aged woman with a beautiful home and no doubt her husband had a good job. However, she was an office worker and she complained one day that I was making as a dayworker almost as much money an hour as she, an office worker.

Why should I earn less. Is not my job as important and meaningful as hers She would probably argue that it took more education and preparation for her job. Domestic work requires hard work and preparation. Some day her job may be performed by a computer. But people will always need to eat and to keep their homes clean. There will always be a need for cooks, cleaners, etc. So how about it gals out there - how about equality for the entire sorority.

Marie Cockburn

a moral responsibility

Dr. Henry Morgentaler, a Montreal physician, has been a defender of a woman's right to abortion for the last seven years. He has demonstrated that abortions can be performed safely and without hospitalization up to twelve weeks of pregnancy by the vacuum suction method in his Montreal clinic. By defying an unjust law, which makes abortion a crime unless it is approved by a 3-man hospital committee, Dr. Morgentaler has responded to the needs of many Canadian women. Dr. Morgentaler has performed abortions on women from six Canadian provinces, those include the Maritimes, Quebec and Ontario.

In his May 4th address to a Toronto rally, Dr. Morgentaler said in part: "Those who intimidate and close down doctor's clinics offering safe abortions to women are condemning women to die and be injured by quacks. They carry a moral if not direct criminal responsibility for the suffering of women unable to obtain medical abortions and should be held accountable for their acts, even if they act in the name of the law.

Dr. Morgentaler was brought to trial on a charge of performing an illegal abortion last fall. A 12-person Quebec jury found him not guilty of the charge. The acquittal was a victory for Canadian women and their struggle for freely available abortion. The jurors reflected the widespread opposition to the abortion laws and the widespread support for Dr. Mogentaler. The most recent polls show that a majority of Canadians oppose these restrictive laws. The jury's decision, however, was overruled by the appointed judges nal code, on which Dr. Morgentaler's defense was based, could not be used in abortion cases. This article protects doctors from prosecution if the medical acts they perform are carried out with 'reasonable care and skill' and for the health of the patient. Justice Dube explained his ruling against Dr. Morgentaler by saying that if article 45 were upheld, "it would, in other words, allow abortion on demand". This action is clearly designed to keep women in their traditional role of enforced motherhood.

Justice minister, Otto Lang made the statement that abortions are too easy to get and he has asked hospitals to clamp down on abortions, expressing concern that some hospital committees "are operating in a fashion that virtually is abortion on demand". Lang declared that his moves were having the desired effect. He said that some hospital committtees have begun obeying the spirit of the law. In his opinion, "that abortion, except in very limited circumstances, ought to remain a crime". If all provinces followed Lang's example, virtually no women would have access to abortion. As minister of justice, Lang is attorney-general for the two northern territories. He boasts that he has made sure that social and economic factors are not grounds for abortions there. In Saskatchewan, reactionary forces are moving to further restrict the limited number of abortions being done in that province. Regina has imposed a $150 fee above medicare for all abortions, and the Saskatoon City Hospital has announced that no abortions would be performed past the 12 week pregnancy. The Vancouver General Hospital has imposed a 6-months residence requirement for all women seeking abortions.

Dr. Morgentaler concluded his address to a Toronto rally by saying: "Our fight is a fight for human rights, for freedom to choose, freedom of conscience, freedom of religion, Our fight will demand sacrifice, and effort, sustained effort. I am determined to continue this fight until this basic right of women to control their reproduction and to obtain abortion when needed, in safety and dignity is achieved. Together we shall overcome!"

The recently concluded Foulkes Report on Health in B.C. calls for provincial pressure on the federal government to remove abortion from the Criminal Code, for increased abortion facilities throughout B.C. and increased contraceptive programs. Women can exert pressure by writing to provincial health minister, Dennis Cocke, to implement the Foulkes Report recommendations and to federal justice minister, Otto Lang, to remove abortion from the criminal code. Women can also challenge the candidates in the federal election for their stand on abortion.

There are committees to defend Dr. Morgentaler in all the major Canadian cities. In Vancouver, the Committee to defend Dr. Morgentaler is working in conjunction with the Vancouver Health Collective and the Health-Subcommittee of the NDP Women's Rights Committee to bring pressure to bear on provincial and federal governments. The abortion issue will also be dealt with at the upcoming Women's Health Symposium on Sat., June 22, at the Bayview School, 2251 Collingwood.

Gisela Filion

sports

Women in Sport Conference - May 24-26 - Toronto

Self-admittedly, women physical educators and women athletes have been the last group to have representation in the women's movement. Although public awareness of discrimination against girl and women in sport has increased greatly, the women most directly involved have often not recognized these discriminatory practices as being part of the pattern of sexism that exists throughout the society.

Marian Lay, Administrator for Sport Canada, in recognizing this problem created a conference that would give women in sport the first opportunity to view clearly the whole spectrum of discrimination that exists in our country. At the same time women from the movement were given the chance to become acquainted with the special problems that exist in sport. The delegates responded in an enormously positive way to the four major speakers. Laura Sabia (Ontario Status of Women Council) discussed the political system and the relationship between the sport community and other institutions. The women's movement as deviant behaviour and the socialization of children and athletes were discussed by Dr. Esther Greenglass, (psychologist, York University.)

On the final morning, we listened to Abbie Hoffman (political scientist and world class middle-distance runner) examine the role of sports women in the women's movement. As Abbie said, "I care about Ms. Murdoch, I care about Ms. Murdoch, I care about the legal and economic system that constantly deprives women, I care about the fact that little girls have few physical fitness opportunities."

The daily workshops (Women in Competition, Sport for Girl Children, Women in Coaching, Status of Women in Physical Education, Women and Sport Media, ETC.) developed countless recomendations that government and private institutions These will be in Kinesis in the near future.

The final speaker was Marian Lay. She spoke about her own life as a woman athlete (having to wear long-sleeved blouses for ten years to hide her muscles) and why she had decided to do something about it. Her calling of this conference clearly activated the one hundred most influential women in the Canadian Sport Community.

Note: May Brown authored a conference telegram to Mr. Lalonde, Minister of National Health and Welfare, calling for greater female representation on the National Advisory Council On Fitness and Amateur Sport. Women presently hold two outtof thirty positions. Lalonde has not responded to the telegrams. However, when Joan Wallace contacted him, he made the old claim that the government has had difficulty finding qualified people. Those interested should send resumes to the Department of National Health and Welfare, Ottowa.

G.S.

media action

Recently the media action group received a letter which suggested that the women's movement had much more important issues to be dealing with than the Benson & Hedges ad (May Kinesis). Where was our sense of humour?

We are a group of volunteers who believe that the way women are viewed in society is directly influenced by the images produced by the mass media. The intangible aspects of sexism are just as important as the more tangible forms of discrimination. As more women verbalize their disgust with sexist ads, the ads will change - just as the stereotyped image of the smiling, shuffling black disappeared when it became no longer acceptable to portray blacks in that way.

The Royal Commission on the Status of Women describes clearly the impact of advertising:

Stereotypes are perpetuated by the mass media. Day after day, advertising reinforces and exploits stereotypes to achieve greater sales by repeating the idea that the "real" woman and the "real" man use this or that product. Although men as well as women are stereo typed, the results may be more damaging for women since advertising encourages feminine dependency by urging women not to act but to be passive, not to really achieve but to live out their aspirations in the imagination and in dreams.

Woman is often presented as a sex object, defined as a superficial creature who thinks only of her appearance, who sees herself mainly in terms of whether she is attractive to men. She conforms to the beauty and youth standards which men are said to want of her. In a study prepared for the Commisssion, it was found that 89% of the women pictured in Canadian newspapers and magazines are less than 35 years of age. As presented by the advertiser, women are hardly ever associated with intelligence, sincerity, culture, originality or talent. Instead, they are depicted as being young, elegant, and beautiful. Repetition is a "hidden persuader" in advertising, an especially effective tool influencing children and young girls to aspire to constraining models and low ideals.

MAG

women in the mass media

The way women are portrayed in most women's magazine fiction, TV commercials, cartoons and soap operas continues to mirror society's adamant resistance to any changes in attitudes towards traditional roles and stereotypes.

Such is the conclusion arrived at recently by the authors of nine reports on role, image, and message published in the Spring 1974 issue of the Journal of Communication (University of Pennsylvania). Since the symposium on women in the media published in this quarterly is of interest to all women concerned with society's attitudes regarding women, I'll give a brief report on the content of the various articles.

Society's reactionary attitudes are evident, for instance, in women's magazine fiction. Between 1940 and 1970 the image and role of the women portrayed in the fiction of Ladies Home Journal, McCalls, and Good Housekeeping has not changed much, according to Helen H. Franzwa. In her study on female roles in the fiction of these three magazines, Ms. Franzwa, a professor of communications at City University of New York, found that "women were portrayed in one of four ways: single and looking for a husband; housewife-mother; spinster; widowed or divorced-soon to remarry. In each of these portrayals, the one element defining all women was the presence or absence of a man in their lives. Instead of portraying women as individuals with specific defining characteristics, these stories presented them as creatures who were defined by the men in their lives."

Besides, "in 1955, 1960, 1965, and 1970, not a single married women who worked appeared in the stories sampled," Ms. Franzwa writes in "Working Women in Fact and Fiction."

Now, if we turn to television, women in TV commercials don't fare much better. Alice E. Courtney and Thomas W. Whipple, both of York University, Toronto, report the following in their article "Women in TV Commercials": "...the results of the four studies provide evidence that women are not portrayed as autonomous, independent human beings, but are primarily sex-typed. ...Moveover, the studies show minimal improvement during the two-year period examined. ...Women's roles continued to change and expand at a faster rate than the advertisers' response during that time period. Advertisers are lagging far behind role changes in their portrayal of women."

Worse than lagging behind, we might say. Advertisers show gross insensitivity to the whole philosophy and ideology of the women's movement, or we wouldn't have offensive ads such as that Benson and Hedges ad in Canadian magazines recently.

Another researcher, Helen White Streicher, of the Institute for Juvenile Research, Illinois Department of Mental Health, was wondering whether females were doing any better in the cartoons than they were in children's books. Well, no, they weren't. After weeks of watching cartoons on Saturday and Sunday mornings, Ms. Streicher reports in "The Girls in the Cartoons": "Help, save me!" is their most frequent cry, except in the teachy-preachy variety. ...When we come to the teachy-preachy cartoons, girls are still outnumbered by boys, but they sometimes have more important roles."

So, wherever you turn, it's the same old story. Cartoons, like almost anything else around us, continue to perpetuate the traditional attitudes towards sex roles and stereotypes. The findings of Ms. Streicher ring a familiar bell. Divisions along sex lines are still very much with us.

Summing up her findings, she writes: "Cartoon females were less numerous than males, made fewer appearances, had fewer lines, played fewer 'lead roles,' were less active, occupied many fewer positions of responsibility, were less noisy, and were more preponderantly juvenile than males. Mothers worked only in the house; males did not participate in housework. In many activities in which girls showed some form of skill (eg. cheerleading), their performance was duplicated by a dog or other pet."

And so it goes, always the same old story. That's why I wasn't surprised at all when I came to Ann Beuf's article, "Doctor, Lawyer, Household Drudge." Ms. Beuf, a professor of sociology at the University of Pennsylvania, after investigating sex role perception of children born since the women's movement, found that their perception shows very little change.

The conclusions of Ms. Beuf's study are as follows: "...regardless of the amount of attention the women's liberation movement has attracted, children are still learning about a role structure which is sex-typed, especially in the occupational sphere. It also tells us that children as young as four or five hold the same kind of stereotypes about careers that sociologists and movement women have noted in American society as a whole. It appears that, as well as knowing their sex, preschool children know the social implications and limitations of that sexual definition. The television viewing data indicate that the more children see of the world, as it is presented by everyday cultural purveyors, the more likely they are to apply sex stereotypes to careers."

More and more it seems to me that attitudes towards sex roles and stereotypes will only begin to change concretely and positively when women gain power. There won't be any equality without a balance of power.

- Eloah F. Giacomelli

tv images

Caricatures are meant to be funny, but women are no longer laughing." The comment comes from an eighty seven page brief presented to the CRTC. The work of over 60 women from 14 to 65 years of age, the brief states that women are "mis-represented, under-represented, and discriminated against" by the CBC English language TV network. The group which is backed by Women for Political Action and the Ontario Committee on the Status of Women monitored programs for a three month period. Their comments cover all areas of programming - news, public affairs, variety, sports and children's programs. Their findings show that women are demeaned in every area, if they are considered at all.

"CBC TV newscasters have consistently reported women's stories in either a snide or a humourous way", the brief says. Stories about women appear during slack news periods or as a light note on which to end a newscast. Over a 2½ month period only eight programs contained a woman as a newsmaker. "Of 169 various human beings who contributed to the daily history of the planet only 11 were female. that comes to 6.5 % female involvement in the world." The report suggests that sufficient funds be provided to establish a good Women's News Journal produced and staffed by women broadcasters.

On 22 public affairs programs, 28 men appeared as hosts and co-hosts with only 7 women sitting in the co-host chair. Out of 148 guests 28 were female.

Indicative of the way women's sports are covered is the placement of footage of Betsy Clifford's performance in the World Cup Ski Race after the Wexford Minor Boys Hockey results. Yet, women bring home the largest number (proportionate to the number of sports in which they may participate) of medals from World, Olympic, and Commonwealth competition.

In the opinion of the brief writers, the CBC should scrap most current daytime programs and develop entirely new ones that are "pertinent to the lives of Canadian women in the '70's.

For example, what passes for humour on Luncheon date comes from ridiculing women. Petticoat Junction is "blatantly sexist, vicious and trite". It "embodies and reinforces every negative stereotype about the female sex." Juliette and Friends features "interior decoration for homes and exterior decoration of women. On air Juliette is brow-beaten by all the men who surround her. Their lack of respect for her is obvious and she is treated with the condecension reserved for mindless women." The new CBC drama series in the making, "House of Pride", should be rewritten. The female characters are a woman "who has acknowledged at 38 that love and marriage have passed her by", and a sister whose emotions rule her more than her brain". The two producers and four script writers are all males.

The researchers feel that commercials should be withdrawn. They present a world in which men have authority and women have clean kitchen floors.

As far as children's programming goes, the kids are not being provided with positive self-images on which to build. Women are still under-represented in human, puppet, and cartoon characterizations.

The brief was presented to the CRTC, Ottawa, in hearings held during the third week of February. We hope to be able to print a follow up report on the results.

K.S.

Women are misrepresented and exploited in advertisements. They are stereotyped, demeaned and objectified. They are either perpetually shown as young, alluring sex objects, hovering in the background of some masculine-oriented action, or else the female form is used to sell products completely unrelated to it. Advertisements relentlessly exhort women to buy consumer goods, sprays, clothes and cosmetics in order to be "totally-feminine and acceptable".

Men are misrepresented and exploited too, but, until now, not in a negative way. The man in the advertisement is driving a car, (equipped with admiring female companion). He is young, slim, and good-looking, sprinting along a beach, three paces ahead of a woman, or gazing into the distance, puffing a cigarette, manfully.

Suddenly, there is a new brand of advertisement aimed at men. Tucked into the back pages of Esquire an advertisement appears for a deep moisturizer complete with Vitamins A, D and E, which help fade away facial lines and wrinkles. "Stroke it on once or twice a day and help prevent that old look", men are told. An advertisement in Newsweek, May 1974, introduces "Male Comfort Spray" - indispensable for the crotch area, and on Georgia Street a grinning 25 year-old springs out from a billboard, rakishly nude from the navel up, arms akimbo, assuring us that with a specific brand of underwear, there are 430 different ways.

What does it prove? Not that sexual exploitation of women is undesirable and is currently being denounced by women, but that it is profitable to manipulate human beings and their insecurities, and that exploitation of men is an area previously largely untouched, and just beginning to blossom.

It seems that some vital point has been missed here. Instead of a healthier, more realistic image for women, the advertising industry offers a more objectified image for men. They, too, are being encouraged to drift around on a cloud of conflicting and synthetic smells, and are being more consistently pressured to conform to a stereotype.

Presumably, we can wait with bated breath for the day when women's earning power warrants an onslaught of advertisements for consumer items which if acquired will lead, by implication, to the acquisition, use and enjoyment of a sexy, virile, young man who happens to be draped in or around said consumer item.

No one is saying that advertisements could not serve a purpose to bring to the notice of the consumer the products which are available. What is objectionable is the economic advantage big business gains by exaggerating and sustaining the differences between the sexes, creating insecurities and then capitalizing on them, playing men and women off one against the other in order to sell them products they think they need. In this way both are induced to chase the wrong ideal and to buy products to correct or compensate for the alleged inadequacies. This is all the more potent because of the emphasis on the young, slim, beautiful theme.

The only bright spot in this new development of male exploitation in the advertising industry is that it might bring some men up with a jolt to make the connection in their minds with the unfair and negative image with which women have been saddled.

Maybe, just maybe, with the exploitation of men as objects in advertisements, they will feel that since it is uncomfortable for them and they are annoyed at the pressure, that women might feel like that too.

Everybody is constantly held in check by people in their environment setting limits to the kinds of behaviour they will tolerate. The disservice women have done men until recently (and I truly hesitate to lay anything more at their door for fear of misinterpretation) is in tolerating the attitudes toward them in advertisements.

Increasingly, women are saying what they think - that advertisements generally demean them, that they are not as portrayed in them, and they do not want to be used in that way. In so saying, however, they do not simply want the pendulum to swing to the other side and exploitation of men in advertisements to begin where exploitation of women ended.

- Brenda Austin

herstory

dr. barry

Dr. Barry, small, slim, aquiline-featured and hot-tempered, graduated in medicine from Edinburgh University in 1812. He entered the British Army, advanced rapidly in rank and served in far-flung parts of the Empire. Called by colleages an unsociable little beast, he fought several duels and flirted outrageously with fellow officers' wives. He was detested, personally, as much as he was admired professionally. Finally, he came to Canada as inspector-general of military hospitals, later was made inspector-general of British military hospitals throughout the world. In 1865 Dr. James Barry died. As his body was being prepared for burial, the undertaker was shocked. "My God!" he exclaimed in disbelief, "he's a woman!" Not only that, but an autopsy revealed that Dr. Barry had borne a child. There were rumors of a royal romance.

from:
Leading Ladies by Jean Bannerman
reproduction from the Women's Kit

st. catherine of sienna

Six hundred years ago an Italian girl named Catherine Benincasa built an inner cell in her soul and, thus fortified, went out into public service and international diplomacy. Construction of this resource centre deep within the core of her Self took three years of solitary labour. In 1363, at the age of sixteen, she was ready to begin a career, which was to take her from the streets and jails of Sienna to the inner sanctuaries of the Vatican. Imagine her as an ideal combination of Joan Baez and Henry Kissinger, captivating mobs with charismatic rhapsodies about Peace and Love, bullying heads of state into substituting negotiation for warfare.

As the illiterate, female, twenty-third child of a small tradesman, Catherine was well aware of her lack of obvious qualifications. But, she argued, God had commanded her to proceed. Since He had created everyone - and both sexes - He was clearly entitled to choose any agent He pleased to carry out His projects. His instructions were to act manfully, doing whatever had to be done without hesitating or respecting persons, certainly without worrying whether society would consider such vigorous action appropriate to one's sex. This concept of acting manfully seamed useful enough to pass on with sisterly greeting to the Queen of Naples.

The Benincasa parents of course expected Catherine to marry the nice boy they picked out for her.' boy they chose for her. She sidestepped this destiny by announcing her betrothal to Christ. A true partner in marriage, she assumed her husband's professional tasks of peacemaking and healing, even performing a few of his favourite type of miracle. In a move which seems more like identification than wifely devotion, she acquired the pains of his crucifixion wounds and his legendary life-span of thirty-three years.

Other women have claimed devine betrothals, but she must have made a more practical companion than most of the ecstatic fiancees in the calendar of saints.

Catherine's primary goal was to reform and reunite the Church, which stank with corruption and was split between the rival holy cities of Rome and Avignon. Her efforts began on a local level with prayer marathons and protest marches directed against the papal legates. Others who realized the need for action but had lacked leadership joined her. She was proof that one could make a committment to serve God and one's fellow creatures without leaving secular life. The only cloister necessary was the inner cell within the soul.

Some of the most distinguished of those who had chosen the literal cloister recognized the value of her common sense and forceful personality. With Raymond of Capua, General of the Dominican Order, she engaged in theological discussions to the benefit of both.

Campaigning prison reform and public health, Catherine went into the jails and reported the injustice she found there. When the Plague struck Sienna, she was evidently immune, after years of gradually increasing abstinence and subjugation of her body. Some of the victims whom she visited were healed. Others found dying bearable because a human being stayed with them and loved them, despite their contagion.

Annoyed by the blundering of Great Men, she wrote to them, pointing out the problems to be solved and urging immediate solution. The obstacle of her illiteracy was overcome by recruiting literate disciples to whom she dictated her amazing correspondence. King Charles V of France was told to stop fooling around and end his stupid war. Pope Gregory XI required continual prodding to take a stand. Letters proving insufficent, Catherine travelled to Rome, Avignon and Florence, trying to reconcile factions and put some backbone into St. Peter's descendent. The city of Florence especially requested her help in its difficulties with the French papacy. She did avert a war and return the Pope to Rome, though without healing the breach in the church hierarchy. As the scope of her influence was realized, she was in continual physical danger from those who saw an advantage in silencing her. When Gregory's successor, Urban VI, called on her for help, her letters rounded up support from Germany, Hungary and Sweden.

Just before her life was cut short by illness and exhaustion, she dictated The Book of Divine Doctrine which is said to rival Dante's Divine Comedy as a classic of Italian literature.

Secular, poor, uneducated, female she made a difference to history. We can use a saint such as Catherine of Sienna sho urges us to act manfully and lovingly. If you know you have to do something, she would say, for heaven's sake go ahead and do it.

Pray for Women's Rights in Canada? Some of us did, on April 30, the Feast of St. Catherine of Sienna.

Phyllis Reeve

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thank you, grace

Long before the legislation was passed Grace MacInnis was pressing for maternity benefits for working women, to provide equal survivor benefits under C.P.P. and living allowances for women in Manpower training programmes. It is Grace MacInnis who has always been at the forefront of the battle to take abortion out of the criminal code, and to better consumer protection.

For the most part, she has been alone. Between 1968 and 1972, she was the only woman M.P. First elected to the Federal parliament in 1965 Grace called for salaries for home-makers and liberalization of the abortion law in her first speech.

But Grace MacInnis had begun her fight for women many years before. She served in the provincial legislature between 1941 and 1945. In 1943, she stated that "women should have equal opportunity with men for training, for work, and getting employment as well as advancement... equality with men must be given in the new world."

She has been accorded international acclaim and in 1971, the French magazine, Marie Claire listed Ms. MacInnis as one of the fifty most important women in the world.

Grace will be taking a sea voyage and then she says "I'll come back to Vancouver and perhaps be able to put my knowledge to work in a voluntary way for a good purpose. I would love to be able to work with groups who are anxious to put pressure on governments to lobby for things in a knowledgeable way." Ombudswoman 1976?

G.S.

Vancouver Status of Women would like to thank Grace MacInnis for all she has accomplished for women during her long career.

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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8PM - Office

July 15 - NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

July 25 - ORIENTATION
8PM - Office

August 8 - ORIENTATION
8PM - Office

August 13 - NEWSLETTER MEETING
7:30 PM - Office

August 22 - ORIENTATION MEETING
8PM - Office

Other groups will be meeting through the summer. For dates and further information concerning these groups, please phone, 736-3746.

THERE WILL BE NO GENERAL MEETINGS UNTIL SEPTEMBER