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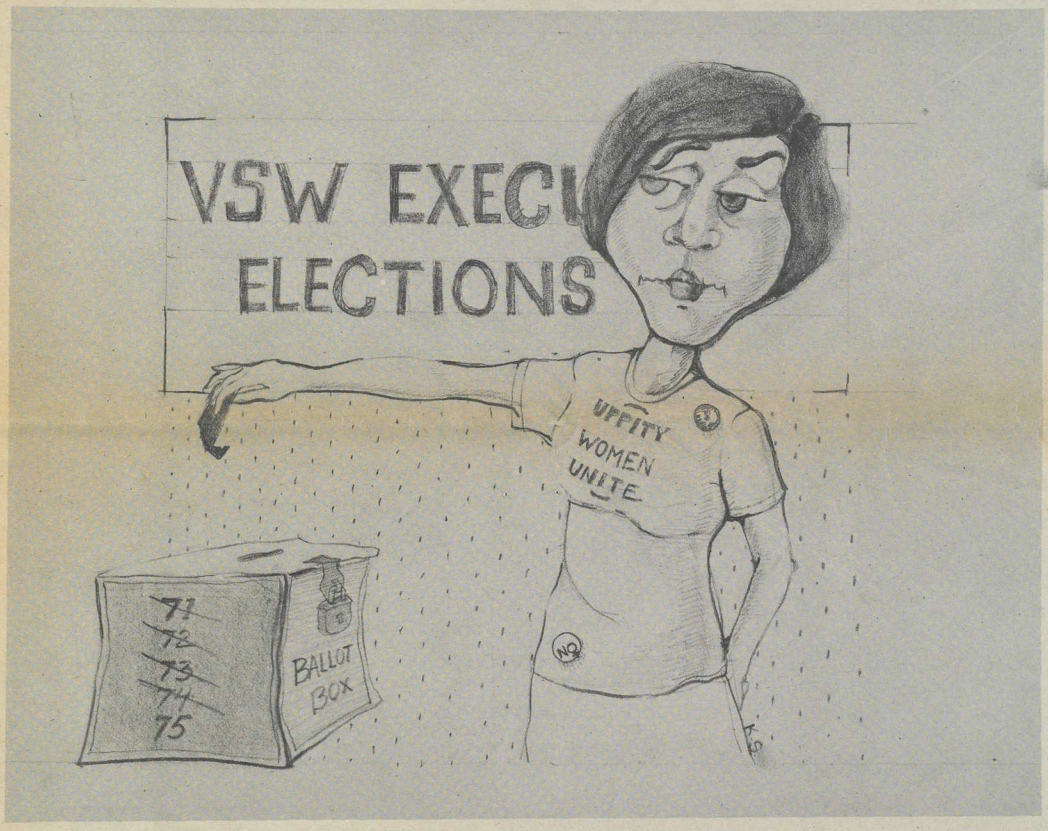
# kinesis

JUNE 1975 HAPPY I.W.Y. '75

Vancouver Status of Women 2029 W. Fourth Ave. 738-3748-7-8 Volume V No. 45




It's no news to you that we are constantly urging women to get involved, to participate, wherever they can, in processes that lead to decisions. We hope to set an example within our own organization with a big turnout for the Annual General Meeting. This is our opportunity to discuss any aspect we wish of the work of the VSW and, more importantly, to elect the officers who will represent US in the coming year in setting VSW policy and direction. Ours is an organization which has achieved considerable recognition, respect and clout. A significant part of this is our membership strength. How about a show of strength on June the 17th?

The following women are candidates for the Vancouver Status of Women Board of Directors for 1975-76. Each candidate was asked to respond to two questions: a) what would you like to say about yourself? b) why would you like to serve on the Vancouver Status of Women Board of Directors?

# =CANDIDATES

PRESIDENT - one to be elected

Nancy Conrod
June, 1973, I joined VSW volunteering use of my languishing law degree --immediately up to my ears in a labour brief--thence to the Ombud-service--the perfect job, perfect people, perfect conditions for re-entering the labour force after a horrible job and two year break. I'm now using what I learned at VSW in a new labour relations job.

The women's movement and more specifically VSW are doing some of the most important work in the world--working for power to direct and form our own lives, for our legal and social equality and for an atmosphere in which we can all develop our talents and skills fully. I want to be involved in that work and do what I can to further it.

VICE-PRESIDENT - one to be elected

Jo Lazenby
My involvement with VSW during the past 2½ years has been of great value to me. I have received support in my own personal gropings and (I hope) growth. And there is the good feeling of doing work that is exciting and purposeful!

I really believe that if women work together towards common goals and support one another we can bring about the social and legal changes that we need. I want to be part of that work.

SECRETARY - one to be elected

Judy Bourne
My introduction to the Women's Movement occured July 29, 1974, when I was hired by the VSW for the position of bookkeeper. From that time I have seen myself slowly but surely learning and growing and letting go of my "I can't" attitudes.

I feel that being secretary of the VSW Board of Directors would give me a positive strike against another "I can't". Just to be in the position of having to write this blurb is a positive feeling and I want to contribute to VSW to ensure more of these feelings for me and for all women.

Pat Williams
I would like the opportunity to serve on the VSW Board of Directors because I feel it would be a very interesting and challenging position and would help to expand my knowledge of the Women's Movement. It would be a way I could be useful to the VSW.

I feel my qualifications are adequate to serve as Secretary. I have had several clerical-secretarial positions in various companies in Vancouver and Toronto during the past ten years. I am presently employed with The Bay at Champlain Mall as Store Secretary. I am also Secretary-Treasurer of the Store's Social Club. My typing and shorthand skills are average. I enjoy working with people, sports, crocheting, and dabbling in arts and crafts.

TREASURER -- 1 to be elected

Sandra Price
Thirty-three years old, married, one daughter 11 years old. Just passed last CGA exam and waiting to be accepted as a member. Presently have my own private practice in Burnaby. Got actively involved in the women's movement only recently and joined a consciousness-raising group in Burnaby--a most positive experience.

Feel deeply about individual freedom and want to contribute to the organization that is working so actively to eliminate discrimination and stereotyped thinking. I would like my daughter to enter a world where she is entirely free in her own mind, free from outside influence, free to choose and experience anything that life has to offer--not to fit into a role limited by the rules of society.

MEMBER-AT-LARGE -- 6 to be elected

Diana R. Douglas
I have been an ardent feminist for the last three years only, can't understand why I didn't 'click' sooner, but I am trying to make up for those lost years. Have been a member-at-large for a year, served on the B.C.F.W. Steering Committee on behalf of the VSW and currently belong to the Federal Action Committee.
Age 29, publisher, married, one child.

After gaining a year's experience as a member-at-large, I feel that I can contribute much more on a second term and I am very eager to serve the feminist movement and grow with the VSW.

Nancy Denofreo
I want to give the same answer to both questions. I'm married, three children, one and seven-eights full-time jobs (but that's progress--it used to be two full-time jobs.) I have 34 years experience as a female, a special empathy with housewives and a belief that the VSW is an organization that is open, hard-working and committed to represent all women.

Lee Grills
The personal experiences of my life, joys and sorrows, are not very different from those of the general membership. I am a feminist because these experiences raised my level of consciousness to the point of seeking more active involvement.
My long association with women's rights includes:
National Organization for Women (NOW) --credit and "community property" law changes
Women In Community Service (WICS) --assisting "disadvantaged" people to acquire decent employment.
These plus my expertise in the business world would enable me to be an excellent representative for the membership.

Dorothy Holme
Who am I? I have been a member of VSW for one year and am presently coordinating the Letter Lobby Committee. This has been a most satisfying experience. I also attend Douglas College on a part-time basis--Political Science, Women's Studies, Journalism--and these courses have helped me tremendously when dealing with wily politicians.

A major problem faced by women today is their inability to come to grips with authoritarian figures. Why? Our "conditioning" has told us that we are never quite as capable, or as knowledgeable as those in power. I know this to be a myth and believe as a member of the VSW Board of Directors, I can help other women to realize their full potential.

Viviane Hotz
Born 1947, Swiss, MS in Architecture. Came to Canada two years ago, joined VSW as soon as I came across a poster. Have been member of Newsletter Committee for over a year.
Main interests: education of women, promoting non-traditional occupations, re-evaluation of architecture and city planning--both playing a vital part in our daily life--under women's point of view.

Why I am running--to learn, and because as a feminist architect I can contribute from a point of view that may be new to the VSW be bringing attention and information to problems that we feel but are hard to define and are often rooted in the wrong handling of "space" (privacy in the family, public use of space, working conditions, etc).

Lee Masters
I wrote these words to welcome Dr. Morgentaler to the Unitarian Church in 1974. They are me, and you, and people who care.

That which I believe in I must do.
That which I cannot believe in,
I cannot do.
What price will I pay for being
true to myself?
If I lose me, I have nothing.

I was invited to run, and I believe in the goals of the VSW.

Karen Richardson
It was like coming home when I started work a year ago with VSW and WCWN, after being a secretary. Now I'm a feminist writer! I do more typing than ever, but at least it's my own shitwork!

So much remains to be done to raise the status of women. It is exhiliarating to work hard with support from female colleagues and know you are making head way. So long, apathy.

MORE ON PAGE THREE

# candidates cont'd....

Susan Sanderson

I have been living in Vancouver for five years and am presently living with two other women. Several years ago I attended V.C.C. Langara, taking the Art in Merchandising course.

This course led me into my present job as a Display Person with a department store.
I have been a member of VSW for two years and during the last year have participated in several activities: action media, communication skills workshop, and verbal self-defense. I am also a member of B.C.F.W.

My personal feelings concerning the movement have become such that I want to devote more time and energy encouraging the increased awareness of the changing roles of women.

Sandra Yasin

I think that my experience and training of the past two years (UBC M.A. Counselling Psychology) has helped prepare me to work with women. I feel good about my ability to make and implement decisions and believe also that I am able to listen to and communicate with people.

I believe in growth and change and intend to encourage and facilitate this as a Board member. I want to help develop local women's potential as well as continue to learn and establish myself. Finally, I'd be thrilled and honoured if elected to serve.

Hanne Jensen

I have served one term as Member-at-Large, am a past Vice-President of VSW, and am this year's Nominating Officer. I am employed as a Human Rights Officer.

# Rally

Feminists rallied at the Vancouver Courthouse on Mother's Day, May 11, to protest government inaction on women's rights legislation for International Women's Year.

Approximately 150 women, children and men, challenged the government to prove its concern over the oppression of women by passing laws recommended by the Royal Commission on the Status of Women, five years ago.

Speakers represented a cross-section of the Vancouver's women's movement--the Women's Health Collective, Rape Relief, Child Care Federation and the Women's Bookstore. Among other things they called for:
1. affirmative action plans to secure equal job opportunities for women.
2. establishment of a federal human rights commission.
3. repeal of the abortion laws to make abortion equally accessible to all women.
4. free 24-hour day care for all families in need.
5. amendments to rape law to make victim's sexual history inadmissible evidence.
6. community property laws to recognize homemaker's contribution to marriage.
7. pension plans for housewives.
8. protective laws for domestic workers.

Jeannine Mitchell, a co-founder of the Vancouver Women's Bookstore recalled the tactics of the suffragettes and said,"I know we have the political savvy, imagination and guts to get what we want."

She said that writing letters to MP's was an activity of 'diminishing returns" for women and called for the collective action of women during the rest of IWY to secure their rights by political lobbying, lawsuits, corporate voting, strikes and civil disobedience if necessary.

A round of angry applause arose when Ms. Mitchell pointed out that only three bills were being considered in Parliament at present, all of which were introduced in 1974, and two of which affected only small numbers of Canadian women.

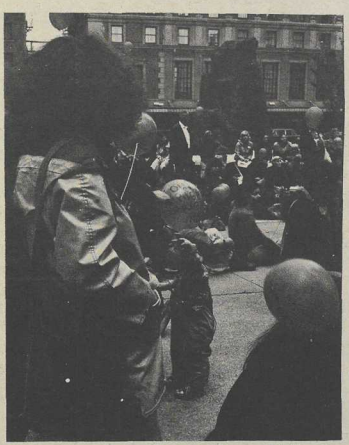


Photo - Karen Richardson

After an hour the rally ended with the broadcasting of a feminist blues song and the launching of pink balloons with the feminist symbol on them, into the sky over the courthouse.

- Karen Richardson, WCWN

# Pissed-Off

Well, we haven't gotten the legislation yet that we wanted for International Women's Year. Not only that, but women's rights generally are taking a whipping.

We've been promised a federal human rights commission for five years. It appears one may finally be created this session of Parliament. I shudder to think it may be the first, last and only significant thing to happen during IWY.

A bill to amend the Criminal Code to repeal abortion laws was introduced in Ottawa recently. However, as a private member's bill all that will come out of it will be futile discussion.

As everyone knows, Morgentaler went to jail after a Three year battle & initial acquittal. Diefenbaker wants to make it illegal to overturn such a jury verdict. But in the meantime, Morgentaler gets no pardon.

In the United States, a doctor who had the approval of a hospital committee was recently prosecuted for performing an abortion. Doctors there are now having serious thoughts about doing legal abortions at all.

And I just heard contraceptives have been banned in Saudi Arabia.

In England a new act has just made it almost impossible to convict a rapist. Women are talking frantically about the rape problem in Canada but how many rape relief centres do we have in this country? Even fewer than the number of abortion approval panels.

While the pregnant stewardesses were at first optimistic about the outcome of their battle with PWA, at the time of printing Kinesis, it doesn't look so good anymore. Will the rights of all pregnant working women be called into question?

Five months into IWY the provincial government is including "she" with all references to "he" in laws. While this is needed, surely there are more pressing women's issues to be dealt with. I am tempted to comment as Diana says,"Ah come off it you guys."

I just had word that a prominent feminist press in America is in serious financial difficulty. Will we all eventually have to go back to the kitchen during this recession like we did in the depression?

IWY started out with questionable promise. It has not only fizzled so far, it has dropped dead and the undertow is taking us all with it. Now for the pollyanna review...

- Karen Richardson

# Ombuds Annual Report

The Ombuds Service, throughout this year, has continued to assist approximately 100 women per month with problems in family law (50%), labour(20%), children (15%), Immigration, Consumer and miscellaneous affairs (15%). Utilizing this information we have presented numerous briefs on legislative change. We have been participants in five working groups of the Family and Children's Law Commission, and several other boards and committees. We feel that our increased representation is indicative of important recognition in the community. However, a major element of our progress has been the opportunity to enter into decision making situations.

When Gene Errington left our staff in January, I was elected Ombudswoman. In repeating my acceptance words -- I have been so fortunate to have worked with such teachers -- Gene, Nancy Conrod and earlier Roberta Schlosberg and Kathleen Sopko. Their spirits are with me constantly as, day to day, I continue this work, and the responsibilities of this position.

In February, we found a new Ombuds worker--Miriam Gropper. Together we began completely revamping the Ombuds case filing system and now have orderly catalogues for each year. Over the past four months we have focused our energies upon publicity and support for Community Property, Labour issues--Affirmative Action, flight attendants, farm and domestic workers, and Provincial Human Rights. We have continued to produce "Women Alive" programmes, and have appeared on both major television stations.

Finally, we are presently represented on the following boards:

- B.C. Bar Association Family Law Subsection
- Family Law Foundation
- Women's Employment Boutique
- Vancouver Community Legal Assistance
- B.C. Delegates Group of the National Conference on Women in Sport
- B.C. Police Commission Task Force on Women and the Police

In June, Libby Holtzman will join our staff. With this assistance, we shall be able to increase our case voulme and set our special projects for 1975-1976.

- Glinda Sutherland

# CLICK!

This has been a good month for 'CLICKS' --or a bad month, depending on how you look at it. Anyway, readers of Kinesis have sent in the following assortment.

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MESSY JOB

Coquitlam Grade 9 students touring the stockmarket were told by their guide(female) that there were "obviously no women board markers." Asked why, she replied that it was a "messy job with all the chalk." The two accompanying teachers laughed and she quickly added,"The traders are very rude, even to the boys."

The job of board marker is to write the stock prices on the board, as bids and offers are called up by traders on the floor below. The job requires Grade 12, mental and physical agility, and good hearing. Good board markers are quickly picked up to train as traders by the local brokerage firms.

-Karen Loder

TENNIS ANYONE?

Ann M. Davis writes that she picked up an entry form for the Great Vancouver Open Tennis Championship which is sponsored by Labatt's Brewery.

The prize money is:

| | |
|---|---|
| Men's "A" Singles | 1st--$400 |
| | 2nd--$200 |
| Women's "A" | 1st--$250!! |
| | 2nd--$125 |
| Men's Doubles | $100 |
| Women's | $60 |

Ann says she has informed Labatt's that she will be passing by their brew from now on.

A SHOW FOR WOMEN?

Nancy Conrod reports that the Jean Cannem Show on Channel 8 TV May 15 was devoted to "Nursing Today".

Well the part that wasn't devoted to chopping onions for gazpacho was devoted to "Nursing Today".

Ms. Cannem interviewed a female nurse Nadine Carlson, and a male nurse, Bob Piaggo. Her remark to Ms. Carlson was "I guess all little girls want to grow up to be stewardesses, secretaries or nurses."

Mr. Piaggo, who has worked as a nurse in pediatric wards, was told that this was an excellent idea "as children look to a man as an authority figure."

CREDIT DUE

On May 14, the Vancouver Province ran an article on Credit Unions and the following appeared in reference to the South Burnaby Credit Union:

"Robinson and a staff of 10 (all women) run the operation from an office in a building owned by the credit union on Kingsway. Robinson, who will be 75 in December, is looking forward to retirement. The problem is to find a successor. Ayounger man who served as loan officer and was being groomed for the manager's job, left last year, and said Robinson, "I'm in the market right now for another loan officer."

Gee -- I guess it wouldn't do to consider one of the 10 women who are running the operation.

MAN'S RIGHTS

Vancouver People's Law School has announced a course on Civil Liberties for May 26th. It will include a look at Protective Legislation such as the Universal Declaration of Man's Rights.

Hey--what about the rest of us?!

# employment bureau

The Women's Employment Bureau of the B.C. Department of Labour has moved to 4211 Kingsway
Suite 613
Burnaby
Phone - 434-5761, local 298,326 & 327.

Chris Waddell, Director of the Bureau, would like to hear from women interested in carpentry, paper hanging, sign painting, etc. as it has now been established that the wages paid apprentices must be the minimum wage or 50% of the journeyman's wage, whichever is greater.

Cooking is a designated trade and cooks who can verify that they have been in the trade for at least three years should make application for the trades qualification exam - having a certificate can make a difference in obtaining higher wages. (No - all the years we spend cooking for a family doesn't count. Remember 'real work' is work you get paid for - the other is 'woman's work'.)

The Women's Employment Bureau also presents the following statistics:: Women made up more than half the total employment in the finance, insurance and real estate industrial classification in 1973 but averaged earnings of $113.31 a week compared with $207.88 a week for men.

A Statistics Canada survey, carried out in October 1973, showed total employment in this industry division was 349,239 made up of 55.1% females. Only 5,6% of the females were in the category of executive managerial and 22.7% in supervisory (including operating manager) out of the 80.9% employed in the clerical category.

WHY AREN'T WOMEN FUNNY? - HA, HA, THAT IS, AND NOT PECULIAR

William Davis, the editor of Punch, asks the question, in his introduction to a book about women. He makes an attempt to answer it by asking, he says, women. 'One woman journalist put it like this: "We think - perhaps misguidedly - we ought to set the world right instead of, as a man can, frittering the space away."' Or, a woman reader (of Punch) '"women are hilariously funny when they feel comfortably free to be so, knowing that no man is within earshot,"'. Well, quite honestly, I don't know which explanation I distrust more. But the fact remains that in Britain there are only three or four good cartoonists and according to Mr. Davis this is true in the United States and also in Russia. His remarks also cover comedey writing in all its various forms.

The challenge then, can you think of any funny women? After some thought, I came up with Dorothy Parker although I suspect she was more bitchy than genuinely funny. Then there is Ruth Draper, Bea Lillie, Joyce Grenfell perhaps, and Lucille Ball, Phyllis Diller and more lately, Valerie Harper and Mary Tyler Moore. But, and a big but, how many of them write their own material, those who are still on this mortal coil that is, and how many are performers, interpreters of others words. Joan Rivers is one very funny woman (to me at least, and I realize humour is subjective to the degree) but her role is that of a hopelessly inefficient housewife whose jokes reflect her lowly position and lack of status. Samuel Janus, a New York psychologist asserts that "comediennes are simply reflecting cultural expectations: women are supposed to whine and nag, but they've never been taken seriously, or comically, as social critics. Moreover, most female comics believe that if they bruced up their acts they would be not only "unfeminine"

# comedy

but too threatening to club owners and patrons." (Newsweek Magazine, April 21/75)

Now for a real challenge - funny Canadian women. There must be an enormous market out there since it is only thinly peopled with men. There's Eric Nicol, Max Ferguson and Farley Mowat perhaps, and I suppose you could throw in Wayne and Shuster if you are willing to stretch a point, but who else? I am only referring to intentional comedians and not those public figures who are very often hilarious without even noticing.

What about Margaret Atwood and her book 'The Edible Woman' (available New Canadian Library paperback, $2.75) which merited a further reading after her interview in Kinesis (April edition). Certainly some of the situations are funny but the subject of human relationships between men and women, and women's role in that relationship is taken seriously, almost tenderly as if we are afraid to laugh at such a delicate burgeoning creature, that has yet to grow its third skin.

'Laughter is nothing else but sudden glory arising from some sudden conception of some eminency in ourselves, by comparison with the infirmity of others, or with our own formerly.'

- Thomas Hobbes on Human Nature (1588-1679)

'Happiness is no laughing matter.'

- Richard Whately, Archbishop of Dublin (1787-1863)

And a final word from Mr. Davis, discussing American women as a political force and the fact not all 'are ardent feminists.' 'Three dozen wives of Cabinet members and White House officials will soon begin a six week trip around America to tell their sisters how marvellous - and sadly misunderstood - the President is. He's just like an uncle," says one of them reassuringly. And that, I suspect, is just what most American women want.' The President referred to is Richard Nixon and the date of publication, October, 1973.

- Margaret Nicholls

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Where do you get your information? What makes you so sure you are right? What do women want anyway? Most women are happy being mothers and housewives. I am a woman and I am not oppressed.

These are some of the comments and reactions we often find ourselves faced with when speaking on issues of women's oppression. Pressure to conform to the norms of society affects all of us. Some of us are more aware of our common oppression as women than others. The more this awareness deepens, the more determined we become to resist and whenever possible fight this oppression.

The question "where do you get your information?" can be answered in the following way. First of all, we seldom find information that we are not looking for, or, if we are exposed to information on subjects which do not particularly interest us at the time, this information does not imprint itself on our minds in any significant way. Secondly, one can too easily dismiss information of an unpleasant nature as not being 'valid'. Our culture demands that we be 'nice' to one another and and not discuss issues which might be controversial, as for example politics and religion. The systematic oppression of women is political. Politics means the struggle of control over our own lives. If I am prevented from expressing my creative ability in the way most suitable and desirable to my temperment without inflicting harm on others, by laws and socially accepted standards, then I am politically and socially oppressed.

To answer the question " what makes you so sure that you are right?" I would say that if I feel oppressed, then I am oppressed. Feelings do not orginate in a vacuum. One way that society deals with oppression is by giving it another name, and that name is depression. Now depression is a clinical term, and who are we ordinary,'ignorant' citizens to argue with scientific expertise? But, one does not change a thing simply

# recognizing oppression

by giving it another name. True, first we have to recognize what a thing is, before we can change it. Leon Trotsky, one of the co-leaders of the Russian revolution of 1917, wrote in his biography Stalin : "to call a spade a spade is a revolutionary thing to do." The goal of the women's movement is nothing less than to revolutionize womens' lives; to enable women to freely express their creative drive.

"What do women want anyway?" Quite simply we want to be able to choose for ourselves how we live. We do not want to have to fit into a predetermined role. We want to be accepted as we are. Nobody has the moral right to say what we should be. The freedom to live the way we want to live cannot be taken from us, neither can it be given to us. Freedom does not and cannot involve giving and taking. Freedom is absolute in as much as anything can be absolute: Freedom is without condition.

"Most women are happy being mothers and housewives." This is not true. Recent studies of neuroses and severe depression indicate that the overwhelming majority of psychiatric patients are women; most of whom are married and have children. Social pressure is heavy on women to play their domestic role of wife and mother. Feminists are not opposed to women who enjoy the traditional female roles. However, an increasing number of women object to the lack of any real choice on the part of women who wish to live a more independent lifestyle, without the social stigmatization that now exists against women who refuse to accept stereotyping.

"I am a woman and I am not oppressed." It is common for people who are oppressed to identify with the interests of the oppressor. Once people are aware of their oppression, they will fight their oppressors in open conflict if this is at all possible. The way North American society maintain slavery, for example, was by convincing blacks that they were born inferior to whites. Brutal, overt oppression can only be effective for a certain period of time. An ideology is needed to convince the oppressed that they deserve the kind of treatment that they are getting and that it is 'good' for them. As women, we are taught to believe that it is in our 'nature', in our'biology' and in our 'best self-interest' to be subservient to men. Only when we realize that we are being hoodwinked into this trickery do we become angry and ready to fight oppression.

- Gisela Filion

# Flora

Although she hasn't committed herself, Flora MacDonald is being mentioned as a contender for the national Conservative leadership when Robert Stanfield steps down. So far all that she is saying is that discussion of her possible candidacy is an indication that women are making some advances in the Canadian political scene.

Flora MacDonald was born in Cape Breton and her first involvement in politics was in 1956 when Stanfield became Premier of Nova Scotia. Diefenbaker had just been elected national Conservative leader and MacDonald was hired to work on the 1958 federal election. Ten years later she was fired by Diefenbaker for allegedly conspiring to overthrow him, and took an administrative job at Queens University in Kingston. In 1967 she was elected National Secretary of the Conservative Party and in 1972 she was elected to the House of Commons as MP for Kingston and the Islands. By this time she was a backroom veteran of 29 Tory campaigns in federal and provincial elections and byelections.

The sole female Conservative MP in the House, she has served as Conservative critic for Indian affairs--she supports aboriginal rights and Indian claims to compensation--and is currently Conservative spokesperson for housing and urban affairs.

Before her election she served a term as executive director of the Committee for an Independent Canada.

Her interest in the participation of women in Canadian politics has resulted in a background paper for the Royal Commission on the Status of Women in Canada, and a paper on electoral reform to the Parliamentary committee on election expenses which helped bring about changes in the Canada Election Act limiting campaign spending. This makes it more financially feasible for a woman to seek election.

Flora MacDonald has been described as a Red Tory. In the collection entitled Party Politics in Canada,, Gad Horowitz offered this definition: "At the simpliest level a Red Tory is a Conservative who prefers the NDP-CCF to the Liberals or a socialist who prefers the Conservatives to the Liberals, without really knowing why. At a higher level, he is a conscious ideological Conservative with some "odd" socialist notions...or a conscious ideological socialist with some "odd" Tory notions."

The following statements were made by Flora MacDonald during the courses of speeches and interviews.

## WHY THERE AREN'T MORE WOMEN IN POLITICS & WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT.

"The negative response to women in politics comes from the political organizations, not the public. The first political hurdle any candidate has to get over is the nomination convention...I simply brought in new members who supported my views."

"Most people have no very strong feelings one way or another and would vote as readily for a woman as a man."

"The problem for many women is that they do not take the time to look at a strange political organization and figure out how to participate in it."

Three major obstacles prevent more women from entering federal politics: "It is still not the social norm for husbands to follow their wives to Ottawa for 10 months, visiting their constituencies on the weekends.

And it is far more difficult for women to raise money for campaign funds than men. Women candidates don't have the same access to financial markets.

Another obstacle for women is a lack of confidence in themselves. It's not easy to stand up in Parliament for the first time, but it can be done."

"Confidence then surely is the key. Confidence to take on responsibility. Confidence to challenge men on equal grounds. Confidence to handle any job covering the whole political gambit from making sandwiches and coffee, participating in policy-making and organizational positions, to running as candidates. In this later role women must recognize that politics is a profession. Like other professions political office requires training, disciplined study and a period of active apprenticeship. Election to office does not happen accidently. It entails involvement in and mastery of an increasingly complex and scientific process. Women must have the confidence and determination to follow this route through to its logical conclusion --election to office."

## WHAT WOMEN CAN DO--IN AND OUT OF THE GOVERNMENT

"It is imperative in order to achieve eal equality that women prove their credibility to handle any issue--resource development, finance, urban growth, dominion-provincial relations, economic affairs. Women in the political area are no longer a novelty--neither should be the subjects they are expected to tackle."

"I don't see myself as a member of a woman's caucus. I can be more effective as an opposition member pressing for women's rights."

"Canada's 300 million member female work force must fight to rid the country of 'one-woman tokenism' and discrimination in work and pay status."

"As more women decide to make politics their profession and as the women's movement grows in strength and visibility there is a danger that because of super-sensitivity to existing sex-typing, women MPs will be pressured to direct their attention primarily to issues relating to women's rights. But the realization of equal rights and equal responsibilities cannot be met by responding only to pressures that would limit the scope of women's interests rather than expand them. Sex-typing in parliamentary responsibilities could be the Achilles heel of women MPs unless they show themselves capable of handling all areas and roles. Just as work opportunity for the majority of women were traditionally limitied to nurse, secretary and teacher, responsibilities centering around education, health and social services could become the political issues with which women are constantly identified."

"We need immediate legislation in the areas of women's rights such as housewives having the opportunity to contribute to the Canadian Pension Plan, a national day care centre program for working mothers, changes in the Citizenship Act, and an end to discrimination in granting credit to women."

"There is no doubt that the rights of women are very low in priority. But no federal cabinet is going to direct its attention to this area unless a far greater number of women are elected to the House of Commons."

"But women need not be members of parliament, senior executives or leading public figures to take the lead. Too often we underrate the role a woman can play if it is not accompanied by an impressive title. Women are responsibile for the daily running of virtually every country in the world."

"Today more than ever it is time women translated their practical experience of the day-to-day running of a nation into active involvement in the processes by which decisions affecting us are made. In the words of Francoise Giroud Minister for the condition of women in France"The present evolution of women and the way it will turn out--is to my mind the most profound revolution that highly developed societies will have to contend with--that and the highly charged question of sharing the power of decision." Sharing the power of decision. That is the real change that will take place as mpre and more women assume roles of responsibility in areas of society whether they be professional, financial or political."

"We live in a democratic society. To talk about women in politics does not mean to talk only of those women who have been elected to the House of Commons or other offices. Policy formation in our country begins with ideas expressed by groups like yours. Ideas and concerns that are expressed publically,that are brought to or forced upon the attention of the legislative policy makers. Women must participate more and more at this level. They must be vocal about their concerns. They must become a force in the society. A pressure. A group whose concerns go far beyond those immediately related to women. Again as Francoise Giroud said "If you have something to say, and you are a woman, say it. Just say it."

# MEN TOO?!

Dr. Helmut J. Ruebsaat submitted the following notes on a book he co-authored with Raymond Hull. The book, entitled The Male Climacteric, and published by Prentice-Hall, will be available in Canada in June.

THE MALE CLIMACTERIC by Dr. Helmut J. Ruebsaat,MD and Raymond Hull.

Many men pass fairly smoothly from adolescence to maturity, to middle age, and on to old age. Some men do not pass smoothly through these stages, but in some cases the man's physical, mental and emotional equilibrium is suddenly deranged. He cannot help noticing the change; it frightens him. In other cases there is no such sudden change: the man himself does not perceive that anything is happening to him, although his family, friends and fellow workers notice he has changed.

The word that aptly describes this condition is "Climacteric" (an anglicized form of the medical term climacterium, which is derived from the Greek KLIMAKTER, which means the rung of a ladder), meaning a major change, a turning point in human life.

Only recently has discussion of a "male change of life" been removed from the mass media's list of taboo subjects. So many men between the ages of forty-five and sixty are undergoing major physical and emotional changes, which produce severe disruptions in their health, careers, and private lives - as well as in their societal behaviour - that the subject can no longer be ignored.

It is not simply a question of sudden chills or memory lapses - although these can be humiliating if they occur at inconvenient times. Climacteric symptoms, whether cyclical or indefinitely persistent, can have far-reaching effects: An executive decision may be based on emotional reactions; a politician may be forced to make policy judgements at a time of temporary loss of mental acuity; a father may disrupt his family's home-life in pursuit of illusive and unrealistic dreams of youth. It is time that we openly acknowledge the existence of the male climacteric, in order to deal realistically with the very serious problems it can cause.

I have to describe separately the various symptoms and causes of the male change of life; but they are not really separate, and cannot be treated separately. The physical, mental and emotional are all delicately intertwined; for best results they must be diagnosed and treated together.

The following is a summary of the symptoms most commonly associated with the male menopause:

1) PHYSICAL

Urinary irregularities (Prostate problems)
Fluid retention (Swelling)
Hot flushes
Chest pains
Heart irregularities
Stomachache and peptic ulcer
Itching and ant crawling sensations (formication)
Air hunger
Headaches
Dizziness
Backache
High blood pressure
Loss of muscle power and co-ordination
Skin changes, loss or graying of hair
Joint degeneration

Sexual Changes:

Decline of potency
Loss of libido or new sexual urges (changed sex life)

Mental and Emotional Changes:

Irritability
Fatiguability
Moodiness
Depression
Insomnia
Weakened mental ability
Loss of self-confidence
Behaviour changes

Age of Onset:

Between 41 and 50: 75% of cases
Between 51 and 60: 25% of cases

The Male Climacteric and the Menopause

The male climacteric results from a physiological and hormonal aging process, usually complicated by various psychological and social problems. The same general terms could be used to describe the menopause. It may be helpful to mention some of the differences between the two conditions and the different ways in which women and men react to them:

1. The menopause is inevitable: the male climacteric is uncertain and many men never experience it at all.
2. The woman expects the menopause, is emotionally prepared for it, and can get advice from friends, books, or physicians on how to cope with it. The typical man is not prepared for the climacteric; when it comes, he does not know what is happening to him and may not get any useful advice.
3. For some men the climacteric severely curtails their sexual ability; the menopause does not have the same effect on women, although their libido may be reduced.

It is fair to say, then, that even for a man who is prepared for it, the climacteric is at least as emotionally disturbing as the menopause for a woman: for the many men who are not prepared for it, it may be more so.

- Helmut J. Ruebsaat, M.D.

# the avid articler

Several Kinesis readers have phoned or written to tell us about articles they have come across and think other women would like to know about...

WOMEN AND PSYCHOSURGERY,RAPE BY SCALPEL, by Amanda Spake -- Viva, May,1975 -- a startling preview of 1984 and the status of women in psychiatric care. There is presently an upswing in the use of brain surgery for behaviorial control, in medical terms, psychosurgery. Approximately 80% of the patients undergoing this treatment are women, discontented with their roles as housewives, mothers, secretaries, teenagers. Studies have shown the surgery is more effective on women.

OUT FROM UNDER! A MAJOR REPORT ON WOMEN TODAY by Susan Edmiston -- Redbook, May/75 -- A good 10 page report on the Women's Movement!

Redbook will send reprints of this article for 50¢ each. Send a self-adressed, stamped, business-size envelope to Department B-91, Redbook Magazine, 230 Park Ave, New York, New York 10017.

THE REVEREND NANCY HATCH WHITTIG: THE FEMALE PRIEST WHO LEFT HER CHURCH RATHER THAN BOW TO SEXIST PRESSURE by Kathryn Burkhart -- Viva, May,1975 -- Reverend Whittig is one of the first eleven women Episcopalina priests in America although the church law still does not allow them. In 1974, she and ten other female deacons were authorized by four progressive bishops to function as priests. They risked trial, censure, excommunication.

YOU'VE COME A SHORT WAY,BABY by Walter Stewart -- Macleans May/75 -- a one page look at the status of women in Canadian politics.

Word has it that the May issue of Ladies Home Journal has a good article on the TV Women Of The Year Awards plus one by Erica Jong (Fear of Flying author) on working and writing.

And we have heard that the June issue of MS. has a section on women and aging and some new information about the effects of The Pill.

# peeps

In a letter to the editors of Ms. (May issue), Shelley Mintter of California, suggests an alternative to 'person' in such words as 'chairperson'. She objects to 'person' on the grounds that it goes against the modern trends to simplify our language, and furthermore the word ends in 'son' which is every bit as gender-ridden as 'man'. She suggests the suffix 'peep'. Try it, it sort of grows on you--chairpeep, postpeep, firepeep, policepeeep, hupeepity?, everypeep, peepkind....

# FILM

'Black Holes in Time and Space is the current production on at the Vancouver Planetarium. For me, there is always a feeling of excitement waiting under that domed roof while the sky slowly darkens and the stars appear overhead. This time the atmosphere was heightened by a recording that had been made of typical sounds that one might hear around Vancouver on a spring evening - the splash of waves on the beach, the cries of birds, the roar of a jet plane fading away into the oncoming darkness.

Then abruptly, the audience is pulled into the centre of a violent and changing universe. Thunder rolls and light flashes across the sky, a star is formed and a star dies. By the effective use of sound and light a scene is set without the use of a human voice. One wonders why this technique has been so little used in past productions. Scientific explanations follow of course, but only after an atmosphere of wonder, almost of mystery has been well established. We learn about the colour and size of stars and how they die.

Near the end of the show we are propelled towards a black hole that is hanging above us in space. Suddenly the streaks of light flashing into this black whirlpool slow down and come to a complete stop. We have reached eternity, so to speak. A voice echoes across to us as if from another universe beyond the black hole; suggesting that very possibility and the fact that our neatly ordered, scientific explanations may now be inadequate.

What a disappointment then that this innovative and exciting show should be marred by three or four "dramatic interludes" where two people are heard talking beside the seashore. The voices sound strained, but it is the conversation that really grates. The man is obviously wondering at the vastness of the night sky spread out before them. The woman appears to feel no curiosity or anything else for that matter. The best she can manage is, "Oh I don't really think about it." She does ask some inane questions which the man answers in a grandfatherly fashion. She sounds mildly surprised to learn that the sun is a star. We hear during one of the interludes that the woman does not like the dark and as the voices fade away into the sunrise the man makes the observation that the dark wasn't really so bad after all now was it?

At several points the audience groaned, so I was obviously not alone in my feelings of impatience. "Get on with the show!" one felt tempted to scream.

But why these interruptions? Contrast perhaps or the need to underline what was to follow? For laughs even? The remarks were so corny and the male-female roles so stereotyped that this barely seems feasible.

Anyhow, go and see an otherwise imaginative show and laugh, grit your teeth, shriek - whatever you do best, during these several, fortunately brief, "dramatic interludes".

- Heather Kellerhals

# women's magazines

WOMEN'S MAGAZINE

To mark International Women's Year, Canadian Dimension are publishing a special edition of their magazine. The special edition, entitled WOMEN will be available by mid-May and will bring together a collection of original articles -- all written by women. The articles will provide a diverse outlook on a broadl range of topics important to the women's movement. Authors include Margaret Benston, Pat Davitt, Marlene Dixon, Kay MacPherson, Claire Culhane, Joan Kuyek, Z. Farid, Anita Shilton Martin, Dorothy Livesay, Margaret Randall, Gwen Matheson, Sandra Henneman, Margi Gordon, Deborah Gorman, Roberta Buchanan and Shelley Gavigan.

This special issue will have a cover price of $1.00. For orders of ten or more the price is 70¢ each.

Canadian Dimension, Box 1413, Winnipeg Manitoba.

THE PEDESTAL

The Pedestal will be publishing again soon. A new collective has formed and will be producing the paper as a lesbian-feminist newspaper focusing on women creating alternatives to the patriarchy.

Subscriptions will be $3 per year - the paper will be bi-monthly. For information write: The Pedestal
6854 Inverness
Vancouver, B.C.
(324-2421)

# Radio

CO-OP RADIO

Co-op Radio has a weekly program called Women Unlimited on which announcements are carried of meetings, conferences etc. plus interviews and reports. Also women's music--written or performed by women.

The program is put together and taped about ten days ahead of broadcasting (with a repeat 4 or 5 days later). Information can be submitted ahead of the 10 day deadline--they'll keep it on file. They will be glad to accept suggestions for their programs. Women Unlimited - 684-8494.

# TO ORDER

FILMS

Two films relating to International Women's Year are available through local U.N. information centres or from the Office of Public Information, United Nations, New York. The first film, Fear Women, is a 28 min. coloured film on the independent business women of Guyana. The second, Woman Up In Arms, is a 28 min. black and white film showing 3 generations of women in an Arabian family and the context of attitude change. Both these films could be used for seminars or group discussions.

# play

Redlight Theatre, Canada's professional women's theatre, is celebrating IWY with a national tour of the play "What Glorious Times They Had" about Nellie McClung and the Canadian suffragists. They will perform in western cities in June. For information, write: Redlight Theatre, 24 Ryerston Ave, Toronto, Ontario.

-IWY Newsletter

# Art Gallery

THE VANCOUVER ART GALLERY
SPECIAL EVENTS

Wednesday, June 4 - Solo Recital
Charmian Valentine - Soprano
Noon. Admission free.
Highlights include the Tonadillas and arias from Giulio Cesare.

Wednesday, June 18 - Young People's Concert
Donna Hossack - Harpist
Noon. Admission free.
One of a series of concerts Ms. Hossack has designed for children featuring the harp in all its aspects.

EMILY CARR BALLET
Ten free performances of a ballet celebrating the life and work of Emily Carr will be offered by the Vancouver Art Gallery in mid-July. Dates will be announced as soon as the Gallery's summer installation schedule has been finalized.

The work, composed by Ann Mortifee and choreographed by Anna Wyman will be performed by the Anna Wyman Dance Theatre in the Gallery's concert gallery in recognition of International Women's Year.

The production was made possible by a $25,000 from the Office of the Secretary of State to conceive, develop and produce the ballet.

Although the performances are free, advance tickets will be made available at the Gallery for those wishing to see the ballet.

# book

In The Battered Child In Canada, Mary Van Stolk traces attitudes toward children back through history to show the origins of modern misinfanist attitudes. ( misinfany - hatred of children)

# WHAT'S GOING ON?

## poco

A workshop on Women and Stress is being planned by the Port Coquitlam Recreational Centre in cooperation with the Centennial School for June 19th. Pre-registration will be essential!

The Port Coquitlam Women's Centre Letter Lobby Committee is inviting interested women to join them in putting pressure on M.L.A.s and M.P. to bring about the changes needed concerning abortion, income tax, day care, education, affirmative action, rape, divorce,etc, etc. The P.Q. Women's Centre is % P.O. Box 243, Port Coquitlam, B.C. V3C 3V7

## duncan

Duncan's Women's Place is a cosy little house at the end of Tyee St. in downtown Duncan. It certainly was cosy when I dropped in one recent rainy afternoon. About a dozen other people had dropped in for the hot lunch served every Wednesday. Wall to wall men, women and children. After a bowl of homemade soup, and apple crisp, the Place cleared a bit and I was able to have a long talk with the co-ordinator Mari Lea, full-time staff member Faye Griffith, part-time workers Jacki Jones and Jori Seitz and Sue Reynoldson who holds a free expression painting class at the Place Monday mornings.

Women's Place is funded by a 6 month L.I.P. grant which expires at the end of June. (It had a 6 month L.I.P. grant from Jan.'74 to June'74 as well). The Place operates mainly as a drop-in centre as men also have access to the facilities. C-R groups have been tried, troubled women are feferred to Legal Aid, and single mothers meetings are being held. Some of the women who come to the Place are trying to arrange day care facilities in Duncan.

Meetings of the Focus on Women group are held at the Place every Tuesday noon. This group emerged from the Conference that was held March 22 in Duncan. Funded by the Secretary of State IWY program, the Conference was staged by the Women's Place in conjunction with women from other local groups such as Family Life and Mental Health. One hundred and fifty women attended a variety of workshops --women and law, labour, health, home, finances, continuing education, etc.

The Focus on Women group which emerged from the Conference is trying to continue with a series of programs. The next one will be held June 3, at Cowichan Senior Secondary, and will be a panel of local men and women discussing changing relationships in their lives.

Women's Place is hoping to find funds to carry on but at times they feel discouraged by the lack of interest displayed by the community towards what they are trying to accomplish. If you live in the Duncan area, drop by the Women's Place, 447 Tyee St., You'll meet some very nice people. The'll give you a cup of coffee and you can exchange thoughts and feelings. Who knows--it could be the start of something great!

- Jo Lazenby

## armstrong

A new feminist group is organizing in Armstrong, B.C. Their first new project, a conference on breast cancer,was attended by several hundred women from Salmon Arm, Faulkland, Vernon and Lumby. The group is now looking for resources on the status of women and a new project to undertake for International Women's Year. Contact: Carolyn Bethune, General Delivery, Armstrong, B.C.

## festival

WESTERN CANADIAN WOMEN'S FESTIVAL, CASTLEGAR

A cross cultural form of fine arts, music and crafts to be held in Castlegar June 13 - 14 - 15 - 16.

Craft displays, square-dancing in the grass, superb women musicians, workshops on natural child birth, witchcraft, dance, etc., sunshine and baseball -- all in the company of some fine feminist friends.

## ubc

UBC - THE WOMEN'S OFFICE

The 'Women in Focus' series has received funding from the 'Cultural Grant' of International Women's Year resource money. This money originates from the Women's Programme Dept of the Secretary of State, Ottawa.

The money is for the production of video tapes that will contribute towards social, political and economic change of the position of women within the society. The tapes will make up a new series of 'Women in Focus' that will be shown in the fall. They will also be put into a tape library in the Women's Office, in order that all groups and individuals may have access to them.

Marion Barling will be working on the various video tapes and is interested in talking to anybody that has ideas for these tapes, or resource people who have special knowledge of a particular area. Call: The Women's Office 228-2082 or 228-6228. Evenings 224-7745.

## maple ridge

CHEZ-NOUS has a card file of names, addresses and phone numbers of local resources such as childbirth education classes, day care centres, diabetic association, Women's Grievance Committee concerned with issues related to all aspects of discrimination, Volunteer Grandparents, nutrition information, post partum blues counselling, addresses of women's publications and single parent clubs, etc.

If you want information call Joyce at 467-2513 or drop by CHEZ-NOUS.

## ywca

YWCA is looking for feminists with special skills to instruct in programs offerred through Women's Information Centre this fall. If there is a course you would be interested in offering please phone Kathy Sopko 683-2531, loc 247, or Alison Boulter, local 238, before June 6.

L.I.F.E.--LIVING IS FOR EVERYONE

L.I.F.E. is a group of widowed, separated and divorced women who have learned from personal experience the many problems both practical and emotional that a woman may face when she is on her own.

The L.I.F.E. group meets at the YWCA every Wednesday at 1p.m.
Membership: $5 per year for members, $9 for non-members.
Phone:683-2531, local 248 or 238
Group leader: Elsie Palmer.

WOMEN'S INFORMATION CENTRE

The Women's Information Centre is located on the third floor of the Vancouver YWCA. The Centre offers:
--information, counselling and encouragement to any woman who wants to expand or alter her life style, return to work, retrain or continue her education, or is going through major changes in her life
--referrals to women-oriented community services for women with personal or family problems
--resources and assistance for women interested in consciousness raising or rap group formations
--involvement in current issues and actions affecting all women.

## rape rap

For women who have been raped recently or long ago, and want to talk. Led by an experienced staff member who is also a rape victim. Talk about what happened as a result of being raped and how to better deal with it.

One evening a week at Rape Relief, 1027 W. Broadway at Oak. For further information contact Mary Laraby at 732-1716.

## nanaimo

The Nanaimo Status of Women Study Group is producing an audio-visual kit dealing with the contributions of women to the history of B.C.

## penticton

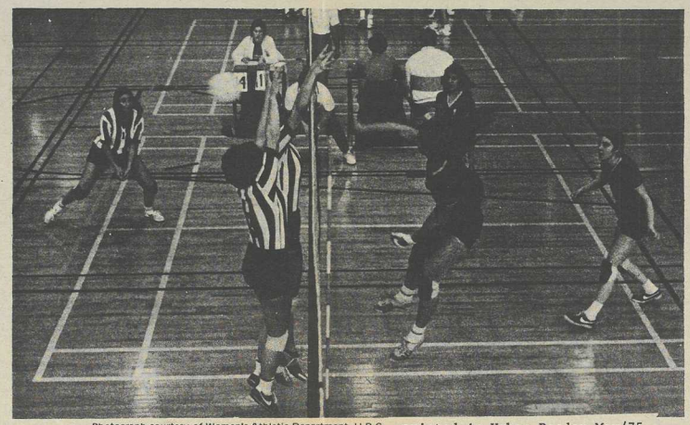
A group of women in Penticton have received OFY funding to open a women's office in Penticton September 1.

For more information contact: Chris Dreveny, Co-ordinator, Penticton Women's Centre, 311 Main St. Penticton.

## princeton

Pat Mullin is an elementary school teacher in Princeton where she is the B.C. Teachers' Federation Status of Women representative. She and 13 other women are meeting weekly at night school to discuss the socialization of children and hold consciousness-raising sessions. The group wants to hear more from other women's groups in the province. Contact them at Box 334, Princeton, B.C. or phone 295-6425.

# I'M STILL AT IT!



Photograph courtesy of Women's Athletic Department, U.B.C. printed in Urban Reader, May/75.

When I was nine years old, I used to make regular pilgrimages to a park near our house and watch the boys play baseball. When I finally got up the nerve to ask if I could join in, one of the boys replied, "You gotta have your own mitt before you can play, those are the rules." This response was accompanied by a smug grin: all boys know that girls don't have their own baseball mitts. Making one a prerequisite was a clever way of insuring all male participation.

Not being one who is easily dismayed, I asked my father to buy me a mitt as a present for passing Grade 4. (A short aside: due probably to the fact that I had no brothers, my father didn't repress any 'male' characteristics that I chanced to exhibit. Consquently I was sort of slotted into the role of eldest son.) With this ever-so-necessary object carefully concealed, I gleefully bolted off to the baseball field. I repeated my request, which was met with the anticipated response. To their utter astonishment I was able to produce the aforementioned piece of equipment. This was the precise moment of my induction into the predominantly male kingdom of sports.

To say that I was a poor baseball player would be an understatement: I was the shits. As it is usually put, I couldn't walk and chew gum at the same time. But I had my mitt and the boys were stuck with me.

Itbecame painfully obvious to all concerned that something had to be done about this pushy blond dame who insisted on playing even though she was atrocious. So one of the guys, Clyde Merritt by name, took it upon himself to tutor me. Every morning for the entire summer I would meet Clyde in the park for my lesson in how to be a baseball star. He showed me how to run, hit, catch, and associated phenomena. In effect, Clyde taught me how to be co-ordinated. I emphasize that co-ordination was something that I learned, not something that exuded naturally from my every pore. For Clyde, teaching me to play baseball was a way of ensuring that the skill level of the game would not drop. For me, it was one of the luckiest breaks in my life.

That fall, I joined a Saturday morning bowling league. Of the forty or so members, I was the only girl. This time, however, I had the confidence that bowling, like baseball, was something I could learn: all it needed was concentration and practice. Within a few months I was among the top five bowlers in the league, and by virtue of my skill had been acclaimed "one of the boys."

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Throughout Junior High and the earlier part of High School, I played on every team and indulged in every sport the school had to offer. In the morning I ran cross-country, did wind sprints and jumped hurdles. Noon hours were devoted to whatever intramural sport was in season, and after four I would practice with the school volleyball or basketball team. Evenings were spent doing gymnastics or modern dance. When track season rolled around, I'd be out there throwing discus and shotput.

The only flaw in this Eden I had created for myself was the fact that I had to play with other girls. From my personal experience of girls in Junior High, to say that they are cruel is like saying that water is wet. One entails the other by definition. Pour out your feelings to one of them and you reap double your weight in excess backstabbing. Little girls love to know a secret:it is an effective tool for coercion. "If you don't let me go first, I'll tell Johnny that you like him." Oh horrors.

But then these judgements were made from the outside looking in. I had early been ostrasized from female society for committing the unforgiveable sin of loyalty in the face of group pressure to the contrary. The girls in my class had for some reason decided that my neighbour,Carol, was a slut, and were conferring about it whilst the health teacher was out of the room. When asked to take part in the denial ceremony I could see no evidence against Carol and hence replied that I thought she was O.K. ZAPPO. "Well, that's because you're a slut too." So Carol and I were simultaneously thrown out of the gang, and if you touched either one of us you got the cootey-bugs. Carol proved to have a temporary case of the disease, and after a few weeks of 'quarentine' was admitted back into the fold. For some reason or other, I was not.

Anyway, these girls were the other members of the school teams. Their ring-leader, who throughout Junior High was the best sprinter in the city, hated me with a passion. I didn't realize exactly how deep her feeling was until one morning when as usual, I went to school early for cross-country practice. The changing room was utterly deserted, which was odd because I was a little late and everyone else should have been there. I wondered for a moment, shrugged my shoulders, and proceeded to change my clothes. Because I was alone, I didn't have to bother turning my front to the wall as is the normal custom amongst developing girls.

When I had finished, no less than ten girls jumped out from behind the shower curtains where they had been watching me change. You see, it had been rumoured as part of the anti-me campaign (another understatement: it was written over all the stop signs and community club walls) that I wore falsies, and the girls had decided to verify it once and for all. It was a pity that they had chosen the changing room as their courtroom. I did on occasion stuff Kleenex down my bra but I had learned that tissues tend to become soggy and uncomfortable when one runs about. Anyways, this episode was the proverbial last straw. I was both furious and hurt. I challenged Bonnie to a fist fight. Fortunately the would-be match was broken up in the initial stages by one of the teachers. I would definitely have lost.

I did manage to get ample revenge on Bonnie. Later that year a baseball field was named after her father in honour of this contribution to the sport. The night before the official christening of the field, I snuck out of the house and painted in huge block letters on a billboard at the back of the field BONNIE MOFFATT WEARS FALSIES Not terribly creative, I know, but it produced the desired effect. Blow #2 happened when I was named athlete of the year and Bonnie was runner-up. Bonnie decided to give up sports because it made her thighs ugly.

High school was sort of the lull before the storm. By the end of it, I had decided to specialize in a single sport, volleyball, which I continue to play to this day. It is through my contact with this sport that I can speak about the politics of athletics at the national level.

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I cannot write about my experiences as a national team aspirant without a negative bias. I ask you to keep in mind that what I am about to relate may not be representative of other sports, and could possibly be mere fabrications of a person who failed to accomplish what she had set out to do and therefore created reasons to keep her ego intact in spite of that failure. I would also like to point out that the organizational structure which I am going to describe is defunct as of last spring.

First of all, one had to be nominated to try out for the National Team. Of course, those coaches who had personal connections with the national coach or who held executive positions in the Canadian Volleyball Association placed more of their players in the try-out camps than those without pull. And since the tryouts were always held in Vancouver, local athletes had a better chance of being asked to tryout than players who would have to be transported from the east, housed and fed. For instance, the coach of the World Student Games team had 4 of her own team members at the tryouts, 3 of whom made the team. Her team had placed 2ndto UBC in the University Championships, but for some reason only 1 UBC player made the team. The manager of the team had 3 of his players at the tryouts, which was definitely out of proportion to the team's performance record.

Players from out of town were housed together in student dormatories. The atmosphere was one of subtle hostility: every person was a possible threat to every other person, because there were very few openings on the team left for the out of province players. During the years when I was involved, of the 12 national team players only 2 or 3 did not play for B.C. teams. I am not saying that the players should have been chosen on a more equal geographical basis. The fact is that the level of volleyball in B.C.and of the club team in particular, is far above the Canadian standard.

However, it made conditions in the out-of-town dormitory tense, to say the least. We didn't relate to each other as human beings, but as potential obstacles. If someone got injured condolences were expressed, but inside, each person was glad that one of the possible barriers to their own success had been removed. And the backstabbing! Everyone was everyone else's watchdog. If someone came in a little late at night, it was casually discussed when the appropriate people (ie. coaches) were within hearing range. In short, there was no warmth, no feeling of emotional support. It was a callous, hostile environment 24 hours a day.

Only the super stars made the National Team on the basis of skill alone. After the top 6 or 8 players, skill level was pretty equal and other factors came into play. One of the most prominent considerations is the image which one projects.

For instance: in order to play for the best team in the country, I was ordered to shave my legs. It was explained to me that the team must be careful to come across as feminine, since funding required public support. On another occasion, the team was being interviewed for a magazine article. The coach asked two of the girls to come early, when the writers would be arriving. They were to wear dresses, make-up, etc, and generally chit-chat before changing into their sweatsuits. The whole thing was staged in order to convince the writers that women in athletics are really feminine at heart, in spite of their interests in sports.



The most crucial event which affected me personally was during the 1973 tryouts. For an entire year I had dedicated myself totally to training. I won't bore you with the details, but rest assured I gave it everything I had. On the day that the selection was to be announced, I was confident that I would be named to the team. Each person was told separately, and when my turn came I was told that I hadn't made the team, I was the alternate. I couldn't understand it. I asked why. The coach rattled off a list of reasons, all connected with my skill level. Yet I felt that I was a better player than the person who had been chosen. (She by the way was so sure that she wouldn't make the team that she had phoned home and told them that she'd be back the next day.) After a few days had passed and I had regained enough composure to talk about it, I asked the assistant coach the same question. He told me that yes, I was the better player. However, the coach had felt that I was too much of an individual, that my personality was not harmonious with the others, and that I didn't project an appropriate image. In short, he didn't like me. I can accept that personality is a valid criteria of selection. I object to the fact that the coach didn't have the guts to tell me the real reason.

Even after this experience, I decided to give it one more try. By being named the alternate I had been rated as #13 player, and the team selected for the next competition was to have 18 players. In the intervening period 2 of the top players had quit, which in theory placed me as #11. Sounds like I'm a sure bet, doesn't it? Wrong again. Not only was I not named to the team,I was not even an alternate. I finally got the hint and gave up trying.

As I said, I still play competitive volleyball. I play for pure love of the sport rather than trying to make it into the upper echelon. Now that I've told you the shit, I'd like to tell you what keeps me in the business.

---

I think that the quality that I initially valued was the game structure itself. When you are playing a game, you are actually participating in another reality. Physically, the boundaries of that reality are marked off by gymnasium walls, lines on a court, special clothing,etc. etc. You operate according to game rules and attitudes which have credence only within the physical boundaries. Whatever is happening in my life, good or bad, is forgotten as soon as the practice or the game begins: it has no place in the validity structure of this other world. I assume this is the quality which attracts some people to meditation or makes others avid movie goers. It is a parenthetical period of time which contains its own beginning, evolution, climax and end. It is something which totally absorbs the participants.

In everyday life, one is rarely willing to put oneself in a vulnerable gain everything, lose everything position. The stakes are too high. Within the game structure, it happens all the time. Of course, the intensity of experience is directly proportional to the belief you invest in the particular game. That is, you have totake the game seriously, be absorbed by it,to feel the urgency of the situation...you're playing basketball your team is one point behind with 5 seconds on the clock, and you have the ball. Your decision (perhaps gut instinct is a more apt term) will determine the outcome of the game. You are in a position where you can either fail entirely or succeed entirely. There's no in between and no excuses. You just do. It is situations like this which keep me in competitive sport as opposed to physical activity in general. The depth of feeling, whatever the outcome, lets me know I'm alive.

Sport requires total involvement, physically and mentally. One must be completely in the present tense, not lamenting the past or contemplating the future. How often are one's energies so focused that all else is involuntarily forgotten? I think that this total concentration and joy of accomplishment which is usually the end product are extremely valuable experiences.

In one of my classes at school, a person was talking about what it meant to him to be a musician. He said that up to a certain point, he is in control. That is he is the one who sits down and practices, who acquires proficiency in the technical skills. Gradually, the techniques become so well learned that his mind does not have to think about them in order to perform them. This leaves his mind free to operate on another level. He will start to make up a song, and eventually he is so involved that he doesn't know whether he's actually in control of the notes he is playing or whether he is a vechicle and the entire thing is happening through him but not by him.

I have had the same experience in volleyball. I have practiced the skills to the point where I don't have to think about them--that goes through some kind of automatic processing system. Consequently, it sometimes happens that during a game that I, free from technical worries, transcend to a level where I am not sure of the source of my decisions. I just get so caught up in the flow of the game that the right thing happens through me. It's not even that I have a conscious inkling that a certain play is the right one to make. I am more surprised than anyone else at what I've done. It was n't a decision, and a conscious reasoning process had nothing to do with it. It just happened. I am totally involved in the game and the game tells me what to do.

In a religious context, I suppose this would be labelled as a mystical experience. At least, if I were ever to have a religious experience, I expect it would happen along these lines. I am telling you all this to illustrate the depth of meaning which sports has for me,and the intensity of experience I have felt through it. These are the reasons I play, in spite of the more disagreeable characters and situations I have met along the way.

- Peggy Day

# Letter from Ireland

The following is an excerpt from a letter by Linda Forsythe, friend of a VSW member, describing her overview on the situation of women in Ireland as she travels in that country.

April 14,1975.

"Well, I've been in Ireland for just over a week now. The situation for women is incredible. Women either get married and have an average of five kids,or they go into the convent.

The Church's presence is shown in every institution in the society. Birth control is unacceptable(i.e. condoms). It was defeated by the government vote. About half the women are on the pill under the pretense of regulating periods. People are allowed to have condoms but it is illegal to sell them! So most people get theirs through the mail-order from England, or smuggle them over the border from the north.

Abortion is illegal, even if the mother's life is in danger. If there has to be a choice of who lives, mother or child, then it is the child. If a person wants an abortion, they have to go to England, which means that only those who can afford it, go. I've been told women are split 50/50 on the abortion issue, age makes no difference. Apparently young men are generally anti-abortion. Had a long talk with a young man about 25 and he generally expressed the whole 'right-to-life' sentiment.

Women who get pregnant either get married or give the child up for adoption. It is quite unusual for a woman to raise a child by herself. It seems that both she and the child would be at a disadvantage, the child because it would be a "bastard" and the mother because it is doubtful that anyone would marry her.

There is no divorce in Ireland. The Church says so and the laws enforce it. So again, those who can afford it go to England to divorce. But the more common case is that the husband deserts and is never heard from again. The woman is left to raise the family alone and usually goes on some form of welfare. There are approximately 20,000 women in this situation. The Church refuses to acknowledge it as a problem, and therefore doesn't offer any support.

There was a women's conference at the University of Dublin last week. I talked to a woman who went to most of the talks. They were on equal pay, birth control, homosexuality, male/female issues.

The typical Irish marriage is incredible. The men spend their spare time at the pubs. The women either stay home with the kids, or,more recently, go to bingo. The men and women rarely seem to communicate. All the people I've talked to say this is usually the norm. Men and women don't really know much about each other.

When I arrived here, I hitched from Shannon down along the south west coast to Tralee, Killarney and Cork and then cut up to Dublin. Got rides mostly from travelling salesmen. For two days running both men who gave me and another woman a ride, invited me to spend the night with them. I was really pissed off since I was told the most agressive an Irish man would be is to invite me for a beer. I talked with a few people about it and they seem to think it has more to do with the Irish notion of what North American women and feminists are all about, especially those travelling alone."

# IWY'75

PRE-EMPLOYMENT TRAINING FOR WOMEN OF OAKALLA

On the recommendation of Gene Errington, provincial co-ordinator for Status of Women Program, Provincial Secretary Ernest Hall has provided a $4,475 grant to provide pre-employment training for the women of Oakalla. This training will be in addition to the academic upgrading now available to inmates.

In outlining the need for such training Jenny Deering, the Oakalla Education Co-ordinator for BCIT industrial service, stated that male inmates have traditionally had a wider range of job opportunities to turn to when they get out. Many have experience in skilled trades and highly paid labouring jobs. Women inmates do laundry, hairdressing, sewing and cooking and have little hope of finding rewarding jobs when they get out.

Ten or twelve women in oakalla will be involved in a seven-week pre-employment training 'pilot project'. Because of the time limit this will be an orientation program that will introduce the women to such wide-ranging subjects as crafts, human relations, problem solving, personal development, basic office routine, switchboard operation, veterinarian aide, child care, forestry work and career study. The hope is that the program might point some women in a direction that could hold promise for their future. The last phase of the course will be instruction on how women can go about finding the jobs of their choice.

Considerable interest has been shown in veterinarian aide and child care aide as well as outside jobs such as forestry field work.

Gene Errington is hopeful that interest in individual grants(up to $5000) will begin to fan out from the Lower Mainland to women's groups throughout the province. Priority will be given to proposals from outside the Lower Mianland and to proposals that would have a province-wide effect.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR PROJECT

The Women's Auxiliary of the United Fishermen and Allied Workers Union has initiated a project to research and write a booklet on the part played by women in the building of the trade union movement in B.C. This important aspect of our history has long been neglected.

Effort will be concentrated on the role of women in the trade union movement, whether actual members or not. The Women's History Project will be dependent for information from trade union files, personal recollections and data, and public archives. They will be travelling around the province seeking information and using the archives of various cities. They are requesting aid from trade unionists and interested people. If you, your organization or your union can supply information please contact:

Women's History Project
United Fishermen & Allied Worker's Union
138 East Cordova Street
Vancouver, B.C.
Phone: 684-1744 or 684-3254

# Women and Words

I believe in the use of words. I believe that if I am left free to listen long enough to your words, I will begin to understand the oneness in us, that oneness which once perceived makes me feel pain when you are hurt. I believe that words can make me feel your acceptance, where before I felt only the threat of your presence. Words can take knowledge and understanding in you and place that same knowledge and understanding in me. Words are to me the means by which you and I come to feel contentment with each other, and because with each other, with our environment.

But I also believe that we live in a world where words are being used to destroy us. They are being used to tell us that we aren't what we are, that we like what we dislike, that we can't when we know we can. Words are being used to take from us our autonomy, our oneness with the universe in which we live, our greatness and our infinitesimal minuteness. Words are being used to destroy our faith in ourselves, our innate knowledge that truth is truth as we perceive it, subject to change upon a change in our perception.

Perhaps in no area have we done ourselves greater harm than in our abdication of responsibility for our collective actions for and against one another. We have let words lull us into accepting government by people we do not trust, and allowed that government to impose upon us rules we cannot understand. We have allowed another group in our society to persuade us that they can understand the rules which we cannot, and allowed ourselves to believe that understanding would protect us from our own ignorance and apathy. We have allowed that group to impose their priorities upon us, and persuade us that their priorities represent some objective, external concept called right. We are merciless to fight them, because we can fight only with our words---in our political lives, our legislatures, and ultimately in our courtrooms. Ultimately we must lose, for the ultimate forum is theirs - the court room. Regardless of our political victory, we have reserved to lawyers the final victory, the right to interpret what we have said in the laws we wrote.

And when we strike out at them, they wave before us a degree from one of our universities, a paper which says they understand what we do not. They need only learn that which others like them have required them to learn, and we submissively bow to their superior knowledge.

I have been to law school, and I have sat through classes convinced that if that is reality, I am insane. I have read judgments telling me that there is no opening in a three-sided garage, that no reasonable man would act in the best interests of his neighbour, that our laws do not discriminate if they discriminate against every member of a particular class. I have seen the Supreme Court of Canada determine that a woman is not included within the meaning of the word "person", and known the court to read "enacted before or after the coming into force of this Act" as meaning enacted before this Act. I have seen the judgments which must always be made, according to this group of people, upon the premise that the Parliamentarians knew the law when they set out to change the law. And I have read the Parliamentary debates in which the Parliamentarians who knew the law, knew a different law than the Supreme Court of Canada.

I have been in the classroom in which those persons are taught the difference between telling part of the truth and being heard, and telling all the truth and being held in contempt of court. And I have been in the classrooms in which those lawyers learned that justice and right are not "relevant considerations" for law classes.

And now I realize why we fight as women to enter that arena. We fight to enter because as oppressed members of our society, we are best able to view the oppression of others. We fight to enter because we hear the lack of meaning in the words they use, and want our words heard. We demand representation on the bench because we ask that our reality have a part in the reality we are told is this objective standard called truth. We ask to be heard because we have learned that prejudice is the word we attach to a refusal to recognize all truth as subjective reality; bigotry to my belief that my subjective reality is everyone's objective reality---God's reality, for lack of a better definition.

I wonder if we can win. Can we win if we prepare our women with nothing better than the men had to prepare them? Can we win anything ultimately of value if we simply send our women into courtrooms to play the roles men have played, adopt their modes of behaviour, and speak their words? Man's way has been to make war. Women's way has been to love, to wait, to make learning possible. If we are sending our women into the public arena, do we do enough if we send them there trained in man's way---trained to fight rather than teach, trained to sell out rather than stand judged upon their ideals, trained to speak rather than to listen?

When will we learn that our best defense against our accusers is not a lawyer speaking, but a court understanding? That a better world comes not from the talking, but from the listening? From caring, rather than condemning?

- Lee Masters

# people's law school

All courses and materials free.

June 2,3,4,5. CRIMINAL PROCEDURES
Place : Kitsilano Library
Time: 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.
Instructor: Leo McGrady
Outline: What to do in your first contact with police; getting a lawyer; dealing with your lawyer; the court appearance and trial; appeal

June 16,17,18. IMMIGRATION PROCEDURES
Place: Vancouver Public Library
Time: 7:30 - 9:30
Instructor: Don Rosenbloom,lawyer
Outline: Nominating and sponsoring immigrants, acquiring landed immigrant status, deportation and bail, inquiry and appeal procedures.

Vancouver People's Law School is now making their booklet "Women and the Law" available to independent women's groups for 25¢ per copy, plus cost of postage. This booklet presents an overall view of the legal position of women in B.C. as wives, mothers, employees, consumers, offenders and victims.

Vancouver People's Law School has produced video and audio tapes as part of their community legal education project. The tapes cover a variety of subject areas with experts from various fields of law acting as resource persons. These tapes may be borrowed and anyone wishing to do so should obtain the VIDEO/AUDIO CATALOGUE from the Vancouver People's Law School.

Vancouver People's Law School Legal Information Booklets

Contact the Vancouver People's Law School for a list of their booklets. The booklets cost 50¢ each and cover a wide range of topics. Contact: Vancouver People's Law School, Ste. 610, 207 West Hastings, Vancouver Phone: 681-7532

# directory

WOMEN TOGETHER

Women Together has received funding from Gene Errington, Provincial Coordinator of Status of Women, to carry out their IWY project. They will compile a Women's Directory of B.C. which will list businesses owned and operated by women, professional women, craftswomen, artists and women working full or part time on projects through their homes. The purpose of this directory is to attempt to break down the stereotype image of women in business, thus expanding the public's and the business community's awareness of the variety of businesses and services controlled by women. Also, the directory will offer free publicity that will help to promote women in business.

There is no charge for the listing. Written consent is required. Contact: Women Together, %Carol Norman, #205-6750 Balmoral St, Burnaby, B.C. Phone: 524-0885.

## IWY PROJECT

Our Sect'y of State funded IWY project entitled "Vancouver Status of Women in the community" is rolling along well. Nadine Allen and Diana Bissell have sent out introductory letters to 24 local community and neighbourhood centres and so far the response is terrific. For your info, our project involves presenting a "Status of Women Learning Program" at all these centres. The program is being tailor-made for each centre, could run from 2 - 6 weeks and will include an introduction of VSW and IWY, Women & Employment, Daycare, Women & the Law, Changing Roles of Men & Women, Sexism in Education and the Media, etc. We have lots of resource material to share with the participants and will have large display units made up to take with us. We are very excited about going out into the community helping women understand what the women's movement is all about. Our experiences at the 50 odd speaking engagements completed in the last months have convinced us that the women are "ready" to hear what we have to say. If there are any members who would like to help in this project, either in putting info kits together or assisting in the actual presentations - we welcome you! Call the office to volunteer. 736-3746.

## WE GO PLACES

Our Vice-President, Nancy Conrod, represented VSW at the National Action Committee on the Status of Women annual convention in Winnipeg in early May. May 23-24 Nadine Jo and Diana attended a leadership seminar presented by the University Women's Club. On June 8-11 Glinda will be doing a seminar at the Child Welfare League of America convention in Vancouver. From June 13-16 several staffers will be taking part in the Western Canadian Women's Festival being held in the Kootenays. On that same weekend, Nadine flies to Trail to assist in a non-sexist workshop for teachers.

## CHILEAN WOMEN

You know, this office is just about the most interesting melting pot of happenings. A few weeks ago two women walked in, with assorted children in tow, and identified themselves as Carmen and Anna-Marie, refugees from Chile. They and other Chilean women had formed a group in Vancouver and wanted to reach out at this time to other women in the community - how could they do this? -where could they do it? - could we help them? Well, see page 17 for their article, and come to the Chilean Women's Night at the VSW offices, Thursday, June 19 beginning at 7:30. The group is putting on the whole evening there will be singing, handcrafts, conversation, food and hopefully it will mark the formation of a support group for these women who have left their homeland under duress.

## KITS DAY

Kits Day is a community celebration of the Kitsilano area of Vancouver. On Sunday, June 22, the 1975 Kits Day will happen and we will be there in full force, seeing as how our offices are located in the middle of Kits! At present we are informing other local women's groups about the day as it presents a terrific chance to be visible, sell publications etc. Besides, it's fun - see you there!

## HOTLINE ON WOMEN

Bonnie Kreps of Chatelaine is a regular subscriber of KINESIS and has included a number of mentions/articles on VSW in her "Hotline on Women" column over the past few months. Thank-you Bonnie - it has brought in a flood of new members and requests for more info from all across the country.

# IS THERE SOMETHING GOING ON AT THE OFFICE YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT?

**Diana Bissell**

## WRITER'S WORKSHOP

Four graduates of the UBC Writing Workshops, one male and three females, are missing the stimulus and creative criticism of a live audience and would like to assemble a larger group to continue through the summer. They have space in which to meet and can work out methods of duplicating material. They range from undergrads to mature students and if any VSW members are interested in seriously and consistently writing throughout the summer please call Joyce Meyer or Misty Hasmann at 731-0966.

## VERBAL SELF-DEFENCE

Well folks, its coming. Our book that is - our "Ultimate Guide for Handling Put-Downs"! The verbal self-defence group has met 4 times and so far we have 35 put-downs with our responses. A few more meetings and we should have it all together. So be patient, the bestseller of IWY is coming. Or even better, why not be a help and share your knowledge with the verbal self-defence group, Monday, June 9 at 8 A.M.

## C.A.R.A.L.

Those initials stand for the Canadian Ass'n for Repeal of the Abortion Laws. The organization is based in eastern Canada and a Vancouver chapter has just been formed. The group here intends to co-ordinate a province-wide petition calling for abortion law repeal and the pardoning of Dr. Morgentaler. There is a massive job in front of us, and we need your help. A core group has been meeting at the VSW offices, please join us at our next meeting on June 11, at 7:30 pm. C.A.R.A.L. pamphlets and membership forms are available at the office for interested members and groups, drop by or write for them.

(Late flash - we just found an empty space in the paper before taking it to the printers, so turn to page 18,,read the petition, sign your name to it and send it in to the C.A.R.A.L. address today. The Committee of One Million are presenting their petition to Trudeau this week - and they are making it seem as if the majority of Canadians want abortion outlawed, whereas polls show that 62% of Canadians wish abortion law repealed. You must speak up for yourself., turn to page 18 and we'll help. )

## C.R. GROUP

Urgent - new consciousness raising group forming here on Monday, June 9 at 7:30 p.m. Give yourself a present for IWY, join our C.R. group and make things happen for yourself. For more info - 736-3746.

## SUMMER STAFF

We have 3 women students working with us all summer on a Sect'y of State Student Community Service Program. They are Leslie Dixon, who is putting together our much-needed audio-visual library, Sheera Wiseman, resident "art person", already frantic with plans for more t-shirts, posters, display units etc., and Leslie MacDonald who is in charge of co-ordinating a High School Women's program for the summer. If there's anything there you'd like to help with, give them a call.

## LETTER LOBBY

The Letter Lobby Committee sent a mailing to all MPs and Cabinet on May 12 protesting the delays in passage of Bills C-16, C-20 and C-52, as well as pressing for establishment of a Federal Human Rights Code, improvement of rape laws, more capital support for daycare, repeal of abortion laws, and more funding/advertising for birth control. A personal letter was enclosed for each Cabinet Minister and so far they have all responded fairly positively, although the bills are apparently still in committee. See page 15 for this month's Letter Lobby action request.

# letter lobby

The Letter Lobby issue this month is a very serious one, so bear with us as we try to explain it in less than three pages! Here goes. Air Canada and the Canadian Air Lines Flight Attendants Ass'n (C.A.L.F.A.A.) are presently negotiating a contract that would discriminate against female flight attendants.

BACKGROUND - Prior to 1974, women (stewardesses) were not allowed to become pursers, only males could serve as pursers. In 1974, two seniority lists were established. One was for persons in the "in-charge" (formerly purser) category, and the other for flight attendants (formerly stewardesses). Women could now qualify for "in-charge" positions and seniority on these lists was based on time served with the company.

PROBLEM = the new proposed contract is discriminatory in that it states all people who served as pursers prior to 1974 (remember, females were not allowed to become pursers prior to 1974) would automatically have seniority today over any woman qualified for "in charge" service, even if she had already served the company as a flight attendant for 28 years!

What has happened, very simply, is that seniority on the "in charge" list under this new contract would no longer be based on the amount of time any person had spent with Air Canada, but rather, would be based on the amount of time that person had spent in the purser position. Since prior to 1974 women were not allowed to become pursers, how on earth can they qualify for this new "definition" of seniority? The answer is - they can't and you have the ridiculous, insulting and discriminating position of a regular flight attendant with perhaps 10 years service,, qualifying herself for an "in-charge" position but her years as a regular flight attendant would make no difference to her seniority placement on that "in-charge" list because she had never been a purser! She would lose her company seniority to a man who may have served for only 2 or 3 years.

This may seem long and involved, (it's taken about 6 re-writes to capsule it this far!) but please stick with it and write a letter. Air Canada is a crown corporation and should be an example to private enterprise. Please write out the following letter in your own hand and send to the Hon. Jean Marchand, Minister of Transport, Hon. Marc Lalonde, Minister Resp. for Status of Women, and to your own M.P. All of those can be addressed "House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario" - no stamp needed, just write "OHMS" in the upper right hand corner.

While you're at it, send a copy to Mr. Yves Pratt, President of Air Canada, Place Ville Marie, Montreal, 113 Quebec.

Dear Sir:

Air Canada and the Canadian Air Lines Flight Attendants Association are presently negotiating a contract that would discriminate against female flight attendants.

Very simply, it states that a person's seniority on the "in-charge" list will be based upon the time that person has spent within an "in-charge" position rather than the overall time that person has spent with the company. Since prior to 1974 women were not allowed to be in an "in-charge" (formerly purser) position, all males who served as pursers prior to 1974 would automatically have seniority over any woman qualified for an "in-charge" position, even if she had served the company for 28 years.

I urge you to pressure Air Canada to refuse to negotiate such a discriminatory contract. I also point out that this is a clear example of women having no recourse to adequate federal human rights legislation and again urge you to press for immediate enactment of such legislation.

# responses

Dorothy Holme, Co-ordinator of the Letter Lobby Committee recently sent a lengthy questionnaire to Dr. Katie Cooke of the Advisory Council on the Status of Women and we thought you might be interested in reading some of Dr. Cooke's responses.

Q. "We are concerned with our income tax system that is still so strongly biased in favour of married women remaining in the home...as long as women are looked at in this manner, the first principle of the Royal Commission Report (Women should be free to choose whether or not to take employment outside of their homes) is being violated. Can you visualize any real progress in this area in the forseeable future?"

A. "It is really too premature to make any statement about what ACSW will be recommending to the government vis-a-vis taxation as we simply do not yet have the basic facts from which to formulate recommendations. We will be examining RCSW recommendations 130-2 and will certainly be going beyond them in our assessment of their validity, and of discriminatory provisions in the income tax act in general."

Q. "Our group is very concerned with Rec. #28 of RCSW which asked that the federal gov't undertake a study of the feasibility of making greater use of part time work in the Canadian Economy... however I don't think any progress can or should be made in this field until we make part time work more attractive from a taxation point of view."

A. "As far as our mandate is concerned, ACSW at the federal level is now looking into the question of part-time work in the Public Service with Treasury Board officials. I definitely feel that part-time employment holds one of the very real possibilities for remedying the employment problems that all employers must soon start grappling with if the situation is not to get out of hand in the future. You may be interested to know that Labour Canada officials have contracted a study of part-time employment in Canada. By Fall a preliminary review will hopefully be completed."

Q. "We have heard very few details about the inclusion of housewives into the Canada Pension Plan lately, except that progress is being made. In view of the troubles that many private pension plans are facing, how optimistic can women be that housewives will be included in the near future?"

A. Dr. Cooke sent us a background paper prepared by ACSW on the inclusion of housewives into CPP and we quote from it here - "The ACSW and CPP Advisory Committee have been requested by the Minister of Health and Welfare to reach an agreement on a plan for introducing housewives into the CPP. The ACSW has presented 5 alternative proposals to the CPP Board and they have advised that they reject and accept two. It considers both the general splitting of pension credits and the splitting pension credits on marriage breakdown to be acceptable alternatives for government consideration. However, because of the social implications of any such amendments to the law, it has declined to endorse either of the two acceptable approaches to the exclusion of the other. The ACSW presses for the acceptance of the general splitting proposal, with a provision for the splitting of past accumulated credits on the breakdown of marriage."

If you are interested in the work the Advisory Council on the Status of Women is doing, write to their Ottawa office (63 Sparks St., Box 1541, Station B, Ottawa, Ont.) for free copies of their background papers on "Rape", "Housewives and the C.P.P.", "Family Planning, Conception & Birth Control", "Matrimonial Property", and more. See May KINESIS for a complete listing.

# Women in Engineering cont'd

The first part of the article on Women and Engineering appeared in the May issue of Kinesis. This second part deals with some of the things that are being done and some of the things that we think should be done to help women enter and participate equally in male-dominated professions such as Engineering.

After talking to these women, I felt I could see a pattern emerging. The women who had received their training in Europe had not any time in their school careers or their professional life in Europe been treated as if their choice of a career was strange or unsuitable. Although they had had to make their choice at an early age -- about 12 years old -- they hadn't seemed to need the influence of an encouraging role model. There was nothing unusual about them making use of their interest and ability in Math and Science in a concrete practical way.-- and Engineering was such a way. The women who had trained in North America had usually had the good fortune at some time in their school-life in attracting the interest of a teacher who encouraged them to make use of their proficiency in Science and who bolstered their courage to enter a 'male field.' Mildred S. Dresselhaus, writing in Women and Success -- The Anatomy of Achievement remembers her freshman physics professor who "suggested a career in science would be more suitable than elementary school teaching and she maintained an interest in me throughout my undergraduate days at Hunter College and broadened my horizons by many orders of magnitude." Or some women are turning to Engineering the way Sanrda Haslin did -- they find the courses they are taking or the degree they have received is not exactly what they want and they enter Engineering. Some transfer from one faculty to another, others with a degree in Math, Physics, Computer Science, etc., return to take a Masters in Engineering to give themselves more choices in their chosen field. In fact, Dr. Moore reports that there are more women in the graduate program of Engineering than in the fourth year graduating class.

In any case it is obvious that more needs to be done to make women aware of the opportunities for careers in Engineering -- and this is true of the other male-dominated fields. As the Hon. Graham Lea, Minister of Highways stated at the Women in Engineering Seminar,"It is fundamentally wrong that any group of citizens, who are otherwise capable of pursuing meaningful careers, should be barred from that pursuit because of accidents of birth, such as sex, or persuasion."

So what is being done? Well, there are the attemps by the Engineering Faculty to recruit students. In Sept. there will be a Storefront Vocational Information Centre set up by the Dept. of Manpower and Immigration and the Vancouver School Board, where Vancouver students will be able to receive more information about possible career choices. And hopefully cousellors will take more iniative in encouraging female students with interests in previously-designated male fields to pursue these interests. The Dept. of Highways has set up a Task Force on Opportunities for Women in Engineering Professions. The Chairperson of the Commission is Linda Shuto, Executive Assistant for the Status of Women Program, B.C.T.F., and other members are: Dan C. Lambert, of Association of Professional Engineers in B.C., Robyn Smith who has worked as a draftsperson in Engineering offices, and Virginia Holtby, a teacher who has been active in the women's movement. The task force will investigate the effects of elementary and secondary education on the number of girls who choose to go into engineering; the effect of parental guidance on career choices; the effect of community attitudes on career choices; and the financial restraints on women who might enter engineering; attitudes of teachers and fellow students within the university on women training to be engineers; opportunities for employment upon graduation; and circumstances of on-the-job training.

Mr. Lea acknowledged that the reason why so few women enter engineering is "linked to the reason why women have traditionally been at an economic disadvantage within our society and cannot be separated from the issue of equal-pay-for-equal-work as it affects all working women. We cannot," he said, "separate the ability of middle class families to assist their female children to become engineers from the ability of poor Native families to assist their female students in completing Grade 8"

In a telephone conversation, Linda Shuto expressed the hope that the task force will point out kinds of obstacles and problems that prevent women from entering male oriented jobs and the economic reasons behind many of these obstacles. These reasons would also apply to other male oriented fields. One reason why there are so few women in engineering,Ms. Shuto feels, is because engineers are employed mainly by privateindustry and government -- there are no service angencies, etc. -- and private industry "is notoriously slow in entering the 20th Century of human rights." This was illustrated by Mr. George Taylor, Personnel Manager of H.A. Simons(international) Ltd., and a member of the Seminar panel, who revealed that of the 170 engineers employed by his firm not one was a woman. A woman engineer, he explained, would face a lot of problems of acceptance if his firm had to send her to a foreign country. More than here in Canada? The mind boggles!

Now -- what needs to be done? At the Seminar Mr. Lea admitted that it is one thing to "set a policy at the top, but it doesn't always go all the way to the bottom. It's O.K. to talk liberal here, but its a lot different when the men are together and the women aren't around." Well, maybe it is time for "the top" to take the responsiblity of making sure the policy does go all the way to the bottom, that their"liberal policies" are carried out. And its time the government made a committment to Affirmative Action. In answer to a question from the floor, Dr. Pedan said that Affirmative Action in the USA has made a great difference in the awareness and acceptance of women in fields such as engineering. We could use that here -- and this is a good place to start. The government should be exemplary in providing women equal opportunity in their choice of career and lifestyle. This would place the onus where it belongs -- on the employer.

Women's Studies courses should be introduced into all High Schools. They would broaden the horizons for male and female students. High School women should be encouraged to develop and use their talents and abilities. Parents should encourage their daughters to prepare themselves to be independent by planning for careers that they will find fulfilling. To help parants do this, the schools should make real efforts to keep parents informed and involved in their children's education and the change in attitudes about females and careers.

Women who are returning to work or who are considering a new type of work should consider some of the former male preserves and investigate some of the mature student programs available.

And to end with a word of advice from Mildred S. Dresselhaus, of the Electrical Engineering Dept. and Centre for Material Science and Engineering Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge (again from Women and Success) "My advice to women starting careers and women in careers is: relax, enjoy every moment of life, act and be yourself, exploit every opportunity that comes your way, stick up for yourself, arrange your personal affairs so that you can succeed in your professional activities. My advice to men associated with professtionalwomen is to act supportively and encouragingly to your women colleagues; invite them to share in the action and the social life of the group; do not assign a woman a job that is so difficult few men would succeed at it; nor should she be assigned a job that she is not qualified to do. Men should consult with women directly about women's affairs, and not assume to know all the answers prior to such consultation."

-Jo Lazenby

# CHILEAN WOMEN ——

On September 11, 1973, the decocratically elected Popular Unity government of socialist Salvador Allende was overthrown by a brutal military coup. Thousands of people were killed in the following weeks, and repression and violence continue today. Thousands more are in prison facing military trials, torture and summary executions. The Constitution has been suspended and basic rights have been abolished.

THE CHILEAN WOMAN

This is the testimony that a 23 year old Chilean woman gave to the six members of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom who went to Chile at the beginning of 1974 to investigate the crimes of the Chilean Military Junta:

"They arrested me in my house and beat me in front of my mother. The next day they took me to the Air Force communications centre. I found that out later because they took me from my house with a hood over my head. They took me in a truck along with some other prisoners. Right there in the truck they beat us with clubs and rifles. Soon we arrived in a big room and then they took me into a little room. There were several men there, I don't know how many, who formed a circle around me, then raped me, then beat me senseless. Later, I don't know how long after, they took me to another room where they burned me with cigarettes, asking constantly for names and for the hiding place of the arms. Later they let me rest because I fainted; they let me rest several hours or it might have been until the next day because I lost track of time. Then they took me back into that room full of men, and when they saw that I wasn't saying what they wanted me to say, they took me to a place called 'Picana' where they applied electric current to my most sensitive places, especially the genitals. Later they put me in cold water and gave me more electric shocks. Then they let me rest again. There is just enough medical supervision so that you recuperate and not die. They took me into a room and threw me a blanket. A few hours later a man came in and kicked me all over my body for half an hour. Later they took me out for a regular interrogation without torture, and I said that I had no connection with anybody. They took me back to the 'Picana', and then I said that I did know some people but that I didn't know where they were. Later they let me out for lack of energy. Fifteen days later I was fired from my job. It will be impossible for me to work in Chile for as long as the military government lasts. Later I was arrested again by the Carabineros. A reasonably friendly man interviewed me without torturing me. He asked me if I had any connection with a lieutenant of the Carabineros who I didn't know. He also tried to implicate me with the wife of one of the men who had been arrested with me and who has not appeared again. From there I went secretly to a certain place. One thing which I forgot to tell you is that they keep you naked from the moment you enter the base and they don't give you anything back. I am in danger coming to speak to you. I have only left the place where I am hiding twice. The first time I was nearly arrested."

She is one of the thousands of women who have suffered the most brutal repression in the history of our country. Their "crime" was to give support to a democratically elected government that achieved major changes in the society and gave special attention, like never before, to the problems of women and children. One of the laws put into practice during the P.U. (Popular Unity) Government and which meant a tremendous advance in the status of Chilean women, was the law of "Jardines Infantiles" (nurseries and Day Care Centres) which stated that if there were twenty women or more working at a given place, the employer had to supply a free day care. Supervisors for these nurseries had been started to be prepared by the Chilean universities which created a special, three year long career to form preschool supervisors. Nurses also had a chance to specialize in children nutrition and health in order to supply these day care centres and nurseries with well prepared personnel. Another law approved during the Allende government allowed the nursing mother one free hour that she could distribute during the day to leave her work and feed her child in the nursery. A third law that favoured the young mother had to do with pre and post birth rest: a pregnant mother received a full salary without having to work for a month before delivery and three months after. After that, she was able to take her child to the correspondent nursery, and continue working.

A research done during the P.U. government discovered that illegal abortion constituted the main cause of mortality among women. With a great deal of opposition from the conservative sectors in the country, several experimental clinics opened up throughout the country to perform abortion to women who had got pregnant in spite of the fact that they had been using some kind of contraceptive. A mass campaign was started to provide women with contraceptive methods and teach all the people in Chile the importance of family planning. This step meant a great advance, given the fact that Catholicism, the prevailing religion, had opposed and still opposes family planning. Since the coup, abortion is completely illegal again; women in "El Buen Pastor" jail who asked for abortion because they were pregnant as a consequence of the rapes suffered while imprisoned, were told that they should be proud of giving birth to children of the "fatherland", that is to say of military men.

Malnutrition is the cause of mortality and retardation of many third world children; aware of this fact in Chile, Allende started a programme in which all children under 14 years received half a liter of milk per day, free. Through that programme it was assured that all children in Chile were getting their minimum of milk a day. In addition to this, a programme of free lunches was started in all Chilean elementary schools. Unfortunately, all these programmes have ended under the Junta regime.

Women were active in community organizations and in all levels of political life throughout the country. They played a special role in the JAPs, neighbourhood organizations that took care of the food distribution, seriously damaged by the truck-owners and shopkeepers strikes that helped so much to create the climate for the overthrow of Allende in September, 1973.

The new regime has a Secretariat of Women, under the Civil Affairs Department, the staff of which staunchly supports the junta. But many women in "poblaciones" and rural areas have lost their jobs. Of those working, many do not make enough to supply their families with protein. Women are being forced by the economic situation into prostitution. Abortion clinics opened by the P.U. have been closed and doctors accused of performing abortions are now jailed. One example is Dr. Anibal Faundez who started the abortion plan in the Barros Luco Hospital in Santiago during the Allende government and who is now in jail.

Once detained or fired, because suspected of leftist tendencies, a woman finds it impossible to get work. Women, like men, may be picked up any day by the police because of denunciation by a neighbour or fellow worker.

This climate of terror existing in Chile has resulted in the emigration of thousands of people to countries which have opened their borders to offer them a new life. In Canada, the main concentration of Chileans is in Toronto and Montreal but in Vancouver there are around fifty families. At present, a year and a half after the coup, refugees and immigrants are still arriving in Canada. The government helps them the first few months but later they have to stand on their own. Many of the people who have arrived in Vancouver are professionals but very few of them are working in their own field. The first problem they face is the barrier of the language and then, even after they learn the language, they cannot find a job in their profession. The reason is that many of the degrees obtained in Chile are not valid in Canada and even when they are, people are required to have "Canadian experience" in order to be hired. The situation of the Chilean woman is more dramatic still, because usually, the head of the family does get some kind of a job but the woman has to stay home or, in the best cases, gets a job as a cleaning lady, a kitchen helper or a waitress. Many are the women lawyers staying at home, the teachers serving coffee, tea and pizza in restaurants, the university students cleaning houses, etc.

The Chilean woman has a lot to share with the Canadian woman. The high degree of active participation in social affairs achieved by the woman in Chile has given her an experience that she could very well share with all women in Canada to reach a status according with their capacity. But first, let us get her out of her house!

- - Carmen Rodriguez

Show your feelings of sisterhood for the Chilean women living here. And learn more about the Chilean women who are being held in Chile and how you can help them. Come to the Chilean Women's Night -- see the Office Page -- page 14 for details.

# —Sexism, Schools & Society—

North Vancouver has been chosen as one of two communities for a provincial pilot project called Sexism, Schools and Society. This project is made possible by a grant from the Department of Education to the Provincial Advisory Committee on Sex Discrimination, and will run from April through to the end of August.

The North Vanouver Project Director and Advisory Committee would like to invite you to participate in our first working session Thursday, June 12, 7-10 p.m. and Friday, June 13, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Our aim in these sessions is to bring together those parents, teachers, students and community members in North Vancouver who are concerned about the problem of sexism in our schools and society, and together to develop an understanding of the nature of sexism in our schools and society and how it has kept women and girls from participating fully in the decision making structure in our community. We are designing the sessions so that, as a group, we can identify the major issues regarding sexism in North Vancouver schools and community and, most importantly, develop a co-ordinated program to deal with these issues.

Dr. Dorothy Smith, one of the founders of the UBC Women's Studies credit program, and Linda Shuto, BCTF Status of Women Co-ordinator, will be addressing the work sessions on Thursday evening. Members of the UBC Faculty of Education, BCTF Task Force on the Status of Women, Provincial Advisory Committee on Sex Discrimination and Capilano College will be acting as resource people.

If you are interested and want detailed information, please contact Project Director Rita Chud at 987-8141, Local 235.

Admission is free and child care will be provided but space is limited so please call soon.

# FOCUS...

This month let's look at two of the recommendations of the Royal Commission Report on the Status of Women in Canada that have to do with one of the most august of Canadian institutions: the Senate.

> Rec.138: We recommend that two qualified women from each province be summoned to the Senate as seats become vacant, and that women continue to be summoned until a more equitable membership is achieved.
>
> Rec.139: We recommend that financial qualifications for eligibility for membership in the Senate be abolished.

Implementation of these recommendations falls within the jurisdiction of the Prime Minister's office.

Fire off those letters then to the Hon. Pierre Elliot Trudeau, House if Commons, Ottawa, Ontario.

-Roberta Schlosberg

# —Abortion Petition—

The petition below is being sent by the newly formed Vancouver branch of C.A.R.A.L. (Canadian Association for Repeal of the Abortion Laws) to all unions, large organizations who employ many women, all women's groups and associations in the province.

It is hoped that response will be substantial. We urge all of you who feel that abortion should be removed from the criminal code to sign your name to this initial petition and send it to the address given below.

We realize that most of you have probably signed oodles of petitions already , many of you were active with Dr. Morgentaler's Defense Committee and are feeling very tired right now. O.K., there's some new blood to carry things on now, we're willing to share the workload with others who may not have participated before. Just sign and send the petition please, right away.

If you are an individual who feels that abortion should be removed from the Criminal Code of Canada to become a private matter between a woman and her doctor, don't sit waiting for Canada to catch up with the rest of the world.

Act Now!

Abortions performed by qualified medical practitioners should be permitted in the same way as other medical operations. Under the present law, abortions performed by a "legal medical practitioner" can be either legal, or illegal. The abortion is illegal if it is not first approved by a therapeutic abortion committee of an accredited hsopital. The fact that only 19% of hospitals in Canada have established these committees means that many women must seek the help of qualified doctors who operate without committees, or the services of unqualified "quacks" when they need abortions. Unequal access to medical services is clearly unjust.

Democracy implies that the majorities wishes shall become the governing rule. The present government does not choose to believe that the majority of Canadians want freedom of choice on abortion. It has imprisoned Dr. Morgentaler (who performed abortions to help women in need), despite a "not guilty" verdict given by a jury of ordinary people.

Act now. Make your voice heard in Ottawa! Return this appeal today. We will make sure it reaches the government in Ottawa.

I(we) the undersigned cannot support a government which:

i) makes abortion a criminal offense.
ii) imprisons qualified medical practitioners who perform abortions without hospital committee approval.

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

_____

PHONE_____

We would like to help further by:

canvassing___phoning___organizing___

donation___

Return to C.A.R.A.L., 1310 Greenbriar Way, North Vancouver, B.C. V7R 1M2.

(C.A.R.A.L. stands for the initials of the national organization of Canadian Assoc. for Repeal of the Abortion Laws. Pamphlets and membership forms available on request from the above address or VSW offices.)

Louise Whitaker

# Workshop

On May 23rd and 24th, approximately 200 women attended an IWY Leadership and Community Service Workshop sponsored by the University Women's Club of Vancouver and partially funded by the Department of the Secretary of State.

Friday evening after small group discussions, Nancy Morrison, Provincial Court Judge on leave, Labour Relations Board, spoke on "Why do we not have more women leaders?" In her speech Nancy reminded the audience that the Vancouver Status of Women had developed out of a meeting in the same room four years earlier.

Looking around the room she said it was"like being a convict and having a seminar on how to stay out of jail and asking the other prisoners to speak."

She also pointed out that if you were interested in leadership and power, the University Women's Club was the wrong club to belong to. "The real University Club where the power is is,is downtown." The exclusively male clubs are areas where important powerful people engage in social intercourse--where decision making goes on. Women are physically excluded from these places. "If these people don't take us seriously on a country club level, why would they take us seriously on a leadership level?"

Saturday morning featured a talk by Senator Nancy Heath, a panel discussion involving Darlene,Marzari, Doris Ronnenberg, Isabel Kimmitt, Jean Gordon, Maggie Ip and Pat Carney. The morning ended with group discussions and reports.

It was felt by some that many of the women present were not aware of the many and various forms of discrimination faced by women in our society and the implications of these discriminatory practices, and so were not very deeply committed to change in the present power structure.

# subscribe!

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

PHONE (home)_____

(work)_____

OCCUPATION_____

MEMBERSHIP DONATION $_____

CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP $_____

RENEWAL_____ NEW MEMBER_____

I wish to become a member_____

I wish only to receive KINESIS_____

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

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.

Views expressed in Kinesis are those of the writer and unless specifically stated do not reflect the policy of VSW.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:KINESIS is provided as a service to members of VSW in good standing. Membership is acquired by an annual donation. In determining your donation we ask you to balance your own financial position and the fact that KINESIS costs approximately $3.00 per year per person to print and mail.

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SUBMISSIONS: KINESIS welcomes submissions from members and will consider those from non-members. All submissions, including letters to the the editorial committee, must be accompanied by the writer's name and address. Pseudonyms will be used where requested. Where necessary, the editorial committee will edit for brevity, clarity and taste.

CORRESPONDENCE: Send to : KINESIS
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# Letters

Kinesis:

Those of us who are practitioners of the world's oldest profession, which has got to be motherhood, take exception to statements like the following: "Ms. Korbely is not working full-time at the present...as she has twin babies." If caring for twin babies isn't full-time work, I'd like to know what is.

Motherhood may not be fashionable, salaried or celebrated as all traditionally male-dominated professions seem to be these days; but believe me it is real work nonetheless.

Conventional English has always differentiated between work done inside and work done outside the home ("Are you working? No, I'm at home."),but conventional English has been guilty of a lot of faux pas, many of which feminists have laboured long and hard to change, with some success. The fact that feminism hasn't focused much attention on a linguistic dichotomy which robs women who work at home of recognition and dignity suggests to me that feminism has yet to be fully convinced of the value of women's traditional role, and the women who choose to embrace it.

Sincerely,
Roberta Schlosberg

Kinesis note:' The statement referred to above read:"Ms. Korbely is not working fulltime at present--she does some consulting--as she has twin babies." The statement directly followed a paragraph outlining the difficulties Ms. Korbely experienced in Canada when trying to persue a career as a Mechanical Engineer. It was not in anyway intended to slight the role of motherhood. Perhaps if the writer had included the words "as an Engineer" after "fulltime" this misunderstanding could have been avoided.

Kinesis:
Thank you for the copy of Kinesis, and for your kind remarks regarding women and engineering and the special seminar on women in engineering last month at UBC. It was a very special pleasure for me to be present and to have the opportunity to learn more than I had known before about the status of women in Canada, and about Canadian women engineers in particular. I found it enormously heartwarming to realize that my colleagues on the engineering faculty at UBC are so supportive and interested in doing what they can to attract more women students into the engineering school there. I feel sure that they will follow through.
Thank you for your offer to send me a copy of the June issue of Kinesis so that I can finish your article. I enjoyed the first half very much.
Sincerly,
Irene C. Pedan
Associate Dean, Electrical Engineering
University of Washington

Kinesis:
I enjoyed reading Kinesis and am taking the liberty of forwarding this material to the Task Force on Opportunities for Women in Engineering.
Yours Truly,
Graham R. Lea, Minister of Highways

International Women's Year 1975

CANADIAN PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE WORLD CONGRESS FOR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR

Ten Canadian women have a unique opportunity to share with women of every continent their actions for equality, development and peace during this International Women's Year. The high point of 1975 for 2000 women from 100 countries will be the World Congress for International Women's Year, planned for October 20 - 24 in Berlin. This is a non-governmental gathering of interest to women around the world.

The Canadian Preparatory Committee is inviting applicants from women who may represent groups active on issues of equality, child care, health and education, women from industrial work force and from agriculture, from the arts and the media, women in public life or in legal and political activities, or in work for peace and international friendship. The Canadian delegation will be a representative group of all ages, and from French and English-speaking parts of the country.

To back the ten-woman Canadian delegation, the Canadian Preparatory Committee is inviting messages, resolutions, research materials from women's groups or seminars, labour councils, or colleges, to provide Resource Papers on Canadian conditions and actions.

As a mark of sisterhood, an International Solidarity Fund to aid sisters to travel to the World Congress has been set up. Contributions are invited.

Applications or enquiries may be directed to the Canadian Preparatory Committee, IWY Box 524, Port Credit Postal Station, Mississauga, Ontario. Deadline for receipt of application for the Canadian delegation is July 31, 1975.

WHOOPS!

Readers have complained that listing the address for copies of the Report of the National Conference on Women and Sport simply as 11th Floor, Ottawa was too vague. So to remove the element of challenge from yet one more area of daily living here is the complete address: Health and Welfare Canada, Fitness and Amateur Sport Branch, 11th Floor, Journal Building, 365 Laurier Ave.West, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0X6

# important

The important business meeting held May 28th to vote on the proposed amendments to the constitution, was attended by approximately 50 members. The amendments were passed as written in the May issue of Kinesis, with the exception of 9) Delete Article III, Section ii - Signing Officers and substitute the following new Article III, Section II - Signing Officers therefor:

"Signing officers shall be the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and officers designated by the Board of Directors. The signatures of two signing officers shall be necessary to authorize disbursements."

The existing Article III, Section II - Signing Officers : "Signing officers shall be the Treasurer with the President or Vice-President or Secretary or elected officer designated by the Board of Directors" will be amended as follows--the word"elected" preceeding the word "officer" shall be elected.

A nomination for the position of Member-at-Large was made from the floor. Mary Barretto was nominated by Carole Anne Soong, seconded by Diana Bissell.

# COMING IN June

DON'T FORGET THE IMPORTANT VANCOUVER STATUS OF WOMEN GENERAL MEETING TO BE HELD JUNE 17, AT 7:30 p.m. IN THE BOARDROOM OF THE DOWNTOWN YWCA.

WE WILL ELECT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 1975-76.

WE WILL ALSO CELEBRATE OUR FOURTH BIRTHDAY WITH CHAMPAGNE AND OTHER GOODIES.

SEE YOU THERE!

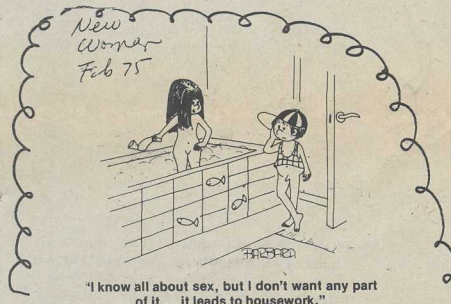
# summer

AND WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR THE LONG HOT SUMMER?

Are you planning something wonderful this year? Are you going to make the most of every summer day? How about sharing your holiday plans with us? Phone in and tell us about the picnics, the hikes, the weekends, the globe-trotting, the camping, the cycling, the sunning, the playing you are looking forward to over the next few months. Let's share some ideas on summer fun.

We'd like to hear especially from women who are on their own, perhaps with children. Perhaps money is tight, perhaps there's no one to go on holiday with. Perhaps all that is needed are a few ideas to stimulate us into making darn sure we get a break this summer.

Phone Marjorie % VSW Office 736-3746. We'll let you know in the next issue of Kinesis how much fun we're all going to have this summer.




"I know all about sex, but I don't want any part of it ... it leads to housework."

*"I'll tell you what I want. I want self-actualization as a woman in a societal modality in which a viable life-style is divorced from preconceived ideas of sexual role-conditioning, and I want it now!"*

# june CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE 4 - High School Women's Workshop, 7 pm office.

- C.A.R.A.L. Abortion group, 7:30 pm, office.

- WOMAN ALIVE, CABLE 10 TV, 10:30 PM.

JUNE 6 - 10:30 am LETTER LOBBY, office.

JUNE 9 - 1st meeting of new consciousness-raising group, 7:30 pm, office.

- Verbal self-defence group meeting, 8 pm, office.

JUNE 10 - KINESIS newspaper meeting, 7:30 pm.

JUNE 11 - C.A.R.A.L. Abortion group, 7:30 pm, office.

JUNE 12 - ORIENTATION MEETING, for all those new members and other interested people who want to know what VSW does and how they can help--etc. 8 pm, office.

JUNE 13 thru 16th - WESTERN CANADIAN WOMEN's FESTIVAL, PASS CREEK PARK, CASTLEGAR, B.C.

JUNE 17 - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, of Van. Status of Women. 7:30 pm, YWCA downtown, in 3rd floor boardroom. Election of 1975/76 officers, annual report from staff, wine & gg goodies to celebrate our 4th birthday! come!

JUNE 18 - WOMAN ALIVE, CABLE 10, TV, 10:30 pm.

JUNE 19 - CHILEAN WOMEN'S NIGHT, festival for all, 7:30 pm until ? all thru the office. Films, Handcrafts, talk, singing - with women refugees from Chile.

JUNE 25 - WOMAN ALIVE, CABLE 10 TV, 10:30 pm.

JUNE 26 - OPEN EVENING, 8pm until 10:30, office. Our office is open to you - drop by to read, talk, enjoy.