

kinesis

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June 15th, 1976 is a very important day for the Vancouver Status of Women! At 7:30 p.m. the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held in the Boardroom of the Vancouver YWCA.

This is the opportunity for all members of VSW to come together to discuss the work of VSW and to elect the officers who will represent us in the coming year in setting VSW policy and direction. The Annual Report of the activities of VSW during the past year will be presented and as last year it will be a time for us to discuss what has happened at VSW and what will happen in the future. With the unsettled conditions that we are working under at present it is especially important that as many members as possible attend this meeting.

Last year we topped off the Annual Meeting with a few bottles of champagne and some goodies and a lot of interesting conversation. A good time was had by all! Be certain that you join us this year!

On the next page is a list of the candidates for the Vancouver Status of Women Board of Directors for 1976-77. Each candidate was asked to say something about herself and why she would like to serve on the VSW Board of Directors. Come and vote on JUNE 15th.

=CANDIDATES=

PRESIDENT -- one to be elected

Nancy Conrod

Having served in this office for a year, I am totally mad to run again. But the work is still vital. Our movement essential. For myself -- thanks for VSW and the women's movement's effect on my life and for whatever my skills, experiences and beliefs can do for women. I would like to serve again.

VICE-PRESIDENT - one to be elected

Nancy Deneffre

--VSW Member at Large for 2 years
--Parent
--Co-ordinator Downtown Resources Board

TREASURER -- one to be elected

Margaret Harriman

I first became involved in the feminist movement when I graduated from university and found that women do not generally have the same opportunity to enter and work in business. Women, in all types of occupations, are still not given the same opportunities as men.

Last year I was involved with the group discussing "Feminism & Relationships". Since then, I have been in a number of situations where women have been questioning the "roles" that society has imposed on us. We have to be recognized as individuals. The VSW is working towards eliminating discrimination and stereotyping and I would like to make my contribution to the feminist movement.

Lisa Rogers

No statement available.

SECRETARY - one to be elected

Ramona Cowler

I wish to become Secretary of Vancouver Status of Women because I feel I could learn more about the movement and be a more contributing member. I have found that through my present involvement with the Status of Women I have become a stronger person and hope to help "spread the word" as to what our organization means to do and has already done for the women of B.C.

MEMBER-AT-LARGE - six to be elected

Marjorie MacDonald

I have been a member of VSW for five years now and have not done much for the organization except pay my dues. I have watched VSW grow and make progress, as a result of hard work by many women. I want to now contribute some of my time and energy to VSW, and work with women for women. As a single parent I am now having the same sort of problems that VSW has been dealing with, and I would like to get in on the action.

Heather Kellerhals

Tomboy! I guess that name thrown after me at age nine started me on the long, sometimes halting road to feminism. Right now my greatest interest is kids-- whether it be watching my own two rascals grow, working with other kids as a social worker, or writing stories for kids and in the process trying to really listen and hear. Have been only a short time in Vancouver, but already contact with the VSW office and the marvellous "characters" there, plus participation in events like the conference on Housewives, has made me feel a bit like Jack's beanstalk. Would like to help if I can.

Arlene Gropper

-- member of VSW for several years.
-- concerned about the survival of VSW and would like to put some energy into seeing that it survives viably.
-- parent of two children.
-- MA in Social Work.
-- former staff member of Berger Commission on Family and Children's Law.
-- worked on Women Rally for Action and involved now in follow-up lobby work.

Dorothy Holme

I coordinate the Letter Lobby Committee and have been a member of the Executive for one year. I was pleased to represent VSW at the Annual Meeting of the National Action Committee in Ottawa (see report elsewhere in Kinesis).

My commitment to improve the status of women in Canada--especially through legislative changes--increases with each year spent in the women's movement. That is why I would like to run for another term as a Member at Large--being on the Executive gives one that little extra impetus needed when dealing with reluctant provincial and federal politicians.

Leslie Dixon

I became a member of VSW a year ago when I began working with VSW in connection with my position on the BCNU Standing Committee. I didn't become fully involved however until I was hired to work on the Audio-Visual Library as part of the 1975 Summer Grant. After the job ended I found myself wishing to continue working for VSW, and running for the executive is one of the ways that I feel I can contribute.

Lee Grills

Where did the year go? Half was IWY. So long hope...for three seconds. The other half saw the end of funding from "old" sources. THEN: Women! Rally for Action. A great beginning. This coming year will be no tougher than others. It will necessitate more action by our individual membership. The staff will be unable to continue if our funding does indeed cease in July. That means goodbye apathy and hello ACTION for all of us. This will be another beginning.

Barbara Bulmer

--Six years experience as a social worker; survivor of 12 years of marriage and 2 children
--On Provincial Executive of Social Health Services Component of B.C. Government Employees Union
--Concerned with rights and roles of women in employment, the trade union movement, and the welfare system.

Carol Norman

I am a native of Vancouver--resided here 28 of my 31 years--a freelance graphic artist, member of VSW for 2 years, and part of "Women Together" which published the Women's Directory of B.C. as an IWY project.

I actively participated in the organization of WRA and subsequent followup.

Why am I running?...because the political climate in this province and country is trying to bury the feminist movement, and I feel that I can help to throw the dirt out faster than they can throw it in.

Carole Sinclair

Coming to VSW was like that rush of stimulation that occurs upon finding a kindred spirit. I have experienced personal growth through the supportive atmosphere at VSW, and I feel that there is much to be done in reaching women and men who are complacent in their attitudes. I believe that serving on the executive would be a step in that direction.

--VSW member for 1½ years, involved with Woman Alive committee, Kinesis, CR, and various other projects.

Donna Trottman

--Lives in Delta, flight attendant
--Member of the women's group that produced the Women's Directory
--Involved with the bargaining group trying to improve the status of flight attendants; writes masses of letters to the department of transport
--Vice-president of the Board of Directors of the Chimo Crisis Centre.

STAFF APPOINTMENTS TO VSW EXECUTIVE

On May 28, 1975, the by-laws of the Vancouver Status of Women were amended to read:

Article IV, Section I -- Officers

"b) In addition there shall be four appointed officers selected from amongst the employees of the society by the said employees. One of the said appointed officers shall be the Ombudswoman. The remainder shall be members-at-large."

In accordance with this by-law the following staff appointments have been made:

Ombudswoman

Lee Masters

Members-at-Large

Nadine Allen

Johanna den Hertog

Jo Lazenby

PENSIONS FOR HOUSEWIVES

(The following are highlights from a speech given by Eileen Caner, Director of the Women's Economic Rights Branch, Department of Economic Development to the Canadian Public Service Pension Conference, June 1975.)

Every woman needs to be assured of an adequate pension in her own right...whether working inside or outside the home, whether single, married or widowed...but the facts are clear...many pension group insurance, medical and disability plans...discriminate against women.

We continue to get pension plans designed by and for men with all their traditional attitudes built into the structure...Women are viewed as economically dependent on a man. The consequent assumption is that their husband's plan will provide for their needed retirement income. It is...inaccurate to presume that the working woman has a husband. Forty-three per cent of working women in Canada are single, separated or divorced and many of them have dependents.

It is interesting to note that when the CPP designers addressed themselves to the question of equality they extended equal benefits to spouses i.e. the widower benefitted, but no pension credits for housewives--no pension credit for marriage breakdown--cessation of widows pensions on remarriage. They looked after the males who had suffered discrimination but left vast areas of discrimination against females untouched. Presumably these women were to be looked after by the male providers in the system and not by the system itself.

I should like to go back to the cessation of widows pension on remarriage. What is the base for this provision? Clearly traditional attitudes about the role of women. She is provided for by one male even after his death, until another male takes his place as her economic supporter!

We need an actuarial reshuffle based on the fact that women who have chosen to stay in the labour force as homemakers have earned their right to this pension by their contribution to the family economic unit. She should be receiving an annuity for the rest of her life issued on years of contribution to each economic unit or marriage.

I should like to tackle the assumptions built into many joint and survivor annuity plans with the usual 50% survivor benefit. There is never an economic justification for this figure. Facing this cut in income is a shock for a lot of women. They suddenly realize they are a left-over appendage of the economic provider.

The logical end of a demand for equality is the complete abolition of any survivor benefits at all. This would be to completely

ignore the realities of our social and economic system where the pattern of many women's lives has been that a significant proportion of the contribution to the economy is in the form of unpaid labour in the home.

I suggest that schemes such as in the new B.C. proposal whereby the widow may inherit 100% of the husband's pension and can add to this by her own contributions at work, be examined in detail. The B.C. proposal on the inclusion of homemakers in the CPP does not follow the same actuarial path as the British one, but it does achieve the same result. On the death of the spouse, the pension paid would be the equivalent of 100% of the male coverage under the existing CPP.

Before the second world war, women used to work for several years between leaving school and getting married, whereupon they generally withdrew from the labor market. This image is still implicitly reflected in much of our pension and benefit structure but it is no longer valid. Women's lives have fundamentally changed. Today in Canada women constitute 34% of the labour force. The participation rate of women is just under 40%. Women are in the labour force...to stay and yet many pension plans still ask them to demonstrate their attachment to the labour force before they are allowed to join pension plans.

I include the following types of plans in this category: a) those made available only to male employees or are compulsory for males but optional for females b) minimum age requirements, 21 for males and 25 for females c) maximum age participation, for females five years lower than that for males--occasionally it is ten years lower d) in some plans females must be employed longer than their male counterparts in order to subscribe to fringe benefits schools.

The justification is that the higher turnover rate of new female employees as compared to new male employees induces higher administrative costs for a short length of service. However statistical data has revealed that high turnover rates are not sex based. They are characteristic of low paid routine jobs. Women are concentrated in those jobs and therefore suffer double discrimination.

Through income distribution and occupational discrimination, women are allocated to an inferior position in the pension structure.

Consider the general absence of portability between schemes. Non-portability favours the long service employee, that is the male whose career path is not interrupted by childrearing and other domestic demands. Women need both portability of pensions and coverage for time away from the labour force.

Allowing employers to provide higher pension benefits for men than for women on the grounds of higher cost

is to allow employers to assume that all men are like the 'average' man and all women are like the 'average' woman in terms of death. It allows employers to arrange things so that the savings in annuity cost for the 16% of males who die early are entirely monopolized by men, 84% of whom are in the overlap group. We would argue that the law, which forbids using sex as a way of grouping employees, requires the sharing of these benefits and these costs over both sexes. Pension plans which group employees by sex constitute a denial of equal pay for equal work for the majority of the population.

Of course, to go the unisex route will mean some transfer of income to the disadvantaged group and whenever we transfer income we are restructuring our society. An appropriate place to start is when provincial pension plan administrators develop legislation regulating pensions. "From each according to their ability; to each according to their needs" has surely progressed from a revolutionary precept to an administrative cliché with the passage of time.

(Speech edited by Karen Richardson
WCWN)

census day

CENSUS DAY -- JUNE 1

June 1 is Census Day in Canada and marks a minor breakthrough for women's liberation.

For the first time, wives, whether employed outside the home or not, may declare themselves "head of the household" on the form. The change comes from complaints following the 1971 census, when homemakers who believed themselves in charge of the house had to play second fiddle (on paper) to their husbands. On this year's form, husbands and wives can flip for who calls themselves the boss.

A census is taken every five years in Canada with the results forming the basis for other surveys, and for planning government and other programs.

Postpaid envelopes and a pencil are provided. Remember that it is against the law not to return the census form. Besides, the census costs Canadians \$31 million or roughly \$1.50 each.

-reprinted *Chatelaine*, June/76.

NOTE: The real breakthrough will come when the phase "head of household" is eliminated from the census form. What is implied is a head above other heads (in the government's head, at any rate) and we cannot, in our heads, conceive of a justification for a value judgment or hierarchical ranking of heads -- except by boneheads.

-Yours for Headway,
Anon.

CONFESIONS OF A CLEANING LADY

"Laundry lady
laughs ...
and works to rule
because she has to work
but she's nobody's fool.

They pay her bad
and make her mad
so -- she works to rule

If they ask for more
she knows the score ...
and claims she just don't
understand!"

Yes, I was a cleaning lady at a private athletic club. I was paid \$3.25/hour to dust, polish, mop, wash, wax, pick up garbage, wash used towels, and -- my favorite -- scrub accumulated body fat from shower stalls.

From the wage, one would assume that the job was not important. But it was, because the men were not allowed to do women's work i.e. use the washing machine. If they ran out of clean fluffy white towels, the whole operation came to a grinding halt. I was expected to give a couple of days notice if I intended to be "sick" so that the other cleaning lady could come in. I came into great conflict with management because I was genuinely sick and they had to force the other woman to come in. They tried to play us off against one another -- we were responsible for providing the service. They refused to be responsible for being flexible enough to provide for such emergencies.

Our male counterparts had a similar problem. "Houseboys", however, did do "men's" work like moving furniture, emptying garbage cans and vacuuming. They, of course, received a high wage.

During the time I was there, a lot happened to me. For one thing, I left there in the best physical shape I have ever been in. It was always a thrill to look in the bathroom mirror and see a new muscle.

When I started work at the club I was feeling desperate, depressed and degraded. I had been working twelve years. I'd always been long on ability but short on confidence. Imagine -- coming from working in a women's centre, with all the new-found confidence that entailed, searching for a good job, going broke, and having welfare hand you this plum. I cried a lot the first few days. I'd come home exhausted, go directly to bed, only to find I couldn't sleep because my feet hurt.

I felt great hostility about being in this situation. Especially against management and privileged club members. Especially against the teenagers who would purposely make gross messes for us, the servants, to clean up.

It was like we weren't people. While we were paid poor wages and weren't paid for our lunch break, management did give us free food. Talk about paternalism. However, we were constantly on call. Imagine being called from your lunch to clean up vomit.

(It just came to me now, in a flash, that some of this must be what being a mother is like!)



My hostility and resentment came out indirectly because I needed the job so desperately. Vandalism! I used to scratch feminist graffiti on washroom walls. Thievery! I used to steal small items like soap. I even took to bringing home items from the lost and found. Sneakery! I used to hide out in the laundry room and read, write and plot. More about the plot later...

Never, in the whole time I was there, did I purposefully neglect my actual work. Pride perhaps, but never in my life have I ever been satisfied with doing a half-assed job at anything. Besides time goes faster when you're busy.

As time passed my confidence grew and I developed a new ploy -- eccentricity! I once wiped out the business office by insisting on cleaning their windows with ammonia. When asked, "why use ammonia?" I replied, "because it smells like I'm really working."

I suffered one humiliation after another from my boss, but as I was regaining strength, i.e. knowing other employees felt similarly oppressed, he was becoming less intimidating. Once he was standing about 20 feet from the cigarette machine, gave me money, told me to buy his cigarettes and bring them to his office. I assumed that he wanted to have a heart to heart chat about something. I took the cigarettes to him in his office, at the other end of the building, armed with foul smelling telephone disinfectant and when it became apparent that he didn't want to talk I sprayed his phone, and a goodly part of his desk, and left.

When I began working at the club, my co-workers, two very nice Italian "ladies", insisted that I mustn't wear pants. They didn't know why, but it just wasn't done. My explanation that I was not there to be decorative but functional did not make sense to them until about two months later when one of them realized that when I bent over "you don't see nothing."

The only other perverse pleasure I took in dress was wearing my VSW T-shirts -- "MS" and "UPPITY WOMEN UNITE!" -- under my green mini-dress uniform.

It was only after I felt financially secure that the plotting began. I had been talking to fellow employees about their grievances. One woman I worked

with had not received a single raise in the five years she had been there. Wages were poor, morale was poor, and staff turn over incredibly high. People had talked about organizing a union for two years, but nothing had ever been done. People just left instead. I was another person to leave, but before leaving I set up a meeting to discuss organizing with SORWC (Service, Office and Retail Workers Union of Canada). I took great pleasure in hiding; out in the laundry room writing notices and then surreptitiously posting them around the building.

I wish I could report that the response was overwhelming. The only overwhelming response was from management. They called everyone in and the gist of the conversation was "The rich can't afford not to exploit the poor." If we pay better wages we'll have to lay a lot of you off. Further to this they threatened some employees with immediate dismissal if they went to the meeting.

Only one person showed up at the meeting. People would rather switch than fight? or more likely -- people were not willing to give up a sunny afternoon to attend a meeting that might not get anywhere. Apathy! "let someone else do it, then we'll reap the benefit."

It was only after I had given my notice that I felt secure in not only taking action in trying to unionize, but to tell my boss off. One day, he kicked a box of garbage out of my hands as I walked past him in the hall. I was furious -- so I kicked it too. Hard! Then when he asked why I told him off. It's funny, because from then on he treated me with respect, offered good references and begged me to stay on. No way! I was off with others who had forsaken apathy -- WOMEN'S RALLY FOR ACTION -- to try to do something about our lot in life.

- former teacher, civil servant, clerk, grapefruit picker, and toilet paper packer. (Name withheld by request.)

NEWS

VRB EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Vancouver Resources Board has approved an equal opportunities program for women, minorities and handicapped persons, chaired by Darlene Marzari, as recommended by Shelagh Day of the Human Rights Commission. Three unions will be affected: CUPE, VMERU, SSEU. The VRB labour force is being studied and a report is expected sometime in June this year. For more information contact Mary Seagull, 33 East 8 Ave. Vancouver, B.C. or call 872-8154. (KR)

WOMEN IN THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

What are the issues of concern to women in the urban development? Habitat Forum on Women and Human Settlements will soon examine this neglected theme, which even our much lauded Royal Commission Report on the Status of women 1970 ignored.

In the meantime, let's look at the report of the national conference "Women in the Urban Environment" held in Ottawa, October 1975 by the National Capital Commission in celebration of IWY.

Sixty women from across Canada participated in the conference: architects, planners, sociologists, design teachers, economists, political scientists, community representatives.

The conference examined ways in which development affects women's lives; generated a series of criteria relevant to women's needs for urban planning; recommended how women can systematically be incorporated into community planning decisions.

The workshop zeroed in on special needs of single parent women, elderly women and mothers and children generally, who suffer most from the attitude that social rights are luxuries in urban development.

"Urban development has proceeded in accordance with male economic priorities from a very ad hoc social research basis, particularly with regard to women. At best, women's urban concerns are expressed in a fragmented and incidental fashion. The environment is designed largely by men, for principal use by women, whose representation in planning and decision-making positions in urban development is minimal. Even in those groups where women are strongly represented, it is probable that they may not themselves recognize possible changes in women's needs in their own communities; are inhibited from expressing women's concerns in mixed sex groups. Location of new communities is often solely governed by a private developer's economic convenience in assembling land, not according to the needs of the people who will live there. Women and children suffer most in the "straggle of suburbia" without a focus, without connections, balance of social elements, opportunities for reasonable environment and social prospects, these factors should not be a matter of luck. Lack of policy controls frequently results in geographic isolation, lack of transportation, inadequate community and commercial facilities, lack of employment links."

SINGLE PARENTS

The single parent family is a rapidly growing sector of

the population. More than one-quarter of all Canadian families are now supported by single parents. Female heads of families are five times more likely to be poor than others. Half to 3/4 of all public housing is inhabited by motherled families.

The report says that the basic problem of single-parent women is poverty combined with lack of social services, inadequate job opportunities, and poor recreation centres in the urban community.

Single parents are imprisoned in the community because transportation for the public is usually minimal since most families are assumed to have at least one car.

Single parents are also under more pressure in childrearing and hence require more privacy both in the home and in the community. Yet, they are discriminated against in rentals by landlords and zoning by-laws often outlaw adults sharing accommodation if they are "unrelated."

Urban planning lacks outdoor recreational space for their children and themselves and inadequate childcare centres place an extra burden on single parents. In addition, there are no special services or accommodation for single parents in the crisis of transition.

Therefore, the report recommends community planning should be based on a diversity of lifestyles instead of only designed for the family with two parents. This would include:

a) size and number of public housing units related to projected population mix so they do not become single parent ghettos.

b) single parents should be offered cooperative housing and financial support for the conversion of appropriate buildings.

c) zoning by-laws must permit unrelated persons to live together to share childcare and expenses.

d) CMHC should provide funds to allow single parents to remain in their original homes and provide funding for the establishment of daycare.

ELDERLY WOMEN

By the year 2,000 AD, 16% of the population will be senior citizens, and 65% of them will be elderly women on low pensions with little savings or investments, after a lifetime of unpaid work in the home or low paying jobs.

Elderly people prefer to remain in their own homes and communities, close to the ground, and to be able to make some contribution to society while needing additional privacy and quiet.

The report recommends that the no-man's land in which many senior citizens live should be eliminated by planning that integrates them back into the community.

Housing, shopping and transportation facilities should be designed taking into account the reduced income, and reduced agility of senior citizens, who should also have the option of remaining in their own homes, like single parents, through financial support from CMHC.

MOTHERS AND CHILDREN

The report says that women and children lose most in the community. "The isolation of today's two parent family is one of the factors which mitigates against stable family life," because one parent is almost totally absent and the other is isolated. Large numbers of women and children live in areas where there are inadequate transportation, recreation, social services, childcare, jobs, etc.

The report therefore makes many recommendations, among them: CMHC should formulate policy to ensure all public projects sponsor sufficient daycare. "Every discussion of mothers hangs on this critical aspect of social planning in the urban environment."

Accommodation, work, social, commercial and transportation needs of the various lifestyles of women should receive particular attention until they are a standard form of planning."

Programs would be designed to inform women about the community infrastructure, and responsibility centres must be established in government to relate to women's needs. Women must be encouraged to participate in research on their own needs.

In B.C. we are lucky to have the Women's Economic Rights Branch in the Department of Economic Development. This branch is trying to interpret women's social and economic needs into plans for northern development. (Eileen Canar, WER,DED, Parliament, Victoria, B.C.) If you have any ideas or relevant materials, please forward them to her.

Karen Richardson

program

See Page 18 for information on a special HABITAT program "Women the Neglected Resource" which will include a VSW sponsored presentation and slide show "Women and Planning: the Example of Vancouver, Canada."

As you know, we are trying to develop our reference library. Although we've been here for five years, can you believe it -- we don't have a decent shelf of de rigueur feminist paperbacks! Donations of your oldies but goodies would be very much appreciated.

Because of very limited funds we are relying on inexpensive and free copies of feminist books from publishers, on the understanding that we will publish reviews in KINESIS. The following books are waiting to be read and written about. Anyone interested? Contact me -- Karen Richardson, 736-3746. Books that need to be reviewed are:

Prepared Childbirth, Tucker
Birth Control, Tucker.
Rape, Carol Haros.
Menstruation, Hilary Maddux.
Controlled Childbirth, Birkbeck.
The Impstone, Susan Musgrave.

BOOK

THE NEW ASSERTIVE WOMAN, Lynn Z. Bloom, Karen Coburn and Joan Pearlman, Delacorte Press, New York, 1975.
(Available at Vancouver Public Library)

An excellent primer on Assertiveness Training, geared especially to women. It contains practical exercises, checklists and charts.

For those that have read a number of "popular" books ranging from "Getting Clear" to the bestseller on Assertiveness Training "When I Say No, I Feel Guilty", this book pulls it all together. It is simple, readable and practical for all women.

"Woman is caught in a mystique, be it feminine or feminist, is boxed in by externally imposed expectations."... "Assertive skills can help break the repressive molds of both....They can help a woman be her own person...and grow beyond the limitations of both the feminine and feminist mystiques impasse." Truly liberating!

When I Say No, I Feel Guilty, Manuel J. Smith, PhD, Bantam Paperback, 1975, is an excellent followup.

- Wynne LeRoux

BOOK

OUR BODIES, OURSELVES, Boston Women's Health Collective

OUR BODIES, OURSELVES Revised and Expanded, Boston Women's Health Collective, Musson Book Co., \$5.75.

If you have already seen the original OUR BODIES, OURSELVES which came out in 1973, then there's not a lot more to say about this new edition. It contains revisions, updates and additions and costs two dollars more. But, basically, it's the same.

Now, if you've never seen the book: when it came out a few years back, it was part of the wave of silly pretentious manuels that preached as though they had the final word on physical and mental health (the one that killed me concerned healing of a vaginal infection -- it suggested that one lie down and relax, and think of one's vagina as pink and healthy -- and that should do the trick!) OUR BODIES, OURSELVES obviously suffered through that era, and did well, because it's still around. It's not exactly a "read from cover to cover" book but a chapter at a time it becomes interesting and relevant. Each chapter also contains a lengthy bibliography, so you can go beyond. It's a good consciousness raiser, and is great for young women.

OUR BODIES, OURSELVES contains more than an explanation of our anatomy and physiology, it covers our own sexuality, our relationships, and our health -- from a preventative perspective. It includes detailed sections about birth control, abortion, rape, pregnancy, and childbirth. It goes beyond that as well -- into the politics of health care, which discusses what to expect from people in the health profession, and how one goes about setting up an alternative.

There's a lot of information which the book attempts to cover, and it directs itself to women who are reading a lot of this stuff for the first time, and in doing so, it can tend to be simplistic and generalized. But it's concise and easily understood, and it does a lot to de-mystify the workings of our physical and emotional selves. It's a great book to have around!

- Miriam Gropper

BOOK

THE INDOMITABLE LADY DOCTORS, Carlotta Hacker, Clarke Irwin & Co. Ltd. Toronto/Vancouver, 1974. \$8.50.

The first woman doctor to practise in Canada, Dr. James Miranda Barry, successfully posed as a man for her entire medical career. Dr. Barry became accomplished enough in her field to be appointed Inspector General of Hospitals for both Upper and Lower Canada. It was only after her death that she was found to be a woman. "The most acceptable explanation at the time was that she was a male hermaphrodite." Of course it was out of the question that she could have achieved such distinction in an army medical career had she been a womanMs. Hacker so begins a well researched account of pioneer women doctors in Canada.

The women doctors who followed Dr. Barry encountered seemingly insurmountable opposition in the pursuit of their medical careers. Women were not allowed to enter universities, much less study medicine. The men fought to discourage them at every turn. The women faced sarcasm, derision, and ridicule in their efforts to obtain their education. Even if they managed to attain the proper education, they were most often refused a license to practise.

Pioneer women doctors entered medicine for a variety of reasons. Many were true suffragettes such as Dr. Emily Stowe, who fought for nearly twenty years for the right to practise medicine. Dr. Stowe was a forerunner of the Canadian women's movement. Many women wanted medical knowledge so that they could care for their own families while others felt it would be useful in the missionary field. Whatever their motivation, these women all faced the same adversity in seeking their goals. The author traces their determination and perseverance from the early days of their education through their gradual acceptance in the field

of practise, to their ultimate breakthrough into specialized fields formerly reserved for men. The progression was often slow, at times seeming closer to regression. Women gradually established credibility as

physicians.....today women work side by side with men and enjoy the same distinction and esteem for their achievements.

This book is the Golden Jubilee project of The Federation of Medical Women in Canada. The project was undertaken because of a need to record the accomplishments of this group of Canadian women, Carlotta Hacker has done her research with insight and sensitivity. The book affords the reader an especially intimate perception of the problems faced by this group of pioneer women. The author notes that over a century ago, as today, these women faced the problem of being a good mother and a good career woman. Ms. Hacker also draws attention to the fact that many women were forced to take a back seat to their husbands in terms of financial status. For instance, single missionary women were paid by the mission while wives of missionaries were expected to give their service free. In recent years sex has ceased to be an important issue, in fact, in 1973 Dr. Bette Stephenson was elected President of the Canadian Medical Association ...one of the most prestigious positions available to any physician in Canada.

The book is worthwhile reading, particularly for those of us who assume a non-fiction documentation to be dull reading.....A pleasant surprise.

Carole Sinclair

The Indomitable Lady Doctors is on the VSW library shelf.

wanted: a sporting chance

SEXISM IN WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Lacrosse is Canada's national sport -- for men that is. But Vicky Brkich of Richmond who has been playing the game for five years says there is nothing but opposition towards women players by the B.C. Lacrosse Association.

According to Ms. Brkich, although the women pay their yearly fees to the BCLA they don't receive good coaches, team trips, good playing times and lengthy seasons. Apparently some municipalities in the Lower Mainland will not even allow girls to register to play!

As a result, many young women quit the game each year to play softball because it can lead to team trips, tournaments, national and world championships.

The BCLA apparently argues that women aren't interested in playing because they keep quitting. The old double-think. Every year the BCLA says there

will be no junior girls' lacrosse team. (There are no senior teams. Ms. Brkich at 21 is classified under minor lacrosse!)

But each year, Ms. Brkich rounds up enough young women to form several teams, finds them coaches, picks up their uniforms, etc. She gets no help from BCLA.

Ms. Brkich says that women do not receive equal opportunity in the sport and offers last year as an example. On several days when the junior girls' teams were to play lacrosse, the arenas were closed and referees did not show up. There were no final play-offs.

As a result of complaints, a provincial girls' game was scheduled in a dirty outdoor box with only one gate. Both teams sat side by side. Both coaches controlled the door. Penalized players sat with team mates. The ref did not show up so a father from one of the teams supervised the game. Aside from bias, he had no qualificat-

ions as a referee. And this was a provincial game!

The American, Australian and English have women's field lacrosse teams which compete internationally. In Canada, there are no national junior girls' championships, no national women's lacrosse team, no women's lacrosse association, no field lacrosse period. Only box lacrosse.

Vicky Brkich has written the National Lacrosse Association in Ottawa, and she called upon Vancouver Status of Women to help too. We have written to the B.C. Human Rights Commission, and the National Conference on Women and Sport, etc. Now we are calling on members. Please write your letters of support to Vicky Brkich at 1020 Caithcart Road, Richmond, B.C. She needs the ammunition. With a little help from some friends, maybe we can change things.

- Karen Richardson

education

Nadine Allen, Chairperson of the Provincial Advisory Committee on Sex Discrimination in Public Schools, still has not received a reply to her inquiries about the Committee, which Superintendent of Educational Programs John Meredith said on January 12th was "under review".

On May 6th, Nadine sent the following letter to Dr. Walter Hardwick, Deputy Minister of Education:

"Re: Provincial Advisory Committee on Sex Discrimination in Public Education"

The only word the committee has had from the Department of Education is John Meredith's vague letter of Jan. 12. (enclosed) His assurance that "The Department will continue to deal with this problem in the course of its regular programs" does not satisfy me. Mr. Meredith mentions a review of financial and "other priorities" in education. Over the centuries, women's concerns have been given low priority -- how can you expect us to believe that the daily workings of this department will change anything? The Provincial Advisory Committee, composed of groups concerned with this issue, offered to the department fresh insight into the problems and attempted to bring forth some solutions. The very existence of such a committee indicated at least an appearance of commitment by the department.

I understand the work of the committee is under review and that new proposals will be made for maintaining progress in this area. Women's groups are determined that the little progress made will not be lost. We want to know Dr. McGeer's position on this issue and we want to know what specific actions are planned to eradicate sexism from the public school system.

The Department of Education owes us at least the courtesy of a reply to

our inquiries."

VSW members should write to Education Minister McGeer requesting that he state his position on the issue of sexism in education and that he outline the specific actions that he plans to take. Also urge the Minister to re-instate the Provincial Advisory Committee on Sex Discrimination. We must keep the pressure on if there is to be any action taken in this area.

important

WOMEN'S STUDIES COURSES PRINTED

The Women's Studies Course has been printed and is available from the Dept. of Education, David Huggins, Publications, Victoria. Send for your copy NOW!

The course must have local school board approval. So it is very important that each one of us contacts our School Board and requests that the course be made available in the schools in our district. Without this kind of community support and pressure the course will be allowed to slide into oblivion. DO IT NOW!!

bursaries

SINGLE PARENT STUDENT BURSARIES

Vancouver Foundation will award bursaries to single parents who want to go back to school. Applications will be accepted as late as June. Write to Vancouver Foundation, 2211 - 1177 West Hastings, Vancouver, B.C. (KR)

HEALTH

BIRTH CONTROL

Three sequential birth control pills have been taken off the market in the United States because they pose a risk of endometrial cancer in the lining of the uterus. Ortho-Novum Pharmaceutical Co. says Canadian women on Ortho-Novum SQ (one of the discontinued pills) have misinterpreted recent reports on the withdrawal of some products in the US. The Canadian pills are still on the market but will be used for "therapeutic" purposes only. Remember the Dalkon Shield? (KR)

FEDERAL COMMITTEE ON ABORTION

The Committee on the Operation of the Abortion Law will be reporting to the Federal House of Commons in a few months, at which time the results of its studies will be made public. Members of the Committee were appointed by Privy Council. They are Denye Fo Fortin Caron, member of the Federal Law Reform Commission and a specialist in family law; Dr. Marion Powell is a professor and chairwoman of the Family Population Studies Unit of the University of Toronto. They can be contacted through Chirwoman Robin Badgeley, #1805 - 4 King St. West, Toronto. (KR).

Discotheque versus Dialogue

About 200 women from all provinces and territories gathered in Ottawa for the Annual Meeting of the National Action Committee, April 23-26. Since N.A.C. is an umbrella organization for about 80 non-governmental bodies -- including Vancouver Status of Women -- many delegates were there to assess the political clout of N.A.C. as well as represent their member group.

I must confess that on Friday evening it appeared our federal politicians did not take N.A.C. too seriously. The agenda had promised a "bear pit" session between the Honourable Ministers Marc Lalonde, Ron Basford, and John Munro, and "a group of Canadian women." Delegates waited anxiously for the arrival of the three "stars" but had to be content with their "understudies" instead -- not one of the ministers made it.

The "official excuse" given was that the parliamentary Easter recess had caused MPs and cabinet ministers to delay their return to Ottawa until Monday or Tuesday. I must admit that this sterile civil servant town can be pretty dull on weekends, but surely the timing could have been better coordinated.

The substitute panel consisted of MP Robert Kaplan (representing Marc Lalonde), MP John Roberts (came voluntarily), Martha Hynna (Privy Council), Dr. Harry Strayer (Justice Department) and Tom Eberlee, Deputy Minister of Labour. Each panel member outlined briefly what his/her department had done to improve the status of women during International Women's Year.

Martha Hynna stressed that women's issues must now be integrated into and permeate all government departments, Harry Strayer said that the Badgeley Commission (on abortion) should complete its report by the fall, and Tom Eberlee told of a committee that had been set up in Labour Canada (Women's Bureau) to study "equal pay for work of equal value" and job evaluation. The panel was then questioned by Wendy Williams of Newfoundland, Sharon Hurd Clark of Saskatchewan and Gene Errington of British Columbia.

During the course of Gene's intensive questioning the audience realized that some members of the panel, particularly Robert Kaplan, had little knowledge of the most basic concerns of women. The assembled women virtually came to life in unison when Kaplan stated that national defense was a more important priority than women's programs, and that Canada's pension plan was designed only for those in the "paid" labour force. I felt it was unfortunate that Mr. Lalonde had sent such an uninformed representative because I know that the minister's views are vastly different.

It was quite evident by now that the women had come to Ottawa to talk about very deep issues -- most of them economic. Unsuspecting Tom Eberlee tried to explain that the "catch-up" clause contained in the economic guidelines was workable if women could prove sex discrimination in employment -- but the audience wasn't buying. Faced by such formidable challengers as Shirley Carr of the Canadian Labour Congress, the deputy minister

letter lobby

admitted that the wage guides were not meant to be "social program."

This lively dialogue was abruptly interrupted at 9:30 p.m. by loud rock and roll music from the discotheque next door to our meeting room (the Beacon Arms is a rather old and quaint hotel.) I found myself wondering whether a group of men would have put up with meeting in such antiquated facilities. Despite the noise, two panel members -- Martha Hynna and Harry Strayer -- stayed on for the "wine and cheese" affair that followed and answered further questions.

But the stage had been clearly set -- the overriding issues would concern the whole relationship of women to the Canadian economy and all the problems that had been brought about by the cutbacks in provincial and federal government spending. We could only hope that the government officials present would convey this message, loudly and clearly, to their absent ministers.

Workshops define Issues

Two days of workshop sessions defined economic issues (wage guides, manpower training, income tax system, job evaluation and part-time workers) as the main concern. Women were also concerned about how they organize and spread the word on women's issues. Dr. Katie Cooke, Chairperson of the federal A.C.S.W., stressed the need for involved women to mobilize those who are not yet active, when she spoke to delegates on Saturday evening.

On social service cutbacks, delegates felt that strong affirmative action was needed on the part of the federal government. As women from each province and territory reported on cutbacks in their area, one fact became quite obvious. The only thing that all politicians can agree on nowadays is this -- if there are to be cutbacks let them be in women's programs. It's sort of a political football right now -- the feds blame the provinces and vice versa.

Old issues were re-stated. There was strong support for abortion reform and birth planning facilities, for the rights of Native women who marry whites, and for a halt to proliferation of nuclear weapons. Women were deeply concerned about their image in advertising, and the role image of men and women presented to children in our educational institutions.

The National Action Committee designated as its priorities for 1976 the effect of federal wage controls on women, the right of women to safe, legal abortion, and the need for a cross-country effort to tell women about issues of relevance to them. The complete list of resolutions will be detailed in a future Status of Women News magazine.

Lobbying and Lunching

About 40 delegates stayed for the Monday lobby and met with over 50 MPs and cabinet ministers. The Sunday evening Lobby Workshop had ended with the suggestion that we all "look nice" for the lobby (and I thought this was 1976).

The final evaluations are not yet tabulated but from conversations with various lobbying teams, it can be said that their experiences were diverse. Some MPs had an excellent knowledge of women's issues and dealt with delegates in a mature manner, others expounded grandiose economic theories in answer to simple questions and a few were still back in the 1950's. It's too bad we couldn't prepare instant "report cards" as was done in the March 22nd Women Rally for Action in Victoria.

Opposition Leader Joe Clark and members of the Conservative party, as well as the NDP caucus, met with about 30 women in the Centre Block. Both parties appeared to be aware of the problems facing women. NDP Leader Ed Broadbent asked questions later in the House, and Joe Clark stated that one of his priorities is to make a concerted effort to run women candidates in the next federal election.

Liberal MP Aideen Nicholson had kindly arranged a luncheon that day for about 20 representatives from all parts of Canada. Its main purpose was to enable delegates to have a meaningful discussion on women's issues with Hon. Marc Lalonde and Hon. John Munro. Also present were Hon. Jeanne Sauve, MP Monique Begin and MP Iona Campagnola. Many women were still fired up by the Friday evening session and had come with the full intention of asking some very serious questions (in spite of the fact that the luncheon was a "stand-up" affair which necessitated balancing one's coffee and hor d'oeuvres while "confronting").

Unfortunately, the delegates were soon to discover that certain members of the N.A.C. Executive intended to handle the two Ministers -- seasoned politicians and in apparent good health -- with kid gloves. Even Monique Begin asked if she could "speak freely" with the ministers present. Can a setting of Wedgwood blue walls, lush carpet, a silver tea service and dainty lobster puffs really be that unsettling to some women?

The almost two hours was spent going over old legislation, exchanging polite chit-chat and asking only a few carefully chosen questions. As a forum for really finding out what Mr. Munro and Mr. Lalonde had to say in view of the stringent new economic measures -- it was not too successful. However, as a purely social event -- it was delightful! Thank you, Aideen, your intentions were good.

Summary and Suggestions

In summary, I can say that -- in spite of some organizational problems -- attending the N.A.C. Annual Meeting was a worthwhile experience. It brought together women from many diverse organizations who would not otherwise contact each other. It had a unifying effect in that women realized their problems were the same throughout this vast country of ours. And it was encouraging to see women from business, labour and government sit down together and discuss the issues intelligently (something that the men representing these sectors are finding most difficult to do right now).

As for suggestions, I believe future meetings should be just a little more coordinated in order to iron out the wrinkles. The lobbying should be more

cont. page 9...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

intensive and the results more instantaneous. And let's treat our politicians like real people who were elected to represent the interests of all Canadians. It's nice to have "tea" with them -- but when women come from places as far away as the Yukon once a year, they are entitled to ask questions on hard-core issues and get answers. As to the political clout of N.A.C. -- well, it will be only as tough as the member organizations chose to make it.

- Dorothy Holme, VSW Delegate to Annual Meeting of National Action Committee.

TO LETTER LOBBY MEMBERS

Although the Letter Lobby Committee does not hold regular monthly meetings during the summer when our politicians are on holiday -- this shouldn't stop us from writing letters on any issue that may come up before September.

Please make sure that you have written letters on all the items we have highlighted in Letter Lobby during the past few months. Particularly important at this time is the letter re "income tax allowances for child care" featured in April KINESIS.

The federal Advisory Council on the Status of Women has prepared an excellent report on women and income tax -- and will be tackling the bureaucrats in the Finance Department in the near future. But Finance Officials are "the toughest nuts to crack" and A.C.S.W. will need all the help it can get from groups such as ours. Income Tax reform was also a very big item of concern at the Annual N.A.C. Meeting -- so don't delay, get your letter in the mail.

Have a nice summer. I hope to see all the old, and many new, members in the fall.

- DOROTHY HOLME

Wendy O'Flaherty interviewed me about sexism in advertising for CBC Hour-glass. The show will be aired soon. I am now preparing the VSW Annual Report for the members' year-end meeting in mid-June; reorganizing and developing the Reference Library; sending myriad letters and resource materials on women's issues to MLAs and Cabinet Ministers.

- KAREN RICHARDSON

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

Thank you to the 19 members who have returned the questionnaire which appeared in the May issue of KINESIS. The responses have been informative and will provide direction in forming new member groups and activities. We are awaiting responses from our other 800 members -- please refer to the questionnaire in the May KINESIS and send it in if you are not one of the 19 above! WE NEED TO KNOW YOUR SPECIFIC IC NEEDS AND INTERESTS.

I am forming a MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE and need committee members. Anyone interested in organizing, talking to people, typing letters, etc. CALL THE OFFICE.

THANK YOU to BOBBIE PATRICK and ISABELLE DUROCHE for volunteering many hours this month tracking down current addresses of over 250 people whose VSW memberships expired over the past two years. Complimentary May issues of KINESIS were forwarded to all 250 with a letter regarding membership renewal -- hopefully we will be deluged with responses.

BOBBIE, KAREN RICHARDSON and I are in the process of sending a complimentary issue of KINESIS to all secondary school, university, college and public libraries in B.C. that do not now have a KINESIS subscription, to encourage new subscriptions. We are also in the process of establishing newsletter exchanges with all women's groups in B.C. not receiving KINESIS.

We are only 5 people short of starting a new CONSCIOUSNESS-RAISING GROUP at the beginning of July. If you are interested, call the office and ask for Judy.

Also -- a CR GROUP specifically for Lesbian Women is now being formed. If you're interested call Judy at the office.

- JUDY BOURNE -

grouping (whether political, professional, or artisitic) needs its token woman.

Any already 'liberated' woman who complacently accepts her privileged situation participates in the oppression of other women. I accuse the overwhelming majority of women with careers in the arts and sciences, in the liberal professions, and in politics of doing just that."

- Susan Sontag, "The Third of Women" *The Partisan Review*, no. 2, 1973.

The LOBBY REPORTS are finally available! We expect the demand for them to be heavy, so please phone your requests in promptly. If there is enough of a demand, we may do a second printing. To help defray the cost of paper and printing, we are asking for a donation of \$1 per booklet. The following booklet, the reprint of the entire Women Rally for Action Brief, should be available next month.

Lorri Rudland, Lee Grills and I were invited to speak at the University Women's Club's Status of Women and Laws Committee. We spoke on the RALLY, how it was organized, what happened on the day, and what we hope to see happen from here. Although it was a small meeting, the response was great, and we hope to see greater communication develop in the future as a result between VSW and this committee.

I was invited to be keynote speaker for a weekend conference in Prince George called Directions '76. It was a first for Prince George, with about 120 women of the area attending, and featured speakers on Woman and the Law, Native Women, Women and Politics Education, etc. Many exciting plans came out of the workshops, and it looks like Prince George will be a real hotbed of feminist activity in the next while.

- JOHANNA DEN HERTOG

I have been speaking about Women and the Law at Law 11 classes at Sir Winston Senior Secondary School in Vancouver.

I've also done speaking engagements on follow-up to Women Rally for Action and am helping to produce the follow-up packet.

Also working with the committee that is setting up an inter-centre communications newsletter.

And lots and lots of Ombuds cases!

- LORRI RUDLAND

MORE STUFF

LEE GRILLS, Member-at-Large on VSW Executive, has been devoting a lot of hours to volunteer work in the office and on speaking engagements.

-- University Women's Club on WRA, and Maple Ridge Status of Women on Sexist Advertising. She and LEE MASTERS went to Seattle to talk to the NOW (National Organization of Women) about fund-raising and at the end of May Lee Grills is going to Washington DC to talk about Affirmative Action with women's groups there.

quote

"Not so paradoxically, the position of a 'liberated' woman in a liberal society where the vast majority of women are not liberated can be embarrassingly easy. Granted a good dose of talent and certain cheerful or merely dogged lack of self-consciousness, one can even escape (as I did) the initial obstacles and derision that are likely to afflict a woman who insists on autonomy.... Her good fortune is like the good fortune of a few blacks in a liberal but still racist society. Each liberal

NEWS

NO FAULT DIVORCE SOON

Federal Minister of Justice Ron Basford said May 5th that as a result of the tabling of the federal Law Reform Commission recommendations on matrimony, he expects "no fault divorce" will be a reality by fall of this year. He called the present legislation "sexist". Three cheers for Basford! (KR)

WRA

LOBBY REPORTS

SOMEHOW -- the lobby report for George Kerster, Social Credit MLA Coquitlam was left out of the Women Rally for Action Lobby Reports in the May issue of KINESIS. Probably due to the inability of your Editor to count as high as 55! Apologies to the women of the Coquitlam Lobby Team and to Mr. Kerster. Here is the report.

GEORGE KERSTER, SOCIAL CREDIT MLA COQUITLAM

Daycare-a priority--will support daycare "if funds are available" Sexism--should be the concern of local schools "get parents, teachers and community involved" Women's Studies--needs more info, "We must keep politics out of the schools"

Family Life--supports dev. of a structured and optional total health

program taught by qualified instructors Prov. Co-ordinator's Office-- not needed "when we have 54 MLAs" Is setting up constituency liaisons Family Law--supports Berger Comm. Maintenance should be rehabilitative Supports removal of word illegitimacy from the law

Rape--supportive on all issues and of funding for centres. Preference in hospitals and police stations should be for a woman's own doctor, not one who is specifically female Women's Centre Funding--will work towards getting it for the area

Supports equal pay for equal work, but feels the word value was getting into semantics--seemed confused. Followup contact: Pat Iseret c/o Port Coquitlam Area Women's Centre Box 243 Port Coquitlam, B.C.

booklet

GET YOUR COPY OF THE RALLY REPORTS! The first part of the three-part packet on Women Rally for Action is ready! The May issue of KINESIS carried summarized versions of the reports of each of the lobby teams but this is the full story... the complete report of each lobby team's meeting with their MLA. To defray paper and printing costs a donation of \$1.00 per booklet is requested. Copies are available at Vancouver Status of Women. The second booklet -- the reprint of the entire Women Rally for Action Brief should be available next month.

media action

In the May issue of KINESIS we reproduced a Bank of Montreal ad in which the Bank Manager was referred to as "she". A copy of KINESIS was sent to the main branch of the Bank of Montreal in Vancouver along with a letter saying we were pleased to see the ad and asking what proportion of Bank of Montreal managers were in fact women. We received the following reply.

"Thank you for your kind acknowledgement of one of our Gold Medal ads. We appreciate your comments and hope the following information will be of interest to you.

As of April 30th, 1976 the Bank of Montreal had a total of 683 Management positions throughout the province of British Columbia. Approximately 160 of these posts are independent Branch Managers, with the remaining being in Administration, Lending or other specialized areas. Posts are considered Management if they have Management supervisory responsibility; important decision making responsibility such as in lending of funds or the specialized areas of Marketing, Credit, Administration or Personnel.

The Bank of Montreal has for a number of years, been promoting women into responsible Management positions and of 683 authorized posts, 201 are filled with female personnel. This figure represents 28% of our total Management inventory and we expect this percentage to continue increasing over the years ahead.

Yours truly,
R.A. Wallace
Personnel Manager
Bank of Montreal
595 Burrard St. Vancouver.

AN APPEAL

Dear Sisters:

The Rally was great! We felt the energy and power of Sisterhood. We made the government and media acknowledge it. But they are still trying to ignore our ideas and programs. They are cutting off our money. We cannot let our energy diminish. We must not stop exerting our power. We must show them we will not accept a pat on the head and go quietly back to our kitchens, like good little girls.

We must continue, in every B.C. community, the work we have already begun. Lobby groups have to keep making appointments with their MLAs whenever they come into their constituencies -- get together, ask them what they've been doing for us. Feed them our information . Letter lobbyists still have to bombard governments and sexists advertisers every time they step out of line. We will not be ignored or used without protest. We must continue study groups in law, education, day care, health -- all our areas of interest, so that when changes can be made we know what we want and what the full effect will be. We have to monitor and serve on local boards and committees to feed in feminist ideas and goals. Where we are employed we must demand equal pay and opportunities for advancement. We must also reach out to our sisters. We need new energy to recharge our present programs. We need sheer weight of numbers to increase the pressure we apply. Initiate consciousness raising groups. Get together a speakers group and don't wait to be invited. Ask to speak in classrooms and at social gatherings -- anywhere you can think of. Try to get access to local media to educate women about their present status and inform them of services and groups in their community.

Last of all -- we have to keep in touch. Write to KINESIS. Exchange newsletters. Plan area conferences. Join the B.C. Federation of Women. Share information. Let us know about your successes and failures. Support your sisters and let them support you. Let no one feel isolated as Gene Errington told us she did. If you get some knowledge, if you learn a rule of the "turkeys" game -- share it with your sisters.

In Sisterhood -- Lynn Carter

SALE!

The Women's Press is placing two of their publications on sale at half-price. THE CANADIAN KIDS' CALENDAR for \$1.95, and EVERY WOMAN'S ALMANAC Appointment calendar and handbook for \$1.50. After all there are still

a few months left in 1976!

Available from The Women's Press, 305 - 280 Bloor St. Toronto, Ontario.

THE RITA MACNEIL SONGBOOK: BORN A WOMAN -- features the best of Rita's songs together with music and complete with guitar chord notation. Photographs by ten women photograph-

The Women's Press is offering a special discount price for women's groups only -- reduced from \$5.95 to \$3.75 and with an additional discount to orders of 5 copies or more, \$3.50. All orders must be pre-paid and include a postage/handling charge of 25¢ a copy.

Canadian Women's Educational Press, 305 - 280 Bloor St. Toronto, Ontario.

This is the good life! Canada has made enormous economic progress in the last 25 years. The per capita Gross National Product (the total value of all goods and services produced in one year) has risen 34%, the average yearly income has increased from \$2450 to \$10,694. Canada has one of the highest standards of living of any nation in the world. As a nation we are producing much more wealth than we did 25 years ago and as the economy grows the benefits will gradually trickle down to the poorest members of our society. It's the land of opportunity here in Canada -- everyone can share in the opportunities and advantages.

example a single parent mother of 3 children. If she works a 40 hour week at the minimum wage she will earn about \$5600 -- far below the \$7957 set by Statistics Canada as the poverty line for a family of four in a Canadian city.

This is not an unlikely example. The chances of being poor are much greater if you are a woman. Although more than 1/3 of the Canadian labour force is female -- in the last 10 years the number of women has increased by 88.6% -- the average man's wage is 45% more than that of the average woman -- and the gap is increasing not narrowing! 85% of single-parent families are mother-led. Almost 50% of mother-led

MYTH: People are poor because they abuse, rather than use, the opportunities available to them.

FACT: What opportunities?

The position paper on Guaranteed Annual Income, published by the Anglican Church of Canada, points out "Poverty, like wealth, is passed on from generation to generation. The child of a prosperous or educated family gets a start in life that almost always carries him to the top. The child of a poor family starts with a handicap that only exceptional ability or good luck can overcome." The income of your parents determines much about your health, education and ability to develop yourself.

THE POVERTY TRAP

This is the Great Canadian Myth, beloved by those who wear blinkers to shut out unpleasant sights; enforced by the mass media (class media?); used to rationalize the theory that those people who do not fit into this picture are failures -- they lack gumption, waste their time and opportunities, lack ambition, just can't make it.

It is a myth that limits our understanding and blinds us to reality.

FACT: Reality is that 1 out of every 4 Canadians lives in poverty. 5 million Canadians are poor.

Canada may be producing more wealth than ever before but how many people are benefiting?

FACT: In 1951 the richest 10% of the Canadian population received about 17 times as much income as the poorest 10%. In 1971 Statistics Canada data showed that the richest 10% of the population received 45 times as much. In June 1975, Marc Lalonde, Minister of Health and Welfare, stated "the poorest 20% of Canadian families receive less than 6% of total Canadian family income while the top 20% of Canadian families obtain 39% of that total."

So much for the "trickle down" theory!

Some more Canadian Poverty Myths:

MYTH: People are poor because they don't/won't work, prefer to live on welfare, etc.

FACT: The poor do not choose poverty. Most poor people work -- in low-paying jobs -- or are unable to work. According to the Report of the Special Senate Committee on Poverty 2 out of 3 families living in poverty have at least one member working -- at subsistence wages. 84% of those on welfare are unable to work: 26% single mothers, 9% aged, 41% permanently handicapped, 8% temporarily disabled.

Gus (Grace) Long, Secretary of the National Anti-Poverty Organization (NAPO), says, "When you say poverty, people think "welfare" -- they don't think of all of us who work hard all our lives and are poor."

The working poor are expendable in our economic structure. They form a reserve labour pool to be used, at minimum wages, during economic expansion and are dropped during recessionary periods. They are largely unorganized and have no income protection or job security.

Contrary to our stubborn faith in the "work ethic" and "opportunity for all" it is very possible to work hard and not make a decent living. Take as an

families have yearly incomes of less than \$4000. A male head of family has a 9.3% chance of living below the poverty line. A female head of family has a 40.1% chance.

This disparity is not reflected in living expenses -- women are not charged less for rent, food, clothing, transportation, medical care, etc.

MYTH: Government programs have made life much easier for the poor -- they are taken care of. This is the welfare state.

FACT: If 1/4 of the people are living below the acceptable standard of living in this country, something is obviously wrong!

"Our tax system is all screwed-up," says Marjorie Hartling, Executive Director of NAPO, "Those tax \$ could go a long way to eliminate the problems of the poor -- instead of our band-aid programs."

The Economic Council of Canada study, "Patterns of Taxation in Canada", points out that the poor are overtaxed relative to their income and that they pay out almost as much as they receive in government transfer payments. (This term describes the movement of money from the government to individuals and organizations receiving benefits and includes welfare, unemployment insurance payments, children allowance, medical payments, etc.) Figures for 1969 show that "the bottom 28% of income earners paid \$1.9 billion in taxes and received \$1.95 billion in transfer payments. Less than 20% of this was in welfare payments."

Federated Anti-Poverty Groups of B.C. (FAPG) reports that social assistance recipients in B.C. last year included 26,000 families headed mostly by single parent women. Single employees were only 11% of the total people on welfare. Almost 70% of the Department of Human Resources budget was devoted to programs other than welfare.

The national unemployment rate was over 7% -- more than 10% of the women and 13% of the youth (14-24 years) were unemployed.

So much for the views that our taxes are being used to keep people who don't want to work on welfare.

And being a welfare recipient is not the soft life. The single parent mother-led family of 4 cited above would receive about \$5500. Fear, lack of training, lack of opportunity, inadequate day care facilities make the future seem hopeless to such a woman.

What opportunities are available to the middle-aged woman deserted by her husband, left with her children? How has our society's view of women, our education system, our economic structure equipped her to be independent? What opportunities are available to the native Indian woman caught in the double trap of poverty and prejudice? Is the situation improving? -- the proportion of women in the labour force who are trapped in the lowest-paid, most insecure, dead-end jobs is increasing every year.

MYTH: We are in a period of inflation and we all have to cut back. It's tough on everyone.

FACT: We are in a period of inflation but where are the cutbacks? The largest single saving in the federal government cutbacks program was the elimination of the 10.8% increase in family allowance payments -- a saving of \$221.3 million. One out of 4 children in Canada live in poverty.

The government also placed a surtax of 10% on incomes over \$30,000. An item in a recent FAPG Newsletter wondered if this meant that a married man with 2 children and a salary of #35,000 would pay 19¢ or 35¢ more tax per week.

Where do poor families cut back? Food is the only flexible item in their budget. Poor people fight inflation with hunger.

MYTH: The rich pay their way through higher taxes.

FACT: "The present tax system is inequitable in many important respects. The combined effect of sales taxes, corporate income taxes, property taxes and the present personal income tax base is such that low-income individuals and families pay higher taxes than is equitable when compared to middle and upper income individuals and families." (Carter Commission Report)

NAPO reports that the richest 8.5% of the population pays 40.3c in taxes per \$ of income. The poorest 12.5% of the population pays 48.7c per \$ of income.

Sales tax, because it is the same for everyone, falls most heavily on the poor -- the sales tax has risen 40% in B.C. this year.

MYTH: If people are guaranteed a decent standard of living there will be no incentive to work and why should we pay for all those people to do nothing?

FACT: Hundreds of thousands of people who work for poverty wages have chosen

work over welfare.

A GAI test program in New Jersey showed that the GAI had no effect on the work incentive. Given basic security, people did not quit their jobs. It also showed that administrative costs were reduced from \$300 per recipient under the previous welfare program to \$92 per recipient under the test GAI program.

MYTH: The poor are always with us. That's just the way it is. There's really nothing that can be done.

FACT: No one in Canada should have to work for poverty wages. No one in Canada should have to live without adequate food, shelter and clothing. No one in Canada should have to live without dignity and hope.

Marjorie Hartling of NAPO says that being poor "besides being a lack of income is also a lack of opportunity,

a lack of voice." It is easier to ignore the poor, to dismiss them as individual failures rather than the victims of the collective failure of our society to distribute the wealth and resources of the nation among the people. It is easier to accept the myths and stereotypes than to investigate the reasons why 5 million Canadians are living in poverty.

As women we have the greatest chance of being caught in the poverty trap. It is time that we found our voices and used them to insist that a system be devised that takes into account our needs and aspirations.

"To finance an income program to guarantee that no Canadian lives in poverty would require an additional income tax of 10% on the top fifth of the income bracket. If this increase is thought to be excessive,

it should be realized that it leaves the total tax burden of the top 1/5 roughly equal to that currently borne by the bottom 13% of Canadians. Thus, anyone who argues that the GAI would cost too much is saying that the rich should not be asked to carry a tax burden that many of the poor are shouldering now or to pay marginal tax rates which would be less than that which the recipients of a guaranteed income would be expected to pay!" (from "Toward a Humane Economy" prepared by the task force of the Eastern Synod, Lutheran Church of America.)

- Jo Lazenby

(Information from Federated Anti-Poverty Groups Newsletter, National Anti-Poverty Organization Newsletter, and The Economics of Injustice published by the United Church of Canada.)

view from the inside

living on her husband's salary, it was now far too expensive. However, as Susan discovered, finding a landlord in Vancouver who would rent to a single woman with three children was impossible. Her own apartment complex was one of the few in the city that would accept children and it is now in the process of converting to Adults Only.

Susan found another job just before Christmas, 1975, as a saleswoman in a fashionable women's wear store. Her hours of work were inconvenient for a woman with small children -- four weekdays, one night and every Saturday -- and the pay was even less than her first job -- \$282 gross every two weeks -- \$464 a month take-home. "You don't work for the money at those wages", Susan points out, "You work for your self-respect."

Once again she was fortunate in her babysitting arrangements -- the two youngest children were cared for by a friend in the same building. She liked her job and was feeling optimistic about the future. After seven months her wages had gone up to \$494 a month. The money situation was still very tight but if she could just hold on for awhile and find a cheaper place to live....

Then her friend moved out of the city and although she searched desperately Susan could not find a suitable babysitting arrangement. "You can't leave them just anywhere," Susan states, "you need to know that they are well cared for when you're away all day."

Finally three months ago, Susan was forced to quit her job and stay home. "The image your children have of you as a parent and of themselves as a family is so important," says Susan.

When she explained why she was quitting work, her oldest daughter was very upset. Susan said she would be on call and if the store was busy she could go in and work for a few hours. Her daughter was relieved, "Oh good. Then we're not really welfare people."

Susan spends a great deal of time with her children. "I want them to be well-adjusted, to be able to contribute to society. And that takes a lot of time and work."

Her eleven year old daughter has outstanding athletic ability. Her coach, Susan reports proudly, has said she has an excellent chance of competing in the Moscow Olympic Games. Her training involves parent participation -- 5 a.m. workouts -- and money -- \$300 a year just for coaching and use of the facilities. Cost of equipment, trips to competitions, etc. are extra. Somehow Susan has managed so far to scrape up the money for the coaching and equipment and even some of the closer competitions. "How can I tell her she hasn't the right to develop this talent? She works so hard at it and it means so much to her. For the kids she trains with, there is no question, not the slightest possibility, that they won't get the chance."

Now the middle daughter has developed an interest in dancing. Where will the money for that come from? Susan wonders. Finding a spare penny in her budget is a miracle.

This is what Susan has to work with each month:

Welfare payment ----- \$465.25 (This includes an extra \$20 because one of her children requires a special diet. She also requires iron pills and until recently Susan did not know that she could get them by showing the pharmacist her welfare card. "Communications between welfare recipients and their worker isn't always too good," Susan notes wryly.) The payment includes \$150 rent allowance plus 75% of the difference between this and the actual rent -- in Susan's case the rent is \$309 and so the allowance for the difference is \$95, leaving Susan \$60 of the rent to pay out of the other portion of the monthly cheque.

Family Allowance ----- \$66.20

Child support ----- none (Last year Susan's husband paid a total of \$280 in child support. He earns up to \$1400 a month and Susan has gone to Family Court four times about his refusal to make his support payments. He has developed a practice of quitting his job and disappearing when served with a court order. Like many other women with children, Susan realizes that her husband feels no responsibility towards the children he has fathered.)

Grand Total ----- \$531.45

Rent ----- \$309

(Statistic: a 1972 survey of Canada's eight largest cities showed that the share of total family income spent for housing by single parents was more than 75% greater than that paid by all families. For single parent women the choice is narrowed still further because of lower incomes.)

This leaves Susan \$222.45 for hydro, phone, laundry (with three lively children, not very many changes of clothing, and facilities charging 35¢ for a washer load, 25¢ for the dryer this really adds up!), clothing, school supplies, transportation, recreation, life insurance payment, TV payment, and food. As with all poor families, food is the only really flexible item in the budget. "I could write a book -- 500 Ways To Eat Macaroni," says Susan.

(Statistic: in 1973, Agricultural Minister Eugene Whelan's department came up with a shopping list on which a person could survive for \$6.48 a week at a Ottawa supermarket. The diet was labeled starchy and unappetizing by a reporter who tried it. In May 1976, members of F.A.P.G. took the same list to some Vancouver super-

markets -- the week's supply of food now costs \$12.31. So for this rock-bottom, unappetizing diet: what will it cost a family of four?)

Susan refuses to go into debt. The one item she is paying for on time is her TV set. "I can't afford to go out or to take the kids to a movie. It's our entertainment."

A friend drops in while we are talking and announces that it is essential to have a "benefactor" -- someone, a boyfriend, a grandparent, who will buy the odd pair of shoes for the kids, or turn up with a bag of groceries now and then. Susan is proud and independent and, in spite of everything, optimistic. She wants to work although she realizes that is unlikely she will be paid enough for her family to live above the poverty line. -- 40 hours of work a week to earn an income that is insufficient to provide the basic necessities of life.

She has had her name on the B.C. Housing Commission list since November. If she were allocated a two bedroom apartment the rent would be geared to 25% of her income. But here Catch 22 comes into play -- her chances of getting an apartment are slight because her present accommodations are adequate (if unaffordable). If she did get into public housing her welfare payment would be reduced and she would be no better off financially.

If she found a job she wouldn't have subsidized daycare and she would have the expense of transportation, clothing for work, etc. -- so she wouldn't be able to afford to work.

Susan says, "You can never get ahead. If housing goes down, daycare goes up. No matter what I do, I'm always reaching up to touch bottom!"

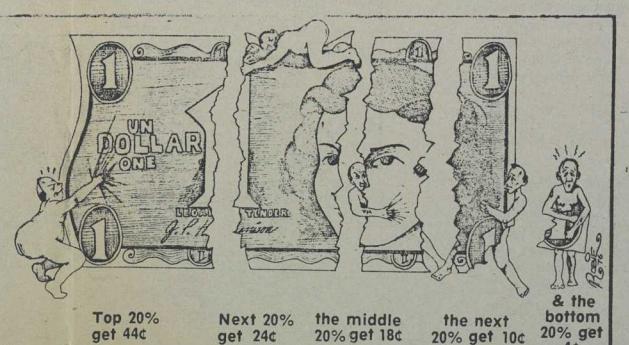
"But" she says "if I can just get a break, I'll be able to cope."

With the low value our society places on work done by women, with the inequality of distribution of resources in our society, where is a woman like Susan going to get that break?

- Jo Lazenby

Susan's situation is not unique. There are thousands of women in this province alone living like Susan. Perhaps you know one -- perhaps you are one. There is no reason, no justification, for anyone in Canada to live in poverty. This is a situation that can be rectified -- but it requires that the people of Canada demand that it be rectified.

For Every
CANADIAN
\$
OF INCOME



a way out

"The central objective of social security in Canada is an acceptable basic income for all Canadians... For a basic income is essential if a person is to live in decency and in dignity."

Working Paper on Social Security

Since 1973 the Federal and Provincial Governments have been reviewing the social security system - the goal of that review is the establishment of a guaranteed annual income. The general framework which has emerged out of this review includes income support for those who are unable to work or can't find work, and income supplementation for those who are working, but are receiving insufficient wages for their basic needs. The proposals are a recognition that reform of Canada's welfare system is a necessity.

The supplementation programme could help an estimated 500,000 Canadian families whose needs are not being met by the present system. These are the working poor whose annual earnings for a family of four falls between \$4,000 - \$8,500 a year.

The programmes would introduce a strong federal consistency into the maze of provincial provisions currently in effect. The ministers have reached agreement on the need for a built in work incentive, i.e. people on supplementation should always be better off financially than if they quit work and went onto income support. All recipients would be subject to periodic employment availability testing. Financing is to be a cost sharing arrangement between the federal government and each provincial government. 66 -2/3% of supplementation benefits would be picked up by the federal government while the support payments would be shared 50 - 50. The provincial governments are to deliver the system and they may choose either a unitary system (combining supplementation and support) or a two-tier system. The provincial governments will set maximum levels of support which they will define as being adequate. There has been no delineation of a federal minimum level that the provinces can not go below.

Poverty groups are the first to admit that the Guaranteed Annual Income does not spell "fat city" for the poor of this country. What they are stressing is citizen support of the concept and the development of a G.A.I. system which will begin to eliminate some of the major problems of the existing welfare system.

As the Hon. Marc Lalonde stated in a speech .. the consensus reached by the federal and provincial governments will reflect your consensus - the consensus of Canadians as to the socio

security system they want us their representatives to provide them with. If the result is a program that is fair and generous, both responsible and compassionate, an equitable embodiment of an enlightened society, then the credit will belong to all of us. If the result is none of these things - or merely less so than it might and should have been than that too will be a responsibility we all will share. The Canadian society of tomorrow will be as we choose to build it today."

Originally the scheme was to have begun in April of this year. Discussion now is that the program will be postponed until economic conditions improve -- perhaps 5 - 10 years from now. The final meeting of Ministers is to take place in June -- this meeting will decide the future of the program. We

We are urging people who are concerned about this issue -- and poverty is a women's issue -- to write a letter

today! Send copies to:

Hon. Marc Lalonde, Minister of Health & Welfare, House of Commons, Ottawa. (No stamp necessary).

Hon. William Vander Zalm, Minister of Human Resources, Victoria, B.C.

Your Federal M.P. (No stamp necessary)

National Anti-Poverty Organization, 300 - 196 Bronson, Ottawa, Ontario.

Points to cover: 1. implementation of income support and income supplementation to begin at once. (Guaranteed Annual Income).

2. re-instatement of social programs affecting the poor which have been reduced or terminated as a result of cuts in government spending.

DO IT NOW

SUGGESTED READING

Federated Anti-Poverty Newsletter - available from 411 6th Ave. New Westminster, B.C. Phone 525-3658.

Publications available from National Anti-Poverty Organization - 300-196 Bronson, Ottawa, Ontario:

"Towards a Guaranteed Income" \$1. *
"A New Tomorrow For Canada's Poor" \$1
"Protection For The Poor?" 50c
"Unite and Fight For A New Tomorrow" \$1. *

N.A.P.O. Info Newsletter \$3 yearly.*

Publications available from National Council of Welfare - Brooke Claxton Building, Ottawa, Ontario.

"Poor Kids" *
"Guide to Guaranteed Income" *
"One in a World of Two" *
"One Child One Chance" *

* Publication is in the Vancouver Status of Women Reference Library & can be read by anyone interested.

- Nadine Allen

dubious security

HOUSEWIVES: A HUSBAND AWAY FROM WELFARE

It has been said that housewives are just husband away from welfare. More than 40,000 Canadian women will become divorced this year. For women without careers, elderly and single parent women, harsh economic realities will result from marital breakdown long after emotional scars have healed.

The image of the woman who gets rich from divorce and alimony is largely a myth. Both Dr. Donald MacDougall, UBC law professor and Ms. Lee Masters, ombudsman, Vancouver Status of Women, agree that maintenance payments awarded by the court to the dependent spouse are frequently inadequate. Often, three-quarters of the family has to live on one-quarter the original family income.

"Current divorce laws are destroying the family," says Ms. Masters. Many divorced women are forced to go on welfare and nothing is done to help them off it. Judges often limit the maintenance payment to \$100 per month so it won't be deducted from the social assistance cheque, even when the wife is not on welfare!"

Access to adequate legal advice is another problem for the prospective divorcee. "A few months ago, all prosecutors were pulled out of family court where divorce cases are heard, due to shortage of provincial money. Low-income women are now totally without representation in their divorce cases," advises Lee Masters.

According to Dr. MacDougall, in the recent past, after waiting a long time to see a social worker, a divorcee was then assigned a lawyer. This prosecutor frequently appeared in court only

on the day of the trial, without even knowing very much about the client.

"Even that was better than nothing," says Ms. Masters. "But what we need are family advocates now, not criminal lawyers for divorce cases. The government has given no indication whether it will eventually replace the prosecutors at all."

For women able to afford their own lawyers, problems still arise. Ms. Masters has dealt with cases in which lawyers "forgot" to tell divorcees their basic rights and even "forgot" to arrive in court on the appointed day.

If a woman is fortunate enough to obtain a monetary settlement enough to support herself and children, her troubles are not yet over. A majority of husbands default on maintenance payments to ex-wives, after only a few months or simply disappear. The woman may then spend hundreds and hundreds of dollars trying to find him, bringing him back to court, trying to collect money which legally is owed to her. She is then further in debt.

The Royal Commission on Family and Children's Law (Berger Commission) made 37 recommendations to the provincial government in June 1975, to deal with these problems. Among them is a proposal for a unified family court and a central registry of all maintenance payments, and a government agency to collect and disburse the awards. This would relieve the low-income spouse from repeated expenses.

Dr. MacDougall suggests this agency could settle divorce disputes "administratively"

instead of the courts. But Ms. Masters thinks this would be a disservice to individuals and to the law. "The settlement of disputes is for the court, not for social workers," she says. "The law is there to solve social problems."

Any attempt to develop a uniform and more equitable system of dealing with the reduced economic situation which results from marital breakdown will encounter difficulties. The traditional view of marriage is now in conflict with the emerging concept of community marital property which recognizes the contribution of the economic provider and the homemaker as equal.

Dr. MacDougall says that community of marital property laws "Presuppose a society in which women and men are already treated equally and therefore are premature." Even these proposed reforms still result it seems, in inadequate maintenance awards to the needy spouse. For some time yet, the choice for housewives may be between a bad marriage and poverty.

Joyce Barrett-Gudaitis

WCWN

quote:

"The most deadly uninterested person, and the one who has the greatest temptation not to think at all, is the comfortable and happily married woman -- the woman who has a good man between her and the world, who has not the saving privilege of having to work. A sort of fatty degeneration of the conscience sets in that is disastrous to the development of thought." -- Nellie McClung, In Times Like These

Miriam Gropper was an ombudswoman at Vancouver Status of Women for 15 months months. She left us at the end of April this year to move on to other things, which, as she puts it, "are not for publication." !!

Ombuds work is the most gruelling job at VSW. We are amazed that Miriam lasted it out that long without burning out. Here's what she had to say about it.

Many women come to VSW as a last resort. "They've been so trod upon by husbands, lawyers, social workers, and turned away by the system at every point, that by the time they get to us, they have no self-esteem left," says Miriam.

VSW used to get more calls from working women who had been discriminated against. Now we get a lot of cases of separation and divorce. It's usually a woman who is stuck in a marriage she abhors. "Her husband beats her or torments her. She just can't see a way out. There isn't much money and she has the kids to look after. All the factors of her life interlock and the problem escalates." Miriam notes.

If you ask Miriam what the main problem is, she'll say, "MONEY. These women need a roof over their head and something to feed themselves and the kids with. Imagine living month to month uncertain if your ex-husband will remember to put a cheque in the mail. It's really very difficult to be dependent."

A lot of the women I see are emotionally on their feet. They are not the stereotype naive little housewife. The economic aspect is what is hanging them up."

"Sometimes we have to give a woman \$10 so she can make it to the end of the week even though VSW really can't afford it. It doesn't solve her problem. It just makes life more bearable for her. We try to get her to face the long-term solution in the meantime."

That gets us to the feminist philosophy of the ombudservice. The emphasis is on self-help and personal responsibility. This means educating women on how to use the system.

"I refuse to lead women by their hand while they keep a blind eye," advises Miriam. "I try to give them the courage to stand up for their rights. But they are so frustrated they want everything



solved immediately. They have to prioritize problems and work through them methodically. We can't solve everything simultaneously."

Many of the ombudspeople are not aware at first that VSW is a feminist organization, but they find out at least indirectly at some point. "I don't believe in pouring a heavy feminist line down their throats. I give them a feminist perspective whether they know it or not. They end up becoming more independent, assertive and stronger," says Miriam. "Some we never hear from again; some join VSW or join a C.R. Group; some call us occasionally or send cards at Christmas."

Women are referred to VSW by lawyers, social workers, psychiatrists, etc. But some professionals are hostile toward VSW being involved with their client and refuse to help her unless she drops us.

"In that case it is very clear to her how the professional sees women's rights. She usually gets another lawyer. I keep running into a few lawyers and social workers who are causing women a lot of problems."

Sometimes someone sets up an appointment at VSW for a friend. In that case the woman usually doesn't show up, "I won't speak to a third party," says Miriam. "There is a limit to how much you can interfere in a woman's life. All you can do is let her know that you are there if she wants your help."

A daily fare of women's horror stories is draining and depressing for an om-

budswoman who requires alternative support systems. "Sometimes what these women say just about kills me," says Miriam. "But VSW staff always cheered me up. When I go home I don't want to argue with friends if I'm right. I see what I see, and what I see is garbage."

The number of women seeking help from VSW has increased steadily over the years. The load is often heavy but we never turn anyone away. Sometimes we just don't have time to be as effective as we'd like."

"I don't feel badly about leaving the job," says Miriam. "There is a danger in spending all your energy on this job. How effective can you be when you are burnt out? Other women need to do this work too."

"Being an ombudswoman has definitely politicized me," she says. "It has given me a very broad perspective on the injustices women suffer. The oppression of women becomes extremely clear very quickly on this job."

How does the Ombudservice-benefit VSW? "It clarifies the issues and keeps us in touch with the grass roots woman. It teaches us how to deal with the system and gives us a base for political lobbying."

"The names are confidential, but the cases don't sit in the file. Community committees are set up to study the issues raised by ombudswork, and to educate the public on discrimination against women."

When accused of applying band-aid solutions that delay the revolution Miriam says, "We're not ready for revolution. We need more women on our side first. Every woman we help on the ombudservice joins ranks in one way or another."

"Women must have the information on their rights first, and besides every band-aid has a ripple effect. We have to do this preliminary work. It is a slow process. It's great to speak to a placid audience on Women and the Law and watch them twitch. That's the beginning of the revolution."

Mim, as she is affectionately known around the office, will be missed. Someone once said her face belonged on a box of breakfast cereal. We wish she were still with us to cheer us up.

- Karen Richardson

magazine

CHILDREN'S MAGAZINE

CANADIAN CHILDREN'S MAGAZINE is a totally Canadian magazine for young children, aged 5 - 12. It will be a quarterly, with the first issue due in May/76 and is edited by Evelyn Samuel.

The magazine will contain factual articles, easy to read, about history, museums for children, our ethnic heritage, transportation, stamps, inventions, flora and fauna, and more. Also illustrations, puzzles and contests reflecting the Canadian experience and a penal club.

Subscription cost is \$5 for 1 year (4 issues) from CANADIAN CHILDREN'S MAGAZINE, 4150 Bracken Avenue, Victoria, B.C. V8X 3N8

child care

MORE DAYCARE SETBACKS?

Human Resources Minister VanderZalm has been asked to reconsider a ruling disqualifying daycare subsidies to families if both parents are students. Provincial daycare coordinator Marilyn Dahl said the ruling would affect only 100 families and therefore was not worth the screening paperwork. The requirement discriminates against women in that if one parent has to stay home to look after the kids, we know who it will be. Letters should be directed to the Minister at Parliament Buildings, Victoria. (KR)

DAYCARE WORKERS ASK FOR HELP

Daycare workers are asking you to sign and circulate their petition for increased daycare subsidies. The recent increase was too little too late they say. Contact Ellen Shapiro, SSEU, 545 West 10th Ave., Vancouver, or call 299-4877. A number of centres are still in serious danger of closing down. (KR)

When Lorri Rudland joined the Vancouver Status of Women Ombudsman at the end of April it was difficult to remember a time when she wasn't here! As one of the organizers of the Women Rally for Action, Lorri was in the office everyday (and most nights!) for weeks. After the Rally she was still here -- co-ordinating the Rally Handbook and doing volunteer work for VSW. Now she is officially ours and we are delighted!

Lorri brings a wealth of experience in a great variety of fields -- immigration officer, waitress, clerk-steno, hunting camp cook, door to door saleswoman, lab technician and last year, after a year at UBC Law School, she counselled women at the Women's Legal Aid Clinic in Vancouver.

Lorri says she wanted to be involved in actively working to promote legislative change to eliminate discrimination in the legal system and at the same time help women to become aware of how they are oppressed and how they can effect change in societal attitudes and legislation. At VSW her goals and personal philosophy are in harmony with her work -- the dream of every working feminist!

One of Lorri's main concerns in her work on the Ombudsman is the lack of understanding women have about the legal system. Time after time she finds that a woman involved in a legal case has very little information about her legal rights and the options available to her. The legal jargonese, the aura of "expertise" surrounding the law and the legal profession, and often the patronizing attitude of her lawyer, make it impossible for her to participate in making the choices

hello



Lorri

that will greatly affect her life. Lorri describes her approach to the problem: "My main concern is to see that the woman gets a lawyer, probably feminist, who will not just represent her concerns effectively, but will explain her rights, or lack of them, in a way that she can understand. Then when there are alternatives available, she can make decisions based on realistic expectations and a knowledge of the process of the law, rather than let herself be funnelled into a course of a course of action that she may not have chosen had she fully understood the issues and her alternatives. Often this involves a form of assertiveness training that will help the woman to have the confidence to insist on information and participation rather than subsiding

into a feeling of frustrated and resentful helplessness."

Lorri feels very strongly that the law must be demystified. Knowledge of the system that both governs our behaviour and protects our rights is one of the "basic life skills", Lorri points out. The understanding of Family Law is particularly important for women in making decisions and asserting control over the direction our lives take. Lorri feels that the school system is very remiss in not instructing students in this area. The law courses that are taught in high school tend to deal with the more business like aspects -- eg. contracts and torts -- and neglect the sections that have immediate relevance to daily life such as credit, joint ownership of homes, rights of married women, etc. At the request of a concerned teacher, Lorri has been visiting a Law 11 class to discuss Family Law and Women and the Law with the students.

Another of Lorri's major concerns is communication between women and she is working with the BCFW Communications Subcommittee to expand the BCFW newsletter so that it will reach more women and provide a means for the many women's centres to maintain contact. It will also provide a forum for discussion on feminist issues. This is another outgrowth of the Women's Rally for Action and the Intercom newsletter that proved to be such an exciting and unifying link between women throughout the province.

Work on the Ombudsman demands commitment and energy and Lorri certainly has lots of both!

- Jo Lazenby

R A P E

We at Rape Relief Vancouver do not offer a pat answer for the problem of rape, but because of our concern for continuous growth in this area we went to hear Frederick Storaska -- the self-proclaimed authority on rape prevention."

Mr. Storaska's wit and charm is even more overwhelming than his book or film indicates. While he cites numerous examples and statistics, his lecture is packed full of humorous anecdotes which served to captivate his audience. But once Storaska's hypnotic effect had worn off we were able to see more clearly that he dealt with only one aspect of rape prevention. His lecture would have been more beneficial had he not limited alternatives the way he did. Although he frequently used the phrase "do what feels right for you" he strongly insinuated that what was right for you is contained only within his suggested tactics. Storaska went so far as to say a woman should not scream in an attack situation as this may anger the rapist. To date there is insufficient research conducted on attack situations to validate this advice. There are however, reports on file of would-be rapists who lost all confidence when their intended victim screamed.

Our greatest disappointment was the lack of encouragement offered for women to deal with rapists on an assertive level. Rather, Mr. Stor-

aska's emphasis was geared towards dealing with a rape situation on a feminine sexual level, even though he rightly acknowledges rape as a crime of aggression.

As Storaska himself agrees, rape is a social problem. Yet his emphasis is on a personal responsibility women have rather than a social responsibility we all have. Men and women need to know how our social conditioning feed right into a rape situation.

Hopefully there were more people in his audience who were able to go home and filter through his dynamic way of short-selling rape prevention.

After his first lecture we set up a meeting with Storaska. This meeting took place the following afternoon, before his second and last lecture at SFU. We tried pointing out to him that he is patronizing, but his response was patronizing as well. "You women really need to hear what I'm about to say. Lord only knows you need it."

We question some of his final analysis on women, not because he's a man but because of the patronizing way he deals with women. We tried giving him constructive feedback re assertive alternatives for women and hopefully some room to grow.

At his lecture at SFU Storaska did put some more emphasis on social conditioning and omitted one of his rape prevention alternatives.

We will be corresponding with Storaska and hopefully will be able to share each others' experiences in dealing with the various aspects of rape. It's a start!

In Sisterhood -- Di, Angie & Tsippy, Counsellors of Rape Relief Vancouver.

funding

RAPE CENTRES FUNDED

Attorney-General Garde Gardom announced that rape relief centres in B.C. will get more money than the original \$75,000 they were granted. Victoria, Vancouver and Kamloops Rape Relief submitted a joint grant proposal to the department but were awarded less than requested. Human Resources Minister Bill Vander Zalm said there isn't enough money in the A.G. budget to cover the additional grants and funds would have to come out of Dept. of Health and Dept. of Human Resources. (KR)

victoria

SWAG is busy: with a \$5100 grant from the now defunct Provincial Status of Women Coordinator they opened a new office downtown and have a wide variety of committees on: sexist education, family law reform, women's history, human rights, women and labour. All aimed at ACTION. They are now at 8 - 671 Fort St. Victoria, or call Alice Ages, 388-6332. (KR)

port alberni

The Port Alberni Women's Centre has moved to 3178 Second Ave., Port Alberni. It is open week nights 7-10 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Counselling on human rights, legal aid, birth control, etc. Call 723-8281. (KR)

chilliwack

Chilliwack Women's Info Centre is looking for information on how to organize - heir new service and reference materials to carry. Contact Lorraine Dyck, 519 Yale Road East, Chilliwack. (KR)

SISTERS

north shore

North Shore Women's Centre, 3255 Edgemont Blvd. North Vancouver, 987-4822.

Tami Lundy, a member of the North Shore Women's Centre and previous office Co-ordinator, was elected to the vacant school trustee seat in North Vancouver City in a May 1st by-election. School Board meetings are public and are held every 2nd & 4th Monday at 7:30 p.m. at 721 Chesterfield Ave.

The NSWC office could use more volunteers so that the office could stay open longer. Cost of childcare is reimbursed. Call 987-4822.

NSWC has funding of \$4,284 from Secretary of State to hire two summer students to work on a project inquiring into part-time work and job-sharing for women on the North Shore. Want to get involved? Call Trisha or Mary-Lynn at the NSWC office.

Feminists who would like an evening out at the movies, plays, concerts, etc. with congenial companions -- call NSWC office to arrange a group outing.

Membership in NSWC is \$3 per year & includes a monthly newsletter.

DAY CARE

Concerned Day Care Parents' Association is a new 41 member North Shore group. The group claims that children are a low priority in the Social Credit government and plan to present a brief to Vander Zalm. Call Doreen Butterley at 988-7973 for further details.

exchange

FAIR EXCHANGE

Women fight inflation by swapping work you do for services you need! Trade babysitting for hairdressing, dressmaking for transportation, etc. Share your ideas and abilities. For more information call: Anne Bettles, 56 Mary St. Port Moody (931-3552) or Lin Latham, 8758 Armstrong Ave, Burnaby (526-5781).

workshop

ASSERTIVENESS TRAINING WORKSHOP

This self-growth workshop will help participants reduce their self-defeating behavior and (1) learn how to distinguish assertion from aggression, non-assertion from politeness; (2) develop some beginning skills in acting assertively in personal and professional lives. Format includes discussion of interpersonal rights, exercises designed to overcome whatever blocks exist to acting assertively, and role-playing to practice assertive behaviors. Effective ways of expressing feelings, opinions and beliefs will be explored so that one is able to assert oneself without violating one's own or others' rights.

A weekend workshop: July 9, 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and July 10, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. To be held at the VSW office, 2029 West 4th St., Vancouver. Register by calling 736-3746. A \$10 deposit is required.

poco

Port Coquitlam Area Women's Centre, P.O. Box 243, Port Coquitlam, 941-6311. Located corner of Chester & Coquitlam Ave. behind Aggie Hall.

Poco now has T-shirts for sale! \$4.50 adults, \$3.95 children.

The Poco General Meeting will be at 8 p.m. June 3rd at the Women's Centre.

kitimat

Kitimat Women's Organization has received a grant of \$4852 from the Secretary of State Student Summer Employment Program to survey women working in non-traditional jobs in heavy industry -- such as the women in the ALCAN foundry. They will also investigate the needs and employment opportunities for women in the Kitimat area and make recommendations to Manpower. Chris Wozney, F3-653 Columbia Ave, Kitimat. 632-7669.

kootenay

Subscribe to the Kootenay Women's Council newspaper IMAGES. \$3 per yr. Box 1200, Castlegar, B.C.

Women interested in a 8 week introductory course for women exploring the trades should contact Sena Gates at the Outreach office, 352-9666. Some of the possibilities might be carpentry, forestry, mechanics, etc. Approximately two weeks would be used to cover each one.

ishtar

Ishtar Women's Transition House in Aldergrove reports they have been funded by the B.C. Department of Human Resources but the arrangement is unsatisfactory. They will receive \$12.90 per person per day for women taking refuge there in crisis. However, this is insufficient since they need capital to set up another house since the first one was closed down. Also the per diem rate is not a guarantee of sufficient money to pay salaries and maintain house expenses without capacity clients. Letters should be directed to Human Resources Minister Bill VanderZalm, Parliament, Victoria, B.C. (KR)

drop-in

VANCOUVER LESBIAN DROP-IN

The Vancouver Lesbian Drop-In will be held on Wednesday evening at 8 p.m. at the Vancouver Status of Women office, 2029 West 4th St. 736-3746.

share

IF YOUR GROUP HAS NEWS IT WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH OTHER WOMEN SEND IT TO KINESIS.

people's law school

SEMINAR

ABORIGINAL LAND CLAIMS: The historical and legal basis of aboriginal rights; the history of native land claims struggle in Canada, the Nisga'a Test Case, reference to James Bay, N.W.T. and Yukon.

June 7 & 8, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Vancouver Public Library.

Instructor: Don Rosenbloom.

CO-OPERATIVE HOUSING: Philosophy of Co-operativeism and explanation of various kinds of housing co-operatives, e.g. par value, refund, etc. Explanation of available financing & how to qualify. Discussion of problems that may be encountered: construction, zoning, costs, etc.

June 21, 22, 23, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Kitsilano Public Library, 2425 MacDonald

Instructors: Bruce Higgs, Nette Peerboom.

CONSUMER LAW: The new Trade Practices Act; various legislation relating to consumer; rules of contracts; rights and obligations of the consumer in a contract; warranties, guarantees, credit buying and resources on defective goods.

June 28, 29, 30, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Vancouver Public Library.

Learn about your laws through the Vancouver People's Law School's series of FREE law classes. All courses and materials are free. To pre-register call: 681-7532. Note: each course takes a full three evenings.

bcfw

HANDBOOK

The first BCFW PUBLICATION is hot off the mimeo machine: **MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZING HANDBOOK**. Written by Gail Borst, Action Organizer of the British Columbia Federation of Women. Available from BCFW PUBLICATIONS, c/o 2029 West 4th Avenue, Vancouver. 50¢.

AMBULANCE ESCORT SERVICE AXED

The provincial government has canceled the ambulance escort service initiated by the former NDP government. The service provided for government-paid nurses or doctors to accompany patients transported by the provincial ambulance service.

Low-income people -- most of whom are women -- will suffer the most.

Kathryn Hazel, Rural Organizer, B.C. Federation of Women, is urging women to write to Health Minister Bob McClelland protesting this move and making him aware of the terrible hardship this will cause those living in the north or isolated areas of the province. Send copies of your letter to Premier Bill Bennett and your own MLA -- care of Parliament Buildings, Victoria, B.C.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

cable tv

WOMEN IN FOCUS

WOMEN IN FOCUS is seen on Cable 10 in Vancouver, Monday nights at 9 p.m.

June 14: The Paris Commune, 1871.

June 21: Ruthie Gordon, Folk Singer.

June 28: Mrs. Mary Norton, Socialist Suffragette.

habitat

WOMEN AND THE ENVIRONMENT

WOMEN, THE NEGLECTED RESOURCE is the name of the program to be presented by UBC Continuing Education on June 3rd, 6:45-9:30 p.m. in Hanger 6 at the Habitat Forum, Jericho Site.

The program will open with a presentation of a brief and slide show sponsored by the Vancouver Status of Women and prepared by Joan McHardy (working toward a PhD in Sociology at Oxford University) and Viviane Hotz (Swiss architect currently working in Vancouver, and VSW Executive Member-at-Large). The presentation entitled "Women and Planning: the example of Vancouver, Canada" is explained by Ms. Hotz: "City planning is an expression of the current social and economic ideas and does not take into consideration the needs of women. This is true of the planning of communities and of homes. Women must get into the system and the power structure so that they can have input in the planning and change it to meet the needs of people."

The presentation is one-half hour in length. The program continues with speakers Lisa Hobbs, Rosemary Brown, Judge Nancy Morrison and Fran P. Hosken.

For more information call 228-2181, local 218.

festival

FESTIVAL HABITAT

Ann Mortifee: Vancouver singer, composer at Christ Church Cathedral, 960 Burrard, Vancouver on Wed. June 9th at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$3.50.

Pauline Julien: Quebec singer, poet, actress at Christ Church Cathedral, Fri. June 11 at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5.

Tickets for both events available from Vancouver Ticket Centre 683-3255.

Susan Jacks: Vancouver vocalist, at Vancouver East Cultural Centre, 1895 Venables, Sunday June 27 at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$2.50. Call 254-9578.

HABITAT -- for information on the great variety of events, programs, fairs, plays, concerts, films, etc. call: Habitat Information Centre at 666-8641.

At no time was there the impression of rushing to beat the clock to keep up with the timetable.

Women spoke with equal gravity and were accorded equal attention, throughout.

And how did I feel, as part of a very small handful of whites at this Native People's conference? where the criminal role of the "Great White Father" continues to poison the very air we all breathe?

I found myself recalling the gentle but indisputable analysis recently offered by an A.I.M. leader:

"We do not blame you for what happened 300 years ago.

We do not blame you for what happened 200 years ago.

We do not blame you for what happened 100 years ago.

But, when we look around and see how the situation is worsening, how must we view you at this moment if you do not support our struggle?"

Individually and collectively, we can no longer evade the answer.

- Claire Culhane

Latest report -- discussions are under way between Donna Tyndall & members of the BCFW Standing Committee about organizing workshops on Land Claims.

Dear Sisters:

As a native Indian woman, I would like to make a few comments on the March 22nd Women's Rally.

My mother and I were proud that we were part of this historic action. We were most impressed by the initiative, enthusiasm and organization shown in Victoria that day.

However, I am not happy over the astounding ignorance about Indian problems which was displayed by the majority of the women at the workshops and at the Legislature.

When I urged support for the Indian Land Claim, I heard it said aloud and more or less accepted by most women, there that our Land Claim "is too political". Mercy me! Maude, let feminists of B.C. avoid "political issues" by all means!

Our Land Claim is the only answer, the only hope for Indian problems. We will never solve all our problems until we can do it by ourselves with money that we feel is truly ours. This position was what prompted last year's rejection of government money by the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs and the B.C. Association of Non-Status Indians. These two organizations were working in the fields of Welfare, Housing, Education, etcetera, for Indian people. Both organizations had large, talented I Indian staffs; large amounts of government funding, and large beautiful

NATIVE WOMEN

offices. Yet all their work produced very little in the way of results. This is the way it has and will always be as long as we are forced to accept charity and handouts. No matter how much money is poured into our social problems, it will continue to be like putting Band-Aids on open festering wounds.

The root cause of all our terrible distress was the White Man's invasion and usurpation of our lands, which eventually deprived native people of the ability and opportunity to provide their own livings. The beginning of Society's welfare system for natives was what really destroyed our people, even more than the stripping-away of our culture.

The only cure will be affected by US, not you. And we will do it with our Land Claim Settlements!

If the middle-class mentality must exist among feminist groups, send your used clothing and sympathy to Guatemala. We Indians do not want it. We want support in our struggles, and the first of these is our Land Claim. If you are unwilling to learn about Land Claims and become supportive,

forget about Indians once more. We need no more Band-Aids.

It truly amazed me to be asked to express our needs and wishes, and then to be told in several instances that I couldn't do this very thing. The most glaring and hideous example was when I was asked to prepare a short (2½ minutes) speech for the afternoon of the 22nd and then to submit this in writing for censorship. Censorship at a Freedom Rally?! This is what was done to me and I'm obviously not happy. Two and one half minutes to tell of 300 years of oppression and agony! I guess that the Committee was afraid that I might get "political" again.

I've heard the complaint that native women are not becoming involved in the women's movement. Considering the treatment which I received from the probably most enlightened group of women in B.C., it is no wonder we stay away in droves. We recognize tokenism. We have suffered it for many years. We know exactly what it is and what it means.

If women's groups sincerely desire to "help" us, learn about us. Educate yourselves about our Land Claim, then talk to us and we will answer.

In Sisterhood,
Donna Tyndall, President, B.C. Association of Non-Status Indians, Local 146.
Courtenay, B.C.

response

As the media co-ordinator for Women Rally for Action, I think it appropriate that I should respond to Donna's letter with an explanation of program policy on March 22nd.

On the morning of the 22nd the native woman speaker, Agnes Dick, was unable to be present for the time she had been allotted in the program. Consequently the program was adjusted to allow her an opportunity to speak during the noon-hour time slot if she arrived later. But in the event that Agnes was unable to appear, Donna Tyndall was approached "at the eleventh hour" and asked to speak because we felt it very important that native women's issues should be publicly expressed as well as included within our Brief to the M.L.A.'s.

With this background in mind, there are two points in Donna's letter that I most emphatically want to explain: 1. censorship, and 2. short speaking time. There was never any question of "censorship" of Donna's speech but what was at issue was "collectivism" with respect to those points of view expressed at the Rally by the speakers who become public representatives of W.R.A. policy. One of our concerns through the whole organization of the Rally was to ensure that W.R.A. was really representative of the issues of concern to all the women of B.C. and that the type of action urged to correct discriminatory legislation or attitudes was consistent with Rally policy. For example, a Buffer committee was responsible for overseeing the demonstration and guarding the microphones to prevent any disruptive situations from arising which could reflect badly upon the Rally and hence its representatives from all

over the province. For the same reasons, another policy decision of the Rally was that access to the microphone would be limited to those women who were already part of the program.

Some of the speakers had been asked to address specific issues of the Brief and had copies of the Brief beforehand. Others who were not speaking to issues specifically contained in the Brief but which were thought to be vital (eg. women and housing) were asked to outline the content of their speech. Consequently, since Donna was approached at such short notice (and graciously consented to speak) the same request was made. As it turned out, Agnes Dick did arrive but we also included Donna in the program. Although there were other requests to speak from individuals at the Rally, the only exception made on the day was for Donna. She had participated in the Sunday workshop and we felt she did have important issues to discuss.

Secondly re: the short speaking time, all speakers to issues of the Brief were allotted only 5 minutes each. Both the media committee and the provincial demonstration committee realized how short the time was and how frustrating for all of the speakers. But we had to view the whole day's program in context. For example, we had 55 lobby reports to block in, 10 speakers to issues in the Brief, 1 Keynote speaker, 4 political speakers (one never arrived), 3 wrap-up speakers, some children's entertainment, and 6 singers to change the pace and vary the content. Since there were two native women speaking, Donna was asked to limit her speech. (Many speakers went over their allotted time but there was never a shepherd's crook in the wings, nor were other speakers time shortened, we simply varied the schedule and cut back on entertainment).

As for the Land Claims issue being

too political, well, at the least 11 of the 55 lobby teams didn't seem to think so. The lobby teams of the following ridings all discussed the issue of Indian Land Claims with their M.L.A. - Alberni, Atlin, Cariboo, Burnaby North, Burnaby Willingdon, Comox, Omenica, Skeena, Van. Centre, Van. South, and West. Van.-Howe Sound.

Donna's final point is that if women's groups sincerely desire to "help" them women should educate themselves about the Land Claims issues. We agree! But we need and want her "help" and the "help" of other native women to do this. After receipt of Donna's letter, I contacted her and explained W.R.A. Policy with respect to the program. At the same time I asked her for direction as to where we could get up-to-date information with specific reference to B.C. Land Claims. These are the two publications she recommended: 1. The Struggle Continues: Land Claims in British Columbia (more commonly known as The Blue Book), which gives the history of land claims in B.C. and an analysis of the effect of some recent Supreme Court of Canada decisions, and 2. NESIKA, a Journal devoted to the Land Claims movement - this is a publication of the B.C. Association of Non-Status Indians put out about 6 times a year. The Blue Book costs \$2.00 and subscription to NESIKA is by donation; both of these can be obtained by writing to B.C.A.N.S.I., Room 104-1099 W. 8th, Vancouver, B.C. or phoning 732-6122.

Furthermore we asked Donna to write an article on Land Claims for Kinesis and this will be published next month.

Hope that this explanation clears the air with respect to censorship and tokenism! We really hope that more native women will become involved in the women's movement in B.C. And we would appreciate more correspondence and submissions from native women.

- Lorri Rudland

Hello again! Work on developing the reference library is going well. Deadwood has been cleared out. New materials will continue to be ordered. Book reviews are under way. Files have been amalgamated. Requests for info are flowing in. People come in daily to research women's issues. We now have a four drawer file chock full of status of women info from A to Z! We'll publish a list of the files we have soon. Don't forget our free public info desk downstairs stocked with take-home materials. Watch this section every month for new feminist resources.

The following materials have been added to the reference library and may be used for research, general interest, etc. Addresses have been given so that out-of-towners and people who want the material for their own files or their Centre can order copies. Donations of research papers, thesis, reports, etc. on women's issues are welcomed by the VSW Reference Library.

- Karen Richardson

Housing Needs for One-Parent Families: 500 pg. study on problems of single-parent families and accomodation. Gives recommendations. On reference at VSW.

Career Selectors: six booklets aimed at high school women and women re-entering the workforce. Free from Women's Women's Bureau, Dept. Labour, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

How to Raise Money for Community Action: 24 pg. booklet giving basic rules on fundraising. \$1 from SEDFRE, 315 Seventh Ave. New York, N.Y., USA. Ask for their publications list.

Women in Policing: a 95 pg. book on why policewomen have been limited in the past and recommendations to improve their status. Free from Police Foundation, 1015 Eighteenth St. NW Washington DC, USA.

Participation of Women in Economic, Social and Political Development: Obstacles that Hinder Their Integration: 7 pg. paper by Canada for UN Seminar in Argentina, March 1976. Free from Minister on Women, Ottawa.

RESOURCES

Winning the Age Game: how-to guide for mature women. By Gloria Heidi, Doubleday, \$9.95.

Opportunity for Choice, A Goal for Women in Canada: 217 pg. paperback on housewives, working mothers and career women, based on 1971 census. Covers pay for housework, daycare, maternity benefits, matrimonial property. \$3.75 from Statistics Canada, Ottawa, Ont.

Women in Business: 150 pg. book on equal opportunity for women, based on series of newspaper articles. Free from Financial Post, Maclean-Hunter, 481 University Avenue, Toronto, Ont.

Family Law: Enforcement of Maintenance Orders: 50 pg. bilingual study paper proposing several models for tracing the absconding spouse and the role of welfare. Good materials for para-legal divorce counselling. \$3.25 from Info Canada, 800 Granville St. Vancouver.

Action Agendas for Local Union Committees: 8 pg. pamphlet tells how local women's rights committees can fight sex discrimination in unions. Also Sex Discrimination Checklist on how to investigate women's conditions at your work place. Both free from AFSCME, 1625 L Street NW, Washington DC, USA 20037.

Social Antecedents of Women in World of Work: 25 pg. booklet prepared for high school guidance counsellors on effects of sex-role conditioning on women's aspirations. Free from Dept. of Education, Box 911, Harrisburg Pa. USA 17126.

Survey of Hospital Abortion Committees in Canada: a report on the inequitable functioning of abortion laws. Free from YWCA, 571 Jarvis St. Toronto.

How To Deal With Sex-Role Stereotyping 48 pg. do-it-yourself kit for teachers, parents and community groups; how to lobby at school board meetings and classroom workshops. \$2.25 from Choice for Tomorrow P.O. Box 1455, Cupertino, California, USA 95041.

Why Women Need Less Pay and Other Myths: leaflet countering stereotypes about working women and women in education. Free from Project on Status of Women in Education, AAC, 1818 R Street, NW, Washington DC 20009. Ask for their publications list.

Psychological Pressures on Women in the Work Force: 12 pg. speech by Dr. Barbara Landau to Action 75, IWY Conference in Ottawa. Free from YWCA, 471 Jarvis St. Toronto, Ont.

Pressure for Change: The Role of Canadian Women's Groups: 22 pg. brief prepared for UN seminar in 1974. History of voluntary Canadian women's groups and how they precipitate change. Free from Secretary of State, 1525 West 8 Ave, Vancouver.

If You Work in an Office Read This: leaflet outlining feminist worker's contract with Vancouver law firm. Free from SORWU, 2049 Turner St. Vancouver or call 253-5059.

Handywoman's Cope Kit: how to fix faulty fuses, plumbing and appliances. 50¢ from Chatelaine, 481 University Ave. Toronto, Ont.

U.S. Women's Bureau Publications: ask for their list of publications. All are excellent, and free. Contact Women's Bureau, US Dept. of Labour, Washington, DC, USA 20210.

Ontario Women's Bureau Bibliographies: ask for their publications list and bibliography lists. Free from them at Ontario Ministry of Labour, 400 University St. Toronto, Ont.

Womanpower in the Third World: kit for secondary teachers examines role of women in developing countries. Includes bibliography and IWY poster. \$1.50 from UNICEF Canada, 443 Mt. Pleasant Road, Toronto, Ont.

Status of Women in Canada, 1975: 56 pg. bilingual book for outlining federal programs, services and legislation for women. Free from Minister on Status of Women, Ottawa, Ontario.

WRITE A LETTER!

WHY NOT AN OMBUDSMAN?

The Socreds have promised to appoint a provincial ombudsman to draw attention in the Legislature to public problems. If you would like to see a qualified woman fill this post, write to them with suggestions of eligible women. You might remind them that in 1975 there were no female deputy ministers and only 8 women at the program manager level in the civil service. Even fewer become political appointees. Write to the Attorney-General, Garde Gardom, Parliament Bldg. Victoria. (KR)

B.C. TO STUDY ABORTION

Provincial Health Minister Bob McClelland has ordered an investigation into abortion procedures at B.C. hospitals. The study was prompted by a brief presented to all four party caucuses by the B.C. Pro-Life Society in hopes of reducing the abortion rate. There are now 30 abortions per 100 live births on the west coast. Letters expressing your views on the matter should be directed to the Minister at Parliament Buildings, Victoria. (KR)

ONTARIO FAMILY LAW REFORM

The Ontario Status of Women Council is conducting a massive campaign to demonstrate to their government that there is province-wide support for family law reform. The present Attorney General is the third A.G. to promise such reforms-- but no action. So to ensure these amendments will be given real priority by the government, OSWC is calling on women's groups in Ontario to endorse their campaign and write letters to all MLAs. Isn't it time we did the same in B.C. for the Berger Commission recommendations? (KR)

PUBLIC SERVICE FAIR EMPLOYMENT ACT

A bill to repeal the Public Works Fair Employment Act was given first reading in the B.C. Legislature in April. The PWFEA was enacted in 1973 and amended last year. Through it the Minister of Labour may require public work contracts to employ minorities and women, who may then receive temporary or permanent union membership. At present this is one of the few vehicles of affirmative action in the province. Stop the repeal of this Act. Protest to Minister of Labour Allan Williams.

Parliament Buildings, Victoria with c.c. to your own MLA. (KR)

FREDERICK STORASKA CRITICIZED BY RAPE RELIEF

Frederick Storaska, who travels the country lecturing on "How to Say No to a Rapist and Survive", is drawing criticism from rape centres in B.C. For a leaflet outlining their objections to his approach, contact Rape Relief, 1027 West Broadway, Vancouver.

In the meantime, whether you agree with him or not, Storaska was paid about \$1350 for two lectures at SFU -- paid by the federal government while Rape Relief Centres struggle for funding. If you object to this, write a letter to Solicitor General Warren Almond, House of Commons, Ottawa. (KR)

WOMEN'S MAGS

1853 MC

B 3181

Completely Concerned with Sex.

I have recently had cause to delve back into the memories of my childhood and adolescence some 25/30 years ago in England, and the jingle "you've come a long way baby" has assumed a new meaning for me. I have checked my findings with Canadian-born women of my vintage and find the same awareness and slight incredulity at some of the changes we have seen.

Back then, girls were expected to be passive and obedient and it never occurred to the majority of them to be anything else. Aggression was encouraged for small boys: "don't be a cissy" if the poor thing didn't want to hurl his body over a rugby field or into an unheated outdoor swimming pool in February. We girls on the other hand were sheltered to the point of suffocation especially from those strange and obviously dangerous creatures, men. We went to a girls only school and were taught by women, all unmarried. There was no contact with anything masculine at all, certainly during school hours, and it was pointed out to us that even after hours we were still members of The School, and had a certain standard to maintain.

And the magazines we read did nothing to point out that there may be more to life than waiting for Mr. Right to come along. They were divided into various categories. Beauty Tips: Lots of these from how to cut your hair and make your chin less Dick Tracy and more Audrey Hepburn, to how to apply make-up so you would look natural for Him. Recipes: Mostly how to make something out of nothing, a nourishing meat loaf from left-over, a stick of celery, and a family with no taste buds. Stories: Always very Romantic, girl meets boy, loses boy, finds him again with endless variations. The good guys were nearly always called Stephen and the philanderers, often married, or even worse divorced, were usually called Dirk. But it was to the Agony Column one's fingers turned first to see what had happened to poor Worried Blue Eyes this week.

In the two major magazines the agony letters were supposedly answered by two ladies (I use the word advisedly) who were probably men, called Elizabeth and Mary, good dependable sounding names. Their invariable response to the assorted horrors that were placed before them each

week, was to preach inertia and stoicism - "after all dear, he doesn't go out with other women". Perhaps be better if he did. For the unmarried they exhorted "be a good listener, no pre-marital sex and never, never, never, beat Him at tennis.

Well, we have come a long way when one considers Ms. Cosmopolitan et al, but I wondered how, if at all, the "womanly" magazines had changed.

At first glance "Woman" looked just the same, grey-eyed blonde on the front cover, wearing home-made mittens (pattern page 28) but across the bottom of the page I read 'Abortion - where should we draw the line?'. That certainly was a change, 25 years ago abortion would never have been mentioned, much less discussed. On my way to the Agony Column I ploughed through Fashion : "The active service" look, in sports style or army surplus, in tough terrain or in town, is the kit for this open-air winter". Recipes: Cheese pudding and Devilled Kidneys with Yogurt (I swear).

Ignoring the stories which looked even duller than I remembered, through a shattering little item on the memories of women who had lived in the country in the good old days (they weren't) to the advice page -- now presided over by one Anna Raeburn, younger but very sincere looking. The first question asked what women should do about their sex lives, or lack of them, when their husbands are in prison for long terms. Far from advocating stoicism and cold showers, not to mention morality, Ms. Raeburn sympathises, "I don't pretend to understand the morality which says that the man can break the law and be sent down (sic) if he does, but the wife must hold fast blamelessly and not break another kind of law."

She also copes crisply with a nervous virgin (relax and read a book, a how-to book that is), a pregnant teenager (tell your mother now) and a worried husband whose wife was tempted by another man -- "But women have sexual drives as much as men, and I think your wife wants this man much as she might want to possess many another object." That whirring sound you hear is Queen Victoria spinning around in her grave, or possibly Bobby Riggs grinding his teeth.

Woman's Own, the other female bible, also had a grey-eyed blonde on the cover but without the mittens. It also had a story called "This Night Will Last Forever": "Yes, I am betroth-

ed, soon to be married, and I am in love -- but it is not with the same person." I couldn't tell about the names since the story was set in Greece and the 'hero' was called Aimilios.

Advice in plenty; how to save money, make pickles, lose weight, grow potted plants, and get smouldering eyes, not necessarily in that order. Another story: "David and Carol". She finds him, loses him because he is a famous pop singer and too good for her (Dirk was always something in the city, nobody ever said what). Carol marries Neal with the lop-sided grin (Stephan had crinkly eyes and smoked a pipe but a lop-sided grin isn't bad). David re-appears -- famous, rich and very sophisticated but Carol stays with faithful lop-sided Neal. Oh Yeah?

At last, there she is, same name -- Mary Grant -- but a different face, rather younger but very sincere. Here again we have the remarkable sight of Ms. Grant not only advocating sex but fun sex. "Do all you can to encourage an imaginative, more active approach to sex." Where Ms. Grant has it over Ms. Raeburn I feel, is that she has two agony columns, one exclusively for men. Now in North America we have Dear Abby and Ann Landers dispensing wisdom for all sexes at once, but in the conservative, middle-class England of yesterday, men never had any problems, and if they did, they did not plan to solve them by writing to Mary or Elizabeth.

Their present day problems seem less dramatic from those of the gentler sex. From "may I marry my uncle's widow?" (yes) to "why can't they leave us alone?" Us being two young people (19 and 21) who are lovers but don't want to marry, she being on the pill. Included in the answers are the following: "They (the parents) can only see sexual behaviour in the terms that applied in their youth -- the risk of pregnancy, loss of respect and so on" which I suppose is where we came in.

Assuming, of course, that Mary and Anna really are women and the letters from both men and women are genuine, which is a pretty large assumption. I have a horrible vision of several acne-ridden aspiring journalists backed by a team of cynical old rousers, all presided over by an editor with dollar-signs instead of eyes, yelling "write stuff that sells and to hell with the torpedos!"

- Margaret Nicholls

NEWS

IWY SECRETARIAT DISBANDED

The IWY Secretariat has been disbanded and the information component of the office transferred to the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women. Therefore, their newsletter will be continuing. The field officers who travelled B.C. for IWY on the women's info van will now be part of the Secretary of State Women's Program. (KR)

NEWS

A.A. IN DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

Ms. Helen Hogan is now the head of the Equal Opportunities for Women Section of the federal Department of Agriculture. Her salary range is \$13,937 to \$16,934. The projected expenses for her office for 1976-77 are \$50,000 including staff salaries at \$10,394 to \$11,364. (KR)

statistics

7% of the students at BCIT are female; 8% of the graduates at UBC are women; 30% of high school teachers are women; 8 out of 10 women will end up working outside the home approximately 40 years of their lives.

members' forum

In regard to the article "Wages for Housework" in the April/76 issue, I really believe I may have a better idea, and have been wondering who to pass it on to.

I was going through my husband's old Income Tax returns, and suddenly thought, "why haven't I, a former R.N., not filed a return for so long?" Answer: I have no income.

But that's maddening and silly. It is by mutual agreement that I gave up my career to stay home with our four children and keep a pleasant home. I work equally hard as my husband, consider my work equally as important, and furthermore consider half our assets and half his pay cheque as mine. Surely it is my undeniable right as a member of this society to pay taxes.

In order to accomplish this, a marriage would have to be drawn up legally into a business partnership type contract. The beauty of this arrangement shows up on pay day. The employer would have to issue the paycheck with two sets of deductions. There would be the usual hours of work and overtime, and gross pay; which would then be divided into two lines of deductions beginning with half the gross pay on each. Then the deductions: income tax, pension plan, unemployment, medical, etc. and finally each line ending with an equal net pay, accompanied by two equal pay cheques. One in each of the partners' names.

This would of course drop the wage earner into a lower income bracket, so I'm sure there would be a lot of opposition to its being accepted. If a wife worked, her paycheque would have to be split the same way.

The two parties would then be free to decide to simply pool the money; each pay half of all expenses -- food, mortgage, etc; or some other arrangement. But each has his or her own money. There are lots of small problems, but I think they could be worked out. I think it would have to continue even after separation, and would need a court order, such as a divorce, to stop the double pay cheque idea. Perhaps another number on the Social Insurance Number would indicate that this was a joint number or a joint wage earner.

What do you think?

Sandra Krogel
Kelowna, B.C.

HANSARD: MLAs TALK ABOUT WOMEN

The provincial Hansard is still hard to come by these days -- problems with printing and distribution we've been told. VSW has sporadic copies for the last month or so and here is a report on some of the discussion on women's issues that has been taking place in the B.C. Legislature as a result of the Women Rally for Action.

March 23, 1976.

Rosemary Brown, NDP MLA Vancouver Burrard, objected to the high ICBC rates which adversely affect the "wagon wives" of the north who will not be able now to afford a second, but necessary family car. She noted there would be more mental health problems due to the resulting isolation of women and children.

Gordon Gibson, Liberal leader, said the closure of the Provincial Status of Women Coordinator's office was a "petty, chippy, miserable little thing to do," and urged the reinstatement of Gene Errington as it was "absolutely keyed" on the WRA brief recommendation for women's responsibility centres in the provincial government.

He described the WRA brief as "excellent" and "first-rate" and written in "good spirit."

Mr. Gibson criticized the Socreds firing of the Special Advisor on Sex Discrimination in Public Education which was justified for budgetary reasons. He noted that the amount to be saved was "chicken feed" compared to the importance of Julia Goulden's work.

The Liberal leader also urged the introduction of a bill on Community of Matrimonial Property, and said he hoped the Socreds would change their "neanderthal" attitude towards the women's movement. (Note: the Community of Property Act has now had first reading.)

Gibson went on to say daycare was an "important investment" which was much less expensive than supporting women and children through welfare. He noted that women on welfare become "less employable" as time goes by. Gibson also advised that daycare prevented

HANSARD

single fathers from placing their children in foster homes. He recommended a "gradual complete integration of daycare into our school system."

March 24, 1976.

Scott Wallace, Conservative leader, said he considered the WRA "one of the best organized and orderly and perhaps the most reasonable groups that have come to the Legislature in the years that I've been here." He urged the reinstatement of the Special Advisor on Sex Discrimination in Public Education and said, "surely the government must move to set up some branch or agency of government to continue the work started in International Women's Year."

Wallace reminded the Legislature that "equal opportunities do not exist for women in the government service," and cited some "impressive statistics" taken from the WRA brief to prove his point. He emphasized the importance of women being employed in decision-making posts in the civil service, as all government policy affects the quality of women's lives throughout the province.

NDP MLA Vancouver Centre, Emery Barnes, criticized the Socreds for "rather hastily" dismissing "that young lady" Julia Goulden and reinstating her until June without sufficient mandate or staff. He said it was "very cheap" of them to make her work without her back-up committee and noted, "That's not nice you know, really not nice at all."

Barnes also accused some Socreds who were previously car salesmen of exploiting women as sex-objects in car advertisements.

Mr. Barnes professed puzzlement that the Socreds gave \$17,000 to the Dr. Richards Keep Women Alive breast cancer research project, condemned by the Dept. of Health, while closing down Gene Errington's office which cost very little considering the extent of her work which he described as "incredible."

Karen Sanford, NDP MLA Comox, described the Socred policy on social services as "backward" and expressed fear that daycare centres all over the province would face closure soon.

April 1, 1976.

Rosemary Brown expressed anger that married women in B.C. are the only people who may not change their surnames under any circumstances whatsoever. Minister of Health Bob Mclelland noted that the recommendations of the Berger Commission on the matter was under review. (Note: the Change of Name Amendment Act, 1976, has now had first reading.)

Provincial Secretary Grace McCarthy said her officials had met with the Women's Bureau of Vancouver, which sponsors the Keep Women Alive project, and they were impressed with the KWA's "whole-hearted sincerity." The Dept. of Health will monitor the breast cancer project.

KINESIS readers are advised to write support letters or critical letters to MLAs and Cabinet Ministers on the above issues, in order to make sure they will keep raising women's concerns.

- Karen Richardson

NEWS

PWA ACQUITTAL APPEALED

Federal Dept. of Justice is appealing the acquittal of PWA Airlines for dismissing pregnant stewardesses. While the union contract provides that flight attendants be laid off in their fourth month of pregnancy, the Canada Labour Code prohibits women from being dismissed purely on grounds of pregnancy. Justice Minister Ron Basford was "disappointed" over the second acquittal of PWA and is "pleased" that an appeal is forthcoming. (KR)

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VSW Membership is by donation and includes subscription to KINESIS. We would like to remind members that it costs approximately \$5 to produce and send 12 issues of KINESIS and any donation above that amount to help with VSW activities is always appreciated.

Members unable to contribute financially will receive KINESIS on a complimentary basis.

KINESIS is published monthly by the Vancouver Status of Women. Its objective is provide an open channel of communication between the members of the organization, and to provide information for interested individuals, groups, and members of the government and media in order to promote understanding about the changing role of women in society.

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

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

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Letters

KINESIS:

Enclosed is my cheque for \$20 to renew my membership and to help cover mailing costs for the next year. I would like to commend you on your excellent publication. I look forward to KINESIS every month!!

Thanks,
Lynne Harper
Vancouver.

KINESIS:

It will be interesting to see what the result will be now that financial assistance has been withdrawn from Status of Women.

There will be considerably more hardship, of course. Some of the important projects may have to close down if volunteers are not available. But perhaps there is a silver lining to this black cloud?

Maybe more people will realize that the financial help was shoring up the economic and social system that is the cause of our problems and that those problems were being alleviated to some small extent but not abolished.

I am all for immediate reform, if at the same time we are trying to get rid of the system that makes those reforms necessary.

When help from on high can be dependent upon some particular form of government, how helpful is it in the long run?

What we need is self-government by the people, not government by the servants of industry, whose prime interest is the making of profit, and all things are subordinated to that -- health, safety, housing, food, etc.

Present day technology makes it possible for people to have what they need for their physical and mental and emotional well-being, but such things are not available -- or to only a relatively few. The social and economic inequalities preclude a healthy society. The interests of those who own industries and means of production are diametrically opposed to those who work for wages.

Let us work towards Self Government where our skills and abilities will be used to produce necessary things, not environmentally destructive fripperies, and the interests and welfare of the whole community will be regarded.

Eve Smith
South Pender Island

NEWS

FEDS PREPARE A.A. GUIDELINES

Minister Responsible for the Status of Women Marc Lalonde says that the Dept. of Labour is preparing guidelines to assist companies in developing equal employment opportunity programs, which will be sent to all major companies under contract with the federal government. In addition, the government will provide consultative services to companies wishing advice on the matter. (KR)

KINESIS:

Enclosed are my feelings about what we have to do to keep the momentum of the Rally up and our movement growing in the face of government inaction. Could you use them for a letter or article in KINESIS? (ED: see page).

I'm grateful for the activist model you give other women's groups and all the information you compile for us. I hope we can feed into you and offer you support and assistance.

I personally hope to be working to expand and revitalize Victoria SWAG. This article may also appear in our newsletter.

How about trying to compile a list of Women's Centres and groups that publish newsletters? (Maybe you already have and I missed it). If a list went into KINESIS then we could all make arrangements to exchange our newsletters. I guess I really see KINESIS as a focal point for the B.C. Women's Movement. I feel each group should have a person who reports KINESIS news to her group and her group's accomplishments to KINESIS so we can all share the benefits.

I'm on Charles Barber's lobby team and may submit an article on our follow-up meetings with him.

Also, Victoria SWAG has a Secretary of State student employment grant that has great potential. When we hire our students and get going I'll let you know more about it.

In Sisterhood,
Lynne Carter
Victoria, B.C.

(ED: There are, I think, 16 Women's Centre's Newsletters in B.C. Will try to have a list for next issue of KINESIS.)

KINESIS:

I am a twenty-six year old woman searching for a challenging job in Vancouver.

I have a B.A., majoring in psychology, from University of Toronto and an art certificate from Vancouver School of Art majoring in photography and painting.

My previous work experience is three years in the mental health field with emotionally disturbed children, adolescents and adults.

Perhaps you could find room in KINESIS to communicate my search. In any case, please find enclosed my cheque to become a member.

Patricia Morris
2216 Balaclava St. Vancouver B.C.
732-8545

info wanted

NATIVE WOMEN AND EMPLOYMENT

Dr. Thelma Cook, Faculty of Education UBC is looking for information on Native Women and Employment. Anyone who would be willing to be interviewed or who has information please contact her.

NEWS

WOMEN IN BUSINESS ADVISORY BOARD

Marc Lalonde, Minister Responsible for Status of Women announced recently the establishment of a small, informal committee to advise him on the business community's progress on status of women issues. The committee is composed of senior representatives from key sectors of the Canadian economy and will meet with Mr. Lalonde twice a year. Bluma Appel will continue to act as liaison officer between him and the industry. Committee members are: Mr. Blair, President, Alberta Gas Trunk Line, Calgary; Mr. Burton, Chairman, Simpsons Ltd, Toronto; Ms. Clark, President R.C.A., Quebec; Ms. Hamilton, Executive V.P. Thompson Newspapers Ltd, Toronto; Ms. McNeil, Chairwoman, Bank of Montreal, Montreal; Ms. Picard, President, Marine Industries Ltd, Montreal; Mr. Suttoo, President, Equitable Life Insurance Co. Canada, Waterloo, Ontario. (KR)

women, sport and media

"How to Make Headlines" by Nancy Scannell, sports reporter for the Washington Post, appearing in the October issue of WOMEN-SPORTS, "describes in detail the steps involved in getting good press coverage for women's athletic events. She explains how to initiate contact with the press, how to work smoothly with newspapers and reporters, how to best use stringers and the wire services. Reprints of this two-page article are available for 50¢ each, postpaid, from Reprint Manager, WOMENSPORTS, 1660 South Amphlett Boulevard, San Mateo, California.

The Summer 1975 issue of MATRIX, quarterly publication of Women in Communications, Inc., has an article on women who cover sports. Single issues are \$1 plus postage from WICI, 8305-A Shoal Creek Boulevard, Austin Texas TX 78758.

delegate

ROSEMARY BROWN, DELEGATE TO HABITAT

Rosemary Brown, NDP MLA Vancouver Burrard, has been chosen to represent the B.C. Legislature at the Habitat Conference being held in Vancouver May 31 to June 11, 1976. (KR)

NEWS

BURNING ISSUES

In St. Louis no female wearing a night-gown, sheer or otherwise, can be rescued by the fire department. The law is specific when it states that woman of any age must always get fully dressed before she can legally be assisted by the fire department during a fire.

-New Woman, March-April/76.

apology

We didn't mention in the May issue of KINESIS that the Front Page graphic of a Belgian farm woman was by Kathy Sopko. Sorry Kathy and thank you again!

quote:

"'Lib' is not a word. Derived from the more descriptive 'liberation', it is used together with the word 'women's' in order to form 'women's lib', a subtle put-down conjuring an image of a flighty, irrational, hostile woman burning her bra, and to depict such an ideology. (The names of male-dominated movements are not shortened and infantilized in this manner ... who ever heard of a Black Panthie or a Ku Kluxie?) I suspect that many males hesitate to use the word 'liberation' in connection with women , because it is too threatening."

- Ellen Farren, Letter to the Editor, L.A. Times.



"Little Miss Muffet sat on a tuffet eating her curds and whey. Along came a spider and sat down beside her, and that got her interested in entomology."

june

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- June 2 WOMAN ALIVE Cable 10 TV, 9:30 p.m.
- June 2 LESBIAN DROP-IN, 7:30 p.m.
- June 9 WOMAN ALIVE Cable 10 TV, 9:30 p.m.
- June 9 LESBIAN DROP-IN, 7:30 p.m.

- June 10 ORIENTATION MEETING, 7:30 p.m. Come and find out about VSW.
- June 16 WOMAN ALIVE Cable 10 TV, 9:30 p.m.
- June 16 LESBIAN DROP-IN, 7:30 p.m.
- June 17 BCFW REGIONAL REPS MEETING 7:30 p.m.

- June 23 WOMAN ALIVE Cable 10 TV, 9:30 p.m.
- June 23 LESBIAN DROP-IN, 7:30 p.m.
- June 24 ORIENTATION MEETING, 7:30 p.m.
- June 30 WOMAN ALIVE Cable 10 TV, 9:30 p.m.
- June 30 LESBIAN DROP-IN, 7:30 p.m.