Vancouver Status of Women
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KINESIS

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SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

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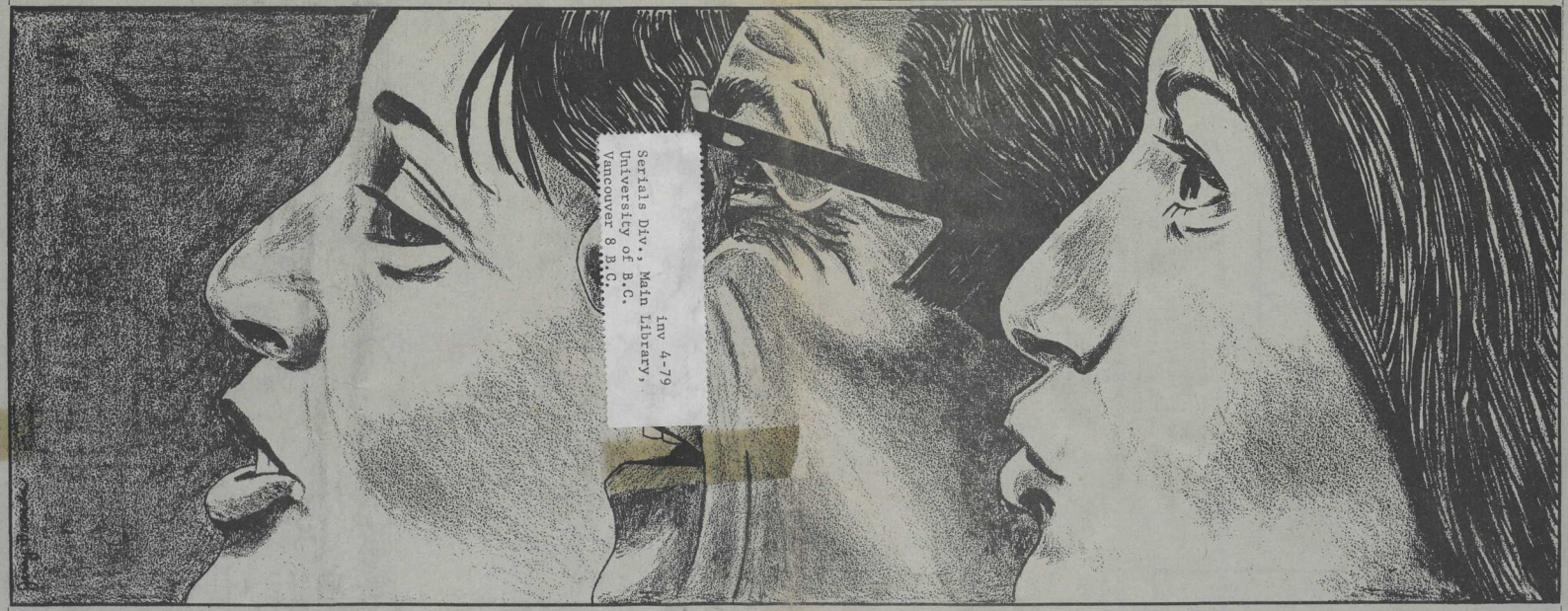
JULY - AUGUST '78
Vancouver Status of Women



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Serials Div., Main Library,
University of B.C.
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Nurses Speak Out

WOOD & HOON Interview

ABORTION : the issues

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LIBRARY
BRITISH COLUMBIA

A.G.M. V.S.W.

The Annual General Meeting of Vancouver Status of Women, which took place in Kits Library on June 20, was highlighted by good energy and a spirit of unity amongst the diverse membership.

Blatant Gerrymander : Rosemary Brown's Riding Axed

A few hours before the meeting opened, Judge L.S. Ekhardt's plans to abolish the provincial riding of Vancouver-Burrard, held by Rosemary Brown, had become known.

The meeting expressed, in strongest possible terms, its disgust with this blatant example of gerrymander. Lee Grills, re-elected for a second term as president, commented: "Clearly, this is a scheme to wipe out an NDP seat. It is an outrageously undemocratic move aimed at attempting to silence the strongest feminist voice in the legislature."

We Are Pro Choice

The meeting also strongly re-iterated VSW's pro-choice stand on abortion. In recent weeks, anti-choicers have been elected to hospital boards in Surrey and Powell River. The Canadian Medical Association has backed down on the doctor's obligation to refer a

turn to p.26, col 1.

CONCERNED CITIZENS FOR CHOICE ON ABORTION

THE CONCERNED CITIZENS FOR CHOICE ON ABORTION WILL BE *MARCHING* THROUGH THE STREETS OF VANCOUVER IN SUPPORT OF THE RIGHT TO THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS AT VANCOUVER GENERAL HOSPITAL.

THE MARCH BEGINS AT GRANVILLE AND HASTINGS STREETS AT 7:00 PM., JULY 28, 1978 AND WILL END AT THE ST. ANDREWS WESLEY UNITED CHURCH HALL, 1012 NELSON STREET, WHERE A RALLY IS PLANNED.

THE FOCUS OF THE DEMONSTRATION AND RALLY WILL BE ON CONTINUING THE AVAILABILITY OF THERAPEUTIC ABORTION AT VGH. THE PUBLIC WILL BE ASKED TO BECOME MEMBERS OF THE VGH CORPORATION AND TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING IN SUPPORT OF A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE.

THE CONCERNED CITIZENS FOR CHOICE ON ABORTION BELIEVE A WOMAN HAS THE RIGHT TO FREE CHOICE ABOUT ABORTIONS; THAT THE DECISION ON ABORTION SHOULD BE MADE BY A WOMAN IN CONSULTATION WITH HER DOCTOR; THAT THIS RIGHT TO CHOOSE MUST BE DEFENDED AGAINST THOSE WHO WANT TO ELIMINATE ABORTIONS AS A HOSPITAL PROCEDURE.

CONCERNED CITIZENS FOR CHOICE ON ABORTION HAS COMMITTEES FOR YOU

-- The Concerned Citizens for Choice on Abortion has expanded to include a steering committee, a membership committee, a rally organizing committee and a media committee. Meetings are held weekly -- call V.S.W. at 736-1313 for the times and places of these meetings. We need many more volunteers!

-- C.C.C.A. spokesperson Liz Whynot is encouraged by the response of volunteers and endorsing organizations. "Memberships are starting to come in by the 100's. But," she said, "we need them by the 1000's and we only have 4 weeks to go."

-- Letter lobby -- politicians in Victoria have been under tremendous pressure from anti-abortionists. We must write to W. Vander Zalm, W. McClelland and W. Bennett to make our views known.

ROSEMARY BROWN will be a keynote speaker at the rally. Call 736 1313 for further details.

Combat Discrimination

For several months now a coalition has been forming to oppose the Anita Bryant campaign and its Canadian counterpart, Renaissance Canada. The forefront of Anita Bryant's campaign is against lesbians and gay men but freedom of sexual orientation is not the only human right that the Bryant campaign opposes. Freedom of the press, freedom of religion, freedom to organize into trade unions, and equal opportunities for women are just some of our human rights that are under attack. For this reason the coalition has chosen the name COALITION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION and plans to do public education in all of these areas. A spokesperson for the Coalition said, "The fact that Anita Bryant is not coming to Vancouver in the near future does not mean that the Coalition will cease to organize. On the contrary we have a great deal of work to do and we'll be working hard in the coming months to build our coalition. We will be reaching out to trade unions, churches, and community groups for endorsement of and participation in our actions."

Three actions have been planned by the Coalition:

-- a fund-raising benefit

-- a high profile educational campaign on the lack of rights that lesbians and gay men have in Canada, and on the attack the Bryant Campaign poses to all other human rights

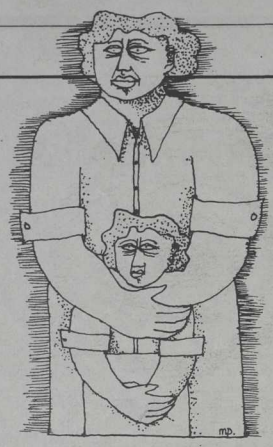
-- a public demonstration

An educational pamphlet is being prepared and it will give information on who Anita Bryant is, who supports her (such as Renaissance Canada and the Ku Klux Klan), where their money comes from, and what human rights are under attack. The pamphlet explains that lesbians and gay men have no legal rights in Canada and states how and why this situation should be changed. It will be distributed to any interested person or groups in the community, trade unions, churches, etc., and speakers from the Coalition will be available to groups requesting more information about these issues.

We are really excited to see the large number of people participating in the Coalition organizing meetings. Our largest attendance so far has been 150 people. This is also one of the first opportunities for lesbians and gay men to work together and it is going very well. We hope many more people will join our Coalition -- these are issues that affect us all.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COALITION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 19 JULY 1978 AT 7:00 P.M. PLACE TO BE ANNOUNCED.

The coalition does not yet have a mailing address so if you wish further information phone the VSW office at 736-1313. ○



WOMEN & VIOLENCE

The provisional sub-committee of BCFW (British Columbia Federation of Women) on "Women and Violence" has been re-activated.

Co-chair of the subcommittee explains:

The provisional sub-committee on "Women and Violence" actually got off the ground at the BCFW convention last November. However, my co-chair was unable to continue her involvement, and I undertook other commitments. For these two reasons, it is only now that the work of sub-committee is really getting under way.

The problems the committee was formed to look at have, of course, not gone away. I recently attended the "Women in a Violent Society" conference in Calgary. I came away more convinced than ever that feminists concerned about various forms of woman and child abuse -- pornography, rape, incest, wife battering, etc. -- must work together to exchange information and to try and find ways to work towards eliminating these crimes against women.

The proposed changes in legislation concerning prostitution and pornography make this an important time for us to have some input.

The next meeting of the "Women and Violence" group is on July 20 at 2029 West Fourth, Vancouver.

TAKING BACK THE NIGHT

We have a right to be out on the streets at any time without being subjected to harassment, and without having recourse to the "protection" of men.

To assert this right, the Fly By Night Collective *is forming, to plan a midnight march in Vancouver. The theme of the action will be* Women Take Back the Night. *This is a theme which women have taken up in Europe and across North America.*

You contact the collective, call 736 1313 *for details. The march is scheduled for sometime in August.*

Rape Relief Needs Support

Rape Relief Centres in B.C. have not yet been informed about their funding application.

Megan Ellis, Vancouver Rape Relief spokesperson said, "The Attorney-General's Ministry is still perusing a report submitted two months ago by Nancy Goldsberry, a researcher hired by that Ministry to do a project on the 4 rape relief centres in B.C." Goldsberry recommended that the staff of Vancouver Rape Relief should be increased from 6 to 12 workers.

"To date we have not been made aware of their response to these recommendations. Nor has the Coalition of B.C. Rape Centres been told how much money we will be receiving for this fiscal year which began April 1, 1978," Ellis said.

Rape Relief is presently surviving on interim funding from the Ministry of Health but these funds are insufficient to cover expenses, so they are running an overdraft at the bank.

Ellis stated that the Attorney-General's Ministry is in the process of conducting an audit and that they have been informed that there will be no funding until this audit is complete.

"We are absolutely appalled at this situation as we had submitted our budget for approval last fall. A decision should have been made before the commencement of the new fiscal year over three months ago."

Ellis said she expects an *increase* in funding this year if the A-G's Ministry follows the recommendations of its own report.

Not only has the caseload expanded considerably at Rape Relief while the staff has remained constant, but the Vancouver City Police Force has estimated that there will be a significant increase in the crime of rape next year, she stated.

Ellis encouraged everyone to write support letters to the Attorney-General, the Minister of Health, and the Minister of Human Resources. "It is essential that our program should not just continue, but be expanded so that all women in B.C. have access to Rape Relief services."

Law Foundation Grants One Salary to Rape Relief

Two months ago Vancouver Rape Relief received a grant for one salary from the B.C. Law Foundation for a combined legal researcher and court worker. This means Rape Relief will be expanding their program of accompanying rape victims through court procedures and will be able to provide a speaker to community groups, etc., to discuss sexual assault law and law reform.

MAUD RAWSON

Rosemary Brown MLA brought this issue to the attention of the legislature and the public. She wanted to know what was being done for Maud Rawson - would she, for example, have home-maker services? Charges have been laid, but we have been unable to ascertain if anything has been done for Maud herself.

not an isolated case

On August 13, 1977, at approximately 11:00 p.m., Maud Rawson was taken from her home by ambulance to Prince Rupert General Hospital. She was unconscious, had massive facial and head injuries, extensive burns to her abdomen, and multiple burns to her chest, arms and face. Police were observed at the scene by witnesses who called the ambulance.

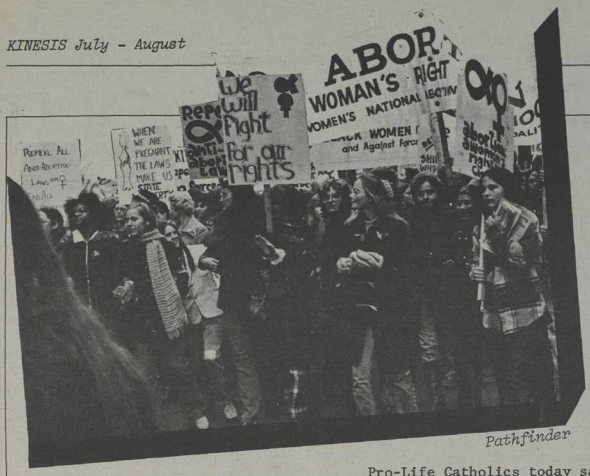
Later that evening Maud's sister and brother-in-law went to the police station to again report the incident and lay a complaint. They were told that since this was a marital dispute charges would have to be laid by Maud, if she wished, when she regained consciousness.

Maud's sister and brother also asked help of the doctor in attendance, a local lawyer, and Legal Aid. In every case they were told that since it was a marital dispute nothing could be done and no charges could be laid until Maud regained consciousness or the police decided to take action. The police investigation did not begin until August 17 when Maud's brother once again inquired what the police were going to do for Maud.

On August 16 Maud was flown to Vancouver General Hospital. She remained unconscious for a week. She remained in Vancouver General until December and was then transferred to G.F. Strong Rehabilitation Centre. Presently she is confined to a wheelchair with quadraplegic paralysis. She is not expected to walk again. Her vision is impaired and she has no memory of the period between the end of July 1977 and early January of this year.

At the end of May 1978, Maud's sister and brother were informed by police that the Prosecuting Attorney would be laying charges of assault causing bodily harm. Maud is suing for divorce and is seeking compensation under the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund.

A trust fund has been set up in Maud's name (through Brail, Daniells & Kahn, Barristers and Solicitors, 605-207 West Hastings St., Vancouver, B. C. V6B 1A7) in order to help cover the cost of legal fees and to aid Maud in rebuilding her own life when she is discharged from the Rehabilitation Centre (presently this is expected at the end of June 1978).



Pathfinder

ABORTION: THE MAJOR ISSUES

This will be the last issue of *Kinesis* in which we can remind you to join VGH. We only have a month to go to get the application forms in for the September Annual General Meeting.

If you have not already joined Vancouver General Hospital, you may know that the anti-abortion groups are threatening to have therapeutic abortions abolished at VGH.

You may also know that the Concerned Citizens for Choice on Abortion is organizing to defend our right to choose and to preserve the option of abortion at VGH.

Every year, VGH has a meeting at which new trustees are elected to the Board of Directors at the hospital. They're the ones who have the say about continuing the policy of therapeutic abortions. If the anti-choicers managed to elect their candidates to the board, they would be able to change hospital policy.

join VGH now

The anti-choicers *must* be stopped. You can stop them by going to that meeting and voting pro-choice. To be able to vote, you have to join VGH.

To obtain a membership, simply write to the Concerned Citizens for Choice on Abortion, c/o 115 N. Kootenay St., Vancouver, B.C.

Return that form, plus the membership fee of $2.00 to that address.

For more information, call Jacqueline at 736-6232, or leave a message after 7.00 pm at 683-3206.

IF YOU ARE A MEMBER ALREADY, SHOW THIS INFORMATION TO *ALL* YOUR FRIENDS. MAKE SURE THEY JOIN UP. TIME IS RUNNING OUT. FORMS SHOULD BE IN BY AUGUST 1ST, '78.

Pro-Life Catholics today say that abortion is murder. That is what the Pope says. But the infallible popes have not always been so sure.

The history of the Church's position makes interesting reading.

In 1140 Gratian's Decretum stated that abortion was homicide only if performed after the foetus was formed. According to Gratian, the foetus was "formed" at 40 days after conception if it was male, 80 days if it was female. (The question of how to determine whether the foetus was male or female prior to the abortion was, it seems, a theological mystery.

In the thirteenth century, Pope Innocent III, wrote to a monk who, while playing with his mistress, had caused her to abort. He advised the monk that if the foetus was not yet "vivified", the monk was not "irregular."

This ecclesiastical pronouncement was the official Catholic position for the next 700 years, except for one three-year interval. Pope Sixtus V (1585 - 1590) in 1588 decreed that ensoulment occurred at conception and made abortion at any time a mortal sin (one for which you can be excommunicated). Pope Sixtus V, incidentally, had other stringent moral views, and he made adultery a hanging offence in Rome.

The rank and file ignored the edict from Sixtus V.

Pope Gregory XIV repealed all the penalties set by his predecessor, except those penalties relating to the "ensouled" foetus .

In 1869 Pope Pius IX decreed, in the face of 500 years of Church doctrine to the contrary, that the foetus was "animated" at the moment of conception, and that abortion at any point thereafter was a mortal sin. It was also Pope Pius who found it necessary to decree that spiritually the Pope was infallible.

CATHOLIC CHURCH CONFUSED

The position of the Roman Catholic Church has therefore not been a model of consistency.

The current Catholic position, advanced with such fervor, that abortion is murder, is a position which is barely 100 years old. By moral decree, Catholics seek to determine the right of a woman to control her body. This would be less surprising had their position been more consistent. But basically, Catholics, for reasons unrelated to "morality" have changed their position on abortion over the years.

MEDICAL PROFESSION

Doctors are governed by canons of ethics. In Canada, all members of the Canadian Medical Association (CMA) conform (or are supposed to conform) to the ethical standards of the CMA.

In June 1978 the CMA amended its code of ethics to provide those doctors who refuse to perform abortions on moral grounds with the option of refusing to refer patients to other doctors or agencies.

This was a reversal of CMA policy. Formerly, physicians who refused to do abortions were ethically required to refer a woman who was requesting an abortion to someone who would do it for her.

In fact, of course, little changes. Many anti-choice doctors have always refused to tell a woman needing an abortion - or even wanting birth control - to someone who would provide it. And women often have a great deal of difficulty, especially in smaller communities, in locating a sympathetic doctor when her own doctor refuses to help. That has always been the case.

But the arrogance of the CMA, the doctors who voted at the general council in June, is deplorable.

Abortion is legal in Canada. Abortion, as a procedure, is available - though not equally available to all women. Why does the CMA have the right to decree that doctors can themselves deny women access to a legal procedure because of their personal, moral views? No one is asking them to perform the procedure. But the effect of the CMA position is that doctors who oppose abortion can impose their views on their patient by the simple expedient of withholding information.

Any women seeking an abortion must have her application accepted by not one, not two, but three doctors on a therapeutic abortion committee. In effect, doctors who will not perform therapeutic abortions and who refuse to refer a woman to someone who will, are arrogating to themselves the right to decide that women should be granted a therapeutic abortion - a decision which under the Criminal Code is supposed to be made by a therapeutic abortion committee.

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VGH NURSES SPEAK OUT

Last month we carried an insert outlining the current situation at VGH. Since then *Kinesis* spoke with two Nurse Clinicians, Leith Nance and Debbie Liebich who are actively involved with the Committee of Concerned Nurses. We also spoke with Verna Lovell, a BCIT Nursing Instructor and UBC Sociology student who has been following the events at VGH. Verna filled us in on the background to the current crisis.

With the firing of four out of five of hospital's clinical directors, shortly after the appointment of Dorothy Babcock as Director of Nursing, the VGH nursing staff have come together in an outstanding show of solidarity in support of their fired colleagues. The firings, however, have only served to highlight an increasingly serious problem between nursing and the hospital administration.

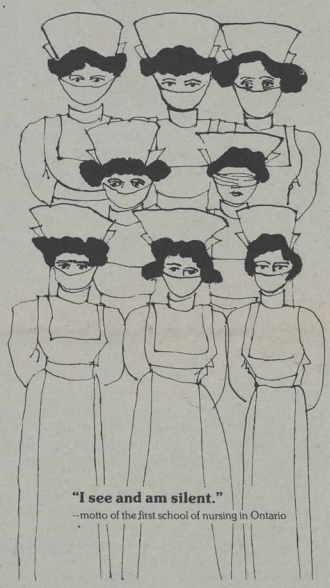
Leith Nance states: *Administration emerged 20 years ago to facilitate and respond to the needs of nursing and medicine, not to control them. Today they have lost sight of their function as facilitators and use their authority only to control.*

The vast majority of nurses support the 4 fired clinical directors. These women were working to bring about improvements within the hospital which would result in improved patient care. VGH is short-staffed. There are too few nurses trained in specialties. Debbie told *Kinesis* that the hospital has a large pool of 'float' nurses who take assignments when areas are short-staffed. This float is a necessity but unfortunately these nurses are often sent into areas of specialization which requires training they do not have. This puts an additional burden on regular staff in that area. In-service education and orientation are practically non-existent. Debbie stressed that the issue for nurses at VGH is patient care and that their strong sense of responsibility towards their patients is reflected in their willingness to work harder and longer when a crisis occurs, such as at present, but they cannot keep this up indefinitely.

Administration Actions Aid Nurses Solidarity

Hospital president Larry Truitt's response to a petition containing 300 signatures requesting a meeting with him was 'the hospital does not respond to petition democracy'.

Further to this the administration told the nurses not to bother the doctors with their concerns. It appears that the administration assumed they would have medical support for their position. However, the B.C. Medical Assoc. have come out in favour of the nurses. The nurses, with the support of the Registered Nurses Association of B.C. (R.N.A.B.C.) is demanding that hospital president Truitt and Nursing Director Babcock resign. They are also demanding that the four clinical directors should be given an offer of reinstatement and the hospital institute a position of Vice President of Nursing which would give nursing an authoratative voice in the administration. This would bring them into line with other major hospitals.



"I see and am silent."
--motto of the first school of nursing in Ontario

The nurses have received widespread support for their demands from nurses throughout the Province as well as from the International Congress of Nurses. At present 800 nurses have signed the petition.

ADMINISTRATION ATTEMPTS TO PREVENT COMMUNICATION

Leith and Debbie stated that the administration has all the resources for communication available to them. A memo was sent to staff stating that no posters or printed material are to be distributed within the hospital unless it originates within the hospital. This means in effect that it must have official sanction and support the administrative position. A recent hospital newsletter did just this in an article titled, "The other side of the story".

In some departments, notably psychiatry, nursing heads have advised their staff not to discuss the situation. The nurses will not be intimidated by management attempts to silence them. Morale is high as the nurses experience a strong sense of solidarity in their attempts to deal with the administration.

An investigative committee has been set up by the administration as a result of the pressure applied by the nurses and the RNABC. This committee, however, has made little attempt to communicate with the nurses. Prior to the setting up of this committee, the hospital trustees voted unanimously their support of the administration. Two of the three committee members are hospital trustees. One of the trustees has invited nurses to telephone her at home with their concern. While the nurses appreciate this opportunity to voice their grievances, they are confused by the unanimous vote of support for the administration.

The Committee of Concerned Nurses has been unable to obtain the terms of reference for the investigative committee. They don't know whether the committee is looking only at the firings of the clinical directors or whether they are looking at the problems surrounding patient care. The nurses have been experiencing some problems with their submissions to the committee. Last week when they took some letters to the committee, which had been meeting at the Holiday Inn on Broadway, they were advised by a member of the hotel staff that the committee was now meeting at another hotel.

'We won't go back. We are making history.'

The administration does not recognize the Committee of Concerned Nurses as spokespeople for the nurses; they wish to deal with the Nursing Advisory Committee. Leith and Debbie told *Kinesis* that the Nursing Advisory Committee has not had an election in the past 3 years; that the Committee has decided to reorganize itself and now has a small committee from within to speak to the current issues at VGH. There are 5 people at present on this Committee, including the only remaining clinical director -- who is still absent, and the director of nursing. There are two members of the Concerned Nurses on the Committee but they feel they are merely tokens and that most people on the Advisory Committee are known supporters of the administration. This Committee is not representative of VGH nurses.

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by

JANICE PENTLAND SMITH

Leith told *Kinesis* that the majority of nurses are now realizing that nursing is a profession in its own right with special and unique skills. She said that for too long nurses have been regarded as para-professionals. In the past, nurses had accepted this view of themselves, but this has changed. Nurses have expertise in the area of patient care. Administration should take advice from and be directed by those people with first-hand knowledge. Leith and Debbie feel that morale has never been so good as at present. People who had previously attempted to stay uninvolved in hospital issues have come out in favour of the nurses -- that is of themselves -- and now have a new sense of pride.

A spirit of cooperation is replacing competition and nurses throughout the hospital are meeting each other and sharing common concerns and ideas. As a result many are keen to continue the discussions through the vehicle of the General Duty Nurses Association.

The Issue Is PATIENT CARE

Nurses are clear that the issue is patient care. The refusal of administration to take steps to deal with the concerns brought to them by nursing reflects the primary concern of administration with the budget. Leith and Debbie said that the nurses did not want the present situation to become a management labour issue because if they are forced to strike they will lose a great deal of support. They are willing to try all avenues to have management respond to their demands. However, they are aware that strike action is always a possibility.

It is often an intolerable situation which rallies people to support each other and gain a new sense of direction and purpose. It is an exciting time to be a nurse at VGH.

Read On For New Developments!

Since this article was prepared, the Board of Trustees at VGH has overruled the administration's decision to fire the three nurses. They have offered to re-hire them, with 'sincere apologies' to one and censure for the other two. The nurses are waiting to see the exact terms of reinstatement before making any comment.

The Board of Trustees also passed a unanimous vote of confidence in VGH President Larry Truitt.

The Board has not addressed the issues of hospital management which led to the firings. Offers to re-instate nurses will not make the problems go away.

Red Rag

from p.3

THE ABORTION ISSUE

You may think that the Canadian law on abortion was "liberalized" in 1969.

From 1869 to 1954, the law in Canada provided that it was an indictable offence "unlawfully" to administer a drug or other noxious thing or to use any instrument to procure the miscarriage of a woman. The Criminal Code followed almost exactly the English provisions of 1861.

Though the Code seemed to make all abortions illegal, doctors did perform abortions where the health (physical, or, sometimes, emotional) of the mother was endangered. The Canadian and English courts upheld the right of doctors to perform an abortion if the woman's life was endangered. The courts relied on the word "unlawfully" in the statute and said, in effect, that it was a crime to procure a miscarriage only if it was "unlawful" and this did not detract from a doctor's right to operate to preserve the health of the mother.

In 1938 in England a doctor who had performed an abortion on a 14 year old woman , the victim of rape by soldiers, was acquitted. The decision was that he could not be charged with intending to procure a miscarriage since he had done the abortion with a bona fide view to the mother's health (R. vs. Bourne, (1939) I.K.B. 687

BOURNE DECISION

After the BOURNE decision, many doctors and hospitals in Canada performed abortions where the mother's health - either physical or in some cases emotional - was endangered. Sometimes hospital committees were established, to ensure that there could be no doubt about the bona fides performance of the procedure. This then was the situation in 1969. The doctors were of course cautious about doing abortions. The procedure was largely unavailabe - Canadian women had to go to the U.S. or take their chances with illegal abortionists.

In 1969 the Criminal Code explicitly legalized abortion where the "life or health" of the mother was endangered - but set up the requirement of therapeutic abortion committees, which has had the effect of limiting access to this procedure. In effect the 1969 amendment merely made explicitly legal what had been the practice in many parts of the country. The "liberalization" happened only in those areas where hospital committees interpreted the Criminal Code widely.

MORGENTALER

In March 1973 Dr.Henry Morgentaler publicly proclaimed that he had performed more than 5,000 abortions in his clinic. This was of course illegal under the Criminal Code which required the approval of therapeutic abortion committee, and which prohibited abortions at all except accredited hospitals.

On August 15, Morgentaler was arrested and charged with illegally performing an abortion.

The sad history of the Morgentaler case cannot be forgotten. Dr. Morgentaler's defence at trial was based on S.45 of the Criminal Code which provided that a doctor is safe from prosecution for performing a surgical procedure if it was his considered opinion that such an operation was medically necessary. Dr.Morgentaler's defence was that the therapeutic abortion was necessary.

The jury of eleven men and one woman acquitted Dr.Morgentaler on the basis of that defence.

The Crown appealed to the Quebec Court of Appeal. The Quebec Court of Appeal then committed a fundamental travesty against the freedom of all Canadians. It ruled that the trial judge had been wrong in directing the jury that it could, as a matter of law, consider the defence of necessity.

JURY ACQUITTAL OVERTURNED

This is not unusual. But the Court of Appeal not only overturned the trial verdict; it then, instead of sending the matter back to be retried before a jury, substituted a verdict of guilty for the acquittal of the jury.

The Quebec Court of Appeal decision was upheld by the Supreme Court of Canada, thus striking a heavy blow against a woman's right to choose and against the fundamental right of citizens to be tried by a jury of their peers. And Dr. Morgentaler, whose "crime" was not performing abortions, but performing them in a clinic instead of a hospital, went to jail.

turn to p.20

MOVEMENT ACROSS THE PROVINCE

Here's a look at how some women's groups outside of Vancouver are functioning these days, and a quick rundown of some of the issues of concern to them.

FUNDING

Funding continues to be a major problem for women's groups in that there is not enough money available for the kind of work groups really want to do, and the bureaucratic hoops one has to jump through to get the money make one wonder if it is worth it after all. Most of the funding utilized in B.C. is federal -- either Secretary of State or Employment & Immigration (Manpower). A couple of projects are using Health & Welfare funds and provincial MHR has come through for groups in Fraser Lake and Mackenzie. Most women agree that there is a lot of red tape to go through with Canada Works money, but it seems to be the only route to go if you want to try and get salary for staff. As M.P.S. have the final say on the federal grant, chances of receiving money depend a lot on their attitudes towards women's groups and the kind of work they do. Canada Works grant proposals also have to go through a regional grant review board made up of local people and Manpower staff, so it is mandatory to have developed some communication with those people in order to have the grant proposal really understood.

MINIMAL

Secretary of State money for women's programs is so minimal that it's almost a joke, but some groups have done interesting things with small amounts of money. The biggest problem groups have with Secstate is that they have to devise new projects each year to fit in with ever-changing departmental priorities, and the money is not available for core funding.

In Mackenzie the women in the local Daycare Society lobbied their village council and MLA in search of a down payment for the house they wished to purchase to use as a daycare and community centre (Mackenzie has no facilities for such services). It took a few years of organizing and hard work but earlier this month they opened the house as a daycare and community action centre. In Fraser Lake the women's centre changes its name whenever it finds a new agency (with new funding guidelines) to apply to, and has managed to maintain its advocacy and education focus for women in the community for four years. Cranbrook and Dawson Creek women have received monies to open women's centres after several years of organizing work and Burns Lake women have kept their centre open in between grants and in spite of attempts to take their building away. In Fort Nelson and Queen Charlotte City a thrift shop serves as both a useful community resource and a front office for the women's group, and the Burns Lake centre runs a craft shop that provides an outlet for local talent while bringing in some extra revenue. Energetic Whitehorse women stage an annual hike-a-thon and this year they netted $1300 that will be put towards centre funds.

STRUCTURE

Most groups seem to begin around a few women who see a need that must be met (either a personal or community need -- or both) and they start by organizing public education or service projects that will assist them. Thus the shape of the movement groups is varied -- one cannot say that women's centres are the major focus, or coalitions are the only answer or that collectivity is the predominant internal structure. Groups are adapting whatever style works best for their members and for their community. In Prince Rupert the Options for Women group tried the women's centre concept a few summers ago, found it very unsatisfactory, closed the centre and have continued to operate by having regular business meetings and socials, and applying for monies to mount major public education projects such as weekend conferences on women and health etc. In Nelson

Womanspirit

the women's centre is one of the oldest in the country and operates advocacy, drop-in and education services to the community no matter what state the funding is in. In Fort Nelson the push for a centre came from members of the Daycare Society who applied for Manpower money to do a survey of women's needs in the community and they are now seen as one of the important resources in the town. The Okanagan women seem satisfied with the coalition concept that has brought in resource persons and workshops to travel to the different communities that member groups are from. In Prince George the women's collective has switched to a board of directors structure and the centre is volunteer operated.

VSW PROJECT

The Women's Research Team of Vancouver Status of Women recently completed workshops in twelve towns outside of Vancouver and the two members I spoke to were really excited about the level of commitment that women had and the kinds of issues they were involved in. They found non-urban women active in more areas of the community in comparison with their city sisters, and battling community attitudes that reflect the media stereotype of the "women's libber" beyond belief. (In Dawson Creek Leslie Macdonald had to counter direct accusations that the women's movement was responsible for juvenile delinquency, and that women were like dogs in heat. In another community a women's centre member gave out reading material on birth control to students and found herself threatened by one of their mothers.) The Research Team were doing workshops around their publication "Update on the Status of Women in BC" and found that women everywhere wanted to know more about community of property, human rights, sexism in education, were always ready to talk about the unemployment problems in their town and wanted to know how to counter the redneck accusations of "women taking work away from men". Daycare and abortion are other hot issues -- especially in these days of funding cutbacks and anti-choice (compulsory pregnancy) groups.

WOMEN'S RESEARCH

Staff at the Women's Research Centre in Vancouver have been doing work around the province on the issue of women and economic development and comment that women's groups outside of the lower mainland are working hard on specific local issues crucial to the survival of their own community. Whitehorse and Fort Nelson women, gravely concerned about the impact of the forthcoming Alcan pipeline, are applying all their research and lobbying skills to monitoring and organizing around this issue. The Fort Nelson women were also active at the B.C. Railway lobby in Victoria. Cowichan Valley women recently presented a brief detailing their concerns over industrial development on the Cowichan River estuary and other women's groups, appalled at the implications of the new Forestry Act, sent letters to the relevant people outlining the effect that these new policies could have on the lives of people living in the forestry towns.

Discrimination in employment -- and lack of employment opportunities for women are two of the biggest common issues these days -- everywhere women are suffering from sexual harassment on the job, low wages, lack of promotion, and as well they are fighting incredibly reactionary attitudes towards working women -- a sure sign of the creeping fascism that so often allies itself with economic crisis. Another major common issue is that of violence against women. Women in northwest B.C. are working hard towards acquiring a transition house, a mini-task force on family violence has been formed in the Okanagan area and the family violence workshops presented by the Vancouver-based task force on family violence have been over-attended in Vernon, Prince George, the Queen Charlotte's and Terrace.

This, as stated earlier, is just a short summary of women's actions outside of the lower mainland area -- it is obvious that the struggle continues. ○

AUCE 'DISGUSTED'

The Association of University and College Employees at the University of B.C., whose third collective agreement expired on March 31 1978, has rejected "with disgust" the employer's recent package 'offer'.

Local 1 of this independent union, certified since April 1974, represents more than 1300 library and clerical workers, a majority of whom are women.

Through a total of nine negotiating sessions since March 29, only one minor change has been signed. In that time the union has dropped half of its original proposals.

Remaining AUCE proposals include -- consultation when the University contracts out; seniority to be determining criterion in hiring where abilities and qualifications of applicants are equal; time off, to be made up, for employees who participate in coop daycare; 48 consecutive hours off duty for shift workers; sick leave for temporary employees; and voluntary overtime. The Union's across-the-board proposed wage increase of $93 per month represents the 1977 inflation rate of 9.5%.

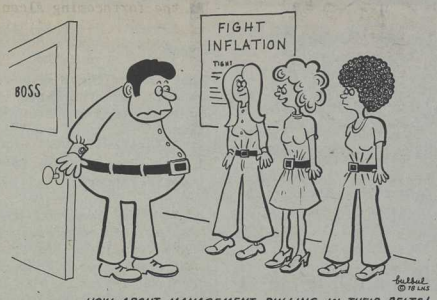
The union has also urged the University to comply with the Human Rights Code of B.C. which prohibits discrimination by employers 'without reasonable cause' against the physically handicapped. But, Jane Strudwick of the University Negotiating Committee stated there would be "instances where the University would have to turn down promotions to handicapped employees."

The University package contained all but 3 of its original proposals and, for the first time, a wage 'offer' -- $13 across-the-board from April 1 1978 to September 30 1978 and $26 from October 1 1978 to March 31 1979. Over a 12 month period these figures represent a 2.6% wage increase. In the last month the cost of living has increased 2.5%.

AUCE Local 1 will be free of AIB guidelines as of October 1 1978.

The University package reflects no change in the position it took at the outset of negotiations. Michelle McCaughran of the AUCE Contract Committee had this to say, "AUCE's position is that it will not consider any change to the agreement which could have the effect of eroding present rights and benefits. This package, wage 'offer' included, has just that effect."

Update - On June 28, AUCE Local 1 applied for the services of a mediator.



HOW ABOUT MANAGEMENT PULLING IN THEIR BELTS!

UBW—STRIKE COMING UP?

The United Bank Workers Section of SORWUC (Service Office and Retail Workers Union of Canada) held a special meeting in Vancouver today to discuss the progress of the Union's negotiations with the Banks in B.C. Present were members from various organizing committees throughout the Province.

It was decided at the meeting to conduct strike votes in the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce union branches. The Union is certified in five branches of the Commerce in B.C. and the strike votes will be taken over the next two weeks.

Charlotte Johnson, President of the UBW, said: "We are presently awaiting meetings with the Bank of Commerce and the federal conciliation officer. We are hopeful that the conciliation process will be able to avert a strike, but our members in the Bank of Commerce branches are anxious for a collective agreement and are tired of the stalling tactics of the Bank. We have been meeting with the Bank since December of last year and are still in the process of clarifying the Union proposals. There have been no serious negotiations to date."

The Union will hold a Special Conference July 23/78 of UBW members from all Banks and plan the strike and boycott strategy.

For further UBW information: call 684 2834 or 681 2811

STILL ON STRIKE AT MUCKAMUCK

Joan Woodward

On June First, 1978, twenty-one waitresses and waiters at the Muckamuck restaurant on Davie Street went out on strike. (See June *Kinesis*, p. 2) Some of the problems cited are the same for virtually all non-unionized restaurant workers. Low pay, no seniority provision, irregular and erratic scheduling. But to this case there is an added dimension. Racism.

The Muckamuck is a restaurant which professes to serve Native Indian foods. The name is taken from a Chinook word meaning "to eat", and as the only Native Indian restaurant in all of North America, the Muckamuck has been a principal tourist attraction in Vancouver since its opening in 1971, and profits for the white owners have continued to soar.

"We're proud of the image of our culture that this restaurant is putting our," said Ethel Gardner, a union spokesperson, "but the owners are exploiting both our culture and our people in order to make exorbitant profits. And they are using especially high unemployment among Indians to belittle us, saying that we should be grateful as Indians to have any job, and so we shouldn't complain about our salaries or working conditions. The only way we can fight such intimidation is through our union."

Intimidation has entailed among other things, seven firings from the staff of twenty-one at the Muckamuck, apparently because of the pro-union stance of these workers. One of the demands of the union is that those workers fired for this reason be rehired.

The union, the Service, Office and Retail Workers Union of Canada, was certified to represent employees at the Muckamuck in March. Five Unfair Labour Practices were immediately filed with the Labour Relations Board, but were not dealt with, and although they were still pending, negotiations with the employer were begun in mid-April. By the end of May, no progress had been made in the negotiations, and management decided to withdraw. At this point the union was obliged to call a strike vote. The majority of employees voted in favor, and the strike began on June First.

After five weeks of inaction, management is still refusing to negotiate. Could it be that they can afford to keep the restaurant closed? In any case, since working people cannot afford to stay on strike indefinitely, the White Feather Indian Band will be giving a benefit sometime in July for the Muckamuck workers. For further information, contact the Service, Office, and Retail Workers Union of Canada, 207 West Hastings, at 684-2823.

Community Development & VSW

SEXISM SQUELCHED in SOUTH VAN SECONDARY

John Oliver Joins 20th Century

the background

Vancouver School Board has policy which forbids discrimination on the basis of sex.

But is this policy consistently implemented?

Seems not.

Consider, for example, the following quotations from the course descriptions for John Oliver Secondary School:

Industrial Education 8

Woodwork, Metalwork, Electricity, Drafting. Beginning courses in all these areas given on a rotation basis. One block compulsory to all Grade 8 boys.

Home Economics 8

Content includes work in areas of food and nutrition; clothing and textiles; the house and its furnishings; and child development...This course taken by all Grade 8 girls. Students need an apron for laboratory periods.

To clinch the guidance of students into sex-appropriate courses, the forms distributed to next year's Grade 8 students for course selection are different for boys and girls. Girls are given one colour, boys another. The girls' form lists only Home Ec.; the boys' form only Industrial Ed. It would take an enterprising Grade 7 students to proceed with altering her or his form.

the issue

This situation surfaced when a mother contacted the Human Rights Branch,and the VSW Vancouver South Group, to see what could be done. She had been advised by the Vice-Principal and a girls' counsellor that her daughter would not be allowed to take Industrial Education 8.

Simultaneously with a formal investigation by the Human Rights Branch, the Vancouver South women rallied to the support of this concerned mother and took on a struggle against sexism in their own community's school. They also alerted the elected representatives on the Vancouver School Board.

Here's a chronological account of what action was taken.

how it developed

May 17: The concerned mother attends a meeting of the VSW Vancouver South Women's group. She explains how she has been told by John Oliver High that her daughter, Tammy, cannot take Industrial Education in Grade 8 this fall because there are not enough places for girls. Tammy can take the course in Grade 10, if she really wants to, the school says.

May 23: The Women's Group writes a letter to the principal of John Oliver asking for a meeting to discuss this problem.

As taxpayers in the South Vancouver area (the letter reads) *it is astonishing to us that our daughters may be refused the right to a resource in one of our high schools...*

We cannot accept the rationalization that there are not enough spaces for girls to take Industrial Economics, or for boys to take Home Economics. This argument would be ludicrous if the subject being discussed was English. Surely all students have the right to study any available program at the grade 8 level if they so choose...

Carbon copies of this letter are dispatched to members of the School Board, the Coordinator of Industrial Education for Vancouver, and so on.

denies it happened

May 26: A letter from Mr. Brett, the principal of John Oliver, is sent to the Vancouver South Women's Group.

...there seems to some confusion (the principal writes). *Tammy is and has been registered in Industrial Education for some time now. I believe I spoke to Tammy's father at a Grade 7 parents' meeting on April 5. At that time he requested that Tammy be enrolled in Industrial Education in September and I agreed to do so. When Tammy's mother sent in the Course Planning Form she requested that Tammy be enrolled in Industrial Education 8. This was done as soon as the school received the form.*

As you may be aware, the Vancouver School Board has a policy that the schools do not discriminate in their procedures. John Oliver adheres to that policy.

May 30: Tammy's mother is read the letter written by Principal Brett. She is shocked. She explains again that she has been told emphatically NO to Tammy's participation in Industrial Education 8 by the Vice Principal of the school and by the Girls' Counsellor.

May 31: Women from Vancouver South learn that supportive members of the school board have been on the phone to the principal warning him that Tammy's exclusion contravenes School Board Policy.

They inform those members of the School Board that when the next School Board meeting comes up, they'll be there.

June 2: Vancouver South replies to Brett's letter

...we still feel that the situation has not been completely clarified (they write). *Therefore we request... that some of us meet with you to discuss the situation further. We would like to include Mr. Ron Kerr, Vice Principal and Miss Dann, Girls' Counsellor, in this meeting.*

Our concerns are:

1. That formal notification in writing be given to Tammy Edwards to the effect that she has a space in Industrial Education 8.

2. That we discuss how confusion in this situation has arisen, and how it can be prevented in the future.

"misunderstanding"

June 12: Vancouver South women meet with the John Oliver principal. The Vice-Principal and the Girls' Counsellor are unable to make the meeting. Brett claims that there has been a misunderstanding, that Tammy has been enrolled in Industrial Education 8 all along, and that besides, he was out of town the week the misunderstanding arose.

to col 1,p.17

from p.16...

Questioned about the forms used for feeder schools, Brett says that in the past, they had been traditionally used to ease the burden of coping with all those students. Now, he assures the Vancouver South Group, the forms are being changed in compliance with directions from the Human Rights Branch.

Principal Brett makes other interesting observations. There will be integrated Physical Education at John Oliver, he says, over his dead body.

The Vancouver South women get it all down on tape.

June 19: The Vancouver School Board meeting, attended by women from the Vancouver South Group. The group points out that although the School Board has a *policy* of non-discrimination, it has a *practice* of discrimination. They produce the separate forms given to boys and girls in the feeder schools for John Oliver; the description of courses from the John Oliver catalogue; and the study done in 1976 by the Vancouver Secondary Teachers Assoçiation/Status of Women Committee which clearly indicated that students entering High School do not believe that they have a choice regarding Home Economics and Industrial Education.

Norman Robinson of the Vancouver School Board brings forward all of these concerns. He prepares a resolution that "the superintendent take all measures necessary to ensure that a system is developed whereby students clearly know that choices are open and non-discriminatory".

The resolution is carried by Vancouver School Board unanimously.

analysis

Some comments from the women who took part in the issue:

"The chief tactic used by the John Oliver hierarchy was to make Tammy's mother feel inept. This might work quite successfully on an individual basis, but once you get 30 mothers together, all of whom have been made to feel inept in exactly the same way, the tactic crumbles."

"By meeting with the principal as concerned parents, and by having it raised at the School Board meeting, we made the problem a public one, rather than simply a legal matter handled confidentially by civil servants. The principal and the school boards knows that the community is watching with concern, and that we won't go away."

By making a formal complaint under the Human Rights Code, we could get the legal muscle to demand the necessary changes."

"The first reaction by the principal was to defend himself by saying that the incident never occurred. That's a way of trying to undermine the person bringing the complaint. Just being believed is the first step in winning. Support for the person fighting is crucial -- and that's what Tammy and her mother got from the Vancouver South women."

Vancouver Status of Women

1977-78 ANNUAL REPORT

highlights

The Annual Report was distributed at the Annual General Meeting. Here are a few excerpts. (If you would like your own copy of the report, write to VSW at 2029 West 4th Ave., Vancouver V6J IN3 and we will send you one.)

The President's Report, made by Lee Grills re-capitulated some of our major action areas for 1977-78.

During the past twelve months we saw the result of two years input into the Equal Employment Opportunities Committee (EEOC) at Vancouver City Hall when City Council approved the majority of the recommendations of the EEOC.

We were also participants in the challenge of Provincial Court Judge Bewley's sexist remarks about women.

Our continued pressure to effect change in the Criminal Code of Canada regarding violence against women is reflected in the proposed changes now before the House of Commons.

The Stella Bliss Appeal Fund was coordinated by BSW and has been successful in raising money enough to take this crucial issue to the Supreme Court of Canada.

We also participated in the overshelmingly successful Schools, Sexism and Society conference.

We have continued to support SORWUC and our ongoing influence in the Family Violence Task Force has been important in that it has provided feminist input.

As you may recall, a commitment was made last year to attempt to develop community work in a more complete way. This year, we have put a great deal of time and energy into South Vancouver, which was our original pilot project, and also started to work in Marpole and Kitsilano. Membership programs from our office have received less emphasis this year, and will be completely phased out next year. However, all these programs will be available in the community, upon request from the community group. We have made arrangements for Assertiveness Training to be carried on at Killarney School in South Vancouver, and at Kits High School in Kitsilano, starting in September. Courses will be free of charge.

into communities

As was stated previously, a commitment was made last year to attempt to develop community work. As community development seems to have more than one definition, I would like to take a moment to define it in the way we are using it at the Status of Women.

Community development is based on the premise that, given an opportunity, people can solve their own problems, determine their own goals and together effect societal change. It is worked through the group process rather than one-to-one. The community worker has no power, the person can skip the group if it isn't meeting her needs, and so there is inbuilt quality control. Social service that is done is preventative rather than direct -- it attempts to deal with the problem when it begins rather than at a crisis stage. The group defines the issues, not the worker. Community development is action-oriented.

South Vancouver

The South Vancouver Women's group has been meeting for over a year now. They have participated and directed a large number of programs and issues, including: A program on sex-role stereotyping done in the high schools, an ombuds course, Assertiveness Training (2), Consciousness Raising, working on the Save the VRB issue, and two Woman Alive T.V. shows. We intend to move more strongly into the schools next year, and try to make both Women's Studies and Life Skills available in South Vancouver.

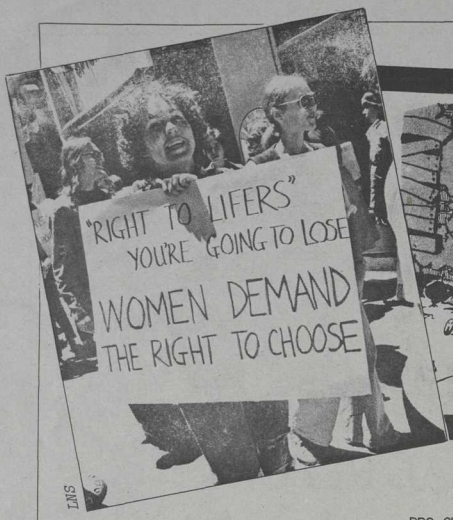
Marpole

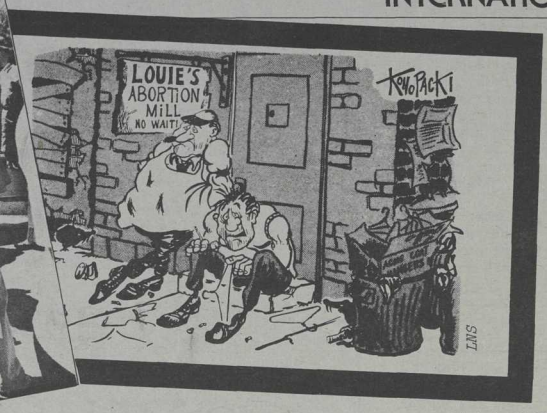
Several meetings have been held in Marpole. At the present time we are doing Assertiveness Training.

Kitsilano

Kitsilano meetings will start at the beginning of July.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS





ANTI-CHOICE

RIGHT-TO-LIFE GAINING GROUND

The Right to Life movement is apparently gaining rapid momentum in the United States. The New York Times reports that Right to Life groups have already invested millions of dollars in efforts to get rid of the 1973 Supreme Court ruling legalizing abortions. They are proposing a constitutional amendment to make the operation illegal. The newspaper says that the National Right to Life Committee, an umbrella organization for a number of Right to Life groups, has 11 million active supporters in 3000 chapters. Their combined membership is much larger than any pro-abortion group. The committee, says the Times has already persuaded nine of the required 34 states to petition Congress to convene a constitutional convention for an anti-abortion amendment. The newspaper adds that the Tax Reform Act of 1976 has also given pro-life groups a boost. That act allows organizations that are mainly "educational" to use 20% of their budgets for direct legislative lobbying without losing income tax benefits. According to the Times, political action committees which can now legally provide funds for candidates and lobby against abortion are being set up in every congressional district.

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH ALONE HAS REPORTEDLY DONATED OVER HALF-A-MILLION DOLLARS.

As a result of anti-abortion lobbying, the Federal Government cut off funds for abortions in August '77.

Since that time, approx 14 states are still funding abortions unconditionally, while another 15 are providing for abortions only if there are severe and long lasting health threats to the mother. The 31 remaining states reportedly do not provide for abortions under any circumstances. Her Say/Big Mama Rag

PRO-CHOICE ACTIVITS PICKET NATIONAL "RIGHT-TO-LIFE" OFFICE IN NYC

NEW YORK (LNS) - Chanting "Not the church, not the state--women must decide their fate," over 250 pro-choice activists picketed the national offices of the Right-to-Life anti-abortion organization in New York City June 10. The protest, organized by the Committee for Abortion Rights and Against Sterilization Abuse (CARASA), was set to coincide with the House of Representatives vote on federal funding of abortions for poor women.

"We decided to demonstrate at the Right-to-Life office to show that we are still here and that we are outraged at their attempt to make abortion rights the main election issue for this fall," Becky Staton, a member of CARASA said after the protest.

The first restriction on federal funding for abortions sponsored by Congressman Henry Hyde, was passed in September 1976 and the bill has been made more restrictive with each year's renewal. The most recent Labor/Health, Education and Welfare Appropriations Bill restricts funding for abortions "except where the life of the mother would be endangered if the fetus was carried to term."

SEXIST JUDGE

Judge said of rape suspect: "You can't blame someone for trying."

Decrying a ruling by a Connecticut judge who dismissed an attempted rape charge against a man because "you can't blame someone for trying," about 100 people marched on the Capitol building in Hartford, Connecticut, June 9. The rally was organized by the Neighbourhood Women Against Rape. The group also launched a petition campaign seeking the removal of the sexist judge, William Pickett.

In a similar protest last year, women in Madison, Wis., forced the recall of Judge Archie Simonson after he dismissed a rape charge and instead blamed women's "provocative" clothing for sexual assaults. (Guardian)

MARCH 8

QUEENSLAND - MARCH 8

"The day of the political march is over. Anybody who holds a street march, spontaneous or otherwise, will know they are acting illegally. Don't bother to apply for a permit. You won't get one. That's government policy now."

Premier of Queensland, Australia, Bjelke-Peterson

Despite the ban on marches, over 400 women marched in Brisbane, Queensland, on Internation Women's Day to put forward women's demands for abortion, lesbian rights, and the right, in particular, to organize.

Confronting the women were 700 uniformed police and 100 plain clothes officers. Arms linked in tight formation, the women were able to march about 200 yards before they were stopped and fighting broke out. 51 people were arrested - 46 women and 5 men from a left support contingent marching at the back.

In Queensland, Australia, the rights of women have been under severe attack from Bjelke-Peterson's government. Shortly before the ban on marches was imposed in September '77 state police prevented women from holding a public rally to discuss reactionary rape legislation. In May '76, police broke up an anti-rape demonstration. In June of '76, the state legislature threatened to cut all government funding to women's health centres, transition houses and rape relief centres - despite the fact that this funding comes from the federal government!

In the next session of the legislabure, Bjelke-Peterson's government intends to introduce a right-to-scab legislation, posing as "right-to-work", which is aimed at outlawing the closed shop in Queensland.

The women's liberation movement in Brisbane (Queensland's capital) have formed alliances with the trade union movement, with civil libertarians, the Movement Against Uranium Mining and the black movement to organize against the state government, which directly supports the interests of mining capital (in particular, the uranium lobby). (Info from Spare Rib, May '77)

●BACKGROUND

On June 22, 1978, in a Preliminary Inquiry held at the New Westminster County Court, Judge L.P. Clare dismissed all charges against Betsy Wood and Gay Hoon, two well-known prisoner's rights activists.

Wood and Hoon had been charged with attempted murder, breaking a prison to facilitate the escape of prisoners, and wilfully damaging the premises, equipment and records of the B.C. Penitentiary. They faced a maximum of life imprisonment for the murder charge.

The charges arose from an attempted escape by 5 prisoners from the visiting area at the B.C. Pen on the morning of January 28, 1978. Wood and Hoon were among the many visitors present that morning.

The escape attempt began when a prisoner smashed the glass partition separating prisoners from visitors, and stabbed a guard during a struggle. The attempt failed when several guards ran to the exit and locked the doors on the prisoners. They also locked the doors on 13 visitors, including Betsy Wood and Gay Hoon.

There followed the longest seige in Canadian prison history. Negotiations between prisoners and police lasted a week before the visitors were released unharmed and the prisoners were returned to solitary confinement.

The maximum-security B.C. Penitentiary, where more than a dozen riots, hostage-takings, and escape attempts have occurred in the past 10 years, contains a solitary confinement unit which prison experts have called the most brutal and inhuman in North America.

Wood and Hoon have been central figures in the campaign to have the solitary confinement unit abolished.

At the conclusion of the seige Wood and Hoon were arrested immediately upon their release from the B.C. Pen visiting area where they had been confined for 8 days. They were charged with attempted murder, 2 counts of aiding an escape attempt, and wilful damage of B.C. Pen property. Wood was charged separately with 2 counts related to supplying a gun for this purpose. But for the 3 charges that remained at the Preliminary Inquiry, all other charges were dropped the day before it began.

The Preliminary lasted almost 2 weeks. At its conclusion, Judge Clare could find no evidence to commit Wood or Hoon for trial and the remaining 3 charges were dismissed.

To date, Betsy Wood and Gay Hoon have incurred legal expenses of $15,000. And, the struggle may not be over yet. To secure a prosecution, the Crown could appeal the Preliminary Inquiry, or more likely, it could circumvent the entire process that has just concluded by taking them to trial on a Direct Indictment.

Betsy Wood and Gay Hoon

WHAT REALLY HAPPENED?

INTERVIEW BY LORRI RUDLAND

WE WERE NEVER HOSTAGES OF THE PRISONERS

KINESIS: The Jan. 28 incident has been called a hostage-taking by the authorities but you and other "hostages" have described it as a "lock-in".

GAY: We were never hostages of the B.C. Penitentiary. It was the prison guards, who ran out in fear of their lives, who locked us in. Laura Hailes, another visitor, said it well to the press - that the guards ran like pussycats and failed to protect visitors, several of whom were near the exits and could have been removed before the guards locked the doors.

KINESIS: The judge dismissed all charges against you both and stated that although there were "suspicious circumstances" a sufficient case had not been made to commit either of you for trial. Do you think the Prosecutor's office will continue to press for a conviction in view of the Judge's decision?

BETSY: No, I'd be very surprised if they did. The prosecutors have had 5 months and all the resources of the police and the courts at their disposal to gather evidence to implicate us in this incident. They failed after going through a Preliminary that lasted 2 weeks. I think they have egg on their face. This government has spent a lot of money needlessly on these proceedings and I think they would be foolish to proceed by Direct Indictment.

KINESIS: During this incident, we heard that there were weapons, drugs, and supplies in a car parked adjacent to the visitor's entrance all ready for prisoners to escape in. Immediately upon conclusion of the seige, you, Betsy, were charged with conveying a car onto prison grounds to facilitate an escape attempt.

BETSY: Evidence at the Preliminary showed that there were never any weapons in the car. The "cache of drugs" turned out to be the vitamins and amino acids which I use daily for my multiple sclerosis (weakening of the muscles) therapy program. It was stated that I had rented the car in a false name. I did rent the car in another name - my married name. That is the name on my driver's licence. About 5 years ago the motor vehicle branch wouldn't allow you to change your licence to your maiden name.

I parked the car near the visitor's entrance in the handicapped parking spot because of my multiple sclerosis. It is difficult for me to walk long distances. I have parked in that spot for most of my visits over the last 2 years. The head of Visits and Correspondence at the Pen testified that he had once asked me to move my car from that spot. He knows very well that there have been continual arguments about me parking there but I suppose no one wants to come forward now and admit that they always ended up letting me park there.

con't on page 12

Hostages accused of aiding jailbreak

VANCOUVER SUN, Tues.Jan 31 '78

An RCMP negotiator in the continuing B.C. Penitentiary hostage drama today accused some of the hostages of complicity in an escape attempt by five convicts which started the seizure.

"We know the escape attempt was the collective action of five hostage-takers as well as some of the so-called civilian hostages," Supt. Bruce Northorp told newsmen on the penitentiary grounds in New Westminster.

ZIPPERS = MALE CLOTHING?!

KINESIS: What about the men's clothing in the car?

BETSY: If anyone has ever seen my car it always has banners, picket signs, public address systems, a bag full of clothes in the back, leaflets, and, I usually have to move things so people can find a seat. In Court, the New Westminster City Police Officer stated there were lots of new clothes in the car and that they were all men's. In fact, there was only one new bit of clothing and that was a pair of pants with a 25" waist suitable only for a very slender woman. The Officer stated that all the pants in the car were men's clothing because they had zipper-fronts. He made the same sexist assumptions about every other piece of clothing.

KINESIS: The Crown presented evidence at the Preliminary alleging that you, Gay, had used an assumed name to rent an apartment intended for the use of escaped prisoners of the B.C. Pen. Judge Clare stated that there was sufficient identification that you had rented the apartment but he concluded that there was "basically nothing" to show that the apartment was to be used for any escaped prisoners.

GAY: I was identified as being the renter from a picture on the front-page of the Vancouver Sun by the landlord, Mr. Sam. Many people are mistaken in these matters of identification and I think Mr. Sam was only trying to be a good citizen when police questionned him. But, it is the authorities I hold responsible for this error. They had 5 months to gather evidence and all the resources of the government at hand to prove the serious charges against Betsy and myself. Why didn't they run a handwriting analysis on the receipt for the apartment I was alleged to have signed? Or did they run a handwriting analysis and "neglect" to mention it in court because it wasn't my handwriting. They never entered any proof that it was my signature on the receipt. Not only that, I was working on the the day I was alleged to have rented the apartment, why didn't the police check on that?

KINESIS: As early as Tuesday, on the fourth day after the incident began, Superintendent Bruce Northorp of the R.C.M.P. was quoted in the media as stating that the "so-called civilian hostages" had assisted the prisoners in the escape attempt. Why was he so convinced you were guilty?

BETSY: Northorp stated at the Preliminary that he made his decision that I was guilty from having read R.C.M.P. and New Westminster City Police files. He never said why he thought Gay was guilty.

KINESIS: What about the testimony of the B.C. Pen Security Officer?

"ON A LIST"

BETSY: In Court, when Officer Skillings was asked what evidence he had against me, the only thing he could say was "she was on a list". It turned out that I was on a list as being a member of the Prisoner's Union, a prisoner's rights group that hasn't been in operation for a year and a half.

It also turned out that Skillings and I had met before over visiting privileges at the B.C. Pen. Many prisoners don't have any visitors other than their families, if that. Because they can so easily lose their visiting privileges, these families or men friends or women friends are easily intimidated.

I DO NOT INTIMIDATE EASILY

Well, I don't intimidate easily. On one of my first visits Skillings came down to the visitor's area (where it is very unusual for a security officer to be) in order to give me a lecture on inciting prisoners. I didn't even know it was Skillings until he testified in Court. I was just going in to visit to find out what the prison system was all about but their fear was there right from the very beginning.

KINESIS: Judge Clare states in his reasons for judgement, ". . . I have made fairly complete notes throughout the preliminary hearing or the inquiry, and at no time did anybody, whether it be an inmate or a hostage, at any time say that either Wood or Hoon were accomplices or parties to this. . . Superintendent Northorp told us under oath that he had his own suspicions, but he gave me no basis as to how he arrived in his own mind, that some of the persons in there were accomplices. He had face to face meetings with certain of the inmates and at no time were Wood or Hoon implicated. Apparently there were numerous telephone calls, all of which were taped and recorded and transcribed-again, Wood or Hoon were not implicated."

Judge Clare also stated that he could find no direct evidence from the written corresponspondence of Wood or Hoon to show that they were arranging a prison break, and he could find nothing from any recorded converesations during visits to indicate that Wood in particular had planned or assisted in the escape attempt. Judge Clare said that no evidence had been presented to show how two crown exhibits, a gun and a set of handcuffs, got into the penitentiary for use in the escape attempt.

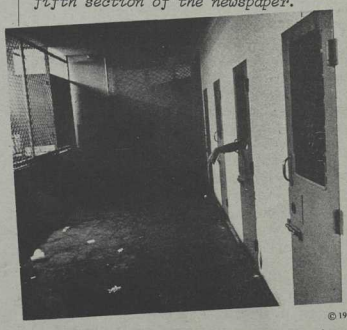
There was mention in the media of some graffitti on the wall of the Pen visiting area that you had written and signed Betsy. What was that all about?

BETSY: Moments before the incident ended, I wrote on the wall *"and Reynett (Herb Reynett, Director of the B.C. Pen) said Andy (Bruce) liked solitary confinement. I think Herb, that Andy is trying to tell you and others he is a human being. Are you? Feb. 4,1978, 12:05 on my way out, Love, Betsy Wood."*

I wrote that because Reynett had told me a few months earlier that Andy liked solitary confinement.

MEDIA'S DOUBLE STANDARD

KINESIS: This entire proceeding has been front page news from the beginning. Your pictures and your names have been splashed all over the media. Yet we noted that the dismissal of all charges against you has not been reported so prominently. For example, the Vancouver Sun carried Judge Clare's decision on the second section front page -- and printed an interview with you which was stuck behind the classifieds in the fifth section of the newspaper.



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The "penthouse" at British Columbia Penitentiary *after* improvements resulting from the "cruel and unusual" court judgment in 1975. The corridor is the "recreation area." Guards with shotguns watch from behind the caged walk at left.

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ANARCHA FEMINISM

INTRODUCTION

ANARCHY, as a political movement on the left, is flourishing in Vancouver. *Open Road*, an anarchist publication, is going full-steam. Street grafitti of anti-authoritarian messages (ranging from "Free Wood and Hoon" to "Liberate the Zoo") is popping up everywhere, overnight.

There are at least two anarcha-feminist study groups in town, including Revolting Women. In this article, *Kinesis* has gathered excerpts from current anarcha-feminist literature

INTERVIEW

Kinesis also spoke with two anarcha-feminists, to find out why they identify themselves as such, and what they're up to.

Melanie and Jannit live in a cooperatively-owned house in Kits, with two men, and their 21 mth old child, Jess. Both women are equally involved in parenting Jess. They put their energy into the women's movement, the cooperative movement, and the anarchist movement (all three do overlap). Jannit works on the anarchist publication, *Open Road*; Melanie is an old time Health Collective worker. Both are involved in food coops and CCEC (a member-controlled community credit union). These days they are painting their house and talking about acquiring land cooperatively.

Both are anarcha-feminists, committed to activism.

Kinesis: Are there some activities in the women's movement which you, as anarcha-feminists, would involve yourselves in, and others which you wouldn't? Where do you draw that line?

Jannit: Often, what's important is *the way* we involve ourselves. Take consensus decision-making for example. The women's movement mostly supports it. But if there is nobody around to keep pointing out *how* and *why* consensus decision-making is important, the process can tend to slide away. As an anarcha-feminist, I recognize that the process determines the product, and so consensus is important. The March 8 Committee worked fairly effectively by consensus, although I thought there was too much voting at the central weekly meetings.

Melanie: We took part in the recent action at Woman's World, where feminists set up a table inside the building where the consumer orgy was taking place. We encouraged women to let the organizers know if they felt ripped off by the $4.50 admission

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Lyn Buckle

TWO ANARCHA-FEMINIST WOMEN AT AN ANARCHIST CARNIVAL
STANLEY PARK, MAY DAY, 1978

ANARCHY, ANYONE?

Anarchism has been maligned and misinterpreted for so long that maybe the most important thing to begin with an explanation of what is is and isn't. Probably the most prevalent stereotype of the anarchist is a malevolent-looking man hiding a lighted bomb beneath a black cape, ready to destroy or assassinate everything and everybody in his path. This image engenders fear and revulsion in most people, regardless of their politics; consequently, anarchism is dismissed as ugly, violent and extreme. Another misconception is the anarchist as impractical idealist, dealing in useless, Utopian abstractions and out of touch with concrete reality. The result: anarchism is once again dismissed, this time as an "impossible dream".

Neither of these images is accurate (though there have been both anarchist assassins and idealists - as is the case in many political movements, left and right). What is accurate depends, of course, on one's frame of reference. There are different kinds of anarchists, just as there are different kinds of socialists. What I will talk about here is communist-anarchism, which I see as virtually identical to libertarian (i.e. nonauthoritarian) socialism.

Labels can be terribly confusing, so in hopes of clarifying the term, I'll define anarchism using three major principles

THEORY

(1) Belief in the abolition of authority, hierarchy, government. Anarchists call for the dissolution (rather than the seizure) of power - of human over human, of state over community. Whereas many socialists call for a working class government and an eventual "withering away of the state", anarchists believe that the means create the ends, that a strong State becomes self-perpetuating. The only way to achieve anarchism (according to anarchist theory) is through the creation of co-operative, anti-authoritarian forms. To separate the process from the goals of revolution is to insure the perpetuation of oppressive structure and style.

(2) Belief in both individuality and collectivity. Individuality is not incompatible with communist thought. A distinction must be made though, between "rugged individualism", which fosters competition and a disregard for the needs of others, and true individuality, which implies freedom without infringement on others' freedom. Specifically, in terms of social and political organization, this means balancing individual initiative with collective action through the creation of structures which enable decision-making to rest in the hands of all those in a group, community, or factory, not in the hands of "representatives" or "leaders". It means coordination and action via a non-hierarchical network (overlapping circles rather than a pyramid) of small groups or communities. Finally it means that successful revolution involves unmanipulated, autonomous individuals and groups working together to take "direct, unmediated control of society and of their own lives".

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ANARCHA-FEMINISTS ON LEGISLATIVE REFORM; LOCAL ORGANIZING; COLLETIVES; CRIME; PUNK; PARTY POLITICS...

from col 1, p. 13

price. But we didn't shake the structure. We were *inside* the structure we abhor, asserting a small feminist presence alongside the kitchenware and fashions. Ideally, we might have done something *outside* the building. In the parking lot. Perhaps we could have been fixing our own cars, or something...my point is that we *did* take part in the feminist table, we helped to organize and support the feminist event, although we're beginning to think about different kinds of direct action.

Kinesis: What's your view on working for legislative reforms? I understand that you support direct action in the area of rape, such as the confrontations of rapists carried out by a Santa Cruz anti-rape group, and the publication of lists of rapists by the Kitty Genovese project. Would you spend your time working for the reform of rape laws? Do you view trying to win that kind of concession from the state as a waste of time?

Jannit: Pretty much so. The trouble is that when we get those in authority to give us something, they can turn round and take it away. Look at abortion. They can give us childcare and they can take it away. We're really no further ahead.

Kinesis: Getting back to the abortion issue. What do you think will happen at VGH? Do you get into lobbying for changes in the abortion law? Will you take part in the VGH meeting?

Melanie: I've sent off my letter about abortion. Knowing it won't do any good. We'll be voting pro-choice at the VGH meeting, of course. But our point is that we've got to learn to do things for ourselves, sooner or later. If we lose that vote at VGH, one of these years, we're going to have to rely on our own resources. As long as they're controlled by a board of directors, they can take abortions away from us. Ideally, we'd have our own abortion clinics.

Kinesis: What about party politics? Is it a case of "don't vote, it only encourages them"?

Jannit: That's an issue we talk about a lot. All of us have at one time or another worked for the NDP; we all have serious misgivings about it. But what can you do? In this province, it makes a real, qualitative difference to some people having the Socreds in. They really make life tougher for old people, for the handicapped, the poor.

Does that mean we should vote NDP? The NDP may make life better for a few people, but they *don't* make major changes. And of course, there is a system of bureaucracy behind all the parties that keeps the whole thing going. It doesn't change when parties in power change.

Melanie: I don't believe that theory that goes around the left that the worse things get, the better they are for the making of the revolution. I think the worse things get, the more entrenched the state becomes...But I also think that some day I am going to be forced to make a choice: will I support legislative reform, which is good for a few people, but not for a majority? I think we aren't going to be able to live with liberal views forever.

Kinesis: Do you see any value in politics at the local level?

Melanie: We support neighborhood politics, yes. Block organizing, I mean. When people organize on their block -- against rape or to let kids know which houses they can go to -- it's people taking control for themselves. But the moment you get away from block by block organizing into trying to get someone on City Council, for example, then what you're doing becomes something different. You have to work to get *one* person elected -- and then the decision-making is not being shared. Only when everybody is making decisions about what touches their own lives, only then do people have power. You have to trust, to be willing to trust each other. That's quite different from putting your trust in a leader. It's much more optimistic.

Kinesis: What do you think about people who decide that maybe they can work on the inside?

Melanie: What can they do? If they point out the contradictions loudly enough to be heard, they'll be fired. If they don't point out the contradictions they might be promoted. It's a seductive process. It changes you in ways you can't even be aware of. It's a bit like getting married. People say, "Oh, it doesn't matter if we get married, we love each other," and so on. And then they wake up eight years later to find that they've changed into something else. Marriage changes you in ways you don't know. When you resort to that structure, or to any set of rules, you're always trying to predict what might go wrong. You get these rules together so that if you're in a tight corner, you can use them to get out. I say, if you find yourself needing rules to rescue you from some structure that isn't working for you, then it's time to get rid of the structure. The whole social system is set up so that everybody is trained to resort to rules.

Jannit: The trouble with rules is that they assume the worst of people. They refuse to trust. Look at the public schools -- they are set up in the expectation that the students are going to do the worst possible thing on every occasion. It's the existence of these rules themselves which turn people against each other.

Melanie: The system is structured so that everybody leans on everybody else to keep them in line. And women and children are right down at the bottom. We are all of us scared of authority. Authority is passed around like a goodie in this society. If you get a bit you can use it to oppress somebody with. I used to always be told that I had problems with authority. They were right. I do have problems with authority!

Jannit: I remember very clearly the moment I stopped internalizing the rights and wrongs of our culture. I realised that crime is defined by the state. I didn't accept any of its definitions, but I had internalized that one.

I've learned how society keeps itself going, what structures it uses. I've been struck by the way we have all learned to believe what the state tells us to believe. Even among politicised people, you often come across the notion that the state somehow represents the people. It takes time to unravel the job they've done on you.

Reading anarchist material has given me a framework I can use to question bureaucratic structures. A lot of anarchist theory is sexist; you have to pick your way through it. I think an anarcha-feminist perspective is a particular emphasis which I bring back to the women's movement: it sheds light on how society keeps women oppressed.

Melanie: I came to anarcha-feminism with a feeling of intense relief. We were both feminists before we became anarcha-feminists. Anarcha-feminism, with its insistence on spontaneity, made sense of what I'd been feeling all along. I'd worked in a collective which really worked collectively. I knew it was important not to sacrifice individual participation for speed or efficiency. It felt wrong to be using hierarchical structures within the women's movement. I'd felt for a long time that I didn't want to vote; that consensus was worth all the time and effort it might take. It felt wrong to have official meetings about something before anybody took any action.

The anarchist framework shared a context that a lot of my work and intuitions fit into. That discovery has been very exciting.

Kinesis: You call yourselves anarcha-feminists, rather than anarchists. What do you think of the apparent anarchist affinity for punk rock? The punk rockers seem to be being touted as anti-authoritarian...

Melanie: For the record, we don't like punk rock. It's sexist!

Jannit: It's also contradictory. How can something sexist really be anti-authoritarian?

Kinesis: What about this term anti-authoritarian? Seems to me you have authority with Jess, who's only 21 months. You both parent him; when you tell him to keep his hand off the stove, for example, you are exercising authority...you know more about stoves than he does.

Melanie: A distinction I find useful is one between the authority of a person and the authority of a position. We love Jess and we try to relate to his strengths. When we impose on him, and we sometimes do (we're not "permissive" as some people may expect anarchist parents to be) -- we tell him why we're imposing. If he's tired out, for example, we'll put him in his crib and that's it -- because weknow where he's at; we love him and want to protect him. But Trudeau doesn't love you or me. His is the authority of position. It's that authority we reject completely.

Jannit: You can try to subvert authority in lots of ways. Once you internalize an anarchist understanding of authority, you change. In France and Spain, there are lots of small groups who subvert authority -- a bunch of people will get on the subway without paying, say. When there's enough people doing it, the authorities can't do anything.

Kinesis: Does that change things?

Melanie: It changed *me*. Change is personal. In the health collective, we challenged the authority of doctors, and doctors, you know, have *a lot* of authority. We would go to medical conferences dressed in jeans, put up our hands to ask a question, and then get up and make a speech. It's quite scary. It changes you.

Kinesis: Are you into grafitti?

Melanie: That's something that is happening spontaneously. We've been involved in some billboard corrections. It's something people can see being done, so they get out and do it, too.

Kinesis: What's your line on armed struggle?

Melanie: We disagree that now is the time for armed struggle in North America. Our disagreement is with the timing. In South Africa, on the other hand, now is the time for it.

Kinesis: What do you say to the inquiry anarchists receive from other parts of the left -- do you have a programme for seizing state power? The world evoked, for example, in Marge Piercy's Woman on the Edge of Time *could be described as anarcha-feminist in many respects. But how do we get there from here?*

Jannit: Our program for smashing capitalism? (General laughter) You have to start from the personal point of taking control over what touches your own life -- your school, your workplace, your immediate neighbourhood. If, say, students, parents and teachers took control of the school, you'd have the bureaucrats on the phone, raging away all day long, but they'd have lost their power. I'm not saying you wouldn't have a fight on your hands. You'd have to defend your school, your workplace. The state isn't going to walk away politely.

Kinesis: Returning from theory to practical matters, I'm interested in how you see our part of the women's movement functioning right now. What's your thoughts on BCFW (British Columbia Federation of Women), for example?

Melanie: I remember going to the founding convention of the BCFW, and feeling wretched because I didn't like what was happening. I didn't like putting an umbrella over the movement, pulling it together into that kind of structure -- although I could see how we would appear the stronger for it.

Jannit: Compared to that, you now have the spontaneous ad-hoc committees, like March 8 and those one-day workshops that have been happening around town, which are very loosely associated with BCFW, or more often not associated with *any* group...

Kinesis: It seems to me that BCFW functions nowadays in a rather amorphous federation more or less unconscious of the structure up at the top.

Jannit: That's true, but as long as you have that structure, someone can come along and start using it in a hierarchical way to centralize power and assert leadership. That's the danger of having it there. Of course, I think that BCFW has value as a communication network, and is useful for women outside the lower mainland, in particular.

Melanie: Some of the dangers of structure being imposed from above were pointed out in what happened with those coalitions of women's groups (in the Fraser Valley and the Okanagan) which the Secretary of State's department was going around setting up. They were a disaster...

Kinesis: As a feminist, what impresses me about you two is that you live your politics in a very personal way. You believe in co-ops and cooperative decision-making -- you live and work in cooperatives. You believe in sharing parenting, and you do just that. You work in the women's movement as anarcha-feminists and you live as anarcha-feminists; your food, shelter -- it's all part of your politics. It feels good.

Melanie: As feminists we realised that it's essential to have personal relationships and ways of living that are supportive. I don't really know how people can be political -- say, organizing at their workplace, and then go off and buy their food at a supermarket -- on the one hand they're trying to change the system as workers, and at another they're shoring it up as consumers.

Kinesis: Do you think we'll bring down Safeway by being in co-ops?

Jannit: No, but we have to be optimistic. It's going to be a long struggle.

ANARCHISM, FEMINISM

IS THERE A CONNECTION?

from col 3,p.13

(3) Belief in both spontaneity and organization. Anarchists have long been accused of advocating chaos. Most people in fact believe that anarchism is a synonym for disorder, confusion, violence. This is a total misrepresentation of what anarchism stands for. Anarchists don't deny the necessity of organization; they only claim that it must come from below, not above, from within rather than from without. Externally imposed structure or rigid rules which foster manipulation and passivity are the most dangerous forms a so-called "revolution" can take. No one can dictate the exact shape of the future. Spontaneous action within the context of a specific situation is necessary if we are going to create a society which responds to the changing needs of individuals and groups. Anarchists believe in fluid forms: small-scale participatory democracy in conjunction with large-scale collective cooperation and coordination (without loss of individual initiative).
Peggy Kornegger, Anarchism: The Feminist Connection

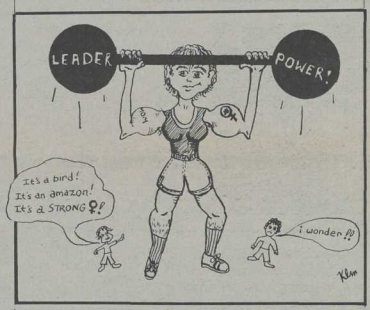
Contrary to common misconception, anarchism does not reject, but is about organization. Anarchism is simultaneously both a critique of authoritarian forms of organization which fosters manipulation and passivity, and a theory of free organization. Forms which are organized from below, rather than above, from within rather than without. The basis of such organization is the autonomous group formed on basis of common locality (collective), activity (affinity group) or trade (syndicate). These groups federate with each other to form increasingly comprehensive networks without losing their autonomy. Such organization is decentralized and non-hierarchic, being based on the equality of a network and not the inequalities of a pyramid.
Zero Collective - Anarchism/Feminism

* * * *

C-R groups were a good beginning, but they often got so bogged down in talking about personal problems that they failed to make the jump to direct action and political confrontation. Groups that did organize around a specific issue or project sometimes found that the "tyranny of structurelessness" could be as destructive as the "tyranny of tyranny". The failure to blend organization with spontaneity frequently caused the emergence of those with more skills or personal charisma as leaders.

* * * *

Once again, I think that what was missing was a verbalized anarchist analysis. Organization does not have to stifle spontaneity or follow hierarchical patterns. The women's groups or projects which have been the most successful are those which experimented with various fluid structures: the rotation of tasks and chairpersons, sharing of all skills, equal access to information and resources, non-monopolized decision-making, and time slots for discussion of group dynamics. This latter structural element is important because it involves a continued effort on the part of group members to watch for "creeping power politics." If women are verbally committing themselves to collective work, this requires a real struggle to unlearn passivity (to eliminate "followers") and to share special skills or knowledge (to avoid "leaders").
Peggy Kornegger Anarchism: The Feminist Connection



cartoon from Ehrlich's article in Second Wave

Feminism practises what anarchism preaches. One might go so far as to claim feminists are the only existing protest group that can honestly be called practising anarchists. Lynne Farrow Feminism as Anarchism

On the positive side, the emerging structure of the women's movement in the last few years has generally followed an anarchistic pattern of small project-oriented groups continually weaving an underground network of communication and collective action around specific issues. Partial success at leader/"star" avoidance and the diffusion of small action projects (Rape Crisis Centers, Women's Health Collectives) across the country have made it extremely difficult for the women's movement to be pinned down to one person or group. Feminism is a many-headed monster which cannot be destroyed by singular decapitation. We spread and grow in ways that are incomprehensible to a hierarchical mentality.
Peggy Kornegger Anarchism: The Feminist Connection

The revolutionary feminist perspective is essentially anarchist. ...In its rejection of authority, hierarchy and leadership, feminism follows anarchist theory....But it is in organization and action that women have spontaneously come closest to anarchism. Zero Collective, Anarchism/Feminism

All across the country independent groups of women began functioning without the structure, leaders and other factotums of the male left, creating independently and simultaneously organizations similar to those of anarchists of many decades and locales. No accident either. Cathy Levine The Tyranny of Tyranny

There are ...many issues on which radical feminists and anarchist feminists agree. But anarchist feminists are concerned with something more. Because they are anarchists, they work to end all power relationships, all situations in which people can oppress each other. Unlike some radical feminists who are not anarchists, they do not believe that power in the hands of women could possibly lead to a noncoercive society. And unlike most socialist feminists, they do not believe that anything good can come out of a mass movement with a leadership elite. In short, neither a workers' state nor a matriarchy will end the oppression of everyone. The goal, then, is not to seize power, as the socialists are fond of urging, but to abolish power. Carol Ehrlich Socialism and Anarchism Feminism

That is the theory. What about the practice? Again, radical feminism and anarchist feminism have much in common. Both work to build alternative institutions, and both take the politics of the personal very seriously.

Developing alternative forms of organization means building self-help clinics, instead of fighting to get one radical on a hospital's board of directors, it means women's video groups and newspapers instead of commercial television and newspapers; living collectives, instead of isolated nuclear families; rape crisis centers; food coops; parent-controlled daycare centers; free schools; printing coops; alternative radio groups, and so on. Carol Ehrlich Socialism and Anarchism Feminism

Open Road, Box 6135, Station G, Vancouver, B. C. Canada V6R 4GT

The autumn 1977 issue of this anarchist newspaper contains an article on Anarcha-Feminism which reviews some of the publications available.

Revolting Women, P.O. Box 46571, Station G, Vancouver, B. C. Canada.

They say "we have made a commitment to study anarchist analysis and strategy, and hope to add to our writings on the connections between feminism and anarchism to those relatively few that already exist." They would like to contact other anarchist feminists.

from p. 12

BETSY: Similar to Attica, the press was hand-fed information under the authority of Superintendent Northorp. He sent authorities down each morning to the media. He passed out very little information and what he did let out was often inaccurate and inflammatory. These statements resulted in our being tried and convicted by the media and the public before we ever went to court.

During the entire incident, the press picked up every statement made by Supt. Northorp and we were front-page news for the entire time. If the Vancouver Sun and the Vancouver Province and all the media in B.C. want to try us and convict us at least they could have the decency when we are vindicated to give us equal space.

GAY: The papers printed everything the R.C.M.P. and the Pen gave them and I think they should have investigated more. We think it is really unfortunate that the guard, Roy Yasuda, was wounded. But the way that information was printed by the media was very inflammatory. The Vancouver Sun carried front-page headlines that the guard had only *30 seconds to live* whereas the testimony of Dr. T.K. Stephenson from the Royal Columbian Hospital revealed that it would have taken several hours for death to occur. That information was not reported.

BETSY: In the Attica Prison incident in the U.S., first press reports stated that the prisoners slit the hostages throats but then later it was learned that all hostage deaths came from authorities' bullets.

In the last B.C. Pen hostage-taking incident, the media here again raced to the people with the story that Andy Bruce had slit hostage Mary Steinhauser's throat. It was later learned she had been killed by a bullet fired by a member of the guard's tactical squad.

I also remember just prior to the B.C. Pen riot of 1976 - a friend and I delivered press releases to the media. It was a 10 page press release signed by over 200 inmates of the B.C. Pen.saying that there was going to be a riot if something didn't happen. Both the Province and the Sun placed it on somethink like page 70 or 74. Ten days later or so when the riot did occur, these same papers made lots of money reporting it - it was front page news after it happened.

WHAT ABOUT THE GUARDS?

KINESIS: You mentioned earlier the stabbing of the guard Yasuda. Prison activists such as yourselves are often criticized for having sympathy for the criminal but not for the victim.

BETSY: I think it is very sad that the guard was stabbed. I think it is sad when guards suffer psychological effects from working in prisons. But I also think it is sad when we pay Members of Parliament and they close their eyes to the situation that guards are in jeopardy. Something should be done about it. Our tax money is wasted. The Deputy-Solicitor said that in a few years the cost of the justice system will be so high that there is no way that the taxpayer can afford it.

I want to say something on behalf of Steven Hall. He has been sentenced to life for that offence. I don't think he should have pleaded guilty. We have to take a look at Steven Hall's life. Steven has spent many years in solitary confinement. He has told me that "I can take anything in prison but the one thing I can't take is solitary. If I go there again I'll commit suicide."

DURING THE SEIGE

KINESIS: What happened on the morning of Jan. 28th?

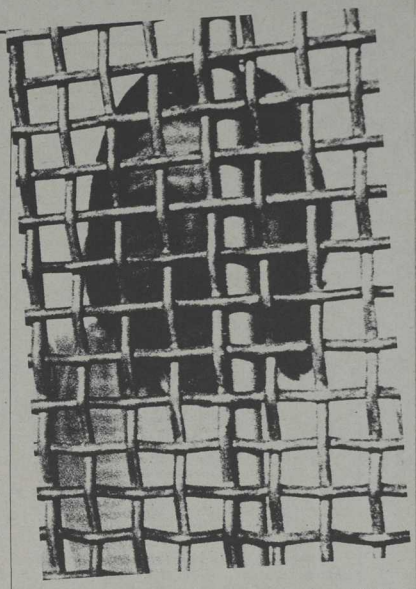
BETSY: I parked in my usual parking place, signed in as usual, went down to the visitor's "run" (a row of 10 seats behind a glass partition where visitors speak to prisoners through telephones), all as usual and sat down. The next thing I knew the glass was breaking, shots were being fired, I saw people beside me crying and going to the floor, and a few minutes later the door to the "run" opened and people were moving about in other rooms.

KINESIS: Were you ever in fear of the prisoners' or in fear of a tactical action taken by the authorities similar to the one that killed Mary Steinhauser in the 1976 B.C. Pen hostage-taking?

BETSY: We never feared any action on the part of the prisoners. It was the prisoners who were the most concerned about our well-being. Some people were very much afraid of an invasion by a tactical squad but I didn't share that fear. It is very fashionable now not to have bloodshed. "Negotiation" gives authorities "brownie points". I knew Supt. Northorp was after those "brownie points" and therefore everyone who was under his authority would toe that line for their share.

KINESIS: We heard regularly on the media that prisoners and hostages were getting regular meals and were quite comfortable during the 8 day lock-in.

GAY: Superintendent Northorp at no time during the incident made any effort to see that we were comfortable. Right at the beginning, it was the prisoners who tried to get us blankets, mattresses, medication



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Inside a "cruel and unusual" cell in British Columbia Penitentiary.

and food. Northorp sent in a few towels, toothbrushes, and 2 hairbrushes, but no blankets or mattresses. We slept on the hard tiled floor while there was deep snow outside. As for regular meals, food was sent in when and if the authorities felt like sending it in. Staff at the B.C. Pen College said that food often sat for 5 or 6 hours before being sent in icecold. Most often meals consisted of chips and hamburgers, fish or chicken from a drive-in.

BETSY: At no time did officials notify my family, and I am well known at the Pen. It was only at the insistence of the prisoners that a few days later the authorities allowed hostages to phone home.

KINESIS: What happened at the conclusion of the incident?

DECIDED WE WERE GUILTY

BETSY: Northorp had already decided we were guilty. As a result of that decision, Gay was the second last and I the last visitor to leave the B.C. Pen visiting area. At the Preliminary he was asked why he priorized the hostages coming out in the order that he had. He answered that in his mind there were 5 people inside who were accomplices and that their safety was not as important as the people that he felt were innocent. I don't think he had the right to decide who was guilty and who was not guilty and that our lives should be considered less valuable than others.

con't on page 18

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GAY: After our release, we walked out the door across an interior courtyard of the Pen. There were about fifteen officers with rifles trained directly on us - 5 or 6 on the roof, several in the towers 5 or 6 in a semi-circle in the yard, and one lying on his stomach behind a flower pot on the stairs leading to the main prison. We were immediately arrested and then taken up the steep metal stairs to the prison offices, strip-searched and questionned. I told them I had nothing to say because I was not involved. We were then taken to New Westminster Police Lock-Up.

We were put in separate cells consisting of a bed riveted to the wall with a plastic mattress on it, but no blankets. It was extremely hot and our skin stuck to the plastic. There was a combination sink and toilet. People could look in at any time and men and women were coming through regularly for breathalizer tests. We weren't allowed pens, paper, watches, combs, mirrors, or any personal effects, such as toothbrushes or towels.

On Monday morning just before our first court appearance we were taking a sponge bath. We hadn't had a bath at all for the last 10 days. Envoy Stephenson came from the Salvation Army to see if we wanted Legal Aid. He would not go away even though we insisted. He just stayed where he was and looked through the window the whole time we were bathing.

On Monday morning, we were taken to Court and our Bail Application was refused.

"DANGEROUS WOMEN"

BETSY: I would like to quote some of the prosecutor's remarks made during the Bail Hearing and our subsequent Bail Appeal. Madigan, the prosecutor, made what I consider inflammatory remarks that amounted to character assassination. Unfortunately the transcript still hasn't been typed but Madigan said in effect that "we were such dangerous women that even if they brought in the army, no judge or courtworker in this province would be safe while we were on the streets." And therefore, our bail was set at 2 surety bonds of $20,000 each, a total of $80,000 before we could get out of prison.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT WINS BAIL

We were only granted bail because we had a lot of friends in the community who took time off work, set up headquarters in somebody's house, and ran around and collected 65 letters from people in the community who worked with us and knew us well. The judge said in Court that he had read every one of these letters supporting that we were non-violent. He said "I can not disregard the content of these letters . . ." We had offers of bail from friends in Vancouver and Victoria and some offers from people who didn't even know us that well. The support the community mobilized was powerful, an and I thank all of these people for their support.

KINESIS: The legal system has arrested you, charged you, detained you in Oakalla Women's Prison, taken you to a Preliminary Inquiry, and then seen fit to dismiss all charges against you. With this first-hand experience, how does it feel to be an accused person and just how objectively does the legal system operate?

BETSY: Since the day I was locked-in the B.C. Pen visiting area, I have felt like a person with no rights whatsoever. The law is like a conveyor belt. Court rooms are expensive public-funded play-pens for judges, prosecutors and lawyers to play in and collect high salaries. They have a vested interest in one another. The accused is needed for the play to continue but is only incidental and is not considered a "player" in the court room game.

COURTROOM: ~ A PLAYPEN FOR JUDGES & LAWYERS

Because of the highly technical nature of the courts you are forced to hire a lawyer. Once you hire a lawyer it in effect silences you, because both the judge and prosecutor tell you to speak to your lawyer and your lawyer will speak to them, or to the jury. If you want to participate you have to keep jumping up and running over to your lawyer. After awhile you look like some kind of idiot but you are only trying to participate in your own case.

Unfortunately the justice system thinks it has to answer to no-one. All the judges know it, all the lawyers know it, all the prosecutors know it, and it goes on because nobody challenges it.

KINESIS: You were held in the Women's Unit of Oakalla Prison while you were awaiting your Bail Appeal. What were your living conditions there?

GAY: When we arrived at Oakalla, we had to line up for a bath, but the bath had not been properly cleaned and the water wasn't clean. There was a great mirror above the bath slanting outwards so that anybody in the admissions area could see us bathing. We were deliced and then sent up to Group Six, the admissions unit. We were not allowed our watches. We had our meals in the dayroom which is a little larger than an average living room for 16 to 24 women at one time to eat in. This room functioned as a dining room, a T.V. room and a games room all at one time. It was very noisy. My bedsheets were dirty and I was not allowed clean sheets until the morning. The room was also filthy and hadn't been cleaned before we came in. The food wasn't bad but it is largely a carbohydrate diet and as at City Lock-up there were no exceptions for someone requiring or wanting a special diet.

We were forced on work detail for 50 cents a day - scrubbing huge floors with a little cloth and a pail of water, general housework, sorting laundry, washing out toilets. We politely refused to contribute to our incarceration, and consequently were locked in our cells.

BETSY: We had to make another court appearance the next Monday and when we were returned to Oakalla we were taken in the back door directly down to solitary confinement. All of the prisoners had been cleared out of the unit - it had been full of prisoners on punishment when we left for court that morning. Now we were the only 2 occupants. Each cell had a plastic mattress, a combination steel sink and toilet, a solid steel door with a 4 or 5 inch peek hole in it - just like solitary confinement at the B.C. Pen. One of the cells in solitary is called "the monkey cage" and the prisoner is confined to half the cell by mesh wire, with no access to toilet or bucket.

SOLITARY + COFFEETABLE = LIVING UNIT

We demanded to know why we had been placed in solitary. They told us we were not in solitary confinement. The

cells had been renamed and were now called a Living Unit. The only physical difference was that a coffee table had been added to one cell which was to be our dayroom. Later in the week I was upstairs on a visit and happened to see Mrs. Peacock, the Director of the Women's Unit. I asked why we had been placed in solitary. She said it was because we were disruptive. Her statement contradicted the statements of the guards downstairs who simply said we were not in solitary confinement.

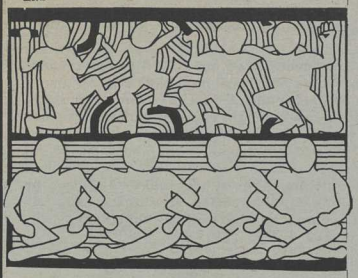
It is ironic that the very thing we are opposing at the B.C. Pen, solitary confinement or "administrative segregation" as they call it, is the same thing that was being used against us.

OAKALLA: PLANET OF THE APES

The stupidity of the place - I felt like I was on *Planet of the Apes* - and the staff were the apes. I couldn't believe humans (for a pay cheque) could stoop to acting like mindless robots in order to be an upright citizen/guard, when common sense would tell them what they were doing was wrong.

We were finally released after our Bail Appeal, Gay on the 17th of February and myself on the 18th.

LNS



KINESIS: Betsy you have mentioned that you have multiple sclerosis. Did you receive any special diet or medical consideration for this condition?

BETSY: In the 3 weeks I was incarcerated, I was prevented from carrying out my preventive program for multiple sclerosis, which 2 years ago at times prevented me from walking. On top of that as a vegetarian I was served only meat meals, leaving just bread and potatoes to eat. The fastest way possible for MS to return is to have food high in fat and starch and low in protein. I repeatedly told this to authorities including 1 doctor at the B.C. Pen and 2 doctors at Oakalla prison. At the New Westminster Lock-up, I was in pain and asked to see a doctor and my request was refused. In my second week at Oakalla, I couldn't sleep with the pain, but I was told by a male nurse that the only way I could see a doctor was if I slashed (cut my wrists). In the 3rd week at Oakalla, one doctor agreed to give me vegetables and protein, but when the meals arrived they were so high in fat, that I might as well have eaten starch.

KINESIS: Although the Crown can still proceed, both of you have had all charges dismissed at this point in time. How much has this ordeal cost you?

GAY: Our preliminary inquiry has cost us $15,000 alone just in legal costs. Then there is our lost salaries, our family and friend's time and efforts. I lost my job and Betsy's health deteriorated. If we had gone to trial in the fall, legal costs would amount to an additional $30,000.

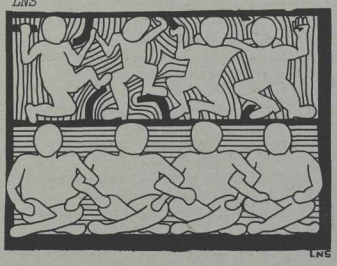
I want people to know just how tenuous civil rights are in Canada. We were selected for prosecution on the basis of our political beliefs. In Russia, they send you to Siberia, in Canada dissenters can be economically and emotionally worn out while the government has the unlimited resources of our tax dollars.

PRISONS: ULTIMATE WEAPON OF MALE POLITICS

KINESIS: Why as feminists are you involved with prisoner's rights?

BETSY: Prisons are the ultimate weapon of male politics. The crushing blows that male politics have inflicted on women - alienation, isolation, and oppression, both psychologically and emotionally - are the same blows that are dealt to prisoners. I remember in 1971 speaking on Mother's Day at a Women's Liberation Rally in Stanley Park. Lisa Hobbs and Simma Holt also spoke. I can remember saying that some women could not be here today because of their oppression, they may not have had 25 cents bus fare, they may have been in Riverview (mental hospital) or prison. I spoke of women's isolation from each other and the outside world, of the cement walls that surrounded them and of the suicide that followed when they couldn't find a way out of their "prison". The walls are psychological but they are just as confining as the cement walls of the solitary confinement cells. The system puts walls in all our heads. And prisons are the "Final Solution" for maintaining it.

LNS



KINESIS: As prisoner's rights activists do you see a connection between prison activism and hostage-taking?

BETSY: Yes. There is a connection because when the prisoners inside know they have support on the outside they are going to make demands that they be treated as human beings. As a prisoner, you know that you aren't crazy because you know that people on the outside believe you are human and should be treated as human and eventually re-enter society.

VIOLENCE OCCURS WHEN NOTHING CHANGES

We really have encouraged prisoners to try through all the regular channels to make their concerns heard. It is when these channels break down and nothing happens that violence occurs.

One example concerns a well-known M.P. This Member of Parliament had been through the system and knew how bad it was. I and another person went to him to see if he would speak to the prisoners in solitary about the conditions there. He said he would go in about 2 days later. We immediately wrote a message to the prisoners in solitary telling them to expect his visit. The M.P. went in and all the solitary confinement prisoners were waiting for him. He walked down the corridor in front of their cells but only talked to the guards about their salary increases. This was really frustrating for the prisoners. We asked the M.P. why he did that and he replied that we should not have told them he was going in to see them. We said to him that if they were regular constituents you would have made an appointment, you would have kept that appointment, and you should have done the same thing for a prisoner.

KINESIS: Do you condone hostage-takings?

BETSY: Yes, if it is the only way to force our elected representatives to change the abominable conditions that exist in our prisons.

In 1975, the taxpayers paid a lot of money to have Justice D.V. Heald come from Ottawa to New Westminster to hear the charges of 8 prisoners that solitary confinement was cruel and unusual punishment and was against the Canadian Bill of Rights. Justice Heald's finding was that solitary confinement was cruel and unusual punishment. Then, he said, 'But, I can not give the prisoners any relief.' Why did he hear the case at all and cost us all that money when he knew his decision was meaningless.

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Andy Bruce is the most hated prisoner in Canada, yet if it weren't for the Bruce, Lucas and Wilson hostage-taking and the B.C. Pen riot in 1976, which forced the creation of the 6th Parliamentary Inquiry into prison conditions, we the public would never have been aware of how our tax dollars are being wasted. However, together with the Jan. 28th incident at the B.C. Pen, the latest hostage-taking in Quebec, the play WALLS by Chris Bruyere on the Bruce, Lucas & Wilson hostage-taking in which the guard's tactical squad killed Mary Steinhauser, a prison employee and hostage, and finally, the facts and emotions put forth in the recently published CRUEL AND UNUSUAL: The shocking reality of life behind bars in Canada by Gerard McNeil with Sharon Vance, prison officials can no longer hide behind a veil of secrecy. The public knows. This knowledge is a direct result of hostage-takings, riots and prisoners' strikes. All actions initiated by prisoners, not authorities, to make their conditions known.

Today prisoners are condemned for these actions, tomorrow they'll be thanked. It is they who will be responsible for saving the taxpayers millions of dollars by getting rid of an archaic system that constantly places guards in fear of their lives, and, that so brutalizes prisoners that the public has more to fear when they are released than when they entered the prison system.

KINESIS: Betsy, I have heard you say that you would assist prisoners to escape from solitary confinement.

BETSY: Prisoners in solitary are being held there unlawfully and inhumanely. As I have said many times before to the Director of the B.C. Pen, to their Public Relations Man, to numerous people within the prison system, to judges from both provincial and county court, to the media and to anyone will listen, Yes - I would assist any prisoner to escape from solitary confinement.

KINESIS: How can you justify this stance knowing the bloodshed and danger to the public that would inevitably follow upon their escape?

BETSY: Citizens have to take some responsibility for having allowed authorities to have mistreated prisoners in solitary confinement Therefore, unless the public is willing to make amends to these prisoners they must live with the consequences.

Certainly prisoners have every right to try to escape from these inhuman conditions. You would not expect children to stay in a quarantined house if fire struck. The public should not expect prisoners in solitary confinement to stay in a cement box that is destroying their mind.

LNS

WE HAVE THE HEALD DECISION BUT NOTHING HAS BEEN DONE

We've had the Heald decision calling solitary - cruel and unusual punishment - but doing nothing about abolishing it. We've had 6 Parliamentary Inquiries, recommendations made, and nothing has been acted upon. Hostage-takings, riots, strikes, and escape attempts will continue until the system changes.■

More information about Solitary Confinement from Solitary Confinement Abolition Project, Box 758, Station A, Vancouver, B.C. Money is urgently needed for Wood-Hoon Legal Expenses, c/o CCEC Credit Union, #10 - 246 East Broadway, Vancouver, B.C.

from p.5

ABORTION

The Quebec Minister of Justice was unsatisfied with his victory. Morgentaler was charged a second time, in relation to a different patient. For the second time, he was acquitted by a jury. He was then the first man in Canadian history to be in jail for a "crime" of which two juries had acquitted him. For a second time, the Crown appealed. This time, however, the Court of Appeal upheld the acquittal.

'Of course abortions are wrong, and as an unmarried man I should know'

BADGELY REPORT

The "Badgley Report", published in 1976, was commissioned by the federal government "to determine whether the procedure provided in the Criminal Code for obtaining therapeutic abortions is operating equitably across Canada". The committee was, interestingly, not asked to consider the merits of law or to make recommendations.

The committee surveyed hospitals, hospital staffs, gynecologists, women who had had abortions, the public, and out-of-country abortion services. The committee confirmed what we already know: that abortion is inequitably administered, that the women who suffer most from the inequitable operation are less educated, poor, and rural women.

The Badgley Committee found that:

•On average, women first visited a doctor 2.8 weeks after first suspecting they were pregnant. It took an average of 8 weeks after the first contact until the therapeutic abortion was performed.

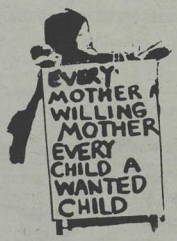
•75% of women who had abortions after 13 weeks had first consulted a doctor 8 weeks previously.

•39.3% of the Canadian population do not live in communities served by "eligible" hospitals.

•20% of women who had abortions paid a surcharge over and above the health insurance to have the procedure performed.

•saline (2nd trimester) abortions accounted for only 8.6% of abortions but 50.7% of complications. The delay, which is built into the 1969 law and its rigid procedural requirements, literally causes these complications.

•only 40% of hospitals in Canada are eligible, under provincial law, to perform therapeutic abortions.



The Criminal Code, as we have seen, makes abortion a legal procedure - but does nothing to guarantee its availability. Which hospitals are "eligible" to perform abortions is left up to each hospital. Roman Catholic Hospitals (in Vancouver, these include St. Pauls, St. Vincents, Mount St. Josephs), and Salvation Army hospitals (Grace Hospital) simply do not have committees. Of the hospitals with committees, the policy of the committees varies.

turn to p.26 col.3

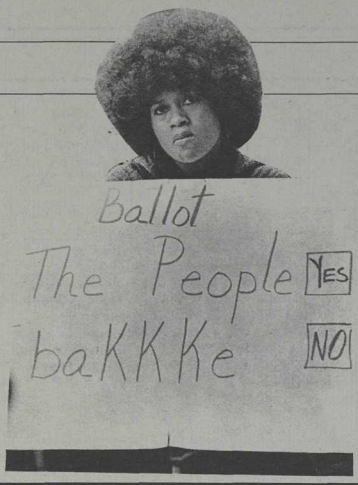
BAKKE is bad news

The BAKKE DECISION, handed down by the U.S. Supreme Court June 28 is bad news.

Bakke, a white male, claimed he had been excluded from Davis Ca. Medical School on the basis of "reverse discrimination." In a 5-4 vote, the Court agreed.

Davis Medical School campus had set aside 16 places out of 100 for racial minorities, as part of an Affirmative Action programme. That special admissions programme will now be dismantled.

Without doubt, this decision will be a reactionary one for women in the U.S., who have worked long and hard for affirmative action. For the details, we'll have to await the only reports we trust - those of the feminist press.



ERA DEFEAT

The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) was defeated in the Illinois House in June, six votes short of the majority needed.

The June 7 vote -- in the only unratified northern industrial state -- seriously jeopardizes the bill's chances for obtaining the three more "yes" votes required by the March 1979 deadline.

Unless extending legislation is passed by Congress, therefore, the 7-year drive to guarantee constitutional equality for women and men will fail in the U.S.

(Guardian)

D.C. NURSES ON STRIKE

Nurses in Washington D.C. are out on strike. Staff nurses at Washington Hospital Centre, the largest private hospital in D.C. (with 910 beds) voted to strike on May 27th.

The issue is union busting. In April 1978, the Hospital unilaterally withdrew recognition from the D.C. Nurses Association (DCNA) as the collective bargaining agent for the staff nurses. This despite the fact that the DCNA has won recognition from the National Labour Relations Board as the official bargaining agent. The nurses have been trying to get a first contract since June 1977.

Nurses on the line said: "We want a closed shop; we want grievance and arbitration procedures, and we want improved vacation and sick leave benefits. Above all, we demand recognition of our union's right to represent us.

"We are not striking our patients", they emphasized. "We are striking the hospital administration and its priorities. In a hospital strike, the administration invariably raises the spectre of callous nurses walking out and deserting helpless patients. The administration would like to create the impression that our strike will endanger many patients' lives. This is not true. In the event of a strike, we are required to give the Hospital ten days' notice -- the hospital has ample time to cancel elective admission and reduce the patient census. The Washington Metropolitan Area has many empty hospital beds and patients can be transferred to other hospitals if their conditions require it."

"If the Hospital was truly concerned about good patient care it would not force us into the position of having to strike in order to win the demands we feel are vital to our livelihood and professional integrity," they concluded.

The Washington Hospital Centre Staff Nurses have been receiving strong support from other nurses and from the community in general.

You can send a solidarity message to:

WHC Staff Nurses Assoc. #715
6100 Westchester Park Drive
College Park MD 20740

Lyn Buckle

BRYANT & HITLER

Whom would you choose as the woman & man who had caused the most damage in the world?

U.S. high school students recently picked - *Anita Bryant and Adolph Hitler.*

They also matched *Anita Bryant* with *Richard Nixon* as the top two who "make you angriest."

(UP info)

DESSIE WOODS

NEW YORK (LNS) - The National Committee to Defend Dessie Woods (NCDDW) has issued a call for a July 4 march and rally in Plains, Georgia, the hometown of President Carter.

Woods, a 32 year old Black woman, was found guilty of voluntary manslaughter in connection with the death of a white man who attempted to rape Woods and another Black woman, Cheryl Todd, in June of 1975. Woods is currently serving a 12 year sentence at the Georgia Women's Institute of Corrections. Supporters have charged that Woods did not receive a fair trial and that she is being held in jail because she dared to resist a sexual assault by a white man.

In a recent interview conducted by the Washington, D.C. Rape Crisis Center, Woods elaborated on this:

"The whole trial was unjust. In the first place because it was proven from the beginning that the murder was self defense. And because I was a Black woman they brought me to prison. I had a chance not to come to prison because they...turned me loose on bond. I didn't have to come. But, I came to prove to the world that I was innocent.

"...The United States government says that a Black woman does not have the right to self defense. And this is not true. Every woman has the right to self defense."

Although the support committee's request for a parade permit was turned down by Plains government officials, organizing for the march continues and supporters have vowed to march anyway.

A BID FOR UNIONIZATION

as seen through the eyes of one of the workers

Awhile back I stood in the office of the man who fired me nearly 2 years ago. We were signing the first collective agreement of a telephone answering service. I was to start work the following Monday at which time I would also collect my large cash settlement.

I could say that it all started 2 years ago when I and representatives of Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union sat discussing the possibilities of getting a union at this answering service. But, actually, it started years before that. It started as a result of years of substandard working conditions, minimum wages, no benefits or job security, and disrespectful and unfair treatment.

This particular company is a telephone answering and paging service which employs 120-130 workers. Most of the workers are switchboard operators, whose duties are to answer lines and record messages for an average of 60 - 100 clients. They are semi-skilled workers whose work is important and whose responsibility is immense. The company also employes office and paging maintenance personnel.

To appreciate our struggles for union representation, I must describe our pre-union working conditions.

All of us worked without coffee breaks, some without any breaks for as long as 16 hours. Most of us started at minimum wage and received wage increases - 5¢ to 15¢/hr. - at the discretion of our General Manager. We were not covered by any health and safety provisions, not even Workers' Compensation. We were entitled to 1/2 sick day per month (received only after working there for more than 6 months).

The worst part about our jobs was a lack of job security and no recourse for unfair treatment. All of us were totally at the mercy of our supervisors and/or general manager. One supervisor had favourites and would give them the preferential shifts when they became vacant. Others were threatened with a cut in hours or dismissal if they did not "volunteer" to work holidays or certain times. Hence, the atmosphere became petty and a lot of gossiping and back-biting occurred in order to stay on the 'good' side of this supervisor. No one would stand up to her.

I saw women who should have been retired and wanted to be retired working because Canada Pension was not enough to live on, and there was no other post-retirement income. This company did not have a pension, even though some of the employees had been with the company for 25 years.

DISMISSED FOR NO REASON

I saw people being dismissed for no reason whatsoever. I saw and heard about people being transferred from one position or shift to another without their consent and without any reason.

Everyone was constantly in fear of losing their job. The longer the service and the older the person, the less secure they became. The longer one stayed, the more money they got, hence the greater the chance of them being replaced by someone who would be paid minimum wage.

Switchboard operators are constantly working under pressure. One must be physically and mentally quick in order to do the job effectively. Some older women were having trouble keeping up with the pace. They got pressure to leave.

One time the general manager informed supervisors they had to cut staff, leaving the existing operators to increase their work load. They were promised pay increases, but, as was expected, these increases did not materialize.

Individual incidents began adding up. Some individuals took their grievances to the Labour Standards Branch to no avail. We were afraid to even ask for what was guaranteed to us through the Labour Standards Act.

RWDSU GETS INVOLVED

The final straw was when our pay increases were delayed for yet another 2 weeks. I contacted the Vancouver Status of Women who told me to contact the B. C. Federation of Labour. I was contacted shortly thereafter by representatives of the Retail, Wholesale, Department Store Union (R.W.D.S.U.)

I, like every other working person, had misconceptions about unions, strikes, union dues, etc. I had no previous union experience or background. All I knew was that individually, we as workers, had no power. We were totally at management's mercy. I also realized that they totally depended upon us to make their money. Hence, if we were to withdraw our labour and could prevent others from doing our work we would have some power. This was my rudimentary understanding of what unions were all about.

Subsequent meetings between the union reps. of R.W.D.S.U. and other telephone workers laid to rest our misconceptions of unions and prepared us for what was to be an extra long struggle for union representation.

SIGNING UP BY NIGHT

Because other women had tried years before to form a union, failed and were fired, we knew that we had to go to people's homes at night and contact the employees as quickly as possible.

Hence, we signed up a majority of the employees for head office (between 40-50) in one weekend and applied for certification April 26/76 - the following Monday morning.

As soon as the company was notified that a majority of their employees wanted a union, one fellow worker and one supervisor went around asking who started it all. The supervisor asked 'her girls' whether they were approached, who approached them and if they had joined the union. Most were closed-lipped. We were all prepared for these types of questions.

One of the office workers was put back on the switchboard; I had my wages reduced. We filed unfair labour practice charges against the company.

The general manager, visibly upset by the charges, stormed into my room and denied all charges. We got into a private argument over these charges and I was subsequently fired for 'insubordination'.

From then onward for 2 years I viewed everything from the outside.

Some of us were already busy organizing the other branches of this company and after I was fired I became free to spend more time on it.

a personal account

In approximately 2 weeks we had the other branches (8) signed up. About the same time the general manager phoned the branches one night after midnight to determine if we were approaching the branches and whether the workers at the branches had joined.

Some women were subtly promised raises or threatened with dismissals. Only one women withdrew her membership for "personal reasons". The next pay day she received a raise.

Meanwhile, the company had been making submissions to the Labour Board expressing great concern for their employees because the union might not have properly represented themselves to the workers. The company also argued that the B.C. Labour Board did not have the jurisdiction to handle our certification and unfair labour practice charges. This jurisdiction dispute gave the company some time, a year in fact, to play around, improve conditions, harass employees and do whatever would be necessary to get the union out.

One person was laid off, another 2 or 3 people quit after months of harassment.

While this was going on the Labour Board officials from both the provincial and Federal Boards were not acting because neither board was too sure whose jurisdiction the company fell under. It took the Provincial Board 6 months to decide that they didn't have the jurisdiction, and the Federal Board wasn't too sure our union fell into their jurisdiction either.

SIGNING UP EVERYONE AGAIN

As a result of the B. C. Labour Board's decision, we had to sign up everyone again, in order to apply for a Federal certification. The Federal Board would not accept any application cards that were signed more than 3 months prior to the date of the Federal application. No exception would be made for our unusual circumstances.

After another 6 months went by, the Federal Board finally decided to give the workers a chance to express their true wishes (for the third time) by having a mailed secret ballot vote on union representation.

When we finally got notice of the vote we started handing out information about the union, etc. The company tried to retaliate by sending a letter to all employees suggesting that they didn't need a union. Typical arguments against unions were used, i.e. that the union might advocate things like seniority that might not be in the best interests of some of the employees and that since R.W.D.S.U. was an international union, "you never know where your money's going".

Regardless, 72% wanted the union.

Now came the task of negotiating a contract!

The talks went very slowly and were broken off many times during the 10 months of negotiations. As was to be expected rumours were spread among workers, by management, trying to side-track them from the issues. Meetings were constantly being held in order to set straight the misleading information.

The company then applied to the board for a mediator and when that failed a conciliator became involved. (There are many steps the parties must go through before either party can lock out or go on strike.

These steps are supposed to help maintain "labour peace" by using a third party to mediate and/or recommend a settlement. In fact, what this process really does is protect management by dissipating the workers' enthusiasm and by wearing them down.)

The conciliator made a recommendation that was toatally unsatisfactory. His recommendations failed to satisfy 2 out of our 3 goals, and the third goal, good protective conditions, had previously been agreed to between the company and us. What was recommended was across the board percentage increases of 8% and 6%, cost sharing Health and Welfare plans, no pension plan and no mention of a settlement for the unfair layoff and the unfair dismissal.

The negotiating committee immediately rejected it.

Nothing happened after that. The company was not particularly interested in meeting with us again. We realized that a strike vote was necessary in order to put pressure on the company and force a settlement more to our liking. We got a 71% strike vote.

Management immediately counteracted by threatening to close the company down permanently if we went out. Economically, they could do this for both the owners and the general manager had alternate income from other businesses they owned.

23 Months Later

After a few long sessions we finally got a tentative agreement, 23 months after it all started. The following are some of the provisions we obtained that might be of interest to *Kinesis* readers:

- **union shop with preferential hiring**
- **seniority from date of hiring (hence not affected by sickness, leaves of absence, layoffs, etc.)**
- **pension plan for all employees**
- **full benefits paid 100% by management for both full and short time (part time) employees. i.e. medical, eyeglass, hearing aid, prescription, weekly indemnity (extended sick leave), group life insurance, long term disability, 100% sick leave, 35 hr. work week and no loss in take home pay**
- greater increases to lower paid workers
- 20¢ shift differential, money in lieu of no rest breakes (if unable to take), or payment for 1/2 hr. lunch break or short shifts

- Management's inability to change working conditions, shifts, etc. without consent of the union grievance committee
- as well as the standard provisions for maternity leaves (benefits fully paid), family and special leaves, grievance procedures, etc.

The company also settled the outstanding unfair grievances in terms of reinstatement with monetary compensation.

With the contract signed and I and others back at work, I naively thought the battle was over. However, I quickly learnt that the fight is never over, it just goes on and on.

Two days back on the job, I personally, had filed 2 grievances and others were beginning to complain that the company was not following the contract.

PRIDE AND SELF RESPECT

Slowly, things are being straightened out to our liking. After so many years we are finally feeling more powerful. Now, for the first time, we have some grounds to stand on. Before, whenever there was something wrong, we had to try to appeal to the general manager's sense of fairness and goodwill. Now we say "you are breaking the agreement, this will go to arbitration if it isn't settled, and that will cost you money".

I, personally, have gained from this experience. My involvement with R.W.D.S.U. and this particular answering service has given me a considerable amount of knowledge on unions and negotiating activities. It has given me a "gut level" understanding of why unions exist and take the positions they do. This knowledge will always stay with me.

But the most important thing that I and the other workers have obtained from the union is pride and self respect at the work place. It feels so much better now not to be under the thumb of the general manager - not to have to take abuse and insults with a smile in order just to keep our jobs. ■ ■

SOLIDARITY DAY

FLECK UPDATE - WOMEN'S SOLIDARITY DAY

Fleck is a small plant in Centralia, Ontario. It manufactures automotive wiring. The workers there, mostly women, are unionized with the UAW (United Auto Workers) and are on strike for a first contract. The strike has been marred by police violence towards picketers. The two previous issues of Kinesis have discussed the issues of this strike, which has drawn wide support from the trade union and women's movements in Ontario.

May 19 was Women's Solidarity Day at Fleck. Here's a description of that day from The Socialist Voice:

Women's Solidarity Day at Fleck was organized and endorsed by United Auto Workers (UAW--the striking women's union), the Labour Council of Metropolitan Toronto, Organized Working Women (OWW), the Ontario New Democratic Party Women's Committee and the International Women's Day Coalition. That combination of trade-union and women's movement groups represents an important unity--growing partly out of the very real identification of all the groups with the Fleck fight and partly out of the new connections forged between the two social movements during the International Women's Day '78 organizing.

The May 19 Fleck picket was a cornucopia of those fighting for social change. Women's Press was there. So was the Law Union of Ontario, and graduate students' groups, and organizers from the Confederation of Canadian Unions. There were two NDP MPPs, and strong representation from the ONDP Women's Committee. Women Against Violence Against Women was there in force. There were women from CUPE 79, several UAW locals, the Ontario Public Service Employers Union women's caucus, and the Revolutionary Workers League.

And why such a complete representation of the women's movement? Because the working conditions at Fleck are so bad, so reminiscent of the exploitation of the '30s, that women understand that the Fleck fight is every woman's fight for basic rights. The Fleck plant is rat-infested. It is so cold in winter that the women have to wear coats, and in summer they faint from the heat. A woman who's worked there 10 years makes $3.24 an hour. They get $30 a week sick pay. The machines they work on are so old and dangerous that safety inspectors are constantly shutting them down.

Three days before the strike began, OPP officers arrived to tell the women to behave like nice girls on the picket line or they'd go to jail. And all of that--the sexism, the double oppression of the Fleck workers as women and as workers--is why the women's movement is working with the trade-union movement on this fight.

BACKING DOWN

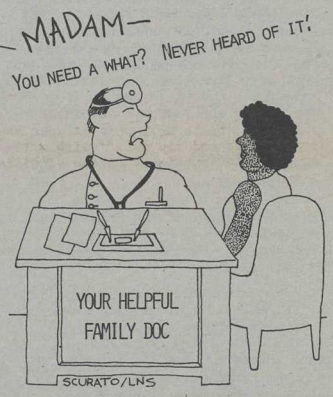
ABORTION REFERRALS

Winnipeg (CP) - Canadian doctors who refuse to perform abortions on moral grounds are no longer required to refer their patients to other doctors or agencies.

The decision, approved June 19 by the Canadian Medical Association's general council, rescinded an earlier amendment to the code of ethics which said physicians opposing abortion on moral or religious grounds, must advise patients of other sources of assistance.

The new amendment now says when a physician's "morality or religious conscience alone prevents him from recommending some form of therapy, he will so acquaint the patient."

Dr. A. Parsons of Halifax, chairman of the committee on ethics, said Monday the issue of abortion was the main reason for the change.
(Vancouver Sun, June 21 '78)



LESBIAN NEWSLETTER

(An UPSTREAM article)
As a step towards forming a national coalition of lesbians and lesbian organizations, delegates to a recent conference sponsored by Lesbians of Ottawa Now (LOON) decided to begin publication of a bi-monthly newsletter.

The 150 women who registered for the conference May 20-22 attended workshops ranging from "Our Mothers", to sexuality, to physically disabled lesbians. Most of the conference was low-key, however, with the only resolution coming from the workshops on political strategies.

At the closing plenary session, delegates approved the formation of a national colation to share experiences, problems and solutions. Initial contact will be established through a newsletter, to be produced every two months.

Doukhobors Awaiting Trial

Five Freedomite Doukhobor women were taken to Oakalla Women's Unit on May 19, awaiting trial. The five: Naida Stoochnoff, Olga Hoodicoff, Pauline Burkoff, Marilyn Stoochnoff and Mary Braun have written about the treatment they received while in Oakalla.

We are the five Doukhobor women that were held in Oakalla for 12 days. We wish to bring to your attention the conditions we were held under. They brought us there on the 19th of May, with a promise that we would be held together. They put us in the basement, which is the punishment area. They let us eat one meal together that evening. From then on, they kept us locked up in solitary, except for 1 hour on the first two days, when they took us out for some air. And that's how we were the whole time; and we were not allowed to write or receive letters or visitors or phone calls.

And so we refused to eat, not being allowed to eat and pray together. Also, one of our sisters, being close to 60 years old was sick all the time and was not allowed to phone her doctor.

We asked to see the director but she refused to see us. We asked and waited for two days patiently, so this was being put on punishment for no reason at all. So we were given no choice but to send a live telegram by setting our bedding on fire. Mrs. Director then came down and gave orders that everything be removed from the cells, leaving one blanket each. Which left us naked on bare steel springs in wet, dirty cells. Shortly after came a man with his army of matrons who examined us internally, using toothpaste as a lubricant...

So cold and hungry we remained that way for the remaining ten days, being let out only for a bath. In the cells the toilets were very old and unsanitary and the sinks were plugged up most of the time...

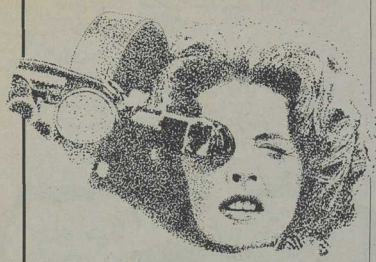
WE ASK YOUR HELP TO GET THESE HORRIBLE THINGS OUT IN THE OPEN BEFORE WE HAVE TO COME BACK TO THESE CONDITIONS AGAIN, AS WE ARE AWAITING HEARING.

Send letters of protest to the director of Oakalla Women's Unit, c/o drawer O, Burnaby B.C. Write also to A.G.Garde Gardom, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, B.C.

Vancouver Women's Video and Film Festival

As women we have become aware that our experience of the world has by and large not been represented in the video and film media. Until recently we have been virtually non-existent as producers of the visual images that surround us. As subjects of video and film women have been almost uniformly reduced to the stereotype of menial, dumb, but shapely handmaidens in the unfolding of the male universe.

The visual media industry, dominated by a small number of financial giants -- a handful of Hollywood studios and the big TV networks -- has long been the most pervasive purveyor of sexist ideology. The distortions of women's lives and potential arise from a consistently male-defined perspective which denies and undercuts the validity and authenticity of our experience. The norms and values propagated usually come in the innocent guise of fictional "entertainment", and escape critical scrutiny of their "unreal" nature easily, since "...it's only a story." Besides beging dehumanized and trivialized by the culture industry, we have almost always been excluded from any significant part of the process of production.



As feminists we have become acutely aware of the innumerable forms and instances of visual manipulation, abuse and assault. While recognizing this as an obvious and vital area of fighting back and asserting ourselves, we have often ended up overwhelmed by the sheer everyday flood of output battering our senses. Of course, it is necessary to expose, confront and protest the blatant forms of sesploitation in these media. However, oppression is just as much perpetuated by silent and invisible repression, by the absence of "womanvision" from our daily lives. While the image-industry drones on, we are constantly being robbed of any adequate representations of our lives, i.e. made by women starting from a feminist consciousness.

The major TV networks promise a switch from the cult of violence towards a soft porn, titillating season of "jiggling girls", and moving women right back into the familiar slot of teeth-flashing, hair-tossing sex-objects. Not surprisingly, feminist productions don't fit the bill of promoting the hard-sell of cosmetics, appliances and life-style fads the controlling advertising interests demand. So we get to see the occasional token "effort", drowned out by a sea of commercial inducements.

On the filmscene, the big studios are currently building up for a mad rush to the cash-tills with their newly discovered highly profitable side-line of the socalled "woman's film". At last, they believe to have found the right package to integrate, appropriate and refunctionalize the women's movement: our benevolent patrons assure us that it's time to sit back and celebrate the phoney "liberated woman" they have dreamt up. These films are invariably conceived and controlled by men, apply generous new layers of sugar-coating to well-worn cliches and stereotypes and rip us off with well-orchestrated publicity on the Virginia Slims theme.

The frustration of not being able to see any feminist productions in Vancouver lead to the organization of the upcoming women's video and film festival. The entries will be selected with a focus on works that are probing, challenging and contradicting commercial media stereotypes in documentary, fictional-imaginative or satirical form. Such women's works rarely receive wide circulation, and the festival will provide unique opportunities to open up dialogue among producers, and between audiences and media-workers. Because the media industry operates within the structures of capitalist relations of production, its imposed division of labour isolates both producers and their subjects from each other. This is an obstacle which women must confront together, before we can move towards a viable feminist media strategy. The festival is intended to provide a forum for feedback, exchange of experience and critical thinking, and we invite all women to attend. Seminars, panels and discussion groups will be an integral and vital aspect of the festival, and the active participation of media workers and feminists is needed, if we are to take a step towards controlling the process of production that both reflects and forms our images.

Where...when...how?...

-- The date is Sept. 22, 23 & 24.

-- The place: Mt. Pleasant Community Centre, Ontario at 15th, Vancouver.

-- Program: there will be 2 morning sessions and 2 afternoon sessions of festival programming during the daytime, 10 - 5:30 pm, and Sunday 10 - 3:30 pm.

-- 7:30 - 10 pm Friday evening will feature a film followed by discussion with the director.

-- Saturday night will feature a women's dance, 9 pm - 1:30 am.

-- For the duration of the festival, a display of women's artwork will be shown at the centre.

-- Refreshments and foods will be available at the centre during the day.

-- We need to know about attendance, and you are requested to PRE-REGISTER. Forms will be available thru' your local women's group or centre, or contact VWV&FF at: Women in Focus, 6 - 45 Kingsway, Vancouver, B.C. Canada, V5T 3H7, (604) 872-2250.

-- A sliding scale of admission applies and all details and particulars are available on pre-registration forms.

Basic 3 day ticket	$5.00 (with dance, $7.00)
1 day ticket	$2.00
Women's Dance	$3.00

--Because of limited budget and space it is ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL to pre-register for daycare (free of charge) -- see registration form.

--If you want to volunteer your time and energy in organizing this festival, contact the steering committee at WIF.

-- We hope to see you all in Sept. Watch for program details in the next issue of *Kinesis*.

Greetings from The Steering Committee

VSW agm

cont. from p. 1

Given the intensity of this struggle, Grills remarked, "Now, when women's rights of reproductive freedom are under fire, it is more important than ever that we publicly affirm our stand. We support a woman's right to choose. We deplore the widespread anti-choice interference in the hospitals throughout B.C."

The pro-choice group, the Concerned Citizens for Choice on Abortion, was given a unanimous support by the meeting. The meeting also endorsed a resolution which directed that the first act of the president for the coming year be to send a telegram to the Federal Justice Minister recommending that the Criminal Code "be amended to permit abortion by a qualified medical practitioner on the sole request of any woman who has been pregnant for twelve weeks or less."

This demand is from the 1971 Commission on the Status of Women and is in keeping with the founding principles of VSW.

muckamuck

The annual general meeting also expressed its support for the workers at Muckamuck restaurant. These workers, who are Native Indians and mainly women, are unionized with SORWUC (Service, Office and Retail Workers Union of Canada). They are striking for a first contract. Picketers were signed up and donations made to the Muckamuck strike fund.

The excellent new film on rape, "This Film is About Rape," by feminist filmmaker Bonnie Kreps, was shown at the end of the meeting. Megan Ellis, a Vancouver Rape Relief worker, led the discussion following the film.

ELECTED TO OFFICE of the Executive of Vancouver Status of Women, 1978-79 were: President: LEE GRILLS; Vice-President: JILLIAN RIDINGTON; Secretary: JOEY THOMPSON; Treasurer: NOREEN GARRITY.

Members-at-large elected were: Judith Burke, Sandra Currie, Darlyn Jewitt, Sandra Rose, Sylvia Spring and Susan Sanderson. VSW staff persons also serving on this year's executive: Susan Hoeppner, Sue Moore, Carol Pfeifer, Gayla Reid.

off our backs

an independent womens newsjournal

politics, health, work, prison

news coverage and political analysis on the issues that affect womens lives

contributing sub $12 or more
one year sub $6 sample copy 60¢
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FEMINIST KARATE

FKA

The Feminist Karate Association is back in action. A small (but enthusiastic) group of us have been getting together on Wednesday evenings for an *informal* workout together. Some of us are beginners; some are self-defense teachers; others of us also train elsewhere in Vancouver at traditional clubs (with male teachers) and use this group as an opportunity to supplement what is lacking in these clubs, as well as to meet women in other martial arts clubs around the city for exchange of energy. We're looking for new members (from beginner to black belt) and invite any women interested in practicing/learning/teaching self-defense, fighting techniques, sparring, wrestling, etc. to come and join us.

For more information, call:

Marsha or Anita - 263-7452
Portland - 253-7809

DEAR FRIENDS:

THE FULL CIRCLE COFFEEHOUSE AT 152 EAST 8TH AVE, VAN. 874 7719

WILL BE HOLDING REGULAR EVENING PERFORMANCES, ENTERTAINMENT AND WHAT-YOU-WILL ON EACH WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY OF JULY AND AUGUST.

WEDNESDAY IS FOR WOMEN AND MEN; FRIDAY FOR WOMEN ONLY.

DOORS OPEN AT 8.30 AND THE PERFORMANCE BEGINS AT 9.30.

First prize this month goes to the Ministry of Human Resources, which has closed the daycare centres it has operated in the Vancouver area.

Out-of-daycare are 120 children from 4 daycare centres and 2 out-of-school centres. Only one centre has been picked up by a private agency.

Runner-up is L.S.Eckhard, the judge who dreamed up wiping out Rosemary Brown's riding and Bill King's, too.

from p. 20 ABORTION

As a result of these factors, a huge percentage of all abortions performed in B.C. are done at Vancouver General Hospital (VGH). If abortions are eliminated at VGH, the impact on the availability of abortions in B.C. would be profound.

The strategy of Pro-Life is simply: sign-up thousands of members to VGH, nominate a slate of people to the Board of Directors who are anti-abortion, and eliminate abortions as a hospital procedure.

It is a numbers game. Our "right" to safe therapeutic abortions is not guaranteed by any law, and it is in danger of being eliminated at VGH by determined anti-abortion groups. Forty thousand applications for membership in VGH have gone out this year.■

free our sisters free ourselves

sw

NATIONAL PRISON JUSTICE DAY

August 10th
Oakalla Women's Unit

We need your support to maintain a vigil in front of the women's unit of Oakalla. For more information, call 736-1313.

LESBIANS -
SMALL NON-PRODUCTIVE GROUP!
NOT WORTH THE EFFORT!

I would like to know the writer's definition of the above (I am writing in reply to a letter to Kinesis - the editor advises me that the name was withheld due to format, not request and that you are indeed a woman although I was not given a name).

I am neither part of a group nor am I non-productive, but I hope I am considered worth someone's effort.

I am a woman the same as the majority of readers of Kinesis. I happen to love women and society classes me by my sexual preference. I also work full time, have two children, pay a mortgage, keep my house relatively clean and am working at least 10 hours a week on the abortion issue (yes, a lesbian who does not have sex with men is working on the abortion issue - it is a woman's issue lesbians are women - get it!)

I am so angry - the only difference between you and me is that I am not clearly covered by any Federal or Provincial Human Rights Code. I can lose my job if my employer happens to see this. I can be declared an 'unfit mother' and have my children taken away should someone who wants my children (father, relative, or 'friend') see this letter. Luckily, I am buying my own house so I cannot be evicted, but if I were renting that would be another reason not to sign my name.

First they came for the lesbians, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a lesbian.

Then they came for the pro-choicers, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a pro-choicer.

Then they came for ethnic women, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a ethnic woman.

Then they came for single mothers, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a single mother.

Then they came for working women, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a working woman.

Then they came for YOU . . . *and by that time there was no one left to speak up.*

(based on the quotation from Martin Neimoller)

I am fighting where I can for women. I cannot fight alone. Please help me!

-Name Withheld

Don't Forget To Join VGH...

YOU MUST JOIN VGH AND YOU MUST GET YOUR FRIENDS TO JOIN. IT IS OUR OBLIGATION TO OURSELVES AND TO OUR OUT-OF-TOWN SISTERS TO PRESERVE OUR RIGHT TO SAFE AND LEGAL THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS AT VGH.

Women Of The Peace

Women of the Peace, in Dawson Creek, have been granted funds for the operation of a Women's Centre. They hope to reach women on all levels by providing needed information and referral service.

Any information you can send along to them would be welcome.

Their address: Peace Women's Centre, 1000 Alaska Avenue, Dawson Creek, B.C.

March 8

WANTED: SUPER 8 AND COLOURED SLIDES OF MARCH 8

Claudia is looking for these, because she's putting together a video-package of March 8. You can contact her at 879-6606 or 688-8827.

Ferron

FERRON'S second album, *All Backed Up*, will be released July 1st, 1978. The record has been produced by Lucy Records, a women-run company located at 2862 West 22nd Ave., Vancouver, B.C. A single costs $6.50 plus postage, and quantities are limited. So get your order in now.

Fabrics Needed

We are two feminist artists who make banners and large fabric hangings (e.g. Bimini Strike quilt, hanging at SORWUC and on *Kinesis* cover, Jan. '78; Double Work Day banner, International Women's Day Parade and hanging at Full Circle Coffeehouse). We get no money for what we do and are on limited incomes. We are desperately in need of largish pieces of material and thread of all colors. Please leave donations at VSW or call Persimmon at 253-7809 or Elizabeth at 733-5249. Thank you. It will be put to good use.

Canada Employment & Immigration Commission

A WOMAN'S PLACE
an alternative in women's employment counselling

125 E.10th Ave. (Second floor) Vancouver, B.C. V5T 1Z3 666-8115

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driving a truck? repairing a car? making furniture?

Would you like to be .....

a truck driver? a mechanic? a carpenter?

Drop in and see if we can help you find a job or training in a traditional or non-traditional area

8:30 to 4:30 Mon. through Fri.
Tuesday evenings until 8:00

KINESIS
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Kinesis is published monthly by the Vancouver Status of Women. Its objectives are to enhance understanding about the changing position of women in society and to work actively towards achieving change.

Views expressed in Kinesis are those of the writer and DO NOT necessarily reflect VSW policy. All unsigned material is the responsibility of the Kinesis editorial and production crew.

SUBMISSIONS: VSW welcomes submissions from the feminist community and in particular, from VSW members. We do reserve the right to edit, and submission does not guarantee publication. Include a SASE if you want your work returned.

CORRESPONDENCE: Kinesis, Vancouver Status of Women, 2029 West 4th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V6J 1N3.

WORKERS ON THIS ISSUE: Lyn Buckle, Dorothy Restall, Val Embree, Patricia, Portland Frank, Janice Pentland Smith, Gayla Reid, Lorri Rudland.

Membership to Vancouver Status of Women is by donation and Kinesis is mailed monthly to all members.

Individual subscriptions to Kinesis are $8.00 per year and we would ask members to base their donations on this and their own financial position.

As we now have the status of a charitable organization and as we are unable to pay for Kinesis from these funds due to government regulations, we will be issuing tax deductible receipts for the balance of all membership donations over $8.00.

Please remember VSW operates on inadequate funding - we need member support!

WOMEN FOR UNIONISM • SOLIDARITY • UNIONISM FOR WOMEN

For information on union organizing or the women's programme of the B.C. Federation of Labour, please contact:

bc fed

Director of Women's Programmes
B.C. Federation of Labour
3110 Boundary Road
Burnaby, B.C. V5M 4A2
430-1421