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KINESIS

News About Women Not In The Dailies

HAPPY IWD '94

women world-wide working together

INSIDE

KINESIS

#301-1720 Grant Street
Vancouver, BC V5L 2Y6
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Kinesis welcomes volunteers to work on all aspects of the paper. Our next Writers' Meeting is **Mar 1** for the April issue and **April 5** for the May issue, at 7 pm at *Kinesis*. All women welcome even if you don't have experience.

Kinesis is published ten times a year by the Vancouver Status of Women. Its objectives are to be a non-sectarian feminist voice for women and to work actively for social change, specifically combatting sexism, racism,classism, homophobia, ableism, and imperialism. 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 Board.

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SUBMISSIONS

Women and girls are welcome to make submissions. We reserve the right to edit and submission does not guarantee publication. If possible, submissions should be typed, double spaced and must be signed and include an address, telephone number and SASE. *Kinesis* does not accept poetry or fiction. Editorial guidelines are available upon request.

DEADLINES

All submissions must be received in the month preceding publication. Note: Jul/Aug and Dec/Jan are double issues.
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CELEBRATING 20 YEARS
1974-1994

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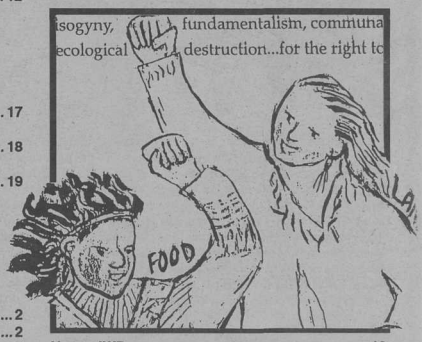

Happy IWD 12

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It's late February as we write this... 'tis the day of the almighty **federal budget... What we heard so far:** UI benefit rates go down from 57 to 55 percent, but goes up to 60 percent for people of "modest income" and people supporting a dependant...Meanwhile transfer payments to provinces to support social security expenses will go up "modest"ly... And, to encourage people to make charitable donations, the threshold for tax benefits goes down to $200 from $250. Which leads us to funding for "special interest groups:" the feds plan to "review" funding (by the way, women are in the "special interest" category) and to encourage "reliance on other sources of funding." They'll send us letters of their intentions so we won't be surprised by the 1995 budget which will tell more. Also, foreign aid has been cut by 2 percent. Overall, apparently "for every dollar raised in revenues, $5 has been cut from spending." We'll have more in the next issue.

By the way, rumour has it that funding for BC women's centres recieving monies from BC's Ministry of Women's Equality is secure for another year.

Also in BC, there were protests by women's, anti-poverty, and other socio-political organizations on February 23, the day everyone had to line up to collect their welfare cheques so the government could put face-to-cheque and cut down on "welfare fraud." This came to us compliments the NDP government. More next issue.

It's winter, the weather is bad everwhere but in southern BC (don't hate us for it. It's wet and damp when the sun's not shining!) so lots of women from all over the country are in Vancouver right now. **Ex-NAC-prez Judy Rebick's** one (she's moved from Toronto to Regina, Saskatchewan to teach in the PoliSci department at the University of Regina); **Sunera Thobani,** current NAC prez is also in town; she gave a presentation on South Africa (she was there on a pre-pre-election trip last November); and so is **Himani Bannerjee,** most recently editor of *Returning the Gaze; Essays on Racism, Feminism and Politics.* Hope it doesn't snow.

Meanwhile, the first multi-racial elections are coming up in **South Africa...**chances are *Kinesis'* Fatima Jaffer may be on a special NAC team that's going to South africa for the elections. We're holding our breath.

We're also celebrating our 20th anniversary this year...we were thinking how heartening it is *Kinesis* has managed to survive 20 years when we heard that ***Healthsharing,* the 15-year-old Canadian Women's Health Quarterly, has had to cease publication** due mainly to lack of finances..."as you likely know," they wrote, "it is an uphill battle to finance, produce and distribute an alternative publication in Canada..." We'll have more on *Healthsharing* next month...as well, we're going to take an analytic look at what's happening to alternative women's publications/groups in Canada and globally...*Pandora,* the Halifax-based feminist newspaper, hasn't been able to publish in months (but are still very much alive); ***Aquelarre,*** the Latina women's publication out of Vancouver, hasn't published due to no money for almost eight months (we just heard they may able to publish their next issue before the end of this year after all); **DisAbled Women's Network of Canada (DAWN)** was forced to close its doors last year as was Press Gang Printers, the only feminist-owned press in North America. In England, we saw the demise of the publication ***Spare Rib,*** and later, **Sisterwrite the bookstore** (and its cafe, SisterBite).

It's not all bad news...March is here and lots of celebration is on...the new South Asian Women's Centre opens up this month *[see page 3]*, the Philippine Women's Centre gets bigger *[see page 5]*...and there are lots of things happening for **International Women's Day** ***[see IWD Calander]*...**

Here's a quick rundown of last-minute notices still coming through our trusty (we're lying) ole fax machine as *Kinesis* goes to press: there's stuff, then there's the IWD stuff...

...a **gathering for women of colour and First Nations filmmakers** sponsored by NIF (New Initiatives in Film, a Studio D/NFB program, has just been announced for March 23rd. More info can be got by calling 255-9567.... **Writing Thru Race, a conference for First Nations writers and writers of colour,** is planning a preconference event in Vancouver to discuss cultural politics, coalition biulding and our relationship to mainstream institutions on March 28, at the Aboriginal Friendship Centre. Call 874-1611 for more... plus the BC Human Rights Coalition has a conference on **Multiculturalism and Human Rights: Towards an Integrated Policy** March 18-19 at the Robson Square Media Centre. It costs $20 and for info, the number is 689-8474...

IWD stuff to note: **Centre des Femmes de Montreal** in Montreal (of course) has a day-long event on March 8 with everything from videos to workshops on frontline services by and for women, to music to presentations on services to immigrant women, to workshops on looking for jobs. Call 842-6652.

Golden, BC's Women's Resource Centre is showing the NFB film/video *A Web Not a Ladder* on March 8th and holding an International Women's Film Festival on the 16th. For info, call 344-5317.

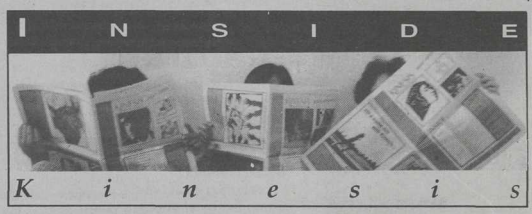
The **Port Coquitlam Area Women's Centre Society** is having an Open House IWD celebration on March 8th, and is hosting an evening with writer Marion Crook on March 10 at the Lighthouse Restaurant in PoCo. Tickets are $10. For info about both events, call 941-6311.

Terrace Women's Resource Centre says IWD in Terrace will be celebrated with a paper quilt made by the public, an exhibition of Womyn's Art at the Terrace Art gallery, and a Potluck dinner with entertainment by and for women. For info, call the centre at 638-1551.

That's it for us this month. Have a Happy IWD!

CORRECTION

In our last issue, we erred when we wrote that the Women's Counselling Services closed its doors--we meant to say the Women's Employment Counselling Services closed down. We apologise for any inconvenience caused

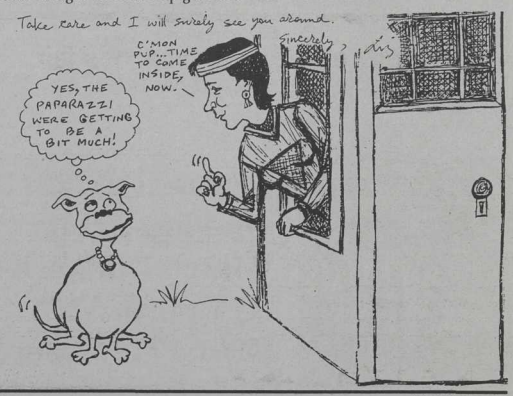


After six years, Abby and Germaine are leaving us. Since the first strip appeared in the March, 1988 issue of *Kinesis*, Vancouver cartoonist (among other things) Liz Clark has entertained us with her characters Abby (short for Labyris), Germaine, and their dog Puppy. Through provincial budgets, funding cuts to women's centres, elections, and the everyday difficulties of being feminists in these days, Liz has kept us laughing and a little stronger. The first strip gave us a Puppy's-eye-view of life. Here's a panel from that one, as well as the cartoon on Liz's good-bye letter to us. We'll miss you, Liz, Abby, Germaine and Puppy (even after you called us paparazzi!)

Another good-bye is in order. Distribution co-ordinator Yee Jim is also leaving. While she was here, Yee was enthusiastic and tireless in searching for new distribution outlets for *Kinesis*. We will miss her.

We have some new faces too. Production volunteer Siobhan Herron has expanded her repertoire to include writing. Emma Tracy Taylor is also a new writer. Look for their reviews in the arts section. Jeanette Armstrong and Joan Phillip, who may be known to readers through their work with the En'owkin Centre, a First Nations writing school in Penticton, are also first-time *Kinesis* contributors. New production volunteers this issue are Tanya de Haan, Lana Winston, Erin Sernasie, and Rosalinde Libbey. A big welcome to them all.

Finally, we have to thank sometimes *Kinesis* writer, and long-time friend and supporter Laiwan for creating the beautiful International Women's Day poster you'll find in the centre of this issue. Happy IWD to all our readers from us at *Kinesis*.



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Our thanks to Vancouver Status of Women members who support us year 'round with memberships and donations. Our appreciation to the following supporters who became members, renewed their memberships or donated to VSW in February:

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A heartfelt thank you to Colin Bryant and the BMOC for the donation of a new computer screen - our eyes are especially appreciative!

We would also like to say a special thank you to those who planned to attend our annual fundraising reception in February, Recommending Women V, and whose contributions are vital to the expansion of VSW's services and programs:

Joan Anderson * Susan Anderson * Lois Arber * Susan Boyd * Yvonne Brown * Carole Cameron * Lorraine Cameron * Danita Carriere * Elizabeth Chaplin * Lana Cherris * Gallia Chud * Rita Chudnovsky * Dorothy Chunn * Cathie Cookson * Ardyth Cooper * Libby Davies * Marie Della Mattia * Johanna Den Hertog * Reva Dexter * Ann Doyle * Dyan Dunsmoor-Farley * Jean Elder * Noga Gayle * Dianne Goldberg * Patricia Graham * Barbara Grantham * Miriam Gropper * Cathryn Haig * Kathy Heinrich * Eileen Hendry * Ruth Herman * Dorothy Holme * Norna Horner * Margaret Jackson * Zarin Jaffer * Thelma Johnstone * Victoria Johnstone * Sharon Kahn * Leslie Kemp * Bernice Kirk * Cat L'Hirondelle * Louise Leclair * Susan Lewis * Bonnie Long * Catherine Martell * Darlene Marzari * Kat McGrath * Marilyn Mohan * Kathleen Murphy * Miriam Olney * Judith Osborne * Marion Poggemiller * Penny Priddy * Gomi Puri * Valerie Raoul * Catherine Robertson * Joan Robillard * Bonnie Roth * Mary Rowles * Angela Schira * Esther Shannon * Eva Sharell * Sophia Sorenson * Marylee Stephenson * Penny Thompson * Vasso Vahlas * Joan Wallace * Diane Wood * Claire Young

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to the sponsors and contributors who helped to make Recommending Women V such a terrific success:

Our sponsor for the past five years: VanCity * Contributors: Marine Printers * Full Bloom Flowers * Claire Kujundzic * Vancouver Trade & Convention Centre * and all the volunteers and members of the Women Recommending Women Committee: Elizabeth Aird * Margaret Birrell * Gene Errington * Miriam Gropper * Veronica Strong-Boag * Joan Wallace * Elizabeth Whynot * Katherine Young and the Finance & Fundraising Committee at VSW: Wendy Baker * Rebecca Holmes * Cat L'Hirondelle * Alex Maas * Karen Mahoney * Andrea Saunderson!

Murders of First Nations women:

Gathering to mourn

by Larissa Lai

On Monday, February 14, over 150 women and a number of men gathered at the Carnegie Centre in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside to march in mourning for the women who have been murdered in the neighbourhood. Most of those present live or spend time in the area, and some of them were women whose family members have been murdered there. A number of First Nations students from Langara College were also in attendance.

"You must acknowledge the past so that the spirits can carry on."

-Vivien Sandy

The march followed a route through Main Street, Alexander, Gore, Princess, Powell, an alley between Hastings and Powell behind the Astoria Hotel, and Hastings. It ended at Oppenheimer Park. Along the route, the death sites of four women were visited and blessed with a prayer and a smudge ceremony in which sage was burnt in a traditional act of healing. Elder Mary Uslick from the Shuswap Nation opened the march with a prayer, and spoke again at the close.

"Fifty women have been killed in the Downtown Eastside in the last ten years," says Vivian Sandy, one of the organizers. "The majority of those murders have not been solved. Most of the women killed were Native. The police tick these deaths off as not important."

For the third year in a row, women of the Downtown Eastside organized this march to commemorate the deaths of loved ones—sisters, aunts, daughters, and friends. The march was supported by DERA, The Downtown Eastside Women's Centre and the Carnegie Centre.

"The primary reason for this march," says Sandy, "is to help the families and friends of the women killed, to mourn and to acknowledge. You must acknowledge the past so that the spirits [of the dead women] can carry on. When we do these things, it isn't so hard on the people." She adds that acknowledgement is an important part of the healing process for those who remain living.

It is also important for the mainstream to understand that these women are not disposable. "I had wanted to march in the West Side," says Sandy, " to get information to the women who get into politics. But the women of the Downtown Eastside wanted to mourn in their own neighbourhood. " A concurrent rally was held in front of the Vancouver Art Gallery on Robson Street.

The sky was gray, as though it too were in mourning, as we marched to the first death site, a dead-end street with a chainlink fence closing it off and large orange ice crates piled up to one side. A woman had been killed there the night before the march. Police had not yet even released her name. Several women knelt over the site to say a prayer and burn sage as the rest of us stood at a respectful distance, watching. Rainwater trickled through the gravel on the spot where she had lain.

The next three death sites we visited were a black steel garbage dumpster to the side of an alley, a dark doorway between a Filipino restaurant and a coin-operated laundry, and the alley outside the back door of the Astoria Hotel on Hastings Street.

The mood of the marchers, enhanced by the light rain, was sombre and contemplative. "We were not agressive or belligerent, we were in mourning," says Sandy.

"It is important to focus on the First Nations women killed as women of the First Nations, not as sex trade workers, alchoholics or addicts, " Sandy says. "There are a lot of Native women down on skid row because they are non-status and can't go back to the reserves. They turn to alchohol and drugs as a way to forget the abuse they endured in the boarding schools."

At the end of the march, we gathered under the covered area attached to a small building on the Powell Street side of Oppenheimer Park. The men served the women a lunch of hot soup, bannock and coffee. Once everyone had something hot in their hands, the men were acknowledged for their support, both with the lunch and the rest of the march. "That's how to go back to the old tradition," Sandy tells me. "When students and young people see we're practising, they continue to want to learn."

Larissa Lai is a Chinese Canadian cultural worker and writer living in Vancouver.

photo by Fatima Jaffer

Taking back the Downtown Eastside

South Asian Women's Centre:

New centre opens

by Fatima Jaffer

After years of lobbying, countless womanhours, and some serious fundraising, South Asian women in British Columbia finally have a space to call their own.

The South Asian Women's Centre, which opens its doors in Vancouver on March 12, is the first centre west of Ontario to target its resources and services specifically to South Asian women. Until now, there were two centres for South Asian women operating in Canada--one in Toronto, the other in Montreal.

"The South Asian community in Vancouver is one of the oldest in Canada. This centre is a long-overdue opportunity for us," says Manisha Singh, a founding member of the centre and of the South Asian Women's Action Network (SAWAN).

SAWAN, a coalition of South Asian women, has spent the last two years raising funds and lobbying for the centre. It was founded in 1991 by a few women working for social change in women's and other progressive organizations. SAWAN is particularly known in Vancouver for its challenge of sex selection services being targetted at the South Asian community in Vancouver by a US doctor, and for its questioning of the conduct of the Royal Commission on New Reproductive Technologies, which recently released its report.

Singh says SAWAN identified "a gap in existing services provided by governmental and non-governmental organizations in BC. There has always been a real need for a space for South Asian women to come together, meet, support each other, share resources and devise strategies on how we can affect real change."

Consequently, says Singh, members of SAWAN took on as their primary goal the securing of funding for a centre. In order to qualify for provincial funding in BC, women's centres have to meet certain criteria, including membership in the BC and Yukon Association of Women's Centres (BC&Y). Last year, SAWAN was one of seven new members of the BC&Y to receive $37,500 in core funding from the Ministry of Women's Equality, subject to annual review. SAWAN also received $18,000 in start-up monies to purchase furniture and equipment for the centre, and to facilitate its opening.

The centre will provide a space where South Asian women can phone or drop in for support, counselling, or information on a number of areas ranging from male violence, employment, health, community services, and advocacy.

"It will be more than a resource and referral centre," says Tina Bains, hired last month as the Centre's Coordinator. "It's a space for and by South Asian women, dealing with needs identified by South Asian women that are not being met elsewhere. And who best knows our issues but ourselves."

Bains adds that, "in some ways, it's basically going to be a haven for women to just walk in and feel free, and find some respite from their troubled lives."

For now, Bains is the only paid staff member at the centre and services will largely be provided by volunteers. A Centre Committee, made up of SAWAN members, will oversee the operation of the centre for the first two years and a volunteer Board of Directors, made up of South Asian women active in the three other South Asian women's groups in Vancou-

see SOUTH ASIAN on page 10

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Women take on BC police force:

Oppal Report delayed

by Shannon e. Ash

The release of a report examining policing in British Columbia has been delayed until May 31. The report of the Oppal Commission, which was established in 1992, was originally to be released on December 31, 1993. Cathy Stooshnov of the Commission says the delay is due to the large number of submissions received—a total of 900—which had to be processed along with the Commission's own research. The Commission held 56 days of hearings from December 1992 to June 1993.

Numerous women's groups made submissions to the Commission *[see* Kinesis, *June 1993]*. Bonnie Agnew of Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter (Rape Relief) says she is "surprised and disappointed" at the report's delay.

Agnew points out that there is a lot of restructuring going on right now in the Attorney-General's office and police departments, so the report's recommendations could be useful now, and may not have as much impact when released later.

Public debate about community policing is needed as soon as possible and she hopes money will be allocated for this. Agnew says the issues Rape Relief raised in its presentation to the Commission, including problems sexual assault support workers have had in working with the police, have for the most part continued. There has been a small improvement in that more police officers have been allocated to the sexual assault unit—by reassignment rather than by hiring more officers, which Rape Relief opposed in its brief.

Karen Spears of Vancouver's Downtown Eastside Women's Centre (DEWC) says it's hard to know what the effects of the delay are without knowing the contents of the report. Two of the issues the DEWC had brought to the Commission concerned treatment of women who are sexually assaulted and the issue of stolen or lost welfare cheques.

Spears says that in regard to the first issue, one change has occurred—the police have dropped the general release form, which a woman reporting sexual assault had to sign if she wanted charges pursued. The form, which was criticized by many women's groups, allowed police access to any information about the woman from any person or source, with no avenue of redress on her part. A medical release form is still used. However, Spears says it is still difficult for women to report sexual assault, due to an attitude problem on the part of the police. She believes it is unlikely the Oppal Commission could make recommendations that would have a major impact on police attitudes.

DEWC's other major concern is lost or stolen welfare cheques. If a woman reports a cheque lost or stolen, she is likely to have to deal with contempt from the police, who assume it is a scam. The situation has worsened as procedural difficulties have been added. The Ministry of Social Services (MSS), in its changes to income assistance policy *[see* Kinesis, *Feb/94]*, no longer pays replacement funds to the recipient, but pays the landlord directly and issues a food voucher. Police no longer give a report number to a woman reporting a lost or stolen cheque, unlike any other report of lost or stolen money. There is only one police officer handling these cases, with whom welfare recipients must make an appointment. Spears says there is usually a delay of three to four weeks, by which time the next cheque is out, so some women may not go to the appointment; the police then claim it was a scam all along.

Police have fostered the idea of welfare fraud as a major problem, says Spears, and the MSS is under pressure to alleviate media attention. What has not been reported, says Spears, is that recipients are already required to repay the replacement money over a period of time.

As well, if a woman is assaulted when her cheque is stolen, it is not classified as an assault case, but as a lost/stolen-cheque case. This can lead to difficulties, for example when applying for Victim Compensation.

Kinesis *will report on other recommendations made by women's organizations to the Commission and on the findings of the Commission following the release of the report.*

Shannon e. Ash has been following the Oppal Commission for *Kinesis* since last spring.

Women and prisons:

Balaclava to stay open

by Agnes Huang

The only half-way house for federally-sentenced women west of Ontario will not be shut down.

On January 27, the Board of the Elizabeth Fry Society of Greater Vancouver (EFry) decided to keep the Balaclava Residence open, even though it is projecting a substantial budget deficit for the 1994-1995 fiscal year.

EFry, which has operated the Balaclava Residence since 1976, had announced in December that continued federal funding cuts to the half-way house were forcing them to close Balaclava *[see* Kinesis *Feb./94]*.

The federal government has continually chipped away EFry's funding for providing services to federally sentenced women on day and full parole. This, despite the fact that in 1990, following recommendations by the Task Force on Federally Sentenced Women, the federal government announced it would close down P4W (Prison for Women), the federal prison for women in Kingston, set up five regional correctional centres and increase the number of half-way houses for women. The government promised to spend over $50 million for the projects over the next four years. However, EFry has seen its funding for the operation of Balaclava Residence *drop* by 42 percent over the past two years.

Following EFry's announcement it would close Balaclava, the BC provincial government chipped in some more money, cutting the deficit projection, but not eliminating it. The federal government offered nothing, and continued with its funding cuts. EFry has projected they will enter the coming fiscal year with a deficit of $89,000.

"Nonetheless, the Board, staff and volunteers of [EFry] feel strongly about continuing our historical commitment to support the needs of women in conflict with the law," says Rosemary Cryer, president of the Board of EFry. "We believe it is essential to continue to provide women with this choice."

Women working at Balaclava say that staying at Balaclava is the only way for some women to get parole. "There are certain women who wouldn't be getting day parole except at the Open Living Unit at the Burnaby Correctional Centre for Women (BCCW) if Balaclava were closed," says a full-time staff member at the house.

Funding cuts to women's organizations most often result in women workers at the organization and volunteers having to put in extra hours to raise the required funds, and may also lead to a cutback in programs offered to women, says Chris Rahim of the Vancouver Status of Women and a member of Joint Effort, an all- woman prisoner support group for women at BCCW. "It's not only fundraising; it's also the programs. If EFry has to cut its programs because of funding cuts, its the women's service organizations that have to pick up the slack," says Rahim. "We just can't sit back and not do anything. Women still need the services whether the funding is there or not."

Maureen Gabriel, director of community and correctional programs for EFry, says that the Society has made a commitment not to cut any of its programs or lay off any staff in order to deal with the deficit. Instead, the organization will increase its fundraising efforts over the next year, and has already set up a fundraising committee of Board and staff members.

Corrections Services Canada (CSC) justifies cutting funding to Balaclava Residence by saying that the house does not always operate at full capacity (4 federally-sentenced women at a time). CSC says it is looking to create more "choices" for women in conflict with the law that would allow women to serve their parole periods in regions where they have family and friends.

A Balaclava staff member says that creating regional options is a positive step, but not at the expense of denying some women the only option they may have. "[Regional centres would be] great, but there are no half-way houses [for federally-sentenced women] in other regions," says the staff member. "The federal government shouldn't close the half-way house down until there are other options created."

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Philippine Women Centre:

New site for centre

by Larissa Lai

The Philippine Women Centre in Vancouver (PWC) has a new home. They have moved to the basement of a house at 1011 East 59th Avenue.

The move was facilitated by the granting of core funding from the BC Ministry of Women's Equality. The standard core funding provided by the ministry to some women's organizations who are members of the B.C. and Yukon Association of Women's Centres is $37,500 per year.

photo courtesy Philippine Women Centre

"My God! What did I get myself into?!"

While the PWC only had a living room before, the new premises includes office space and a library.

The PWC has been in operation as a collective for five years, doing advocacy work around the concerns of Filipina domestic workers in British Columbia. As well, they provide awareness workshops and organize social events for Filipina women.

The new funding has enabled the PWC to hire two part-time staff, Anilu Claur and Jane Ordinario. They act as program coordinators, taking care of the day-to-day operations of the centre. This is the first time the organization has had paid staff and an office.

A number of organizations working on the issues faced by domestic workers in Vancouver, who are are largely Filipina, are supportive of the PWC's role in the movement.

"I'm glad to see that the Philippine Women Centre is being recognized for what they're doing. It's important work," says Cenen Bagon of the Vancouver Committee for Domestic Workers and Caregivers' Rights.

"This is a positive step," says Crisanta Sapang of the West Coast Domestic Workers Centre. "All the help we can get is welcome in our fight for the rights of domestic workers."

At their annual general meeting on January 12, the PWC collective selected focus areas for 1994. These are: awareness and consciousness raising, economics, social advocacy, support and solidarity, and networking.

Claur says that the acquisition of core funding gives them the power to intensify and streamline existing programs, particularly their self-awareness workshops. These workshops, largely for Filipina domestic workers, concentrate on encouraging the development of an analysis around their identities in a Canadian context—as women, as Filipina, as women of colour, and as migrant workers. The workshops provide historical awareness, particularly concerning the economically exploitative relationship between the Philippines and countries like Canada, and how this relates to the mass exodus of women from the Philippines to do jobs that most Canadian women do not want.

The PWC is starting a facilitators' training program scheduled to begin in April. The program will train women to give awareness workshops in their own communities.

They will continue with their regular social gatherings to give Filipina women a chance to meet each other. On February 12, there was a gathering to introduce women to the new centre.

Having regular staff in place makes it possible for the organization to get involved in important areas it did not have the resources for before. For instance, they will be sending delegates to an upcoming conference organized by the Ministry of Women's Equality under the ministry's *Stopping the Violence* initiative. The conference will focus on issues of violence against ethnic and visible minority women. The PWC is also involved with the feminist networking group organized by the Vancouver Status of Women. As well, they are working on a five-part series on Women and Poverty with End Legislated Poverty (ELP) for Vancouver's community radio station, Co-op Radio. It will deal with classism, organizing, consumerism, and global economic restructuring.

Two members of the Philippine Women Centre, Cecilia Diocson and Mable Elmore, are currently in the Philippines networking with local women's organizations in order to strengthen international linkages. In Manila, they will be visiting the Centre for Women's Research and Gabriela, the national umbrella organization for women's groups in the Philippines. They will be consulting with Samakana, an organization for the women's urban poor movement. In Cordilleria, a mountainous region in the north, they will visit the Cordilleria People's Alliance, which is an indigenous people's group. The two women will be back by the end of February, and hopefully will have slides to show at the PWC's event for International Women's Day on March 6. *[See IWD events, page 20, for more details.]*

Larissa Lai is a Chinese-Canadian activist, cultural worker and writer in Vancouver.

photo by Shannon e. Ash

CLAYOQUOT PROTEST

Raging Grannies sang in support of Clayoquot Sound protestors in Vancouver February 10th. About 150 people gathered outside the provincial courthouse at noon to rally in support of international arrestees who were on trial. They were arrested for blocking a logging road into the old growth forest of Clayoquot Sound, in protest of the BC government's decision to allow clearcut logging there. The Grannies, who specialize in setting new topical words to old tunes, have sung in support of many causes, including anti-NAFTA protests.

Transition house in Nanaimo:

Haven House

by Anita Fast

Transition house workers in Nanaimo who have been in negotiations for a first contract since last April will not have to strike after all. Wages have been increased at Haven House, a Vancouver Island transition house in Nanaimo, bringing an end to negotiations for wage parity *[see* Kinesis, *Dec/Jan 94.]*

After joining tthe Health Sciences Association (HSA) union in February last year, the transition house workers have been in negotiations for a first contract since April 16 last year. After the transition house's board failed to adjust wages to meet acceptable standards, women workers voted 93 percent in favor of strike action on September 9 if the government did not live up to their promises of wage parity and pay equity.

Fortunately, job action was not necessary. On December 24, a collective agreement was achieved. The agreement was ratified in early January when Board members and workers voted to accept the proposed agreement. Wages have been increased to $12.50—$15 per hour for transition house workers, and $11-$15 for child care workers. Wages were previously $6.30-$14 per hour.

The new wage scale will also apply retroactively to wages from April 1, 1993. However, while the new wage rate is currently being applied to paychecks, the retroactive wages, to be given in one lump sum, have not yet been paid.

Maryann Abbs-Fehler, the labour relations officer responsible for Haven House, notes that only part of the money for the wage increases came from the "wage parity fund," a fund set up specifically for cases like this by the provincial government. "There was not enough money in it (wage parity fund) to even the wages," said Abbs-Fehler. "Other funds were given from the Ministry of Social Services."

The collective agreement is up on March 31, but it is unlikely that similar problems will arise for a second contract. "The first collective agreement is always the most difficult," says Abbs-Fehler. "I don't foresee problems with continuing the agreement, but it depends on how much money is procured from the government."

Although Haven House workers fought for a rate of pay higher than that achieved in the first contract, "everyone seems satisfied," comments Abbs-Fehler. "No one ever gets everything they want. For example, there is still no pension plan, which would be something to go for in the future."

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MOVEMENT MATTERS

listings information

Movement Matters is designed to be a network of news, updates and information of special interest to the women's movement.
Submissions to Movement Matters should be no more than 500 words, typed, double spaced and may be edited for length. Deadline is the 18th of the month preceding publication.

by Anita Susanne Fast

Korean Sexual Violence Act

Twelve women's organizations which formed an alliance a year ago to establish a special committee for the enactment of the Special Sexual Violence Act have presented the draft before the National Assembly in South Korea.

The Korean Women's Associations United, a coalition of women's organizations, spearheaded the drafting of the Act. KWAU published a series of booklets, organized rallies, and collected and submitted campaign signatures for its enactment. The draft was prepared by lawyers, scholars, and other women activists, and demands a change in the definition of sexual violence, currently defined in Korean law as "violence against women's purity," to "violence against women's self-determination".

The Alliance for the Special Sexual Violence Act demands all physical and psychological sexual harassment be included in the definition of violence, not only rape and actual physical violence. Further, it should specify obscene sexist language, insinuations and exposure of genitals, and incest and child molestation.

Korean women are also demanding the recognition of date rape, marital rape, and stranger rape, with their distinct characteristics and appropriate punishment.

Legal Status of Lesbians

A booklet on the Legal Status of Lesbians, by the Victoria Status of Women Action Group, has been revised to reflect the new protections provided by recent court decisions and changes in legislation.

The booklet explains the rights of lesbians in employment, housing, taxation, separation, custody, and wills and estates. It also describes ways that lesbians can protect themselves and their relationships, and provides a list of other resources to contact.

The booklet costs $2 per copy. For an order form, please contact the Distribution Clerk, Publishing Division, Legal Services Society of BC, Box 3, Suite 300, 1140 West Pender Street, Vancouver, BC, V6E 4G1 or fax at (604) 660-9578.

International Women of Colour Exchange

International Women of Colour Exhange, organized by a group of women of colour living in Berlin, took place August 29 through September 13, 1992.

The first International Women's Exchange between Germany and the US for women of colour took place in Germany in 1990, when the focus was racism and anti-semitism. Previous Exchanges involved only white women. In 1990, it was decided that future gatherings would be only for women of colour.

In 1991, the Exchange took place in San Francisco. In 1992, the Exchange in Berlin included not only women of colour from Germany and the US, but from London and Amsterdam as well.

The Exchange was not a formal conference, but rather a community based meeting of International Women of Colour in a more personalized manner. Issues discussed included: internalized racism; racism/anti-semitism and neo-facism in the countries we live in; our own forms of resistence as women of colour; the politics of coalition building; the life and survival of non-European cultures in spite of 500 years of colonization and how we are able to live our different cultures in a white-dominated world; how we are creating a lesbian of colour culture.

For more information on this Exchange and the next one, please contact: Sonja Catalina Santiana Cruz, c/o Ruster, Schiller Street 13, 1000 Berlin 12, Germany.

Women and Science

A document giving information on educational programs across Canada and the US dealing with sciences and technologies was released on October 22 by Women's Equality minister Penny Priddy.

The survey aims to encourage girls and women to broaden their career horizons by furthering their studies in these fields.

Changing Times, Changing Views was prepared by the Ministries of Women's Equality, and Employment and Investment. The 52-page document describes community, public school and post-secondary science and technical programs and provides a contact person for each. There is also an annotated bibligraphy of resource materials dealing with women in sciences and technologies.

For further information, contact: Sharlene Smith, Director of Communications at (604) 953-4570.

Guide to Kenyan Women's Movement

Women and Development: A Kenya Guide, compiled by the Mazingira Institute, presents a brief overview of the women's movement in Kenya, lists libraries and documentation centres and provides useful profiles of women's organizations and agencies serving Kenyan women.

For copies or information, contact: Mazingira Institute, PO Box 14550, Nairobi, Kenya.

Women and Information

Women, Information, and the Future: Collecting and Sharing Resources World-Wide is the name of an international conference on women's libraries, archives, and information and documentation centres, to be held June 17-21, in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

For information and registration, contact: Women, Information and the Future, Schlesinger library, Radcliff College, 10 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA 02138 USA. Fax: 617 496-8340.Women, Power and Politics Conference

On October 8-11, an International Conference to Advance the Rights of Women and their Role in Politics will be held in Adelaide, South Australia, to mark the centenary of votes for women in South Australia.

This international Conference is intended to serve as a catalyst for advancing the role and the rights of women around the world. Organizers plan to bring together women from every continent who will—through action and debate—challenge injustice and inequity and advocate change for the better.

Seminars cover topics such as Women and Government; Women and the Economy; Women and Learning; and Women's Rights are Human Rights.

For more information, contact: Conference Secretariat, Festival City Conventions Pty Ltd., PO Box 986, Kent Town SA 5071, Australia or call 61-8-363-1307 or fax 61-8-363-1604.

Women's Health Issues

The Sixth International Congress on Women's Health Issues will be held in Gaborone, Botswana from June 28-July 1.

Abstracts are invited for possible presentation to the Congress on population issues, rural women, violence against women, reproductive rights, and various socio-cultural health issues.

Send abstracts to Sixth International Congress on Women's Health Issues, Sheila Dinotshe Tloe, Department of Nursing Education, PB 00452, Gaborone, Botswana.

Preparing for Beijing

Here's an update on what's happening worldwide as (some) women prepare for the Fourth World Conference on Women to be held in Beijing, China, September 4-15, 1995.

The NGO Forum, which is held concurrent to the Conference, takes place August 30-September 8, 1995, in Beijing, China and is open to all non-governmental organizations. The NGO Forum is the place where grassroots activists from around the world gather to share strategies, discuss ideas and politics, and network. The Conference itself is largely attended by governmental representatives.

More than 10,000 representatives of organizations from 170 countries are expected to participate in the conference. It is expected to be larger than the previous world conferences on women held in Mexico City (1975), Copenhagen (1980), and Nairobi (1985).

An outline of the vision and strategy for the Beijing Conference was given by Gertrude Mongella, the Secretary General of the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women at the Sixth International Forum of the Association of Women in Development in Washington, DC last October.

According to Mongella, the first task for conference delegates will be an evaluation of the achievements of women in the ten years following the 1985 World Conference to "Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women in Nairobi, Kenya."

Second on the agenda is the adoption of a Platform for Action. This document, according to Mongella, will provide concise, action-oriented guidelines for addressing the four or five most fundamental obstacles to the advancement of the majority of women.

Preparatory meetings will begin on a national level in 1994 as each region of the world convenes a regional meeting *[see list below.]*

Mongella also stressed the need for strong participation by non-governmental organizations, adding that the regional and global NGO Forums provide "another venue for the women of the world to network."

Events leading upto the Conference

On January 10-14, a Special Session on the Commission on the Status of Women was held in New York.

On March 3-4, the international NGO consultation for the 4th World Conference on Women, called "Changing Forms in a Changing World," takes place at the United Nations in New York City. This consultation is intended to update NGOs on plans for the 1995 World Conference on Women, including regional activities, and to allow NGOs to have opportunities to work together on strategies, programmes and action for 1995.

For information, please contact: NGO Planning Committee--Forum '95, 777 UN Plaza, 8th floor, New York, NY 1017, USA; or call 212-986-0987; or fax 212-986-0821.

1995 Preview

1995 Preview is an occasional bulletin of the International Women's Tribune Centre (IWTC) covering plans and preparations for the NGO Forum and the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995.

Those who already receive IWTC's *The Tribune* will also receive '95 Preview.

To obtain a copy, contact: International Women's Tribune Centre, 777 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017 USA.

Other useful addresses

Other useful addresses in preparing for the UN World Conference include:

The United Nations 4th World Conference of Women Secretariat Gertrude Mongella, Secretary General, DC2-2314, United Nations, New York, NY 10017, USA

NGO Forum Planning Committee, Division on the Advancement of Women (DAW), c/o CONGO, 777 UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017, USA

UN Regional Commissions

•For Africa: African Training & Research Centre for Women, Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), PO Box 3001, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Regional PrepCom will be held November in Dakar, Senegal.

•For Western Asia: Women & Development Programme, Economic & Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA), PO Box 950620, Amman, Jordan. The Regional PrepCom will be held November 6-10 in Amman, Jordan.

•For Asia and the Pacific: Women & Development Program, Economic & Social Commission for Asia & the Pacific (ESCAP), United Nations Building, Rajdamnern Ave, Bangkok 10200, Thailand. The Regional PrepCom will be held June 7-14 in Jarkarta, Indonesia.

•For Latin America and the Caribbean: Women & Development Program, Economic Commission for Latin America & the Caribbean (ECLAC), Edificia Naciones Unida, Casilla 179-D, Santiago, Chile. The Regional PrepCom will be held September 26-30 in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

•For Europe and North America: Focal Points for Women, Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), Palais des Nations, CH 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland. The Regional PrepCom will be held October 17-21 in Vienna, Austria.

•Non-governmental organization meetings are expected to be held concurrent with the regional meetings. For additional information, contact: NGO Forum 95, 777 United Nations Plaza, 8th Floor, New York, New York 10017, Pn; (212) 986-0987, Fax: (212) 986-0821.

HAPPY IWD SISTERS

FROM PSAC SURREY TAXATION LOCAL

WHAT'S NEWS

by Lissa Geller

MISAC

A sexual assault centre in Nanaimo, BC, has been denied continued funding following an investigation of the centre's operations by the Ministry of the Attorney General.

The Mid-Island Sexual Assault Centre (MISAC) was informed it would be denied renewal of its Victim Assistance Program (VAP) contract worth $66,600 by the Attorney General because the ministry's "emergency investigation" had raised concerns about the services the centre provides.

Centre Coordinator, Tina Hurd, says the government's decision threatens the existence of the centre. "The government's behaviour suggests a systematic dismantling of grassroots organizations in an attempt to take choice away from women," she wrote in a recent press release to *Kinesis*.

The investigation was launched in July 1992 after complaints were lodged against the centre with a local MLA by some of its employees and volunteers. MISAC board members say the investigation is seriously flawed because the Ministry refused to provide any information to the Centre on the complaints or on its investigation.

The Centre's Board of Directors then complained to the provincial Ombudsman about the lack of information from the Ministry, and the Ombudsman requested a formal independent inquiry into the actions of the government and the complaints against the centre. A staffperson at the Centre also lodged a private complaint against the Ministry with the Ombudsman and, since that time, the Ministry has refused to communicate with the Centre.

The Centre's board members says the government is refusing to cooperate with an independent investigation and that the review remains incomplete at this time.

In a letter to the Attorney General's Office, MISAC chair, Leonie Keltie, says the Ministry has also released information of serious allegations against the centre to the media before the centre has had a chance to respond to the investigation.

Keltie says the Ministry's lack of cooperation is part of its larger agenda. "We know what's happening. We are extremely disappointed in the government's lack of accountability in dealing with the Centre over the last two years. We are horrified and outraged that the Ministry of Attorney General who is responsible for justice is able to conduct its affairs in a manner so high-handed, unfair and secretive."

Hurd says MISAC believes this attack was predetermined several years ago. "The Centre has been in existence since 1976, and in 1987, the Centre was funded under a Sexual Assault Centre Contract. This was changed to a Victim's Assistance Contract in 1988. This changing of the contract has set the Centre up to be duplicated by other Victim's Assistance Programs in the community." Hurd says the contract may now be given to an organization which may not be progressive and feminist.

Nanaimo newspapers report that the Ministry has decided to give the contract to another unnamed organization in Nanaimo as of March this year.

Some clients at the centre have voiced their anger in local media at the government's random power to launch investigations and eliminate contracts without any accountability.

"Issues of accountability regarding the Centre's contract has been dependent on the government's idea of what service delivery is versus the needs of the survivors who use the service," says a member of the Centre and an abuse-survivor.

To date, the Ministry has refused to communicate with the Centre or cooperate with the independent investigation. The Centre is not sure whether it has the funds to operate without the Ministry contract.

For more information at this time, contact Tina Hurd at (604) 753-4723. *Kinesis* will carry more details in the next issue.

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A constitutional first for lesbians

South Africa is the first country to entrench lesbian and gay rights into its constitution, largely due to the efforts and input of the African National Congress (ANC).

The constitution follows the Bill of Rights drafted by the ANC when it was still an illegal organization and prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. The current constitution is an interim one which will be ratified following the National Assembly elections in March.

South Africa currently has anti-sodomy laws which the gay rights group Equality Foundation intends to challenge as unconstitutional as soon as the new constitution is ratified.

Congratulations on International Women's Day to Kinesis and the Vancouver Status of Women for their valuable work.

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Woman heads Broadcasting Corp.

Ivy Matsepe-Casaburri has become the first Black South African and the first woman to head the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC), the national television station in South Africa. The corporation has traditionally been the mouthpiece for apartheid and was controlled by white men, mostly Afrikaners, who were members of the right-wing Broederbond society.

Matsepe-Casaburri was most recently the director of the Education Development Trust and has been active in the ANC Women's League since returning from exile in Swaziland and Namibia in 1990. She has a doctorate degree from Rutgers University and was instrumental in starting the Black Women's Research Network.

As the chair of the first integrated Board of Directors for the SABC, Matsepe-Casaburri says she hopes to bring a new reality to the station. "Because the South African media has always been controlled by white men, it looks at things from a white male point of view. We must look at things from all sides and through the eyes of all people—women and men, young and old, black and white, rural and urban," she said.

Feminist Radio in Nicaragua

Nicaragua has its first and only feminist radio station, Radio Mujer. The station started in January as a women-centred, alternative station to provide women in Nicaragua with news and music that was specifically feminist.

Luz Monterrey, the station's director notes that, since many Nicaraguan women are illiterate, the radio is a primary source of information. As well, "newspapers and magazines don't reach all towns and listening to the radio is free," says Monterray, making radio the most accessible means of communication for women in the barrios, markets and jails of the country and breaking down the isolation often felt by rural and poor women.

The idea for Radio Mujer first came about when the Sandinistas came into power. But, says Monterrey, "like most male-dominated political parties, this group has not always considered women's issues as an important part of their agenda." She was told the radio station was "not necessary for the movement" and it was some time before she was able to get it off the ground.

The station is planning regular features on women's health, sex education and ecology. It also plans to make air time available to other women's organizations to broadcast programs throughout Nicaragua.

Anti-lesbian furor in England

Education officials in Hackney, England are attempting to discredit and harass a head teacher in the region for refusing to take students to a production of "Romeo and Juliet."

Jane Brown, headmistress at Kingsmead School, turned down tickets to the production partly because the play was "entirely a heterosexual love story," and because lack of money made proper supervision of the students impossible.

Local council officials have responded by whipping up anti-lesbian sentiment against her. A spokesperson for the National Union of Teachers said that "the council is continually issuing press statements which reinforce the media interest and... some of the prejudice which is now being exhibited against Jane is because of her sexual orientation."

Despite overwhelming support from the teachers and governors of the school and from the organization who first offered the play tickets to the school, Brown continues to be vilified by local education officials. The National Union of Teachers (NUT) believes this may be an attempt to discredit recent moves by the government to place more power in the hands of local schools and take power away from local authorities.

"Hackney may be using the incident to show what 'might happen' if the policy is implemented" said a NUT spokesperson. "If so, it demonstrates the hypocracy of an organization whose Equal Opportunities Policy states that it will 'create a working environment in which...lesbians...will not be subjected to harassment."

Japanese Women

The current economic recession in Japan has hit women jobseekers particularly hard, says an article in Women's News Watch from Manila.

While men in Japan have a 2.22 ratio of graduates to jobs, women have a 0.93 ratio. This means that there are fewer jobs than ever before for Japanese women leaving post-secondary education.

This ratio also points to a larger problem of discrimination in the hiring policies of Japanese companies. Despite a 1986 law forbidding sexual discrimination in employment, women continue to be employed only to make up for labour shortages or to "enhance a corporation's image." The fear that women will leave to get married or have children has meant that women continue to be at the bottom of the employment ladder. The treatment of women graduates during recession demonstrates "the true corporate attitudes towards women" says the article.

New network of Asian women

The Caucus of Asian Women's Network recently formed to ensure that all governmental, inter-governmental and United Nations entities recognize and respect the role to be played by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in shaping the agenda and plan of action for the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995.

The Caucus was formed after women gathered for the Asian and Pacific Symposium of NGOs on Women in Development last November by the following organizations: the Asian-South Pacific Bureau of Adult Education; Asian Women Human Rights Council; Isis International-Manila; Women's International League for Peace and Freedom—Philippines; Asian Indigenous Women's Network; Coalition Against Traffic in Women—Asia; and the Southeast Asia Women's Information Network.

The Caucus made some important gains at the Symposium regarding the organizations' ability to work together. A proposal to include the Caucus in the decision-making process of the symposium was reached as well as the decision to allow time for Caucus meetings to discuss issues of concern.

Up to June 1994, the Caucus will outline a number of events and proposed actions that will highlight their activities and agenda. An overall Plan of Action, which was developed at the Symposium, will serve as the guideline to action leading up to the 1995 World Conference on Women.

Amazing Grace

"I saw the union as the only practical instrument for helping women overcome this barrier of discrimination – in pay as well as status."

Grace Hartman, 1918-1993

Grace Hartman was CUPE's national president from 1975 to 1983 – the first woman to lead a major national union in Canada.

Her outrage over workplace discrimination against women first sparked her interest in unions. That was in 1954. Grace was a secretary on the way to being a union activist.

Her strong stand on behalf of women and union rights inspired her leadership of the Ontario hospital strike in 1981. Angered by low pay and the denial of bargaining rights to hospital workers, mostly women, she led them out on strike. Her subsequent court trial, conviction and jail term was a price she paid to pursue her struggle for justice and equality.

Grace Hartman's leadership extended beyond CUPE to other Canadian and international groups seeking justice and peace. A woman who never retired, she received many awards and distinctions, including three Doctorates of Law. In 1992 Grace Hartman was inducted into the Labor Hall of Fame.

The rose and barbed wire are symbols for the many struggles led by Grace Hartman in the long march toward women's equality.

More than 30,000 B.C. women are members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE). The legacy of Grace Hartman lives on as the un-organized continue to organize and the organized continue to press for pay and employment equity. For more information about how you and your co-workers can join CUPE call 291-1940.

CUPE B.C.

2

"We're the women of the union and we've just begun to fight,
We have learned of women's issues, we have learned of women's rights,
We're prepared to stand for freedom, we're prepared to stand our ground,
Women make the union strong..."

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We are fighting to keep working women's issues on top of the agenda.

After all these years, pay equity remains an unfulfilled right. We helped elect a provincial government that made a pledge to BC women that they would produce legislation to help us in our struggle for pay equity. We are still waiting, and there is no sign the justice for women is on their list of priorities.

VANCOUVER MUNICIPAL & REGIONAL EMPLOYEES UNION

STRENGTH in solidarity

CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY!

B.C. Government and Service Employees' Union

Struggle in Chiapas:

Meeting in solidarity

by Jeannette Armstrong and Joan Phillip

On January 20, the national organization of Indigenous Peoples of Mexico (FIPI) called for the presence of international indigenous observers at the talks they were convening January 21-24 to bring resolution to the conflict in Chiapas, Mexico. This follows the outbreak of revolution in Chiapas by indigenous and poor people on January 1st, the day the North American Free Trade Agreement came into effect.

Jeannette Armstrong and Joan Phillip, both of the Okanagan, were invited by the Indigenous Peoples Alliance (IPA) and CONIC, the Continental Coordinating Commission of Indigenous Peoples, North, South and Central America, to participate in a delegation of International Indigenous observers in Chiapas.

Upon their return from Chiapas, Armstrong and Phillip wrote a report, dated January 30, which they have submitted to Kinesis *for publication.*

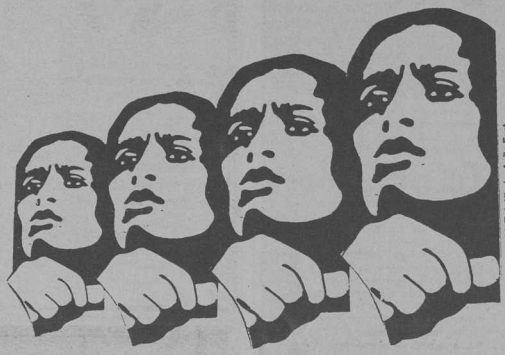
During our visit to Chiapas, we were appalled at the deplorable living conditions, the abject poverty, the absolute lack of political power that the people in Chiapas, a state of Mexico, have had to endure over the past 500 years of colonization.

The Mexican government gained access to previously communally held lands by amending...the Mexican Constitution.

Of the almost 90 percent of campesino and Indian people who live in Chiapas, 70 percent are Mayan. Eighty percent of all Mayan children suffer severe malnutrition.

The poverty level in Chiapas state is the highest in all of Mexico. Thirty percent of the population is totally illiterate, three times higher than in the rest of Mexico. Forty-two percent of the houses in Chiapas lack basic services of electricity and water. For comparison, in the largely Mayan communities in the conflict zone of Ocosingo, Altamirano, and Margaritas, absolute illiteracy levels soar to over 60 percent, while up to 80 percent of their houses lack basic services. What is clear is that the indigenous peoples of that region in Chiapas have no alternative—they are dying of starvation.

Reports of serious human rights violations are being investigated by CONPAZ, an organized body of international non-governmental organizations concerned with human rights. It is interesting to note we have seen little or no news of the fact that, on January 2, Absalon Castellanos, the former governor of Mexico, was kidnapped by 40 Zaptistas from his ranch. He was still being held along with his wife and brother when we left on January 27th.



graphic adapted from Oh-Toh-Kin by Anita Fast

We witnessed what was described as an historical event in the four-day congress of the 280 Indian and campesino (land workers) organizations of Chiapas, and 120 such organizations representing all other states in Mexico. The four-day meeting concluded by achieving a position of solidarity focused on land reform and an immediate reversal and amendment of an article (27) in the Mexican constitution, and social policy reforms which would meet short and long term needs to alleviate the critical conditions which gave rise to the armed uprising.

The formation of a Conserjo (council) of Indian and campesino leaders representing these organizations will negotiate with the government to bring about resolution. The President and his heads of state were meeting with the Conserjo on January 26th in Tuxtla Gutierrez.

The focus on land reform escalated when the land-holding system was changed in 1993 by the Mexican government. In Chiapas state, there are two types of land holding systems: the large fertile plantation/ranch lands taken by the Spanish descendant landlords, and the poorer lands communally held by the campesinos and Indians. The small, communally held lands the people manage to maintain and protect provide their income and sustenance, where beans and corn form the staple foods, and cash crops such as coffee are grown. It is these lands that have now become subject to taxation, private sale, and foreign ownership. The Mexican government gained access to previously communally held lands by amending Article 27 of the Mexican Constitution.

This is parallel to the Canadian government's attempt to pass similar legislation in Canada last fall, to open up communally held reserve lands to private ownership, sale to foreign investment, and taxation through the First Nations Chartered Land Act. The current Liberal government has announced it will pursue the legislation drafted by the Conservative government.

The end result, as we have seen in Chiapas, is the loss of indigenous lands to foreign interests, severe poverty conditions for indigenous peoples, and a convenient opening of Indigenous lands to dispossession and exploitation through the North American Free Trade Agreement, with poverty as the driving tool.

According to the Indian Rights Committee of Chicago, Aboriginal peoples in the United States and Canada live on traditional lands endowed with 40 percent of all known energy resources for each country. In Canada, we have been somewhat protected. However, the Gitksan-Wet'suwet'en and Clayoquot decisions are changing that. In Mexico, President Salinas recently abolished even the meagre Mexican laws protecting ancient land rights in Article 4 of the Mexican Constitution. All point toward a land and resource grab by large multinational corporations, through the North American Free Trade Agreement—a genocidal dispossession of the poor and the oppressed sanctioned in the interests of "free trade" and the privileged who benefit.

It was recently revealed that lands held communally by the Mayan people in Chiapas are very rich in oil reserves. Documents recently revealed also show that testing results carried out in secret by PEMEX, a Mexican petroleum company, have been passed on to US petroleum companies. In fact, the Ejercito Zapatista Army of National Liberation (EZLN) attacked a PEMEX base and removed dynamite used for the exploration project. It was reported in the respected Mexican weekly *Prosesco* that information regarding the petroleum field was extracted from a US Government Accounting Office report and from documents exchanged by Allan Mendelowitz and Sam Gejdenson, negotiators for the US in the North American Free Trade Agreement.

This is only a foreshadowing of the conflict and repercussions which will result from the loss of control over land and resources by the people.

An aspect of the NAFTA which the EZLN (Zapatistas) oppose is that decision-making would come through an "Independent NAFTA Tribunal" to protect multi-national corporate interests and access to the people's lands and natural resources without their input or consent. Even national laws which stand in the way of "free trade" can be overruled by the tribunal and have no force or effect.

The underlying issue in Chiapas is one which is much larger than a domestic insurrection in Mexico. This is only a foreshadowing of the conflict and repercussions which will result from the loss of control over land and resources by the people.

The major concern expressed by the Mayan peoples' organization COLPUMALI and the Consejo of Campesino Peoples and Indigenous Peoples of Mexico was that, once the international press and human rights delegations began to leave, the reprisals and human rights violations would increase, without resolving the underlying problems.

The linkages of support for human rights organizations from around the world in San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas are: The Centre for Human Rights Fray Bartolome de las Casas, part of the Catholic Diocese headed by Bishop Miguel Ruiz; and CONPAZ--a coalition of non-governmental organizations and human rights organizations. CONPAZ's telephone and fax number are 967-80697.

The Indigenous Peoples Alliance will continue to lend international presence in Chiapas as long as necessary to ensure the human rights of our affiliate organizations in Mexico. To contact the IPA, call the TONANTIERRA coordinating office at (602) 254-5230. Continuous letters, faxes and calls to the Mexican government expressing concern are vital.

Jeannette Armstrong is currently working on a book to be published by Theytus Books in Penticton. Joan Phillip is working with the Penticton band organizing a community consultation process to establish an aboriginal policing program.

Working with women to change the terms of trade and to strengthen their participation in democratic structures.

Greetings of solidarity to our sisters around the world on International Women's Day!

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NEWS

from SOUTH ASIAN page 3

ver and other progressive social organizations, will help shape the direction of the centre and assist in fundraising efforts. Centre hours of operation have yet to be decided on.

The centre is located at 8163 Main Street (at SE Marine Drive), an area where a large number of members of South Asian communities live. "In Vancouver, communities are very neighbourhood-based and we want to be as accessible as possible to the women who will be using our services," says SAWAN member Shimsher Pannun.

According to its mission statement, the centre is a secular organization that recognizes the historical, linguistic, geographic, and religious diversity within the South Asian community, as well as a lesbian positive, feminist, anti-racist, anti-imperialist and anti-caste/classist space.

Singh says that, in addition, the centre is "a place where we can build coalitions between women from different South Asian communities, women of colour communities and First Nations women in our common struggle against racism and sexism."

The centre welcomes all First Nations women and women of colour to use the space and to volunteer, and membership is open to all women.

Cynthia Low, a member of Asian Lesbians of Vancouver, says the centre's opening is "inspiring to other women of colour groups and communities" and notes that nothing equivalent to the Centre presently exists for Chinese women in Vancouver.

"It's important to have a place where women can go to get resources specific to their needs, speak to someone who knows their issues or speaks the same language, and who is also knowledgeable about existing services available in the province. This centre is a model for women of colour communities who also need spaces that specifically meet their needs."

Suniti Khosla, a long-time Vancouver community activist, says she joined SAWAN when she heard about the plans for the centre. Khosla says she hopes the centre provides a forum for some "active listening and dialogue on issues ranging from abuse to sexual orientation."

"We're also hoping this centre will bring together South Asian women of different communities and different generations. Younger women have a lot to gain from the knowledge of older women about our history as women of South Asian descent in Vancouver, and they also need a space where they can share their stories of survival and the struggle of trying to live in two worlds."

South Asian women and women of colour are invited to attend the opening of the SAWAN centre on March 12 from 1-5 pm. A benefit to celebrate the new centre with the larger feminist community will be held once the centre is up and running. For more information, call the centre at 321-8844.

Fatima Jaffer is a regular writer for Kinesis and a member of SAWAN.

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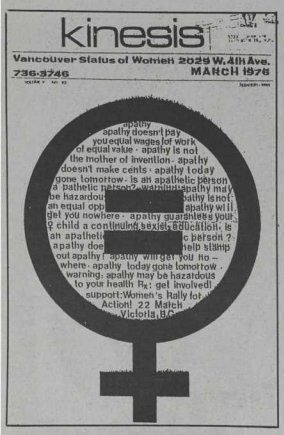
KINESIS

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

1974-1994



Here's part two of our celebration of 20 years of feminist publishing at Kinesis. *This month, we take a look at some of what we covered in March issues past, from 1974 to 1994.*

As we went through the archives, looking at news stories, International Women's Day coverage, photographs, and graphics, we uncovered much more "herstory" than we are able to present at this time. Questions remain: How did Kinesis *cover events and which events? Who worked on the paper and why? Did* Kinesis *reflect the community it serves or were/are we the vanguard of what was/is happening in the movement? Whose movement was/is it? We'll try to answer these in a future issue. Watch for it.*

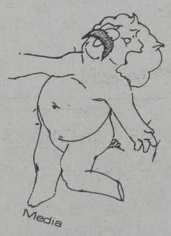
March 1974

The four-year old Vancouver Status of Women's newsletter becomes Kinesis, *the newsletter for VSW members. It is produced by a volunteer editorial collective, published monthly, and is available to VSW members at a cost of $3 per year or 25 cents for a single issue. The first issue is 12 pages long and carries no advertisements.*

• Rosemary Brown, the MLA for Vancouver Burrard, introduces the Affirmative Action Plan Act in the BC legislature. The act calls for an end to sex discrimination by institutions recieving provincial monies. [The bill is defeated CHECK.]

• The Status of Women Council awards seven gold pigs to the Male Chauvinist Pigs of the Year at its AGM. All awards are made *in absentia*, and are later mailed to the recipients, who include "the leggy, blonde and full-figured Trevor Lautens of *The Vancouver Sun*."

• The Association of University and College Employees (AUCE) has two locals, the first at the University of British Columbia; and a second recently opens at Simon Fraser University. AUCE formed in 1973.



Graphic from *Kinesis*, March "74

March 1975

Kinesis *runs its Happy International Women's Year (IWY) issue. (The United Nations proclaimed 1975 International Women's Year.)*

• Sweden passes a new Abortion law that says a woman has the right to choose whether her pregnancy should be interupted.

• Women Together of Richmond, BC is producing an IWY women's directory for the Lower Mainland, a Women's Exhibition and film series will be held in Prince Rupert, BC during IWY; and Rembrandt Jewellery has produced an IWY braclet at $6.50 for silver and $57.25 for gold

March 1976

• The BC-wide Women's Rally for Action Day takes place March 22nd in Victoria, BC outside the Legislature. Women gather to lobby Social Credit MLAs for action around women's equality. Demands include: funding of transition houses; amendments of provincial labour standards to include farm and domestic workers; and the elimination of the concept of illegitimacy of children.

• The Quesnel Women's Study Group forms and Port Coquitlam Women's Centre offers their Woman Today program for 50 cents a session.

March 1977

Kinesis *runs the first IWD issue.*

• The theme for Vancouver's IWD is "Protest Crimes Against Women." The Vancouver IWD Committee lists 100 crimes against women including: sexist welfare systems; job discrimination; dangerous methods of birth control experimentation, especially on Third World women; Native women face double oppression from a racist, sexist society; women are 41 percent of the labour force, only one woman in six is in a union; and rape is the most committed, least reported crime.

• SORWUC (Service, Office and Retail Workers Union of Canada) challenges a section of the Unemployment Insurance (UIC) law that automatically disqualifies pregnant women, or women who have just given birth, from UIC benefits.

March 1978

• The theme for Vancouver's IWD and *Kinesis'* coverage is "Women and Work."

• A royal commission on the Incarceration of Female Offenders holds hearings in Vancouver. The commission was launched in response to allegations of mismanagement at the women's unit of Oakalla, in BC. The British Columbia Federation of Women's brief to the Comission urges abolition of prisons for women.

March 1979

• March 31st is designated International Day of Action for Abortion Rights. Activities are planned for that day in BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario and Quebec, as well as the US and Europe.

• 500 members of the Association of University and College Employees (AUCE) at Simon Fraser University launch an all-out strike on the university following three months of rotating job action.

March 1980

Bulletin Board makes its first appearance (previously, this announcement section was called "Feminist Diary.")

• Nashtar Dhanan, a 26-year-old woman active in the Farmworkers' Legal Information Service, is murdered. Dhanan was also treasurer of the India Mahila Association (IMA), a Vancouver-based South Asian women's group. With other members of the IMA, Dhanan also wrote and translated articles about the situation of immigrant women in Canada. She was murdered on February 9th on her way to work. [The investigation into her murder was closed: her killer was never found.]

• Vancouver women's groups file a complaint of sex discrimination against the University of BC's Engineering Department with the BC Human Rights Commission, alleging that continuing pornographic and sexist publications and activities of the Engineering Undergraduate Society discourage women from joining the engineering department.

• In a strong show of solidarity, 98 percent of over 11,000 nurses in BC vote to take strike action to back up demands for an 18 percent pay increase, plus inflation catch-up. Their slogan is "1980: A Fair Deal for Nurses."

• An estimated 11,000 farmworkers, many of them immigrant women, present a report to the BC government demanding the protection of labour legislation covering hours of work, payment of wages, child labour and workers' compensation.

• A report by the Fort Nelson Women's Centre, the Yukon Status of Women and the Vancouver Women's Research Centre studies the impact the Alaska Highway natural gas pipeline will have on the lives of women in northern communities.

March 1981

The section "Movement Matters" makes its first appearance.

• The theme for IWD is "Women Bear the Burden of the High Cost of Living."

• One thousand women gather in Ottawa February 14 and 15th to discuss and present their demands on the constitution to the federal government.

• Two-page special on Soviet feminism as covered by the Soviet *Samizdat* (dissident journal) called *Almanach* (translated and published in Britain under the title Women and Russia). *Almanach* identifies six major issues for women in the Soviet Union: motherhood and health care for women; women in prison and other detention centres; lesbians; women in art and culture; the larger dissident movement; and Marxism and Christianity.

• The Vancouver Status of Women launches a defence fund appeal for Florence Kemp, a women sentenced to two years in a detention centre for "defrauding" the Ministry of Human Resources—Kemp, a single mother on welfare, failed to report she was supplementing her welfare cheque with just over $100 a month she earned working as a homemaker.

• Vancouver will host the fourth national lesbian conference "Lesbians Take Power" in May.

March 1982

• The theme for IWD is "Women Organizing."

• The BC Social Credit government cuts funding to members of the BC Coalition of Rape Centres, affecting rape crisis centres in Vancouver, Victoria, Nanaimo and Terrace, and announces it will fund individual centres who drop out of the Coalition and negotiate separately with the government.

• A House of Commons Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Services holds hearings on family violence, with a focus on wife battering.

• In South Africa, Winnie Mandela's five year banishment from the Johanesburg area is extended for a further five years.

IWD poster, March '83

• The International Association of Social Psychiatry says feminists are the product of overprotecting, domineering and even sadistic mothers and can be "cured."

• Features on "Salvadorean women fight double oppression," and "More and more Nicaraguan women are organizing."

March 1983

The issue focuses on feminist culture. The IWD Centrespread takes a (tongue-in-cheek?) look at "Feminist Fashions" and carries a survey on Feminist Culture that attempts to answer the question "Who is the feminist community?"

• 500 protest the Canadian government's signing of an "umbrella agreement" with the US that would allow the testing of US war weaponry in northern Alberta.

• The Service, Office and Retail Workers Union of Canada (SORWUC) receives the BC Labour Relations Board decision on the Muckamuck strike. SORWUC charged the owner of Muckamuck restaurant with refusing to bargain with, and eventually firing the women strikers. Three-and-a-half years later, the LRB fines the employer $10,000, to be paid to SORWUC.

• The first-ever Women and Words conference, a four-day event organized by the West Coast Women and Words Society, takes place.

March 1984

Kinesis *carries the first special international supplement in celebration of IWD. As well, this issue features the first "Ruby Music," a column on women's music by Connie Smith.*

• The theme for IWD is Celebration of Strength, the struggle for our freedom, our

Graphic from *Kinesis*, March '82

unity, our differences, heroines of the past and of today, First Nations women and women's work.

• The BC government accepts tenders from private agencies to acquire the only government-run transition house in Vancouver. Vancouver Transition House is occupied the next day by feminists.

A review of *Voices From The Shadows: Women with Disabilities Speak Out* by Gwyneth Ferguson Mathews.

March 1985

• Proceeds from an IWD concert will go to Women Against Violence Against Women

see 20TH ANNIVERSARY on page 14

fighting poverty, militarism, imperialism, abuse, inequality, homophobia, violence, racism, misogyny, fundamentalism, communalism, ableism, Jewish oppression, ecological destruction...for the right to be women...

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KINESIS
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1974-1994
News About Women That's Not In The Dailies

ATTACK GRAPHICS

POSTER BY LAIWAN FOR KINESIS

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1974-1994

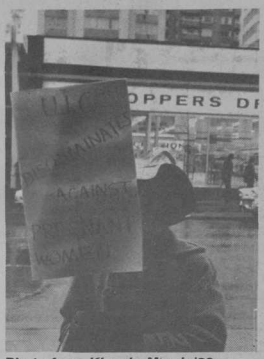


Photo from *Kinesis*, March '86

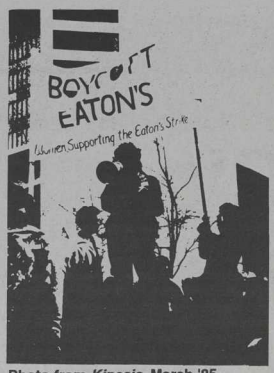


Photo from *Kinesis*, March '85

20TH ANNIVERSARY from page 11

Rape Crisis Centre (WAVAW) which is celebrating its third anniversary.

• The murder of Linda Joyce Tatrai in an East-end parking lot follows the injunction by Vancouver City Council against prostitutes working in the West End. Three hundred people gather to mourn Linda's death and protest the conditions that led it.

• *Kinesis* continues its ongoing coverage on why Section 12.1 B of the Indian Act must be repealed. The section specifies that a woman of Indian status who marries a non-Indian (either non-Aboriginal or non-status Indian) loses her Indian status and her rights, among others, to hold property on an Indian reserve, inherit or share in band resources, live on a reserve, and pass on her Aboriginal ancestry to her children.

March 1986

First appearance of a regular column on science fiction by Melanie Conn called "Speculative Fiction" [later called "In Other Worlds."]

• The theme for IWD is solidarity with the struggle against apartheid in South Africa.

• A Vancouver prostitute challenges Canada's new anti-soliciting act in court. The Alliance for the Safety of Prostitutes sets up a Hookers Defence Fund to pay court-related costs for prostitutes.

• Canadian groups organize activities for Sharpeville Day, March 21--on March 21, 1960, 69 South Africans were killed by police during a peaceful anti-Apartheid demonstration in Sharpeville, South Africa.

• After years of opposition to the UBC Engineering department's "Lady Godiva" ride (by a naked woman on a horse), UBC engineers announce its demise.

• A profile of the anti-choice group REAL Women (Realistic, Equal and Active for LIfe) as part of "*Kinesis*' continuing effort to report on what the right's organizing priorities are and what they believe about women's rights, feminism and feminists."

• An Ontario woman uses a clause in her union contract prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation to win the right to have her woman lover and her lover's children covered by her employee health insurance plan.

• "Women and Free Trade: Reaganomics Moves in Through the Backdoor," is a look at how the Free Trade Agreement will affect women in Canada and the US.

• "Biotech is good for Women" analyses new reproductive technologies.

March 1987

• The theme of Vancouver's IWD is "Women Everywhere Unite."

• The IWD supplement theme, Women at War, looks at women in Eritrea who serve as troops in the people's army of liberation; women fighting apartheid in South Africa; Chilean women battling a military dictatorship; and Nicaraguan women opposing male-defined laws that drive women to have back-street abortions.

• End Legislated Poverty ensures free legal help to people cut off welfare for refusing to take jobs found by the new job-matching trial program announced by the BC Social Services ministry.

March 1988

Kinesis *carries the first of Liz Clarke's six-year old cartoon saga of Abby and Germaine* [see page 2, this issue].

• The theme for Vancouver's IWD is "Women of the Downtown Eastside" (of Vancouver)."

The BC Coalition for Abortion Clinics announces it will set up an abortion clinic in Vancouver since Social Credit Premier Vander Zalm refuses to allow provincial funds for abortions unless a woman's life is in danger.

• The National Organization of Immigrant and Visible Minority Women criticizes a report by the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women called *Immigrant Women in Canada: A Policy Perspective*. The report claims immigrant women are better off socio-economically than Canadian-born women. It also statistically leaves out immigrant women from "third world" countries and deliberately leaves out concerns regarding "systemic discrimination on the basis of race and ethnicity," saying that is matter for another study.

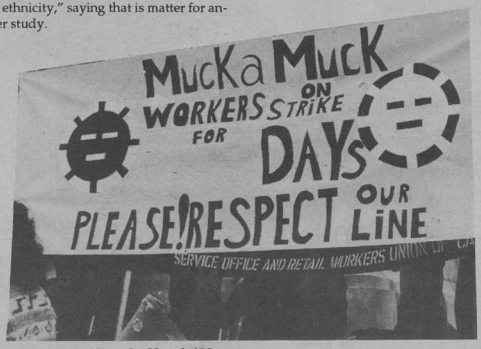


Photo from *Kinesis*, March '83

• An analysis of how the Meech Lake accord puts social programs at risk.

• This issue features the situation of refugees--how the Western world blocks refugees, what Canadian women can do and the situation for women refugees ("less than 2 percent of all refugee women have an opportunity to even reach Canadian borders.") As well, a look at "Who are the Palestinians?"

March 1989

• The BC Supreme Court changes the charges against anti-choice protestors arrested for their illegal protest outside Vancouver's Everywoman's Health Clinic from civil to criminal, which could mean stiffer penalties for the Right-to-Lifers.

• The Women's Health Fund Society is launched, following the death of Barbara Hayman, a long-time Vancouver feminist activist, of cancer. The fund is to provide help to women in the community who become sick and have no financial assistance.

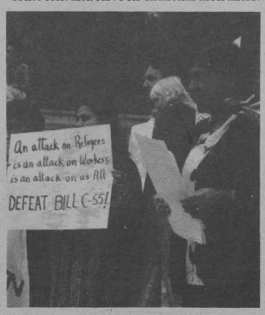


Photo from *Kinesis*, March '88

• Guatemala - "Contraband children: snared by profit" is an article on children being stolen to feed a lucrative international business dealing in the trafic of children.

• Conversation with three Vancouver women who have organized around youth and are involved in solidarity work with international youth.

• A Vancouver feminist writes about her visit to the offices of *Manushi*, the journal about women from India, celebrating its tenth year of publication.

March 1990

• Canadian women's centres and publications are devastated by the Conservative government's budget cuts to the federal Women's Program. In BC, Quebec and Newfoundland, 100 local centres have had their operational funding completely eliminated. Feminist publications such as *Healthsharing* and *Kinesis* have their budgets cut by 100 percent. Since 1989, a total of 30 percent has been cut from centres' funding. A national campaign is launched against the cuts.

• Vandals destroy $20,000 worth of medical equipment at the Everywoman's Health Clinic.

• BC Coalition Against Free Trade holds a rally in Vancouver to protest the loss of jobs and cuts in pay since the Free Trade Agreement came into effect a year ago.

• Glenda Simms becomes the first woman of colour to head the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women.

• Transcript of speech by Angela Davis, in Vancouver as a guest of the Congress of Black Women.

• Interview with Makeda Silvera, activist, historian and co-founder of Sister Vision Press.

March 1991

• Bill C-43, the proposed abortion legislation, is defeated in the Senate, leaving the women's movement victorious.

• Anti-war activism abounds in Vancouver as the Gulf War rages in the Middle East.

• Forty-three members of the Lil'wat Nation are in a BC court for refusing to surrender to a foreign nation's (Canada) authority. The 43 declared themselves prisoners of war and spent almost a month behind bars for refusing to give their colonized names or sign a pledge not to reopen blockades on roads in Lil'wat territory, erected in support of the Mohawk blockade at Kanesatake almost a year ago.

• Reviews of *Canadian Women and Aids: Beyond the Statistics* edited by Jacquie Manthorne; and *Women, Aids and Activism* by The ACT UP/New York.

March 1992

• Susan Thibaudeau takes the federal government to court for its policy of taxing child support payments as income for the person recieving the money (usually women), while allowing the person who makes the payment (usually men) to claim it as a tax deductable expense.

• The BC Supreme Court awards damages to a survivor of child sexual abuse who commenced legal action against her uncle years after being abused. BC Attorney General Colin Gableman announces that BC's Limitations Act will be altered following the decision, which acknowledged that adults should be allowed to commence legal action at the point at which they understand the nature of their suffering and connect it to their abuse as children.

• The board of directors of Vancouver's Women in Focus is forced to resign by a membership fed up with its lack of accountability and persistent harassment of a woman of colour organization.

• The Canadian government introduces new restrictions on foreign domestic workers that will effectively bar women from Third World countries. They include requiring the equivalent of a grade 12 education and six months full-time training in the field of live-in care.

• A conversation between four women of colour following lectures and presentations by bell hooks in Vancouver during Black History Month.

• *Kinesis* interviews Rigoberta Menchu, Indigenous leader of the Campesino Unity Campaign (CUC) from Guatemala [now a Nobel Peace Prize winner.]

• A closer look at the Gulf War through the eyes of an Iranian woman living in Vancouver.

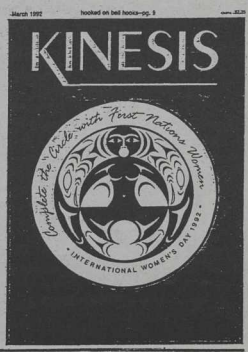
• Review of 1991's *Piece of My Heart: A Lesbian of Colour Anthology*, anthologized by Makeda Silvera.

March 1993

• Kim Campbell's amendments to the human rights act (bill C-108) include sexual orientation as grounds for discrimination, but adds a definition of marital status as being married, single, separated,...with an individual of the opposite sex;" and exempts the Immigration Act from some human rights complaints.

• New Unemployment Legislation exempts those who quit their jobs "voluntarily" or quit without "just cause" from receiving UI benefits and cuts UI payments from 60 percent of former wages to 57 percent.

• A 19-year-old herstory of the India Mahila Association, a South Asian women's group in BC.



Falls Road Women's Centre inWest Belfast:

Planning the future

by Erin Mullan

If you worked with women in an impoverished, working class community, you would expect to deal with domestic violence. If your community was under military control, you would also have to deal with the violence that comes with an occupying army.

The staff at the Falls Road Women Centre in West Belfast work on the same sorts of problems faced by women everywhere. But because West Belfast is under British military occupation, women there also face the threat of violence by the security forces and by loyalist paramilitaries.

Una Marron, project co-ordinator at the centre, says that much of their work involves crisis counselling. In addition to counselling around issues like violence in the home, rape and sexual abuse, women also come to the centre needing to talk about the aftermath of army searches of their homes.

"It can range from dealing with the trauma of having your home invaded and your possessions smashed and destroyed, to feeling a terrible sense of violation, like your home is contaminated," says Marron. She adds that the verbal and physical abuse the women are subjected to by the British army during the house searches is often sexual in nature.

Women in West Belfast may also have to cope with the arrest by the security forces of one of their children. This is often a long and exhausting process, as it can take two or three years to get through the court system, during which time the young person would be held in custody.

Marron says the arrest of a son or daughter can be frightening and intimidating for these women, in part because they are confronted with authorities they've never had to deal with before. "We accompany women to court and to solicitors' offices and the like, to try and make the whole process as easy as possible."

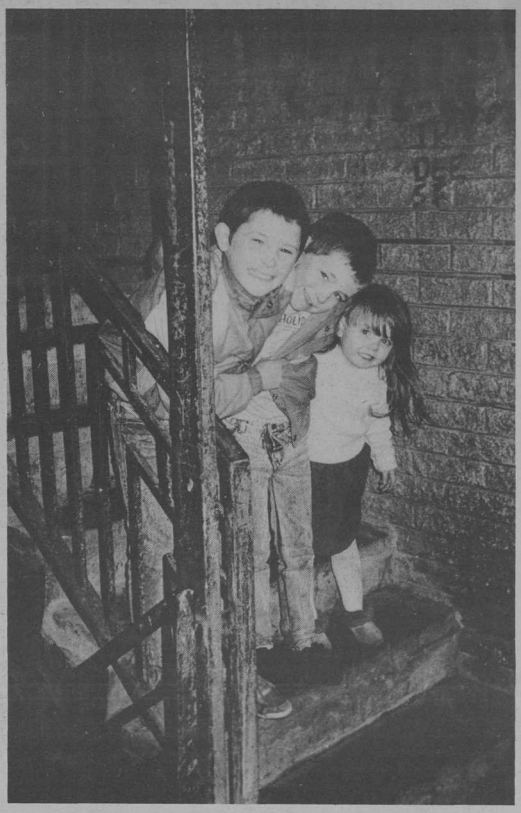
In addition to the threat from the army and security forces, women are increasingly the target of loyalist paramilitary violence, Marron says. (Loyalist paramilitary groups attack and assassinate people in nationalist areas like West Belfast in order to try to prevent the nationalist aspiration of a united Ireland. They are "loyal" to Britain. In Latin America, they would be called death squads.)

Marron says women can receive threats where they are told that their security files, which contain a great deal of personal information including home addresses, are in the hands of loyalist paramilitaries. She adds that one of the things the centre tries to do is help women to build up a sense of security, and to secure their homes from attack.

Women in West Belfast may also have to cope with the arrest by the security forces of one of their children...

Given the conditions they live under, women in nationalist communities have long worked for peace. The recent talk of peace in the North of Ireland grabbed headlines around the world. Marron says people in her community were very optimistic at first when the two main nationalist leaders in the North, Gerry Adams and John Hume, put out a joint declaration and agreed on a set of demands to end the British presence in Ireland. The inflexiblity of the British government ended the optimism.

"Britain's refusal to negotiate is seen by people here as very bloody minded," she says. "There has been a real upsurge in loyalist violence, assassinations and petrol bombing Catholic homes in isolated areas. The British government is unwilling to clarify what it means by peace, and has refused to oppose loyalist violence."



West Belfast children—theFalls Road Women's Centre hopes to set up a community childcare centre

Marron says that the attitude of the British government has moved nationalists from "thinking a solution was close at hand to pessimism that it will be another long hard struggle." She adds that one of the IWD events in Belfast is an open forum for women to put forward ideas of what they mean by peace.

The Falls Road Women's Centre was started in the early 1980s by a group of women, including long-time community activists and members of political organizations. They all agreed on the need for a woman-only space for working class women in West Belfast.

"We started in a derelict building. That premises was destroyed in a bomb explosion," says Marron. They set up in another building, also derelict, which had been damaged by a fire as well as a bombing. "It was basically four walls."

After a lot of renovation work, the centre is now quite comfortable and has expanded to an additional building. The crisis counselling is located in one building and the other houses a creche, or daycare centre, which has two sessions with 10 or 11 places in each. The centre also provides training for 24 women in childcare.

Marron says the goal is to set up a community childcare facility. She adds that this is especially important because there are no state childcare places. Childcare is all private, and very expensive.

Women can get computer training at the centre including the first two steps of the computer exams. Marron says they have 6 older-model computers "that we would dearly love to update. But that's on the long finger." Like women's groups everywhere, the main thing obstacle for the Falls Road Women's Centre is money.

Our biggest project is to get better funding," says Marron. If the centre was able to get core funding, they could hire permanent staff who could provide better continuity. At present they are limited to hiring women on one-year work schemes, like the UI top-up programs in Canada.

Marron says the centre would like to expand their counselling and develop an independent counselling service for the whole city. "We'd especially like to see grief and trauma counselling, areas which have really been neglected for a city that has suffered so much in the last 25 years." She adds they would like to do grief counselling with children as well.

"We've lots of plans--we've just got to get the money to do them."

For more information about the Falls Road Women's Centre or the campaigns they are involved, or to send a donation write to: 173 Falls Road, Belfast 12, N. Ireland.

Erin Mullan is second-generation Irish, and lives, works and drinks Guinness in Vancouver.

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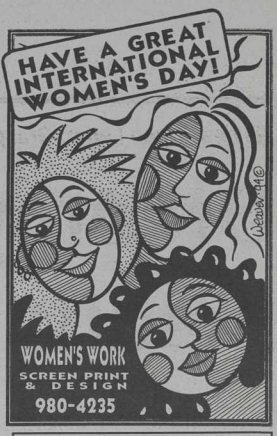

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Review: Open Letter: Grasp the Bird's Tail:

Dreamy and meandering

by Anne Jew

OPEN LETTER: GRASP THE BIRD'S TAIL
directed by Brenda Joy Lem
Racy Sexy: Intercultural Arts Festival
Chinese Cultural Centre
December 1993

Open Letter: Grasp the Bird's Tail begins with a shot of a young woman, Sylvester, smelling a dried rose. It turns out the rose was sent to her by her new lover, Leo, who lives in Amsterdam. She writes to him of her longing to see him, but also incorporates the research she's been doing for her term paper on hate violence. Intercut with this main storyline are flashbacks of the lovers and different vignettes about the abuse of women using the same two actors.

She mentions the murders of Vincent Chin, who was killed by two white autoworkers because they thought he was Japanese and Yusuf Hawkins, a Black man who was murdered in an Italian neighbourhood because they mistook him for someone else. Also referenced are the murders of the 14 white women at Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal and of Chiatsu Liu and Charnjit Kaur, women of colour who were killed by their male partners in Metro Toronto. While

"...I hardly know you. We had less than a week together.... Are you going to hurt me..."

relaying this information she also discusses her fears. "Sometimes I feel like a walking target. Like I could walk into the wrong place at the wrong time and be in danger because my face looks Chinese...or Japanese...or Korean...Vietnamese."

What is really important is that she connects this violence to her own life. When writing sentimentally of her desire and longing - "Songs remind me of you, certain smells remind me of you, sometimes whole days remind me of you" - she also stops to note, "I hardly know you. We had less than a week together" -and asks, "Are you going to hurt me?" At the outset of this heterosexual relationship she already questions the possibility of not only emotional damage, but physical too.

She poses more questions. "I'm still here in Canada where one in four women will be sexually assaulted. For women of colour the statistics increase threefold. What are you supposed to do with statistics like that? Last year a male friend tried to force me to have sex with him. He's white, married to a Chinese woman. Did my being Chinese have anything to do with it?"

These are crucial questions and it's not that a 15-minute film has to answer them, but there isn't much offered in terms of strategies. That's one of the most frustrating things about *Open Letter* because it not only poses questions without really attempting to answer them, but also seems to reinforce the stereotypes surrounding Chinese women.

At one point, Sylvester wonders if her being Chinese has anything to do with the fact that a man was masturbating across from her on the bus, and presents a questionnaire asking if he sees Chinese women as passive and exotic. But in each sequence of the film, the female character is presented as passive, exoticized and sexualized. For example, a magician and the magician's assistant perform the knives-through-the-box-with-the-women-inside trick. The assistant, dressed in a skimpy outfit, sits in the box while shiny blades narrowly miss puncturing her bare skin. In another sequence, the female character is the subject of a peep show and is alternately naked and clothed. The flashback scene consists of lovemaking in bed, where both Sylvester and Leo are nude. The last scene, in which a female and male dancer perform with large swords, seems to perpetuate the very stereotypical Asianness that Lem wants to question.

The whole mood evoked in the film, which is very dreamy and meandering, establishes a passivity that undermines the central theme, which is violence against people of colour (specifically women of colour) and white women. Everything from the music, which is mainly a haunting female voice singing one note, to the apartment in which Sylvester writes the letter (and later tapes a cutout flower and a butterfly on an envelope, set against a backdrop of smiling Chinese cherubs and artwork incorporating a naked Asian woman) does nothing to counter the violence which Lem seemingly aims to attack.

Some statements ring true. "Sometimes I really am afraid. But I don't want to let it get to me. I really want to see you." It's that fear, which is very real and valid, that somehow has to be dealt with without being overwhelmed by the statistics. It's when simple assertions like this are put forth that the film has resonance because it calls up the connection between the basic fear that every woman has and the systemic violence that women suffer. But how we choose to deal with each situation will always vary.

I'm not sure what the intention is of having such sexualized female roles in a film largely about violence against women. Is it to claim a female sexuality in spite of what men do to us? Is it to say sex, love, violence and power are all interrelated? In terms of the lovers' storyline, is it to maintain the connection between the personal and the political?

Open Letter succeeds in presenting a much needed look at the issue of racial violence, especially toward women of colour, and personalizing it in a way that makes it very accessible. It cannot be stressed enough how important this is because we are being killed every day. Because Lem asks so many questions, perhaps I was waiting for the answers, which is unrealistic. But then, at least for some form of empowerment, which for me never really came. The film ends with a woman dancer swinging a large sword, as if in a dance of retaliation. But even this was unsatisfying because, it looked like she was going to drop it.

Anne Jew is a Vancouver writer of Chinese descent and an active filmgoer.

photo by Leslie Chesick

EX-*KINESIS* EDITOR WINS LITERARY HONOUR

Gayla Reid, *Kinesis'* longest running editor (1974-1984), recently won The Journey Prize, a prestigious Canadian literary award, for her short story, "Sister Doyle's Men," originally published in *Prism International* in 1993. The journey prize honours the short story chosen as the most accomplished work published in a Canadian literary magazine. "Sister Doyle's Men" is Reid's first published story, although she has been writing for a number of years. Much of her material is set in Australia, from where she originally hails, and she plans to use some of the award money to return home to write. Gayla Reid will be reading with Rachel Wyatt and Margaret Hollingsworth at Octopus Books on March 5 at 7:30 p.m.

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Review: Betty Lee Bonner Lives There:

Engaging life stories

by Siobhan Herron

BETTY LEE BONNER LIVES THERE
by Louise Simmie
Greystone Publishing
Vancouver/Toronto, 1993

Lois Simmie was born in Saskatchewan and currently lives in Saskatoon. Her previous works include children's poetry and picture books, as well as short stories and a novel.

Betty Lee Bonner Lives There consists of thirteen short stories. Ten of the stories are narrated by women, three by men.

Several common threads run through all the stories. All of the main characters are white and heterosexual and struggling to create or maintain a relationship with a significant person in their lives. They are all attempting either to define or assert themselves. The characters' efforts to accomplish this are constantly influenced by the people and events in their lives just as every chess piece moves in relation or reaction to another peice. So often characters in fiction develop and impose themselves on the landscape around them as if they grew in isolation. Simmie reflects the human reality that each of us advances and retreats in relation to the world around us.

Several of the women leave their partners because these men refuse to participate in the undulating rhythm that is a relationship. The men do not interact, they impose, and the women can only become individuals by escaping from them.

In "Sweetie Pie," we meet Noreen who realizes that "...this time, she's really got to figure it out, get some direction in her life, some kind of order." However, for the moment she is careening down the highway in a Ford Tempo with Al who, "on an asshole scale of one to ten...rates a nine easy," and Al's beloved cockatoo Sweetie Pie, whose crowning glory is its ability to imitate a flushing toilet. At a rest stop, Noreen leaves a sleeping and tipsy Al and Sweetie Pie behind, taking a ride with a stranger named Darryl, headed for Vancouver, and "some direction in her life."

Sharon's three young sons in "You Tell Me Your Dreams," are "hell-bent on destroying the house and Sharon's nerve endings. The house may survive but she won't."

Randy, her realtor husband, wants to rekindle their sex life by sharing their sexual fantasies. However, after she shares her fantasy with him, Randy says "Next time, fake it. Okay?" Sharon's resolution to her dilemma comes in the form of "A man in a silver suit with a blue light blinking on and off in his chest" who stands under the apple tree in her yard. Whenever he appears in the yard, Sharon is imbued with "that beautiful, soothing feeling." The night of the failed sexual fantasies, she leaves Randy and her home to join him.

"Lois Simmie creates her unique characters from a lucid intelligence and a huge heart. I can't imagine a world without her stories."
Lorna Crozier

cover design by Rose Cowles

Not all women leave. In the title story, "Betty Lee Bonner Lives There," Stella Bartlett chooses to stay. Her youngest daughter, Jeannie, the narrator of this World War II drama, unknowingly chronicles her father's infidelity with Lieutenant Betty Lee Bonner the stranger with the "Betty Grable bust," whom her father brings home during a blizzard as there is no room at the local hotel. There are other visits after this first chance stay, as Betty Lee spends several of her "leaves" with the Bartlett family. Stella's growing displeasure with Betty Lee's presence is manifested in the hairstyles she inflicts on her family (she is a hairstylist). During Betty's first visit, Jeannie tells us that her mother "French-braided my hair so tight I could hardly blink," while they watched Mr. Bartlett and the Lieutenant gaily shovel snow. "When she came back on leave in March, Mom started looking kind of strained and gave Merna (Jeannie's older sister) a permanent, that looked as if she was wearing a big Brillo pad on her head." Stella's hair becomes blonder than usual and Grandma gets a henna.

During a family holiday in Vancouver (Betty Lee's home), matters reach a critical point. When her husband does not return from an alleged afternoon with an old colleague, Stella assumes the worst and storms out of their lodgings. She returns to her distraught family the next day, looking ten years younger and with a job at Bea's Beauty Salon. Grandma and the two girls are to move to Vancouver with her. Stella tells her husband "You Know Who can move into my house since she likes it there so much, and she can sit and wonder what you're doing out on the road."

This never transpires. Jeannie has warned us earlier, "There was a terrible restlessness in our mother; she was like a racehorse always ready for a race that never starts." After their return home, Stella writes to Bea and turns down the job in Vancouver. After that, "she hated Betty Lee Bonner not for what she did, but for something else altogether".

Simmie does not only examine the dynamics between men and women. "Houses" is a tale about May and her daughter, Tammy Faye, coming into their own, both as individuals and as a family unit. Tammy Faye insists on being called TF because, "She won't have the same name as that crazy Tammy Faye Bakker and that's that."

She is a girl with a strong will. After having her first period at nine, she "carried on for three days and at the end of it said 'I'm not having it again and that's that'." She "hasn't had another period yet and she'll be twelve next month." Together, they plan for the house they want to buy. It has been suggected to May that she marry a man with a house. "No way, May thinks. A man can walk to the corner for cigarettes and keep on walking. When May gets a kitchen window with a geranium on the sill, it has to be her kitchen, her window sill; she needs to transplant the geranium into her front yard."

Although Lois Simmie's plots vary wildly, common themes endure. Her characters wrestle with relationships and self-determination simultaneously.

The narrators always speak in detached humourous tones. Simmie uses simple language which is expressive because of its directness and honesty. By combining a detached tone with direct language, Simmie accomplishes two things: first, she renders her audience both affected by, yet removed from, the plights of her characters; and, secondly, she demonstrates that, although individuals participate in and are immeasurably shaped by their environs, we are essentially solitary by nature.

All of the characters are engaging and the plots original. I wanted to know what awaited me on the next page. A good book offers the reader a new perspective on life—a broader view of the world we live in. *Betty Lee Bonner Lives There* gave me this perspective.

Siobhan Herron has her M.A. and is a writer. This is her first contribution to Kinesis

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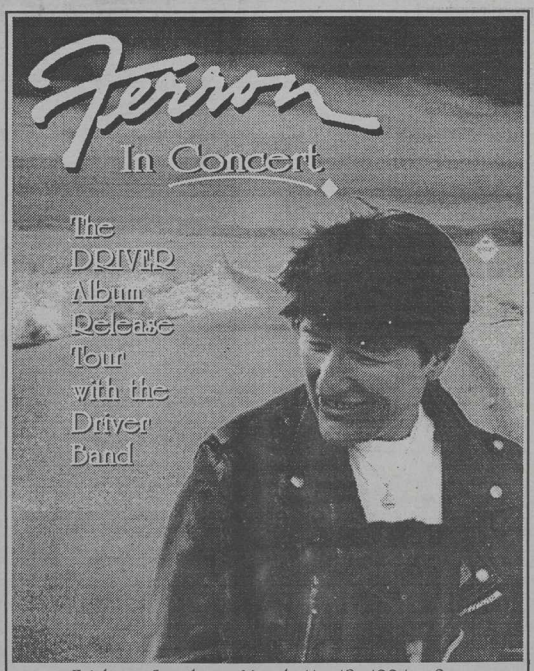

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Review: Cannery Days:

Heiltsuk women speak

by Emma Tracy Taylor

CANNERY DAYS:

A Chapter in the lives of the Heiltsuk women: A Photo Exhibit
By Pam Brown
University of BC Museum of Anthropology
Vancouver, May 1993-January 1994.

Pam Brown says it's time for First Nations people to tell their own stories.

Brown, a member of the Heiltsuk Nation from Bella Bella, says she's tired of reading about the lives of First Nations people from a non-Native perspective. "Many authors would have readers believe the lives of First Nations people are grey and dreary. Nothing is farther from the truth than those stereotypical images."

If Brown has her way, Heiltsuk people will soon receive the recognition they deserve. And she's doing her part to ensure their stories are told.

As part of her Master's thesis requirement, Brown curated an exhibit titled, *Cannery Days: A Chapter in the Lives of the Heiltsuk* at the UBC Museum of Anthropology. The exhibit travels this month to Bella Bella, B.C.

Both the exhibit and her thesis focus on the failure of non-Native society to understand that fish were and continue to be the economic wealth of BC First Nations.

Another related issue is the invisibility of First Nations women and men in the fish-processing industry.

The exhibit focusses on central coast canneries, with particular emphasis on the experiences of Heiltsuk women in Namu cannery. Brown chose that particular cannery because it falls within the traditional territory of the Heiltsuk people. The Heiltsuk people have occupied the central coast for thousands of years.

"Long before the arrival of Europeans, Heiltsuk people had a well developed culture which revolved around fish. Archaeological evidence found at Namu suggests that Heiltsuk Tribal territory has been inhabited for at least 9,000 years," says Brown.

In the past, both economic and ideological approaches to the fish-processing industry lost sight of the experiences of First Nations people. "The exhibit allowed me to share with other people in my community. It also allowed me to share a little of the history of Heiltsuk people with non-Native society."

The strength of the exhibit comes from the people speaking for themselves, Brown said. "Their words and photos tell the story. In the past, this approach has been neither encouraged nor embraced by museums or by academics."

The interviews with the 17 Heiltsuk women opens a window on a period of history which has not been well documented. "To read conventional accounts of Native involvement in the fish-processing industry, their lives were pretty dull."

Cannery Days reveals that, for the Heiltsuk women who lived and worked in Namu, it was not just a place to work but rather had many meanings and warm memories.

In Namu, Heiltsuk women were a force to be reckoned with. Members of the Heiltsuk local of the Native Sisterhood of BC were very vocal and assertive. All women cannery workers, from youngsters to elders, were members of the Sisterhood.

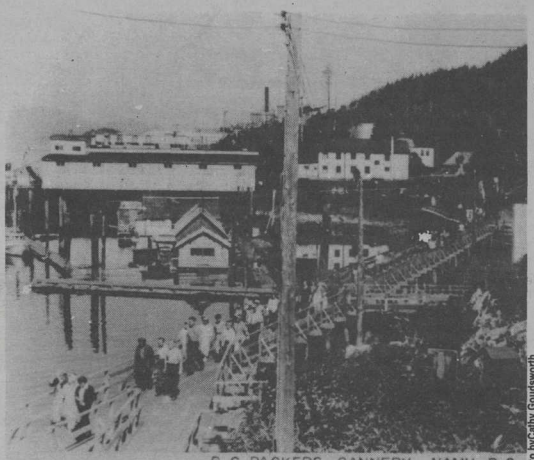

photo by Cathy Goudsworth

In part, the exhibit honours the life and the work of Heiltsuk women like Brenda Campbell. Brown says: "For me and many other Heiltsuk women, Brenda exemplifies courage, moral strength and integrity."

Campbell was a founder and president of the Native Sisterhood. In the 1940s, Campbell and other Sisterhood members almost single-handedly kept the Native Brotherhood of BC in operation. She worked tirelessly to raise funds so the Brotherhood could carry on its political battles to improve the socio-economic condition of First Nations people.

Yet despite her strong support of the Brotherhood, Campbell didn't forget about the aspirations of the Sisterhood. She never did believe the Sisterhood was simply "a ladies' auxilary" without political clout.

For many years, the Brotherhood denied women voting privileges. "That is, until Brenda politely but firmly informed the Brotherhood executive and members at one of their annual conventions that the Sisterhood would pull out of the organization unless they were given a vote and a seat on the executive. Needless to say the Sisterhood had a very strong voice within the organization after the convention."

One of the Sisterhood's victories was when the management at Namu cannery took down the "Indian" and "White" signs from the washrooms, Brown says.

In the past, academic literature has left an incomplete and inaccurate picture of the role of First Nations people in the fish-processing industry. "Yes, it is true First Nations people worked in canneries for 10 cents per hour. It is also true that they worked long hours under poor working conditions. But the way First Nations people have been represented ultimately belittles the cannery experiences and lives of First Nations." It is equally true that First Nations people enjoyed working in canneries.

One of the women Brown interviewed says, "sometimes we get together and the ladies reminisce, and say, remember this,

Long before the arrival of Europeans, Heiltsuk people had a well developed culture which revolved around fish

remember that. We'd go to work at 8 am and get off at 2 am in the cold storage. I'd go home and wash diapers and hang them out, and then I'd go to bed and get up at 7 am, just a few hours sleep. But I enjoyed work at Namu."

The voices of the Heiltsuk women speak eloquently both of cannery days and of the meaning and importance of fish to our people, Brown says.

The subject of fish has never been an academic one for me or my family, she says. "Even as a city-dwelling Heiltsuk woman, fish is still a big part of my life. Before I began my research, I had gone to Bella Bella on a regular basis to visit relatives and to get our annual supply of fish. My family cans fish on an annual basis. The whole process is an art in itself. As well as providing us with a fish supply for the coming year, it brings my family together socially. My mother also maintains an extensive trade network with family and friends in Bella Bella and Kitasoo."

Brown says that, as the Heiltsuk have an oral tradition, they are most often seen through the perceptions of non-Native researchers. "As a student of anthropology, I was searching for new ways to present a First Nation's perspective.

"The exhibit provides balance to earlier writing accounts of Heiltsuk people. It transmits continuity through a series of visual images from petroglyphs to modern seine boats. It counterbalances the tables and statistics of conventional academic studies with images of real people."

Emma Tracy Taylor is a Vancouver resident and is from the Heiltsuk Nation.

press gang publishers
invites you to celebrate
the publication of

Her Head A Village
& other stories
by Makeda Silvera
Sunday, March 13, 8 pm
Reading starts at 8:30
Snacks, refreshments and cash bar

Pitt International Gallery
317 W. Hastings St.
Vancouver

For more info. contact Della, 876-7787

QUEER CONFINES
Mapping Out Territories

a collection
of works
from gay
and lesbian
video artists

Tuesday, March 29th
7:00 & 9:30 pm

Pacific Cinematheque
1131 Howe Street

Tickets: $10 at the door

a benefit for the Betty Baxter Campaign Debt

IWD CALENDAR

Compiled by shannon e. ash

HISTORY OF IWD

International Women's Day arose out of the protest and political activism of working women at the beginning of the 20th century. Among the many struggles taking place was the 1908 strike of garment workers, 80% of whom were women, in New York City. The strike began at the Triangle Shirtwaist Company, and grew to become a general strike of 30,000 garment workers.

In 1910, the idea of "Women's Day" was taken up by socialists and feminists. At the Second International Conference of Socialist Women in Copenhagen in 1910, attended by women from 17 different countries, a proposal for an international "Women's Day" was put forward. Clara Zetkin presented a motion that women throughout the world should focus on a particular day each year to press for demands and to commemorate women and their struggles. Women passed the motion unanimously and "International Women's Day" came into being.

The first International Women's Day was held on March 19, 1911 in a number of European countries. The date was later moved to March 8. The day became more widely celebrated with waves of the feminist movement and following the International Year of the Woman in 1975, which began the UN Decade of Women (1975-85).

[material gleaned from past issues of Kinesis and knowledgeable women]

BC—LOWER MAINLAND

IWD MARCH AND RALLY

The theme of this year's International Women's Day March and Rally is International Solidarity. Gather at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre Plaza on **Sat, Mar 5,** 11:30 am. Rally at the Vancouver Art Gallery (north side) at 12:30 pm. Speakers and music.

IWD FILM SERIES

The National Film Board and YWCA celebrate International Women's Week with *Women and Resistance*, their 6th annual film & video series. **Mar 5 - 10** at 7 pm & 9:30 pm, with a 4 pm matinee on **Mar 5 & 6**. At the Pacific Cinematheque, 1131 Howe St. Admission by donation (suggested donation $3). Cinematheque membership not required. Limited childcare subsidies available: 683-2531 YWCA Registration Program. For screening info: 666-3838 NFB. *[See ad p.21 for full calendar]*

IWD WOMEN'S RITUAL

IWD Women's Ritual at Josephine's, 1716 Charles, **Sun, Mar 6**. Come and celebrate in a wiccan circle, remember our mothers, grandmothers, the women in our lives. Pre-registration requested. $2-5 donation. Bring candles/holders, altar objects, food to share. Door opens at 6:30 pm. Ritual starts promptly at 7 pm. Info: Pat 253-7189.

PHILIPPINE WOMEN CENTRE CELEBRATES IWD

The Phillipine Women's Centre is celebrating International Women's Day on **Sun, Mar 6** from 1 - 5 pm at St. Giles United Church, 305 W. 41st Ave. Videos and refreshments. Info: 322-9852.

IWD CABARET

Women in Music and Sounds and Furies present a cabaret at the Vancouver East Cultural Centre on **Tues, Mar 8** at 8pm. This year's line-up includes: Random Acts; Zellia, a Ukrainian vocal ensemble; musician Qiu Xia He; musical duo Sue McGowan and Sharon Costello; clogging with Inclognito; Women's Bhangra Dance Team; and juggling clown Sand Northrup. Tickets are sliding scale $10 - $15, available at Josephines, Little Sisters Bookstore, and Ariel Books. Reservations: 254-9578. Info: Pat Hogan 253-3142, Ina Dennekamp 520-3395.

DOMESTIC WORKERS DANCE

The West Coast Domestic Workers Association is holding a dance at the Mount Pleasant Community Centre, **Sat, Mar 5,** 7 pm - 12:30 am. 60's theme; twist, cha-cha and boogie dance contests. Door prize/raffle. Music by La Mirage. Tickets are $10, snacks will be served. Info: 669-4482.

CACSW READING

On **Mon, Mar 7,** 7pm, The Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women, Western Region Office, presents a performance/reading based on selections from their recent publication *Sharing Our Experience*, an anthology of experiences of visible minority women in Canada. Vancouver-area contributors will be present. Robson Square Media Centre, Rm.3. Free admission, refreshments. Info: 666-0664.

NORTH SHORE WOMEN'S CENTRE

The North Shore Women's Centre together with North Shore Crisis Services will host an Open House on **Tues, Mar 8** to celebrate International Women's Day. There will be speakers and videos, and Penniless Theatre will perform the play: *The Life of Emily Murphy*. Refreshments provided. Women can have input on the video screening schedule by phoning 984-6009.

CAPILANO COLLEGE

On **Tues, Mar 8** Capilano College celebrates IWD with free lectures, films, and exhibits. Highlights include: a lecture by Kathleen Shannon, former head of the NFB's Studio D, at 12:45 pm; and the Mary Catherine Paterson Annual Lecture, *Portraits From Our Feminist Past* by Dr. Marlene LeGates at 7:30 pm. Both talks are in Lecture Theatre C148. IWD activities run from 8:30 am to 9:30 pm. Acomplete schedule of events is available at community centres, public libraries and at the campus reception desk in "A" building. Info: 984-4953.

RICHMOND WOMEN'S FORUM

The Richmond Women's Resource Centre is holding its second "I am Woman" Forum on **Sat, Mar 5,** from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm at Kwantlen College. Panel discussion, workshops, information, and networking. Cost, including lunch, is $15. Childcare provided. For more info or to register call 270-6182.

SOUTH SURREY/WHITE ROCK MARCH AND RALLY

South Surrey/White Rock Women's Place is celebrating International Women's Day with a March and Open House on **Sun, Mar 6**. Meeting at The Whale Wall, corner of Johnston Rd and Russell at 1 pm, walking up Johnston Rd. (152 St), to 20th Ave then down 20th to the Women's Place offices (15318 - 20th Ave). Please join the march anywhere along the way. Children welcome. Bring banners, colored streamers, and wear purple. From 1-3 pm, attend an Open House at the Women's Place offices. Refreshments will be served. Info: contact Lyn/Barbara 536-9611.

BREAKFAST IN NEW WEST

Douglas College Women's Centre and the New Westminster School District celebrate International Women's Day with a breakfast at Fins Restaurant, New West Quay, **Mon, Mar 7,** 7:45 - 8:45 am. Tickets $15. Info: 527-5148.

BC—PORT ALBERNI

Port Alberni Women's Resources Society, 3048 Fifth Ave, will be holding an Open House for IWD on Tues, Mar 8. Videos and refreshments. Info: 724-711.

BC—COWICHAN VALLEY

COWICHAN VALLEY ART SHOW

Cowichan Valley Arts Council, #101-64 Station St, is presenting *From Women's Hands: Our Experiences as Women*, an art show in recognition of IWD and in celebration of Cowichan women. Show runs until **Mar 30**; opening **Mar 4,** 4-8pm. Info: 746-1633.

COWICHAN SPIRIT OF WOMEN

Public Forums: Cowichan Spirit of Women invites the public to discuss and tell how best to meet the needs of women in the Cowichan Valley. Free. **Wed Mar 2,** 7pm, Rm 154 Malaspina UC, and **Thur Mar 10,** 7-10pm, LCSS Library. Info: 746-3501 or 746-8183.

OPEN STAGE

Women's Music Night Open Stage, **Fri Mar 11** 7:30 pm, including workshop on using a P.A. system at 6:30 pm. Duncan United Church, 246 Ingram St. Admission by donation. Info: 746-8161.

BC—KELOWNA

Kelowna Women's Resource Centre is planning creativity workshops for International Women's Week. On **Sat, Mar 5,** there will be a gathering at the Mission Activity Centre at Sarson's Beach. On **Tue Mar 8,** an evening celebration will be held at the Laurel Bldg, with entertainment and food. Info: 762-2355

BC—NELSON

Nelson and District Women's Centre presents the following events: **Sun, Mar 6,** 1-4 pm: Pamela Harris, Toronto photographer, will speak about her show *Faces of Feminism* at the National Exhibition Centre, Castlegar. A number of Kootenay feminists will perform. **Tues, Mar 8**: Pamela Harris will facilitate an evening workshop for women on *Recording our own history*. Sliding scale fee, location in Nelson. Call the Centre at 352-9916 for info and to register. **Fri, Mar 11**: Five Feminist Minutes Cabaret at the Elks Hall, Nelson, 7-11pm. To perform, call the Centre or simply show up at the Cabaret.

BC—QUESNEL

Quesnel Women's Resource Centre will hold its IWD event on **Sun, Mar 13** at the College of New Caledonia. Guest speaker Sheshi Asnand of Immigrant Family Services will speak about women's issues in the Indo-Canadian community. Discussion , potluck dinner. Info: 992-6160.

BC—FORT NELSON

Fort Nelson Women's Resource Centre (located on lower level of the Medical Clinic) will hold an Open House on **Tues, Mar 8,** 10am-5pm. Lunch, refreshments, information and activities. Info: 774-3069.

BC—FORT ST. JOHN

Fort St. John Women's Resource Society is asking people in Fort St. John to do a spontaneous act of kindness to women on **Tues, Mar 8,** and call it in to the Women's Centre at 787-1121 or 787-0918 from 9am-3pm.

YUKON—WHITEHORSE

Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre Presents: **Mon-Fri, Mar 7-11**: Brown Bag Lunch Discussion Groups, 12-1pm. Topics include literacy, AIDS, environment. At Women's Centre, 408 Ogilvie St. **Sun, Mar 6**: Coffee House, 1-4pm, at L'association franco-Yukonnaise Hall, 302 Strickland St. **Fri, Mar 11** (tentative): Potluck supper at [305 Lambert St.,] 6pm; speaker at 7:30 pm: Maria Campbell, author of *Halfbreed*, Yukon Writer in Residence; 305 Lambert St.

ALBERTA—EDMONTON

IWD TALK AND PARADE

IWD celebrations on **Sat, Mar 5** at Chinook Theatre. NAC President Sunera Thobani will speak, followed by a parade. Edmonton Women's Collective Bldg. Open House on **Tues, Mar 8**. Info: 421-0306

FILMS AND FUN

IWD films and entertainment at Global Visions Festival, Garneau Theatre, **Tues, Mar 8,** 7pm. $8/$7. Info: 439-8744

ALBERTA—CALGARY

IWD celebrations on **Sat, Mar 5,** with the theme, "Celebrating Women's Struggle For Health." Rally at 1pm on the SW corner of the Harry Hayes federal bldg, 220-4 Ave SE; March will stop at the McDougall Centre and back east along 8th Ave. Free perfomance of "Laudes Matris," a celebration of God the Mother, 2:30 pm at the Glenbow Museum, 130-9 Ave SE. Celebration 8pm-1:30am at the Multicultural Centre, 712-5th St SE. Info: call Carolyn at 270-3200.

ALBERTA—LETHBRIDGE

IWD will be celebrated on **Sat, Mar 12,** at the YWCA, 10am-4pm. Information and artwork displays, films and videos, workshops, refreshments. International lunch at noon. On-site childcare, all events free, everyone welcome. Info: Womanspace Resource Centre, 329-8338.

ALBERTA—FORT McMURRAY

For info on IWD events call the Women's Resource Centre at 743-2121.

ALBERTA—WETASKIWIN

IWD celebration on **Tues, Mar 8,** 7:30 pm at the Library. Theme will be "Bread and Roses."

MANITOBA—WINNIPEG

STATUS OF WOMEN MARCH AND RALLY

IWD March and Rally, **Sun Mar 6**. March will begin at the Legislative Bldg at 1pm, and go to the University of Winnipeg. All welcome. Rally at Riddell Hall at the UofW, 1:30-4pm; Music by Heather Bishop, speaker Susan Prentice. Wheelchair access, sign interpreter, free childcare - register with Manitoba Action Committee by **Mar 2,** call 946-5049.

WOMEN AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Women's Rights Are Human Rights Conference, **Mar 11-12** at the Delta Hotel, Winnipeg. To register call Lydia at 889-1197. Sponsored by the UN End of the Decade for Women Committee.

PRESERVATION OF TRADITIONS

Rhapsody in Colour: A Dialogue With Women of Colour and the First Nations Examining The Preservation of Their Traditions, **Sat Mar 12**. Workshop/Panel discussion, 11am-3:15pm, Delta Hotel, $5. Films at Cinematheque, 100 Arthur St, 7:30 pm. Reception after at Main Access Gallery. Info: Joy Forde, 983-0140.

An effort was made to get listings of IWD events east of Manitoba. See "As Kinesis Goes to Press" for IWD listings that came in as we went to press.

BULLETIN BOARD

EVENTS

Bulletin Board listings have a maximum of 50 words. Groups, organizations and individuals eligible for free space in the Bulletin Board must be, or have, non-profit objectives.

Other free notices will be items of general public interest and will appear at the discretion of *Kinesis*.

Classifieds are $8 (+$0.56 GST) for the first 50 words or portion thereof, $4 (+$0.28 GST) for each additional 25 words or portion thereof and must be prepaid.

Deadline for all submissions is the 18th of the month preceding publication. Note: *Kinesis* is published ten times a year. Jul/Aug and Dec/Jan are double issues.

All submissions should include a contact name and telephone number for any clarification that may be required.

Listings will not be accepted over the telephone.

Kinesis encourages readers to research the goods and services advertised in Bulletin Board. *Kinesis* cannot guarantee the accuracy of the information provided or the safety and effectiveness of the services and products listed.

Send submissions to Bulletin Board, *Kinesis*, #301-1720 Grant Street, Vancouver, BC, V5L 2Y6. For more information call 255-5499.

EVENTS

WANNA GET INVOLVED?

With *Kinesis*? We want to get involved with you too. Help plan our next issue. Come to the Writer's meeting on **Tues, Mar 1 and/or Apr 5**, 7 pm at our office, 301-1720 Grant St, Vancouver. If you can't make the meeting, call 255-5499. No experience is necessary, all women welcome.

VSW WANTS YOU!

Want to get more involved but not sure where to begin? Join us -- become a volunteer at Vancouver Status of Women. VSW volunteers plan events, lead groups, raise funds, answer the phone lines and help to connect women with the community resources they need, organize the library and other exciting tasks! Come to the committee meetings: Finance/Fundraising, **Mon, Mar 21**, 6 pm; Publicity, **Wed, Mar 16**, 5:30 pm. The next volunteer potluck and orientation will be on **Wed, Mar 16**, 7 pm at VSW, 301-1720 Grant St. For more info, call Jennifer at 255-5511.

FACILITATORS WANTED

Vancouver Status of Women's *Single Mothers' Project* is seeking volunteers to facilitate upcoming workshops about the resources and services available to Single Moms in Vancouver & the Lower Mainland. No experience necessary, VSW will train you. Childcare available. Please respond by **March 15, 1994**. Contact Miche at 255-5511; VSW, #301-1720 Grant St, Vancouver, B.C. V5L 2Y7. Great experience! Valuable to single mothers and their children.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT SUPPORT GROUP

Meets every month at VSW, 301-1720 Grant St. For more info, call Miche at 255-5511.

EVENTS

FEMINIST NETWORKING

Next meeting is on **Mar 22**, 7pm at the Vancouver Women's Health Collective, 219-1675 W 8th, Van. Call Miche or Chris for more info at 255-5511 or the Health Collective at 736-4234.

ONE WORLD FILM FESTIVAL

A feminist film and video celebration, **Mar 11-13**, at Science Theatres, University of Calgary, Calgary, Alta. Over 60 films and videos, live performances, workshops, information displays, crafts and book sales, plus a special mini "Kids Fest". For more information call Andrew at Arusha (403)270-3200.

WOMEN'S ART RESOURCE CENTRE

Writing Grant Proposals, a workshop on arts grant applications, by Doreen Dotto, **Wed, Mar 9**, 7:30 pm. Winsom, a multi-disciplinary installation exhibition, to **Mar 12**. Gisele Ouellette, painting and drawing exhibition, **Mar 17-Apr 16**. All events at Women's Art Resource Centre, 80 Spadina Ave, Toronto, Ont.

SORROW AND STRENGTH CONFERENCE

Sorrow and Strength: A Process is an educational conference on healthcare available for people with trauma-based dysfunctions. Relevant for adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse, counsellors and healthcare professionals. **Apr 14-16**, in Winnipeg, Man. For more info, call (204) 786-1971.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Women and Sustainable Development: Canadian Perspectives, a conference **May 27-Jun 1** for feminist academica and activists to prepare a Canadian position for discussion

EVENTS

at the Fourth *UN Conference on Women* in Beijing in 1995. For info, call Ann Dale at UBC, 822-9154

OUTLOUD

The Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Collective of Douglas College is hosting *Outloud '94*, A Day of Awareness and Queer Concerns on **Sat, Mar 12**. Outloud includes workshops with Betty Baxter, AIDS Vancouver, Little Sisters and the Vancouver Lesbian Connection. Speakers include Svend Robinson and Percy Lezard. There is also a dance at 9pm. For more info, call Lisa or Stan at 527-5335, voice mail box #4335.

WOMEN IN LAW

Women In law: The Practice of Feminism, a conference that is a part of a collaborative educational project on the Canadian women's movement will be held from **Mar 4-6** at the University of Victoria. For details and a brochure, call 721-8481.

WOMEN IN EDUCATION

The fourth annual BC conference on history in the schools: *Women and Gender in the History Curriculum* will be held **Mar 11** at the UBC Grad Student Centre, 8:30-16:30. Contact Peter Seixas, Dept. of Social & Educational Studies: 822-5374 or Judith Coffin, teacher-librarian at Elgin Park Secondary School in Surrey: 538-6678.

ETHICS OF (MS)REPRESENTATION

A conference, *Feminist Issues: Post-Liberal Discourse and the Ethics of (Ms)Representation*, will be held at York University, **April 22-23**. For info/reg forms contact: Lois O'Grady, York Centre for Feminist Research, York University, 4700 Keele St, 228 York Lanes, North York, (Toronto),

NFB ONF

The National Film Board and YWCA present the 5th Annual International Women's Week Film and Video Series

DARE

Pacific Cinematheque
1131 Howe St.
Admission by donation ($3)
Information:
NFB 666-3838

Picturing Oriental Girls

A Web Not a Ladder

Limited childcare subsidies available.
Call YWCA Program Registration
683-2531

	Sat. March 5	Sun. March 6	Mon. March 7	Tues. March 8	Wed. March 9	Thurs. March 10
4:30PM	Forbidden Love	Two Beautiful Stars Calendars Expectations Full Circle				
7:00PM	Kanehsatake: 270 Years of Resistance	Silent History Picturing Oriental Girls My Sweet Peony And Still I Rise	Ur Analysis A New Leash On Life My Left Cyst A Web Not A Ladder A Balancing Act	With Our Own Eyes Home Coming '92 Overview (Discussion to follow)	Warrior Marks (Discussion to follow)	Pearl's Diner Queer Across Canada Fast Life on a Lazy Susan Fat World See Dick Run
9:00PM	She Thrills Me Wild Woman in the Woods Long Time Comin'	These Hands Them That's Not	Do Not Feed This Child Thinking Positive Teen Rebel Teen Mom	Women of Niger Women With Open Eyes	When Women Kill Where Angels Dare	Making Fire Hogan's Alley Return Home The Last Harvest

BULLETIN BOARD

EVENTS

Ont M3J 1P3, tel (416)736-5915 or fax (416)736-5916.

GOLDEN THREADS

The 8th Annual Golden Threads Celebration will take place on **Jun 24-26** in Provincetown, Mass. Golden Threads is a worldwide social network of Lesbian women over 50, and women who are interested in older women-no one is excluded. Attendance is limited so write for reservation info: Christine Burton, Golden Threads, PO Box 60475, Northampton, MA 01060-0475.

GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

Manitoba Action Committee on the Status of Women-Brandon presents a conference, *Gender and Development (GAD); Questioning the Answers*, on **Mar 4 & 5**. Joanna Kerr from the North-South Institute will be discussing GAD theory and applications; $40/30. For info phone (204)725-2955, childcare available, wheelchair accessible.

BENEFIT FOR MUSIC THERAPY

The Capilano College Music Therapy Graduates Benefit is at Josephine's on **Sun Mar 13**. Enjoy music and friends and support. Starts 7 p.m. Call 253-3142 for info.

READING

Ruthann Robson, "a leading authority on lesbians and the law," and award-winning author of two critically acclaimed fiction collections will read from her forthcoming novel about a lesbian lawyer who represents lesbian mothers, including one accused of murder. At Women In Print, 3566 W. 4th Ave. **Sun Mar 20** at 7 p.m. For more info call 732-4128.

BENEFIT FOR CHIAPAS

Tzeltal Tojolabal Tzotsil Qi'ij is a benefit for the people of Chiapas to be held **Fri Mar 25** at 7:30 p.m., doors open at 7p.m. at the Wise Hall, 1882 Adanac Street. Organized by the Mayan Indian Support Groups of Vancouver. Entertainment includes Marimba Players, Urban Native Drummers, Taiko Drumming Duet, Mayan Children's Dance, Irish Dance Troupe, the Jimmy Sidler band, plus an auction. Tickets: $10 adults, $6 seniors, underemployed and children 12-17 yrs. Free for those under 12 yrs. For more info call 736-2208.

CONTEMPORARY AFRICAN VIDEO

Video In presents a program, *The New African Media Tour*, that brings together innovative and contemporary video by African directors who challenge mainstream representation. **Wed, Mar 9**, 8pm. Filmakers Flora M'Mbugu-Schelling (Tanzania), Jean Marie Teno (Cameroon) and Godwin Mawru (Zimbabwe) will be present. At the Video In, 1965 Main Street. For more info call 872-8337. Co-sponsored by the Black History Month Committee, Full Frame and The Video In.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Women's Rights are Human Rights, the *UN End of Decade for Women* conference will be held at the Delta Inn, Wpg., **Mar 11 & 12**. Phone (204)889-1197.

FINDING COMMON GROUND

Palestinian and Jewish Women for Peace present *Finding Common Ground: An Arab and Jewish Women's Dialogue, Workshop and Tea* on **Sun, Mar 6**, from 2-5 pm, at the Peretz School, 6184 Ash St. Tickets are $3/$5. For more info, call Hiyam Deeby at 325-0614, Rhea Lazar at 736-5975, or Ekeen Ghattas at 432-7034.

WOMEN AND MEDICINE

The Society for Canadian Women in Science and Technology is presenting Dr. Penny Ballem, the Medical Director of the Women's Health Centre at University Hospital, on **Mar 3**. She will discuss *How Women are Viewed by Medicine*. The lecture will be held at the Auditorium, BC Hydro, 333 Dunsmuir St. Reception begins at 6:30, presentation at 7:30 and admission is free. For more info contact the SCWIST Resource Centre, 140-515 W Hastings St, Vancouver, BC, V6B 5K3, tel: 291-5163, fax: 291-5112.

JANE HUNTER

The Middle East Peace Action Coalition presents a public lecture on *US Foreign Policy and the Manufactured 'Islamic Threat* on **Mar 16.** The speaker, Jane Hunter, is an investigative journalist and public lecturer on Middle East politics. To be held at the Vancouver Planetarium Auditorium, 1100 Chesnut St. at 7:30 pm. For info contact Pat Katagiri: w 582-3200, h 534-8275, fax 530-6860.

CUSTODY AND ACCESS

The People's Law School is also offering a free law class on custody and access. The types of custody, the forms access can take, the rights of grandparents and other third parties and other issues will be discussed. To be held **Mar 30**, 7:30-9:30, at Marpole-Oakridge Community Centre, 990 W. 59th Ave. Please pre-register by calling 327-8371 (wheelchair accessible).

LEGAL RESOURCES

Find out how you qualify for free legal advice and learn of other sources of information at a free law class on legal resources. *Legal Help-Where To Go*, a class sponsored by the People's Law School, will be held on **Mar 15** from 7-9 at the Renfrew Community Centre, 2929 E 22nd Ave. Please pre-register by calling 434-6688 (wheelchair accessible).

OUTREACH TEACHING

Outreach Teaching: Serving Socially-Disadvantaged Clients in the Childbearing Period, a one-day workshop for childbirth educators and other health professionals, will be held on **Apr 23**. The workshop will focus on how to identify, teach and support people dealing with poverty, social isolation, illiteracy, substance misuse, sexual abuse and other forms of family violence. Course is $90 and will be held at Vancouver Community College, City Centre Campus, 250 West Pender St, Van. For info/reg call 874-9923.

PNINA GRANIRER

Pnina Granirer will talk about her work and the new book *The Trials of Eve*, at a lecture sponsored by the Centre for Research for Women's Studies and Gender Relations at UBC. The film version of *The Trials of Eve*, by film maker Gretchen Jordon-Baston will also be screened. To be held **Mar 1**, 12:30, at Woodward Instructional Centre #1. For info call UBC 822-9175 or Pnina Granirer 224-6795.

KINLALAT BENEFIT

A benefit dance featuring Kinlalat and Spinal Chord and sponsored by Vancouver-Nicaragua Partners in Rehabilitation will be held **Sat, Mar 5**, 8pm. Proceeds go to help people with disabilities in Nicaragua. To be held at the Maritime Labour Centre, 1880 Triumph St., tickets at the door or call 264-7774 or 325-4188.

LESBIAN MUSICIANS

Here and Now! a concert event in conjunction with *Unity '94 Gay Games IV and Cultural Festival* is calling for musicians. The Lesbian and Gay Bands of America is hosting the event to be held in Madison Square Gardens during the Gay Games in New York City from **Jun 20-26**. A limited number of concert spaces available but more can join the band in the Stonewall 25 Pride Parade. Deadline: **Mar 15**. For info/reg write to Connie Moore, PO Box 300788, Houston, Texas, 77230-0788, USA or call 713-741-3107.

BLACK AIDS PAINTINGS

Recent Acquisitions: Black AIDS Paintings-An Installation by General Idea, the Toronto-based artists' collective will be extended through **Mar 13** at the Vancouver Art Gallery. The installation consists of paintings and specially designed wallpaper that addresses the social impact of AIDS. The VAG is at 750 Hornby St.

FACES OF FEMINISM

Images of women active across Canada accompanied by their words. Researched and photographed by Pamela Harris, *Faces of Feminism* will be showing at the West Kootney Exhibition Centre until **Mar 20**. *Bones and Bone Country*, watercolour explorations by Kathleen Senay, is also with the show. For info call (604)365-3337.

MAKEDA SILVERA BOOK LAUNCH

Makeda Silvera will begin her cross-Canada tour in Vancouver, **Sun Mar 13** at 8 p.m. at the Pitt Gallery, 317 W. Hastings St. The launch, hosted by Press Gang Publishers, coincides with the release of her new collection of short stories, *Her Head A Village*. There will be snacks, refreshments and a cash bar. For more info call Della at 876-7787.

MAKEDA SILVERA

The Kootenay School of Writing presents Makeda Silvera, author of *Her Head a Village*, for free on **Wed Mar 16**, 8pm at 112 W. Hastings, 4th Fl. For info call 688-6001.

FRICTIONS II

BC authors Margaret Hollingsworth, Gayla Reid & Rachel Wyatt will read from new writing to celebrate the publication of the new anthology, *Frictions II-Stories by Women*, from Second Story Press. To be held **Sat, Mar 5**, 7:30, at Octopus Books, 1146 Commercial Dr, Van, 253-0913.

LAND(E)SCAPES

Tamahnous Theatre presents the "world premiere" of *Land(e)scapes* by Leslie Hamson. The play is a story of hope that chronicles the rich but difficult journey of the friendship between two women, one white, the other First Nations. There will be an evening with the playwright on **Mar 5**; the play runs from **Mar 2-19** 8p.m. at the Station Street Arts Center with **Sat** and **Sun** matinees at 2 p.m., 930 Station St. Box office-688-3312/Ticket Master-280-4444.

AEOLIAN WINDS

The Aeolian Winds, one of Canada's leading wind quintets, will perform in Vancouver for the first time on **Mar 9**, 8pm at the Vancouver East Cultural Centre. Performing with the quintet will be Vancouver pianist Ellen Silverman. For info call 254-9578.

DRUM HEAT

Drum Heat, Vancouver's percussion showcase returns **Mar 17-19**, 8pm to the Vancouver East Cultural Centre. It presents a wide variety of world music combined with contemporary experimental works and modern compositions. Lee Pui-Ming the dramatic pianist will be performing in this years show. VECC, 1895 Venables St., 254-9578.

THREE SISTERS

Actors Anonymous Theatre Company presents *Three Sisters*, the play by Anton Chekhov that explores the human spirit through the lives of three women. **Mar 8-12 & Mar 15-19**, 8pm at the Kitsilano House Hall, 7th and Vine. For res/info call 736-7283.

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GROUPS

VANCOUVER LESBIAN CONNECTION

Groups currently running are Youth Group **Suns** 7-9 pm; Ki Connections **Mons** 7-9 pm; ACOA **Weds** 7-9 pm; Over 30's Social Group 1st and 3rd **Fridays** 7:30-9:30 pm; Writers Group 1st and 3rd **Sats** 6-9 pm.

EAST-SIDE LESBIAN YOUTH

There is an East-Side Youth Drop-in for lesbian, gay and bisexual youth and their friends at Britannia Community Centre. This is a safe, confidential, non-threatening environment to discuss issues, build support and meet people. If you are between 15 and 25, want to get involved or get more info, call Jason at Britannia **Mondays** or **Wednesdays**, or leave a message at 253-4391or call Trish at 623-8376 pager.

DAWN BC

The Disabled Women's Network of Vancouver is holding monthly meetings for all disabled women interested in meeting other disabled women for support and information sharing. Meetings are held on the second Sunday of the month. Next meeting is **Sun, Mar 13**, from 2-4 at the Vancouver Housing Registry, 501 E Broadway. For info call 253-6620.

WELCOME LESBIANS

If you are starting or continuing the coming out process and want to meet other mature lesbians for friendship and support call Geri 278-8497 (evenings) or Louise 732-4128 (days).

SUBMISSIONS

RITUAL ABUSE FORUM

BRAVE (Breaking Ritual Abuse and Ending Violence) is a group of women survivors, their friends and partners, activists, counsellors and therapists who have come together to fight ritual abuse. A two-day women only public education forum will be held in Toronto on **May 28 and 29**. The planning committee is calling for art, poetry, writing, music, film etc. for exhibition at the forum. Artwork submissions due **April 15**. Contact BRAVE, PO Box 606, Stn. P, Toronto, On, M5S 2Y4.

WRITING THRU RACE

A call for papers for *Writing Thru Race*, a national conference for First Nations Writers and writers of colour. From **Jun 30-Jul 3** in Vancouver. Panel topics include: The Politics of Editting; Storytelling: Writing For Children; Positioning as a Writer of "Mixed Race"; Working with Family History; Mother Tongue and English; Publishers and (Self)Publishing; Race and Sexuality; Coalition Building for Writers; Race and Class; Visual Art and Text; Pedagogy and Theory. If you are interested in giving a talk on one of these panels, submit an abstract with a title for your proposed talk and indicate which panel topic or topics are appropriate for you. Deadline for abstracts: **Mar 31**. Deadline to enroll in the conference: **April 15**. For info on the conference and the panel topics write to *Writing Thru Race*, The Writers Union of Canada, Pacific Office, 3102 Main St, 3rd Fl, Van, BC, V5T 3G7.

WOMEN OF COLOUR

Sister Vision Press is still waiting for your Erotic short stories, fantasy pieces or poetry. Please send hard copy or work on IBM disk with SASE to Sister Vision Press, PO Box 217, Station E, Toronto, Ont, M6H 4E2. Deadline is **Mar 31**.

CHILD CUSTODY

An independent documentary filmmaker making a film on women and child custody in Canada is looking for individual women, groups or organizations who would meet with her to discuss stories, experiences and knowledge on this issue. She will be in Vancouver from **Mar 3-21**. Leave a message at 251-2119 or write Kris Anderson, 104 Sherburn St, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3G 2K4, (204)786-2433.

SUBMISSIONS

LESBIAN MOTHERHOOD

A call for papers for a book on lesbian motherhood/parenthood to be published by Gynergy Books in the spring of 1995. Articles by Native lesbians and two-spirited women, lesbians of colour and disabled lesbians are especially encouraged. The articles should be no longer than 20 pages, shorter articles welcome, and can be on a variety of topics (law, getting pregnant, the "lesbian family", fathers, rural lesbians etc.) Please send proposals to Professor Katherine Arnup, School of Canadian Studies, Carleton University, 1125 Colonel By Dr, Ottawa, Ont, K1S 5B6.

CLASSIFIEDS

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Beautiful spacious LF owned guesthouse on long secloded beach in the Domonican Republic. Tropical gardens, pool, large private guestrooms, sumptuous meals massages. Room rates: $330 single; $440 double per week. Call our Toronto friend, Susan, at (416) 463-6138 between 9am & 10pm.

WOMAN TO WOMAN

A feminist counselling service for all women who are wanting to make positive changes in their lives. For relationships, coming out, substance abuse, sexual abuse and other forms of violence, I offer a safe supportive professional environment in which to explore your options. Frances Friesen BSc, BA, MA (candidate), 5-6975 Kingsway, Burnaby, 540-0634. Sliding scale, free initial consultation.

A WOMEN'S PLACE

Emotional Fitness Centre Counselling, education and consulting services of the North Shore. Offers feminist and lesbian affirmative counselling, workshops, support groups. Areas of specialization: low self-esteem, depression, anxiety, communication, relationship difficulties, emotional, physical, sexual abuse recovery, coming out. Call Lou Moreau at 924-2424 RCC.

SEXUAL ABUSE COUNSELLING

I work with sexual abuse, incest and the effects of abuse: depression, anger, rage, anxiety, panic attacks, addictions, confusion, dissociation, multiple personality disorder and repressed memories. I use guided visualization, hypnosis, journal writing, breath work and inner child connection. Call Alice Fraser, B.A., Feminist, Survivor, 253-2205, sliding scale, free consultation.

GLORIA ORENSTEIN

Gloria Orenstein, author of *Reweaving the World* and *Reflowering of the Goddess* speaks about Ecofeminism, Spirituality, and the Arts at Emily Carr College of Art and Design (1399 Johnston St, Granville Island) on **Tues Mar 29** at 8:00 pm. Tickets are $7.00. WORKSHOP: **Sat Apr 2**, 9:30 - 11:30 am at Josephine's (1716 Charles) $25.00 (253-3142) Tickets/Information - 875-9465/844-3809.

WOMYN FOLK II

Presenting singer/songwriter Andrea Kohl, whose rich voice will enchant you. A cappella quartet AYA sings with humour, harmony, and heart. Contemporary acoustic guitarist extraordinaire, Doreen MacLean. Singer/song writer Sue McGowan (accompanied by violinist Sharon Costello and percussionist Carol Weaver) combines politics, lust, and lipstick. **Sat, Apr 2** at the Vancouver East Cultural Centre. Advance tickets available at Josephine's, the Bookmantel, and the Women's Bookstore. Sliding scale $15 - $20.

GENERAL PRACTITIONER

Joan Robillard, MD, General Practitioner for all kinds of families is located at 308-2902 W Broadway, Vancouver, V6K 2G8, phone 736-3582.

photo by Amy Gottlieb

OUT RAGE LAUNCH

Dionne Falconer, Mona Oikawa, Ann Decter, and Rosamund Elwin are the editors of *Out Rage: Dykes and Bis Resist Homophobia*, published by Women's Press. The Vancouver launch of *Out Rage* will be on Sat, Mar 19 at Charlie's Lounge, 455 Abbott Street, and will feature readings by several of the writers from the book, including Vancouver women C. Allyson Lee and Karen X, Chea Villanueva and Chrystos. Admission by donation, cash bar, doors open at 8 p.m.

CLASSIFIEDS

WOMEN'S MONUMENT

Come and help create change. The Women's Monument Project is now looking for women volunteers to help fundraise for the Women's Monument. Experience is welcome but not necessary. This will be an opportunity to network with other women. Fundraising training and information will be provided. Please contact Cate Jones, 986-1911 local 2063 for more information.

FOR RENT

Darkroom with 4 X 5 enlarger and workspace, $150.00 a month includes phone and hydro. Leave message 254-5824.

FIONA MORGAN

Fiona Morgan, author of *Wild Witches Don't Get the Blues*, creatrix of Daughter of the Moon Tarot Deck is offering workshops on Tarot, Astrology and Healing with Magic on **Sat/Sun Mar 26 and 27**. Full Moon Ritual **Fri, Mar 25**. $5-10. Registration/brochures call Pat 253-7189.

MENOPAUSE CHOICES

Starting **Mar 14**, 4 session Evening Group or Saturday Seminars 10 - 4 pm. Let's explore physical and emotional changes at menopause, alternate therapies vs. hormones and ways to make this transition. Both sliding scale: $30 - $50. Norma Roberts B.A., B.S.W., Health Educator 874-9590.

SUBLET AVAILABLE

Spacious one bedroom apartment for sublet, mid-**Apr** to end of **June** (or portion). Porch, garden, east side, near Trout Lake. Comes with optional adorable and famous pussycat (this would be convenient). Non-smoking. Women/children only. $445/month plus phone. Please call 251-3765.

ROOMATE(S) NEEDED

Woman roomate(s) needed to share 3 bedroom house with view. Nanaimo and First area. $350/month inclusive. Available **Mar 1** and **April 1** (or any time in between). Kid friendly and pet friendly. Please call 254-3765.

INCOME TAX PREPARATION

For individuals, self employed, small businesses, partnerships. Electronic Filing available. Evenings and weekends ok. Sliding scale. Call Yvonne at 879-9167.

CLASSIFIEDS

FUNDRAISER FOR HERSPECTIVES

Come on up to Squamish **Mar 19 or 20** and have your Tarot Cards read by Elayna Zamaef or Magi Frost. They both read regularly at Harrison Hot Springs, and are doing this as a fundraising effort for *Herspectives*. They will donate half the proceeds to help pay off some bills. The last time they came for one day and gave us over $250, so this time should be even better. For info or an appointment, call 892-5723.

HERSPECTIVES FIFTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Apr 15, 16, 17, 1994. Come and help us celebrate this great accomplishment of Sisterhood at the North Vancouver Outdoor School Conference Centre, out in the country, 10 miles north of Squamish. You do not have to be a subscriber to attend. Two nights/5 meals, coffee times - $135. Registration: (Sl. Scale) $25 - $60. Bring sleeping bag, pillow and towel. Billeting may be poss. for those who couldn't come otherwise. Workshops; readings; authors; artists; drumming; singing; dancing; hiking; spiral dance; mystery; womentalk; possible tour of native longhouse. For more info or registration write to Mary Billy, Box 2047, Squamish, BC V0N 3G0 or phone (604) 892-5723. A deposit will be required to hold a place.

HOUSEMATE WANTED

Room available **Apr 1**, in a beautiful queer old house to share with three others in Kitsilano for a responsible independent person, $292/month plus utilities. You don't have to be queer, women of colour encouraged to apply. Please call 738-5821 for an interview.

THERAPEUTIC ALLIANCE

Counselling and therapy using an integrative and eclectic approach in order to explore the individual's conflict and distress within the social context in which this occurs, such as adoption and fostering; racism and anti-semitism; heterosexism, etc. For an appointment, please call Sangam Grant at 253-5007.

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