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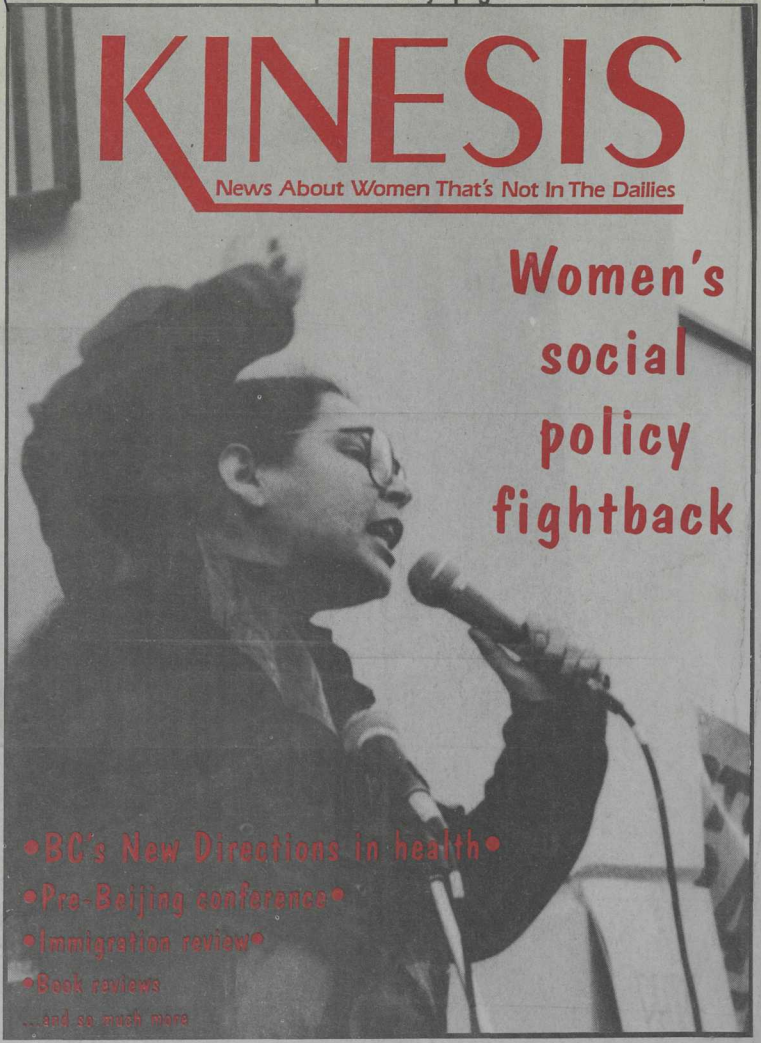
KINESIS

News About Women That's Not In The Dailies



Women's social policy fightback

- BC's New Directions in health
- Pre-Beijing conference
- Immigration review
- Book reviews

...and so much more

INSIDE

KINESIS

#301-1720 Grant Street
Vancouver, BC V5L 2Y6
Tel: (604)255-5499
Fax: (604)255-5511

Kinesis welcomes volunteers to work on all aspects of the paper. Our next Writers' Meeting is **Jan 3** for the Feb issue and **Feb 1** for the Mar 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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Miche Hill and the Social Policy Demo
Photo byFatima Jaffer

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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
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CELEBRATING 20 YEARS
1974-1994

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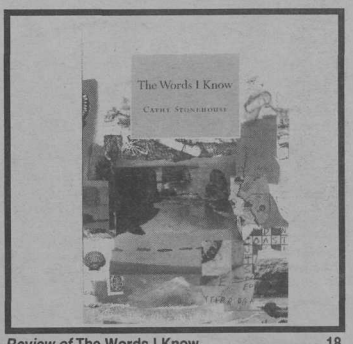


Review of **The Words I Know** 18

Twice a year, *Kinesis* produces a double issue—**a thicker issue** that makes the rounds for two months. But the story of thicker double issues is the story of every issue of this feminist newspaper—there's never enough space, time or resources to cover all the stories *Kinesis* should be covering. Why whine? Well, we never cease to be struck by how much **news-about-women-that's-not-in-the-dailies** there is for us to cover.

Take the **social policy review fightback**, currently one of the biggest, concerted progressive campaigns going on in Canada *[see page 3]*, for example the demonstration last month by more than **10,000 students on Parliament Hill in Ottawa**. Canada's national newspaper, *The Globe and Mail*, ran a small photograph on an inside page, with three lines of text. The focus was how students had pelted Human Resources minister Lloyd Axworthy with **Kraft dinner and raw eggs**. Why? What else happened? Who spoke at the rally? What was the message? This isn't new (when 100,000 people gathered on the hill to protest the NAFTA in 1992, The Globe hardly mentioned it.) but it still bears mention.

Take the numerous **demonstrations against cuts to immigration** across the country? Read about it? Seen much lately? How many cities were involved?

Take the **occupation of a federal Employment Centre office in Vancouver** last month *[see pages 14-15]* by about 50 representatives from some 25 organizations, representing tens or hundreds of thousands of people. The local newspaper, *The Vancouver Sun* decided not to cover it at all.

The Sun did, however, cover **the demonstration** that took place in Vancouver the next day. Only the when and where bore any resemblance to the demonstration *Kinesis* was at *[see page 3 & 16.]* The rest of the story came from the fanciful imagination of **some pissed-off wanna-be-Doug-Collins**, who couldn't possibly have been at the demo for more than a few minutes. He wrote about the "barking Trotskyites, the earnest Jean Swanson (fame at last?); the rouged and behatted Ragin' Grannies with their tired schtick; radical lesbians (so?); angry, complaining students; the "long-believed-to-be-dead Communist Party of Canada"...The story was shot through with factual errors and potshots at jus' about anyone who takes a progressive breath in Vancouver.

And so the story of this issue goes beyond what's in it: it's the story of what didn't make it into the paper as well. We've packed in a whole lot about the fightback against the federal government's proposals to use social programs (immigration, pensions, foreign policy, etc) as fodder for their deficit-cutting exercises...because **the fightback is really against global restructuring,** the not-so-new world order, the corporate agenda, about colonization of third world countries, the Free Trade Agreement, NAFTA, GATT, cheap labour pools in the north and south, divide and rule, minority rich versus majority poor, the rise of racism, militarization, violence against women, people with disabilities,...the list goes on.

As *Kinesis* goes to press, amendments to the **Employment Standards Act** have just been announced. The minimum wage in BC is set to go up to $6.50 by March, and to $7 (which will be the highest in the country) by October. We'll be following up on the changes in our next issue.

Rumours in the air are that federal **women's program funding for women's centres will be cut** by 25 percent in the next budget (February) and cut by 100 percent in 1996. We won't say more, as this is unconfirmed (though hardly unexpected).

Missing from this issue is part two of our coverage of **Quebec women** on the sovereignty (and other) issues promised in our last issue. We apologize: some of our coverage is complete, but vital parts are lacking due to various circumstances.

Last month saw a **mini international victory for Cuba**, which is suffering the consequences of 30 years of an illegal economic, commercial and financial blockade by the United States. A United Nations resolution aimed at ending the US's embargo against Cuba was passed by a vote of 101 to 2, with 48 abstainers. Only the US and Israel voted against the measure. Of note is that US-friendly countries, such as Canada, Mexico, Brazil and Thailand, voted for the resolution, against the US.

Still on Cuba..there have been numerous demonstrations across Canada and the US through the Fall protesting the US embargo. In November, a caravan of solidarity activists marched across Canada and the US, collecting food, medical and school supplies. The caravanistas then flew to Havana from Montreal to deliver the supplies. They also attended the World Conference in **Solidarity with Cuba** that was held in Havana last month.

We just learned that the **South Asian Women's Community Centre in Montreal was set on fire** late in October *[see page 7]*. The fire was deliberately set, and it is unclear whether it was aimed at the women's centre, the AIDS organization it shares the building with, or both. And as per usual, there was no news about the fire in the mainstream dailies.

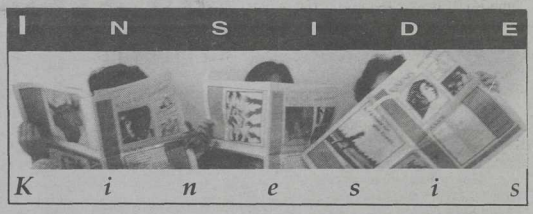
We've also heard that ***The Womanist***, the Canadian women's newspaper based in Ottawa, has ceased publication (it's been a year since their last issue, and we wondered what was happening). The staff has been laid off until the paper's publishers work out the financial and womanpower issues required for the paper to resume publication. We'll follow up.

Among other November happenings were: a conference and the annual general meeting of the **Indian Homemakers Association of BC**, which also celebrated its 34th anniversary. The theme for the conference was "Strengthening and Uniting Our Elders With Their Traditional Families." We were unable to attend, as we had booked the weekend for our annual planning meetings, but heard from women who did make it that it was a heartening, inspiring and practical conference.

Also in November, was a conference for women working on the issue of **new reproductive technologies (NRTs)**, organized by NAC and DAWN Canada and held in Vancouver. The weekend-long, invitation-only event brought together women from across Canada with the objective, among others, of developing concrete policy recommendations regarding future action on the use of NRTs in Canada; and strategies and mechanisms to address feminist/disability/social concerns on the issues of NRTs.

November 29 was the **international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people**, sponsored by the United Nations. On December 4 in Vancouver, the Canada Palestine Association and Middle East Peace Action Coalition are holding a public discussion on so-called peace in Palestine: "15 Months After the Handshake: What has changed," at 7 pm at Britannia Community Centre, L2, at Commercial Drive and Napier.

The printing presses call—and there are more-than-usual pages to print this month so we're off. Our new year's wish? More resources to produce a thicker *Kinesis every month.* (And they (who?) say **feminists don't dream!**)



'Tis almost the holidays...an especially special time at *Kinesis* because we get to shut down shop for almost the whole month of December for much needed rest! It's been quite a year, and we have lots to reflect on before we're back in January, revitalized, energized and ready to take on the new year!

Some of the fruits of recent projects at Kinesis can be found in this issue. Our type size is larger and easier to read. And catch our ads on page 23—we continue to try to increase our subscription base and we hope our gift of a set of postcards by six Canadian women artists will inspire you to give *Kinesis* to someone/group you care about as a present this year. We really need and value your support. Kinesis could not afford to continue to publish without it.

Also new this month is the *Kinesis* Advertizing Coordinator. Yasmin Jiwani comes to us from the National Film Board's marketing office in Vancouver, and has some terrific new ideas for potential advertizers, deals for our ongoing, long-time advertizing supporters, and much much more. Yasmin's also written (and we hope continues to) some great articles in *Kinesis* over the last few years. Welcome, Yasmin, it's great to have you on board! Oh, and Yasmin wants us to let anyone interested in advertizing in *Kinesis* to give her a call at 251-3755.

New production volunteers (the exacto-knife wielding, blue-pencil waving women) this issue are: Caitlin Frost (from *The Womanist)*, Rose Gilbert, Dawn Simpson, Christine Evans, Wendy Schuster, Lien Shutt, Amy Chen, Elizabeth Rushton and Dana Samiya.

New writers this issue are Donna Lee, Fely Villasin, Christi Cawkell, Sherin Farag, Minoo Shakibai, Anik Hahn and Caitlin Frost.

That's all from us this year. Thanks to *all* the volunteers who made Kinesis a dynamic and productive place to be! We couldn't do it without you!

If you're interested in volunteering for Kinesis in the new year, call Fatima or Agnes at 255-5499. The next Writer's Meeting is on Tuesday, January 3, at 7 pm at VSW, 301-1720 Grant Street, Vancouver, BC. See you in 1995!

THANKS

VANCOUVER • STATUS • OF • WOMEN

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 November:

Liberty Bradshaw * Barbara Curran * J. Dandeneau * Karen Egger * Christopher Gainor * Mr. and Mrs. Michael & Connie Geller * Darborah Honeyman * Sandra Howell * Tamara Knox * Yvonne Laboucane-Yemm * Barbara Lebrasseur * Neil Power * Ronalea Richards * Wallace Roth * Janet Shaw * Virginia Stikeman * Veronica Strong-Boag * Sheilah Thompson * Karon Webber * Lynne Werker

We would like to say a very special thank you to the following supporters who have responded so generously to our annual fall fundraising appeal. The ongoing support of VSW donors, as well as the support of many new donors, is crucial to the expansion of VSW's vital services and programs in the face of continued government cuts to our funding. We are very thankful to:

Catherine Aikenhead * Patricia Albright * Janet Altshool * Sarah Atkinson * Janet Bell * Jennifer Bradley * Dana Brunanski * Sandra Bruneau * Paula Burgerjon * Pamela Bush * Shauna Butterwick * Janie Cawley * Christine Cosby * Brenda Dafoe * Nancy Dickie * Deborrah Dunne * Petra Fachinger * Karlene Faith * Marion Fisher * Jan Forde * Catherine Fretwell * Carole Gerson * Debbie Goldberg * Maureen Gordon * Jane Heyman * Rowena Hunnisett * Linda Kemp * D. Kennerley * Bernice Kirk * W. Krayenhoff * Larissa Lai * Deborah Lerose * Megan Lindsay * M.K. Louis * Diane Malley * Janet Marques * Lucy Martel * Diane Mercy * Anne Miles * Leah Minuk * Lolani Moreau * Macpherson Motors * Myrtle Mowatt * Lou Nelson * Denise Nereida * Eha Onno * Lorcan Pitcher * Shawn Diana Preus * Massoume Price * Judith Quinlan * Harley Rothstein * Mary Schendlinger * Eva Sharell * Sima Elizabeth Shefrin * Margaret Shore * Ginny Stikeman * Geraldine Strother * Carole Tarlington * Pam Terry * Neysa Turner * Andrea Valentine * Mary Watt * Diane Wiesner * Barbara Wild * Brenda Wong * R. Elaine Young

Finally, we would like to welcome the new and renewing members of the Recommending Women Club: **Catharine Esson * Elizabeth Whynot**. The contributions of Recommending Women Club members are a crucial element in the expansion of VSW's vital services and programs.

Protesting sham consultations on social policy reform:

BC women fight cuts!

by Sue Vohanka

Women's groups and other popular organizations are working together to stop the federal government from trashing Canadian social programs.

And you could hear the anger and see the determination, as hundreds of people—women and men, seniors and students, immigrants and workers and unemployed—gathered to protest in Vancouver November 16 *[see photos, page 16]*.

After an invigorating noon-hour rally outside the downtown hotel where "consultations" on social policy review were taking place, many people went inside and took over the afternoon session of the federal government committee's hearings.

The government's consultation process is a sham, speakers told the rally. During two days of hearings in Vancouver, for example, only a handful of popular groups—16, out of 520 requests—were invited to speak.

"I'm mad as hell that the people of Canada, and students, and women are out here, excluded from a process, a bullshit process," said Miche Hill, of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women (NAC).

"Whose country is this, anyway? It belongs to the women of Canada, to the people of Canada, not corporations, not the Royal Bank," she said. "This is the same crap as NAFTA, as global restructuring."

She urged people to keep organizing actions, like the November 15 occupation of a Vancouver UI office *[see centre pages, this issue]*. "We'd like to see that happen right across the country," Hill said. "Get out there. Keep the fight going. Get angry."

"The consultation process is a con job," said Jean Swanson, of Vancouver's End Legislated Poverty, and current president of the National Anti-Poverty Organization.

"This government is radically changing our social programs so millions of Canadians will end up as the working poor," she added. "This government is forcing unemployed people into endless counselling, training, and education programs when what we really want is a job."

The federal government's proposals for social policy review include massive cutbacks in funding post-secondary education, elimination of universal child benefits, and the continued erosion of the rights of people on welfare and unemployment insurance. The government is also conducting separate reviews of pensions, foreign policy and defence spending, and immigration policy.

"The government has separated these reviews even though we know they are absolutely connected," said Nandita Sharma, of the B.C. Organization to Fight Racism, and Women to Women Global Strategies.

"What the government has in mind with all these review processes is creating a society where only a few are seen as more valuable contributors while others are seen as parasites who are disposable," she added.

The government wants us to fight one another, and to believe the lies that immigrants are a drain on our society, a burden on our social programs, and criminals, Sharma said.

"We know that immigrants make a valuable contribution to our society," she said. "Twenty percent of the gross domestic product is created by their labour. We know each and every immigrant

photo by Fatima Jaffer

makes both an economic and a social contribution to this society.

"Immigrants are not to blame for the signing of the free trade agreement which eliminated 500,000 jobs. Immigrants are not to blame when the government gives hundreds of billions away to corporations," she said.

Sharma ended her speech with a challenge that was loudly cheered by the 500 participants at the rally. "We will defeat any government that attempts to take away our dignity, and our rights, and our social programs. We are not fooled by their strategies to divide and defeat us. The people—united—will never be defeated."

Margi Slone, of the Public Service Alliance of Canada, said social programs are not responsible for the debt and the deficit. (Only two per cent of the deficit is caused by spending on social programs.) "We have to stand together, side by side, lock arms and don't let them break us."

Nothing changed when Liberals were elected instead of Tories, Slone added. Public sector workers still face constant downsizing—"there are not enough workers to do the work"—while a lot of senior bureaucrats who got patronage appointments remain on the public payroll, shuffled into new titles.

"If the government thinks they are going to separate seniors from the young, drive a wedge between seniors and the rest of society, they are wrong," said Elsie Dean, of the Burnaby Seniors Network.

When representatives of 60 different seniors' organizations met November 5, Dean added, they condemned cutbacks and called for jobs.

After a few more speeches (from student, labour, and tenant representatives) and a few more songs (from Ginger Group and the Raging Grannies), many people went inside the Sheraton on Robson Street to confront the parliamentary committee.

"They tried to slip NAC in and slip a few other groups in to speak at the last minute, and we told them to stuff it," NAC's Hill told *Kinesis*.

Others took advantage of the spontaneous opportunity to speak to the committee when the hearings resumed. Two women protestors kept an impromptu speaker's list. Dozens of people, many of them representing organizations which had asked to speak but were denied invitations, expressed their concern and anger.

One of them was Ellen Woodsworth, of the Action Canada Network BC, which organized the rally outside. The ACN is a broad-based coalition of more than 220 organizations, including women's groups, churches, environmental groups, gay and lesbian groups, first nations, seniors, labour and others.

"I represent a strong popular movement here," she told the committee. "What the Liberal government is proposing is exactly what the Mulroney government was doing. The people of Canada are not ignorant," she added.

"What has happened to you? Have you bought the American dream?" Woodsworth asked. "Do you want the riots on the streets? People sleeping under bridges?"

She pointed out that 10 years ago, we would have had royal commissions, instead of public hearings that excluded most of those who asked to speak.

"Don't stop at two days [of hearings in Vancouver]. We need a royal commission. We need to be able to present to you our proposals for vastly expanded social programs," Woodsworth said.

"We need a decent health care program, not one that just serves the wealthy. Not a two-tier system," she added.

"We do not want cuts. We know there is a tremendous amount of wealth in this country." Woodsworth mentioned Hibernia, and the Alcan Kemano project to drain the Nechako river despite the struggle led by the Cheslatta people.

"People are organizing," Woodsworth told the politicians. "You're just seeing the tip of it now."

Sue Vohanka lives in Vancouver.

by Sue Vohanka

When people took over a federal government committee's social policy review hearings in Vancouver November 16, Lena Warrington was among the dozens who spoke out.

Warrington belongs to various women's groups which applied to speak to the committee but got turned down. When she came to Canada as an immigrant in 1951, she didn't speak English. "Canada was wonderful. I am so sad to see it sliding backwards in the past few years," she said.

She described how she could put herself through school at the University of BC in the 1960s. "I am so sad that my daughter can't do that. My son can't," she told the committee.

(The government is proposing post-secondary education cuts that would at least double tuition fees paid by students, and a "completely flawed" loan program that student leaders say means it could take as long as 36 years to pay off a loan.)

After Warrington graduated, "one phone call got me a job as a high school English teacher," she said. She married and had two children, but her husband was damaged by the war, and when the marriage broke up, Warrington chose to go on welfare for five years to raise her kids. She did volunteer work during that time, for transition houses and other groups.

She went back to school, for upgrading, and she's still paying off the student loan she took out when interest rates were at 16 per cent. She sent out a stack of applications for teaching jobs, without success.

"There are huge waiting lists to get on the substitute teaching list," she said. Warrington spent five years trying to get on. She's trying to get contract work from groups working with immigrant women and visible minority women, she said.

"You are in high competition for stupid little six-month training jobs that leave you nowhere," she said. "I'm dealing with women who can't find jobs after they've put time into training. This has been heartbreaking for me."

Warrington is unemployed now, and on UI. "I read your questions," she told the committee, referring to the government's discussion guide on social policy review. "I hate this blaming the victim," she said.

"I would like a job. I would be happy to pay the taxes to help those not as privileged as I, to help those in need," she added. "I would love to pay off my student loan from 1981, if I only could."

New NDP initiatives:

Safer campuses for women

by Teresa McCarthy

Women on student campuses in BC are pleased that a new BC government initiative will focus on making campuses safer for women but are concerned that it may turn out to be yet another "band-aid solution" to the issue of violence against women on campuses.

The goal of creating Safer Campuses for women and all members of campus communities is the goal of a new Skills Now provincial training plan initiative announced by the BC government at Simon Fraser University (SFU) in Burnaby late last month.

While the program will be administered by the Ministry of Skills, Training and Labour, Women's Equality Minister Penny Priddy was also on hand to announce the funding, pointing out, "Women have the right to feel safe in their homes, workplaces, and communities."

Priddy said the Safer Campuses program will build on work already done by many colleges and universities to improve safety and protect access for women.

Under the program, all public post-secondary institutions in BC are eligible to receive up to $55,000 (for a total of $1.5 million across the province), to develop safety priorities and to implement physical safety improvements on campuses. Participating institutions will be required to commit funds to the program as well. Standing committees on each campus (drawn from campus constituencies such as women's centres, students, and health and safety offices) will develop action plans outlining needed safety improvements and oversee these changes on campus.

Carolyn Porter, a student and member of SFU's Personal Safety and Security Committee, which has been working on these issues for some time, spoke after the program's announcement. "This announcement comes as an affirmation to those of us who live with concerns of safety issues in our community."

Porter sees the Safer Campuses program as a challenge to "broaden the spectrum of what campus community security means so we can all enjoy the feeling of security." She says physical changes, such as better lighting and safety patrols are not enough, but that universities and the provincial government must make a commitment to making universities a place where women can feel safe expressing their opinions or taking part in a peaceful demonstration without being labelled as disruptive.

SFU student and activist Indrani Rin Ghosh agrees with Porter, saying that physical changes alone won't make post-secondary institutions safe for women. Ghosh says that women aren't afraid because there isn't adequate lighting on campuses, they're afraid because there are men on campus who are potential perpetrators of violence against women. She adds that making some spaces safer for women simply pushes perpetrators to find their victims elsewhere.

Ghosh questions the provincial government's decision to once again put the onus on women to use only the spaces deemed safe, while putting no resources into long-term solutions such as education for men about sexism and advocacy around violence against women. She says this program "doesn't equate women's safety with women's equality," and until this and the onus of responsibility for men's violence is taken on by men, things won't change.

The emphasis on women's physical environment without addressing women's equality is a common element in most governmental safety initiatives, such as last year's Vancouver City Safer Cities report, which primarily focused on physical, structural changes (like more street lights), and not with the issue of violence against women itself.

...physical changes, such as better lighting and safety patrols are not enough...
- Carolyn Porter

Miche Hill of the Vancouver Status of Women says she sees a similar weakness in the Safer Campuses program. "If they're admitting there's violence on campuses, they should be using money to address the problem of violence itself."

Bonnie Agnew, of Vancouver Rape Relief also stresses the importance of addressing women's safety as a women's equality issue. She says universities and colleges need to actively support feminist programs and work with existing women's equality groups on campuses, like women's centres, to increase regard and respect for feminism and for those women who are working for women's equality. She says campus safety and equality requires "a critical mass of women in every single class, department, and faculty" of post-secondary institutions.

This is the kind of change that SFU's Porter hopes can be achieved through the Safer Campuses standing committees. She hopes that physical safety improvements will be used as a starting point by committee members to tackle the broader issues of safety for "all students and staff, regardless of age, gender, ability, ethnic background or sexual orientation."

Teresa McCarthy works on SFU campus.

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BC's new protections for clinics...:

...after the violence

by Erin Mullan

The November 8 shooting of a Vancouver doctor who performs abortions has forced both the province and the media to address the on-going harassment at abortion clinics by anti-choice protesters.

Clinic staff have long warned of escalating abuse and intimidation by anti-abortionists, including the assault of an Everywoman's Health Centre staff member last summer. Pro-choice activists have fearfully watched the explosion of anti-abortion violence in the U.S. and repeatedly called on the government to act.

Following the near-fatal shooting of Dr. Romalis by an unknown assailant, the provincial government announced new measures to help protect health care providers and women seeking abortion services. These include the formation of a new police Criminal Harassment Unit, funding for improved security measures at the clinics, and support in strengthening existing civil injunctions, which do not provide adequate protection from harassment.

Pro-choice activists welcomed the announcement, which was made jointly by the Ministries of Women's Equality, Health, and the Attorney General.

"We're relieved that the government, through inter-ministerial collaboration, has sent a loud and clear message that vandalism, intimidation, stalking, harassment and assault will not be tolerated in a democratic society," said Joy Thompson of the B.C. Coalition for Abortion Clinics. "We hope that the team approach will insure that violence against health care providers will be given as much priority as organised crime and criminal gang activity."

The media spotlight on abortion clinics in the wake of the shooting has created some awareness of the harassment faced by staff and clients. However, much of the coverage still portrays the issue of abortion as a debate between two extremes. Few in the mainstream media question why a tiny but vocal minority, who abuse and intimidate those involved in a legal medical service supported by the vast majority of the population, merit so much media attention.

On November 19 several hundred people braved the cold and heavy rain to attend a rally held in downtown Vancouver in support of health care providers and safe access to abortion services. Speakers included representatives from the DisAbled Women's Network, the National Action Committee on the Status of Women, the B.C. Coalition for Abortion Clinics and the Elizabeth Bagshaw Clinic.

photo by Fatima Jaffer

Rallying for choice in the rain

A statement read by a staff member from the Everywoman's Health Centre summed up the thoughts and feelings of many at the rally.

"With these first bullets, our worst fears have taken on a shade of reality that we hoped never to see. Throughout history, by herbs, coat hangers or vacuum curettage women have always had abortions. We always will. While terrorism won't stop abortions it will make them more dangerous, so what changes is safety and access.

"At the clinics we participate in keeping abortion safe and accessible by providing the service. You participate by being here today, by your donations, your letters of support and your lobbying. If women are to continue to have safe access to abortion, if we are not to yield to terrorism we must have courage: the courage that is shown by you speaking out for choice, by women exercising that choice, and by those who in their daily jobs keep the clinics running."

As Joy Thompson says "constant vigilance is the price of reproduction freedom." Access to reproductive health in B.C. is unequal and especially difficult for rural women. Worldwide, a woman dies every three minutes as a result of an unsafe backstreet abortion. For those who want to support women's right to choice:

- join the B.C. Coalition for Abortion Clinics, 219-1675 West 8th, Vancouver V6J 1V2. Tel: (604) 736-2800
- write the provincial government in support of protecting the clinics
- send donations to the coalition or to the clinics

Violence against women:

Drunkenness is no excuse

by Agnes Huang

Two women's groups working to end violence against women held a press conference in early November to express their outrage following the acquittal of an Alberta man charged with severely beating his wife. On November 3, Justice JH Mackenzie ruled that Carl Blair was not guilty of assaulting his wife because he was too drunk to know what he was doing.

But WAVAW (Women Against Violence Against Women) and the Battered Women's Support Services (BWSS) say that by accepting the Blair's defense of "extreme drunkenness", the trial judge is sending a very chilling message to women who have been raped or assaulted by men.

"It's just a sanction for drunkenness and a huge alibi [for men who assault women]," says Heather Cunningham of BWSS.

Zara Suleman of WAVAW, a rape crisis centre, adds that the decision shows just how clear the power imbalance is between men and women in the law. "When women drink, it's open game on whether or not they can be beaten or killed, but when men drink it's now considered a defense so men can potentially get off on those crimes." she says.

In his decision, Justice Mackenzie ruled that Carl Blair was intoxicated to the point that he could not form the "criminal intent" required to find him guilty of assault. The judge based his decision on a recent Supreme Court of Canada ruling that ordered a new trial for a Montreal man convicted of raping a 65 year old woman who was in a wheelchair. The Supreme Court said that Henri Daviaut should be allowed to introduce evidence at trial to prove that he was too drunk to have formed "criminal intent" when he raped the woman.

In Blair's case, Mackenzie accepted the testimony of an "expert" who said that Blair was in a drug and alcohol induced state during the beating and was acting out violent scenes "like a robot," and therefore was not responsible for his actions. Blair had been on a 30-hour drinking binge and had taken a number prescription drugs before assaulting his wife.

photo by Agnes Huang

Mahshid Esfandiari and Zara Suleman of WAVAW

Heather Cunningham says the two court decisions put the blame of rape and assault on alcohol and not on the men who rape and assault women. "[There is already] the myth that alcohol causes battery or assault, and I think that's going to be intensified by [the legitimation of the 'extreme drunkenness'] defense," says Cunningham.

WAVAW's Mahshid Esfandiari adds the decisions re-affirm the pattern of blaming women for male violence against them. She worries that the decisions will lead to even less reporting of rape and assault—already only one in ten sexual assaults are reported. WAVAW has received a lot of phone calls from women concerned that the state of intoxication of men who rape or beat them will be used against them in court if they lay charges against the men.

And although contrary to what some people think, Janet Freeman of BWSS says acceptance of the "extreme drunkennes" defense does set a very dangerous precedent for women who try to get their rapists or batterers convicted of their crimes. "It will not be used only in the rarest of cases," Freeman says. "Obviously it's going to be normalized just as quickly as possible and every defense lawyer is going to jump on it because it's a perfect defense."

Vancouver: December 9th Coalition conference:

Lesbians on social policy

by Shannon e. Ash

Over 50 women and men gathered in Vancouver on November 19 to discuss social policy and the federal government's review from lesbian, gay and bisexual perspectives.

The day-long discussion was sponsored by the December 9th Coalition, a coalition of individuals and groups supporting lesbian and gay rights. The Coalition is one of the few groups which was able to present its views at the federal social policy hearings held in Vancouver November 16 and 17 [*see story, page* 3.]

Opening statements at the conference encouraged people to come up with their own visions for social policy and not be constricted by the government's framework of cost-cutting. Social policy issues such as health and immigration, ostensibly outside the government's review, were on the table.

One common concern was gaining access to rights and recognition for lesbian and gay families while wanting to avoid enforced dependency—for example, one partner being denied benefits because of the other's income. A Vancouver woman was denied social assistance because her partner had a good-paying job, and a Victoria person with AIDS lost medical benefits because his partner was expected to pay them. However, their partners cannot deduct these support expenses from their income tax.

The proposal to make Unemployment Insurance dependent on partner's income could extend this discrimination.

UI also discriminates in that a lesbian cannot qualify for UI if she leaves her job to follow her partner to another location.

Lesbians should be included in social programs consistently, and programs should recognize individual autonomy, were the conclusion arrived at by those discussing these issues.

The conference used smaller groups to discuss the many issues: income (in)security, education and training, human rights, (im)migration, children and youth, old age, and health.

In the Income (In)security group, where all but one in attendance were women, the question of how poverty specifically relates to lesbians was discussed. Lesbians are generally poorer than women in general, when relationships are factored in; women with support from male partners are better off.

Lesbians can face discrimination when seeking work, or in keeping work, if we are "out." We may lose family support—financial support, or the option of living with our families. Lesbians fighting custody battles may be burdened with debt: Rose Brown of End Legislated Poverty (ELP) spoke of how being poor and a lesbian was used against her during her own custody battle. Many lesbians are also single mothers.

Ellen Woodsworth, one of the meeting organizers, notes that most women on welfare are raising children, and need support and well-paying jobs, not just training. The discussion group on children stated that child poverty can only be addressed by focussing on the families, noting that lesbian families are particularly affected by poverty.

Woodsworth also pointed out that proposed public sector cuts—an estimated loss of 40,000 jobs—are in areas that employ many women, such as health, social services, and training. "These are jobs that women [and therefore lesbians] overwhelmingly have." They are among the few jobs where lesbians get decent pay, protection from firing, and good benefits, says Woodsworth, and by and large, only public sector unions have same-sex spousal benefits.

Meeting participants came up with a range of recommendations, strategies, and points for further discussion. A social policy committee was formed and there are plans to make the day's proceedings available for those who did not attend the meeting, and to get feedback from more members of lesbian and gay communities. A written submission must still be made to the government's social policy review.

For more information on the December 9th Coalition, call (604) 683-4176.

Shannon e. Ash is a regular writer for Kinesis.

Having your say...within limits

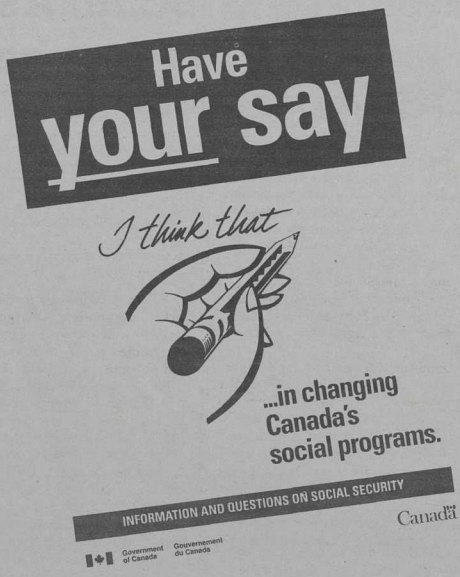
by Jean Swanson

The title says *Have your say* but the questions in the Liberal government's workbook on social security review are manipulative and leading. The following is a brief critique of the government's attempt at "consulting" the public on changes to Canada's social programs.

• In the section on "Employment Programs," question two asks people to rank the "employment tools" they'd find most useful if looking for work. The "employment tools" people can select from include: job counselling; information about the job market; upgrading basic skills; classroom and workplace training; and incentives for employees to hire unemployed workers. What's missing from these options? A job!

• On unemployment insurance, people are only given questions about the government's two options. There's no option for actually increasing UI benefits or expanding coverage to include more people.

• Question two in the "Learning" section asks pleasantly: "Do you agree or disagree with this statement: The federal government should put some of the cash it transfers [to provinces for post-secondary education] directly into the hands of students through an expanded system of loans and grants." What's missing from this question? Only the doubling or tripling of tuition as provinces scrape to pay costs of reducing federal revenues.



• One question is designed to elicit responses that oppose universality: "High and middle income parents should receive less money and low income parents should receive more money through the Child Tax Benefit." What about the option of preserving universality and taxing high-income people more?

• Another question is posed so that respondents will agree that people on welfare should be able to use welfare to top up low-wage work. It is not mentioned that increasing the minimum wage could have the same poverty-reducing effect without costing taxpayers a cent.

• Question two in the section "Security" assumes people have a lot of information they may not have. "Do you prefer a Guaranteed Annual Income?" There are as many versions of GAI as there are Canadians. Another option is: should "Provinces [have] more flexibility without national principles?" This question is really about the Canada Assistance Plan which includes the legal right to income when in need; the right to an amount of income that covers basic requirements, the right not to have to work or train while on welfare. How many people would know that checking this option would put them on the side of ending the legal right of citizens to income when in need? "It sounds really pleasant to me," said women's activist Donna Clark. "And that's about the only thing I have to go on."

So...what should we do about the government's workbook? We could fill it out, adding our own options and writing appropriate comments where no lines are provided. Or, The National Anti-Poverty Organization will have its own workbook, which tries asking questions that will be meaningful to people struggling in poverty. You can call NAPO at 613-789-0096 for a copy.

Proposed new immigration laws:

Racist agenda reconfirmed

by Agnes Huang

Not that anyone really expected the Liberal government to bring in any positive changes to Canada's immigration laws, but now activists have confirmation that the government has fallen in line with the right-wing Reform Party agenda of blaming immigrants—particularly people of colour immigrants—for the economic woes in Canada.

On November 1, Immigration Minister Sergio Marchi tabled in Parliament his government's plans to revamp Canada's immigration laws. The proposals include:

• an overall reduction in the number of immigrants allowed in next year from 250,000 to 200,000. (This figure is below the immigration level of one percent of the total population the Liberals had promised in their election campaign literature.);

• reducing the proportion of immigrants allowed in through the family class category, and re-defining "family members" to restrict those who qualify for admission under that category;

• requiring immigrants to pay user fees for language classes and immigrant settlement services;

• a greater emphasis in attracting immigrants who will "contribute an economic benefit" to Canada;

• requiring sponsors to post a bond guaranteeing their sponsored relatives won't use Canada's social security system; and;

• making knowledge of English or French a more critical eligibility requirement.

Many feminist activists say Marchi's proposals are part of the racist backlash against immigrants coming from countries in the South. "Canada appears to have conceded to this extreme right-wing Reform Party agenda of trying to exclude immigrants who are of a different colour, of a different origin, [and] who sound different," says Shree Mulay of the South Asian Women's Community Centre in Montreal.

Reducing the proportion of immigrants allowed in under the family class category as well as narrowing the definition of who is eligible under the family class particularly targets people of colour immigrants. Most women who come to Canada from countries in the South come in through this category.

"Given the [proposed] cuts to family class, there's not a question that this is really an attack on having immigrants from third world countries," says Sunera Thobani, president of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women. She adds that Marchi had already made it very clear several months ago that his government wants to increase immigration from European countries.

Marchi 's proposal to limit automatic eligibility under the family class to "spouses and dependent children," putting parents and grandparents in a separate category, will also have a very negative impact on women. Thobani says a lot of immigrant women rely on the support of their extended family to enable them to work outside the home. "I think the proposals Marchi's making will ensure that immigrant women remain second and third class members of this society," she says.

"Immigrants should not be made to pay for the government's failed economic policies."

- Sunera Thobani -

Shree Mulay says that the proposed immigration laws reinforce the racist myths that immigrants [from third world countries] are a "drain on Canada's social system" and do not contribute to the Canadian economy.

Cenen Bagon of the Vancouver Committee for Domestic Workers' and Caregivers' Rights (CDWCR) says that it is totally inaccurate to characterize immigrants as a burden on the social system and the economy. She says the government's proposals suggest that only wealthy English and French-speaking people from European countries are welcome to come to Canada. Bagon notes that despite the fact that domestic workers provide an vital economic contribution to the Canadian economy, they are very clearly targetted by the right-wing as being a drain.

Domestic workers had expected the government to cancel the Live-in Caregiver Program (LCP)—which allows women to come into Canada to work as domestics. And although the government did not cancel the Program—as Marchi had suggested they would when immigration policies were leaked in September *[see* Kinesis *October 1994]*—the government did make it more difficult for domestic workers to get into Canada by imposing restrictions on employers in terms of their eligiblity to hire domestic workers.

Essentially, Bagon says, the government has found a more subtle way to restrict the number of domestic workers who can come and work in Canada as domestics. And she adds domestic workers still expects the government to do away with the program eventually.

photo by Fatima Jaffer

Demonstrating in support of domestic workers in Vancouver

In October, a week before Sergio Marchi announcement of proposed changes, the CDWCR held a forum in Vancouver to discuss the LCP, and held a rally to protest the targetting of domestic workers through racist immigration laws.

Sunera Thobani says it is critical to see the connection between all of the government's "reforms" now happening in this country—immigration, social policy, medicare—and the government's deficit reduction strategies. Thobani says the government is scapegoating immigrants for Canada's economic recession. "Immigrants should not be made to pay for the government's failed economic policies."

South Asian women's centre set on fire

by Agnes Huang

An arsonist has left South Asian women in Montreal without the only community centre in the city in existence for them. In the early morning of October 25, someone broke into the office of the South Asian Women's Community Centre (SAWCC), piled up some files and chairs, and lit a match.

Although the fire was put out fairly quickly, the Centre's classroom area was destroyed and the rest of the office and the Centre's equipment suffered extreme smoke damage.

No one has been arrested for the arson. But most women connected with the Centre believe that the fire has to do with the fact that the Centre is a women's centre and/or a South Asian women's centre, says Sadeqa Siddiqui, coordinator of the Centre.

The SAWCC started up in 1981 and has remained the only service and support organization in Montreal for South Asian women and their families. The Centre provides many services for South Asian women including, French and English language classes, counselling for battered women, lawyer referral, and immigration and job counselling.

Since the fire, the SAWCC has been operating out of a temporary space while their office is renovated and repaired. They have also received support from different community organizations who have donated their offices and classrooms so the SAWCC can continue offering their language classes. Siddiqui says that they expect to be back into their old space in early December.

Although the Centre continues providing most of the services it did before the fire, Siddiqui says the fire has created double work for the office staff who now have to be both at the Centre and at the temporary space. As well she says, the Centre is currently unable to take on many new requests from women for support because they have less time and fewer phone lines.

The fire has also left women involved in the SAWCC very concerned about the safety of the staff and of the women who use the Centre. The SAWCC is hoping to be purchase a security alarm system and a door intercom and would appreciate any and all donations. If you are able to contribute to the Centre, please send donations to the South Asian Women's Community Centre, 3600 Hotel de Ville, Montreal, Quebec, H2X 3B6.

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.

NIF goes national

The National Film Board (NFB) program, New Initiatives in Film (NIF) is going national to enable Aboriginal women and women of colour to bring their stories to local screens nationwide.

NIF was created by Studio D of the NFB in 1990 as a five-year program to provide professional development and filmmaking opportunities to Aboriginal women and women of colour. This year, NIF will provide over $300,000 in direct support and training to 32 film and videomakers.

Now, for the first time, NFB studios nationwide join in the effort to expand training opportunities for Aboriginal women and women of colour. Also participating are Studio B, the Camera Department and NFB centres across Canada.

"This is an exciting year in the evolution of NIF," says NIF Program Producer Claire Prieto, a filmmaker whose credits include the documentary *Black Mother Black Daughter*.

"When Studio D started this program four years ago in Montreal, the goal was to help Aboriginal women and women of colour avoid ghettoization and share their talents with the wider filmmaking community. To do this effectively, we needed to involve producers in as many regions of the country as possible."

For more information on NIF, contact your local NFB office. Offices are located in: Vancouver; Edmonton; Winnipeg; Toronto; Ottawa; Montreal; Moncton; Halifax; London, England; Paris, France; and New York, USA.

Counting BC women in

The Ministry of Women's Equality announces the second edition of *Women Count: a statistical profile of women in British Columbia.*

The contents include statistics on education, employment, earnings, child care, violence against women, and women in influential positions. These statistics confirm there is still a lot of work to be done in these areas. Lacking in the second, as in the first edition, are adequate statistics on women of colour and Aboriginal women.

Statistics compiled in the section on violence against women report that approximately one in two women in British Columbia is a victim of sexual assault in her lifetime, and that women who are victims of violence in BC are less likely to tell someone about a sexual assault. The booklet also reports that of women in positions of influence, only 25 percent of the Members of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia are women. Further, the statistics report that women make up just 20 percent of tenured faculty positions at universities.

For copies of *Women Count*, contact the Ministry of Women's Equality, 2nd Floor, 756 Fort Street, Victoria, British Columbia, V8V 1X4, or call (604) 387-3600 or fax (604) 356-1396.

LEGIT is three years old

LEGIT, the Lesbian and Gay Immigration Task Force, is three years old in December. The organization, which works towards ending discrimination against same-sex couples in Canada's immigration policy, was founded in Vancouver in 1991 by co-chairs Chris Morissey and Douglas Sanders. Currently, only immigration laws in Australia, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Sweden, and Denmark allow for open lesbian and gay partner sponsorship for immigration.

In January 1992, Morrissey filed a constitutional challenge arguing that the immigration regulations discriminated against her on the basis of sexual orientation, denying her the right to sponsor her partner, Bridget Coll. In October 1992, Coll was granted permanent resident status as an independant applicant in an attempt by the government to sidestep the court challenge.

In December 1992, LEGIT members filed complaints with the Canadian Human Rights Commission against Canadian immigration laws that do not allow for sponsorship of same-sex partners for immigration. A favourable ruling would require the government to stop its present discrimination against lesbians and gays.

In spring 1993, LEGIT became aware of a change in the Immigration regulations regarding humanitarian and compassionate (H&C) exemptions. Until February 1993, all applications requesting an exemption on H&C grounds had to be approved by the Minister. The new regulation delegated this decision making authority to include Immigration Program Managers at Canadian visa offices. And in June, the Immigration Department sent all Program Managers a telex advising them that they may use their discretionary authority to apply H&C consideration to applications based on gay and lesbian relationships. This means Program Managers have the legal authority to re-unite same-sex partners on H&C grounds, if so inclined.

This discretionary, "backdoor" approach to enabling same-sex partner immigration has been somewhat successful—LEGIT knows of over 50 couples who have filed successful applications over the past year: many are lesbians and gay men, partners of Canadian citizens and permanent residents who have not been able to acquire status in Canada in the past.

However, LEGIT is still lobbying for changes to Canada's immigration policy to openly recognize same-sex couples. You can help by writing to Sergio Marchi, Minister of Immigration and to your Member of Parliament asking her/him to change Canada's immigration policy to recognize same-sex couples. If you would like to start a support or lobby group in your area or would like confidential immigration information, please contact LEGIT at P.O. Box 384, Vancouver, BC, V6C 2N2.

Sexual assault and the criminal system

The metro action committee on public violence against women and children (METRAC) has published a booklet called *Sexual Assault: A Guide to the Criminal System*. The guidebook was written for METRAC by Kathleen Gallivan and Susan Bazilli with input from the Toronto Rape Crisis Centre/Multicultural Women Against Rape, the Assaulted Women's Helpline, and Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter.

The guidebook's contents include the harms and hazards of sexism, racism, and classism in the system and how these affect reporting sexual assault; what sexual assault is according to criminal law; getting support after the assault from rape crisis centres and women's centres; teenagers and support issues; third party reports; and problems with the police.

The booklet also addresses issues such as media coverage and information on protecting your privacy and publication bans, laying charges, court preparation, court process, victim impact statements, compensation, civil law suits, and getting action. As well, this book provides women with space to record information in checklists of needs and questions to be addressed. To order the Sexual Assault Guidebook or any other resources, for more information, or for a library appointment, contact: metro action committee on public violence against women and children (METRAC), 158 Spadina Road, Toronto, Ontario, M5R 2T8, Tel (416) 392-3135, fax (416) 392-3136.

Lesbian group in Brazil

A new group called Estacao Mulher (Woman Season) has been formed in Brazil with an office in Sao Paulo and is calling for support.

In a statement, women in the group write: "We decided to form such a group because lesbians throughout the world, mainly in the so-called Third World, are completely ignored in statistics and in any research carried out by governmental or nongovernmental health departments.

This leaves lesbians unassisted with HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases, drugs, and many other problems due to the prejudice against homosexuals in our society. This is even more serious because Brazilian health policy is not that organized.

"Estacao Mulher intends to gather multidisciplinary professionals such as psychologists, lawyers, sociologists, and medical doctors to provide women, especially lesbians, with the complete assistance they need, in a way that they can feel free to express their own problems without being afraid of the stigma of Brazil's homophobic society."

Estacao Mulher needs financial support and information. They do not expect that the Brazilian government will provide any financial support so they would like information about funding and publications other groups issue. Contact: Estacao Mulher, Caixa Postal 62 631, CEP 01295-970, Sao Paula—SP, Brazil.

Lesbians at Beijing 1995

ILIS, the International Lesbian Information Service, is gathering stories of lesbians from around the world for a booklet to be distributed at the 4th United Nations World Conference on Women in Beijing, September, 1995. The booklet, which will also contain contact addresses for lesbian groups, is funded in part through a grant from the Global Fund for Women.

ILIS has also been presenting workshops on fundraising and preparations for Beijing, which will be repeated for lesbian activists at the Beijing conference.

In Beijing, there will be space provided for lesbian events such as workshops on lesbians' legal status in different countries, a tribunal where lesbians could present their stories about human rights abuses, and a film festival.

If your group is planning an event at Beijing, please send information to the coordinating committee: Lesbian Rights Advocates, P.O. Box 217, Rajdamnern Post Office, Bangkok, Thailand, Fax (662) 477-1776.

Since every participating country will be making a report about the position of women at Beijing, ILIS urges lesbian activists and groups to lobby their governments for lesbian issues to be included in these governmental reports.

Lesbians who want to attend the Beijing NGO Forum (for community groups, professional associations, women's networks, and so on) should start planning and fundraising now. Groups must register by April 1995 and the registration fee is $50 US. Forms are available from the NGO Forum on Women, Beijing '95, 211 East 43rd Street, Suite 1500, New York, New York 10017, USA, or by calling (212) 922-9267, or faxing (212) 922-9269.

NGO Forum organizers are raising money for travel scholarships for women who have no resources to go to Beijing and can be contacted about the "Send a Sister to Beijing Campaign" at the same address.

In order to attend the NGO Forum and/or the Beijing conference, a valid visa from the People's Republic of China is necessary. Women who believe they have been denied a visa because they are lesbians should contact the NGO Forum on Women immediately.

ATTENTION

Artists, scribblers, doodlers, mark-makers, aspiring amateurs, cocky professionals: *Kinesis* needs your gumption for new and original graphics.

255-5499

WHAT'S NEWS

by Lissa Geller

Right-wing poster boy strikes again

Following a complaint by the Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC), the BC Human Rights Council has agreed to proceed with a complaint against newspaper columnist, Doug Collins.

This is not the first time complaints against Collins have been laid with the Human Rights Council.

Collins has used his podium at *The North Shore News* to take aim at various progressive groups including women, lesbians and gays, people of colour, Vancouver's Black community, immigrants, refugees, unions, and others. In a 1991 column, he even took a potshot at *Kinesis*, calling us a "Marxist-Lesbian rag," among other things.

The CJC's complaint will however be the first heard by the Human Rights Council under new amendments to the BC Human Rights Act which recognize more severe sanctions for people perpetrating hate literature.

The CJC laid the complaint against Collins' column last March in *The North Shore News* in which he attacked the movie *Schindler's List*, (about the Nazi Holocaust during WWII) as "hate propaganda." Collins claimed that "what happened during the Second World War is not only the longest lasting but the most effective propaganda exercise ever."

CJC spokesperson Michael Elterman notes that, "Doug Collins has been writing articles for years which the CJC believes to be anti-Semitic...this column has gone beyond the acceptable limits of public discourse."

Meanwhile, *The North Shore News* once again says it has no intention of stopping publication of Collins' column. Publisher Timothy Renshaw says that, while some people may think Collins is an anti-Semite, he doesn't think so and intends to continue to provide him with his "freedom of speech."

RU486 back in the news

RU486, also known as the abortion pill, is undergoing clinical trials in Canada for the treatment of breast cancer and may eventually be used as a once-a-month birth control pill.

The pill, which uses large doses of anti-progestin to induce abortion up to nine weeks gestation, has been used to end unwanted pregnancies in numerous countries including France, the UK, and China for some time.

Its use in North America has been opposed by anti-choice groups and, as a result, RU486 is only available for clinical trials in Canada.

The World Health Organization (WHO) is currently studying the minimum dose needed to induce abortion and the effects that the drug may have on breast cancer and some forms of brain cancer. WHO spokesperson Peter Van Look pointed out that RU486 has a variety of uses, only one of which is abortion. "It's unfortunate this has become known as the abortion pill, because it's capable of much more than that," he said in an interview, citing its contraceptive and anti-cancer properties.

It will be four to five years before the current studies on Canadian women will provide any evidence of the effectiveness of RU486 on breast cancer, and another 10 years before doctors say they will be able to absolutely rule out any link between current hormone replacement therapies for post-menopausal women and breast cancer. Some of these hormone replacements are similar to the chemicals in RU486.

Prince Rupert women Take Back the Night

Over 150 women and children took part in Prince Rupert's first Take Back the Night march held on September 22. Participants joined others from across Canada and around the world by marching in the dark of night to express the anger and frustration faced by women and children who are not safe in their own communities.

The march was followed by hot drinks and fiery speeches, and served to raise awareness of safety concerns shared by women throughout the world, including smaller communities like Prince Rupert. The match was organized in part by the Prince Rupert Transition House.

Quebecchild support action

By the end of 1995, Quebec will be the only province in Canada which deducts child support payments directly from pay cheques, regardless of whether the payee is in arrears or not.

Under new proposals which are forthcoming, custodial parents would not be forced to chase after payments since the province would garnishee them from pay cheques.

This move is being heralded as a major step forward for women, who are largely the people collecting support. Quebec Status of Women minister Jeanne Blackburn says the new proposals will affects some 110,000 Quebec families and 200,000 children. About 55 percent of Quebec parents who should be paying child support default on their payments; the vast majority are men.

Back by Popular Demand

Women's and other equality-seeking groups are cheering the federal government's decision to officially reinstate the Court Challenges Program in Canada.

The program was created in 1978 to allow groups seeking to fight *Charter* cases before the Canadian Supreme Court to apply for funds for expensive legal fees and other costs.

The program contributed to a variety of important legal victories for women including the legal battle to return treaty rights to First Nations women and the 1988 decision which struck down laws criminalizing abortion in Canada. It was one of many programs axed by the previous Conservative government in February, 1992.

"The new program is great news for LEAF (the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund)," says West Coast LEAF representative Joyce Burpee. "Without the program in place, the danger was that...only those with money were able to influence *Charter* decisions and shape the development of the Charter of Rights. Now, because money will be available again, equality-seeking groups will be able to once again have a voice in shaping future law in Canada with respect to the *Charter*."

The contribution agreement which reinstates the program also creates a non-profit organization to administer it and provides $2.75 million for the funding of federal test-cases under the equality section of the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, and for federal and provincial test-cases under the language provisions of the *Charter* and the *Constitution*.

Downtown Eastsiders stop Casino

Residents and supporters of Vancouver's Downtown Eastside are rejoicing at the government's decision to quash a mega-casino project in the area. "Whenever you have a community based opposition to a mega developer and you win, it's a major victory," says John Shayler, spokesperson for the Carnegie Community Action Project.

In May, it looked as though the government was going to allow developer VLC Properties to build Las Vegas-style casinos in Vancouver. But then the Carnegie Community Centre Association hired Shayler to coordinate massive opposition to the project. Shayler and the community spent countless hours on the phone talking to legislators and citizens, writing letters, organizing petitions and conducting media interviews. A large rally was staged on August 7th which focused attention on the tremendous changes which would take place if the development went ahead. Finally, the government made its decision in early October not to proceed.

Members of the downtown eastside are now meeting to discuss kinds of development that might be appropriate for the area. "A public place, a market, maybe a First Nations Cultural and Historical Centre, maybe a recreation facility," says Shayler.

Access to parks for low-income people

For a long time now, people in Vancouver who were on welfare or had low incomes have been entitled to a Leisure Access Card (LAC) which entitled them to free access to swimming, skating, and skate rentals at all parks board facilities. The only problem with the policy has been that not too many people knew about it and, as a result, not too many people were able to use the LACs to access park facilities.

However, at a recent meeting of the Parks Board, a motion was passed that would require the parks board to make people aware of their eligibility for LACs and extend free admission to people on welfare to all facilities and services offered by the Parks Board.

The Park Board voted to put notices into welfare cheques notifying people of their entitlement. However, the Parks Board then put off voting on a motion to increase access to leisure facilities for low income people.

For more information on this issue, please contact Michelle at End Legislated Poverty at 879-1209 in Vancouver.

Anti-choicer sentenced

Staff at the Everywoman's Health Clinic and other abortion clinics in Vancouver are disappointed following the relatively light sentence handed down to anti-choice agitator Gordon Watson.

Watson was convicted of contempt of court when he continued to harass clinic patients and staff after being ordered not to. He was sentenced to 21 days in jail and one-and-a-half years probation. However, his sentence has been stayed pending his appeal of the conviction.

"We are disappointed in the 18-month period of probation, we'd hoped the court would make an order keeping him away from us for at least the next three years," says clinic spokesperson Joy Thompson.

To Thompson and the other caregivers at abortion clinics, the incarceration of Watson was not as important as keeping women safe. This is particularly true in light of the shooting of a Vancouver obstetrician who performed abortions last month *[see story, page 5.]*

The case against Gordon Watson has been carefully documented by clinic staff. In August, as staff attempted to videotape Watson harassing women at the clinic, Watson struck the woman and intimidated staff and patients.

Watson goes on trial for striking the woman in January and also faces another charge of contempt in connection with harassing and intimidating women at another abortion clinic in Vancouver.

Parental leave for New Zealanders

The Service Workers Union in New Zealand, representing a large number of women workers, has started a "12-Weeks Paid Parental Leave Campaign." Under current labour laws, women are entitled to 14-weeks maternity leave and male workers are provided two-weeks paternity leave. However, the leaves are completely unpaid and cause substantial hardship for women.

New Zealand remains one of the few western countries that does not provide some form of paid maternity leave nor did it ratified a 1952 convention of the International Labour Organization which called on nation states to provide 14 weeks of 100 percent paid maternity leave.

FEATURE

Pre-Beijing '95 conference in Vienna:

The call to action

as observed and written by Donna Lee

Towards Beijing

At an international conference in October in Vienna, Austria, women came together to work on the draft Platform for Action of the Economic Commission of Europe. The Platform for Action is one framework paper to be addressed by governments of countries at the Fourth United Nations World Conference on Women in Beijing, September 1995 [*see* Kinesis, *Nov. 94*].

Women participants at the conference represented countries from western, central and eastern Europe, as well as Canada, the United States, and Israel. About 1,700 women attended the non-governmental organization (NGO) forum at Vienna, of which 34 were from Canada. Twenty-one Canadian women funded their own trips, 12 were funded by the Canadian Beijing Facilitating Committee, and one was a government official.

My participation in Vienna was subsidized by the Canadian Beijing Facilitating Committee (CBFC), an organization funded by the federal government's Canadian Preparatory Committee (CPC), which is chaired by Status of Women Canada. I was selected by some CBFC members at the National Consultation of the CBFC conference in Winnipeg.

Before I get into the details of what happened in Vienna, the who, what, how and why of the CBFC needs to be clarified. Although the process for the formation of the CBFC has been characterized as "democratic," the nomination and election of CBFC members had more to do with time and money constraints. As well, few women knew such committees were being formed to organize for Beijing. (The China-Canada Young Women's Project is another "organization" formed and funded early this year to facilitate young women's participation in Beijing but by August, still lacked the participation of young women of colour and young Aboriginal women).

The CBFC is composed of 17 women: six are representatives elected by national women's groups; six are representatives elected by provincial/territorial organizations and five were appointed by the 12 elected members.

The role and mandate of the CBFC, as redefined at its Winnipeg conference, is "to facilitate Canadian Women's NGO's participation in the process towards Beijing. This will be done through outreach to NGOs, by providing linkages, networking and feedback."

The CBFC's role is also to lobby on behalf of women's groups in terms of process, access and representation, and to share information about Beijing with other women's groups. Six members of the CBFC also sit on the governmental CPC, which has 25 members including the NGO representative on the official government delegation, Madeleine Gilchrist.

To date, the CBFC has met a few times as a whole, and organized the national consultation in Winnipeg to find out what women in Canada think about the existing draft Platform for Action.

In Winnipeg, 18 workshops were held on issues such as violence against women, education, media, poverty, youth, human rights, and women's sexual autonomy, resulting in analyses, recommendations and demands for a document called the Call to Action. The Call to Action is everything NGOs identify is lacking in the United Nations' Platform for Action.

The Winnipeg conference was the first national conference I've attended. About 140 women participated. Although many women were frustrated because of lack of services to ensure access—including no translation for deaf and hard-of-hearing women, indigenous women, and women whose first language is not English or French—there were some highlights.

The Women's Sexual Autonomy workshop—conducted by four women, three of them lesbians—resulted in challenging recommendations. Participants discussed women's inequality due to our vulnerability to sexual coercion; how lesbians, divorced women, single moms and women not attached to men are punished through violence; and the economic, social and legislated policies that benefit women who have sexual relationships with men. We decided that a fundamental recommendation for the Platform of Action—which does not currently recognize lesbian rights be lesbian rights.

In the Violence Against Women workshop, some of the recommendations were:

- that the level of violence against women be used as a major indicator of the state's compliance with human rights instruments;
- that stable funding be provided to autonomous women's self-organized groups to affect international decision making;
- that an Optional Protocol to the (United Nations') Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women be adopted which would provide for the submission of complaints from individual women or from feminist groups on violations of the rights protected by the convention;
- that immigration laws be amended to eliminate the vulnerability of immigrant, refugee women and domestic workers.

There were many more recommendations articulated by workshop participants that I do not have space to recount here. For further information, contact the CBFC at 613-563-2550 (voice), 613-563-1921 (TTY), 613-563-8658 (fax); or call me at Women Against Violence Against Women Rape Crisis Centre (WAVAW/RCC) at (604) 255-6228 (voice), 254-6268 (TTY), 255-3579 (fax).

Interview with Fely Villasin:

Accessing the boy's room

as told to Donna Lee

Fely Villasin is a vice-president of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women, the NAC representative on the Canada Beijing Facilitating Committee, and a front-line worker at INTERCEDE, an organization for domestic workers in Toronto. Fely also participated at the conference in Vienna. Unlike me, she stayed for the lobbying process that took place in the second week.

Donna Lee: Could you tell us a little about what happened in the second part of the conference?

Fely Villasin: The non-governmental organizations (NGOs) finalized a document summarizing the more important highlights that came out of the first week of the conference. This was submitted for presentation to the governmental conference to let them know what the main issues and demands of NGOs were.

The governmental conference is the formal conference, with plenaries and delegates making presentations. There is also a committee, with different representatives as well as governments, that meets formally to draft and come up with a final document for the ECE (Economic Commission of Europe) for the European region.

In past international conferences, NGOs have managed to make use of and access the formal process to intervene and to lobby the different governments to ensure that the language [in official documents] reflect the demands of the NGOs.

However, at this conference, the first three days set aside for lobbying was spent in a frustrating and intense struggle to get *access* to the drafting committee. Physically, the location was far away in a different building. We were also given "security" as the reason for the NGOs not being allowed to come to the drafting committee.

These three days of struggle have an important political significance, in terms of the access of NGOs to what the governments are doing and to keeping doors open. The NGO women were concerned that, if we were unable to win unlimited access to that drafting committee, it would set a bad precedent for the 1995 United Nations World Conference on Women in Beijing.

We know there is already a problem in Beijing of the buildings [for the governmental and NGO conferences] being geographically distant from each other. This is significant since, at international conferences over the last three years, women have made good use of the interaction of NGOs with their governments at such international settings. It was significant at the Environment & Development Summit in Rio, and especially during the human rights conference in Vienna last year, where the language which has significance to the lives of women has become institutionalized in UN documents. This then serves as the basis for NGOs to hold governments accountable for their actions.

When we finally had access to the governmental conference, the issue (which somewhat parallels what happened in the NGO conference,) was the lack of representation of women of colour, youth and of course, lesbians.

The women of colour, made good use of media time as well as the government plenaries to make presentations on the disappointing lack of representation. [We also addressed] the fact that the overarching issue of racism...and global economic restructuring brings women of the north and south closer in terms of the problems we're facing today.

Joyce Rankin, a NAC representative, made an oral presentation to the government conference on the issue of lesbian rights. The group of women who did the workshop on Migrant, Refugee and Displaced Women presented both a written statement, which would become part of the UN documentation, and an oral presentation. I spoke on behalf of the 57 women from that workshop. NAC president Sunera Thobani made the oral presentation on behalf of the Economic Restructuring workshop.

Lee: You were talking about concern over the lack of access. Originally, the NGOs had five days to lobby the governments, but you said three days were taken up in fighting for access. In other words, 60 percent of the lobbying time...

Villasin: ...was spent in struggling, trying to lobby the governments just to give us unlimited access.

Lee: Could you tell us more about the process of that struggle, of having to tell them that you have every right to be there. Who did you talk to?

Villasin: The Canadian delegates, for example, had to talk to the Canadian governmental representatives to let them know this was a huge concern and to demand they do something. For example, when I was talking to Louise Bergeron-de Villiers [of Status of Women Canada], I asked her if it was possible to ask the Canadian ambassador to Vienna to bring it up on that diplomatic level, to

At the Vienna conference

The Vienna conference included about 12 workshops. The ultimate purpose for the subgroups and workshops at the conference was to create a 12-page (and only 12 pages) document which would outline "recommendations" NGOs have regarding UN documents, such as the draft Platform for Action. In other words, this was the only space we had to make our vision known to government officials who would be attending the United Nations "official" part of the Vienna conference. Our vision, outlined in the document called the Call to Action also forms the basis for groups to lobby the governments that will gather at the UN conference in Beijing in 1995.

The workshop on Indigenous Women was cancelled without a publicized reason, but indigenous women, such as Ida Vincent from Nova Scotia, got it happening again.

The Vienna conference as a whole seemed underfunded (What are governmental bodies trying to tell us?) as interpretation was not provided outside of plenaries—bear in mind, this is an *international* conference. This led to much frustration as women could not understand each other. Translation devices were provided at speech time but not during workshops, when the bulk of women's work was being done.

I attended the Human Rights/Violence Against Women workshop, and joined the working group on Lesbian Issues. In the latter, the two recommendations (we were limited to two) were:

• "Governments should expressly recognize that the rights of lesbians, single women, and all women who are not attached to men are fundamental components of human rights and that lesbians have the right to recognition as families and to live without fear of discrimination, harassment or persecution.

• "Governments should commit themselves to eliminating heterosexual bias in education, economic and social policies, and legislation in order to ensure that all women enjoy sexual autonomy and freedom from coercion. The particular ways in which government policies and societal norms impact on lesbians, single women, and all women who are not attached to men, should be addressed in each critical area of concern and strategic objective outlined in the Platform for Action."

...[Vienna] was the only space we had to make our vision known to government officials...

Considering all nine participants in this workshop were lesbians, one would think that the process in coming to these NGO recommendations would be fairly smooth. It was anything but. Some women were concerned that government officials would not address such demands, and we should tailor our recommendations to be more appealing. Fortunately, the outcome of the workshops reflect our rights as women to ask for what we want/need/deserve.

In the lesbian working group and at the conference as a whole, it seemed racism was seen by white European women to be found only in North America; that racism is not an issue in Europe. However, in Europe, people of colour tend to be limited to taking low-paying service jobs such as street cleaning and we have seen the recent election of an openly neo-nazi political party in Vienna, among other expressions of the growth of the racist right in Europe.

One incident that stood out for me in Vienna took place at the Canadian Embassy when NGO representatives—about 30 of us—met with Status of Women's Sheila Finestone and some of her staff—Valarie Raymond, Jackie Claxton, Louise Bergeron-De Villiers—as well as two men, one of whom was the UN ambassador.

For some women, this was a space to schmooze; for others, it allowed for potential lobbying. Finestone, a Liberal member of parliament, talked to us about partnership and how important it is for NGOs and governments to work together in this process. She switched from English to French as she spoke, and some women, who are fluent in both languages, pointed out that Finestone was not translating precisely.

There were no translation devices. Women spoke up requesting translation, but were not addressed. NAC president Sunera Thobani twice asked Finestone to translate what she was saying because it was important for everyone to be able to understand. Finestone eventually responded: "This is a bilingual country—go back to school." (Thobani commented afterwards she found it interesting to be described as a uni-lingual anglophone when she is fluent in five languages.)

What struck me was that while Thobani had spoken out and challenged Finetsone for her decision not to allow translation for the NGO women, most of the (white) women in the room did not seem to get it. During the mix-and-mingle that followed, I found it exasperating to see women requesting Thobani's support as president of NAC, some sympathizing with Thobani as the "victim" of Finestone's bad behaviour, yet refusing to acknowledge what had just happened in the larger group--that Thobani had taken Finestone on. Certainly, some of the NGO women seemed more interested in having photographs taken with Finestone.

All in all, the Vienna conference was an interesting scene. Canada and the United States were lumped together with countries of the north—the so-called industrialized countries—yet Japan was not included while Israel was. Many women noted that it would have been more significant to put Canada together with countries such as Mexico and those in South America and the Pacific Rim, since our economic policies directly affect these countries. Another point of note is that most women are having to fund themselves to attend these meetings—regional, national and international. *Who* is really able to attend?

For further information about the Beijing process, get on to the CBFC database! The numbers have been listed above, and the mailing address is Canada Beijing Facilitating Committee, 151 Slater Street, Suite 408, Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 5H3.

Donna Lee is a rape crisis worker at Women Against Violence Against Women Rape Crisis Centre in Vancouver.

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take steps as ambassador to resolve this problem.

Interestingly, the pressuring for unlimited access was taken up most by the US government. A US diplomat came to the NGO women's caucus to announce that [on Thursday] we had access to the governmental conference. So although [the Canadian government] seemed concerned, it was the US government that took it seriously and took more pains to actually hear the lobby of women.

Lee: How did you feel about losing 60 percent of access time to the drafting room?

Villasin: In effect, I feel the struggle for access was a victory because, underlying the issue of access was that of the concern of women from non-governmental community organizations having a real voice in the UN.

So far, the role of the NGOs has been very political, in terms of interacting with governments, in terms of lobbying, and so on. In all the preparatory conferences, there has been unlimited access. So for this to be happening in the European region was like [telling us] this was a sham. It was not something any right-thinking person could swallow.

[This question of access] is the same concern we should all have around how we organize towards Beijing, about whether we are organizing just to get there, or organizing to get there to really let governments know what women think and to make governments act. So it was a political struggle on many fronts and, for me, the most significant part of that struggle is that against what you and I have seen of the trend to a more depoliticized approach to this work in the United Nations. That is why I see the struggle as a victory [of] having unlimited access, being able to lobby governments, being able to let them know what we think and strengthening the words in the documents.

Lee: What do you think of the fact that the Vienna conference brought together countries of the so-called north--Canada, the United States, western, central and southern European countries, Israel--basically the 'industrialized' countries, yet Japan wasn't there?

Villasin: I think it's clear the US and Canada were not [categorized] in the region that includes the whole of the Americas, but instead in the advanced, industrialized countries [region]. I don't think this division comes naturally. I think what seemed to be the rationale was the fact that this [region] would contain most of the Group of Seven countries. It might be too much a stretch of the imagination to have Japan [be part of this region].

What was important was the effort made, especially by women of colour, to go beyond the north and link the problems of women of the south to what is happening in the more advanced, industrialized countries today.

Lee: What do you feel were the major issues dealt with at Vienna?

Villasin: Well, racism is an overarching context for the way the global economy is being restructured to the prevailing economic order that disadvantages women of colour and other minorities, whether they are in the north or south.

I think the teeny-weeny victory of being able to put sexual orientation in the language of [the European region's] Platform for Action is something that can be built on. The effort of all the lesbian activists going into ensuring this one word, "sexual orientation" will get into a UN document is significant.

"The linking of economic and human rights is something that needs to be built on..."

The linking of economic and human rights is something that needs to be built on as well.

There is so much enthusiasm to build on these things. With the rise of palpable racism in Europe that we all felt, I believe networking is especially important.

In terms of NAC, the basing of our international work on firm anti-racist terms is an important lesson, whether you're doing work on the economy or human rights or migrant's rights. It seems easy to separate women in the north from women in the south—work in solidarity with women from the south yet not see women from the south in our backyard. NAC has been wise in making sure we look at the international experience not as separate from what we're doing in Canada but as an extension and a broadening of our work.

Lee: What do you see as important steps towards preparing for the Beijing conference in September 1995?

Villasin: We have to make sure there are resources to be able to organize young women and women in general to the World Summit for Social Development that will deal with women's poverty in Copenhagen in March 1995. The Vienna conference is a guidepost on the path to Beijing. It's important to organize where you are [in Vancouver]. We began our networking in Vienna. Certainly, in NAC, we have affirmed that we need to inform with our own member groups so that they know what's happening as they're marching toward Beijing. We have begun producing inserts in [the NAC publication] *Action Now*, making the links with the Social Summit in Copenhagen. As usual, our problem is resources.

Lee: Could you tell us how individual women can participate in this process?

Villasin: Individual women can participate by working for women's human rights and working to improve the lot of women. I don't know what the word is but [taking me as an example,] I have just come back from Vienna and have to immediately organize around the possible abolition of the Live-In Caregivers Program by the Liberal government. There is the continuity—you think globally, and you act locally.

BC's New Directions in Health:

A structure without values?

by Christi Cawkell and Shereen Farag

New Directions in Health is the name of the BC government's plan to regionalize health car—instead of decisions being made from Victoria, it is designed so that regions may decide their own health care priorities. How will New Directions affect women in Vancouver? Will the community groups it purports to hear be able to make decisions regarding its health care needs *in reality*?

New Directions: the structure

There are currently 21 "Health Regions" in BC: the Vancouver Health Region is further divided into 13 geographic communities. Under New Directions, these communities will be amalgamated into six. Each region will have a regional health board and each community will have a community health council. The Vancouver interim regional health board members were selected in early December and the six community health councils will be formed by April 1995.

One of the roles of the regional health boards is to allocate funds equitably between the various communities of that region. Vancouver's regional health board will be comprised of 15 members, two-thirds local representation, one-third appointed by the Minister of Health. The community health councils, set up to enable public input into decision-making, are to take care of services specific to neighbourhoods.

In June 1993, after some community consultation, an interim regional steering committee, with 15 members, was formed. The steering committee derives its focus from 13 neighbourhood planning committees, and seven designated "communities of interest"—women, First Nations, children and youth, frail elderly, multicultural groups, people with disabilities, and mental health.

The steering committee's mandate is to propose how the regional system should be governed, as well as define the role of the community health councils in the overall process of change. The committee's proposed model for governance was circulated among 2,000 people, of which one hundred responded in writing. While the feedback was generally positive, community groups expressed dissatisfaction with some areas of change directly affecting their constituencies.

The final report of the interim steering committee recommends that Vancouver form one regional health board and six community health councils; formulate a Mental Health Plan; and encourage further study.

Aside from sponsoring forums for community groups to formulate responses to proposed changes in the New Directions plan, the New Directions office is devising a draft framework for the formation of standing committees, with a mandate of ensuring continual input and feedback from the seven designated communities of interest. Sharon Martin, regional coordinator with New Directions in Vancouver says that, for example, a Standing Committee for women will formalize the voices of women and allow concerns to be brought directly to the Vancouver regional health board. In this way, according to Martin, "New Directions is starting a process of linking the formal health care sector with the informal grass roots sector," she says.

New Directions and women:

The Vancouver Women's Health Collective (VWHC) played a leading role in planning, organizing and facilitating a forum on women and health care, which took place in May. Women from diverse backgrounds put forth their issues and offered solutions.

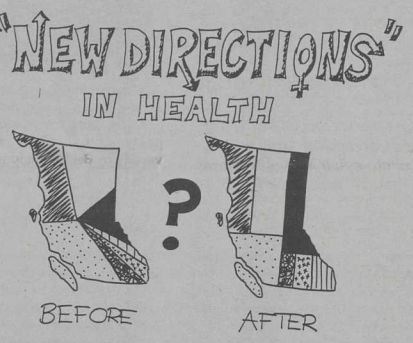
A group of women from the forum prepared a report summarizing the proceedings. In the report, health is redefined as "the extent to which people can fulfill their needs and goals, and change or cope with their environment, acknowledging the important contribution made by food, income, housing, social support and personal safety."

The socio-economic factors affecting health are thus emphasized, and suggestions addressing them are also made. The forum report emphasizes the need to move from crisis intervention to crisis *prevention* in health care. "We have to deal with health issues before they become disease issues," says Julia Brooke, a volunteer at the VWHC and a contributor to the report.

Community groups are concerned that New Directions could adversely affect communities in various ways. VWHC's Raine McKay points out that New Directions has not incorporated the recommendations of the women's forum on health, but instead is focussing on structure, with policy to be formulated later. This, McKay warns, poses a danger of creating a structure without values. And while communities have received some funds to enable their input into the process, McKay points out that as long as the structures of the system don't shift, you merely reinforce the existing structural sexism, homophobia, classism, racism, ableism, and so on, whatever the form of the system.

McKay adds that "Treating women, multicultural groups, First Nations, the disabled, and the elderly as special interest groups is ignoring the fact that these people *are* the core of the health care system." She points out women are affected by the changes to a large degree because women tend to use the health care system most, are largely employed within the health care system, and are the largest proportion of informal unpaid caregivers.

McKay is concerned that, through New Directions, the government is attempting to "download" government responsibility for health care to communities without providing adequate resources. The government's focus is on getting people out of the hospitals and into the communities, says McKay, but there is no provision for paying community caregivers, who are primarily women, to support this increased workload. In this equation, "women are the invisible economy."



graphic by Dawn Simpson

Chris Gainor, Communications Officer with the Hospital Employees Union (HEU) agrees. As well, Gainor points out that health care workers will not have a voice on the new regional boards being created. "With the conflict of interest guidelines, anyone who makes a living out of the health care system can't sit on these boards. This shuts out caregivers and union members and I'm concerned the elites of the community will be moving into the spots on the regional boards and community health councils."

However, Gainor says a positive step is that the government has signed a Labour Accord that guarantees employment security alongside the restructuring. The Accord ensures downsizing in employment is dealt with through attrition, a shorter work week, and early retirement instead of lay offs.

Gainor says the root cause of the changes in BC's health care system have been precipitated by the federal government's cutback in transfer payments to provinces across the country and that what is happening in BC is possibly less disruptive than in other provinces.

Eileen O'Brien, acting chair of the Women's Health Forum Committee, agrees that it is important to note that the government's restructuring agenda is not health care reform but getting communities to take less money and take on more responsibility. O'Brien says she is concerned that, with its decreasing budget, will New Directions be able to maintain its standards for protecting marginalized individuals, as well as ensuring women's voices are not only heard, but listened to?

She is also apprehensive about the pace of New Directions and the speed of change. "We're being asked to plop into their committees without having had the time to organize ourselves," says O'Brien. She adds that she did not want to see the New Directions Office decide how, where and when women's voices will be heard. "I want to make sure there's a seperate feminist voice," she says.

...will New Directions...ensure women's voices are not only heard but listened to?

Libby Davies is the New Directions' community organizer for the Downtown Eastside. She stresses the importance of having both the neighbourhoods and the eight communities of interest working in parallel to put forth their health needs to the Region. She believes the New Directions, despite some imperfections, has great potential in providing a community-based health system which finally meets the needs of those who have been previously excluded.

Davies also feels that decision-makers are genuinely interested in promoting and facilitiating community participation in implementing the new structures for our health care system. She encourages all women who are interested in health planning and creating healthy communities to get involved in order to make their agendas happen. Given that the New Directions' Vancouver office is only a year-and-a-half old, it is difficult to fully assess its impact at this point. Certainly, the emphasis on community involvement is a positive step toward realistically assessing the health care needs from the users standpoint. However, if the government wants to ensure support for New Directions from the community groups, it needs to take criticisms from these groups seriously and act on them.

Shereen Farag and Christi Cawkell work at the Vancouver Women's Health Collective. They wanted to inform women about the current restructuring of the health care system and promote women's involvement in the process, to ensure their voices are listened to.

Federal social program cuts: BC women fightback!

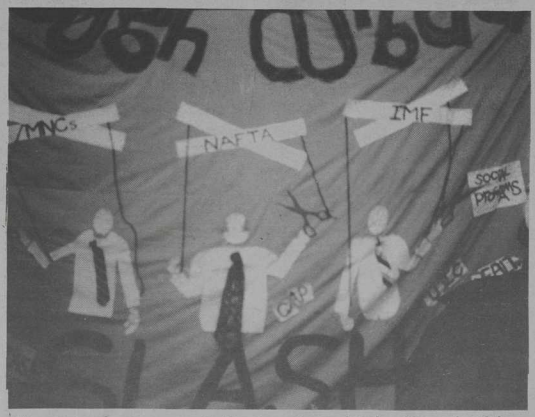
A photo essay:

by Fatima Jaffer

You're not going to read or hear much about it in the mainstream, but women and other socially disadvantaged people are getting together in every province across Canada to fight the federal government's proposed dismantling of social programs [see *Kinesis*, Nov. 1994.]

Early this year, individual women and women representing organizations in BC came together to form the BC Women's Social Policy Review Coalition. In September, the first national women's conference on social policy was held in Regina, where over 250 women agreed to basic principles for social policy reform.

Back in BC, women from various progressive sectors came together through October and November to raise awareness around the proposed cuts to social policy. In this pullout photo-essay, Kinesis *records some of the key fightback actions that took place in Vancouver* [as well, see pages 3, 6 & 7.]



Women from various organizations spent a weekend making colourful banners for social policy review actions in October. Later that month, the banners were displayed in the downtown core while activists leafletted passers-by. This is a detail from a banner made by women from the University of British Columbia's (UBC) women's centre.

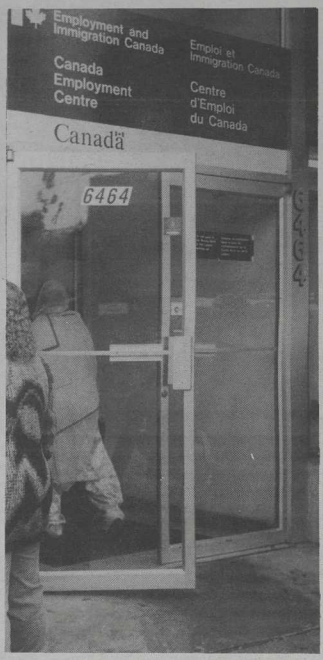
Left: Loud statement! Jackie Larkin and Shayna Hornstein carrying the NAC-BC (National Action Committee on the Status of Women) banner following the leafletting downtown. The Social Policy Review Coalition joined women from the Vancouver Committee for Domestic Workers' and Caregivers' Rights (CDWCR) and others at a forum on domestic workers and Immigration policy in a downtown hotel. The women then marched down Vancouver's Howe Street to the Vancouver Art Gallery for a rally protesting the proposed cancellation of the Live-in Caregivers Program and other cuts to immigration. Right: Banners of the CDWCR and the Association of Spanish-speaking Women.

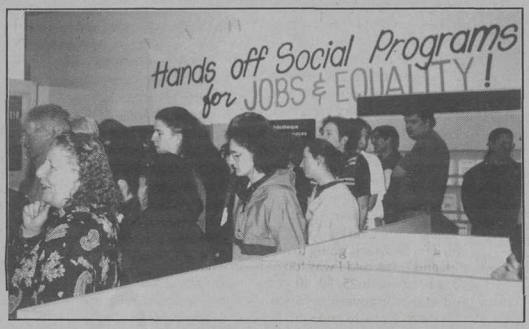
All photos taken by Fatima Jaffer. Thanks to Lael Sleep for transcribing speeches, and to Lien Shutt and Winnifred Tovey for help in design and layout.

Occupying UI office

November 15

On November 15, about 50 activists occupied an Employment centre on Fraser Street in Vancouver. The occupation, which lasted about four hours, was to draw attention to high unemployment in Canada and proposed cuts to social programs.





Once in, we put up a huge banner and tried to be as orderly as we could, so as not to interfere with the work of the UI office. The workers at the Office were supportive, as they had been informed of the inmpending occupation half-an-hour before we entered. So were most of the people using the centre. It was hard to ignore us--we took up a lot of space and our spirits were high!

We gathered at 8:30 am on November 15 at a parking lot close to the Fraser street UI office. The location and form of the action had been kept a secret until the night before but some mainstream media had got wind of it and were there with TV cameras to record us going into the UI office. We had planned for word of the occupation to be sent to the media and planned to hold a press conference at the UI office at 10 am.

Organizations represented included NAC-BC, Vancouver Status of Women, UBC Women's Studies, Simon Fraser University Women's Centre, BC Coalition to Fight Racism, Woman to Woman Global Strategies, Downtown Eastside Residents Association, Council of Canadians and the Action Canada Network.

Unions represented were: Canadian Union of Postal Workers; Canadian AutoWorkers; Vancouver District Labour Council; Public Service Alliance of Canada; Hospital Employees Union; Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union; Canadian Brotherhood of Railway and Transport; and the United Fishers and Allied Workers Union.

Nandita Sharma spoke on behalf of Woman to Woman Global Strategies and BC Organization to Fight Racism.

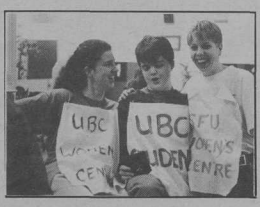
We need to keep in mind there are several review processes underway right now. They are reviewing our social programs, but there is also a review of foreign policy and defense spending under way; there is a review of immigration as well. What all these reviews have in common is the creation of a society in which a very few are seen as valuable and contributing members, and the vast majority of us are being portrayed as parasites and disposable people.

What we are here to tell the Liberal government today is we are not going to be fooled by their divide-and-conquer strategies. We are here to tell the Liberal government that we are serving notice that, once they hit women, once they hit people of colour, once they hit immigrants, once they hit workers, and once they have hit the poor, they have hit a rock!

We will absolutely not allow this to happen—they are not going to cut our social programs.

Jenny Kwan is a Vancouver City Councillor for COPE.

One message I want to bring forward to the federal Liberal government is that their social policy reform policies are something we protest against in the city of Vancouver. [The proposed reforms] will not help the citizens of Vancouver: it will not help Canadians, and it will not bring the economic viability which this city and this country needs.

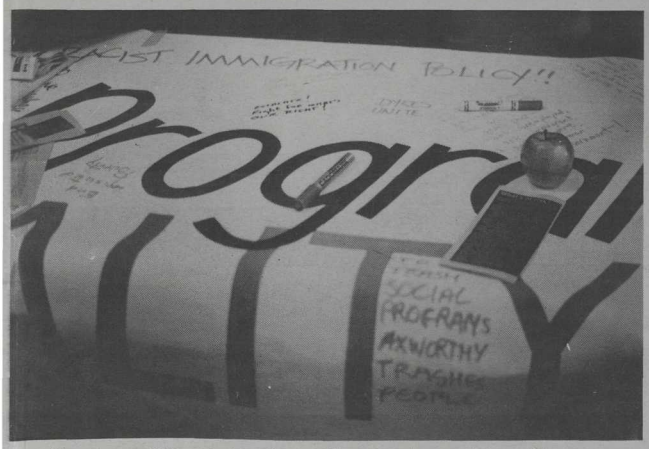


What we need are jobs and job creation strategies—there is nothing in this "White Paper" that the [Human Resources ministry] has created to address this core issue. There is nothing in the paper that creates jobs, nothing in that paper that says we will provide higher education to the people. In fact, they simply turn it around and want to create a lack of opportunity for people to access higher education, a debt for the students. That is something we will not accept.

They talk about wanting to address unemployment issues...well, what did they do? They want to cut unemployment benefits, they create a two-tier system, where in fact they will simply download their responsibility onto junior levels of government like the provincial and municipal governments. At the end of the day, who gets hurt?—the people who [the government] purports to represent.

The government talks about wanting to address child poverty. There is nothing in this [proposed social program review] that comes up with concrete solutions towards addressing this issue.

It is time for the government to get the message from the city of Vancouver—we will not accept the "White Paper" and we will certainly not accept it with our hands down.



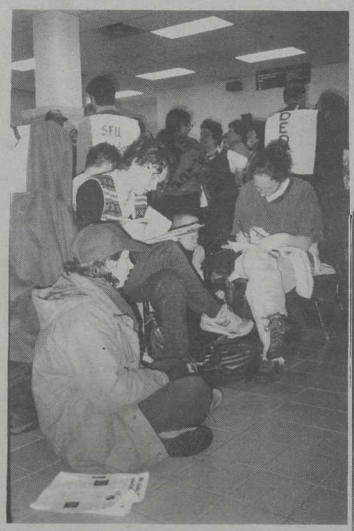
Occupiers scribble on banner: the overall message is--no cuts to social programs, immigration and pensions; tax the corporations!

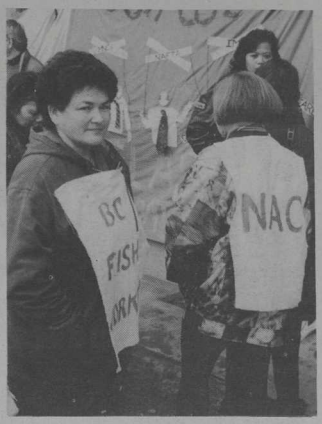
Barb Daniels is with the Downtown Eastside Residents Association.

You would think that before the Liberal government destroys this country as it now exists, they would consult with the people they are supposed to be representing. This is not what is happening. What is, in fact, happening is they have an agenda, they know what they want to do, their plans are made and what we are going to get in Canada is what we see in the States—increasing violence, increasing poverty, and increasing homelessness.

What we need to say, and what Axworthy's committee does not want to hear, is that low-income people in this country cannot tighten their belts any more—they can't even afford belts. Middle-income people in this country cannot afford to tighten their belts—they are on their last notch. This [time of policy reviews] is a great opportunity for people in this country who have made vast amounts of wealth under the existing systems of social programs and economic policies in this country to make a contribution—"come on, Royal Bank—how about that billion dollars? Let's have it!"

Following the press conference, some occupiers leafletted outside and within the centre, while others... well,...Right, below: SFU students crack down on school assignments. Left, below: Kinesis' Agnes Huang and activist Lynne Wanyeki pore over the item most worth buying *The Vancouver Sun* for: the crossword puzzle. As well, we spent the remaining hours at the centre sharing information, strategies and lunch; some talked to the media on cellular phones, almost all read...*Kinesis*.





Burma Lockett is a fish plant worker, with the United Fishers and Allied Workers Union. She spoke with Kinesis at the occupation.

I am here to oppose the cuts to the UI. We are seasonal workers, so [under the government's proposed changes to UI,] if we collect more than once in three years, or three times in five years, we are "chronic users," or "second-class citizens."

We would work year round if we could, but we can't and it is not our fault. People do not want to be on UI. I have 29 years seniority and now I am laid off and will likely not go back to work until March, when the herring comes back in.

Up to 1986, we used to work year round at our plant but now, all the ground fish goes across the line [into US waters]. With the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT) taking away our protection, we can't take our fish in the country, it can go directly across the line now. So we go on UI because of bureaucratic decisions on everything from NAFTA to the GATT ruling.

I am tired of everyone blaming the people. It's frustrating because I work hard, I earn my own living, I don't go on welfare, and I feel sorry for those that have to because they don't have a choice. All these cuts to UIC are just making it worse. It is taking the debt load off of the federal government and putting it onto the provincial government.

I collect UI every year, maybe only for two or three months, depending on when the fish come in. I don't have control over when those fish want to come into our plant. So the changes are going to affect a lot of people. You have to have worked more weeks for less pay from UI, and it lasts less time. They are talking about retraining people: what are they going to retrain these people for? There are no jobs out there.

We have so many people in my plant right now who don't speak English as a second language: what are they going to do? We have an aging work force: who is going to hire them? I went to look for a job at 40 years old, and I was told I was too old—so what is going to happen to people who have spent 25, 30, 40 years in the fishing industry? Because they collect UI, the government is going to retrain them? What are they going to train them to do and who is going to hire them?

I want them to back off and leave our UI rights alone. The government does not pay into it; it is the employers and the employees. The federal government should keep their nose and their hands the hell out of it.

I think the government should start off with cutting some of their own benefits. Working class people work all our lives for a pension, yet politicians only have to be in office six years and are paid a whopping pension. If they want to cut costs, start taxing the rich and leave the poor alone, because we can't get much poorer. There are a lot of single women out there who are single parents, scraping the barrel trying to make ends meet. If they go on UI or welfare, they are treated like second-class citizens. That kind of garbage has got to stop. The poor are getting poorer and the rich are getting richer on the backs of the working people.

Anthea Whitaker spoke on behalf of students from colleges and universities. Two students held paper sacks over her head as she spoke.

Over my head is the student debt. This [social policy reform] proposal says: "The corner stone of a better job and a better market is education." So what do they do to make better education? They cut the transfer payments to provinces. What do they do to make it easier for us to go to school? They say, "You will have to go into more debt." They say, "If students are more accountable for their studies, they will do better in school." Well, I don't think so. With debts like these hanging over our heads, none of the students will ever be able to pay their loans off.

Their so-called "income contingency plan" means that students, after finishing university, will get service jobs at $7.50 an hour and pay debts for the rest of their lives. This coalition of people is saying no more cuts to education; change the tax system; and we won't watch our social policies programs be reduced.

Protesting the Hearings

For full story of the demonstration outside the government's hearings on social policy in Vancouver, see page 3.

November 16

We started off with about 100 people at noon. Half an hour later, there were about 500 of us at the rally held outside a downtown hotel where the hearings were underway. Spirits were high; the speakers were inspiring; the solidarity songs were great; we were so many; we blocked the road and many stayed all day!

Miche Hill spoke on behalf of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women (NAC) British Columbia.

As an organization which has fought for the equality of women for the last 25 years, NAC is putting [Human Resources minister Lloyd] Axworthy, [Finance minister Paul] Martin, and [Prime Minister Jean] Chretien on notice—we will not support any reform of social programs unless it is gender-based with an analysis that supports women in this country who are the poorest of the poor; supports a system in this country where equality is the most important issue; and supports full employment, which is what we want. That is what they promised us; that is what we are demanding.

We want full child-care, we want a country and a society where people are treated with respect and where we have decent jobs and decent wages. We are putting them on notice today—the women of this country will not put up with any cuts to social programs.

Ellen Woodsworth of Action Canada Network, which organized the demonstration, holds a placard as Nandita Sharma of BC Coalition to Fight Racism speaks. Margi Sloan of the Public Service Alliance Canada is in the middle.

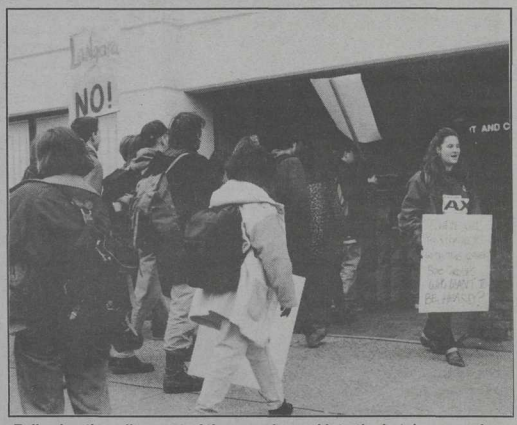
The Raging Grannies cheering the speakers on after doing a number, getting the crowd to sing along to ....Solidarity forever? Also performing were the Ginger Group, an ad-hoc group of women who played and sung a number of songs, some old, some seemed to have been written specially for the social policy fightback.

Jean Swanson spoke on behalf of End Legislated Poverty.

Canadians really need to know what is in [*Have Your Say,* the government's social policy reform paper] and *not* from the point of view of the Canadian government but from the point of view of the devastation this book is going to wreak on our country *[see a critique of* Have Your Say *on page 6].*

The stuff in this book is going to make poor people poorer; it is going to make unemployed people poorer; it is going to make students poorer; it is going to make workers poorer; it is going to take rights from every single Canadian—that being the right to income when they are in need. It is going to pit people on welfare against people on UIC against working people.

The stuff in this book is going to force poor people and unemployed people to compete fiercely for the jobs that people already have and undermine wages and working conditions. The stuff in this book is part of harmonizing our country with the United States and even with Mexico. This book destroys the social programs that keep us from having to work for the wages that people have in Mexico. We have to make sure everyone in Canada understands this and puts a stop to this so called "reform."



Following the rally, most of the crowd pored into the hotel rooms where the government's committee's social policy review hearings were being held. After chanting for some time, some of us left; others stayed into the evening to have their say.

Review: **To Be There With You:**

An exceptional Reid

by Nancy Pollak

TO BE THERE WITH YOU

by Gayla Reid
Douglas & McIntyre, Vancouver 1994

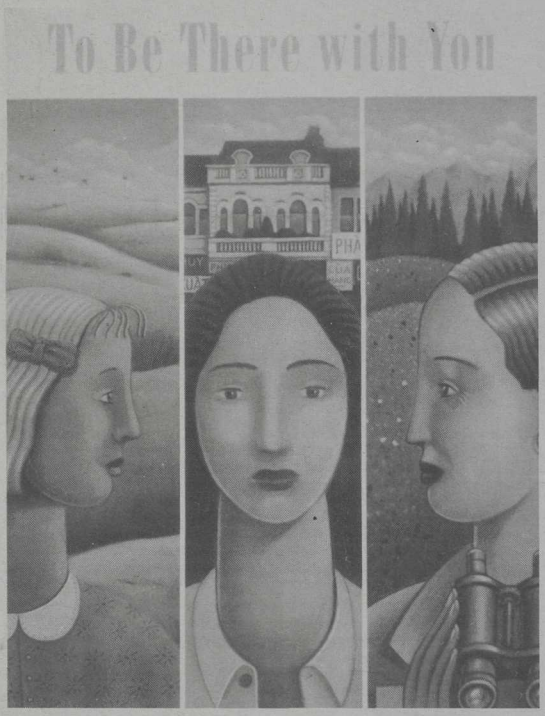
At their best, short story collections are like superior boxes of chocolates. While some morsels are exquisite and others merely good, we are more or less fulfilled throughout the feeding. Fulfilled, and a little wired.

I don't usually fancy short story collections—even the best. The problem isn't between me and the stories. It's between me and my metabolism. Just as a dose of candy can skew the day, good writing gives me the shakes. I'm lucky to muster the calm to read twelve, fifteen pages a day. An entire volume of good writing is frightening: like a little girl who spends too long inside her hallowe'en pillowcase, I can spin off my axis with an almost bio-chemical excitement.

Fortunately, I had two months to read Gayla Reid's collection, *To Be There with You*. Two months pacing the book, slowly, quickly filling with a story (they are mainly discreet, yet something builds) and then resting. During the reading and the resting, I never shook Reid's presence. Not *her*, really, but the abundance of her creation.

This is Reid's first collection, although individual stories have been noticed and rewarded with literary prizes. The 1993 Journey Prize went to "Sister Doyle's Men," reprinted here. For a reviewer, this story offers a chance to list some of Reid's evident themes: Australia (the land, the white inhabitants); war (in this case, WWII); family dynamics; Catholicism; personal and political movements; love and sexuality.

"Sister Doyle's Men" also exhibits Reid's architecture, the designs and materials she favours: small rooms, occupied by tangible episodes and dialogue; or filled with mood, memory, drifts of consciousness, heedless of time. Her language is intense, uncluttered. She is very funny, physical and subtle. Altogether, these small rooms expand with the heat of Reid's observations and intelligence to become very large places indeed.



Of course, lists and descriptions can't capture the experience of the stories. Let me try.

Reid isn't a story-teller in the conventional senses. Not that her writing is experimental. She hasn't dispensed with character and setting, or leaned far into language-in-and-of-itself. In her stories, you are certainly among people—their thoughts and gestures, their sensual and ethical strivings. And you are certainly amidst the geographic world—wind soil fish shrub wave—characters in their own right and players, too, on the human stage. As well, Reid finds her people inside the wash of large historical and institutional forces, and tracks their attempts at resistance, and their submissions.

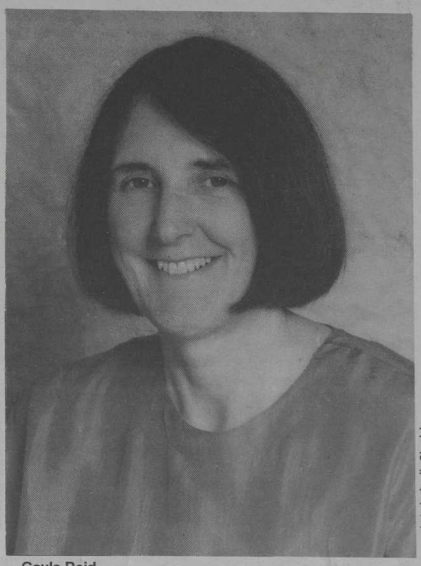


photo by Leslie Chesick

Gayla Reid

But for all the substance of her story-telling, Reid doesn't take you by the hand or lead you down an orthodox, narrative path. The power of her writing goes beyond an intriguing tale, a deft observation, a well-turned phrase. It resides in imagination.

You will read through nun's underwear, Australian desserts and doggerel, Mahler's *Fifth* and scuba diving

Reid's imagination unfolds on several levels. At first there are the stories and characters themselves, emotionally intricate, often travelling wide distances of place and time (the itinerary in "Passport" includes Budapest, Sydney, Chicago, Chianh Mai, Spokane, Bien Hoa). Her skills are considerable. Reid obviously draws from her own pages—she's Australian-born, raised Catholic, politically engaged—but this is not warmed-over autobiography. This is the sensitivity of a writer who imagines other lives, other terrains, deeply, and delivers them with intimacy *and* detachment.

It's almost an old-fashioned talent, startling beside the confessional tone of much contemporary fiction.

On another level, the writing sinks in with a weight that exceeds plot or emotion. It is like looking at a fascinating photograph. First you are drawn by the visual force of the scene; then you become conscious of the photographer, the original intelligence that fashioned what you see. For me, this is when the shaking begins. Reid has intelligence in spades: the intelligence of memory, of heart and eye, of intuition and passion. (She also has a dry hilarity.) Her stories impact, not because you necessarily recognize yourself or empathize or are 'educated,' but because you become gripped by another's vision, absorbed by what she found absorbing.

As for the stories themselves—the plots could be recounted but I'd rather not. The lead characters are generally white children of the 1940s to 1970s, often tangled in the Vietnam war and leftie politics, often also tangled in their bedsheets. (A complaint: I grew tired of Reid's recurring and unvaried theme of heterosexual infidelity, aka screwing around.) There are powerful depictions of Catholic girlhoods, of women's friendships, of love in many keys. You will read through nun's underwear, Australian desserts and doggerel, Mahler's *Fifth* and scuba diving. You will feel the slowness of childhood, the acceleration of age.

Reid is a former editor of this newspaper. She started writing fiction in her 40s. No doubt that's a very good story, too, in league with the contents of *To Be There with You*.

Nancy Pollak also writes really slowly.

Review: **The Words I Know:**

Poems of courage

by Naomi Foyle

THE WORDS I KNOW

By Cathy Stonehouse
Press Gang Publishers,
Vancouver, BC, 1994

This accomplished first collection moves with marshalled limpidity through a childhood scored and scorched by incest. Softly illustrated by the poet's brother, *The Words I Know* is a book to cherish for its insight, subtle crafting and naked courage. The speaker's resurfacing memories and emotions find elemental mirrors in the moon, the sea, her father's work in the mines of Northern England, and the lives of other women. Mexican painter Frida Kahlo, in particular, figures hauntingly as a mortal icon of female creativity in the crucible of great personal suffering and heightened political awareness.

Cathy Stonehouse was born and raised in Northwest England, and came to Canada in 1990 to study for an MA in creative writing at the University of British Columbia, where this book was written. Her father had been a collier [DEFINE], until closures ensured "the turf grew thick above the mineshaft." Upon his death, the writer's "memory/the glinting seam" began an arduous haul to consciousness.

The poems that open the book document an all too familiar world of knowing. In a long erasure of childhood and love, a family circles the barely thinkable fact of a father's brutality.

These vignettes unfold tremulously at first—"something is missing" and because "the view I have yields broken sentences," the narrator compresses her fear and hurt into poetry.

But with the father's death, a girl's perspective doubles to encompass the grown woman's, and a harsh new note of realization is struck. The book acquires:

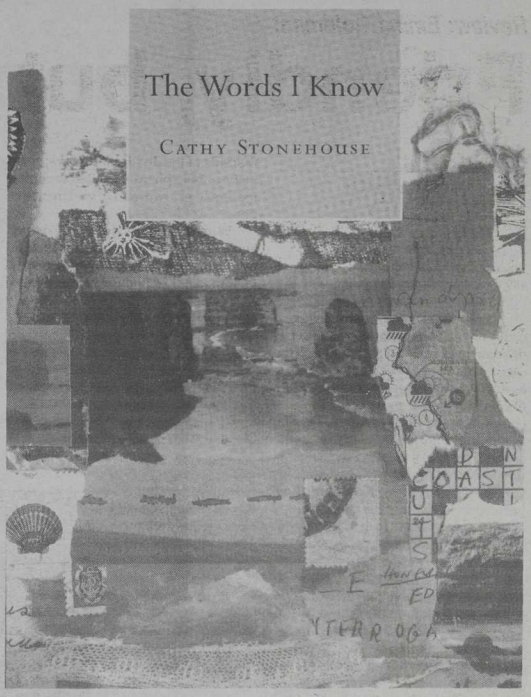
"the stones' sharpness,
who are counting the brown
knuckled hands of the waves
that open like yours to fill every
crevice
and never give up."

"Illuminations," engorged with Rimbaud-like metaphors of sea wreckage, fantastic flights of escape "through the eye of the ceiling" and the terrible detail of the sexual violence Stonehouse underwent at the age of six, is yet as taut and understated as a cutting wire at the throat.

...an all too familiar world of knowing...

Throughout *The Words I know*, Stonehouse maintains this tension between a child's abject terror and the adult's recourse to the precision and intricacy of language. Her occasional ventures into the poetic paragraph, however, convey a fluid sense of immersion in rhythm and image, promising a rich prose style in her upcoming novel. Other sequences in the book probe her relationships with her mother, her lover, and women as diverse as woman flyer Amelia Earhart, and Gioconda Belli, Nicaraguan poet and militant activist.

The only poem I find jarring in the collection is "Pictures of reader's wives" in which over-identification colours the writer's judgement of pornography in a way that does not allow room for a consideration of the issue of consent. On the whole, however, it is heartening, and perhaps not unexpected to discover that the trauma this writer has undergone has imbued in her a strong sense of responsibility to other struggles, including her father's redundancy.



It is not surprising to learn, then, that the final sequence "The enormous exit," speaks not only to Stonehouse's sustaining attraction to Kahlo's biography and self-excoriating portraits, but also displays an acute awareness of the distances between the two women. In "The two Fridas," Stonehouse writes: "You weep everywhere, in books, on cards, on calendars,/ your crying heals me;" but "Stand separate" opens with the recognition that "your body is not mine/no more than England's/loneliest white coast/ can signal home," and ends, "I turn my ships around."

While Kahlo's famed tenacity was inextricably intertwined with her colonized country's history of resistance, these poems zero in on the more intimate aspects of her struggles—the miscarriages and lengthy hospitalizations, the amputation of her leg, her obsession with death. Here, humiliation, pain and anger sow hard but fertile grounds of comparison with the ordeal of child sexual abuse.

I, like Cathy Stonehouse, a white-skinned Western writer, thought *The Words I Know* asserted cross-cultural sorority with other women both sensitively and judiciously. But the radical unmooring that incest has accomplished upon this poet seems to have created an orphaned perspective that paradoxically finds its most familiar refuge in the risks of writing itself.

"each poem a loose road
that turns, switches
and leads me to
another strange landfall."

Naomi Foyle is a British Canadian writer just recently moved to Vancouver after three years in Brighton, England.

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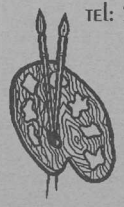

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Review: Emma Goldman:

Friendly, but critical

by Anik Hahn

EMMA GOLDMAN: SEXUALITY AND THE IMPURITY OF THE STATE

By Bonnie Haaland
Black Rose Books, Montreal, Que, 1993

A friend asked me why, when I could have chosen some recent poetry or some new exciting fiction, did I decide to do a review of a book on a figure as dusty as the 19th-century-born feminist anarchist, Emma Goldman. I couldn't give my friend a full answer, except to say that the Goldman legend sparked my curiosity. Although I am not very familiar with the work of Goldman, my interest in her has long been spurred by her reputation as "anarchist queen," as an advocate of free love, as "the most dangerous woman in America,"...the list goes on.

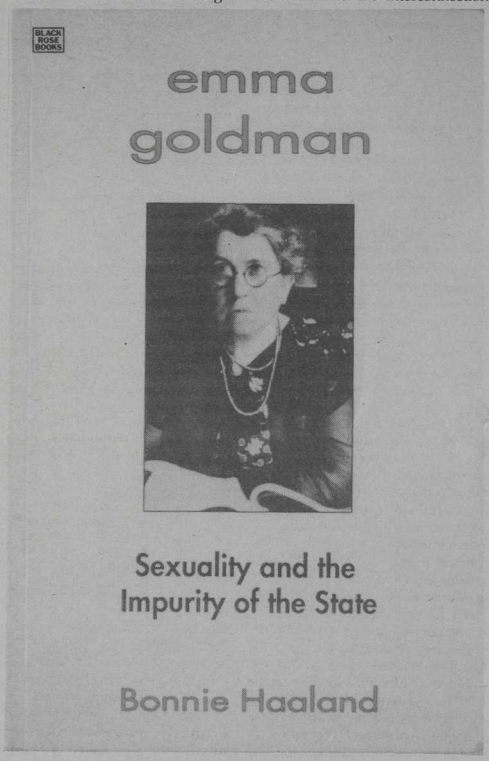
With my friend's puzzlement in mind, I began to wonder if Emma Goldman, after coming in and out of vogue in different activist circles through-out the 20th century, was simply not relevant to women in the 90s. But in *Emma Goldman: Sexuality and the Impurity of the State*, Bonnie Haaland attempts to make Goldman relevant to contemporary society by examining Goldman's ideas on women's emancipation in light of recent feminist debates on "difference vs equality," as well as the potential of sexuality's pleasures vs its dangers.

Most of Haaland's discussion of Goldman's ideas takes the form of a friendly, but critical perspective. In an essay entitled "The Tragedy of Women's Emancipation," Goldman writes that "the right to vote, or equal civil rights may be good demands, but true emancipation begins neither at the polls, nor in the courts. It begins in a woman's soul." Haaland agrees with "many contemporary critiques of the bureaucratic/legislative realm, or what Goldman refers to as the 'state,' after having experienced many of its alienating and depersonalizing consequences," but remains cautious about Goldman's view that women's emancipation would be achieved through the unhindered expression of women's "instincts." Haaland argues that Goldman's endorsement of the private realm over the public realm risks placing women in the realm of "instincts" and "desires" and supporting the belief that women have a different "nature" from men. This belief, Haaland points out, "has been the basis upon which women have been separated and oppressed."

However, Haaland does not dismiss Goldman's view of women's emancipation, rather placing it i the context of Goldman's anarchist philosophy. Goldman wanted the end of the state and a restructuring of society into a decentralized network of small communities. Goldman's "placement of women on the side of desire and instinct is representative of her placement of all human beings—male and female—on that side of the divide, and her rejection of the public sphere as a possible climate for inner growth and true emancipation."

With respect to issues of sexuality, again Haaland is cautious about accepting Goldman's ideas whole heartedly. Goldman advocated for women's right to birth control, to marriage for love rather than reproduction, and to sexual pleasure, and she put sexuality issues on the agenda of the anarchist project at a time when most of her fellow anarchist thinkers failed to see "the contradictions between the principles of anarchism and the principles of patriarchy."

Haaland explains that Goldman "championed the cause of sexual freedom while ignoring the ways in which sexuality might negatively effect women's lives." Referring to a taxonomy of sexual theories developed by British social construction theorist Jeffery Weeks, Haaland delves into some of the limitations of Goldman's ideas on sexuality. According to Weeks' categories, Goldman can be classified as a libertarian essentialist. Because essentialists view sexuality as "outside of, and opposed to society," in the words of Weeks, "the real problems of defining alternatives and constructing new forms of relating, are ignored."



Goldman's views on sexual liberation are also problematic for Haaland because they do not "include a critique of perhaps the most basic 'man-made' arrangement—complusory heterosexuality." In the chapter, "Emancipation, Feminism and Same-Sex Relationships: Goldman and the Interconnections," Haaland explores some of the reasons for this shortcoming in Goldman's ideas, discussing what Blanche Wiesen Cook refers to as the "historical denial of Lesbianism," as well as the force of the ideas of sexologists such as Freud and Havelock Ellis.

In its focus on Goldman's ideas rather than on her life, Haaland's work stands out among other literature on Goldman which is largely biographical. However, Haaland seems to demonstrate that many of Goldman's ideas on women's emancipation are problematic in today's intellectual climate. Nevertheless, I found *Emma Goldman: Sexuality and the Impurity of the State* to be an interesting work, not so much because of the relevance of Goldman's ideas, but rather because of the way it emerges as a discussion between various feminist perspectives.

...what I find most valuable about Goldman today, is not her ideas so much as what she did with her ideas...

But what I find most valuable about Goldman today, is not her ideas so much as what she did with her ideas, that is, her life. In spite of Haaland's adroit theoretical discussion, Goldman remains most firmly imprinted in my mind as the woman who would take a good book to read to her speaking engagements in case she should get arrested and sent to jail; as the woman who, when told by the federal marshall that she could not speak, as planned at a rally, strode out on stage with a handkerchief stuffed in her mouth, and "brought down the house;" as the woman who was deported from the US in 1919 for setting up No-Conscription leagues and organizing anti-war rallies.

Anik Hahn recently moved to Vancouver and is a first time writer for Kinesis.

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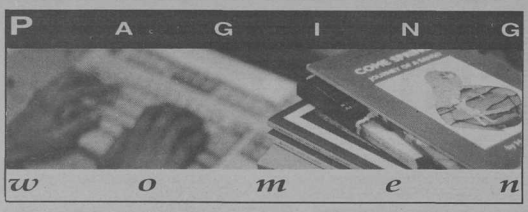
ARTS



Want to review feminist books? Here's your chance! This regular feature brings you short descriptions of recent books we've received for review. If you think you'd like to review one for Kinesis, *give us a call at 255-5499. If you review a fiction or poetry book, you get to keep it. Non-fiction and reference works are passed on to the Vancouver Status of Women's Resource Library. Potential reviewers or feminist readers, there's sure to be something to interest you in this crop of exciting new titles from feminist publishers around the world.*

by Caitlin Frost

Pearls of Passion: A Treasury of Lesbian Erotica, Edited by C. Allyson Lee and Makeda Silvera. *Risque, exciting, daring and dangerous, this collection features the erotic poetry and prose of more than 25 lesbian writers. A celebration of passion and lust, these explorations by amorous lesbians of colour will transport you to every page of sensual delight. C. Allyson Lee is a third generation Chinese-Canadian wet coast lesbian who writes and plays music. Makeda Silvera is a writer and editor, born in Jamaica and currently living in Toronto.* (Sister Vision Press, Toronto, 1994.)

The Other Woman: Women of Colour in Canadian Literature, edited by Makeda Silvera. *This collection showcases the literary works of women of colour in Canada. It provides a view into the growing body of writing and critique by emerging and outstanding scholars in Canada, examining themes of race, class, gender/sexuality, displacement and alienation. Makeda Silvera is a writer, editor and publisher. Her previous publications include* Silenced, *an acclaimed collection of oral histories of Caribbean domestic workers in Canada;* Growing Up Black, *a resource guide for black youth; and two collections of short stories,* Remembering G *and* Her Head a Village. *She is also the editor of* Piece of My Heart, *an anthology of writings by lesbians of colour.* (Sister Vision Press, Toronto, 1994.)

1995 Everywoman's Almanac, by Women's Press. *The theme of the 1995 Everywoman's Almanac is Disabled Women: Our Strength is Tribute to Our Struggles. As well as being an exellent appointment calendar, it is an empowering collection of interviews and artwork brought together through the time, energy, and creative talents of many disabled women and non-disabled allies. The12 women featured exemplify the political practice of making links in their personal lives and the political work between issues of ableism (blatant and systemic discrimination against disabled people), racism, sexism, homophobia and heterosexism, and antisemitism. They are leaders of consumer movements, artists, poets and athletes. They are writers and advocates.* (Women's Press, Toronto, 1994.)

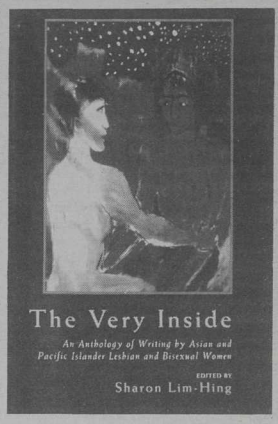
We came all the way from Cuba so you could dress like this?, by Achy Obejas. *This first collection of short stories by Achy Obejas takes on the voices of lesbians, gay men, immigrants people with AIDS and junkies. They are stories about uprooted people, of women and men struggling with the false and true promises of a very New World. The title story quotes the exasperation of a Cuban father whose daughter embraces the very culture he presumed to come all the way from Cuba to give her.* (Cleis Press, Pittsburgh, 1994.)

Happily Ever After by Stacy Chandler. *Self published by Speculators Inc, Michigan, this absolutely happy and fun little pink book shares the "lessons of lesbian life and love" as discovered by Stacy Chandler and her lover Pookie. It was written for the "amusement and enjoyment of lesbians" and is filled with great little "laugh out loud" stories and pieces of advice on relationships ranging from "Meeting Ms. Wonderful" and "Meeting the Family" to "Phobic Body Parts" and "Chocolate Covered Helicopters". In the words of the author, "Buy this book...Help feed a lesbian."* (Vancouver, 1994.)

My Aunt is a Pilot Whale, by Anne Provoost Translated from Flemish by Ria Bleumer. *In this novel, Anna's cousin Tara Myrold moves from Cleveland to Cape Cod. Tara only wears red T-shirts because red means "stop". She gathers cork bottles to send messages to Europe. She draws fish and tells strange stories. Anna is perplexed by Tara's unusual behaviour, until the day when a pod of whales beaches. The two girls experience the entire rescue operation and through the difficulties with the small pilot whale, Baby, Tara begins her story. A relevant novel for both children and adults, this book shares the story of a survivor of child sexual abuse.* (Women's Press, Toronto, 1994.)

Women and Economics: A New Zealand Feminist Perspective by Prue Hyman. *This book provides a thorough and critical examination of economic policy from the perspective of a committed feminist. It explores the impact of economic policy on women, focussing on the past ten years. An overview of feminist economic analysis is followed by chapters on the history of equal pay in New Zealand, and the issues surrounding. International comparisons provide a wider framework. Prue Hyman is an associate professor in economics at the University of Victoria. She has also been a policy consultant for the Ministry of Women's Affairs and a member of the National Housing Commission and the National Advisory Council on the Employment of Women.* (Bridget Williams Books, Auckland)

Life Without Instruction, by Sally Clark. *This is a play about a woman's struggle for freedom, identity and dignity. Set in the late-Renaissance this play is based on the true story of a young woman who is raped by her art teacher. Through the trial, she is forced to endure torture and public humiliation, but emerges in the end as both a strong and independent woman and a talented painter. Playwright Sally Clark is the author of seven plays. She has received a Chalmers Award and the Special Prix du Jury at the Henri Langlois International Short Film Festival.* (Talon Books, Vancouver, 1994.)



The Very Inside: An Anthology of Writing by Asian and Pacific Islander Lesbian and Bisexual Women, Edited by Sharon Lim-Hing. *This is the first major collection of essays, interviews, poetry and prose by Asian and Pacific Islander lesbian and bisexual women. The contributors originate from or identify their heritage in Asia—from South Asia to Southeast Asia, to East Asia. The array of visions and voices are challenging, tender, intellectual, passionate, exploratory, and erotic. Sharon Lim-Hing was born in Kingston, Jamaica. Of Hakka (Chinese) origin, her family moved to Florida, USA when she was twelve years old.* (Sister Vision Press, Toronto, 1994)

The Black Diamond Ring, by Patricia Seaman. *This collection of short stories explore the pleasures and pains of young contemporary women. Stories range from humour about the price of women's panties in "Facts about Shiners," to the witty resistance of the waitress in "Don't Call Me Honey." Patricia Seaman has published short fiction and article across Canada, and is a contributing editor with* Alphabet City. (The Mercury Press, Stratford, 1994.)

Stopping the Violence Against Women in Relationships: A Resource Inventory, by Helen Douglas, Mary Ann Murphy, Claire Budgen, and Joann Leake. *Prepared for the Province of British Columbia, this new Canadian publication is an interdisciplinary inventory of materials on violence against women in relationships. It provides an annotated listing of approximately 1,500 print and media resources published primarily since 1990. It includes information on where to access material produced throughout Canada, the US, and internationally. It also provides an overview of work being done in the field, including training programs, community--based initiatives, teaching materials, research studies, reports, articles, books, audio-visual aids, bibliographies and special projects, produced by community groups, researchers, and governments attempting to stop the violence.* (Province of British Columbia, Victoria, 1994.)

Dread Culture by Masani Montague. *This novel revolves around Sheba, a Caribbean woman, and her brother Johnnie, who immigrate to Canada to join their mother and her new family. Dread Culture focusses on the frustration and betrayal, hypocrisy and violence that beset today's youth, as Johnnie is convicted for the murder of a man he has never seen before. The exploration of the character of Sheba gives an insider's view into the life of a traditional Rastafarian woman as she grapples with sexism and with the role of women in the church and the community. Author Masani Montague is a writer, playwright and community worker, active in the Rastafarian and Black community in Toronto.* (Sister Vision Press, Toronto, 1994.)

Woman to Woman, by Aida Santos and Giney Villar. *Two Filipina lesbian feminist activists produced this collection of poetry and prose in English and Tagalog.* (It is available for US$10 (plus postage) from Aida Santos, WEDPRO, 154-A Sct. Limbaga cor 11th Jamboree, Quezon City, Philippines.)

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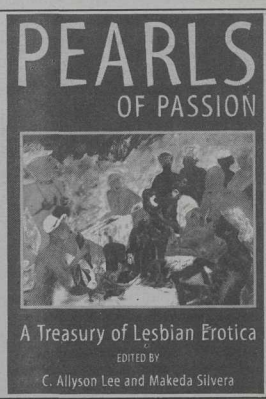
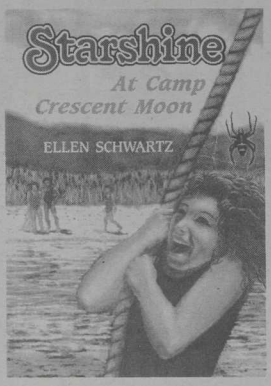


ARTS

by Minoo Shakibai

Starshine by Ellen Schwartz. *Starshine Bliss Shapiro has a problem: her name. She might not get to go on the camping trip because of a squabble with her parents. But by using her hobby-spiders and with the help of her best friend, Julie Wong, she might figure out a way to go on the trip. If only her younger sister doesn't foul things up.* Starshine *is a book for girls and women. Ellen Schwartz lives in Burnaby, BC.* (Polestar Book Publishers, Vancouver, 1994.)



Starshine at Camp Crescent Moon by Ellen Schwartz. *In the sequel to* Starshine, *the young hero of the book is on her way to summer camp for the first time, eager for adventure and hopeful about finding a rare spider believed to be extinct. But she is also anxious about being homesick, and worried that no one will like her if they find out she has a fondness for spiders.* (Polestar Book Publishers, Vancouver, 1994.)

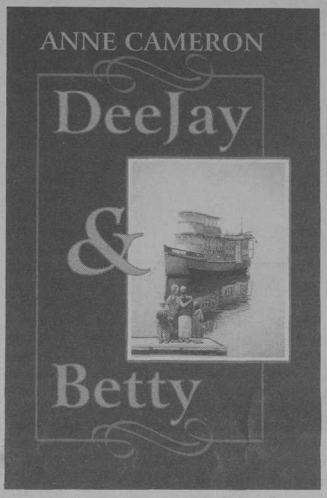
Breathing Each Other's Air by Florence McNeil. *This haunting story—part mystery, part journey of self-discovery—follows the work of Elizabeth Morrison, an academic completing a biography of an enigmatic woman who drowned off the coast of BC in 1915. Conflicting versions of the accident mix with unresolved issues in Elizabeth's life—her father's death, her abrasive relationship with her mother, her failed marriage—as Elizabeth attempts to sort out past and present, truth and imaginings. McNeil, who was born and raised in Vancouver and currently lives in Delta, BC, has published works that include nine books of poetry, four novels, a play, and one book of non-fiction.* (Polestar Book Publishers, Vancouver, 1994.)

All Fall Down by Wendy Lill. *A drama surrounding an inquiry into child abuse at a small-town daycare,* All Fall Down *is a play about witch-hunting in the late 20th century. The rumours and whispers in the community—every suspicion of the unusual, the eccentric, the unexplained—are added to the growing body of evidence that evil is afoot in the daycare center. Wendy Lill has written for radio, magazines, film, TV and the stage.* (Talon Books, Vancouver, 1994).

The Frontiers Of Love by Diana Chang. *Set in Japanese-occupied Shanghai in 1945,* The Frontiers of Love *passes effortlessly in and out of Asian and Western fields of reference to explore the issue of cultural identity in a city dominated by Western colonialism. Chang, the daughter of a Chinese father and Eurasian mother, was born in New York but spent some of her childhood in Beijing and Shanghai. In* Frontiers, *she uses psychological portrayal, historical narrative and sociological observation to achieve a view of a city both liberating and oppressive, national and international. Chang is the author of five novels and three collections of poetry.* (University of Washington Press, Seattle, 1994).

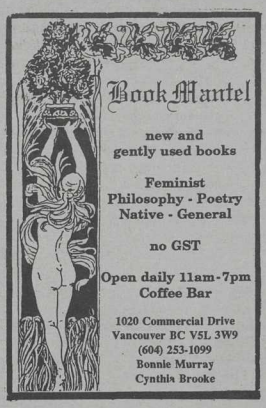
Menstrual Realities and Menstrual Myths by Dr. Dianne McGibbon. *This book is the result of 25 years of clinical experience and Western medical research relating to women's reproductive and menstrual concerns. It is intended as a resource book and diagnostic diary. Dianne McGibbon was born in Toronto in 1937. Her mother provided her early training in drawing and painting. She elected Fine Arts as part of her pre-medical training at the University of Toronto.* (Unicorn Press, Toronto, 1993.)

Deejay & Betty by Anne Cameron. *Donna Jean (Deejay) and Betty Fiddick are ordinary working women. At first they don't know each other. They're about the same age, both growing up in low-rent neighbourhoods in small BC cities. Both are caught in painful, abusive family relationships—Deejay's mother has a weakness for junk and violent men, and Betty gets left alone at home when she isn't being raped by her stepfather. Both grow up angry, tough, smart, compassionate amd honest. When their paths cross in the middle of a sexual assault case, they are ready to end the cycles of abuse and pain together.* (Harbour Publishing, Madeira Park, 1994.)



The Invitation: A Memoir of Family Love and Reconciliation by Joan Haggerty. *Based on the true story of a young Canadian woman who gave up her second child for adoption to a French couple she had just met in London in the 1960s. Today open adoptions are more recognized in family law, but Kathleen, Loesic and Jean Paul, talking things out in a small flat in London in the 1960s, had nothing to go on but their wits and their trust in each other. The book is meant to appeal to anyone who has ever forged a family outside of societal bounds.* (Douglas & McIntyre, Vancouver, 1994.)

Other Words for Grace by Margaret Christakos. *Linked poems tell the story of the coming of age of a young girl in the 1970s. Beginning with metaphors of the body's pleasures and perils, the narrative spirals outward into the realms of social experience and popular culture. From childhood games to the dire fashion of puberty, from* Wuthering Heights *to* Fantasia, *Grace strains past familiar ciphers of white femininity, wagereing the consequences of her own autonomy, seeking a voice separate from her mother's, and connected to other women. Margaret Christakos is the author of* Not Egypt, *and her poetry has been published in journals such as* Prism, Tessera, *and* Room of One's Own. (Mercury Press, Stratford, Ont, 1994).



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Continents of Women by Laiwan

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The Struggle by Winsom

In black and white with red border

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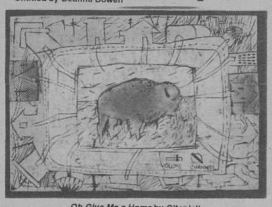
Untitled by Deanna Bowen

In black and white

Kinesis by Cynthia Low

In black and white



Oh Give Me a Home by Gitanjali

In colour

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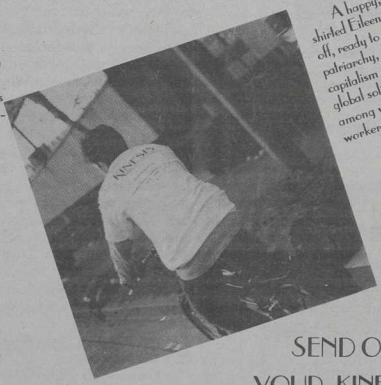
Eileen rides into women wearing Kinesis' 20th Anniversary T-shirts. A Skeptical Eileen listens as the women tell how the t-shirts have made their lives so much more meaningful.



A happy, t-shirted Eileen rides off, ready to smash patriarchy, destroy capitalism and build global solidarity among women and workers!

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LETTERS

dear reader

***Kinesis* loves receiving mail. Please get your letter to us by the 18th of the month.**

If you can, keep the length to about 500 words. (If you go way over, we might edit for space.)

Hope to hear from you very soon.

Love,
Kinesis

Response to Linkletter

Kinesis:

I am writing in response to Julie Linkletter's letter to *Kinesis*, published in the October 1994 issue of *Kinesis*.

I agree with Julie about the importance of *The 99 Federal Steps* and I commend Lee Lakeman and Rape Relief on the work they did on this document.

I was, however, offended by the insinuation that somehow rural women are incapable of being articulate about our own issues around violence against women in our own communities. Julie also suggested that it is difficult to include rural women. I gather she does not realize that there are long established feminist groups in many small communities throughout the country. Transition houses, women's centers, status of women groups in unions are all accessible by telephone for consultation.

Women who are victims of violence and feminist women's groups have to cope with the additional disadvantages of geographical distance from the more comprehensive services available in urban centers and from the decision-making processes which often occur in our absence but then impact us in ways in which people in urban areas have no understanding. To suggest that because it is more difficult to involve rural women (long distance telephone charges) and therefore (because we aren't articulate anyway), urban women should not be bothered seeking our recommendations about our own lives is to suggest that the women's movement endorse the systems which have traditionally disenfranchised the half of women of British Columbia who live outside of greater Vancouver. This is unacceptable.

Maureen Trotter,
Quesnel, BC

Conference organizers respond

Kinesis:

Lys Souvienne/Radical Survivor's letter, titled "Survivors Excluded" *[see* Kinesis, *Nov. 94]* questioned the political integrity of the *Making It Manageable* conference [subtitled *Working with Dissociation, Mind Control and Ritual Abuse*] held in Vancouver this September. As the primary conference sponsors, we are puzzled by many facets of this situation.

We wonder why it was necessary for Radical Survivors (RS) to deceive the readership by denying our correspondence (dated 12 and 21 September, 1994). We wonder why *Kinesis* chose to print RS's letter when they possessed documentation which established its inaccuracy and defamatory nature? We wonder why the RS group has targeted the *only* conference in western North America (1994) which focused on ritual abuse from a feminist perspective and analysis. Not in attendance, their letter contains many wrong assumptions which are stated factually. We wonder why *Kinesis* would solicit a response from an Abstract Review Committee member (BWSS), and leave those most directly targeted unaware and consequently silenced?

Perhaps *Kinesis* is unaware that the sponsors, Pamela Sleeth and Daniela Coates, are respectively a survivor, pioneer and feminist counsellor in the area of childhood sexual abuse since the early 1980s, and a ritual abuse survivor/pioneer who since 1989 has educated internationally on ritual abuse from a feminist/survivor perspective. Is it possible that *Kinesis* is unaware that, as grassroots feminists, we have at our personal and professional risk been "on point" for this issue over the last many years, enduring focussed harassment by offending groups, which has included attempts to discredit our voices? We have continued despite surprisingly little support from either the local feminist and/or professional communities. In our time, the "bandwagon" has come and gone. We are still here.

Why should *Kinesis* knowingly facilitate RS putting themselves in a position to publicly stumble and be politically embarrassed? Was it a false sense of political (patronizing) expediency or correctness? Whatever the reason, it was an ill-advised decision. We can call upon you to reconsider and examine those motives and choices.

Connie Chapman provided an articulate and thoughtful response to the question of survivor visibility. We ask, who benefits and what value is realized when individuals who have survived ritual abuse (or any other form of abuse) are publicly defined according to the violent actions of perpetrators, rather than all that they are within and beyond being a "survivor?" Isn't labelling survivors as such simply entrenching the "us" and "them" construct? Isn't it "walking" those politics to simply accept abstracts, involvement and registrations by survivors because they are peers to their counterparts (professionals). Why, we wonder did *Kinesis* knowingly choose a misleading heading: "Survivors Excluded."

It is not useful to knowingly enable one voice (or many) to promote the misrepresentation of facts. It is not helpful to provide a forum for sisters to expose their nâivete. None of this furthers us. These decisions and actions can only facilitate this issue's discreditation and socially sanctions the discrimination directed at all who work towards ending ritual abuse: survivors and professionals alike.

Let us find a better way to be heard and to speak the many truths and perspectives we have within us.

Pamela Sleeth & Daniela Coates,
Sponsors and Co-ordinators,
Making It Manageable,
Vancouver, BC

[The Editorial Board responds:] Where possible, taking into account deadline pressures and space availability, *Kinesis* makes an effort to let feminist organizations that are mentioned in letters know of the letters and respond. *Kinesis* is, however, under no *obligation* to inform groups in advance. *Kinesis* also reserves the right to publish only a representative sampling of the opinions expressed.

As Souvienne's letter focuses on the feminists her organization knew were participating in the conference—representatives from Battered Women's Support Services and the Cowichan Women Against Violence Against Women—Kinesis contacted these groups and offered them an opportunity to respond in the same issue. One of the conference organizers heard of the letters, and asked for an opportunity to respond. We refused because of deadline pressures, space availability and because we felt the letter we had already received in response from BWSS adequately addressed the concerns raised in Souvienne's letter. We suggested the organizers respond in our December/January issue.

Kinesis sensationalizes?

Kinesis:

I am writing to comment on the letter published in the November, 1994 issue of *Kinesis*, written by Lys Souvienne of Radical Survivors in Victoria.

Souvienne directs much bitterness at a healing movement which has grown from the experiences, and committed work of those who have been subjected to, and affected by, some form of historic abuse. Souvienne goes a step further and heaps blame, misjudgment and false allegations on the organizers of an excellent conference held in Vancouver in September 1994, on dissociation, mind control and ritual abuse. Considering that Souvienne did not attend the conference, and apparently has no knowledge of the well recognized and well respected organizers, makes her assumptions all the more foolish. Whatever the grounds of her anger are, they do not belong on the conference or on those hard working women who put the conference on.

Souvienne paints a false picture of therapists getting rich from the exploitation of historically abused people. This same rhetoric is used by the backlash movement which charges that a giant industry has been created by therapists who work in the field of recovered memories. The shared notion here is that survivors are the victims of therapy, controlled and manipulated by a self-serving industry. Souvienne arrogantly discredits everyone when she polarizes survivors in opposition to the "so-called professional helpers."

May I remind her that the healing movement is to be credited to those people who broke the silence and named the abuse publicly, and therefore changed the knowledge and approach to healing. Survivors are therapists, doctors, researchers, counsellors, front-line workers, authors, speakers and everything else. Survivors, out of the pain of their experiences have been motivated to change the direction and structure of the mainstream psychiatric institutions. This is what healing is about; changing a negative, painful experience into something positive and reclaiming power in the process. Not recognizing this keeps survivors invisible, discredited and distempered.

Ritual abuse, mind control and dissociation are new areas of awareness. Most of society wants to deny that such serious forms of abuse exist. Souvienne is right when she points out that traditional mainstream mental health institutions have treated survivors as "too damaged" to look after themselves. Survivors are stigmatized and discriminated against. Souvienne is wrong when she attempts to link the conference organizers to mainstream institutions. The feminist organizers of the conference have promoted models of wellness and empowerment. It is ironic that Souvienne sees fit to publicly condemn and reprimand these women and talk about accountability in the same letter. If Souvienne were to practise accountability, she might have researched the conference and the organizers in advance of the event, and made an informed choice and opinion based on real findings.

Why is *Kinesis* supporting this attack? Why are women dragging down other women? What has happened to sisterhood? Are we easy targets for one another's anger? Women are victimized by other women within the women's movement, and we need to start talking about this.

Am I to assume that *Kinesis* is practicing a form of journalism that sensationalizes anger, fear and misunderstanding like the sleazy tabloids do? Or is there something else behind the decision to publish and promote with the bold heading "Survivors excluded from conference," such as unfounded and erroneous attack on the organizers of a conference which has courageously and honestly dealt with the issue of ritual abuse, mind control and dissociation. Can we try to practise power in positive, sharing ways please? Perhaps *Kinesis* might have reported on the conference, reviewed it, published the findings, quoted the speakers, helped to break the denial, fear and silencing around ritual abuse.

Within the women's community I like to think that positive journalism will sell more papers than the promotion of negative, damaging false charges. Let's work together, examine how we use our anger, and re-learn supportive ways!

Rosemary Doughty
Burnaby, BC

[The Editorial Board responds:] *Kinesis* neither supports nor condemns the opinions expressed in the Letters section of the newspaper. The choice of headline, like others in *Kinesis*, is intended to summarize the main opinion conveyed in the letter, not as an endorsement of the opinions expressed in the letter. *Kinesis* did not receive any advance information of the conference that would have allowed us to plan coverage of the conference.

International Women's Day is just around the corner.

Thinking about advertising in our March IWD issue?

Call us 255-5499

BULLETIN BOARD

read this

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 Jan 3**, 7pm 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. Childcare subsidies available.

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS

Are you interested in finding out how *Kinesis* is put together? Well...just drop by during our next production dates and help us design and lay out Canada's national feminist newspaper. Production for the **Feb** issue is from **Jan 19-25**. No experience is necessary. Training and support will be provided. If this notice intrigues you, call Agnes at 255-5499. Childcare subsidies available.

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 Jan 23**, 6 pm. The next volunteer potluck and orientation will be on **Thurs Jan 19**, 7 pm at VSW, 301-1720 Grant St. For more info, call Jennifer at 255-5511. Childcare subsidies available.

POLITICAL ACTION GROUP

The next Women of Colour and First Nations Women's Political Action Group meets once a month. For more info please call Miche at 255-5511.

EVENTS

SEXUAL HARASSMENT SUPPORT

The Sexual Harassment Support Group meets twice a month at the VSW, 301-1720 Grant St. For more info call Miche at 255-5511.

FEMINIST NETWORKING

Meets once a month. Call Miche for more info at 255-5511.

VSW OPEN HOUSE

Calling all volunteers, past and present; members and supporters! The Vancouver Status of Women is having an *Open House and Volunteer Celebration* **Mon Jan 9** from 7-10pm. There will be food and music. The party will be held at the VSW 301-1720 Grant St. For more info call 255-5511. Please RSVP by Jan 5.

OUR STORIES

The Vancouver Status of Women presents *our stories*, a film and video series by, for and about women at Cafe deux Soleils, 2096 Commercial Dr. On **Tues Nov 29** at 8pm *Motherland* and *The Great Wall of Tradition* will be shown. And on **Tues Dec 6** at 8pm *Women Who Kill* and *Long Time Comin'* will be shown. Admission is free. Childcare subsidies are available. For more info call 255-5511.

NUTCRACKERS

Vancouver's Rainbow Concert Band, Canada's first lesbian and gay band, invites you to an evening of uncensored seasonal music and comedy **Mon Dec 19** at 8pm at the West End Community Centre, 870 Denman St. All

EVENTS

proceeds to go to the Little Sister's Defense Fund, the Gay and Lesbian Centre, and the Don Cocks memorial. Tickets are $5 at Little Sisters or the Book Mantel.

JUSTICE NOT CHARITY

Justice Not Charity events will be held on **Sat Dec 17** in Nelson, BC and in Vancouver. The Nelson event, sponsored by the Nelson Anti-Poverty Action Group, will feature speakers on social program cutbacks, and the Ad Hoc singers. The Vancouver event will also be fundraiser for End Legislated Poverty. For locations and more info call Elizabeth Caron at 354-3969 in Nelson and ELP at 879-1209 in Vancouver.

DAY WITHOUT ART

In support of the 1994 World AIDS Day Focus on Families, the Vancouver Art Gallery is holding a *Day Without Art*, an international day of mourning and action, **Thurs Dec 1**. The VAG's events start at noon with "Time Stands Still", three minutes of silent street action outside the VAG, 750 Hornby St, to observe the lives lost to AIDS. For other event info call 682-4668.

VENUS ENVY

Venus Envy, four wacky and talented gals from Seattle, will perform in Vancouver **Tues Dec 13** at 8pm at the Vancouver East Cultural Centre, 1895 Venables St. Venus Envy will welcome in the holiday season with songs from their album *I'll Be A Homo For Christmas*. Tickets are $12-16 and are available at Little Sisters, Bookmantel and Women in Print. For more info call 253-7189.

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Wanted for small company located downtown: person with flexible work style for permanent part time position. Must know accpac/Bedford/Lotus 123 and basic dos.

Send hand-written cover letter and resume to:

LFS P.O. Box 287-7101-C 120th St. Delta, BC, V4E 2A0

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

The Vancouver Status of Women has 3 positions available under a Job Creation (UI Top-Up) grant. **Applicants must be on unemployment insurance.**

Applicants should have an interest in working with a feminist community organization and a general knowledge of feminist issues. The positions start February 6, 1995 and end on May 26, 1995.

1. **Marketing Assistant - *Kinesis*** to conduct a series of subscription drives to increase the circulation of our newspaper, *Kinesis*. Applicants should have an interest in sales and marketing; knowledge of direct mail techniques is desirable.

2. **Program Assistant** to research and develop new popular education materials to be incorporated into the VSW Assertiveness Training Program, recruit and train volunteer facilitators and set up the necessary systems to maintain the program on an ongoing basis. Experience leading groups and some knowledge of assertiveness is required. Good organizational skills would be an asset.

3. **Researcher/Writer** to research and write a directory of ethical women's businesses and work with the finance and fundraising committee to plan and implement a sponsorship drive as part of the annual fundraising campaign for VSW. Applicants should have an interest in fundraising, good research skills and some writing experience would be an asset.

Deadline for applications: Thursday, January 26th, 4 p.m.

Please send applications, specifying position(s) in which you are interested, to: VSW Hiring, Suite 301 - 1720 Grant St., Vancouver, B.C. V5L 2Y6. For more information, call 255-5511 (after January 3, 1995)

Calling all volunteers, past and present; members and supporters!!

VSW's Open House and Volunteer Celebration

Monday Jan. 9, 1995
from 7 - 10 pm
at 301-1720 Grant Street
Vancouver, BC

Come join us to celebrate last years achievements. See you at the party!

The Vancouver Status of Women Presents:

our stories

Film and video series by for and about women including:

FREE at Cafe Deux Soleils

2096 Commercial Drive, Tues at 8pm Nov 29 and Dec 6

Childcare subsidies available. for more info call 255-5511

BULLETIN BOARD

EVENTS

SOLSTICE CONCERT

Join musicians Sue McGowan, Sharon Costello and Carol Weaver for a *Full Moon Winter Solstice Concert* **Sun Dec 17** at La Quena, 1111 Commercial Dr. Door opens at 7:15pm. Tickets are $5-10 at the door.

JOELLE RABU

Alto singer, Joelle Rabu presents material from her latest recordings **Sun Dec 4, 7pm** at the Vancouver East Cultural Centre, 1895 Venables St., Van. The event is a benefit concert for Planned Parenthood Association of BC. For tickets and info call 731-4252.

CHAMBER MUSIC FOR KIDS

Children ages 6-16 from the Vancouver Academy of Music will perform a mixed repertoire of chamber music on **Sat Dec 10 at 2pm** at the Vancouver East Cultural Centre, 1895 Venables St. After the performance the young musicians will answer questions from interested audience members. For more info, call 254-9578.

GARDEN ART

Still photos taken from Louie Ettling and Ellie Epp's video, *we made this*, a video about the Strathcona community garden, will be shown **Nov 30-Jan 3**, at the Vancouver East Cultural Centre Gallery, 1895 Venables St. This exhibition of stills will be open to viewing 12-5 weekdays and 2-6 weekends.

SOCIAL POLICY FORUM

The Social Planning and Research Council's annual policy forum, *Canada's Social Safety Net: Searching for Social Justice*, will be held **Sat Dec 10,** 8:30-4:30 at the Sheraton Inn Plaza 500, 500 W 12th Ave, Van. The forum will be a place to discuss the federal government's proposed social safety net reform package. Cost is $40, and subsidies are available. For info and registration call Loralee Delbrouk at SPARC, 736-8118.

MARUSYA BOCIURKIW

West Coast Women and Works present a reading by Marusya Bociuriw, the author of *The Woman Who Loved Airports*, **Fri Jan 13**, at 7:30pm at 219-1675 W 8th, Van. Admission is free and there will be refreshments. Limited childcare subsidies available. For more info call 730-1034.

WOMEN'S ART FESTIVAL

The first annual *Focus on Women Arts Festival* in Victoria will take place **Feb 2-5.** The festival will feature music, theatre, visual arts and film by women. Anyone interested in volunteering for production or wanting to participate call Jennifer Lord at (604) 383-2663.

NORA KELLY

Mystery writer and author of *My Sister's Keeper*, Nora Kelly, will talk about how feminism reshapes the tradition of crime writing. **Fri Jan 27**, 7-9:30pm at #219-1675 W 8th, Van. The reading is sponsored by West Coast Women and Words. Admission is free for members and sliding scale $2-5 for non-members. Limited childcare subsidies available. For more info call 730-1034.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Recent Acquisitions: Four Women, an exhibition of the work of four women artists who graduated from the Vancouver School of Applied and Decorative Art in 1929 will held from **Dec 17-Feb 12** at the Vancouver Art Gallery, 750 Hornby St. The exhibition features sculptures by Lilias Farley and Beatrice Lennie, and drawings by Irene Hoffar Reid and Vera Weatherbie. For more info call 682-4668.

REDNECKS & CITY SLICKERS

Rednecks & City Slickers, an exhibition of work by artists Marianne Nicolson, Suzo Hickey and Jeanne Rogowski will run until **Dec 17** at The Pitt Gallery, 317 W Hastings St. Van. This exhibition is a look at the tensions between rural and urban life. For more info call 681-6740.

YOUTH THEATRE

The Vancouver Youth Theatre Society presents three plays, *Teen Parents, The Acting of Art* and scripts from *The Teen Age*, **Dec 8-10** at the Vancouver East Cultural Centre, 1895 Venables St. These three pieces combine music, painting, and dance for a thought provoking examination of issues important to youth. Tickets are $10. For reservations call 254-9578.

WOMEN AND BUSINESS

Women Wanting to be an Entrepeneur, a 13 week training program for women interested in business, will run from **Jan 3** until **Mar 31**. This program is for women on UIC and who have a business idea. The program will be held at 203-888 Burrard St, Van. For more info contact Roma McGill-Bowen at 685-8066.

CECILIA BOISIER EXHIBIT

Reflective Places, an exhibition by artist Cecilia Boisier, will be held at the Alliance Francaise Auditorium 6161 Cambie St Van until **Dec 16**. For gallery hours and more info call 327-0201.

NATIVE WOMEN'S AWARDS

The Professional Native Women's Association (PNWA) presents the *Blanche MacDonald Memorial Dinner & Urban Society Annual Christmas Party: Goldfeather & Silverfeather Awards*, **Thurs Dec 15** at the Coast Plaza Hotel, 1733 Comox St, Van, from 5-10pm. The awards will be presented to outstanding citizens in the Aboriginal and non-aboriginal communities. Tickets range from $15-50. Please let PNWA know of any children that will be attending. For more info call 873-1833.

WOMEN AND PEACE

Women, War and Peace: The Vision and The Strategies, an international conference that will bring together women from around the world to share their experiences as activists, will be held from **Dec 29-31** in Jerusalem, Israel. Women interested in participating please contact Erella Shadmi, 4/11 Dresner St, Jerusalem, Israel, 93814. Or contact by phone (2) 718-597 or fax (2)259-626.

ANNE FRANK EXHIBIT

A photo-documentary, *Anne Frank in The World 1929-1945: An International Exhibit to Promote Understanding*, will be held until **Sun Dec 11** at the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre at 50-950 W 41st Ave, Van. Tickets are $2/students and seniors and $3/adults. For more info call 264-0499.

CORNELIA WYNEGAARDEN

The Fragility of Origins, a multi-channel video-based installation created by Vancouver artist Cornelia Wynegaarden, will be exhibited until Fri Dec 16 at the Front Gallery, 303 East 8th Ave, Van. For gallery times and more info call 876-9343.

ARTISTS WORKSHOP

The Canadian Artists Network: Black Artists in Action is holding a skills development workshop for artists of all disciplines **Sat Dec 3** in Windsor, Ontario at Artcite Inc, 109 University Ave W. For registration and info call CAN:BAIA at (416) 369-9040.

GROUPS

CALL FOR MEMBERS

Desh Pardesh, a five day festival/conference of works by South Asian artists, activists and cultural producers, is seeking members for their Festival Organizing Committee for their next festival to be held in **May**. For info on how to get involved contact *Desh Pardesh*, 96 Spadina Ave, Ste 607, Toronto, Ontario, M5V 2J6 or call (416) 504-9932.

IWD 95

The next International Womens Day organizing committee meeting will be held on **Dec 9** from 7-9pm at the Vancouver Status of Women, 301-1720 Grant St. All women welcome. For more info call Claire at 322-8630.

MATURE LESBIANS

Are you starting or continuing the coming out process? Are you looking for friendship and support? Come out and join us for lunch; and help us plan some social activities. We're "Just Out". Please call Geri at 278-8497 (evenings).

LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP

The South Surrey/White Rock Women's Place will be holding a lesbian support group **Thurs eves** on a bi-weekly basis starting in mid-Nov. For more info, call Trisha at 536-9611.

Position Available

Kinesis Editor

Kinesis needs an Editor beginning May 1. The Editor works with an Editorial Board and is a full-time staff person at the Vancouver Status of Women.

The Kinesis Editor:

- oversees the publishing of a feminist tabloid newspaper, 10 times a year;
- solicits, writes and edits articles;
- recruits and assists volunteer writers;
- keeps abreast of issues, debates and news relevant to a feminist newspaper;
- maintains contact with women's and community groups;
- works closely with production, advertising, distribution and circulation coordinators.

Qualifications

- editorial, writing and copy editing skills, and familiarity with feminist journalism;
- an ability to work collectively;
- broad-based knowledge of women's issues and organisations;
- an ability to work under deadline pressure;
- knowledge of production techniques;
- organisational skills

Women of colour and First Nations women are strongly encouraged to apply. Affirmative action principles will be in effect for this hiring.

Salary: $31,200 plus benefits

A full job description is available. Drop by our office or call (604) 255-5499. Send applications to: Kinesis Hiring, #301 1720 Grant St., Vancouver, BC V5L 2Y6, or fax it in to: (604) 255-5511.

Deadline for Applications: March 15

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BULLETIN BOARD

GROUPS

INTERCEDE MOVES

INTERCEDE, the Toronto organization for domestic workers' rights, has moved. Their new office is located at 234 Eglinton Ave E, Suite 205, Toronto, Ontario, M4P 1K5. Their new phone number is (416) 483-4554 and new fax number is (416) 483-9781.

OUT ON SCREEN

Out on Screen, a Vancouver lesbian and gay film/video festival, is having a programming committee meeting **Mon Dec 5** at 7pm at the Out on Screen office at 1131 Howe St, Van. For more info call Laurel Swenson or Ken Anderlini at 685-1159.

EXCERISE CLASS

Want to get healthy at lunchtime? Come and try a women's moderate step fit class at Trout Lake Community Centre, 3350 Victoria Dr, every **Mon**, **Wed**, and **Thurs** at 12pm. Cost is $3.

LESBIAN MOTHERS GROUP

A lesbian mothers group in Utrecht, the Netherlands, is interested in corresponding with other lesbian mothers around the world. Letters can be in Dutch, English, French, or German. Please send letters to J. Nieboer, Padangstraat 42, NL-3531 TC Utrecht, the Netherlands.

VLC ON THE MOVE

The Vancouver Lesbian Connection is currently negotiating on a larger, wheelchair accessible space. The VLC needs help to renovate, clean, paint, pack, move, unpack, and celebrate! **Dec and Jan**. If you are able and willing to help please call the VLC at 254-8458 as soon as possible.

VLC WORKING GROUP

As a result of the public forum held in October, a working group was suggested as a way of working with the Vancouver Lesbian Connection on issues of accessibility and racism. The first meeting will be held **Tues Jan 17** at 7pm at the VLC, 876 Commercial Dr. Any lesbian interested in working with this group is encouraged to attend.

SUBMISSIONS

DESH PARDESH

Desh Pardesh, a five day festival/conference of works by South Asian artists, activists and cultural producers is seeking participants for their next conference **May 10-14**. Please send a CV, proposal, and samples of work to *Desh Pardesh*, 96 Spadina Ave, Ste 607, Toronto, Ontario, M5V 2J6. Deadline is **Mon Jan 24** at 5pm.

YOUNG WOMEN

New Moon, a magazine for girls and their dreams, is looking for juvenile non-fiction (300-600 words) for young women ages 8-14 yrs, especially profiles of young women doing interesting things. Pays $15-50. For guidelines write to *New Moon*, Box 3587, Duluth, Minnesota, USA, 55803-3587.

SUBMISSIONS

PINAY LESBIANS

We are a group of Pinay lesbians working towards our visibility. We want you to be a part of this groundbreaking work. If you have written stories, essays and poetry or have illustrations, drawing, graphic; comics, journal writings, etc, we want to hear from you. Deadline is **Jan 31**. Send submission to SisterVision Press, c/o Pinay, PO Box 217 Stn E, Toronto, Ont, M6H 4E2. Include name, telephone number and address.

BLACK LESBIANS

At the Crossroads, a Black women's art magazine, is an interdisciplinary journal seeking submissions on the queer Black arts scene. The journal is looking for essays, articles, interviews, news, profiles, visual art, poetry and fiction from dark lesbians and bisexual women. Send submission with a SASE to: PO Box 317 Stn P, Toronto, Ont, M5S 2S8. For more info, call (416) 538-4296. Deadline is **Feb**.

QUEER SUBMISSIONS

Queer Glances, Queer Moments, an anthology of lesbian and gay short stories, is currently accepting submissions for an anthology of short stories (750-1000 words) by lesbians and gay men. The book will be an album of snapshots that reflect the spectrum of lesbian and gay life experiences. For more info and submission guidelines write to #1002-1340 Burnaby St, Vancouver, BC, V6E 1R1. Submission deadline is **Mar 31**.

WOMEN'S POETRY

West Coast Women and Words presents their 1994 Poetry Contest for Women. The theme is *Women Moving* (e.g. self or belongings in space or time). Prizes up to $150 and publication in spring '95 edition of W&W newsletter. Deadline is **Dec 15**. For more info, call (604) 730-1034 or write to West Coast Women & Words Poetry Contest, 219-1675 W 8th Ave, Vancouver, BC, V6J 1V2.

IRISH POETRY MAGAZINE

A new Irish lesbian/feminist/queer poetry magazine starting up in Dublin is seeking submissions of unusual, original, shocking and unexpected poetry in English from lesbians internationally. Please send submissions to E. O'Shea, PO 3327, Dublin 8, Ireland. To have submitted material returned, include a SASE and international reply coupon.

WRITING FOR YOUNG WOMEN

Green Dragon Press, a small feminist press that focuses on providing educational support, is seeking fiction and non-fiction for ages 8 and up on women's history, multicultural themes and equity issues. Send submissions to 136 George Street S, Ste. 902, Toronto, Ont, M5A 4E8.

POETRY CONTEST

Herspectives is holding its first Annual Poetry Contest with the theme of sister/friends, or any other subject you think is worthy. Entry Fee is $5 per poem or $10 for three. Prizes range from $25-75, and winners will be published in the April 1995 issue of *Herspectives*. Deadline for entry is **Jan 31**. Send submissions to *Herspectives* c/o Mary Billy Box 2047, Squamish BC, V0N 3G0.

SUBMISSIONS

LESBIANS AND MEN

Women's Press is calling for short fiction and poetry submissions (max 5000 wds) for their anthology by lesbians about the men in their lives—brothers, fathers, lovers, sons, friends. Women's Press encourages a diverse mix of women to write about their (good and bad) relationships with the men in their lives. Deadline is **Jun 30**. Send all enquires and manuscripts with a SASE to: *Countering the Myths from Within and Outside*, Women's Press, 233-517 College St, Toronto, Ont, M6G 4A2.

FRINGE FESTIVAL

The Fringe, Vancouver's theatre festival, is accepting submissions for its 11th annual festival **Sep 7-17**. Send or bring in person submissions to 18-2414 Main St, Vancouver, BC, V5T 3E3. Mailed applications are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Walk-in applications may be brought in on Wed Jan 5. Deadline for submissions is **Mar1**. For more info contact Joanne Maratta, tel (604) 873-3646 or fax 873-4231.

CONTEMPORARY ART EXHIBIT

The organizers of Work in Progress: Vancouver Artists in their Studios and L'Atelier are calling for submissions from Vancouver artists for *Currents*, an exhibition of contemporary art, to be shown from **Feb 25-Mar 25** in Vancouver. Interested artists, working in any medium, are asked to submit a CV, a brief artist's statement, 10-20 labelled slides, and a SASE to *Currents*, 7-1715 Gravely St, Vancouver, BC, V5L 3A9. For more info call 872-0318. Deadline is **Dec 31**.

WOMEN IN SPORTS

The Summer 95 issue of *Canadian Woman Studies/les Cahiers de la Femme*, will explore gender equity and inclusion in sports, recreation and physical activity. Invited are essays, research reports, true stories, poetry, cartoons, drawings and other artwork which address the experiences of women and young girls in sport living in all regions of Canada. Deadline for submission is **Mar 31**. Send submissions to *Canadian Woman Studies*, 212 Founders, York University, 4700 Keele St, North York, Ont, M3J 1P3. For more info, call (416) 736-5356 or fax, (416) 736-5765.

EUROPEAN WOMEN

The Fall 95 issue of *Canadian Woman Studies/les Cahiers de la Femme*, will explore the lives of women in Central and Eastern Europe in a global context. *CSW/cf* is seeking articles from feminist scholars and grassroots activists in Central and Eastern Europe as well as from western contributors who do research on women's issues in Central and Eastern Europe. Deadline for submission is **Mar 15**. Send submissions to *Canadian Woman Studies*, 212 Founders, York University, 4700 Keele St, North York, Ont, M3J 1P3. For more info, call (416) 736-5356 or fax, (416) 736-5765.

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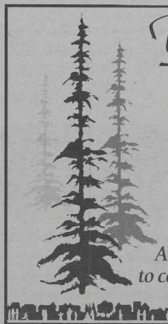
Tuesday, 7:00 - 8:00pm: ***OBAA***
By women of colour for women of colour. Local community groups and events, interviews and music not heard in the mainstream.
Thursday, 8:00 - 9:00pm: ***The Lesbian Show***
Friday, 8:00 - 10:00pm: ***Rubymusic***
12 years on the air, *Rubymusic* features the best in music by women-old, new, lost and found.
For a free listener's guide call 684-8494 Monday to Thursday, 10am - 6pm



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BULLETIN BOARD

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COWGIRLS 'N GHOST TOWNS

Winter holiday for lesbians. Come this winter to sunny and warm Arizona. Travel by van with a small group of cowgirls like yourself to see Arizona's Old West, ghost towns, Spanish mission, Native American ruins, spectacular scenery, and the cultural legacy of Mexico, Arizona's southern neighbour. Tour includes accomodations in upscale or historical hotels, horseback riding and cook-outs, Sedona jeep tour, and "Welcome to Arizona" reception with local lesbians. Eight departures Nov-Feb. A special invitation is extended to Canadian lesbians. Out'n Arizona Dept 85285. Tel: (800) 897-0304.

LYNN MATHERS MSW

I am a registered social worker and therapist in Maple Ridge/Abbotsford. I have a general private practice working with individuals, couples, families and groups. I have experience with addictions, grief, sexual and physical abuse, infidelity, pregnancy loss and general life concerns. Fee: $70-$86 per hour. For appointment call 463-3026 or 852-4818.

SCHOLARSHIP ASSISTANCE

Scholarship assistance is required by a local woman to study process-oriented psychology at the Process Work Centre in Portland, Oregon. Prospectus and applicant information available by writing in confidence to Scholarship, Box 937, Ganges, BC V0S 1E0.

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POTTERY SALE

Jane Williams is holding her Christmas Pottery Sale on **Sun Dec 11th** this year. Come along to 1242 Lakewood Dr in East Vancouver between noon and 5pm for a wide selection of functional earthenware at reasonable prices. Seconds are also available. Call 255-8173 for more info.

WOMEN'S CRAFT FAIRE

The first annual Women's Arts & Craft Faire will be held **Sat Dec 3** from 11am to 5pm at the Heritage hall, 3102 Main St. A Pre-Solstice/Christmas shopping extravanganza with some of BC's finest craftswomyn. Followed by: "Another Evening of Dyke Culture", 8:30-11:30pm featuring San Franciscan lesbian comic and musician Monica Grant, popular singer/songwriter Tracy Riley and Inclognito: Womyn Cloggers. Advance tickets required $8-$12 at Women in Print, Little Sisters and Bookmantel. A Sound & Furies production. For more info call 253-7189.

STUDIO SALE

Artists Claire Kujundzic and Sheila Norgate announce a Studio Sale, featuring something for every budget: art cards, t-shirts, originals, prints, paintings and more **Fri Dec 9** from 6-9pm and **Sat Dec 10** from 1-5pm at 800 Keefer St. (at Hawkes). Call 251-5314 or 689-4099.

BASEBALL COACH

Volunteer position: Experienced woman baseball coach needed for predominantly women of colour lesbian baseball team playing in competitive division of the Lesbian League in Vancouver. Season runs approximately April-August. Contact 255-6506 for further details. Reply before **Dec 20.**

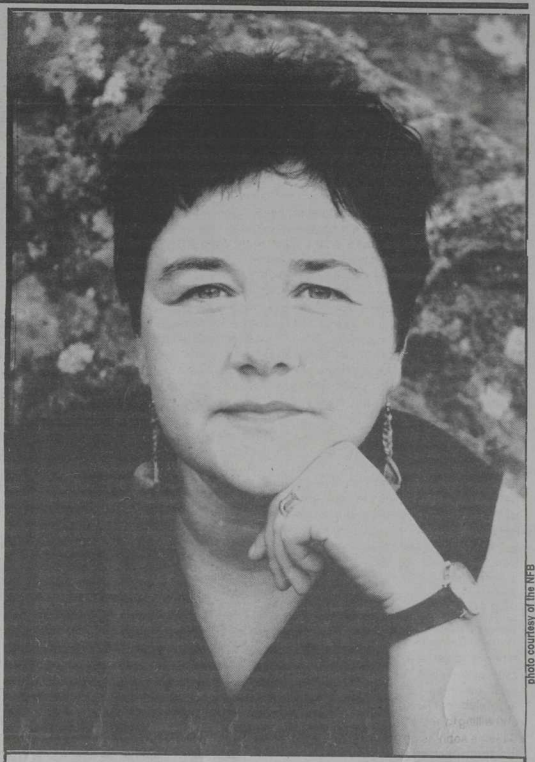

photo courtesy of the NFB

December 6th Events in Vancouver

A number of events will be held in Vancouver Tues Dec 6 to mark the fifth anniversary of the murder of fourteen women at Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal, and in the memory of all women who have lost their lives through male violence.

Women Against Violence Against Women (WAVAW) will hold a candlelight vigil on the Georgia St side of the Vancouver Art Gallery from 6-8pm. The vigil is wheelchair accessible and there will be sign language interpreters. For childcare and general info call 255-6228; TTY/TDD 254-6268.

The Douglas College Women's Centre and the New Westminster School District will hold a brief ceremony beginning at 11:45am in the concourse at Douglas College, 700 Royal Avenue in New Westminster. For more info call 527-5148.

The National Film Board will premiere *The Vienna Tribunal: Women's Rights Are Human Rights* Dec 6, 8pm at the Pacific Cinemateque, 1131 Howe St. Directed by Gerry Rogers (picured above) the film documents the courage of thousands of women who came forward to tell their stories of rape, torture and repression at the 1993 UN World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna. The film will be followed by speakers from Amnesty International, WAVAW and the Vancouver Status of Women. Admission is free. For more info call 666-3838.

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Recent *highlights* include: *#44/45* Language: the politics of language across cultures; *#43* Rice Papers: writings and artwork by East and Southeast Asian Women in Canada; *#42*: "Sister-Sluts and Slut Condemnation" and a panel discussion on "The Politics of Desire."

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