

Flashback

How society frustrates women

EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK

All provinces and territories in Canada now have legislation prohibiting salary differences based on sex, as the Report on the Status of Women points out, but they fail to ensure the practice of this principle. Investigations showed that employees often go out of their way to find or make a difference in the duties of male and female employees so that different rates can be paid with in the law.

This practice is often rationalized by the suggestion that male workers are usually supporting families while female workers are supplementing other income. But men are not usually paid by how many dependents they have and a single man spends no more for support than a single woman. There is no reason why a man should be paid more for doing the same job as a woman with equal ability.

Discriminatory salaries show their worst effects for female "heads of the family". The plight of widows, divorcees and unmarried mothers is often ignored or forgotten in our society. Twenty-three percent of all families with female heads are supported by government assistance. The commission makes several recommendations on this point.

Singled out in the section on discriminatory wage practices is the discovery that female academics make an average of \$2,000 a year less than their male counterparts. A few years ago this discrimination was the practice at UNB, but now the system of a minimum salary with yearly increments leaves no room for sexual discrimination.

An area of unfair employment practice mentioned by the Report does effect UNB. During the academic year many firms make arrangements through the University Placement Office to conduct interview with students for jobs which specify a sex preference. The commission recommends that the University Placement Office and the Canada Department of Manpower and Immigration refuse to arrange such interviews. This is one recommendation we can implement immediately at UNB. Students can refuse to attend these interviews and the Placement Office can stop scheduling them



unless they agree to consider candidates with qualifications, regardless of sex.

FANATICISM

The commission goes a little overboard in the methods it suggests to enforce anti-discrimination laws. It suggests a network of councils and appeal boards be set up across Canada and a woman's coordinator be installed in all branches of the Federal Government.

The Report says, "Woman has been defined throughout history in terms of her sex, rather than first of all as a human being. Transformation of ill-founded attitudes and prejudices will not follow publication of one report, or even of several... it will only be through continuous efforts that women will be assured of justice and equal opportunity today and in the future."

Canadians must beware of allowing the awareness of the problem developing into a fanaticism. The laws must be there to let women give woman the right to protect herself, but the dangers of protective legislation have already been shown. The image of woman as a frail little creature that needs looking after must be changed in keeping with modern society. Woman must be encouraged to stand up for herself. A woman's co-ordinator in every branch of the Federal government would seem to pit men and women against one another rather than encourage them to work together against the problem.

Our society's customs and literature are premised on women holding an inferior social-economic status to men. The Report emphasizes the literature which more than any other literature forms the basis of adult attitudes towards male-female roles—school text books. In a survey of school

"readers" across Canada, it was found that the female was portrayed as a drudge, while the adult male was shown in varying activities and adventures. These are strict male-

doctor, female-nurses type status and as the children mimic these roles in play, they formed their conceptions of male-female roles in the real world. Even arithmetic texts and other school books are ordered in this traditional sense. The Report recommends a determined effort for schools to teach with less narrowly defined roles for men and women more fitting for the modern world.

A healthier outlook to life and a less tense society will develop if young women are not held back by the mental chains of an outdated socialization process and are given the freedom of work advocated in the report plus contraceptive and abortive control over reproduction.

The old North American approach to life seems to be flailing. Magazines are full of ar-

tricles on how to cope with life. Ann Landers responds to thousands of emotional problems every year. mental illness and emotional problems abound and having an analyst has even become a status symbol in some sectors of society. Most people have a pet theory predicting the end of the world in a short time — through water pollution, air pollution, over population, the Yellow Peril.

These are all very real problems that must be handled with rationality and intelligence. We cannot approach them in a society based on outdated myths, particularly those which put half of the population — half of the labour and brain power — in a position which has only an indirect influence in policy and production.

Hoffman refused entry

From the Brunswickan Friday January 22, 1971

OTTAWA (CUP) - Abbie Hoffman was barred from entering Canada Wednesday (Jan. 13) at the peace Bridge in Niagara Falls, under a section of the Immigration Act which prohibits anyone with a criminal record from entering Canada. Such a person may enter only if he has special permission from immigration authorities or the minister and may only remain in the country for a specified time.

Hoffman: A member of the Chicago 7, was questioned for two hours and then refused permission to enter Canada.

He was to appear on Under Attack Wednesday night at the University of Western Ontario.

The show producers had written to Otto Lang, Minister of Immigration asking that Hoffman be admitted into the country to appear on their show.

Lang refused the necessary permit.

On Wednesday in the House of Commons, Lang waffled and seemed to dissociate himself from the case. Admitting he doesn't like to refer to individual cases the minister went on to say, "So far as I know Mr Hoffman has not yet presented himself at the border and therefore he has not been barred from entry. If he does the normal procedures will apply."

In London, where Hoffman

was to speak, 150 University of Western Ontario students shivered in bone-chilling weather Wednesday afternoon on University College Hill to protest Lang's decision refusing Hoffman's entry.

The demonstration, arranged by members of the coalition for Social Action — a group started last October to protest the War Measures Act — lasted only 20 minutes mainly because of the bitter, cold weather.

Earlier in the day, the CSA had distributed about 2,000 leaflets calling for students to protest against the "irresponsibility of the government."

Speakers at the demonstration told the crowd that the decision was antidemocratic. Hoffman was given "a dubious conviction under a dubious law" Jeff Lawrence, a member of the CSA said. "In view of this country's recent experience with the War Measures Act", he commented, "it is essential for the government to show that it is going to keep its doors open."

Student Senator Tom Dean said a university supposedly receptive to divergent views and opinions was being closed by the government to a "representative of one of the largest social phenomena of the United States in the past century."

Richard Osakie, associate producer of Under Attack said he has encountered many legal hassles over the last few days in

his attempt to obtain clearance for Hoffman's visit. "Hoffman's legal status hasn't changed since the last time he was admitted to Canada and neither have the immigration laws," he said.

Immigration officials claim Hoffman was admitted to Canada last year because the border officials were unaware he was a celebrity or a man with a criminal record.

Osakie said Lang had admitted Hoffman had not been refused entry into Canada "because of what he might say on television." He added that, as a journalist, he was "sick of every possible government department controlling the media."

Osakie stressed he was speaking for himself and told the students that the producers of the show would not allow Hoffman to appear if he entered illegally. "Screen Gems does not want to go to jail," he said.

This week in "Flashback" we conclude last week's article "How society frustrates women". In addition, I felt it would be interesting to read the above article on Abbie Hoffman (last year we featured a debate between Hoffman and Jerry Rubin - the topic: Yuppies versus Yuppies).