

New Status of Women president seeks higher profile

by Gretchen Pohlkamp

Susan, while walking down the street with a new pet dog, meets Jane.

Susan: "Jane, look at the dog I got for my husband."

Jane: "How did you ever manage to make that trade?"

This, says Dr. Florence Wall, newly appointed president of the Advisory Council for the Status of Women in Nova Scotia, is a perfect example of how easy it is to be misunderstood. And although she qualifies her statements with "I was only appointed a few weeks ago", she says that in the past the advisory council has been as much a victim of misunderstanding as anything else.

"I have to admit I have heard negative comments about the council but I am not thinking of the past," says Wall. "We must take things forward from where they are, if we want the council to be effective."

Wall, a veteran administrator in the Halifax school system, and recently retired from the Nova Scotia Teachers' Union executive, spoke at the monthly meeting of Women and the Law. She gave an historical overview of the status of women on an international, national and provincial level.

The present advisory council in Nova Scotia was born of the fervour of International Women's Year in 1975. A task force report (Herself-Ellemême) recommended the establishment of a secretariat for women along with 94 other recommendations for the improvement of the status of women in Nova Scotia.

The government of Nova Scotia as a result, went a small part of the way towards setting up a ministry, by appointing nine people to advise the minister on matters which he wanted researched as well

as on matters which the council felt were of importance.

In the less than three years the council has been functioning, it has made some credible gains for the status of women in Nova Scotia, says Wall. But the council is only now reviewing the remaining 94 recommendations to see how much actually has been achieved.

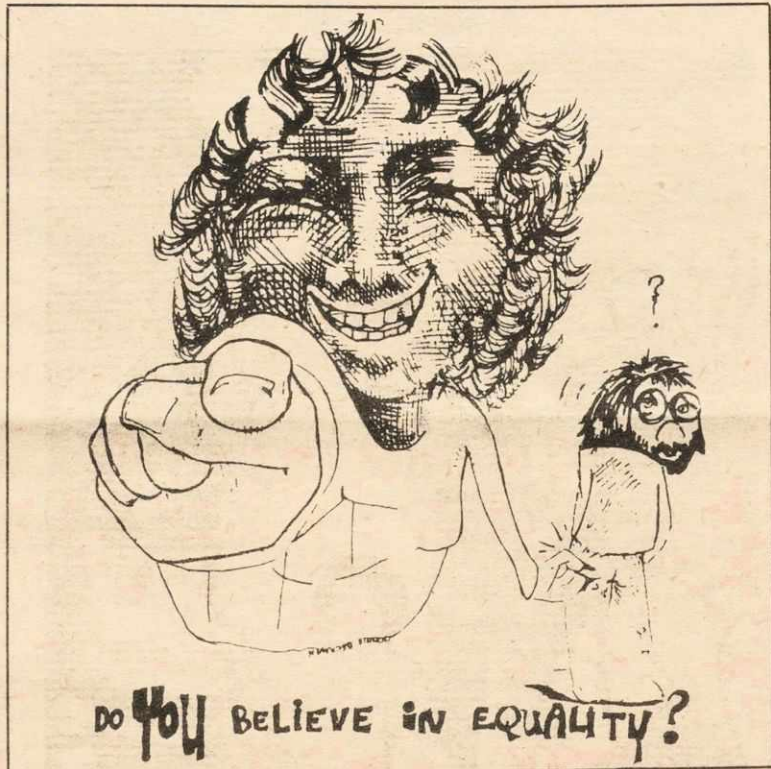
"Women in Nova Scotia are in a very subordinate position," says Wall. "There is not one woman in the House of Assembly, and no policy makers or women in positions of power or influence."

She says that women's power exists only to the extent to which they can influence the men in positions of power. "The only thing we can do — the only solution (to getting women in positions of power) is to get women to vote for women," she says. "Women's attitudes must be changed —

I've given up on changing the attitudes of men."

Wall says that one important factor in changing attitudes is to improve the image of organizations such as the advisory council. "Right now we don't have a profile," she says. "To be effective we need a high-profile council with a high-profile president."

Wall says she will consider holding public meetings of the council if it is possible. She would like the council to be more responsive to the needs of women in Nova Scotia by making it more accessible. One of her priorities is day-care. Another priority of the council is women and the constitution. She also considers liaison with groups such as Women and the Law to be important to ensure a more coordinated and united effort to improve the status of women in the province.



Exaggerating ads, Evelyn Wood course over-priced

WINNIPEG (CUP)—An organization claiming to "cut your study time by 2/3" has been criticized at the University of Manitoba for having highly exaggerated advertising claims and for being exorbitantly over-priced.

"Evelyn Wood reading dynamics" which ran several full-page ads in the student newspaper, the Manitoban, asks people to attend a free lesson to learn how to "zip through your reading a lot faster...with better concentration, understanding and recall."

What critics point out is the ad did not say that the Evelyn Wood course costs close to 80 times more than a similar course offered by student services at the University of Manitoba.

A professor, who asked not to be named, took the Evelyn Wood course while in graduate school and subsequently

was able to read light material at about 800-1000 words per minute. He was then hired as assistant teacher for Evelyn Wood when he discovered "that students in the classes were improving their reading speed but not nearly as much as Evelyn Wood people claimed they would."

He said "their claims of improvement were based on pretty misleading evidence". He added that he quit when he discovered "that the other teachers could not read as fast as me."

Barbara Rudyk, coordinator of the University of Manitoba learning center, felt that the course appealed to students through a mother like Evelyn Wood who, in effect, is saying, "give me all your problems and I'll help you." Rudyk also felt that students just do not know the alternatives. And so are attracted to this sort of thing.

The university learning center offers a shorter but similar course for only six dollars while the Evelyn Wood course costs a total of \$490.

Students who attended the free Evelyn Wood course in Winnipeg heard claims of students who increased their reading to 1500 words per minute. These students also claimed to have higher grade point averages and shorter study time after taking the Evelyn Wood course.

These claims were only substantiated by testimonials, a very unreliable kind of evidence according to the ex-assistant teacher for Evelyn Wood.

He concluded, "reading dynamics with Evelyn Wood is a decent speed reading course, but it's oversold and way over-priced. A student can get equally good training right here on campus for a lot less."

Dal Student Union

is now accepting applications for the position of

Winter Carnival Chairperson(s) 1981

Applications must be submitted by
Wednesday, October 29 5:00 p.m.

The Dal Arts Society is now accepting applications for grants from registered Dalhousie groups who are involved in activities of interest to the Arts student.

Pick up applications at SUB inquiry desk.
Deadline Nov. 6

Classic Design optics Ltd.



Dispensing Optician

Free Parking

Chris Holland

Opposite corner to O'Briens Drug Mart

Special Student Rates

429-2937

Open Saturday to serve you
better

LeMarchant Towers
6155 Coburg Road