

"A social movement"

Much achieved far to go

by Richard Watts

"Women in our society fear success because they fear for the loss of their femininity and men are fearful of failure because they fear the loss of their masculinity, and both sexes are poorer for it."

Quoting Margaret Mead, Doris Anderson finished her speech on the problems facing, and the progress made by, the Women's Movement to date. Doris Anderson was speaking as a guest lecturer as part of the U of A's Women's Awareness Week.

Doris Anderson is a long-standing and well-respected part of the Women's Movement and at this moment is President of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women.

In the past she has been the Editor of *Chatelaine*, written two best-selling novels and was awarded a commission in the Order of Canada. She is one of the foremost and most important individuals in the Women's Movement in Canada today.

Doris Anderson opened her speech by claiming that nowadays she is often asked two questions by interviewers (usually male): "Is the Women's Movement finally dead?" and "Haven't women by now received what they want?"

"It's as though women have been going through some sort of collective fever recently and are now ready to go back to normal."

And Doris Anderson objected, "I think it has finally penetrated that we haven't got what we want and we haven't finished yet."

"The women's movement is a social movement that affects all of us, men and women, and we all stand to gain from its successes."

The last twenty years have seen a tremendous surge in the Women's Movement and one of its greatest achievements, said Anderson, was that now women are finally beginning to articulate what they are not willing to put up with. This is taking place in the important relationships that all individuals must face: marriage, employment, mothers and daughters and sons and friendships.

Women, according to Anderson, are finally beginning to define themselves and define the place they want to hold in the world. This definition should tolerate neither inequality nor patronization.

This definition should lead to a better place for women as women will seek to make changes in society in order that society will accommodate this new definition.

The Women's Movement has made progress in leaps and

bounds, said Anderson, over the last hundred years. At the turn of the century women had all the rights of morons and children; they couldn't vote, run for public office, or attend university. They had no control over their own money and could be beaten and maltreated, all under the umbrella of marriage.

And while some women were fighting against these injustices, most women sat on the fence whether they thought the situation was right or not. Some women like Queen Victoria actually campaigned against these necessary changes.

Twenty years ago there were only two women admitted to the U of A Med School and Anderson says when she attended the U of A there was a professor in the History Department who refused to give a woman a first in marks on principle.

There were no legal abortions and in two provinces a divorce had to be referred to the House of Commons for approval. People accepted the situation where women were paid unequally for work of equal value, whether they considered it right or not.

Anderson described a situation where in 1960, working for *Chatelaine*, she ran the first article on child abuse. And she got a lot of mail commenting on that article, most of it unfavorable.

"People said we were being too sensational but the fact remained that many children were being cruelly abused."

That sort of incident seems to be how Anderson views the situation that is facing and has faced the Women's Movement. While people may have a sneaking sympathy they do not often wish to face unpleasant facts.

"But the situation is beginning to change and we are beginning to face those facts."

One of the biggest gains the Women's Movement has made is in the area of Family Law Reform.

Anderson recounted the case which touched it all off: the case of an Alberta farm-woman named Irene Murdoch.

This woman, recalled Anderson, had lived and worked with her husband for twenty-five years on the farm, when her husband broke her jaw in three places and kicked her out of her home with nothing. Maintaining that marriage was a partnership and her twenty-five years of work on the farm entitled her to some recompense, Irene Murdoch took her case all the way to the Supreme Court, and lost.

But Canadians, said Anderson, were so appalled at the

unfairness of that case that reforms in Family Law did begin. The reforms made changes to the effect that under the law, marriage became recognized as a partnership of two equals rather than a relationship dominated by the husband.

Family Laws, said Anderson, are Provincial Laws and therefore some are better than others, but the initial necessary changes have been made.

There are other milestones in the progress the Women's Movement has made; there are new laws on sexual harassment, rape is finally being recognized as a violent violation rather than an act of sexual passion, and, perhaps most important of all, said Anderson, is the addition to the Canadian Constitution that states that women specifically are equal under the law.

"It looks a lot like the Equal Rights Amendment that the Women's Movement has been trying to get passed for years in the States and we got it here and we did it all ourselves."

But the situation is not perfect yet and there are still necessary changes to society that must still be made, said Anderson.

The biggest step is in tackling the attitudes of people which maintain the stereotyping of people in our society.

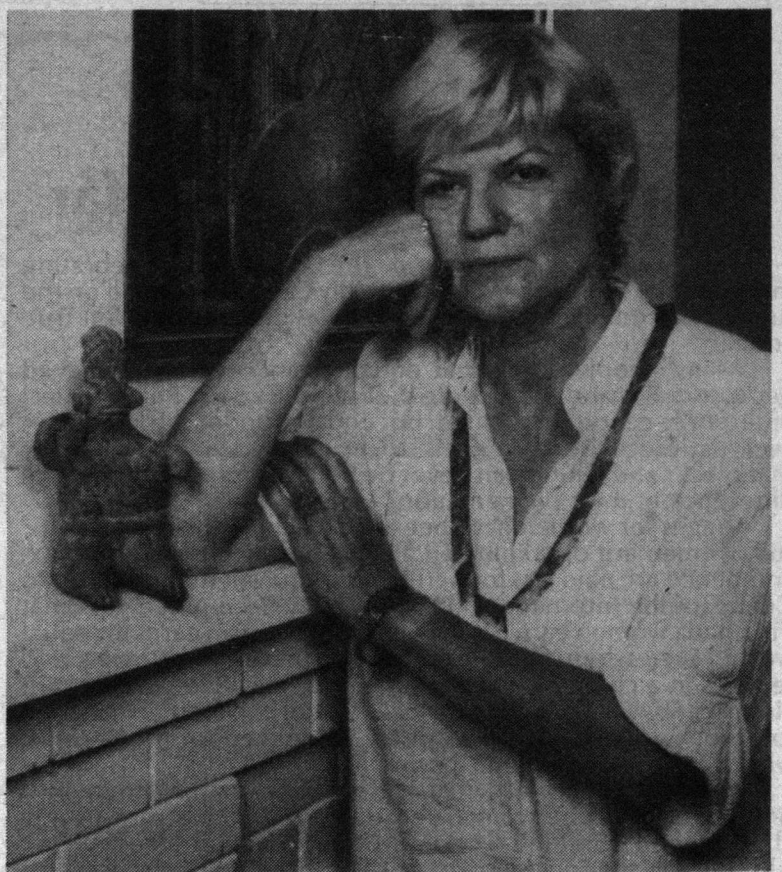
Women, said Anderson, are depicted typically as the headless housewife with her head in the oven going into fits of delight when the kids track mud through the house because now she gets the opportunity to use her new cleaner. But Anderson also condemned the media for stereotyping men who are depicted as overgrown babies whining because they don't want to take their medicine.

Anderson disagreed with the principle that legislation shouldn't change until the attitudes of society change.

"We will always have sexists but if the laws change then the behavior will have to change and it follows that gradually the attitudes will have to change."

Anderson applauded the attitudes of young people today who are rejecting the pigeonholing that societal stereotypes have been forcing on them.

And in closing, Anderson reiterated that the Women's Movement is a social movement that will affect everybody and from which everybody stands to benefit.



Doris Anderson, noted feminist, spoke of the positive accomplishments the women's movement has achieved. She warned, however, there is a lot left to do.

UBC takes cup

by Cathy McLaughlin

Justice David McDonald and Alberta Legislative Speaker Gerry Amerongen helped judge a western Canadian student debating championship Saturday in the Humanities Center.

The McGoun Cup went to the UBC team, with the approval of University president Myer Horowitz, Arts Dean Terry White, Board of Governors member Brian Silzer, U of A law professor Anne McClelland and John Beatty of the Alberta Debate and Speech Association, all judges of the event.

Dominic Barton and Jay McKeown of UBC beat nine teams from the universities of Alberta, Calgary, Victoria, Saskatchewan and Red Deer College to win the sixty year old award.

Their names join those of long-time NDP leader Stanley Knowles, ex-Manitoba premier Sterling Lyon and former Alberta Energy Minister Merv Leitch on the base of the cup.

"This is the most well-organized tournament I've ever been to."

Winner McKeown praised his hosts, the U of A Debating Society, for smooth operation of the event. The once-defunct Society now has nine members, showing a revival

of interest in debating at the University.

Interest was not high enough, though, to save the Huggill Cup Debates, an intra-university event cancelled earlier this year for want of teams.

Besides low membership, funding problems plague the group.

Paula Simons, tournament director, said a grant from the Seventy-fifth Anniversary Commission for the McGoun Cup did not come through.

"We're hoping for Students' Union funding next year."

The club's five dollar membership fee does not cover sessional costs of correspondence, photocopying, research, and tournament entry fees in the forty to seventy dollar range. According to one member, the Society needs about eight hundred dollars in outside funds.

"We want to send a team to the World Debating Championships in Princeton, New Jersey."

Despite the personal costs involved, members are enthusiastic. As Gerry Amerongen concluded in his remarks on the final debate:

"The ability to debate is needed now more than ever."

Nipped in the bud

Prof told off for violations

VICTORIA (CUP) — A University of Victoria professor has continued to sexually harass women responding to his advertisement for models, despite a reprimand from his department.

Ezra Mishan, a visiting professor, has placed advertisements in the *Victoria Times-Colonist* and *Vancouver Sun* stating that a visiting professor from London is looking for women to model for the classical Velasquez sculpture, "Venus."

One woman who answered the ad contacted Vancouver Rape Relief to see if the ad in the *Sun* could be pulled. Another put up a poster in a women's bookstore in Victoria warning women not to answer the ad. Someone circulated an anonymous leaflet in December warning that the modelling "may consist of obscene and degrading poses and may in fact be of danger to the women involved."

Two women told the U Vic student newspaper, the *Martlet*, that each was told to meet "Edward" at his office after a preliminary phone interview.

One woman, who asked that her name not be used, agreed to walk home with Mishan to see examples of his work.

"He asked what my fantasies were. I said 'what do you mean? This is a job, I need the money.' He said 'don't kid me, all the women who come here have some fantasy about what it'll be like.'"

Mishan allegedly asked his models to sign a form that would allow him to touch them for the purposes of sculpting. The women claimed Mishan said this was his defense against women who have tried to blackmail him because "they want something more."

"It seemed to make sense, and because he was a professor and I met him at the university, and his wife seemed to be somehow involved, I thought it had to be, you know, legitimate."

She said she asked Mishan to show her drawings of his planned sculpture, but he would not. Instead, he showed her two rough sculptures — "anybody could do them," she said — and told her that he destroys the sculptures afterwards.

When she removed her

clothes, he allegedly tested the inside of her thighs for muscle tone and touched her nipples, she said, because "he wanted to carve a statue with erect nipples, and to see how long mine would stay erect."

Mishan told her after the interview she was not suitable.

"When I took off my coat in the office, he said 'you don't have to take your clothes off here.' I said I was hot and he said 'of course you are.'"

Wigod also accompanied Mishan to his home to view photos of his work.

As they were walking to his house, Mishan allegedly asked her if she were nervous. "I said I wasn't and he said jokingly, 'it would be so easy for me to hit you on the head, and have my way with you.'"

By mutual agreement she did not model for him.

Mishan has refused to comment on the allegations.

Jerry Walter, acting economics chair, said "I know nothing about it....Dr. Mishan was requested not to use his office for this purpose."

