

SKY is the smallest amount of writing I've done in the longest amount of time: four years. Of course I threw out a lot. I throw out about 60 per cent of what I write.

Isn't it hard to edit, to decide what to take out?

Yes. But I do have friends that I share writing with. I need feedback.

And you trust their opinion?

Not always. Well, there is a lot of stuff I throw out without consulting anybody. I never burn it. It's in my files. So, if anyone cares someday they can look through it and see if there is something I shouldn't have thrown out.

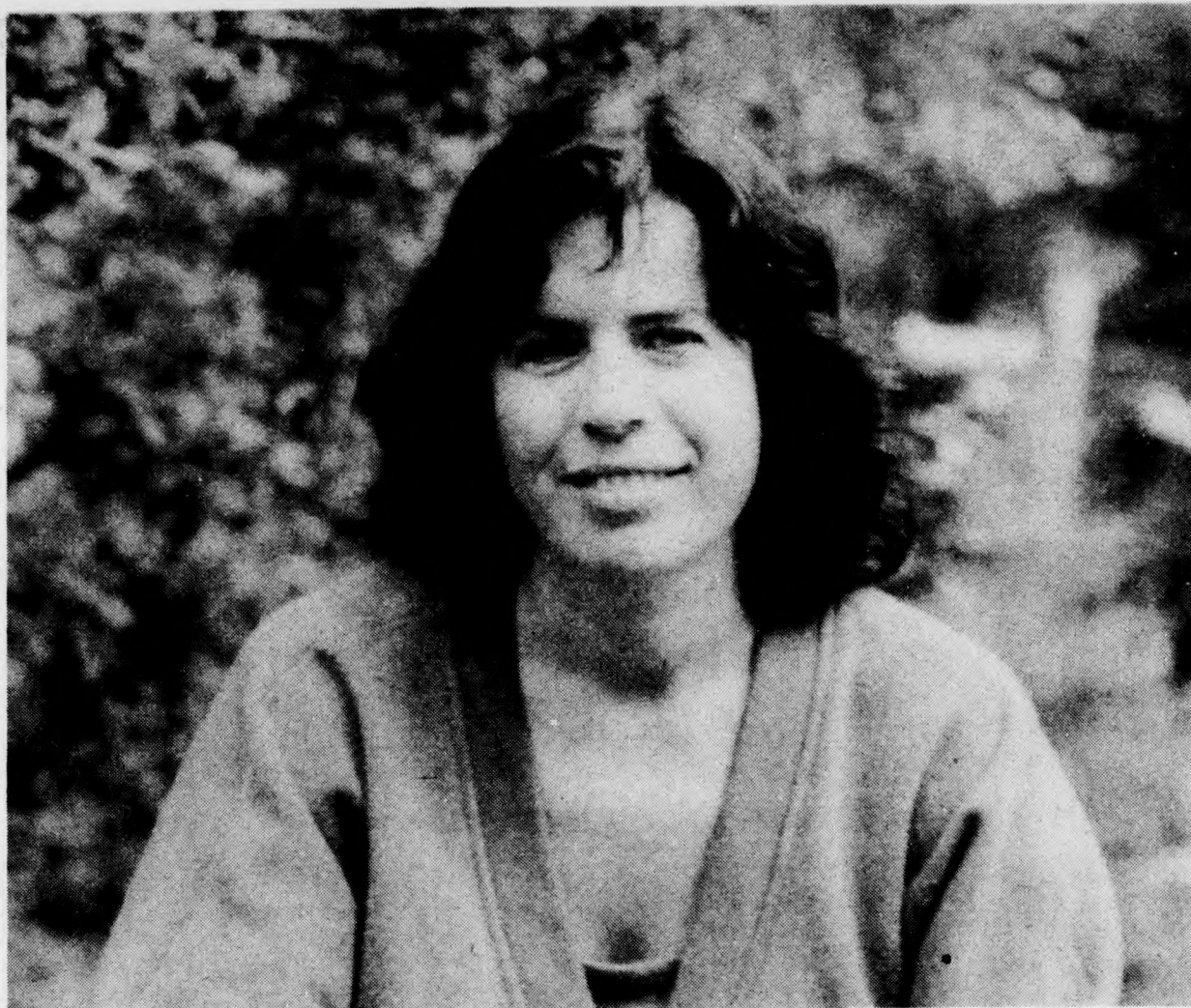
When I am preparing a manuscript for publication I always get two or three writer friends to read it. Then I make my own decision. Usually you'll find you have two or three wildly different opinions. But if all three of them say "This has got to go," or "This poem is great," you take serious note of that. You still wind up making your decision on your own. But the way I work, I read a lot of stuff and I write when I feel like it.

I would like to have a bit more discipline, especially now that I'm so busy. I'm not sure my organization of work has been that great.

In Henry Miller on Writing he says he would try to get a nap and messages would come through, complete sentences waiting to be written up. Do you find that happening to you?

Sometimes. I kind of lapse. I don't always write it down and I should. I should carry a little pad around with me. I used to wake up in the middle of the night with a dream that I wanted to write down and I kept a pad by my bed, but I'm not doing as much of that as I should. That's useful.

I like writing on trains. There is some stuff about trains in SKY. And



"I identify with Phyllis Webb, who has defined herself as a pressure cooker writer. You build up a head of steam over a period of time and then write in great spasms, or with great intensity, over the next period. I sometimes don't write for a year — well, I haven't gone quite that long. But often I don't write for months; during that time I live, I think. When the pressure has built up enough, I can work solidly for weeks or months at a time."

actually I did have that dream, the one with the disembodied dicks, on the train. There is something about the rhythm — I should take more train trips.

William Faulkner said in an interview: "The writer doesn't need economic freedom. All he needs is a pencil and some paper." How do you feel about that?

A man, you might add. No, no kidding. Well, what's the end of that question?

How do you feel about that?

It's patriarchal discourse, white, upper-class, patriarchal discourse. Tillie Olson wrote a terrific book called *Silences* about this whole notion, this whole mystification that if you really want to write you will.

Tillie Olson comes from a working-class factory family and had five children and she writes about what creates silences. And one thing that creates silences is working full-time and having five children, because you don't have any time for anything else. So you have to find a way to develop the basic conditions for creativity. That's some kind of time, some kind of space, a room of one's own. Virginia Woolf knew that.

The way I worked this out was by taking a lot of financial risks in order to have time to write. Although now I teach full-time, I was part-time until this year. I am off four months in the summer.

A couple of years after my son was born I could have gone back to work at a 40-hour-a-week job. I was a business editor before he was born, believe it or not. But I just knew I would have no time to write. I worked full time for a year, after my son turned two, and wrote nothing. So I took risks, working free-lance, applying for grants, etcetera.

I must say I feel I can no longer do that. I'm too old, my son has too many needs, to continue to be financially insecure. So I'm grateful to be teaching.

I think that's one of the reasons Sylvia Plath killed herself. She had two children and a full-time job and she was getting up at four in the morning to write. It's too much. After she was left by Ted Hughes, every day she got up at five to do some writing. It's a real pressure-cooker situation. So I'm sure that was an important element in her suicide.

Libby Scheier's work is sold at the York University bookstore, as well as literary and women's bookstores around Toronto.



STAFF & STUDENT DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE

**15% off parts
10% off service**

Show ID before invoice is printed

1945 Lawrence Ave. W.,
(just west of Jane St)

247-8711

MAILBOXES FOR RENT

Curtis Lecture Hall Area

For information call
York University Postal Services
736-2100 ext. 77598 or 22383

ReproMed Ltd.

ReproMed Ltd. is seeking healthy males of non-minority and minority ethnic groups to participate in an ongoing study on the evaluation of factors influencing sperm crypreservation and therapeutic donor insemination.

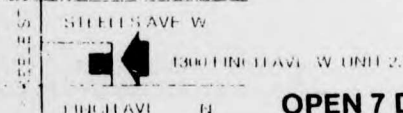
Those interested, please call 537-6895.

SIÊU THỊ TÂN PHÁT 新發超級市場

THIEN PHAT SUPERMARKET LTD

- South Asian groceries
- top quality beef, pork, veal, & poultry
- fresh fish & seafood
- wide variety of exotic Asian fruits & vegetables

中 西 雜 貨
罐 頭 食 品
凍 凍 海 鮮
蔬 菜 生 果
海 鮮 肉 類
本 號 專 營



661-8888

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK 10 AM-9 PM