

Feminist

Wants self-reliance

by Greg Petzold

WINNIPEG(CUP) -- "You cannot rely on laws, the protestations of sex equality...You must assert yourself."

Individual action was the gist of U.S. feminist and author Carolyn Bird's speech to about 50 people at the University of Winnipeg.

Bird, a senior editor with WORKING WOMEN magazine, spoke about "What Every Woman Needs to Know to get Paid What She's Worth" and laid some ground rules for working women to follow.

The gap in average wages between male and female workers is growing "wider and wider," she said. More women than ever before are entering the job market but are clustering in "service jobs" that form a "female job ghetto."

"In the United States," said Bird, "only 40% of our jobs pay enough to support a family. The average woman has to work."

Bird said millions would fall below the poverty line if wives stayed home, because the U.S. has become "an economy of two paycheck families."

"These working wives are a real bonanza to employers," said Bird, as well as to Internal Revenue and their husbands. Employers are able to pay women relatively low salaries while Internal Revenue allots all deductions to the male, the

"head" of the family. In addition, husbands still leave housework to working wives.

Bird suggests direct action the next time a woman's partner comes home. "When he goes in to turn on the television," she said "you go in

and sit beside him." Leave supper to take care of itself, saying you're not hungry.

"You have to learn the tone of voice to speak up for yourself," said Bird. She stressed personal action and persistence in dealing with male superiors. Humour about women's jobs (What's a nice girl like you doing...?) should be ignored.

Suggestions and requests for superiors should often be put in writing, as men "turn off" at the sound of a woman's voice, she said. If no response is forthcoming, a second and third memo must follow the first.

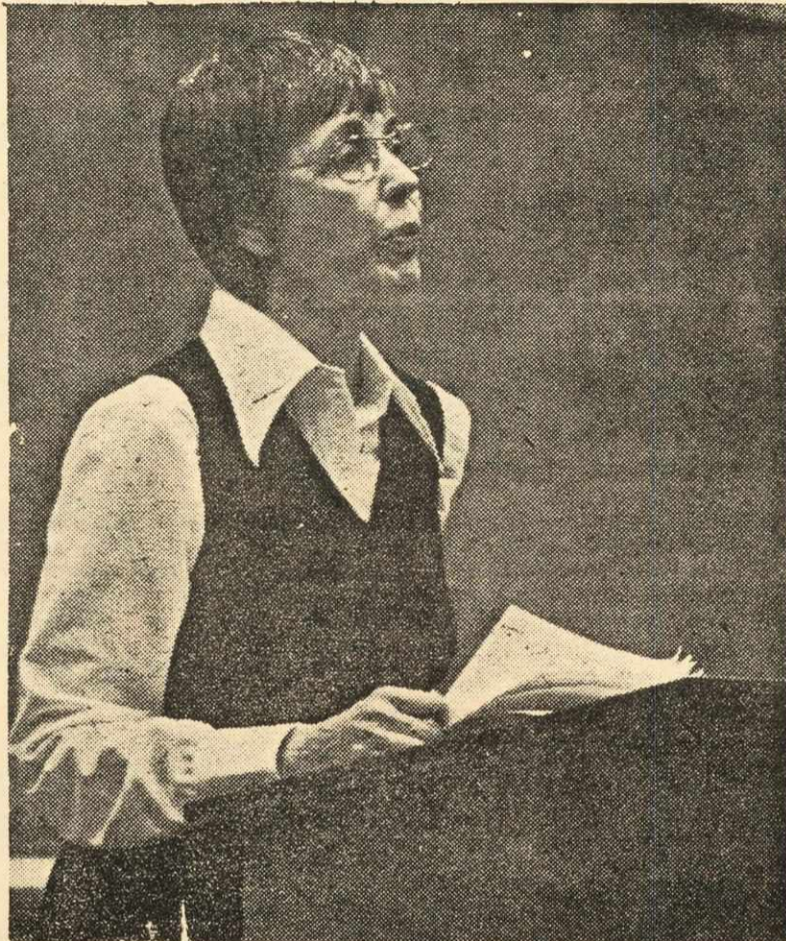
The American feminist acknowledged women "have to still be twice as good" to be successful in positions but she rejected such methods as flirting with employers and termed feigning dumbness as "self-destructive."

Instead, women should expose discrimination by an employer to a third party to pressure their superior, and above all, "learn to complain."

Bird urged women to take on such employment as engineering and construction -- "what we call a non-traditional occupation."

"Go where the men are," she said, "that's where the money is." Bird suggested women sound out prospective positions to discover if they may be entering a sexist situation. Once installed at a new post, women must ask for a promotion or it will be assumed you don't want one.

Even if you are forced to accept a so-called "ghetto job" said Bird, let them know you have other goals.



Community schools essential

by B. Wilson

Few people are aware that in the Halifax area, there are schools operating from 5 pm to 10 pm and open to everyone.

These schools are regular junior-high and high schools during the day but at night they undergo a transformation. They change from places of "indoctrination" to creative education centres called community schools.

The first community school was started in Halifax at Pine Grove school in September of 1972. Since the successful birth of the concept there, six more of these schools have developed in the city.

The *Gazette* talked to Doug Earle, director of the Bloomfield community school, to find out how the



Doug Earle, Director of the Bloomfield Community School.

community school tries to serve the needs of the public. "You can find many varied definitions of what a community school is or should be. But each has its own particular characteristics defined by the area in which it is located", Earle said.

"The one basic ingredient that you will find in all community schools is a belief that the school is there to serve the community" he added.

The types of programs found in a community school will vary from place to place. Some of them will be

more recreational with programs such as basketball, floor hockey, adult badminton, and weightlifting; while others may have more classroom oriented programs such as movies, macrame, or cake decorating.

The purpose of a community school, according to Earle, is "to encourage and enable the convergence of learning and living, and to help provide those facilities and personnel which will allow each entre to grow and develop as dictated by the needs of the community."

We want to promote the involvement and participation of all age groups. We want to encourage the development of cultural, social, intellectual, and recreational programs to meet community needs. Together these two goals, if achieved, will make a far stronger, more cohesive, and better community."

Earle wanted to differentiate between the community schools and the evening classes offered by the Halifax Continuing Education Program. He stressed that "the people who come to a community school have a good time while learning some new skills from one of the volunteer workers."

The community schools are run by a co-ordinator and a school council. For further information on their programs you can contact Doug Earle at 426-6730 or 426-7624, or Linda Cody at 426-6763.

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