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Pay for the pantry

VANCOUVER (CUP) — A group of six Vancouver housewives has published a report calling for houseworkers to receive wages and a pension.

The report details the financial and emotional problems faced by housewives, and examines the benefits which would result for women in Canadian society if housework received wages.

"Fifty-five per cent of women in this country live on incomes of less than \$10,000," said Ellen Woodsworth, project manager of Housewives in Training and Research, the group who researched and wrote the report.

The group spoke to 1,200 households over nearly nine months, and found 81 per cent of those surveyed were in favour of houseworkers receiving salaries an average of \$60 a day.

The report recommends that the federal government pay a pension to houseworkers and include in the Gross National Product of Canada.

Many women, says the report, blame themselves for feeling unfulfilled in what they believe is their "natural role" and turn to alcohol or eagerly prescribed anti-depressant drugs.

According to Woodsworth, women who manage to escape housework are also paying the price of those who work for free.

"Seventy-seven per cent of women work in the 'pink collar ghetto', either in secretarial jobs or on the floor at Eaton's. Women, especially those have to realise that women working for free in the home determine the low wage of those outside the home," says Woodsworth.

Because housework is unpaid, jobs similar to housework are also seen to have little value.

The report group claims that paying houseworkers would create 6.5 million jobs. It would also encourage men to do housework and would give houseworkers valid "work experience" when they apply for outside jobs.

Gado-Gado hits Dal

For the ninth year the Halifax community has an opportunity to sample a unique culture in "an evening of exotic cuisine and entertainment from the tropical regions of Southeast Asia."

Tack Wong, external vice-president of the Malaysian, Indonesian, and Singaporean Students' Association, says this year's MISSA Night will be "a little different" from past years.

And he means better.

For starters, this year the authentic dishes will be served on real china instead of paper plates, used in past years. As well, diners will be invited to use the traditional implements of food transportation. But the biggest improvement this year, says Wong, is that the eight-course meal will be served at temperatures that complement the individual dishes.

"In past years the big problem was the food was cold by the time it was served. We've looked

closely at the menu to ensure the food will be efficiently prepared to serve it as warm as possible. We've been working closely with Beaver Foods as well and I can assure you the food will be served hot."

An eight-course meal may seem like enough to indulge in for one evening but there's more to do than satisfy your caloric intake. There's entertainment to satisfy the mind as well.

Traditional dances of the Malaysian, Indonesian and Indian cultures will be performed in the colourful dress of the respective countries. So there's more to occupy your sight than your neighbour's fashion of attacking their meal.

An eight-course meal and an evening's entertainment and all for a mere \$14. Some might say that other cultures are more affordable than our own. MISSA Night on Saturday night. Tickets can be picked up in the Dal SUB at the booth on the main floor.

Impoverished students

Continued from Page 3

Corbett favours free post-secondary education because she doesn't think the right to an education should depend on the income of a student's family.

"The education that the rich and the poor receive is relatively equal, but the poor usually have a harder time deciding to go to university," she said.

In order to finance her education, Corbett took out \$13,000 in loans from the government and friends. She said her family pressured her not to do graduate work because they are worried about the size of her debt.

Corbett, who has had at times to sell personal valuables to make ends meet, believes she will "maintain a certain level of poverty" until her student loan is paid.

Colleen Mackey, a first-year law student at Dalhousie, said it doesn't make economical sense for a poor person to go to university.

With \$18,000 in government and commercial loans already racked up, Mackey estimates she will be at least \$22,000 in debt by the she graduates. She said she will have to "forego a lot of the things that people normally buy", such as a house or car, until her loan is paid off.

Mackey said her debts will also limit what type of work she will be willing to do after she graduates. "I'll need a large salary in order to pay back my loans", she said. "It's unlikely I'll be able to practice the less lucrative types of law such as poverty law."

Ryan graduates from Memorial this year, but isn't expecting to find a job easily. "I think I will live as if I am poor for years to come," he said.

"Sometimes I think I'm living in a dream world, the thought of paying back my debt is so far in the back of my mind," Ryan said. "I still have dreams of getting the big job and paying off my debt, but I know it's just a dream."