

# See ourselves as others see us." R. Burns

Christina sees one disadvantage to working life in Canada. On a busy day she may not see her husband for ten hours. The routine of her day at home with the children is unbroken.

In Greece the business community closes down from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. and all workers go home where most sleep during part of the day.

For the homemaker this period provides a welcome rest and break in the day. Husband and wife have a chance to make contact and a father is also able to spend more time with his children.

One Greek custom which has not been imported to Canada, to the relief of both women, is that of arranged marriages. Each prospective bride was evaluated in large measure by the size of her dowry. In Greece these dowries were extensive, including houses.

This system discriminated against all women but, as usual, was hardest on poor women whose 'property value' was nil. Even Frieda, who has a generally positive view of life, regards this as "not nice".

Her concern is for the poor women as opposed to the rich women. In Greece the two are segregated even in Church. The poor get married on Saturday and the rich on Thursday.

Because these blatant discriminations do not occur in Canada, Frieda believes "we're all the same here."

## Mahilla: Indopakistanis Women

"Indopakistanis women are not very concerned about the women's movement," says Ms. Mary Barretto who sits on the board of directors of the Vancouver India

Mahilla Women's Association. She grew up in Bombay and has been in Canada for eight years.

"In India, three quarters of the population is illiterate. It is hard to talk of feminism while you are starving," she says. "In

Canada, East Indian Women are isolated from one another according to their religion and caste. In the larger society they seldom come in contact with feminists."

"In the home, East Indian women are considered supreme," she says. "They make all the family decisions but they give their husbands their dues in other spheres."

"Middle-class women in India live like princesses," she noted. "They can afford servants but we don't call them that anymore. The East Indian women spend a lot of time socializing. It is a shock for them to give up this way of life when they come to Canada."

"Day care is unheard of in India," said Ms. Barretto. "Three quarters of the population are uneducated, so both men and women work as helpers in the house where they take care of the children and are considered a part of the family."

Although the government of India has undertaken an expensive contraceptive education program, it is not always successful. "You see, East Indian women are extremely modest," she says. "The IUD is the most popular method of birth control but it is traumatic for the women to visit a doctor to have it inserted. The Pill is too expensive."

In a country where only 25 per cent of the population is educated, it is considered an honour to be a graduate, whether you are male or female. Apparently, Indopakistanis

women are paid on their merits and are not pressing for equal pay laws.

Being among the literate has other advantages for these women. "Many of them are in the professions," says Mary Barretto. "There aren't as many barriers to them entering non-traditional jobs like there are in Canada."

A popular occupation for the Indopakistanis woman in her own country is teaching, as well as nursing. In Canada many of them are employed in social work if they come from the middle-class. But having a career does not seem to have changed their outlook. "East Indian people live for their families," she says.

In B.C. many Indian women work in factory jobs and manual labour occupations if they come from an agricultural and illiterate background. Lack of enforcement of protective labour laws and health regulations is a major problem for them.

"They know they are being discriminated against," says Ms. Barretto, "but they won't admit it. They will fight for their rights amongst their own people but they are in no position to be in the vanguard of the women's movement and take on added risk."

## Chilean Women: Amazed

Since the 1973 military coup in Chile, many female political refugees are entering Canada. Although they are professionals they are having difficulty finding jobs because they can not speak English. Canada Manpower English training classes are usually awarded to their husbands. So the Chilean women take jobs as domestics and waitresses to pay for their private English tuition.

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## Jane Bothwell- an apolitical executive

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### Jane's Job

The Students' Union constitution outlines a variety of responsibilities for the vp (academic) but Jane finds these guidelines insufficient.

"There is no base to it, nothing set that I can do. You have to develop your own goals and devise some way of achieving them. Almost everything I do has to go through a committee."

"My hands are really tied and it is frustrating at times because it takes a long time to really get to know the channel you have to go through. I'm just now feeling reasonably competent in doing this sort of thing."

Jane's main goal for the next few months is to make students aware of what is happening on campus.

"I don't think it has been done effectively in the past and it's very unfortunate because students would like to know what's happening. I mean they may not do anything about it but they should at least have some opportunity to voice their opinions."

### The Problems of Evaluation

The specific issues Jane considers right now, concern course evaluation and the evaluation of professors. Instead of reviving the old course guide, Jane

advocates a new system by which students can advise their professors on how to improve their courses without necessarily upsetting the profs.

### Faculty Councils

Jane also wants to focus attention on the Faculty councils in order to increase student representation on these bodies.

"For example in Arts, I think that out of 30 odd positions available, eleven were filled last year. Eleven! Can you imagine. That's horrible, that's disgusting!"

"It is a slap in the face to the faculty that has given students representation on its council. It infuriates me that students are saying the faculty does not listen to us, and yet all they are doing is complaining but they are not getting in there and trying to change it. They are complaining but they don't like to do the work."

### Student Representation on Tenure Committees

Jane disagrees with other members of the executive on the issue of student representation on tenure committees. Pointing at the dismal record of student interest in university committee positions, she says:

"My personal opinion is that we shouldn't get representation on tenure committees because we don't deserve it as students. We haven't proven recently that we are interested and responsible enough. Who are we to say that that fellow shouldn't get tenure?"

On the other hand, Jane does not approve of tenure in principle. She hopes that eventually another way of providing some sort of protection for professors may be found.

### Future Plans

As far as her personal future is concerned, Jane intends to travel after obtaining her degree after next year's spring session. She has "absolutely no political ambitions" and intends to steer away from politics.

Nevertheless, she is all enthusiastic about her unexpected involvement in student politics.

"I wish that people could experience how exciting it really is to get involved. There is so much more to university than going to school. And I wish I'd known about it earlier."

by Harald Kuckertz

If you had told Jane Bothwell a year ago that she would be the Students' Union vice-president (academic) today, she would have probably laughed at you. Prior to her election this spring, the 21-year-old Commerce student had relatively little interest in student politics and was not involved in Students' Union affairs at all.

On the same executive as such politically-oriented persons as Graeme Leadbeater and Brian Mason, Jane surprises by saying: "As far as politics go, I get really annoyed at politicians and people who think politically because I like to play it completely honest - there's what's happening so take it as it is."

Jane admits that her entry into student politics came about as a kind of accident.

"I'm fairly good friends with Gene Borys. He had been talking to Graeme and then they approached me. At first, I said 'no - why should I do that' but then it started to intrigue me and I got completely caught up in it."