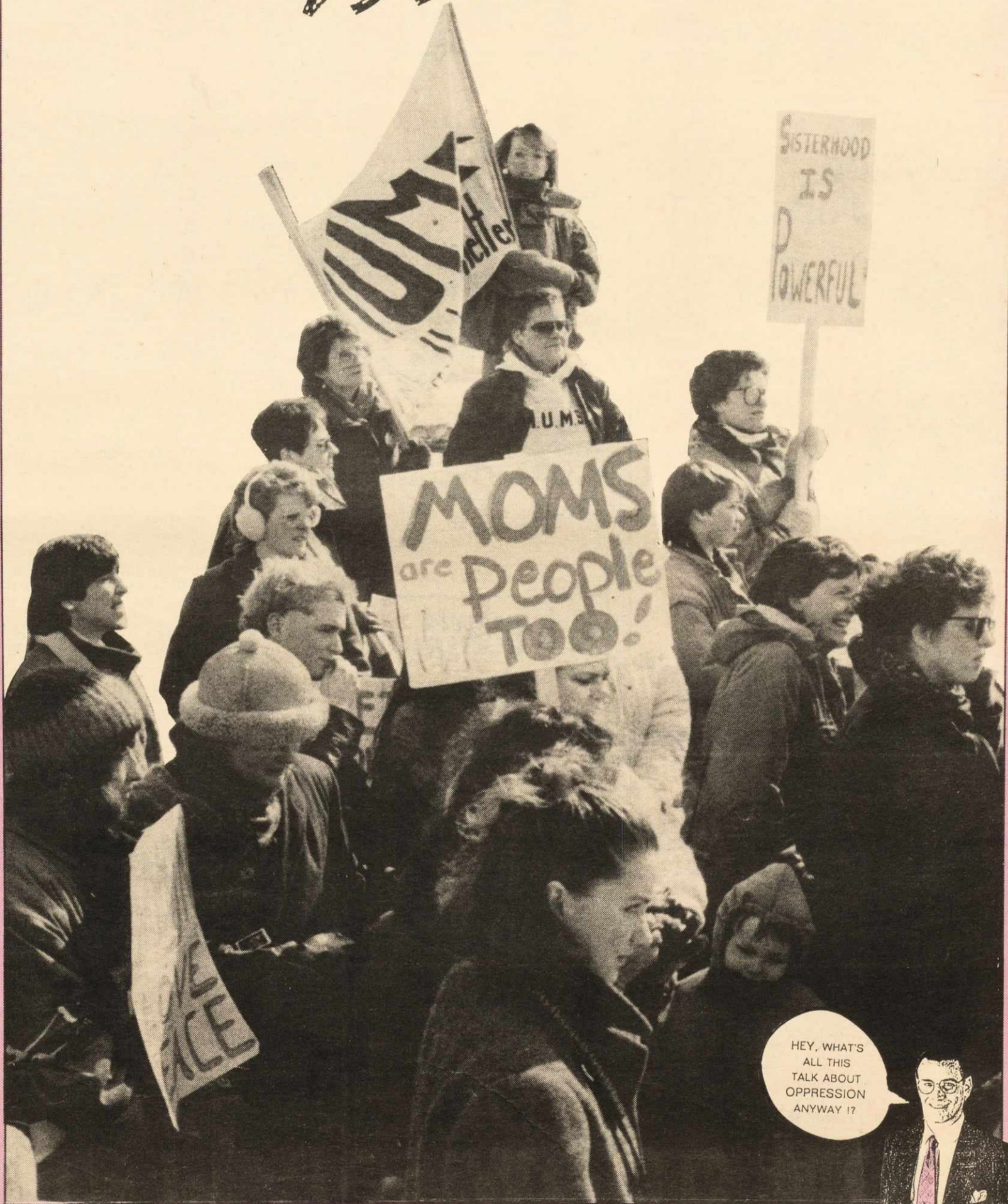


WOMEN'S *issue*




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Volume 119, Number 21 23
March 19, 1987

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THE OUTSIDE WORLD

Wage gap widens

(OTTAWA — CP) For the first time in at least 18 years, women lost ground in 1985 in the battle to reduce the wage gap with men.

Statistics Canada reports that the average income for women working full-time last year was \$18,736, 69.9 per cent of that of their male counterparts.

Women made 65.5 cents for every dollar taken home by men in 1984. In 1986, women on average made only 58.4 per cent of what men did.

"It's really a cause for concern and reaffirms the need for legislation to deal with this problem," says Sylvia Gold, president of the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women.

It costs a woman as much as it costs a man to buy food and housing, says Gold, and women with lower educational levels suffer the most.

In 1985, women with a grade eight education or less earned 58.4 cents for every dollar men with the same levels of education did, while those with university degrees made 68.7 per cent of what university-educated men were paid. This trend has been evident since 1979, says Statistics Canada.

Gold says the results of the survey demonstrate that pay-equity legislation is necessary to improve women's wages.

Women in Prince Edward Island tend to earn 73.4 cents for every dollar men there do, while the gap is much wider in Nova Scotia, where women made only 61.7 per cent of their male counterparts' paycheques.

Girls will be girls

(Ottawa, University Affairs)

Despite some progress, educational equality for women remains largely elusive, says a recent report by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

While increasing numbers of women complete secondary schooling and enter universities in the 24 countries OECD studied, few made it into the traditionally male dominated fields, and few receive top scholarships or make it through graduate school.

Universities world wide still have traditionally female faculties where subsequent job opportunities have been badly affected by labour market recession.

The report, "Girls and Women in Education", says women generally take courses in the humanities, arts and languages while men are predominant in the applied sciences. Women have made significant inroads in law and architecture, and in some countries, business management, commerce and administration, but the report says "there is little reason for complacency" about the status of women in education.

Pigboys at UVic

TORONTO (CUP) — The student council of Victoria University at the University of Toronto has let the wind out of a men's orientation ceremony that includes a physically accurate female inflatable doll and an object known as "the sacred muff".

In a recent meeting, council decided this year's orientation chair must "revise the hazing and sexist elements of the men's traditional orientation ceremony," said council president Marni Pyke.

Vic orientation ends with two secret ceremonies, one for men and one for women. The men's ceremony centres on the sacred muff, a piece of carpet soaked in fish oil and chicken blood which is meant to represent a large vagina. In the past, male frosh have been required to kneel and kiss the object, which is now nine years old.

Last September a new element was added. "They have to blow up a rubber doll with a vaginal opening that they were throwing around," Pyke said. She said she thought the whole issue was blown out of proportion, but "some Vic students found it objectionable."

According to council service commissioner Rosemary Newman, Vic women had not realised before what the ceremony contained. "We started talking to some guys, and we started to realise how offensive the whole thing was to women," she said.

Newman objects to such a ceremony at an institution "which is supposed to be enlightened. The first experience boys get when they arrive is a big put-down of women."

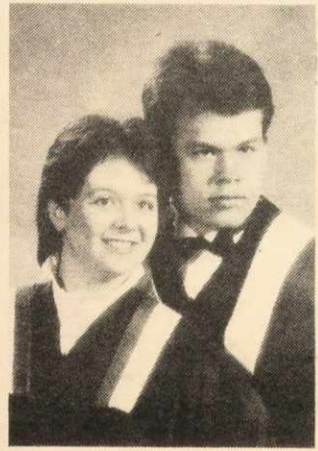
Ian Grant, a member of last fall's orientation executive, admitted the ceremony got out of hand, but insisted the sexist elements were not to blame. Instead, he thought the problem might lie with the requirement that frosh must remain quiet during a long speech about the history of "the sacred muff" as part of the ceremony.

"In the last couple of years, some of the leaders have been overzealous in trying to keep the frosh quiet, and some of them might not have had fun," he said.

Newman said men she talked with were at first defensive, but later admitted the ceremony's sexist elements made them uncomfortable.

Grant said the female council members who opposed the ceremony were mistaken. "None of the girls really know what goes on," he said. "The speech is exceptionally funny, and I don't think it's degrading. Everyone who goes through knows it's a joke," he added. "They want to take anything sexist out of it, and that's what it (the joke) is all about."

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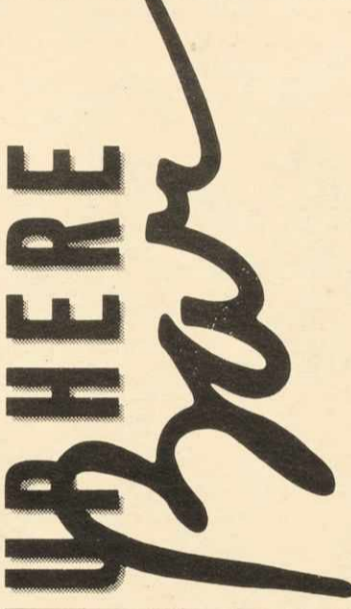
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Destination: Zimbabwe

By TOM McNEILL

During an anti-prostitution campaign in 1983, Zimbabwe police detained several thousand women in temporary prison camps. Those who could not prove they were either married or employed were placed in a "resettlement camp".

Incidents such as this illustrate that independence for Zimbabwe hasn't meant independence for women in the African state, says Juanita Montalvo, who will be visiting Zimbabwe this summer on a WUSC-sponsored seminar.

Women played an important military role in Zimbabwe's liberation struggle. During the war, soldiers were badly needed and the groups opposing the white-minority regime involved many women in their fight. Not only were women fighting alongside men, but some were leading the ranks.

By 1980, their influence had reached the point that leaders of the governing party repeatedly emphasized their commitment to improving the position of women in the newly-independent nation.

But as the situation in Zimbabwe stabilized, women were urged to forego the gains they had made during the war and return to their traditional roles.

Even Teurai Ropa Nhongo,



Dalhousie student Juanita Montalvo will attend a seminar in Zimbabwe this summer to study women in development. Photo by Sean Forbes.

minister of women's affairs and a former military commander, said in a speech:

"Women should help their husbands by getting involved in self-help projects which generate extra income for the family rather than spending most of their time basking in the sun or drinking

beer."

Dr Goonam Naidoo, a feminist and political activist living in Zimbabwe said in an interview in *Moto* magazine, "I detest the secondary role women assume in African societies."

Women have adopted key roles in parts of the country's government, including the Ministry of

Community Development and Women's Affairs, which organizes extensive educational programs for women. There has also been a large increase in the number of non-partisan women's groups and cooperatives catering

advisor from Dalhousie were chosen to participate in the World University Service of Canada-sponsored seminar to Zimbabwe this summer along with 26 other students and two other faculty advisors from across the country. Dalhousie law stu-

"A country will not go forward as long as the women are left behind."

to different segments of society.

But the government's improvements in the status of women are concentrated almost entirely within the traditionally female sectors of the economy where most of the country's women remain.

Montalvo is hoping to meet with many of these women's groups as part of her study of the changes in women's status since independence in Zimbabwe.

Four students and one faculty

dents Scott Sterns and Mary O'Brien, economics student Shawn Houlihan, and Dr Tim Shaw, director of Dalhousie's African Studies Program, will accompany Montalvo on the trip.

The annual program, which picks a different developing country each year, is aimed at increasing international understanding in Canada and the developing world.

Participants must raise 40 per cent of the seminar's costs — \$2,400 each — from local groups and individuals. They are expected to study an aspect of development which relates to their studies in Canada. On their return, they will be presenting slideshows and seminars to many of the groups that support their program.

WUSC also sponsors other development education programs, including the WUSC student refugee program, a Zimbabwe education assistance program, and the WUSC Caravan (profits of which go to the student refugee fund).

Other development organizations such as the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace, and Canadian University Service Overseas are giving a high priority to the role of women in development and helping women's groups in developing countries.

More than six of the participants on the WUSC seminar program will be studying women in development.

According to Montalvo, there has been a strong focus on the subject in the last 15 years as more people have realized that women are a vital, but previously ignored, part of development. She says women are "in the forefront of development throughout the world."

Her determination to change the existing structure echoes what Dr. Goonam said in *Moto* magazine: "A country will not go forward as long as the women lag behind."

Same old story for women profs

By KATHY O'BRIEN

Universities are still hiring women mainly to fill positions in "traditional" female faculties, such as nursing and education, says the chair of the Status of Women committee of the Canadian Association of University Teachers.

"On the surface, it looks as if universities have been hiring more women," said Jane Gordon, a sociology professor at Mount Saint Vincent University. "But they are probably hiring fewer women in mainstream faculties."

In most Nova Scotia universities, the percentage of faculty positions filled by women runs between 14 to 30 per cent. At Mount Saint Vincent, where 85 per cent of students are women, the figure is 6 per cent. But at the Technical University of Nova Scotia, the figure drops to just two per cent.

Paula Chegwiddden, a sociology professor at Acadia University in Wolfville, said only four per cent of Acadia's science professors are female. Chegwiddden said more women are needed in technical and scientific areas to "provide role models for women. Not having women in the sciences may discourage women going into the sciences."

Gordon is concerned that the number of female faculty at Mount Saint Vincent has

declined from 100 per cent 20 years ago to 60 per cent today.

"There are more and more women being turned out of graduate programs," but not all are being hired as professors, she said.

Gordon said universities seem "to value men's credentials more highly than women's." She said many women often take time off after finishing graduate school, and this may hinder their chances for academic employment.

Gordon suggests that universities "are reluctant to hire older women," preferring to hire "someone fresh out of graduate school who goes directly into the system."

"There is no conscious decision not to hire women," says Chegwiddden. "But people like to hire people like themselves," she said, noting hiring committees are often made up of men.

Although Acadia has had an affirmative action policy for two years, Chegwiddden said it's just "a motherhood statement." There's no way to enforce the hiring of women, she said.

Dalhousie philosophy professor Sue Sherwin said Dal's "very weak" affirmative action policy states that a woman is to be hired only if there is no better qualified male. Sherwin thinks universities should hire well-qualified women even if a male candidate is

perceived to have higher qualifications.

What people consider to be "qualified" is "very subjective", said Sherwin. "A department head may prefer a person because she or he fits into the style of the department. That works against women because departments are usually male dominated."

If hiring committees relied solely on grades and publications, the system would be fairer to women, said Sherwin.

Sherwin also noted that most women professors at Dalhousie are in the junior ranks, and very few head departments. "There are 13 female full professors compared to 237 male full professors, and there is only one woman in senior administration," she said.

Gordon said these figures are similar for most universities across Canada.

"The only way to change these statistics is to hire more women," said Sherwin. But because many universities are suffering budget restraints, it is unlikely women faculty will be hired in great numbers in the near future.

Women faculty also earn less than their male colleagues. On average, women professors make 12 per cent less than men. Gordon says salary disparity "is attributed not to gender, but to the initial salary the professor negotiates with administration."



*international
women's
day
march
1987*



Photos by Ariella Pahlke



Oh sure, I'm for a free world
I see all the problems
What, with kids starving
And people dying
And the world perched
on the edge of nuclear proliferation. . .

Oh sure, I want change
I want other people to change
the attitudes that
suppress, subvert, kill,
maim and pollute . . .

Oh sure, I agree when you say
I'm sexist.
But I'm not really.
I know more about

feminist theory, where
it came from, how the
movement started, in
1963, with that
Betty what's-her-name
book.

Oh sure,
all you have is
experience.
But that's all
And just what
can that mean
anyway.

Oh sure . . .
Lois Corbett





Congress-woman, Elaine White.

Photo by Heather Hueston

Chapter one...

By HEATHER HUESTON

The last time the National Congress of Black Women tried to organize a chapter here in Nova Scotia in the 70's, it didn't last. This time, says Elaine White, the mood is different. White, head of the Metro Halifax-Dartmouth chapter (the first in Atlantic Canada) says "They were a different generation then. We're more vocal, we're ready to express ourselves." The group was established in January to fill a gap black women wanted to speak for themselves.

The Congress is a self-help support group that sees education as the top priority. White says committees have been set up by the board to deal with various issues, now they just need to be staffed by interested group members. Some issues that committees will deal with include housing, especially low-income housing — how women can find it and how to take care of it. Having a place of your own builds self-esteem, says White. Employment is another area where the Congress can help by showing career opportunities to women who might otherwise be headed for social assistance. The group can

assist with resume-writing and be a resource for information on a worker's rights and harassment. For example, the group can aid a woman who's faced with an intimidating mass of red tape when she files a complaint of sexual harassment. "Women should be able to come to us and say 'How can you help us with our concern?'" says White.

The Congress' objectives are also to bring black women of Nova Scotia and Canada together, to be a forum to discuss issues which affect the women themselves and their communities and to work with other self-help and black awareness groups.

White says the Congress will work with the Black United Front (BUF). "We have a lot to offer each other," she explains "our aims and objectives are the same."

Unlike BUF, the Congress receives no government money (White herself works full-time for the provincial department of health). The Metro Chapter has approximately 30 members, from professional women to students, and plans to become more visible in the future by launching a fundraising drive and holding workshops.

Gimme shelter

By Erin Goodman

The chairperson of a Dalhousie ad hoc committee wonders if the university is willing to put its money where its mouth is and provide a fourth on-campus child care unit.

Ellen Tancock presented her group's second proposal for daycare space to Dalhousie president Howard Clark and vice-president John Graham recently, and this time around, she's hoping the committee will get an affirmative response.

"We've had a very good response from the president," says Tancock, whose two children are currently in home care due to the drastic shortage of on-campus daycare. The committee's original proposal was turned down in September and meanwhile, the waiting list of over 100 children is not getting any shorter.

Parents can expect to wait almost two years for a vacancy in one of Dalhousie's three daycares, Peter Green Hall, the University Children's Centre, and the Centre for Children's Studies.

The committee's proposal is modest, requesting a facility to house 14 children close to the Tupper Medical Building, where most of the group's women work. 130 people concerned about the lack of adequate daycare recently signed a petition circulated in the Tupper building, and the committee has also received widespread written support from the university community.

While some people are concerned that daycare will become a last priority in a time of severe financial cutbacks and space shortages at Dalhousie, the Tupper parents refuse to be discouraged.

"We're very gung-ho," says Tancock, adding that many people would be willing to pay more than the current Dalhousie rate of \$15.00 per day for quality child care. "You want the best for your kid."

The ten-member committee plans to continue their fight for adequate daycare for the entire Dalhousie community and invites new members to contribute to the group's efforts.



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Girl Talk

When the women on the Gazette first got together to talk about publishing a women's supplement, some of us felt it would be better if all the staff were involved in the issue. It grew, and grew, until it was drastically changed, from first being a twelve-page insert to finally including all the pages in a regular issue. We've gotten support from some of the male writers at the Gazette, and they have become involved in the planning of the issue as well. The women on the Gazette wanted, however, to write an editorial about their feelings, towards both the issue and what it means to be a feminist on a student paper. The following is an edited version of our three-hour conversation.

I'm really disappointed that this women's paper came up so late in the year, our third-last issue. That's really bad. There seems to have been a lack of interest in having a women's issues editor and a lack of interest in covering women's issues.

Do you think that's because the structure of the paper is set up so that there will always be a newspaper, but only once in a while will there be a women's paper?

Yes. It's a waging a losing battle trying to organize women's issues and trying to write about women's issues, because you don't get the support you need.

So how is this paper different? Speaking for myself, I took a lot more interest in this paper than in the others. I felt that I could make a contribution. Usually I'm restricted to typesetting.

I'd like to see more women's supplements, two at least, during the year. One of the main problems in the paper is getting writers involved. It's hard to just come in and join the Gazette. You come in the door and people don't even acknowledge that you are there. Meetings are hard, too, because there's so many people here you can barely get in the door, and then you have to stand at the back. Meetings are always the same, where two or three people speak, and they're all male. I know some women who came into the office and weren't encouraged to stay.

I joined the Gazette because I just moved to Halifax. I didn't know anything about the university, or Halifax, and I thought I could find that out. But working on a newspaper can also be very isolating. It's possible to write for a newspaper and have no involvement with other people. After handing in a few articles, I wondered if it was really worth the effort.

That depends on the structure of the paper too. If it's a really professionally-run paper, you can see yourself becoming slotted into one section or job, and hand in your copy and disappear for a week. I would like to see it more open, where we're friends, and do things together.

I was one of the only women here who regularly contributed to the campus news section and one of the reasons that might be is because the people you interview are hard to talk to. You feel on display as the reporter. I've encountered very sexist men. One interview I had was horrible. I had interviewed before (at another paper) but this person

was really sexist and rude. He was very patronizing. I hate it when people you are interviewing don't listen to you. I had to force every quote out of him. It was awful. It's also hard to deal with the DSU — some of the men are completely obnoxious.

The same sort of things happen at staff meetings. Now I tend to blurt things out more than I did at the first of the year, because then I thought I didn't know anything.

Is there any way men can write about us, write good stories about women?

I don't know. They seem to spit out the word feminist like it tastes bad.

What does it mean when a man says he's a feminist?

There aren't any.

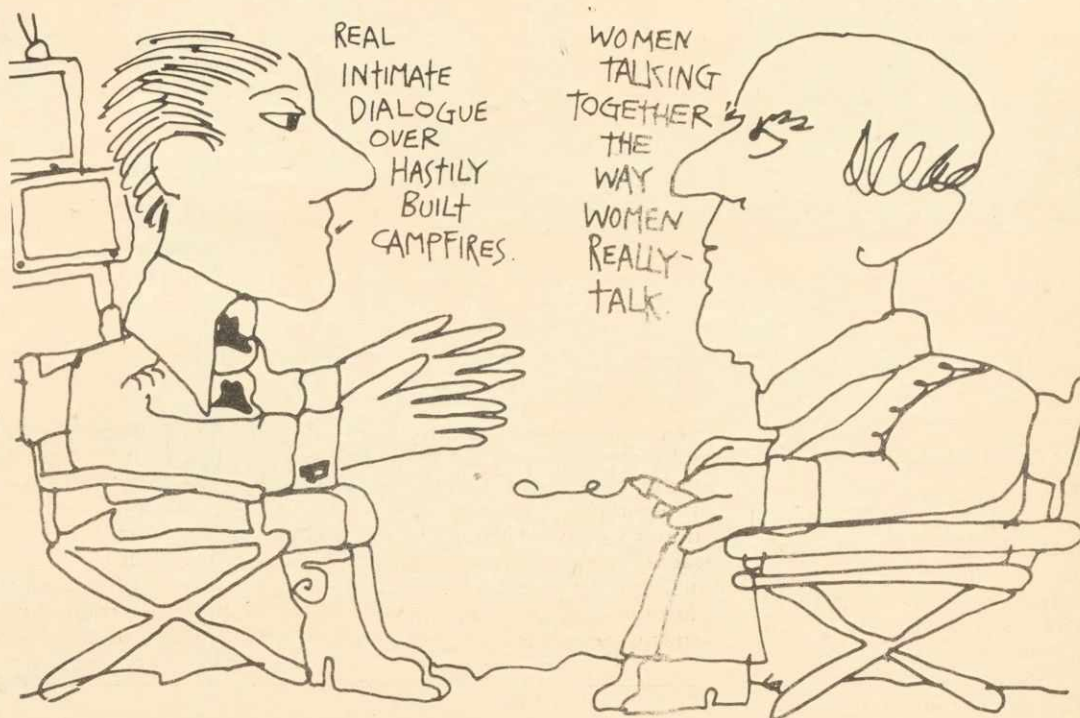
Some men say they are feminists. That's fine, because some are. But when they say they're feminist and start complaining about a woman's feminist perspective, it really bugs me. That makes me wonder about their feminist perspective. And they do that all the time.

When I first joined the paper, it was through the peace group on campus. We wanted someone to do a story for the paper about the group and its activities, and the men on the staff got me to write it, because they didn't have enough time. I joined then, for different reasons than just wanting to be a writer. The paper then was all men. We had arguments about pornography in the office. Sexist jokes. Atmosphere stuff that I resented. And I got pinpointed immediately as someone who didn't like that sort of humour. So the men would start up when I came in, making all sorts of comments to make me feel uncomfortable. The whole thing blew up over the word 'cunt', because I told them I didn't like the way they used it. So they used it more when I was around.

It seems like feminism is a joke to men. At first everyone says there is no sexism, and then the women start recognizing it. Even if there's a lot of women on the paper, there's no guarantee that it won't be sexist.

Some experiences can really make you avoid talking about sexism. Sometime's it's easier not to say anything, so you won't become the end of the jokes. Anything else you say is worthless, because they've already labelled you.

I think the environment here is a lot better than other places where women work. One of my



roommates goes to TUNS, and people pick up on everything she does. Every minute of the day she's fighting sexism. I don't expect any rude comments or sexist comments here when I come in. In fact, I expect them not to.

What's funny for me is that while I consider myself a student journalist, if it weren't for my friends, I wouldn't be working here. It's not as if my friends make all the difference, but they must count for a lot. It's just not my forum. I'm not even that comfortable here, because I do find a lot of sexism at the Gazette. I get so frustrated when I hear my closest male friends saying sexist things. I can say that something they are doing is sexist over and over again, because I'm giving a second chance to my friends, but they don't change.

I think that women on student papers do a lot of the practical work. They write the stories, they typeset them, they lay the out and they proofread them. The men on the staff are appreciated more for their 'ideas', but the women do the hard work. We are not the idea givers, or the planners. Just take this paper for example. We're not getting much support from a lot of the men. It's almost like they're taking a vacation for this issue. If it were a regular paper, they'd be here.

Yes, they'd be writing editorials, talking at staff meetings...

There's a lot of resentment over this issue. Some men here think they've been unjustly accused of sexism. They always say to us, well, why don't you say what you mean. It's hard to do that when you are always being shot down.

And it's more than just a lack of communication. It's like when you say something, well, they might not listen, but if a man says the same thing, they are taken seriously.

Part of it is having a male editor. People look at the editor, and group around the editor, because he is supposed to have all the knowledge.

Sometimes you have to step back and say, just because the editor says that, just because he is

male, and just because everyone around me is nodding their head, it doesn't mean it is right.

I've seen a lot of "kitchen conversations", and I see the men change the conversation after the woman leaves. It's o.k. to kid around, but when she's going, then they get into "real" conversations, about world events, about something we don't know anything about.

How can we change this? Do we just distance ourselves, and save our energy?

I don't think we should. But sometimes that's all you can do. When we were talking to a

man in the Grawood 1 night during International Women's Week, he said, so what is all this about oppression. And the woman I was with sat there, for twenty minutes, very politely,

explaining. But he wasn't listening. He had already made up his mind that everything was fine. So at those times it's better to conserve your own energy. It's just not worth it.

Then how are we going to get men to change their minds, if we don't talk to them about it?

They have to change their own minds. It's their responsibility, and they have to realize that.

GAZETTE WOMEN'S issue

Women's Issue contributors:

Mark Alberstat, Alan Alda, Mike Adams, Margaret, Simone de Beauvoir, Alison Brewin, C.A.R.A.L., Lois Corbett, Beth Cumming, Mary Daly, Erin Goodman, Martha Hancock, Heather Hueston, Sandra Lovelace, Rosa Luxemburg, Robert Matthews, Tom McNeill, Patti Mitchell Munroe, Craig Munroe, Liz Neve, Peter C. Newman, Kathy O'Brien, Ariella Pahlke, Emily Pankhurst, Rosa Parks, Alexis Pilichos, Alice Rabideau, Ellen Reynolds, Toby Sanger, Steven Shay, JoAnn Sherwood, Gilda Stefani, Gloria Steinem, Geoff Stone, Harriet Tubman, Michael Vlahos, Mary Wollstonecraft, Elaine C. Wright.

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Commentary should not exceed 700 words, letters should not exceed 300 words. No unsigned material will be accepted; but anonymity may be granted on request.

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The views expressed in the Gazette are not necessarily those of the Student Union, the editor or the executive staff.

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Censorship: a superficial solution

By Kathy O'Brien

Over the last decade pornography has become more explicit, more violent and more readily available. Angered by pornographic images of women, some Canadians call for an increased censorship on pornography.

But censorship is a dangerous and a simplistic solution to a complex problem. Pornography is a symptom of the sexist nature of society and censorship covers up the problem, but doesn't cure it.

We already have censorship in Canada, albeit in an arbitrary and erratic fashion. Some provinces have film review boards which classify and censor films. Often films banned or cut in Ontario are shown uncut in Quebec. The Border Act enables border officials to seize materials of "an immoral or indecent character."

This clause allows law enforcers to decide what is or isn't obscene. And a good deal of what they do find obscene is literature aimed at the gay community. *The Joy of Sex*, a sex manual for heterosexuals, is freely shipped into Canada, but *The Joy of Gay Sex*, has been denied entry on several occasions.

Last June, Justice Minister Crosbie introduced Bill C-114, which called for outlawing "any visual matter showing vaginal, anal, or oral intercourse, ejaculation, sexually violent behaviour, bestiality, incest, necrophilia, masturbation or other sexual activity." The legislation died, but the bill, or a modified version, will likely be reintroduced.

Bill C-114 attempts to legislate morality, and that's something that can't be done. The obscenity of any matter lies in its effect on

the mind of the viewer or reader.

Censorship takes away the freedom of the individual to read what she or he chooses; on the other hand if pornography harms and degrades women, should it be allowed?

Some studies show that an increase in violent pornography corresponds with an increase in violence against women, but so far there is no hard evidence that violent (or non-violent) pornography is directly linked to rape. Furthermore, to dwell on the amount of violence in pornography is to avoid the crux of the issue; that is, the sexist nature of pornography.

In our society sexism is widespread, it's reflected in pornographic films and magazines as well as fashion magazines and advertisements. Sexism is also a part of

most organized religions as well as an economic system that places a higher value on men's work than on women's.

You can no more ban sexism than you can regulate sexual fantasies.

To eradicate sexist pornography, women must work to produce permanent and radical changes in the status quo. For there to be deep and permanent changes in the economic and social conditions that lead to sexist pornography, change must come from the bottom up, not the top down. Feminists cannot rely on the state to deal with sexist pornography because law makers and law enforcers do not share the same goals as feminists.

As well, women who object to pornography in their community can write articles or letters to

We also need more cultural products that reflect an alternative aesthetic vision. Women can pressure the government to subsidize feminist books, films and plays as well as feminist bookstores and theatres. Alternative magazines should be distributed more widely. As it stands now they are only found in alternative bookstores in large cities. Here too the government could subsid-

ize the costs of distribution. For there to be a truly cultural democracy women must be seen and heard more often.

newspapers. Women can let their views about pornography be known to retailers who stock pornographic magazines or to theatre owners who show exploitive films. Boycotts are often effective measures as are demonstrations against sexist spectacles

What can we do for you?

By ALISON BREWIN

What can Patchwork do for you?

Well, first off, do you know what Patchwork is? You've probably heard that it's some kind of women's group or feminist organization or some such thing. Patchwork is a women's resource centre — the only one in Halifax and it is located right here on campus. Though active in the Halifax community at large, there are many things that Patchwork can do for students and staff at Dalhousie, but it depends on what you are looking for.

If you are looking for:

- 1) A book about women and health, politics, literature, feminist theory, international development, family, sexuality, gay/lesbian issues, psychology, sociology, history, the arts or miscellaneous women's issues.
- 2) Information on different women's groups in Halifax, such as The Black Women's Congress, Association for Women's Residential Facilities, Canadian Federation of University Women, Women's Employment Outreach, Mediawatch, Metro Birthing Organization, Newsletter for Christian Feminists, Voice of Women and many others.

3) You want to read a women's journal that has academic and non-academic information from around Canada and the world, such as *Atlantis Signs*, *Breaking the Silence*, *Pandora*, *Communique*, *Femmes D'Action*, *Off Our Backs*, *Broadside* and more.

4) You are interested in getting involved in a community outside the Dalhousie community.

5) You are interested in starting a women's support group or a men's anti-sexism group.

6) You want to learn about women's issues and feminism but you're scared to death of feminist rhetoric.

7) You want to learn skills such as public relations, administration facilitation, fund-raising etc. and you want to be active while you learn.

8) You want to become an active and responsible member of the Patchwork collective.

... then Patchwork can answer your needs. Patchwork is run by a collective of young women who would like to play an active role in ending the sexism that still exists in our society.

Patchwork: Community Women's Resource Centre, 1247 Seymour St. (in the basement) 424-2526.



Super sexploitation at a steal

The "executive" of the *Gazette* received an interesting invitation in the mail the other day. Yes, for only \$155, we too can enroll our secretary in the "Super Secretary Seminar" scheduled to appear March 24 in Halifax.

The "Super Secretary Seminar" is boasted as a "one day professional development seminar" for female office workers. The seminar trains women to create a stress-free winning team, manage their time under pressure, enhance their professional image and go home each day feeling great.

The seminar leader is Paul A. Douglas, Ph.D. Although he's had not training in typing skills, he can, he says "hold your attention every minute of the day." Lucky secretaries will feel at ease with Douglas, since he is "people oriented and communicates with warmth, wit and enthusiasm."

Designed to provide secretaries "with tools and knowledge they need to be more valuable to their boss," the "Super Secretary

Seminar' has attracted more than 30,000 lucky women who type for a living. A few women have attended the P.A. Douglas and Associates annual administrative assistants conference, where, for just \$895, they have learned, grown and reflected on their careers.

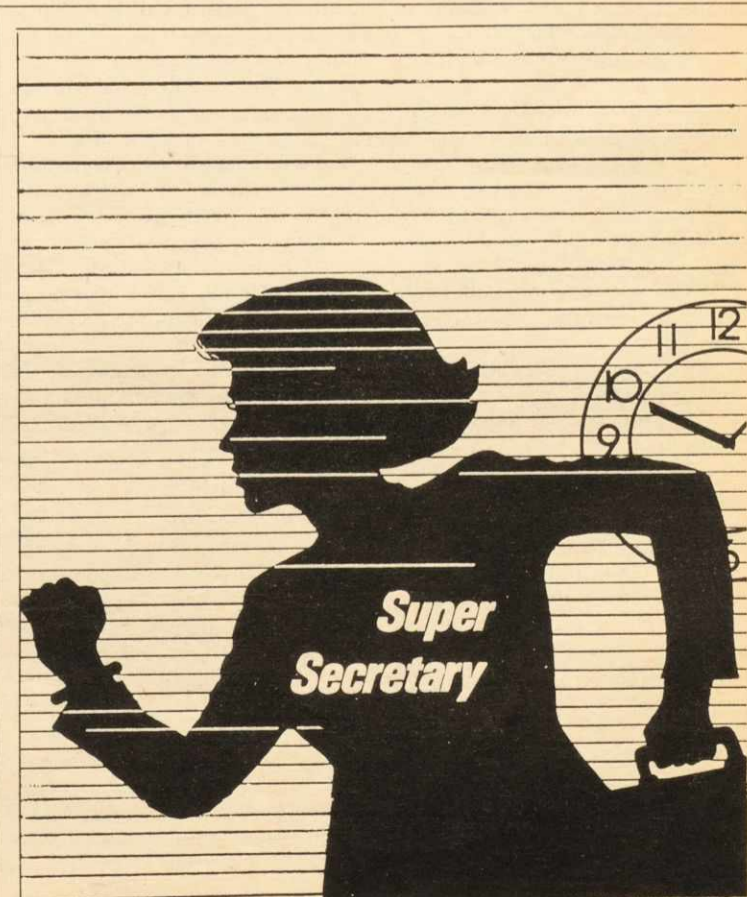
If the *Gazette* decided to send our "secretary" (oh, if only we had one), we would join the ranks of other big-time corporations who enroll their female staff. General Motors, Mattel Toys, Ford, IBM, Rothman's Sears and Coca-Cola are a few examples of multinational companies who care enough for their women workers to give them a day off for the super secretaries' course. Chartered bands and the media are big P.A. Douglas customers the brochure lists the Bank of Montreal, the Bank of Canada, Barclay's Bank, the CBC, NBC and CTV as a sample of the "more than 25,000 organizations that have sponsored their secretaries.

Since we don't have a secretary, the *Gazette* would like to make a few practical suggestions for Mr. Douglas. Like most major corporations we do have editors and business managers and we would like to attend a seminar designed for bosses and middle-management flunkies.

Douglas and Associates could charge \$1555 for a proposed seminar for the big-wigs called "Executives Exploitativeness: Learn How to get Blood from Human Beings". Topics that could be covered include how to dress for that mean look, how to pressure your secretary to buy flowers and pick up your laundry; how to hide your profits and deny wage increases; how to create a stress-ridden office environment and cranky capitalism — using sexism to further your economic gain.

Boy, we can't wait to get the new brochure in the mail. It will just brighten up our day.

— by Lois Corbett



Pros and Cons

Submitted by CARAL, the Canadian Abortion Rights Action League

Answers

1. Canadian women can obtain abortions quickly and safely.
2. Compared with most other countries, Canada has a liberal abortion law.
3. All publicly supported, accredited hospitals in Canada have therapeutic abortion committees and all of the committees approve abortions.
4. The "pro-life" organization Birthright promotes the use of effective methods of birth control.
5. Canadian criminal law considers the fetus to be a person.
6. Laws banning abortion prevent the practice of abortion.
7. A majority of Canadians are in favour of freedom of choice on the question of abortion.
8. In Quebec, a Roman Catholic province, abortions are performed in publicly-funded clinics.
9. Access to birth control and sex education reduces the number of abortions performed.
10. Members of the Roman Catholic faith oppose abortion.
11. The film "The Silent Scream" is unscientific, deceitful and dishonest.

1. **FALSE** — A Federal Government study found that "... the procedure provided in the Criminal Code for obtaining therapeutic abortion is in practice illusory for many Canadian women." In addition, "an average interval of eight weeks between initial medical consultation and the performance of the abortion not only extended considerably the length of gestation, but increased the risk of associated health complications." (b)

2. **FALSE** — Canada's restrictive law places it in the company of many Latin and South American countries, far behind the United States, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Italy, France, and the Scandinavian countries.

3. **FALSE** — As of 1984, Statistics Canada reported only about 30 per cent of the public general hospitals (249) with therapeutic abortion committees as compared with 270 in 1979. 18 per cent of hospitals with therapeutic abortion committees performed no abortions. About 75 per cent of the abortions were done by only 17 per cent of the hospitals with committees.

4. **FALSE** — The constitution of Birthright states: "The policy of every Birthright Chapter and every one of its members and volunteers in all the Chapter's efforts shall be to refrain in every instance from offering or giving advice on the subjects of contraception or sterilization and to refrain from referring any person to another person, place, or agency of this advice."

5. **FALSE** — Section 206 of the Criminal Code states that "a child becomes a human being... when it has completely proceeded in a living state from the body of its mother whether or not a) it has breathed b) it has independent circulation c) the navel string is severed." In the Borowski case, the judge ruled that fetuses do not have any status under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. There is no basis in law that a fetus is a legal person.

6. **FALSE** — Prohibitive laws only ensure that abortion will be ineptly carried out under clandestine conditions, rather than safely performed under hygienic conditions by a qualified surgeon.

7. **TRUE** — A Gallup Poll survey in June 1982 demonstrated that 72 per cent of adult Canadian



ans believe that the patient should have the right to have an abortion.

8. **TRUE** — Family health clinics, where the abortions procedure is performed as well, are publicly funded and patients are covered by the Provincial Health Insurance.

9. **TRUE** — Countries with access to birth control and sex education, such as Holland, have a lower rate of abortions performed than does Canada.

10. **FALSE** — The Roman Catholic hierarchy (the Pope, cardinals, archbishops, etc.) opposes abortion. An American organization, Catholics for a Free Choice, 2008 17 St. N.W., Washington, D.C., 20009, publishes figures of a 1981 ABC News/Washington Post poll showing that 79 per cent of American Catholics believe in abortion rights. In Quebec (c), an all-French Canadian/Roman Catholic jury acquitted Dr. Mor-

gentaler. Italy, a country 83.2 per cent Roman Catholics, has one of the western world's most liberal abortion laws.

11. **TRUE** — Eminent authorities in various medical and scientific fields have refuted the claims advanced by Dr. Nathanson. See transcribed excerpts from *The Rebuttal to the Silent Scream*, produced by Planned Parenthood of Seattle, Oregon.

References:

- (a) Report of the Committee on the Operation of the Abortion Law, Badgley et. al. (1977), Minister of Supply and Services, Canada, p. 141.
- (b) *Ibid.*, p. 19
- (c) 88.21 per cent Roman Catholic, 1981 Census, Statistics Canada.
- (d) World Christian Encyclopedia, p. 403.

A question of rights

Submitted by Alice Rabideau, a member of Christians Concerned for Life.

QUIZ ON ABORTION true or false

1. The human heart starts beating 40 days after conception.
2. The youngest premature baby to survive was born at half term.
3. Life begins at conception.
4. Most women having abortions are teenagers.
5. The most common abortion method is suction dilation and curettage.
6. In abortion procedures, there are no live births.
7. Abortion is "on demand" in Nova Scotia.
8. Abortion is a safe, easy procedure.
9. Before the change in abortion laws in Canada and the U.S. 5,000-10,000 women died every year from back-alley abortions.
10. The law requires that women be fully informed about fetal development and abortion techniques.

1. **FALSE**. The human heart starts beating 18 days after conception, often before the mother knows she is pregnant.
2. **TRUE** On January 1, 1972 Marcus Richardson was born at

the Cincinnati General Hospital (exactly 20 weeks (4.5 months)) after the first day of his mother's last menstrual period. He is an entirely normal child. Twenty-eight weeks was once considered the point of viability. Now it is quite conceivable that future technology will allow children to be born without mom at all.

3. **TRUE** Louise Joy Brown, the first test tube baby, illustrates this point. A fertilized ovum was returned to the mother's womb and nine months later Joy emerged. To pick any other point during this nine month process is arbitrary.

4. **FALSE** Most women are in their twenties. Here are the statistics for Nova Scotia in 1985:

women under age 15	21
women ages 15-19	444
women ages 20-29	983
women ages 30-39	237

5. **TRUE** Statistics Canada states that in 1985, 1,455 Nova Scotian women had abortions using the suction dilation and curettage method. 206 women had saline abortion and none had abortion through hysterotomy this year.

6. **FALSE** Some methods do not always succeed. A saline abortion attempts to destroy by poisoning and a prostoglandin by inducing premature delivery. A hysterotomy is a caesarian section, so it

normally removes a live child. A few of those babies who survived their abortion attempt have been treated and adopted, but usually they are allowed to die by neglect or killed by direct action.

An example is a case in Bakersfield, California, 1973: a 4.5 pound infant was born alive following a saline abortion. Informed by phone, the doctor ordered two nurses to stop giving oxygen to the baby. His instructions were overridden by another physician. The baby survived and was adopted. The first doctor was indicted for solicitation to commit murder. The case was dismissed.

Florida in 1979. A nursing supervisor told of a live birth where the infant was dumped in a bed pan without examination as was standard practice. "It didn't die" the nurse said. "It was left in the bedpan for an hour before signs of life were noticed: It weighed slightly over a pound." Excellent care enabled the baby to survive. The child, now 8 years old, has been adopted.

Similar stories are being heard in every province. Advocates for Human Life, a group of 80 lawyers, is currently seeking protection for such live aborted babies in British Columbia. They want a public enquiry to investigate the number of such babies. They also

want to ensure that normal medical attention is given to infants surviving abortion. They also state that infants who have been seriously injured because of the abortion could be able to sue the abortionist.

7. **TRUE** Statistics have shown that almost all requests for abortions are approved. Abortion is illegal in Canada, but in 1969 an amendment was added allowing abortion in the rare event of a life-or health-threatening pregnancy. In 1969, 111 abortions were performed in Canada; in 1985, 1701. Dr. C. Everett Koop, Surgeon General of the USA has stated, "In my 36 years in pediatric surgery I have never known of one instance where the child had to be aborted to save the mother's life. "Most abortions are performed because of social or economic factors.

8. **FALSE** In comparison with proceeding to term delivery, abortion is not safe. Some risks are hemorrhage, infection, perforation of the uterus, and sterility. In future pregnancies there is at least twice the risk of miscarriage, tubal pregnancy, premature and still birth. These long-term complications are not always recognised since they may be listed as complications of the present

pregnancy rather than the previous abortion(s). Numerous groups — Women Exploited by Abortion, Open ARMS, Post-pregnancy Helpline etc. — are surfacing to help those who are suffering because of an abortion. In the long term grief, loss, guilt, betrayal and depression may be experienced. The increasing volume of psychiatric research indicates that abortion can be detrimental to a woman's psychological well-being.

9. **FALSE** Dr. Bernard Nathanson, a co-founder of the National Association for Abortion Laws (N.A.R.A.L.) — a man who once ran the largest abortion facility in the Western World and is now pro-life — helped promote these statistics. He now confesses that he knew the figures were "totally false". A closer estimate would have been under 200 a year. Maternal deaths still occur with "legal" abortions. Official Canadian figures for 1970 list our abortion mortality at 36 per 100,000 legal abortions (65,000 performed annually.)

10. **FALSE** There is no legal provision to ensure that women will be fully informed about fetal developments. Proponents of pro-choice groups have attempted to defeat legislation which would show women a picture of the developing baby.

R.E.A.L. Women: In their own write

Charity begins in the home

By Clea Notar

Real Women In Their Own Write

Reprinted from the Montreal Mirror

Realistic Equal Active for Life. R.E.A.L. WOMEN. "Women's rights but not at the expense of human rights".

Reality: Realwomen, newsletter Vol IV No. 4 Summer 1986, page 15. To the left of the membership application box is a short passage which reads:

"The Realwomen of Canada is a national organization of independent women concerned with the preservation of family values. We are pro-life and pro-family. Whether employed outside the house or in the home, or both, we believe in the importance of the family and respect for all human life.

"Many critical issues existing in today's society undermine the family. We must voice our critical opinions of these through government, the media and the courts.

"Please join us and help to safeguard the family, the basis of our society."

Realwomen of Canada Pamphlet #1. Membership Information. Incorporation. "Realwomen, incorporated in the fall of 1983, is an interdenominational, non-partisan organization of independent women, who come from all walks of life, occupations, social, educational and economic backgrounds."

A March 1985 article in the monthly women's magazine, Chatelaine: Realwomen president Grace Petrusek was born and raised one of four children in a Chicoutimi, Quebec home. Grace studied health nursing at Montreal's McGill University.

Membership information. Objectives. "To promote the equality, advancement and well-being of the woman, recognizing her as an interdependent member of society, whether in the family, workplace or community."

"Realwomen has been bitterly attacked by the feminists in the past few months. Why?" Reality. Page 4. Realwomen and Secretary of State Funding. "Because it dares to put forward a different approach for the advancement and equality of women. Also, it has dared to apply to the Secretary of State, Women's Program, which has been lavishly underwriting the pro-abortion feminist movement in Canada since 1973."

Page 8. Reality. "Realwomen of Canada has obtained, through the Access to Information Act, the names of organizations which have received grants from the Secretary of State, Women's Program, and the amounts they have received for the fiscal years 1984-85 and 1985-86."

"Realwomen of Canada is concerned, however, that these lists may not be completely accurate. This concern is due to the fact that the 1984-5 list does not include the grants given to the Calgary Lesbian Mother's Defense Fund to set up a 'lesbian-gay workshop collective' and to finance its April 26-7/85 conference. We know for a



The way it was, the way it should be? REAL Women want it this way; give those jobs to the men, girls and go home where you belong. Ah, back to the security of the kitchen and the haven of the house...

fact that these grants were received."

Different Voices, Different Approaches for Women.

Reality. "Since Realwomen has come into existence, it has been subjected to repeated merciless attack." Bottom of Page 7. Heading: Did you know? "Iona Campagnolo (feminist and well-known advocate of abortion on demand), President of the Liberal Party of Canada, at an address held in April in Winnipeg, at the Second Annual Women of Distinction Awards Dinner, stated: "Reactionary, right-wing factions are wiping away gains made by women... women's rights are being undermined by such groups as... Realwomen."

Reality Mailbox. B. G. from Trenton, Ontario writes: "I am really glad there is another women's group other than the feminists. I am completely against the feminists' anti-life and pro-homosexual view. Keep up the good work."

Laws Protecting Homosexuals or so-called "Sexual Orientation" Legislation. A pamphlet structured along the question and answer format.

"What happens after a new legislation is passed?"

"If such a law is passed, citizens would be punished for taking into account a homosexual's moral character in making some important decisions such as: who will be accepted as a tenant in their house, as a teacher for their child, as an associate in their business, or as an employee in their church."

Homosexual recruiting. "Many homosexuals, because they cannot procreate, must recruit — often the young. They promote recruiting 'straights'. With new legislation such seduction becomes permissible and acceptable.

"Shouldn't the homosexuals be shown compassion?"

"Any treatment of homosexuals should be weighted against the effects on their innocent victims who are medically or psychologically damaged by them.

"Is homosexuality reversible?"

"Yes. If a person's willing to change. Christian counselling services have worked successfully in changing sexual orientation."

Publication #3. Position Papers. Position on Marriage: "The R.E.A.L. WOMEN OF CANADA supports the view that permanent marriage — traditional values in a contemporary society — is possible, desirable and urgently needed in Canada today."

Statement on Day Care. "We do not believe that it is a 'fundamental right' for all women, regardless of circumstances, to have universal day care, but rather day care should be available according to need."

"We believe in the concept of a neighbourhood resource centre, which would provide educational and social support for both mothers and children. These centres, however, should never take precedence over the family."

Position Papers. Affirmative Action. "The R.E.A.L. WOMEN, however, is opposed to the concept of mandatory affirmative action which includes female "quotas", which in fact become job ceilings for women, as it prohibits women from obtaining jobs once the quota is filled. To give women this 'Preferential' treatment on the basis only of their sex is unfair, and is reverse discrimination against qualified males as well as minority groups such as ethnics and native people."

Statement on Prostitution. "The R.E.A.L. WOMEN OF CANADA believes that prostitution, defined as the selling of sexual activity for money, has many harmful effects on the prostitutes themselves, the client and his family, the business milieu in which this occurs, and society as a whole.

"As well, prostitution adversely affects the environment in which its solicitation occurs, whether on downtown streets or in residential areas. Neighbourhood residents are made fearful of walking their

streets, and neighbourhoods are no longer safe for children or youth, who may become targets for such solicitation. Property values drop, traffic problems develop and the area often becomes noisy and dangerous."

Realistic. Equal. Active. For Life. Page 4. Reality.

"Improve the conditions and standards of women? By whose standards does abortion on demand, lesbianism, legalized prostitution, etc., improve the standards and conditions of women? Certainly not by the standards of reasonable, sensible and fair-minded Canadians."

Last page. Reality. Last words.

What You Can Do For R.E.A.L. Women. "Read all Realwomen material and become informed on the issues.

"Have a coffee party and invite some friends. Educate them on the issues and encourage them to join as members or affiliate groups.

"Organize a fundraising project for Realwomen such as a card party, potluck supper, coffee party, garage sale, car wash, etc.

"Organize a display of our literature in a booth at your local church, shopping mall, community fair, or wherever appropriate to promote Realwomen."

December 13, 1986. The Montreal Gazette. "More than 75 per cent of Conservative MPs, excluding cabinet ministers, think the government should give money to the lobby group Real Women, Tory MP Sid Fraleigh said yesterday."

R.E.A.L. WOMEN OF CANADA. "Women's rights, not at the expense of human rights."

"Tory MP Stan Graham said", Dec. 13, 1986. "the group's testimony was like a breath of fresh air..." The Montreal Gazette. "...one becomes tired of listening to the radical-feminist point of view."

"Realwomen is growing by leaps and bounds. New chapters are blooming across the country." Reality, Vol IV No. 4, Summer 1986.

Socialized disease

By Liz Neve

"Within an hour, I'd eat a pint of ice cream, a big bag of chips, a loaf of bread smothered with cheez whiz, and as much liquid as would fit in on top of that. Then I'd head to the bathroom and stick my finger down my throat. I did that at least once a day, right after school . . . I knew it was wrong, that I was not the perfect person I was supposed to be, and I hated myself, really hated myself, for doing it. But I couldn't stop. I made excuses to get away from friends. I had to eat. And then throw up. God, I hated that. Sometimes I cried afterwards. But I'd always do it again. I had no control." (Karen)

Karen is bulimic. She binges on food and then throws up to get it out of her system. Bulimia and the related disorder, anorexia nervosa, are both increasingly common. Up to 95 per cent of those affected by these disorders are women. The physical and psychological effects of these eating disorders are devastating.

They know it's bad for them. But they're hooked."

It is difficult to imagine how someone could become involved in this cycle of self-abuse, yet the number of bulimics is increasing. "In the last 20 years, the cultural ideal of what a woman should look like has become increasingly slimmer than what is natural for the great majority of women. Women inevitably fall short of this so-called ideal," says Day.

For many women, dieting is a major part of life. For some young women the pressure to fit the "ideal" image is combined with other social and family pressures and leads to anorexia or bulimia.

"These women are less sure of themselves and of their body image. At that age, there is more importance in being attractive, and they have fewer coping skills," says Day.

"My parents just assumed that I'd go to university, get a master's degree and have a beautiful, suc-



Psychologically, bulimia is like any addiction.

The self-imposed starvation of anorexia results in weight loss of more than 25 per cent normal weight. It also leads to dangerously low levels of necessary metabolites, and imbalances in acid/base supplies. This may result in loss of fine motor control, irregular heartbeat, kidney malfunction, and in five to 10 per cent of cases, death. In trying to cope with fewer nutrients, the body shuts down its less vital functions to keep the heart and brain going. Dr. Victor Day, psychologist and counsellor at Dalhousie University says, "If you don't have enough calories and nutrients, at a certain point the heart, the liver, the kidneys will give out. They'll just stop.

With bulimia, "there are no immediate effects. People can be bulimic for years," says Day. The purging methods, however, have many dangers. "They (Bulimics) become dependent on the laxatives for normal bowel functioning — this, by the way, is an inefficient method of purging. Most of the calories are absorbed anyway. This and vomiting can deplete potassium, fluids and metabolites," he says. Vomiting can harm the stomach lining, and acid from the stomach can eat away the teeth's enamel, causing serious dental problems. Psychologically, Bulimia is like any addiction.

"It starts out as a way to feel better, but eventually it causes more bad feelings than it removes. These are bright people.

successful life with a happy beautiful family..." says Karen. "It was never said outright, but what I had to be was smart and gorgeous. And I wasn't. I was always about 10 pounds overweight. I couldn't lose it, and I felt like everyone's including my own expectations were being crushed."

Day: "Bulimics, like most women, are dissatisfied with their bodies. However, they don't succeed in dieting. They get frustrated and overeat. Then they feel guilty. It's prevalent in high-achieving women who are under more pressure to be perfect." One way of dealing with stress is in "the immediate gratification of food. Eventually, the indulgence becomes a habit and they begin to gain some weight. They can't fail in this way, so they find other ways to get rid of the weight."

While appearing in control, the women with bulimia has no control over her impulses to binge and purge. For the anorexic, though, weight is the only thing she can control.

"The anorexic usually has a lower self-esteem and perhaps feels she's not in control of things. She succeeds in dieting when so many others can't. She gets social encouragement for this, and she realizes this is something she can control."

Men also experience pressure, but it is overwhelmingly women who develop eating disorders. Day explains: "There's more pressure on women to be slim, so they're more likely to be dieting"

says Day. "Food becomes a more self-conscious issue. Men are more likely just to eat, it's no big deal."

Men who do exhibit anorexic or bulimic behavior are usually models, ballet dancers or others who, "experience similar social pressures regarding their body shape as women."

As well, says Day, although "it's more acceptable for women to express their feelings, it's less acceptable for them to express anger." So women less able to vent frustration outwardly, turn inward. These eating disorders become an expression of their anger.

Changes in cultural ideals could help immensely in reducing the incidence of eating disorders. A fashion change so that there was not such pressure on women to be slim would probably have a profound effect, says Day. "We as a culture must develop a different way of judging people, with less emphasis on appearance" says Day.

After 9 years, Karen considers herself partially cured. "I only do it ((binge and throw up) about 4 or 5 times a year now. I am more self-confident and at ease with myself. But as long as society keeps telling me I'm fat, I still have to fight the urge to eat a whole cake instead of just one piece. I only want one piece, but by eating the whole thing, I could throw it up and pretend it didn't happen. Sometimes the urge is too strong. I'll never be free of it."

Live it,
love it,
eat it

By KATHY O'BRIEN

The woman on the box of "Inches Off" is reaching out to you. You know she is. You feel your body gradually expand as the packages of appetite suppressant close in on you.

Scrambling away you bump into Jane Fonda. Sucking in your abdomen, you replace her on the paperback rack. Eyes lingering on the Hostess chip display, you walk steadily down the aisle. Standing in the checkout line you unobtrusively stretch the muscles of your calves while staring at the chocolate-covered raisins.

You walk out of Sam's Super Drugland past store whose plate glass windows are decorated with signs and numbers. \$965 buys a dream vacation in Hawaii. Fifty per cent off Fran's Fashion Boutique. You gaze reverently at the blonde mannequin in the window.

The neon sign of Diet City sways in the wind.

You hesitate, then enter the baby blue waiting room. Herbal tea is waiting beside a basket of pink packets of Sweet and Low. A "Before" and "After" poster hangs on the wall. Grace G. of Boisetown, New Brunswick has been converted from the well-fed Holstein on the left into the lithe creature on the right. The diet counsellor calls your name. You too, she says, can look like Cheryl Tiegs.

You head for home in fresh air and sunlight feeling motivated, determined and enlightened.

After religiously reading the Diet City food manual, you measure out the two cups of raw vegetables and worry whether the potato in the oven is medium or large. As the four-ounce chicken breast sizzles in the oven you read the latest issue of *Shape*. The 111 lb. model on the cover, who confesses she once weighed 157 lbs., is in a constant state of paranoia that she might revert to her heavier self. You can't help wondering, hopefully, if you too will ever revert to 157 lbs.

No womb for mistake

By PATTI MITCHELL
MUNROE

Reproductive technology has progressed to the point in which the medical establishment can determine the existence of birth defects through amniocentesis and ultrasound. As well, procedures such as artificial insemination have brought hope to countless infertile men and women. Still, progress has its darker sides.

Who controls the reproductive technology? Who will benefit? What social consequences might result from its use? These questions are frequently asked by women, and they are easily ignored by a powerful, male-dominated medical establishment. Reproduction is a women's issue, but it remains firmly in the hands of men.

Birth control, in particular,

seems aimed at the convenience of men, rather than the safety of the women using it. The intra-uterine device (IUD) was heralded as a method that would give women greater control over their fertility — that is, until it started killing them. Certain kinds of IUD's are prone to rupturing in a woman's uterus. This may cause sterility or internal bleeding sometimes resulting in death.

Some feminists argue that reproductive technologies such as surrogate motherhood aren't designed to give women control over their reproductivity, but to allow men more control over women's bodies. A surrogate mother may be paid up to \$10,000 to be artificially inseminated and to carry a child to term. After the birth, the surrogate mother must give the child up to the father, relinquishing all her rights. This

kind of "contract" demeans and exploits women who must rent their wombs to pay their own rent.

Artificial insemination is not an effective procedure. Only 20 to 25 per cent of artificial inseminations result in conception. And 10 to 15 per cent of successful artificial inseminations end with spontaneous abortion or miscarriage.

Approximately 15 per cent of all heterosexual couples experience fertility problems, but only 30 per cent can be attributed to the women's reproductive system. Why then is it usually women who go to great lengths to try different procedures to help them conceive? Often these procedures are painful and have to be repeated several times. Feminists argue that women opt for reproductive intervention because our

society believes that childless women are not truly fulfilled.

Prime candidates for artificial insemination and in-vitro fertilization (in which a woman's egg is taken out of her womb, fertilized and then replaced) are wealthy, heterosexual, married women under the age of 35. This excludes poor, single, lesbian and most non-white women. Thus, the medical establishment ensures not only the reproduction of children but the reproduction of the status quo.

On the other hand, working class and non-white women often participated in reproductive technology experiments. Scheduled for hysterectomies and tubal ligations, these women were sometimes encouraged to have intercourse without contraceptives as much as possible before surgery. The doctor hoped that

when surgery was performed a fertilized ovum would be found which could be taken out and used for experimentation. Doctors used women's bodies without their permission or knowledge.

One of the most extreme examples of technological abuse is carried out in countries such as China, where federal population policies allow only one child per couple. A society in which boys are more highly valued than girls encourages women to use amniocentesis and ultrasound to determine the sex of the fetus. Female fetuses are frequently aborted. Some feminists believe such practices could develop into female genocide.

While the benefits of reproductive technology can't be denied women must continue to question the motives and consequences of a technology that lies in the hands, not the wombs, of so few.

Every King's child a wanted child

by ELAINE C. WRIGHT

Last week King's students voted to add oral contraceptive coverage to their 1987-88 health plan. Of the 282 students who cast their vote Friday, 68 per cent voted in favour of the referendum.

Over 60 people attended a forum last Thursday to discuss the referendum. There was debate about the purposes of the health plan. "Is it for accidents and illness we have no choice or control over, or should it also include elective health care?" asked one student. "One chooses to take the pill."

King's professor and Anglican priest Rev. Wayne Hankey was

concerned that the pill is "no protection from the AIDS epidemic. According to the best possible sources there are four possible male carriers of AIDS on campus."

Hankey also said the referendum "may encourage more sexual activity, thus spreading the plague (of AIDS)."

Students reacted negatively to Hankey's comments. Many thought it was "unfair to use the AIDS issue to shoot down the referendum." Use of oral contraceptives "makes no difference in the spread of AIDS," said one man.

The present student health plan at King's has a premium of \$17.64 per year per student. The addition of oral contraceptive

coverage to the plan would increase the premium to \$23.28, a difference of \$5.64 a year. The student union stressed that no decision had been made to raise student union fees if there was a yes vote.

Some students voiced concern over the possibility of the Student Union subsidizing the increase in premiums. Students felt money for the subsidy would come out of the funds for the societies, Frosh Week, Winter Carnival, and the yearbook, activities they assume the whole student population benefits from. They did not want to pay for someone else's "leisure" (read sexual) activity. King's president John Godfrey asked, "Is this what you want to do, to

subsidize one-sixth of the population that wish to engage in this activity?"

Some students did not like the idea of paying for coverage when there was nothing in it for them. "I don't buy your beer, I don't want to pay for your pills."

One student asked why there was no option to include other forms of birth control such as condoms in the health plan. Although students thought this would be fair, the health plan covers only prescription drugs.

The majority of students agreed that if oral contraceptives are the chosen form of birth control, both partners should share in the cost. Several students said oral contraceptives are "not a very

expensive thing for two people to support." It was pointed out that much of this reasoning was "assuming all sexual relationships are monogamous."

"Yes, people have sex; yes, it is a good thing. There's nothing wrong with it. But women should not be bearing the burden for two people," said one woman.

Approximately 300 women students are at King's and one third are predicted to use the pill. Both women and men must pay for the oral contraceptive coverage and there is no opting out except for part-time students.

Oral contraceptives cost between \$14 and \$20 per month, or \$168-\$240 a year.



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Psychiatry: Suppressed screams upholding a patriarchal status quo?

Susan Horley was forcibly committed to a psychiatric hospital by her husband when she pleaded with him to stop beating her.

Years after she was released, Horley got a chance to look at her files: "There was no reference to the violence my husband used against me. They tried to tell me I had chosen to be abused; that if I didn't remember that, I must really be ill."

Horley was told she was suffering from 'maladaptiveness'. "The way I dressed, the fact I wore pants instead of skirts, that I didn't wear makeup, that I was a vegetarian — all of it was seen as evidence I was mentally disturbed," she recalled. "I got out because I knew I had to play their game; to be considered sane, I had to adapt to a very sexist conception of what women are supposed to be like in society."

Irit Shimrat's father took her to a psychiatrist after she told him she could make the traffic lights change just by thinking about it. "The doctor asked me to sign myself in, and not knowing any better, I did," she says. Shimrat was incarcerated and heavily drugged at different times during the next two years. She finally escaped.

Carol Stubbs had four children by the time she was 21. She was also a full-time university student. When she had a miscarriage, a nervous breakdown soon followed. "I landed in a psychiatric ward where I was given about 86 shock treatments within three months," she says, adding that she was also put on 'regressive therapy' which "put me back to the level of a five or six year old." When Stubbs went home to visit her family, she didn't recognize her children. Whole periods of her life are now permanently missing from her memory.

Susan Arbridge (not her real name) says she was 12 when "they started imposing psychiatry on me." A student saw her writing a will in class and told the teacher. Alarmed, the teacher sent Arbridge to the school psychiatrist. At first her 'treatment' consisted of anti-psychotic or neuroleptic drugs and tranquillizers. Then she was committed to a children's psychiatric research hospital in London, Ontario

where she stayed until she managed to get out when she was 16. Her dependency on prescribed drugs continued "until I managed to stop them on my own."

Jeanne Jenns became very depressed after the birth of her sixth child. She had no one to turn to — her husband was never home, and she had little time for friends considering the heavy burden of childraising and housekeeping she bore. When she didn't come out of her depression, her doctor prescribed her valium. It didn't help, and after a year of depression, her doctor sent her to a psychiatrist who then committed her to a psychiatric hospital so she could be 'treated' with electroshock.

"My weight dropped 50 or 60 pounds and I lost part of my memory." The electroshock treatment soon stopped, but the drugs continued and Jenns, who is now 57 and living in Toronto, has been in and out of psychiatric hospitals and clinics ever since. "Psychiatric treatment just made me more ill. Who goes to the doctor to get sick?" she asks. "They never tell you what's wrong with you, or help you sort out your problems. They drug you silent instead of saying 'go home and get rid of that bastard'."

These women all have three things in common: They are victims of psychiatry, and what they say is its inherent misogyny; they are willing to speak out about it; and unlike many women who have been through similar 'cures', they are well enough to talk about their experiences.

They all agree that the mental health system and psychiatric practice are institutionally sexist — that, if anything, the function of both is to 'cure' women by reinforcing the rigid sex stereotyping that is oppressing them even when they are 'well'.

The mistaken premise of psychiatry, they say, is that society as it is presently organized is seen to be inherently good and that the individual who doesn't fit in, or refuses to, is inherently sick. Following that logic, all women who refuse to be and thus challenge what they see to be a sick society, are deemed sick by psychiatrists for

woman using the pseudonym "Jillian" in the winter, 1985 issue of *Phoenix Rising*, a Toronto-based magazine produced by ex-psychiatric patients. "I was also told not to talk about it because 'it only increased my anxiety.' The fantasy that it was a delusion was based on an interview with my father, a breach of confidentiality, and an example of how psychiatry upholds patriarchy."

Louise Bowie, a counsellor for women at Ottawa's Centretown Community Health Centre and formerly a psychiatric nurse, says this sort of blame-the-victim ideology is a regular feature of psychiatry, which dates back to Freud and his theories of penis envy.

"One in three women is sexually abused in her lifetime and I've worked with enough victims of sexual abuse to know that the actual damage done is had enough," says Bowie, but "what I find shocking, are psychiatrists who tell an incest victim she's imagined the entire thing. Imagine what she must feel. And when her family breaks up as a result, the girl thinks it's her fault. Often the guilt is enough to drive someone crazy."

Jillian goes on to write in *Phoenix Rising* that most psychiatrists "show horror and start writing very busily, if one expresses any desire to change society, much less her own immediate situation. It is considered, at best, a phenomenon of misguided youth, and at worst, a delusion of grandeur." The assumption, she writes, is that the patient doesn't know society's 'rules' well enough and must be taught, by whatever means, to change her behaviour. "That the rules are wrong is never considered."

To make women 'stick by the rules' and resign themselves to their social situation, psychiatric treatment often relies on the forcible administration of so many drugs that women become numb — unable to change their situation; unable to even care — or so much voltage that their memories are permanently lost or damaged, not to mention their intellectual or creative abilities.

...there "is no such thing as mental illness..."

not seeing, as they do, that society is really healthy. Thus, to cure these women is to make them fit into the system that hurts them and probably caused their nervous breakdowns, depression, and 'hysteria' to begin with.

"I was told I was a 'schizophrenic' because I had a 'delusion' that my father molested me," wrote an anonymous

Jessica Mayberly (not her real name), who has been psychiatrically hospitalized 15 times in the last seven years after being diagnosed as "psychotically depressed" when her daughter was born, thinks psychiatry is a form of "social control".

"The hospital system is set up to give you the message that you should fit into your proper role; that the family must be

By Melinda Wittstock
Canadian University Press

upheld at all cost, regardless of whether it may be that family situation that is causing a woman to be depressed," says Mayberly, who is now a counsellor for homeless women, many of them ex-patients, at Martha's supervised boarding home in Ottawa.

But it's not just the way women psychiatric patients are treated that taints the profession with misogyny. Two to three times as many women as men are given electroshock; more women are prescribed drugs to control their behaviour; and finally, women make up most of the psychiatrically hospitalized population while men comprise a larger proportion of the prison population.

Psychiatrized women agree it is easier for a woman to be committed to a psychiatric institution at some point during her life than a man. A position paper for the 1982 International Conference on Human Rights and Psychiatric Oppression, held in Toronto, states that any woman who admits she had been raped or battered, says she needs help or support, or says she has been hurt by her sexist victimization "is likely to come into contact with the mental health system."

As Phyllis Chesler pointed out in her ground-breaking 1972 book *Women and Madness*, insane asylums became jails for women whose husbands no longer wanted them; jails for women who challenged societal norms by opting for a career, refusing to get married, becoming a lesbian, or in the case of Zelda Fitzgerald, writing better than her husband. (In correspondence between Scott Fitzgerald and his wife's psychiatrist, the famous author admits he was jealous of Zelda's writing ability and wanted her to stop writing altogether).

Both feminists and ex-psychiatric patients agree that alternatives must be sought to a medical practice that is inherently sexist. But there are disputes as to exactly what needs to be done.

Most, like *Phoenix Rising* editor Irit Shimrat think there "is no such thing as mental illness" — that social factors cause people to exhibit characteristics which lead psychiatrists to label them 'crazy', and then the psychiatric system itself makes people ill for real.

"They drug and shock women to shut them up," says Shimrat. "But women don't need to be shut up; they need to

tion so she will put up with it, many like Pat Tobin say that sometimes drugs are necessary: "Without drugs, a woman's anger may be turned against her or people she loves instead of society. She might beat her kids; she might harm herself. If we could be sure they'd direct their anger for progressive social change, then yes, I'd say

Other, more radical critics of psychiatry say feminist therapy is a contradiction in terms. "It doesn't help to be a feminist if you're still going to label a patient 'manic depressive' or 'schizophrenic', says Susan Horley. "Borrowing anything from a system created to benefit men at the expense of women can never help women."

...clinicians, both male and female, use masculine definitions of mentally healthy behavior.

drugs were unnecessary.

"Some women just need a protected environment for a time," says Tobin. "But they should be protected from psychiatrists as well."

More and more women are combatting psychiatry by creating alternate forms of therapy, where the woman's social situation is looked at as part of the problem. Louise Bowie, who quit her job as a psychiatric nurse because of its "cruelty and sexism," says psychiatrists and therapists have to start "looking at the whole person, not just their label — their social life, their economic situation, their nutrition, the drugs they take . . . everything about them."

While it is mostly poor women who end up being psychiatrized, few can afford feminist therapists, who can cost as much as \$80 per hour and are not covered by health insurance plans. Feminist therapists are also out of bounds for them, says Bowie, because most women don't even know they exist. And, alternative clinics have a great deal of difficulty finding funding to keep them alive.

Irit Shimrat agrees: "Unfortunately, I think there needs to be a revolution in society first before anything will really change. It's so difficult to find good alternatives within our present social and political system."

But revolution isn't exactly around the corner, so Shimrat and most other feminists and women opposed to psychiatry say education is needed to expose the structural sexism of psychiatry, as well as to show how sexist society both influences psychiatric treatment and is influenced by it, as well as how psychiatry protects the status quo.

Women opposing psychiatry are up against a lot — it's depressing to realize change probably won't come all that quickly, says Tobin. "One of the most disheartening things about the development of my consciousness and skills is that I don't think things will get much better. Everytime we get an inch, they get a mile."

"I'm not saying we should give up our work," says Tobin, "but just that I find it incredibly frightening and overwhelming."

"They drug you silent instead of saying 'go home and get rid of that bastard'."

"A battered woman who knocks on neighbor's doors, screams for help, or repeatedly calls the police runs a serious risk of being committed to a mental institution," the position paper points out. Meanwhile, statistics show that most women suffer from some form of sexual harassment or abuse during their lives.

The paper also indicates that clinicians, both male and female, use masculine definitions of mentally healthy behaviour. "It is not altogether surprising that those characteristics associated with being a mental patient — passive, dependent, manipulative, and indecisive — also fit the socially prescribed role for women in this culture."

While the psychiatric system is institutionally sexist, it's important to remember it is both a microcosm of a sexist society and a practice that does its part to ensure society remains as it is. But some question how conscious psychiatrists are of their role in preserving the status quo.

Pat Tobin, a social work student at Carleton University in Ottawa and a staffer of Martha's, says she doesn't think most psychiatrists are consciously misogynist. "Psychiatrists are probably nice guys; they're probably not all saying to themselves 'let's fuck these women around.' They're committed to what they do — no, they're committed to their \$95,000 per year."

But the fact remains, women have been continually abused by the psychiatric system since it became a recognized medical practice.

understand their situation in society and work to change it — the problem has to be combatted at its root."

But although feminist therapists agree drugs serve as a method of social control by numbing a woman's anger over her situa-

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Rebuilding a life — without Billy

Life With Billy

By Brian Vallee with an introduction by Jane Stafford. Published by McClelland and Stewart-Bantam Ltd., Toronto, 1986.

Available from Red Herring Co-op Books, 1555 Granville St., Halifax. (\$4.50/paperback) 224 pages.

Review by LOIS CORBETT

On March 11, 1982, Jane Stafford Hurshman did something to make her life easier. She shot and killed her husband Billy while he lay asleep on the seat of his pick-up truck.

Hurshman had been living with Billy Stafford for six years —

six years of beatings, rapes, kicks, slaps and punches drove her, finally, to take a shotgun from her son and blow her husband's brains out.

Life With Billy is the true story of Jane Hurshman's ordeal, one that started shortly after the birth of the couple's first son and has yet to end. Written by journalist Brian Vallee, the book details the brutal beatings Hurshman received, as well as the painful and degrading sexual acts Stafford forced her to perform. The book is not a pleasure to read: it is frightening and graphic, horrifying and depressing. It is a glimpse into a battered woman's everyday reality.

In the introduction to *Life With Billy*, Hurshman says she

couldn't understand why she was being beaten: "At first it was a black eye now and again or bumps and bruises that could be covered up. I started wearing tinted glasses, long-sleeved shirts and blouses, turtlenecks and slacks. As all this was happening, I tried to figure out why. It always ended up with Bill telling me it was my fault. I began to believe him, thinking all the while that things would get better. They didn't. As time went on, I lost everything: my confidence, my self-esteem, my pride — with time, I even lost the ability to care or feel. Bill took everything from me, a bit at a time, until there was nothing left but a shell."

Hurshman says she wanted *Life With Billy* written for other women who lived or are living the same hell as she did. "If even one person picks up this book and is helped by it, that will be reward enough," she writes. While *Life With Billy* concentrates on Jane Hurshman, the author refers to other incidents of wife abuse, and includes statistics of wife battering in Canada and politicians' responses to the issue.

Hurshman won an acquittal in front of a cheering courtroom audience on Friday, November 20, 1982, but she had to fight an appeal filed by the Crown in 1983. Hurshman then entered a plea of guilty of manslaughter and was sentenced to six months in jail and two years of probation. Her probation period ended August 14 last year, and she now

works at a rehabilitation centre in the Maritimes. But Hurshman says the healing is not complete. "I still see a therapist. I still have hurts. Some wounds will never heal. I cannot erase the scars. I cannot forget — but I can go on with the rest of my life. . . There are beauty and happiness and love out there, and I'm going after them," she writes.

(and the difficult style of *Life With Billy* displays this), Vallee first met Hurshman while producing a CBC "Fifth Estate" segment on her ordeal. He includes a short note at the beginning of the book to explain his own reactions to wife battering.

"I decided to write this book because I believe the issue of wife-battering is important," write Val-

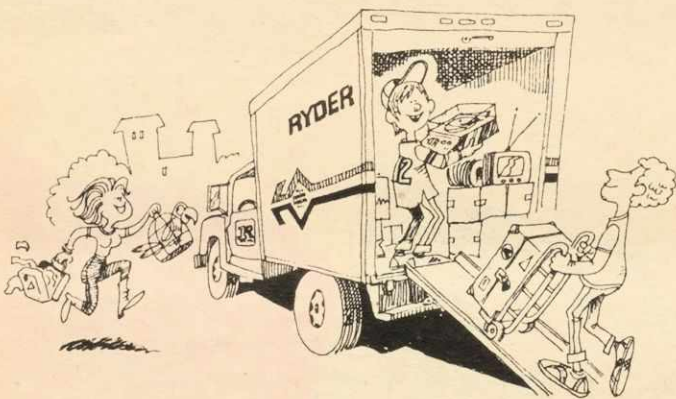


Life With Billy, captures some of the details of Jane Hurshman's life. While the most interesting parts of the book are those in which Hurshman tells her own story, Vallee does a good job collecting and arranging the biographical, statistical and judicial material needed to put her story into the context of wife abuse in Canada. Not a writer by trade

lee, "but I proceeded only after Jane Stafford (Hurshman) agreed to co-operate in its preparation."

Even though her book is still working to improve the lot of battered women, she regularly talks to battered women, police groups and directors of the region's transition houses. She criticizes the legal system and the police, saying that laws must change to protect the victims of abuse and deal with the real criminals. "I was both victim and accused," Hurshman told David Holt of *Atlantic Insight* earlier this year. "As the accused I was represented immediately. As a victim I had no rights."

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Fifty-seven years of women's issues at the Gazette

A golden future for the human race

By Toby Sanger

Women have been students at Dalhousie and writing for the *Gazette* for just more than 100 years, but it has only been in the last 57 years that the student paper has had special issues for women.

The first "co-ed issue" appeared on November 8, 1929, edited and written chiefly by men. Its pages were filled mostly with sorority news and "Treatises on ladies" with little serious or enlightened content.

An editorial three years later summed up an attitude many men espoused at the time:

"The average co-ed comes to college because it happens to be the 'thing' to do...to get a man. Her conversation is light, trivial, vapid and devoid of thought.

True, she learns how to wear the latest clothes tastefully, to walk across the room with dignity, and to handle the perplexing impediments of the dining table with grace and skill.

Where the education of the average co-ed fails, is in what what be called the deeper things of the spirit. In her mind, no profound intellectual passion has been awakened, no habit of judgement formed. Her college years make little difference in her beliefs, opinions, or tastes. If she leaves with a meaningless degree under one arm and a man on the other, she is satisfied. But can she be called an educated woman?"

This comment was roundly criticized in a letter to the editor in the next issue, signed by "Faith, Hope and Charity".

The role of women at university continued to be a hot topic for debate during the 1930s, 50 years after the first women were admitted to Dalhousie.

Women wrote for the *Gazette* in the first few decades of this century, they were invariably listed as "Social Editors". Now they were challenged to be more like men. It was the age when cigarette ads with illustrations of elegant women started to appear and Irving Berlin's "Anything you can do, I can do better" battle of the sexes theme was popular.

The next co-ed issue appeared on Valentine's Day, 1936, with an all-women staff for the first time. The paper was a little different from the regular editions of the *Gazette*, only it was better. Women had made their mark in a man's world — at least at the *Dalhousie Gazette*.

It was so successful that another co-ed issue appeared later that year in November. The (male) editor of the *Gazette* obliquely congratulated editors Francis and Margaret Drummie and the staff on their work, stating "They proved that Dal co-eds are not mere social butterflies but are useful and intelligent as well as ornamental."

Still, women held few positions of power in university and student affairs except in organizing the ever-popular Glee Club.

An article in the 1937 co-ed issue documented the poor gains women had made in many universities. In the same paper, a jestful comment indicated that attitudes were slowly changing: "Women must be beautiful and dumb; beautiful so the men can stand them and dumb so they can stand the men."

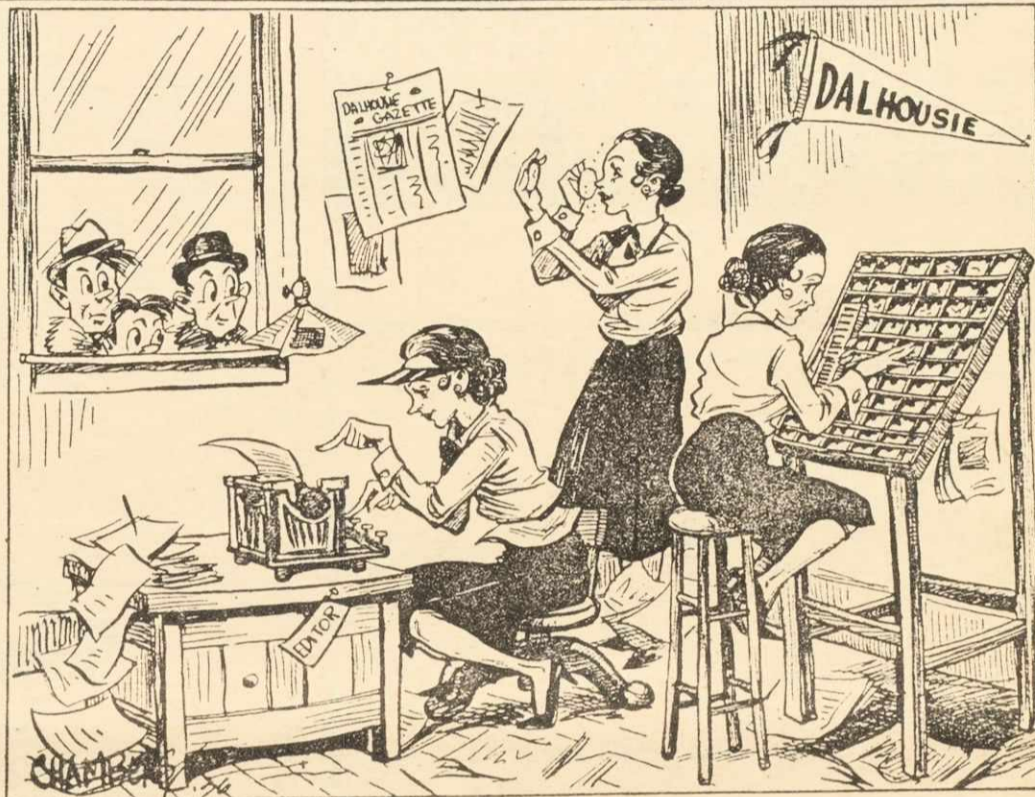
With many young men in Europe fighting the war, a woman became editor-in-chief of the *Gazette* for the first time in 1940. Inez Smith went on to become president of the students' council the next year. She was replaced at the *Gazette* by the co-ed co-editorial team of Rowena Benson and Jacqueline Cahan.

But the liberated attitudes the paper was adopting slowly gave way to renewed pressure on women to become more dependent on men. The co-ed issue was replaced by a "Sadie Hawkins Day" issue in 1942. (Sadie Hawkins Day was the time women and men were supposed to reverse roles with the women paying for the date).

"A golden future lies for the human race if women bring their innate sensibilities into intro-human (sic) relations. Once freed of the mental shackles which are the heritage of years of subservience, the women who are becoming emancipated should be among our greatest democrats," a 1943 editorial affirmed.

But the emancipation was only to go so far. In 1944, the Delta Gamma sorority took over pro-

On The Outside Looking In - No Help Wanted!



HALIFAX, N. S., NOVEMBER 20th, 1936

—Drawn by Bob Chambers by special arrangement with The Halifax Chronicle.

Co-ed press gangs celebrate women's spirituality at the Gazette in the dirty thirties.

duction of the women's issue with a suitably patriotic and patriarchal interpretation of emancipation: "She is a better woman, this Sadie of '44. Beneath her laughter is a steadfast loyalty to her home, to her college, to her country."

The Delta Gammas ran the *Gazette* women's issues for the next six years, with the name changing to the "Hubba Hubba Herald" and to the "Dalhousie Gasette". Readers were treated to the detailed histories of the Delta Gamma sorority and its affairs each year.

Women were being pushed back into the home — or on to a pedestal. In 1955, the women's issue of the *Gazette* was replaced by a photo spread of the contestants for "Dalhousie Campus Queen". It became an annual event. The next time a woman became editor of the paper after the second world war wasn't until Judith Bell took over in 1958.

In the sixties and early seventies, women's issues didn't merit much coverage in the *Gazette*. The popular Campus Queen editions were gone but dreamy photo-collages of long-haired meaningful women adorned with peace signs filled the hazy void. Features on Che Guevara generally took up more space than women's issues.

After the United Nations sanctioned the International Year for

Women in 1975, an annual story about International Women's Day became part of the *Gazette*.

A two page spread on women's rights dealing with sexism in the media and equal rights in the labour force appeared in 1980.

The next women's supplement didn't appear until 1983. The emphasis since then has been on women's culture and alternative living, as well as sexism in society, rather than on equal rights.

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if a child
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held out crushed petals
would you laugh and smell them
or
would you turn away, impatiently?

if a man
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would you cry and hate him
or
would you simply turn away...

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Class Timetables will be posted and distributed to departments during the week of March 2.

Class Approval Forms and Timetable Worksheets are available from departments and the Registrar's Office.

Counselling and Class Approval will take place in departments during regular office hours the week of March 23-29, 1987.

Completed Class Approval Forms may be handed in to the Registrar's Office, Arts and Administration Building, during the week of March 23 and thereafter.

NOTE: Please note the departmental signatures are valid for two weeks only. Returning students should note that if Class Approval is not obtained before May 31, it may not be available again until the September Registration period.

Office of the Registrar
February, 1987

S P O R T too dominated by men

Dalhousie sports information director, Pat Curren, speaks out on how hard it is to be a woman in a traditionally male field.

by JOANN SHERWOOD

The women in sports who are most readily recognized are those who participate in the actual competition. However, there is another type of fierce competition going on which involves women in sports. This is in the world of sports administration. Women in sports administration have to display as much determination and stamina as their female counterparts on the playing surface. True grit is necessary if a woman really wants to be successful in the world of sports administration.

Just ask Pat Curren. She has been sports information director at Dalhousie for the past four years. Pat (Patricia) sometimes receives mail addressed to "Mr. Pat Curren" but this slight is probably the least of her worries in trying to have a successful career in a male-dominated field.

Curren has worked extremely hard to get where she is. It has not been easy and she says that, although there appears to be an increasing number of women more involved in the field of sports administration, being successful and gaining recognition has not gotten any easier.

"In the sports administration field, at least, women usually have to contribute significantly more than most men just in order to be noticed," says Curren.

In many ways, the hard work has paid off for Pat Curren. One of her accomplishments has been her election to the Canadian Interuniversity Athletic Union's (CIAU's) Marketing Committee. There are six representatives on the committee, one from each of the conferences across Canada. Curren calls her appointment to the committee "at least partially a token appointment" but adds that it is her contributions that keep her there.

All CIAU committees are under the influence of the "quota system". Of the ten standing committees, there are just two which are dominated by women: the constitution committee and the women's representative committee. The administrative committee, which deals with such areas as athletic regulations, consists of a six-woman, six-man team. On all the other committees, the male representatives outnumber their female counterparts by at least a 2:1 ratio.

The relatively small number of women who deal in sports administration are usually well-known within the CIAU. This is because they really have to stand head and shoulders above the men in order to be recognized. They have to stand out in order to be equal. Not often do women just jump into a prestigious posi-

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Elite women athletes at Dal Past and present

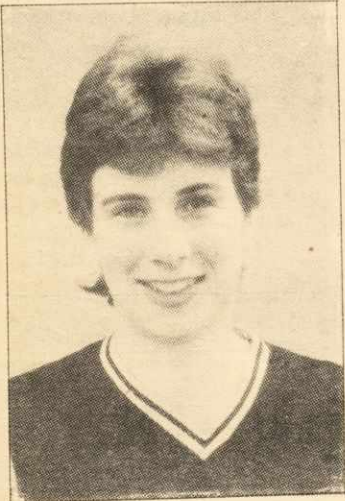
By JOANN SHERWOOD

The varsity sports programme at Dalhousie has produced a number of talented female athletes over the years. Besides reflecting on these women, their success is a compliment to the women's varsity sports program at Dalhousie. Undoubtedly, no other university in the Atlantic region has had a many world-class women athletes swim under their banner. The following is a summary of just a few of the Dalhousie women who have excelled while with the Tigers and who represented Canada in world-class competition.

Trish MacCormack Basketball

The younger of the two MacCormack sisters who play with the Basketball Tigers, Trish has not been overshadowed by her sister Kathy. Trish, who recently turned 21, has just finished her third year with the Tigers. This season, she was again among the team and league leaders from her post position. During the first half of the season, the 6'3" Trish was second in field goal percentage with 57.8% tied for first in free throw percentage with 100% accuracy, was fifth in rebounding with 8.5 per game and was fourth in league scoring with 15.3 points per game. Her impressive stats landed her a spot on the AUAA second all-star team.

During her second season with the Tigers in 1985-86, Trish won a spot on the AUAA playoff all-star team and was named to the Canadian junior national team.

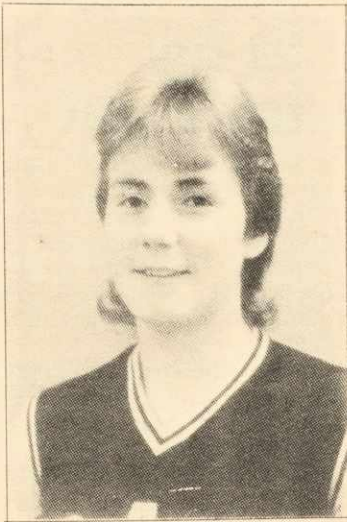


**Kathy MacCormack
Basketball**

Kathy, who is a year older than Trish, capped off a fine season this year, though a disappointing one for her team, by being named to the AUAA first all-star team and by also being named All-Canadian. At midseason, Kathy led the conference in field goal percentage with 59.5% and was fifth in scoring with 15 points per game. At 6'1", she, like her sister, is a dedicated basketball player and her efforts at the post position have paid off for her.

Last season, which was her first with the Tigers, Kathy was an AUAA regular season all-star. She was also named to the 1986 national team.

The MacCormack sisters hail from Sydney, where they attended Holy Cross High School.



Anna Pendergast - Basketball
Anna played under Carolyn Savoy's Tigers for five years, from 1978-1983. While studying physical education at Dalhousie, the 5'10" Anna was the only woman Tiger to accumulate more than one thousand points in scoring.

She was twice named All-Canadian first to the second team and then to the first team, which made her one of the top five women's basketball players in the country. She was also AUAA league MVP for two seasons. Because of her outstanding play, Anna was awarded the Class of '55 Trophy for outstanding Dalhousie female Athlete of the Year.

Anna played for the junior national team before moving up to join the senior national squad, which she has been a member of since 1982. While with Canada's top women's basketball team, Anna has had the opportunity to participate in such tournaments as the '84 Olympics and the World Student Games in '83 and in '85. Since 1983, she has participated in every tournament the Canadian team has taken part in. From her shooting forward position, Anna is able to display her aggressive defence, outstanding shooting skills, and her rebounding ability.

For the past two years, Anna has been a long way from her native Kensington, PEI. She has been playing semi-pro basketball for the Wolfenbuttel team in Germany. Anna is the star of the league there. Her team won the division two title last year and were able to move into the top division.

In May, she will be returning to Canada to join the national team's training session. The team will be taking part in competitions to prepare for the '88 Olympics next summer in Seoul, South Korea.

Nancy Garapick — Swimming

Though Nancy only swam for Dalhousie for one season, she did manage to rewrite the team's record books. Visit the Dalplex pool and you will notice that she holds nine Dalplex pool records. She retired from competition after winning five gold medals for Dalhousie at the 1983 CIAU swimming championships and being named All-Canadian.

Nancy had plenty of experience in the pool prior to her joining

the Tigers. In 1975, when she was only 14, Nancy was named Canada's female athlete of the year. That year, she had established a world record in the 200m backstroke. She is the ninth, and subsequently the last, Canadian female swimmer to achieve a world record. At the Montreal Olympics in the 1976, Nancy won bronze medals in the 100 and 200m backstroke events. She was the only Canadian to win two individual medals at the competition.

During her illustrious career, Garapick tallied 38 Canadian championship medals, and 17 national titles in four of the five stroke disciplines. Nancy won 60 medals (25 gold, 19 silver, and 16 bronze) for Canada in international competition between 1975 and 1981.



Karen Fraser — Volleyball

Karen, a Halifax native, also played for the women's volleyball team at Dalhousie for five seasons. She was named All-Canadian four times. In the AUAA, she was Dalhousie volleyball MVP in 1982 (with Karin Maessen) and in 1986. She was AUAA MVP and AUAA all-star her previous four years.

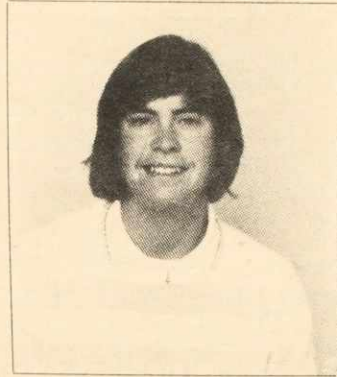
In 1982, the women won their first national volleyball title. Karen Fraser was an all-star and Karin Maessen was MVP.

Karen was a member of Canada's national team from 1979-1984. She participated in the L.A. Olympics. She has also taken part in the World Student games in 1981 and 1983. She was member of Canada's entry at the Pan-American Games in 1983 and she has participated in numerous tournaments and world championships in that time.

Karen served as an assistant coach to Lois MacGregor for two years before coaching the team herself, as a player-coach in 1985 and again coaching the Tigers this past season. Previously, Karen remarked that she did not find the change from the playing ranks to the coaching ranks as difficult as she expected. The Dalhousie players have been very willing to co-operate with someone many of them once played with.

While employed as Tiger head coach this past season, Karen was also working at the Dalplex as assistant sports information director. She is also a part time

student working towards a master's degree in sport's psychology.



Karin Maessen — Volleyball

Karin played with Dalhousie's women's volleyball team for five seasons. The 5' 11" native of Halifax was a Class of '55 award-winner in 1977, '81 and '82. She was Nova Scotia's athlete of the year in 1981 and '82. She was team MVP in 1977, '80, '83 and she shared the honour with Karen Fraser in 1982. She was the league's most valuable player in 1982 and '83. After having been first team All-Canadian the previous two years, Karin was named CIAU player of the year in 1982.

After a stint with the junior national team, from 1975-79, Karin joined the senior national squad, where she played from 1979 to 1983. At the time, she was the top setter in the country.

These days, she is putting her degree in physical education to good use as she fills in as a substitute teacher. She has also gotten into the volleyball coaching ranks.

Susan Mason (MacLeod) — Swimming

Susan earned a place on Canada's national swim team in 1977. That same year, the native of Halifax became the first Nova Scotia swimmer ever to win a medal in the Canada Summer Games when she competed in the third Canada Summer Games. Susan won a total of five medals at the event, including three gold in the 200m butterfly, 400 and 800m freestyle events.

She also participated in such international competitions as the XI Commonwealth Games in Edmonton and the World Aquatic Championships in West Berlin.

Susan turned down scholarship offers from American universities in order to swim for Dalhousie. Following her first season, 1978-79, she was named AUAA swimmer of the year, CIAU swimmer of the year, and was awarded the Class of '55 Trophy was Dalhousie's female athlete of the year.

At the 1979 World University Games in Mexico City, Susan led the Canadian team with three fourth place individual performances and captured a bronze medal anchoring Canada's 400m freestyle relay team.

As a Tiger, Susan was a four time All-Canadian, AUAA swimmer of the year and team MVP capturing seven CIAU individual titles and a total of 16 championship medals. In AUAA championship competition she was unbeatable, winning all twenty events (three individual and two relays) the maximum number she was allowed to enter over the four years.

Marie Moore — Swimming

Marie was student at Dalhousie last year. She certainly made a name for herself as a member of the Dalhousie swim team. A list of accolades that were bestowed on her last season are as follows: CIAU qualifier, AUAA female athlete of the year, All-Canadian, and CIAU athlete of the week twice.

A butterfly, freestyle and individual medley swimmer, Marie was a member of Canada's national team from 1982-1984. She participated in the 1984 summer Olympics held in Los Angeles. In the 1983 Pan-American Games, she won a bronze medal in the 200 butterfly, breaking Nancy Garapick's Canadian record in the process. Last season, Marie established the AUAA record in the 100 and 200m butterfly. At the nationals, Marie won silver medals in the 400 free, 100 butterfly, and the 200 butterfly. She was also a member of Dalhousie's 4x400 medley relay team, which set a record at the CIAU's last year.



Best Finish ever for Dal

Competitors from Dalhousie participated in the CIAU track and field competitions, which were held over the weekend in Saskatoon. The Tigers were led by medal performances by Lucy Smith, who won a silver in the 3000 metre event and by Annick deGooyer, who won a bronze in the 1000 metre event. It was the first time an AUAA school had ever won two medals in the highly competitive event.

Lucy Smith, who led for most of the way in the 3000m event before Sandra Anshuetz of Western overtook her. Smith finished in a time of 9:36, a second slower than Anshuetz's silver-medal winning performance.

DeGooyer's bronze medal winning time in the 1000m event was 2:49:30. The race was won by a runner from McMaster who set a new CIAU record in the process.

Smith and deGooyer, who were named to the All-Canadian cross country running team earlier this year, also represented Dalhousie in the 4 x 800 metre relay race. They were joined by Barbara Ross and Sue Comeau in securing a sixth place finish for Dalhousie in the race.

Overtime By JoAnn Sherwood

Apples and oranges

The sporting world is not an easy place for anyone to live. A person really has to persevere to make a name for themselves in the world of sports, whether it be professional or amateur. Times have been particularly tough for women who try to succeed in a sports field. They are faced with the added disadvantage of trying to break into a male-dominated world. (Don't worry, my grievances here are not those of a female sports editor. . .)

What bothers me are sports fans at any level of competition, who say that women's sports are boring. These individuals (not mentioning any names!) usually happen to be male. I'm going to explain to all of you ignorant people that women's sports are not dull. In fact, they are just as exciting as men's athletic competition.

Yes, I know that some of you out there are saying, "Hey, wait just a minute, male athletes are not the same as female athletes." I know that women cannot throw as hard or as far as a man and they are usually not as fast but that does not make them boring. Militant feminists might kill me for this but, men *are* endowed with greater physical capacities than most women. You may be thinking that argument's over but I'm not finished yet. . .

I'll use an example. What is volleyball? Roughly speaking, it's a group of people hitting a ball over a net. Women do this just as well as men do. "Doing just as well" means that a team is successful. It's a team's strategy that makes or breaks the way they play. These are a few of my volleyball observations. . . Men seem

opponents. They like to keep the rallies short and win the point on a blistering kill. The force of the kill may be exciting to you but I think that sometimes players get carried away. They seem to think that the only way they are going to win the rally is if they annihilate the ball. You can't call it a graceful sight.

In women's volleyball, on the other hand, rallies tend to be longer. I happen to like long rallies. You can see the strategy unfold before your eyes. You can anticipate what the player's next move will be. The spectator has the opportunity to think about what is going on rather than just being overwhelmed by the shot.

All this is to illustrate the point that men's and women's sports cannot be compared. If you're in a certain mood, you might like to see the volleyball getting smashed to pieces. In other instances, you might prefer the smoother sports games. You can't prepare basketball to baseball because the games are different. You can say that you like one more than the other because it appeals to your particular tastes. However, you really can't judge one to be superior to the other. So it is with men's and women's competitions. They are both trying to win but they go about it in different manners. Preferring men's sports over women's sports or women's sports over men's sports, is like comparing apples to oranges. It can't be done and it's useless to try.

The key to enjoying whatever type of athletic competition you may be watching is to enjoy the game for what it is and not for what is happening in another place or on another playing surface.

Tigers at nationals

By JOANN SHERWOOD

Last weekend, the Dalhousie men's volleyball team travelled to Winnipeg to take part in the CIAU championships. The Tiger squad lost two matches to tough opponents to knock them out of medal contention.

In their first match, the Dalhousie team faced the number one ranked team in the country and the defending champions of the tournament, the University of Winnipeg Wesmen. The Wesmen showed why they have been the most consistent team in the sport, beating the Tigers by scores of 15-8, 15-4, 15-12.

In the second game, the Tigers played better and had more of an opportunity for taking control of the match. Their opponents were from Laval. The first game lasted about twenty minutes but the score would not indicate this. The score ended up being 15-2 in favour of Laval. The pace of the game was slowed down because of the number of side-outs that occurred. In the second game, the Tigers had the opportunity to shift the momentum in their favour but they lost the game 16-14. In the final game, Laval won the match by taking the Tigers by a score of 15-11.

Tigers coach Al Scott said that

his team was trying to implement a specific blocking strategy that did not begin to be really effective until half way through the second game. The purpose of this strategy was to give the Tigers better formation against the Laval hitters in the back court.

"The strategy seemed to be effective but we just weren't winning the points," said Scott.

In the gold medal match, Winnipeg squared off against Saskatchewan. The Wesmen took the match in three very close games to win the national title. In the bronze medal match, Manitoba faced the University of Calgary squad. Manitoba took that game to ensure that the top three rankings going into the tournament had been accurate.

Toronto, which was ranked seventh going into the event, beat Laval to cop fifth spot. UBC, who had been ranked sixth entering the tournament, failed to win a match.

Coach Scott emphasized the fact that the tournament was an exciting event where lots of top-calibre volleyball action was displayed. His goal for the future is to make the Dalhousie entry at the CIAUs one that is not just participating in order to gain experience, but in order to win.

Continued from page 16.

tion in any sports-related organization; the process is usually a long and often frustrating one as they work their way up through the system. Curren says this is not a problem that exists solely in Canadian sports. She has attended conferences in the United States (where she says the men outnumber the women about ten to one) and has heard the same problems and concerns voiced.

The situation can be particularly discouraging when a woman has to deal with men who do not recognize them as their equals. In the sports field, says Curren, a supreme effort is required on the part of the women to try to fit in and "be one of the boys".

Says Curren, "Men tend to be fraternal in this business because they have grown up talking with each other about sports and they are comfortable in that environment. They are decidedly uncomfortable talking with women about sports."

Pat Curren has known some career setbacks that she feels are at least partly attributable to that fact that she is a woman in a male-dominated field.

In one instance, a sports-related committee on which she served for two years did not ask her back for a third. One of the reasons given for her dismissal was her lack of respect for the chairman.

"I don't think I'm disrespectful but I do speak out. It's like that old saying we were told when we were kids: when a man speaks his mind, he's considered assertive, but when a woman does the same, she's a pain in the neck."

Curren felt she had made her mark, as well, as the person in charge of marketing, public relations, publicity and media relations for the CIAU Men's Basketball National Championships when Dalhousie hosted the event for the past three years. But when the responsibility of hosting the tournament moved to a community committee this year,

I feel like a female Rodney Dangerfield

she was not asked to head up any of the committees. Nor was she even asked to serve on a committee until fairly far along in the planning stages.

"You begin to question your own competence when things like this happen, but I'm satisfied that I did a great job on the basketball for three years. As to why I wasn't asked to take part this year, I'm not sure there is one definitive answer but I do know that all of the chairmen were just that — chairMEN. I'm pretty sure that a man with my experience in promoting and advertising the tournament would have been on top of the selection committee's list," she says.

Discouraging? You bet, says Curren.

"I feel like a female Rodney Dangerfield. I don't get any respect."

There is an even darker issue that confronts many women in the sport administration field: that of verbal and sexual harassment. In a field where the men's network is strong, women are sometimes subjected to verbal attacks by men who are uncom-

fortable working with them.

Curren points out that the support a woman gets from her family and friends is very important. Understandably, a woman working in sports administration has to devote as much time as, if not

Men tend to be fraternal

more than, a woman pursuing a career in another profession.

It can, says Curren, place a great strain on family and relationships. Perhaps as a consequence, she says she sees a great number of single women in the field.

Despite the obvious drawbacks, Pat Curren enjoys her work and appreciates her role at Dalhousie.

"There is no sexism here. I'm treated very much as an equal — and I'm definitely made to feel appreciated," says Curren.

Curren says she never really had to worry much about equal rights before she began working

in the sports field.

"Before I got into sports, I had only really encountered attitudes of blatant sexism once, and that was in Australia where, by their standards, Crocodile Dundee would be considered a raving feminist. I thought that once I got back to Canada, I'd never have to put up with that kind of attitude again. I guess I was wrong."

When asked about a solution to the problem of sexism in sports and the necessity of the quota system in order to integrate women into the system, Curren says there are no easy answers to the problem. A major disadvantage of the quota system is that not necessarily the best people will be selected because certain individuals have to be included. Curren calls quotas "a necessary evil at a bad time."

On the other side, "You still can't rely on people to make the right decisions without quotas," says Curren.

By trial and error, committees will have to learn that there is no reason why a woman should not be chosen for a certain position just because she is a man.

Part II: All-Canadians

The AUAA season for the men's and women's volleyball and the basketball teams have come to an end and with the AUAA playoffs out of the way, league and playoff awards have been presented in these sports.

In women's basketball, Dalhousie's Lisa Briggs and Kathy MacCormack were selected to the first AUAA first all-star team while Trish MacCormack won a spot on the second team. Rookie sensation Mary K. Lyles of the Tigers was named rookie of the year and Tigers' Peggy Johnson and Lisa Briggs were selected to the tournament all-star team at the AUAA final at UPEI where the Tigers lost a close final contest to the host Panthers, 57-59.

In men's basketball, Acadia coach Dave Nutbrown was honoured as coach of the year. First team all-stars were: Mike Williams of St. Mary's Bob Aucoin of New Brunswick, Mike Morgan of UPEI, Peter Morris of Acadia, and Kyle Gayle of St. F.X. Dalhousie's Mike Gillett earned a spot on the second all-star squad. He was joined by UPEI's Peter

Gordon, Acadia's Kevin Veinot and Rodney Martin and Andy Ledoux of St. F.X., who was also chosen league MVP. Gordon was rookie of the year.

In women's volleyball, UNB's Helen Bridge was selected as tournament MVP. AUAA all-stars are: Dalhousie's Colleen Doyle, Moncton's France Lambert, Mount Allison's Michelle Mockler, Dalhousie's Sandra Rice, and Acadia's Krista Moore. League MVP was Julie Godin of Moncton. The Moncton coach, Daniel O'Carroll, was honoured as coach of the year.

The Tiger men's volleyball team, who captured the league title, dominated in the award category also. Brian Johnstone was tournament MVP. League all-stars are: UNB's Mark Bolden, UNB's Eric Renahshaw; Dalhousie's Jody Holden, and Dalhousie Andy Kohl. AUAA MVP was Dalhousie's Brian Rourke. Coach of the year is Tiger skipper Al Scott.

Rourke was also named second team All-Canadian for the second consecutive season. . .

UBC cops title

By JOANN SHERWOOD

The 1986-87 CIAU men's basketball championship got under way at the Halifax Metro Centre last Thursday afternoon. The tournament participants were the six Canadian conference winners and two wildcard entries from Western Ontario and Winnipeg. This year marked the first time the event consisted of the final four instead of the final eight. However, there were still no surprises despite the fact that there were more teams competing. With the absence of the Victoria Vikings, who had won the national title the past seven years, the Brandon Bobcats were expected to clinch the title and that they did with a 74-66 victory over the number two ranked University of British Columbia in Saturday afternoon's final.

In quarterfinal action on Thursday, UBC defeated Western 93-76. Winnipeg handed a loss to the University of Toronto Varsity Blues, the Ontario East champions, by a score of 80-79. Brandon topped Concordia 87-70 and in the nightcap, the hometown favourite, St. Mary's Huskies, went down to defeat at the hands of McMaster, the Ontario West title holders, by a close score of 74-71.

In the contest between Brandon and Concordia, the Bobcats got out to an early 13-9 lead over their opponents from Concordia. The game turned out to be a close defensive contest and at the 8:30 mark of the first half, Brandon led 19-17. Brandon did pull away momentarily but the Stingrays were determined to keep the score close during the first half. Bran-

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don went into the dressing room for the intermission sporting a 35-31 lead.

In the second half, Concordia was never able to come back to take the lead. Brandon's offense began to allow them to pull away by the 9:09. The score at that point was 59-54. The number one ranked team at the tournament had as much as a 14 point lead and went on to win the game 70-59 to advance to Friday's semifinals.

Brandon was led by the rebounding of Whitney Dabney and the shooting of All-Canadian John Carson with 13 points and Patrick Jebbison with 12 points.

In the consolation semifinals on Friday, Western defeated Toronto 74-63 while St. Mary's advanced to the consolation game with a 85-82 win over Concordia. Later that day, UBC advanced to the final with a win over Winnipeg by a score of 106-90. Brandon also advanced to the final by defeating McMaster 85-77.

The UBC-Winnipeg game on Friday started out as a close one. Because of close defensive play by both teams, the score remained close for most of the first half. UBC took a slim 32-29 lead with 7:18 left to play in the first half. The Thunderbirds were able to pad their lead somewhat and at halftime they led 51-45.

UBC was again in foul trouble early but they were still able to establish an 85-71 lead with just over five minutes left in the game. An offensive surge in the dying minutes of the game resulted in a 106-90 win for UBC.

UBC was led by guard Kevin Hanson with 23 points, Paul Johansson had 20 points in the losing effort. Winnipeg's Joey Vickery had a game-high 29 points to pace the Wesmen.

The hometown St. Mary's squad squared off against Western in the consolation final on Saturday afternoon. With 17:04 left in the game, St. Mary's led 40-31. Things began to go down hill from there for the Huskies. Western was able to capitalize on what may have been nervousness on the part of St. Mary's to close the gap to 70-66 with 2:53 left in the game. The score was tied at 72 with just over a minute remaining. With 17 seconds to go, Pod Armstrong sunk a shot from the line to give Western a 73-72 win and fifth place finish in the tournament.

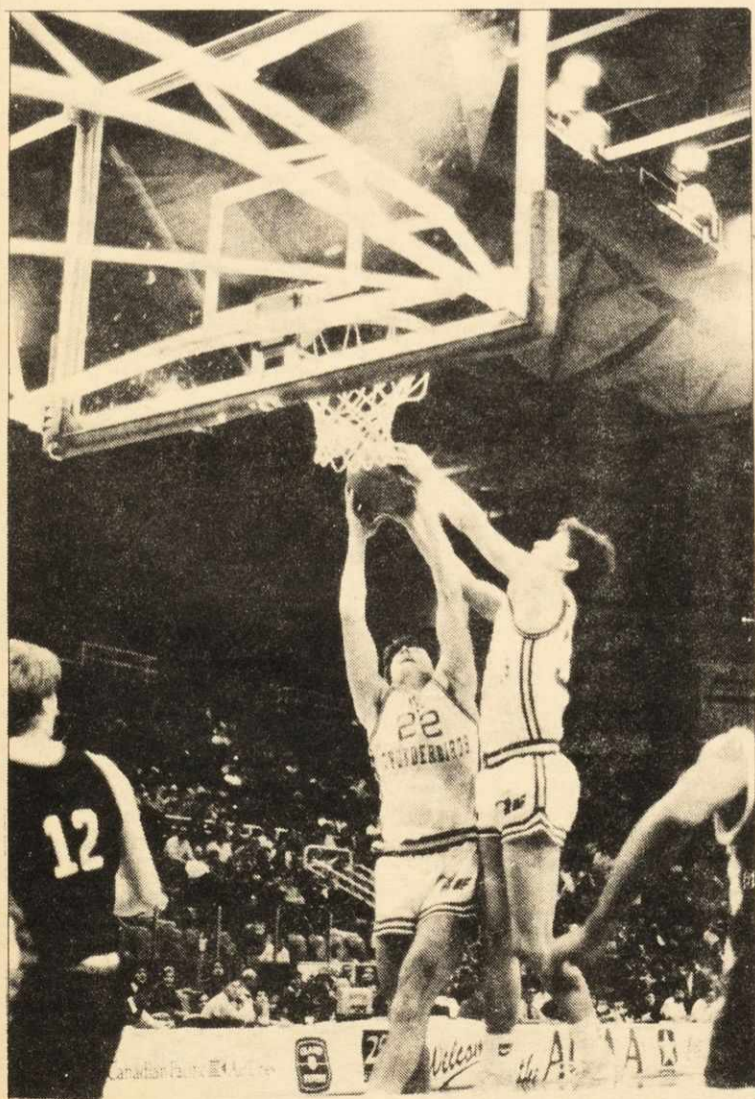
Western was led by the performance of John Stiefelmeyer with 22 points. St. Mary's top scorer was Dave McIntosh with 18.

A crowd of 6,043 was on hand for the final game between the top ranked teams going into the tournament, Brandon and UBC. Brandon showed its superiority on the court, building up a 20-14 lead with 9:44 left to play in the first half of the game. The Bobcats went on to hold a 37-30 lead at halftime.

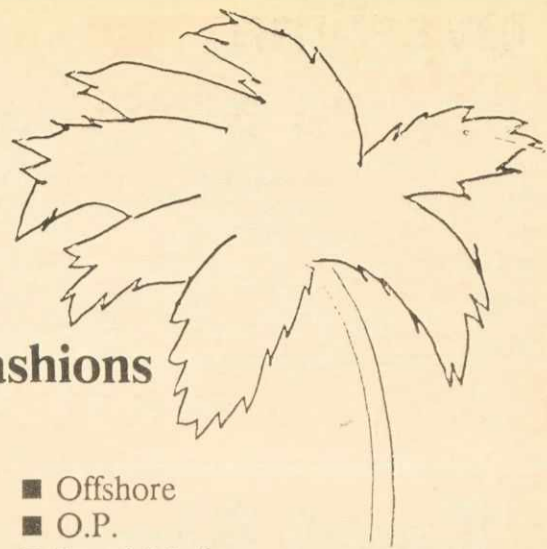
In the second half, their opponents from UBC refused to give up. The score continued to be quite close until the dying minutes of the game when Brandon took a 74-66 lead to give them the CIAU crown.

Show-stopper John Carson led the winning cause with a game-high 38 points, which included three slam dunks and two baskets from the three point range.

All-stars for the tournament were announced following the game. They are: Winnipeg's Joey Vickery; McMaster's Ralph Rosenkranz; UBC's Aaron Point; UBC's Kevin Hanson and Brandon's Patrick Jebbison. Tournament MVP was Brandon's John Carson.



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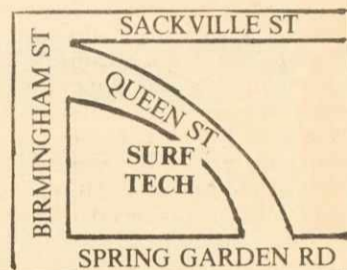
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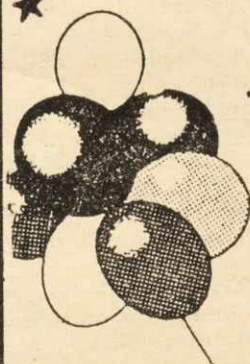
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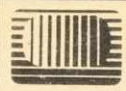
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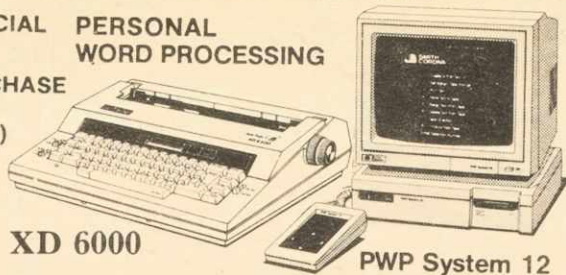
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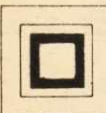
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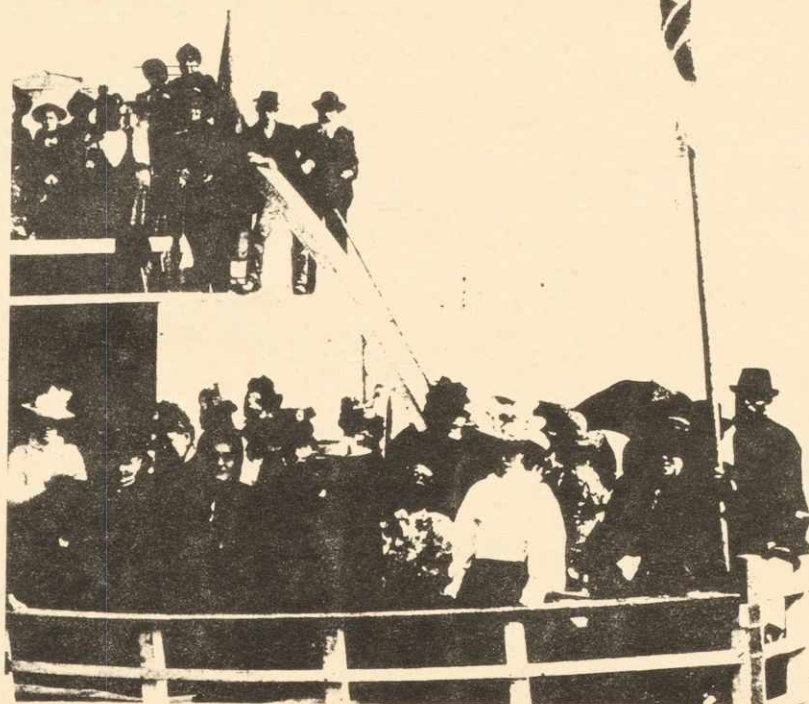
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WOMEN create



White women whisper

Whispers from the Past: Selection from the Writings of New Brunswick Women

By Elizabeth McGahen

Review by Lois Corbett

Whether it is recipes labouriously copied down and shared with family and friends or intimate details recored in diaries, women have always written. But their writings are seldom heralded or published — they are "private" recording of events or emotion, stuck between the pages of family bibles or lost over time. Elizabeth McGahen has tried to uncover the hidden voices of women in New Brunswick with *Whispers from the Past*, but unfortunately her latest book is little more than a collection of articles, excerpts and minutes of meetings from middle-class, white, and English speaking women of the province's past.

While McGahen admits her collection "Merely skims the surface of what awaits further archival research," she says these writings are "whispers from everwomen." With little analysis about class background or the social status of the women she includes in *Whispers from the Past*, McGahen makes the mistake of letting a few women speak on behalf of all in the province.

A woman from a rural, poor, non-white and non-English background would have a difficult time seeing her life, or her mother's life, reflected in the pages of *Whispers from the Past*. She would not understand Clara Winifred Fritz's letters, which she wrote while sailing from Saint John to New York and Vietnam with her father in 1903. She would not direct a letter to a bishop, like one of the women in the book, who wrote to Bishop T.L. Connelly of Saint John in 1858. In fact, she probably would not save her own words, or have much opportunity to read other women's writings.

McGahen's collection, however limited, does provide a glimpse into some women's lives in Saint John in the past, and if she had presented *Whispers from the Past* as that, instead of as the

voices of "everywoman," she would have succeeded in providing the reader with a new understanding of what it meant to be a middle-class female living in a growing industrial center at the turn of the century. The author says the writings in her collection contain comments on the "routine of women's lives," and through her selection, she has shown the importance of family, religion and friends for some women. While the writers in *Whispers from the Past* are privileged women, some do see class inequities in their society, and many worked for the good of "the poor," "the inebriate," and "unwed mothers."

Whispers from the Past has many helpful hints for women of all ages and times. Elizabeth Innes, a mid-wife in Saint John in the mid-1800, suggests this cure for sore nipples: "Bees wax, honey, sweet oil and rosin. Inness says she "nursed in my time 168 women in their Confinement and 157 in Labour." Anne Elliot offers what seems a surefire cure for "worms of the face...take 1 oz of Borax dissolved in 1 quart of soft water, wash the skin clean with it, then rub with a sweet oil."

The book is at once joyful and sad, religious and playful, philosophical and practical. Emma Forrester's letter to her son's employer expresses her anger and frustration at the province's indenture system, where young boys and girls were sent to an employer for living quarters in exchange for job training. "...he was scarcely allowed food sufficient to sustain nature (and) compelled to sleep on a bundle of rags in a corner of your garret." Forrester chastises the employer for her son's treatment, calling him "a disgraceful member of society," a man with a "malignant spleen."

Mary Morre, an elderly woman writing her daughter from her sickbed, tells of the time her husband wanted to invest four hundred dollars in the railroad. A neighbour friend, Mrs. Lindsay, told Moore to insist her husband

put the money in the bank instead, so his wife could have the interest it could earn. Mr. Moore refused, of course, saying his wife didn't need the twenty four dollars in interest: "I told him what the wise old woman said," writes Moore. "She also said railroads were an expensive luxury and should not be built by men of small means or who stood at the bench to earn their money as your father did. His reply was, you do not require money. Well dear, the result has been not one cent was ever received for it..."

At times, the writings in *Whispers From the Past* reflects the inequities of living in a sexist society that even privileged women faced. In 1890(c) the members of the Ladies Association of the Natural History Society applied to become members in the main organization. Mrs. Fiske, "a very dignified lady — a teacher of language, principally French," was chosen to present their application and the men's reaction to her request is recorded in the minutes: "She had hardly finished when a man from the back of the hall jumped to his feet in great indignation and said, 'When the Women come in, the Men go out! — I cannot recall the result of that meeting; I expect we retired gracefully and left it to the male members to digest.'"

Whispers From the Past does, in part, include reflections of women's contributions to their communities and society. Collections such as this are one step in the process of finding, and valuing women's writings. McGahen has succeeded in displaying some women's contributions to the development of New Brunswick, and her book demonstrates the need for more work in women's history if we are to have a more complete understanding of our own past.

Elizabeth McGahen is a history professor at the University of New Brunswick, Saint John. She has also published *The Port of Saint John, volume one*, and is currently working on the second volume.

FIREWORDS

by ELLEN REYNOLDS

Through the voices of three Quebecois feminist writers, director Dorothy Todd Henaut presents a world of inspiration for women. *Firewords/Les Terribles vivantes*, her most recent film, is exactly what the title says — the firewords of Louky Bersianik, Jovette Marchessault and Nicole Brossard.

The film itself allows the creative energy and genius of these three visionary women not only to shine through but to explode. It's difficult to classify *Firewords* as a specific type of film but Henaut calls it "a documentary with inserts of drama".

Louky Bersianik begins the film with an excerpt from *L'Euguelionne*, her novel about an extraterrestrial being who comes down to "the planet of men" where "one man out of two is a woman". Louky's use of words and intellectual spiralling is exciting and empowering. She discusses with Nicole and writer Gail Scott the political importance of language (both in English and French). "Changing language means changing the world," says Louky, who gives examples of how she is changing the world with words. Our language can't adequately describe a woman's sex, so Louky creates her own words, such as "clitorivage", 'clito' from 'clitoris' and 'rivage', the French word for "the shores you alight upon". Changing the language is only part of her empowering feminist vision.

"When women become visible," Louky says, "they are like giants." Patriarchal society reacts to this visibility with fear, and women need courage and the support of other women to combat this fear. Louky also talks about the difficulty of bringing up a son in our society: "We bring them up saying they are *all* and tell them they are only half."

In the setting of her hobby-farm home in the country, Jovette Marchessault tells of a difficult

early life. At age 13 she worked in a factory and, after being exposed to a variety of cultures, became a "cosmopolitan" woman. A self-taught painter, sculptor and writer, Jovette "had to prove first I was an artist with sculpture and painting." Depressed and without money, Jovette felt writing was her only option because it didn't require much equipment. The use of theatre is very important to Jovette as are the powerful images of women presented in her plays. In *Firewords*, her monologue *Night Cows* is performed with passionate energy and strength by Pol Pelletier.

Jovette lives away from the city, close to nature, with her animals in a women's world which she



Dorothy Todd Henaut

says "is gentler... violence comes from men and that has confirmed my love for women."

In contrast to Jovette, Nicole Brossard is in her element in the city and by the sea. She has "always intended to be disturbing" in her writing to spur courage in women to face the fear and defeat it. "Women," Nicole says, "have been fragmented by the patriarchy." She uses the spiral shape to show how a woman-centred perspective may come about. Positive images of women

such as amazon, witch and feminist are rare in our society and must be reclaimed.

In the group discussions and each separate interview, the three women present a visionary feminist view of the world which includes the essential solidarity of women and men as a part of nature. This feminist view which spirals into positive images of women and women's spirituality reflects much of Henaut's own perspective. "It's absolutely my own interpretation and I didn't hesitate to select and highlight what I liked."

Since 1969, Dorothy Todd Henaut has produced and directed many films. She has been with the women's unit of the National Film Board, Studio D, since 1977. In 1981, she produced *Not a Love Story (C'est surtout pas de l'amour)*, the well-known film about pornography.

Besides bridging the gap between French and English women in *Firewords*, Henaut wanted to give people the rare opportunity to listen directly to women talking about their loves and hates.

Both Nicole and Louky also talk of the powerful effect men have had on women's lives and how men must not abuse their power either intentionally or unintentionally.

Nicole reaffirms writer Gail Scott's statement that once she stopped thinking of a male critic or male audience, she was much freer and more confident in her writing. Louky makes an analogy of women in the bottom of a bowl of molasses and the men at the brim looking in who proclaim, "Look, all they can draw is molasses." The change in society must come "not just (from) outside tasks. It must also come from within men."

Henaut includes in her feminist vision "celebration of men's visions as long as they aren't harmful — and asking questions to find out if we



Actor Pol Pelletier. "My mother is a cow and that makes two of us."

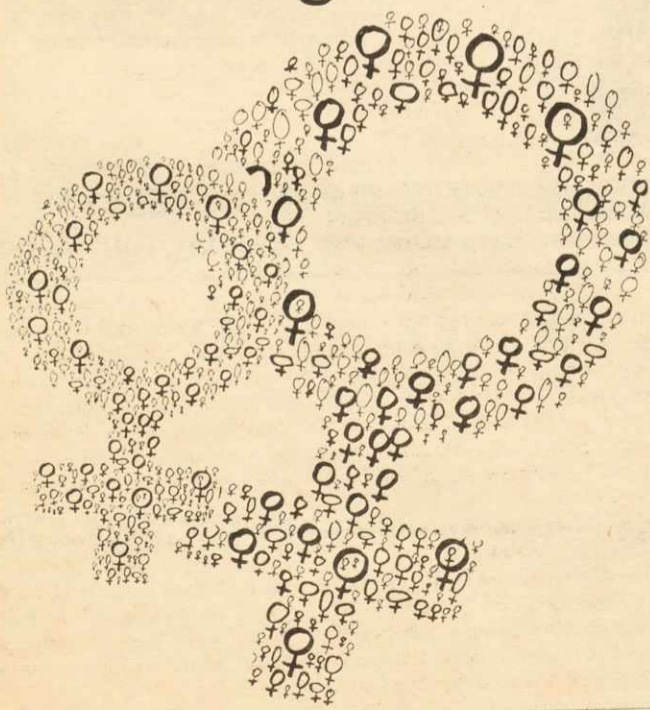
(women) are harmful or not... My vision of a feminist world is not confrontational, but it's co-operative and collaborative." Henaut's feminist approach to filmmaking means "respect of the people on the screen," celebrating their diversity and remaining "Absolutely faithful to the women." This involves much communication and feedback, which is reflected and strongly evident in *Firewords*.

Henaut is now working on her next project, a film celebrating the strong desire for love between mother and daughter.

As for *Firewords*, Henaut sums it up with all the energy and courage reflected in her film...

"I love to make a film where the audience at the end of it says, 'Hey, if they can do that, so can I.' I like to not only caress the women in the audience but set a firecracker under them!"

sisters sounding off



By ERIN GOODMAN

Sisters are doing it for themselves on CKDU 97.5 FM, bringing a new awareness to listeners through music.

Beth Cumming, Liz Bozma and Andrea Currie are the women behind the microphone during *Sister Sounds*, a show featuring female artists heard Sundays on CKDU from 7-8 pm. "We play women's music," explains Liz, "but in a feminist context."

Beth and Liz are concerned with the needs and tastes of female listeners that aren't being met by the male-defined radio industry. Through their show, they hope to introduce other women to broadcasting, and dispel so-called female "technophobia". They also wish to demystify the music industry, by emphasizing the messages contained in the music, often lost in the hype and glitter.

"We've started from an audience's perspective," says Beth. The DJs depend heavily on material borrowed from friends and roommates, and make an effort to honour listener requests. They developed a format based on weekly themes, such as women in

blues, women and work, and their most recent venture, women and sex. The themes allow them to emphasize the music's content, rather than glorifying the artists behind it.

"You get away from that building people up to be 'larger than life'," says Liz, who is concerned with the images portrayed by mainstream rock artists. "Most music is (written) from a male point of view," she comments. "You always have a guy pretty well masturbating over his guitar."

While rejecting sexual stereotypes common to the music industry, Beth and Liz readily play the music of glamorous pop artists such as Madonna, described by Liz as "a pre-packaged male fantasy". Beth explains that the context of the show prevents the powerful messages conveyed in the music of Madonna and Janet Jackson from being misinterpreted. "Our whole point of the show isn't to react to men."

Music has always played an important role in Beth's life, and she is currently interested in pop and reggae. Liz's musical tastes lean more towards new wave and

soul, and she cites favourite bands as being the Raincoats, Sweet Honey in the Rock and the AuPairs.

One complaint the DJs have is with the limited selection of alternative feminist material in the CKDU record library, partly due to thefts. Alternative feminist music counters the belief that women must be thin, blond and white to succeed in the business. Liz is particularly impressed with singer Deborah Iyall of Romeo Void. Deborah's large size has generated criticism, and many feel that the sexual feeling and opinions expressed by her music are inappropriate and distasteful. The singer once remarked, "What's it to me if some jerk can't get a hard-on? I'll dance to that!"

Perhaps inspired by Deborah's positive outlook, Liz shares insights about hosting the show. "Now I feel a lot more confident," she says, "and I even think I'm feeling a bit more raunchy." Adds Beth, "It makes you realize that media is just a bunch of people... it's not infallible."

Women wishing to become a part of *Sister Sounds* are encouraged to phone Liz at 422-3785.

THE CALENDAR

ART

● **Dalhousie Art Gallery** Sculptures and drawings by Halifax artist John Greer will be on exhibit from March 19 - April 19. Dalhousie University Theatre designer Peter Perina will exhibit photographs and models of his scenographic work throughout the same time period.

● **Anna Leonowens Gallery**, 1891 Granville St. Recent works by Dierdre Logue/Bob Campbell will be on exhibit until March 21. An exhibition of jewellery, hollowware and enamel, organized by the Metal Arts Guild of Ontario will open March 24. The Printmakers Student Group Show will open on the same date.

● **Nova Scotia Museum**, 1747 Summer Street. Images of Lunenburg County March 9 to May 2. The Illustrated Bird in Canada—March 7 to May 31.

● **Eye Level Gallery**, 2182 Gortingen Street, 2nd Floor, 425-6412. *Time For a Gift*, a photographic exhibit by Nova Scotia artists Robert Bean and David Craig will be on display from March 11 until March 28.

THURSDAYS 19

● **Halifax Amnesty International Group** will hold its monthly meeting this evening at 8:00 pm in room 318 of the SUB. A video entitled "Nation In Anguish" will be shown to illustrate the Human Rights concerns in Sri Lanka. All are welcome!

● **A slide presentation about Europe** will be held at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, Lower Water St., Halifax at 7:30 pm. The program is sponsored by the Canadian Hostelling Association — Nova Scotia. There is no charge to attend and everyone is welcome.

FRIDAY 20

● **Caribbean Awareness Day** in the SUB lobby from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

● **CBIE Regional Conference**. Hosted by DAL and NSCAD will begin today and continue tomorrow. For more info call 424-7077.

● **Public Lecture** sponsored by the School of Library and Information Studies will be held in the MacMechan Auditorium at the Killiam Library. Dr James Taylor will discuss *Information Technology in the Information Society*. The lecture will start at 11:45 am.

● **Psychology Colloquia** on *The Effects of the Environment on*

Cat Visual Cortex will be given by Dr. C. Beaulieu in room 4258/63 of the LSC at 3:30 pm.

● **Professional Power in Health Care Organizations**, given by Dr. Ross Baker, School of Health Services Administration, Dalhousie University. Room 201, Sociology Complex, 2:30 pm.

● **Chemistry Seminar** on *Colloidal Polymer Particles* and their use in reprographic technologies will be given by Dr. Mel Croucher in room 215 of the LSC at 1:15 pm.

SATURDAY 21

● **Caribanza '87**, a Tropical Explosion happens on March 21st from 7 pm - 1 am in the McInnis room, SUB. It is a cultural show, dinner and dance by the St. Mary's, Dal-Mount Caribbean Societies.

MONDAY 23

● **Chemistry Seminar** on *Confusing Controversies Concerning Conductors: The many Phase Transitions of V2O3* will be given by Dr. J.M. Honig in room 215 of the LSC at 1:15 pm.

TUESDAY 24

● **The Dartmouth Regional Library** presents a workshop on *Heart Attacks* at 10:00 am at the Woodlawn Branch.

WEDNESDAY 25

● **Chemistry Seminar** on *High Resolution Cross-section Measurements of Atmospheric Molecules* will be given by Dr. R. Yochino in room 215 of the LSC at 1:15 pm.

● **The Dartmouth Regional Library** will hold a workshop on *Pensions* at 7:30 pm at the Woodlawn Branch.

THURSDAY 26

● **Academic Seminar** by Eldred Masunungure, *Public Adminis-*

tration in Post Colonial Zimbabwe — Status Quo, or Insurgency?, at the Centre for African Studies Seminar Room, 16:00.

● **Tragedy and Christian Liberty** will be the topic of the lecture by the Rt. Revd. C. Fitzsimons Allison, D. Phil., Bishop of South Carolina, at 8:30 pm in the Haliburton Room, King's College. He will also preach the 5:00 pm Eucharist in the King's College Chapel.

International Students Association invites you to find out about the issues at the Atlantic ISA Conference this weekend. Come out to any or all of the workshops or presentation. (Don't forget Caribanza!) Some highlights:

Friday 20 March

8:00 p.m. Registration, Council Chambers, SUB.

9:00 p.m. Dinner, 1233 LeMarchant St.

Saturday 21 March

1:30-3:00 p.m. Health and

Hospital Insurance. Lester Pearson Institute, 1321 Edward

St. The stronger the student organization the stronger the students' voice: 3:00-4:15 p.m. workshop: Effective organization of International Student groups, room 224.

7:00 p.m. Caribanza! Great food and entertainment in council chambers.

Sunday 22 March

9:00 a.m. Immigration and Work Permits, Room 226.



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THE CALENDAR

COMMUNITY

●**What can I do with my hair?** is a workshop for young adults to be held at 7:00 pm on Thursday, March 19 at the Woodlawn Branch of the Dartmouth Regional Library.

●**Press Conference** Donal Begley, the chief Herald of Ireland, will present a coat of arms for the Chair of Irish Studies at a press conference at St Mary's University at 11:00 am, on St. Patrick's Day, March 17. The coat of arms will be presented to the University's President, Dr. Kenneth L. Ozmon.

The press conference will be held in the Board Room in the McNally Building on the St Mary's campus. For more information, please call Anne West, 429-9780 or 429-5941.

●**Family Service Association** is offering a program called Life After Divorce to begin the week of March 23rd. Life After Divorce is a short-term, child focused program designed to help both parents and children deal with the inevitable tensions caused by the breakdown of marriage. For more information call the Family Service Association at 420-1980.

●**The annual exhibition** and general meeting of the N.S. Salmon Association will be held at St. Pat's High School gymnasium, Halifax, N.S. on Sunday,

March 29th from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm. The event features fly fishing exhibits, demonstrations, special speakers, and prizes drawn every half hour. Association membership fee of \$7 is required for admission. For further information, please contact Katharine Rice, 424-2526.

●**Newfoundland Seal Hunt**, is the topic of the illustrated talk by David Flemming, director of the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic. The award winning NFB film *Blackwood* which depicts the lives of sealers through prints created by Newfoundland-born artist, David Blackwood, will be shown at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, March 24 at the Museum at 1675 Lower Water Street.

●**Consider upgrading** your business office skills! *The Halifax YWCA* 1239 Barrington St., is offering introductory and advanced courses in wordprocessing and microcomputers beginning on March 23. Classes are held in the evenings, 5-7 pm and 7:30-9:30 pm. For more info, call Marg Murray, 423-6162.

●**Caribanza '87**, a tropical explosion happens on March 21st from 7pm-1am in the McInnis Room, SUB. It is a cultural show, dinner and dance by the Saint Mary's, Dal-Mount Caribbean Societies

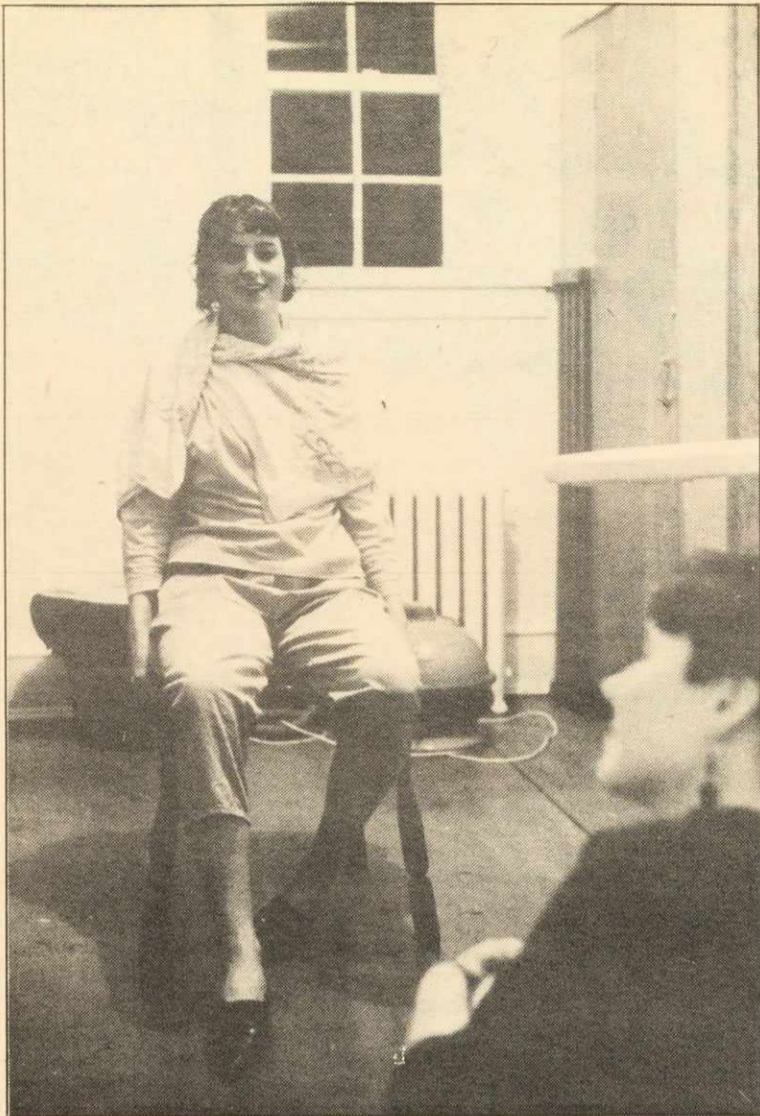
●**The Word is Out**, CKDU-FM's lesbian and gay public affairs show, can be heard every Monday at 5:45 pm (97.5 on your dial). Meetings for *The Word is Out* are held every Sunday at 3:30 pm in CKDU offices, 4th floor Dal SUB.

●**St Mary's University Blood Donor Clinic** will be held in the Multi-Purpose Room (L230) on Thursday, March 19 at 2-4:30 pm and at 6:30-8:30 pm.

●**A Lenten Bible Study** sponsored by the United Church Community will be held every Thursday until the week ending April 10. The studies will be held in the Chaplains' office at the SUB. Each meeting will begin at 12:30 pm. All are welcome!

●**Help Line's Annual Skate-a-thon** will be held Sunday March 29, 1987 from 12:30 pm to 3:00 pm at the Dalhousie rink. Frank Cameron will be hosting the event featuring 50's music costumes, prizes, refreshments, "Tippi" the clown and face painting for children. To join in the fun and skate for pledges to raise funds for help line's community services, contact help line office at 422-2048.

●**Veith House** requires Volunteer help for its *Outreach Tutoring Program*. Tutoring takes place on a one-to-one basis with School aged children between grades 1 and 12. For more information please call 453-4320.



What can I do with my hair? (see 'community') Photo by Ariella Pahlke

THEATRE/DANCE

●**The National Tap Dance Company of Canada** will hold its 10th Anniversary with a gala performance on Saturday, April 4 at 8:00 pm at the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium. Tickets are \$10.50 and are available at the Cohn box office.

●**New Dance** a combination of dance and gymnastics will premier at The Church, 5657 North St. on March 19 and 20 at 8:00 pm. Local and national artists will be featured in this event. For more info contact the Eye Level Gallery at 425-6412.

●**Neptune Theatre**, 429-7070. David French's *Salt Water Moon* is on stage until March 29.

●**King's Theatrical Society** will present the musical *Godspell* at the King's Chapel Theatre from March 19-21 at 8:00 pm and on Sunday at 2:00 pm. Tickets are \$6.00 and \$4.00 for students. The tickets are available at the door or in advance at the King's college General Office.

●**Bazaar and Rummage**, a two-act play by Sue Townsend, directed by Caitlyn Colquhoun, will be staged at 8 pm March 20, 21 and 22 in the Multi-Purpose

FILMS

●**The Harder They Come** is a film starring Jimmy Cliff that will be shown at the Burke Education Centre (SMU), Theatre A on Friday, March 27 at 7 and 9:15 pm. The film will also be shown at the Life Sciences Building (DAL), room 240 on Saturday, March 28 at 7 and 9:15 pm. Admission will be \$3.00 with proceeds going to the Caribbean Information Group's medical and educational projects.

●**DSU Sunday Cinema** presents the film *Back To the Future* on March 22 at 8:00 pm in the McIn-

nis Room of the SUB.

●**Wormwood's Cinema**, 1588 Barrington St. will be screening The British film *Nineteen Nineteen* from March 20-26 at 7 and 9:15 pm each evening.

●**National Film Board**, 1571 Argyle St. will be screening Roman Polanski's film *Repulsion* March 19-22 at 7 and 9:15 pm each evening.

●**The Cohn Travel Film Series** presents the film *Russia - Land of Contrasts* on March 26 at 8:00 pm. Tickets are \$5.00 and \$4.00 for students and seniors.

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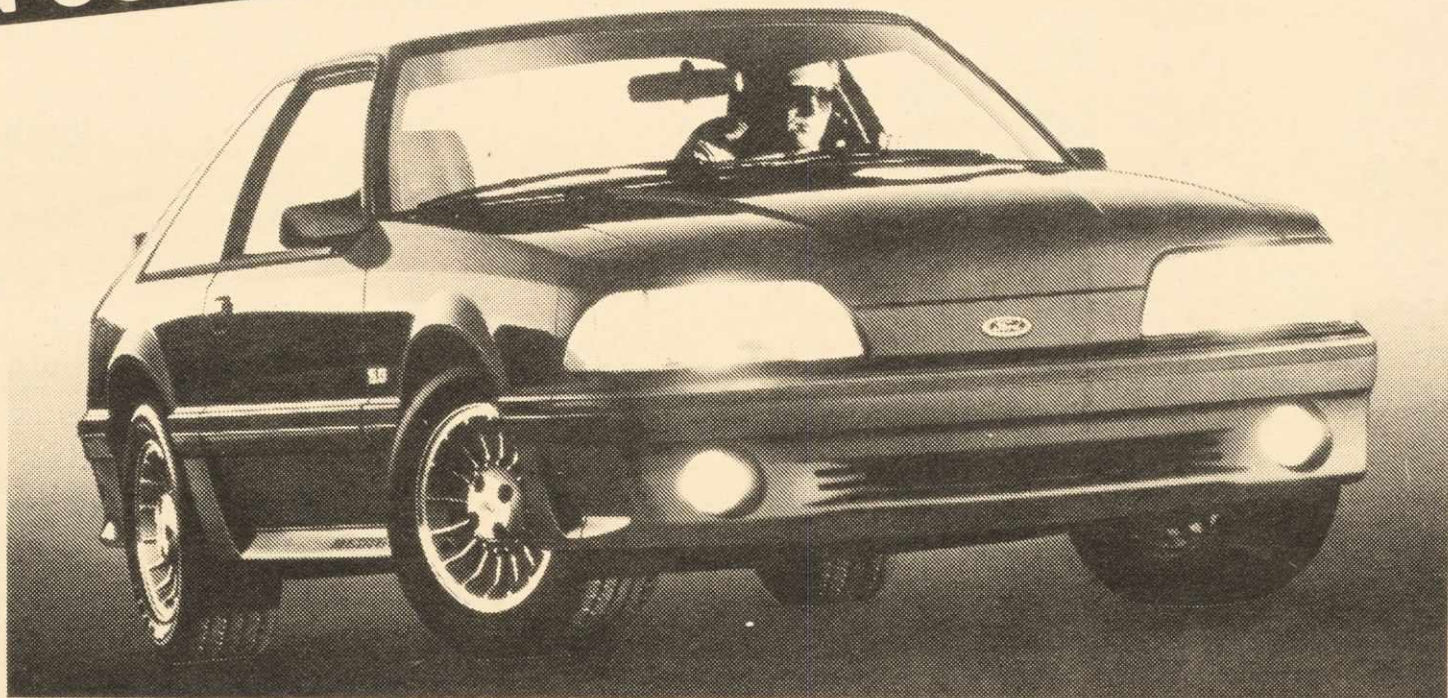
MUSIC

●**Naropa Institute** presents an evening of poetry and music with *Allen Ginsberg* and friends. Friday, March 20, 8:00 pm at Club Flamingo on Gottingen \$10 (\$7 for students). On Saturday, March 21, Allen Ginsberg will teach a workshop on the "beat" generation poets at 1084 Tower Road, from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm. \$30 (\$20 for students). For more information, call 422-2940.

●**Flute Recital** will be held at St. Andrews United church on the corner of Robie and Coburg. The recital will take place on Wednesday, March 25 at 8:00 pm and admission will be \$4.00.

●**The Early Music Society** presents *Anonymous*, a troupe of Medieval Minstrels who will perform at the Canadian Martyrs' Church happening this Friday, March 27 at 8:00 pm. Admission is \$12.00 and \$8.00.

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