

Northern Woman

NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO
WOMEN'S PUBLICATION

Journal 50¢

Volume 3

Issue 4



Inside this issue

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WORKING
WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

GUIDELINES TO EQUAL CREDIT
OPPORTUNITIES



Editorial

If you cannot see the sap of self-satisfaction oozing out of our pages this issue, you have cause to question your awareness. Just when it seemed the cup was full, our powerful sisters, the Equal Pay Collective rolled out their Working Women's Conference, as smooth as glass and filled us all with pride in their professional ability to infuse an impressive roster of guests and an enthusiastic crowd of over 200 with the kind of solidarity that produces strong no-nonsense resolutions on behalf of working women.

Meanwhile, here at the Journal, we are being corrupted by the rarity of being salaried, and are plotting how we can make the condition last. A series of meetings to lease a larger space to house several groups actively working for better conditions for women, has produced a miracle. A restaurant adjoining the Northern Woman Journal - with an adjoining door yet! We have to this date, a commitment for residency from the Northern Women's Centre, The Northern Women's Credit Union, Crisis Homes Inc., and of course the Journal. We expect a decision from the Decade Council to take their place as a committed action group. Look for details of the opening of this new headquarters, un-named as yet but seen here as an adventure in solidarity.

The new Women's Credit Union is flourishing. Its grand opening will probably coincide with the opening of the new quarters. The response has been so immediate with share capital, its future is assured as a viable source of credit as well as a future self-maintaining business.

Look for a special edition in May geared to the young women of the High Schools. We have already begun to get exciting input from these creative young people and hope to showcase both their intellect and artistry. The Journal is growing in relevance to an increasing number of both men and women and, in the days that lie ahead, will chronicle faithfully without fear or favour the conditions that upset us as concerned human beings, and the measures we take collectively and separately to protest them. Bring the Northwestern Ontario Women's movement into your home via a subscription to the Journal and get yourself a piece of the action. Use us for your forum of opinion, to publicize your activities and write to us as to how we could better meet your expectations as a journal that exists to advance the cause of women.

We must not live just as women but as artists, open and daring but always alive to our own experience, listening and assertive both, trying out our newfound voices but knowing as we do that the music we are making will not be just ours, but that of a great chorus.

Elizabeth Janeway

This is the second letter we have received from Margaret Trudeau. The first was one in which she stated her support to the Women's Centre and the Journal. Gert wrote a letter thanking her for her support and the following is her answer.

24 Sussex Drive

Dear Gert Beadle:

I was very touched by your letter and want to assure you that I am interested in groups working on improving the quality of our society in all regions in Canada. I know that the specific needs must differ from community to community, but that in the end they reflect the general need.

I look forward to receiving a copy of the Northern Woman Regional Journal.

Sincerely, and in sisterhood,

Margaret Trudeau

Gert's Gospel

THE SNOB STORY

Snobbery is an old vice. When the wily serpent thought himself to have a truth that superseded every other truth, he printed it chapter and verse on the only audience he had and established himself as a superior intellect and a first class snob. Myth or fable, the drama plays its little charade in the name of truth whenever a difference of opinion dares to challenge.

One normally supposes snobbery operates from the top down but on closer scrutiny, we see it up, down and cross-wise and it takes some fancy footwork to avoid the self-satisfaction it brings. Our truth is our total experience, as fluid as tears. It forms and reforms and it grows no larger than we grow. Why we should imagine foisting as tenuous a thing as the sum of what is ours alone on our human family is the worst kind of snobbery.

Splits and factions and divisions, levels and strata and classes, high style, no style and life style, progressives, regressives and passives - a million truths and all with something to teach us. What a feast for the intellect to pick and choose without pressure! Would we see each other differently if we had nothing to sell? Would we love each other better if we felt no need to buy? The Messianic fever that sends minorities flailing about to establish their personal and collective wisdom as eternal truth, is retarding our growth as thinkers. We are the truth and in us resides the capacity to distinguish what refines or retards the person we like to live with (our selves). We can be weary foot-soldiers in a divided army that may or may not stone each other to death before we ever "see the whites of the enemies' eyes". Indeed, we may be so preoccupied pushing our own point of view that we will never recognize the all-pervasive danger that threatens us.

However relevant the philosophy, unless emotional maturity plays its part, unless we approach our personal relations with our own sisters with integrity and a code of behavior that fosters trust, we cannot hope to have an impact on those who view us with justified suspicion. The movement itself flows in many directions but like rivers and creeks it flows to a certain sea. Let's keep the current open and the water sweet.

Thunder Clap

To the International Women's Decade Co-ordinating Council Sub-committee, Equal Pay Collective, for the fantastic Working Women's Conference Held on March 11th, 12th, and 13th.



Thunder Bolt

To "Canada Works" (the new Manpower and Immigration make work programme) that will be exploiting workers by paying wages of \$122. per week.

Cost of advertising in the Northern Woman's Journal:

- 1) 5 by 5 (25 sq. in.) \$35.
- 2) 3 by 5 (15 sq. in.) \$20.
- 3) 2 by 5 (6 sq. in.) \$12.

We reserve the right to select those ads we are prepared to publish. Some non-profit groups are eligible for reduced rates.

Dear Editor, and

Friends of "Northern Woman",
With the enclosed cheque for three dollars, I shall be glad to receive your paper for another year. Owing to eye trouble that makes newspaper reading difficult, I have sent the latest issues to Hazel Wigdon of our Editorial Committee.

As the struggle of the Women's Decade goes on, and we do our best for Development and Peace, and take as full a part as we can to bring these about in our country and across the world - then I think we shall win Equality.

But until we do, the gap between men and women will possibly even widen.

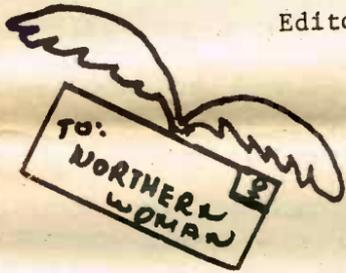
In our society, so largely controlled by the multi-national corporations whose aim is money and power, we as women are the easiest victims. If not always just in Canada, then in Taiwan South America, Africa - where ever the great companies are powerful - even our own Alcan in Jamaica for instance.

But I do believe in the growing struggle, and believe that the women's part in it is extremely important and it will help us to win out.

Sincerely,
Nora Rodd
Toronto, Ont.

We cannot express too strongly what a joy it is to hear from a woman we know to be over eighty years old, an expression of solidarity and encouragement. Our deepest admiration and love for this senior sister.

Editors



Dear Northern Woman;

Please find enclosed six dollars for my subscription to Northern Woman which is long overdue. Hope this will at least bring me up to date. I enjoy your paper and I think you girls are doing a great job. Keep up the good work and good luck in the future.

Sincerely,
Ruby Roulston
Abbotsford, B.C.

Dear Sisters;

Received Issue No 3 of the Northern Woman on the last mail plane and cannot express the joy it brought me.

Have been teaching Adult Education here in Webequie Ont. for the past five months and as a consequence have been totally out of touch with the outside world except for news passed on through letters from friends. Your paper certainly was enlightening; congratulations to all who have worked so hard to give women the support they need.

I will be returning to Thunder-Bay in April and as soon as I have an address will be one of your ardent supporters.

Peace and Friendship,
Chris Torre, Webequie
Ont.

Dear Women;

As a subscriber and an avid reader of your paper, I would like to know more about those of you who put it together.

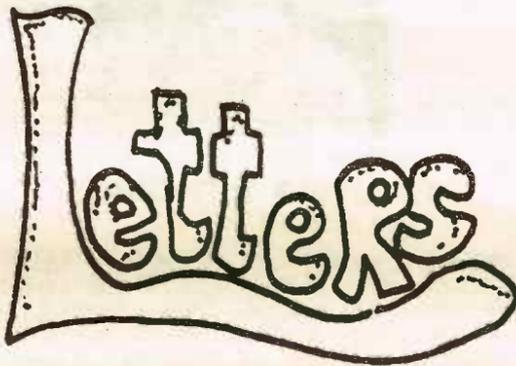
To some of my non-subscribing friends, you represent a nebulous group of "women libbers". However, whatever else your name and image implies, it does seem to pose a threat to many men and some women.

Reddem yourselves. Why first names only? You would appear far more credible with some background info on yourselves.

No harm in asking!
Curious Dorothy

* Although you didn't sign your last name, we are printing your letter. We, as a collective don't put much credence in marital status, age, etc. However, you have a point about last names. Perhaps we don't take ourselves seriously enough. See next issue.

Editor.



Hello!

I'd like to subscribe to your magazine. I heard about it through Laurie Hill. I was travelling from England to Holland, and met Laurie on the train to Amsterdam. We got a place together in Amsterdam and Laurie continued the next day to Copenhagen, and I to Assen, Holland. I joined up again with Laurie in Oslo where we stayed with a friend of hers, also from Thunder Bay, for a few weeks. I returned home shortly before Christmas, and have received a couple of letters from Laurie since. You probably already know she's in Greece and it sounds like she's having a great time. She just said to let you know that I'd met her, so....I have.

Back to business!

I'm not sure of your subscription rates; I'll send a money order as soon as you fill me in on the price.

Thank you
Judi Gough
Sault Ste. Marie

Dear People;

I am writing on behalf of myself and one of my friends. We are doing a project on Women's Rights.

We are wondering if it would be possible for you to send us information on Women's Rights in the form of pamphlets, newspapers or other material.

Our project is due on April 20/77 so we would be most appreciative if you could send them as soon as possible.

Rosemary Shuslawry
Thunder Bay

Dear Editor;

I was really impressed by the radical view on women in the work force, "New Ways..." in your last issue but was disappointed that the writer didn't even suggest one positive remedy for improving the situation.* No mention was made either about discrimination towards women who work for self-employed husbands. This area is not too visible or well-known perhaps. I am only one of the many wageless women who are so employed.

By law, an unincorporated business cannot deduct as a business expense any money paid to a wife who works in any capacity for such a business. The attitude being (in my view) that such women are not viewed as working for the business, but rather working for their husbands, so are not entitled to a wage.

Women are still legally the property of men and any service provided is considered as just part and parcel of being a wife. The inequality in this law is more blatant when you consider this same self-employed business man can employ and deduct as a business expense any wage paid to a son or daughter.

I have been working for over 8 years with my husband and alone for three of those years while he was recovering from a stroke; expanding, operating, being open long hours, and doing the bookkeeping for our/his confectionary store. We have a large family and the child-rearing duties were also my job. We, or should I say my husband, is now talking about selling the store. For my contribution, I'll get nothing, not even C.P.P. as I was not eligible to participate.

Sorry for going on like this, but I am angry. I hope the Working Women's Conference can in some way protest this injustice. I cannot attend; I am working on Saturdays. In the meantime, I hope other women who work for their husbands will write your paper and also write to the new minister in charge... The Honourable Monique Begin, Dept. of National Revenue, Parliament Bldgs. Ottawa, Ont.

Sincerely,
Jane S.

*We were remiss in adding that the article would be continued in the next issue. See page 10.

Dear Northern Woman;

It seems that I have been delinquent in paying for my subscription, and there is no excuse for it. I can only apologize for my procrastination. As I am enlightened by, and enjoy reading your publication, I would still like to continue receiving it. Please accept the money as a payment for two years subscriptions.

Oh, and keep up the good work, I'm sure our sisters everywhere appreciate your hard work and dedication. Thanks again!

Lots of love
your sister
Kate
Thunder Bay

bits & pieces

AND CONGRATULATIONS

TO Lorraine Smith from Ear Falls for being selected for the Ontario Status of Women Council. Her presence on the council indicates another step in removing barriers that were a detriment to the potential of that Council.

TO Roberta Wren from Ignace, who has been chosen Citizen of the Year by the township council. Through her efforts, Ignace now has a Library with 9,000 books on the shelf and a membership of 700 adults and 300 youngsters.

OUR CONGRATULATIONS

TO Maria Seymore for being chosen Woman of the Year by Kenora Business and Professional Women for outstanding service to her native brothers and sisters. A teacher of Ojibway language for the past six seasons at Confederation College, she also translates on a volunteer basis at the Kenora Jail, works in the summer camp for children in the care of the Children's Aid Society, teaching them Indian crafts, and advises the Foster Parents Association in the care of native children. She currently works part-time for the probation after-care in the Juvenile Division. These are only a few of the things Maria has lent her time and talents to. Her recognition as Woman of the Year is simple justice. That she accepts it as a tribute to her race's potential makes her a worthy candidate of the honour.



from New York Times

anais nin dies

LOS ANGELES--Anais Nin, the widely-read writer, died of cancer at Cedars of Lebanon Hospital on Friday, January 14. She was nearly seventy-four years-old. Her diaries and novels discussed sexuality openly and were enjoyed by many women.



SPECIAL THANKS

To all those who included something extra along with subscription rates both brothers and sisters and especially to Marg Bengtsson whose gift of calligraphy has given us a new look.

THE NORTHERN WOMEN'S CENTRE, for reasonable rates, will produce copies of notices, announcements, etc. We retain the right to refuse work from groups affiliated with a political party.



THE CO-OP BOOKSHOP AND RECORD CENTRE

182 S. Algoma Str.
Phone: 345-8912
Open: 10 A.M.-5 P.M.
Monday to Saturday

In New York City, a class action suit is under way against the New York Police and the Family Court. It is being filed by one of 12 married women who were seriously beaten by their husbands and were then refused assistance by the police and the family court. This is the first time ever that such legal action has been taken by women. The National Congress of Neighbourhood women and other women's groups who were active in organizing the suit are also demanding funds to provide shelters for battered wives. They insist that these shelters must be controlled by women's groups, not by the state. This class action suit follows on the heels of a large speak-out in NYC by battered wives, most of whom were poor and working class, nearly half of whom were black.

In Vancouver, a research group sponsored by the United Way has just completed an extensive study of Wife Battering. Included in their Recommendations are the establishment of Transition Houses. We must ensure that such new Houses are staffed and controlled by feminists.

Good Numbers

AL ANON	345-2711
ARTISTS CO-OP	622-9577
ANTI-POVERTY	622-1538
NORTHERN WOMEN'S CENTRE	622-3989
WOMEN IN NEIGHBOURHOODS	623-8411
NORTHERN WOMAN JOURNAL	345-5841
SOCIAL SERVICES	623-2711
CRISIS INTERVENTION	344-3571
FAMILY COUNSELLING	623-9596
LEGAL AID	345-1972
TELECARE	344-1192
SMITH CLINIC	344-2471
CRISIS HOUSING	623-2711
HUMAN RIGHTS COMM.	475-1693
EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS	475-1691
MUNICIPAL DAY CARE	344-3922
FREE CLINIC	344-0727

News

LAST LAUGH

New York - Tex Antoine, TV weather reporter/sketcher of a quarter-century, blew his cover and his \$100,000 a year job; after a news item on the rape of an eight year-old girl, Tex guffawed that, according to Confucius, if a rape victim can't avoid attack she might as well enjoy it.

Within 25 minutes, 650 unamused watchers called the station, ABC, to complain. Tex was indefinitely suspended for an "inexcusable lapse of judgement".

info from Washington Star

EQUAL UNDER THE LAW

Chicago - Angela Winslow was arrested on charges of failing to have proper gun registration and discharging a firearm within the city limits. She had discharged this improperly registered gun within the even narrower limits of her 15th floor apartment - at a man who broke into it, raped her friend who was visiting her, and then threw her friend from the window (her friend escaped death by landing on the building's canopy and was taken to hospital in serious condition.)

info from Lesbian Voices

WHAT'S THE WORLD COMING TO?

Adelaide, Australia - Rape within marriage was made a crime by the South Australia parliament, the first such law in that country. In the US only Michigan wives have the right under the law to accuse their husbands of rape, but similar provisions are being considered in Florida, California and Washington, D.C.

info from Washington Post

BEATER BEATEN

(NY) - Julio Elias was sentenced to three years in prison for beating his wife with a kitchen chair, a screwdriver, a bicycle wheel "and anything else he could get his hands on."

When he was arrested, he said "What's wrong? She's my wife." Elias pleaded guilty to first degree assault; the case was resolved by plea bargaining.

Info from Washington Star

CINDERELLA: TAKE ONE

Swept and shovelled and scraped
and scrimped and saved
only a dollar a week
but that was enough to
purchase a winning lottery ticket
entitling her
to 1 fairy godmother
1 pumpkin coach drawn by mice footmen
good for 1 passage to ball and
return by midnight of same day only

and after the ball was over
and the prince disappeared
and she needed an abortion

at the rate of saving only a
dollar a week
and she had the baby
and was lucky enough
to be given her old job back
and who knows
the baby might grow up to
purchase a winning lottery ticket
of its own.

Eve Merriam

credit Newfoundland Status of
Women Council Newsletter.

We, the willing
Led by the unknowing
Are doing the impossible
For the ungrateful.

We have been doing so much
For so long, with so little,
We are now qualified
To do anything
With nothing.

Weendamahgawin News
(Indian Friendship Centre)

WHAT IS LIFE?

It is the gracefulness of a goose
in flight

It is the breath of a buffalo in the
winter time

It is the swiftness of a deer in fright,

It is the tear on my face.
For it can be wiped away,
Like nature can slowly be.

J. Pierre

SAILING ON THE SEA

Sailing on a sail boat
and feeling free,
To be able to see the beauty
which has surrounded me.
To be able to ride on the water
and to smell the sea.
This is heaven
Which I have just seen.

I'm glad to sail on the sea.
For it brings a great feeling to me.
It feels as if the sea
was part of me.
I'm happy to sail on the sea,
So Lord let it be.

Sailing on a sail boat
and feeling the breeze,
Where there's no smoke
that could choke
the air out of me.
I prayed Lord
that I see these things.
Then, the good Lord
let these things be.

Colleen Aubé
(age 14)

Thunder Bay

It isn't always easy to
see another point of view.
In our conceited righteousness
We want our friends to think like us.
We only see the surface of
what moves the people that we love,
and so we strike to wound and shame
those who refuse to play our game.
How recklessly we make the break,
when only FRIENDSHIP is at stake.

Gert

Fear of rape is a cold wind
blowing
all of the time on a woman's
hunched back.
Never stroll alone on a sand
road through pinewoods,
never to climb a trail across
a bald without that aluminum
in the mouth when
I see a man climbing towards me.

Never open the door to a knock
Without that razor just grazing
the throat.
The fear of the dark side of the
hedges,
the back seat of a car, the
empty house
rattling keys like a snake's
warning.
The fear of the smiling man in
whose pocket is a knife
waiting to glide its shark's
length between the ribs.
The fear of the serious man
in whose fist is locked hatred.

All it takes to cast a rapist
is to be able to see your body
as jackhammer, as blowtorch,
as adding-machine-gun.
All it takes is hating that
body
your own, your self, your muscle
that softens to flab.

All it takes is to push what you
hate,
what you fear onto the soft
alien flesh,
To bucket out invincible as a
tank
armoured with treads without
senses
to possess and punish in one act,
to rip up pleasure, to murder
those who dare
live in the leafy flesh open
to love.

Marge Piercy
Wellfleet, Mass.

What I am telling you here
is that I have lost
what he called a state of grace
and what I felt
as a thread of mist.

It was lost long ago I tell you
And the black river for the third time
is lower on its banks.
First full with spring
Second gone in the winter
Third gone in the fall.

I listen to many voices I tell you
and they all hum
and my words float out

I still hear the drips of water
loud and echoing in the steel structure
that once issued clangs
that once was not there.

Is it being built or torn down I ask you
tell me
tell me
am I being built or torn down?

(Berceuse, berceuse, will you always mourn?)

And I am lost goddamn you-
if I cannot conceive that I am being built
and torn down simultaneously
Even as I tread unevenly in the muddy tracks
of a giant machine-
Even as a leaf brushes my neck and leaves it wet.

Deirdre Hamill
Thunder Bay

POETRY

DREAM OF TROPICAL ISLES

When tired of winter's
sleet and snow,
To some tropical isle
I long to go,
Where warm gentle
breezes blow -
And palm trees sway
to and fro,
Over sunny silvery sands.
In real life it does
not seem possible,
Enjoyed by the rich -
seldom the poor,
In dreamland fate evens
up the score,
How could you ask for more.

Sheila DesChenes
age 12

Thunder Bay

IDENTITY

Call me Mrs. Miss, Ms,
It doesn't mean
A damn.
I am what I am.

I do not need
To pose.
To quote G. Stein:
"A rose, is a rose,
Is a rose"

Janet Craig-James



Guidelines to Equal Credit Opportunity

WHY A WOMAN'S CREDIT UNION?

Those of us who are founding members of the new Women's Credit Union find ourselves explaining daily why it is that we who so vocally strive for equality should now exclude that other sex who have plainly believed that the handling of money is their forte.

Our case was made for us by Robert Cooper, the ombudsman for C.B.C. on Feb. 6 when the question of woman's right to borrow on her own merit and ability to pay was challenged by a manager of a bank. Sidney Handleman the Provincial Minister, who clearly draws the government position of non-discrimination, shifted the responsibility to those in positions of authority at the executive level in the money lending institutions. That these officials have not as yet personally accepted women as equally responsible or sufficiently solvent to pay will remove women from the touted government policy until a new generation of men or women, as the case may be, bring an enlightened approach to the lending institutions.

The new women's Credit Union was conceived and formed out of our own impatience to wait for that great rebirth of new values. We have undertaken to do for each other what clearly is not being done in the market place, and to make the exercise a learning experience in the process. Our officers have been chosen with care. Among our shareholders is a former, now retired, manager of one of the most successful credit unions in the area. Her knowledge and advice ensures our success. The sale of shares is brisk and encourages us to believe that most women do not question the reason for our existence but see in us an avenue to broader equality.

To our aggrieved brethren who would support us if we allowed it, we apologize for the necessity that shuts you out, but we are convinced for the moment that the credit union slogan "NOT FOR PROFIT BUT FOR SERVICE" will find its highest expression when intelligent, dedicated and compassionate women deal with other women in the money marketplace.

Two major guidelines have been set out for consideration of the individual's application:

1. A married woman shall be granted credit in her own name if her credit qualifications, including her earnings or separate property are such that a man possessing the same credit qualifications and property or earnings would receive credit.

2. An unmarried woman shall be granted credit if her credit qualifications, property or earnings are such that a man possessing the same credit qualifications, property or earnings would receive credit.

To expand upon the general statements above, creditors shall continue to conduct their business affairs, holding to these principles.

1. Hold women and men to the same standards in determining creditworthiness.

2. Extend credit to a credit worthy married woman in her own name.

3. Refrain from refusing to extend credit to a newly separated, divorced or widowed woman solely because of her change in marital status.

4. Apply the same standards to the extending of credit, including mortgage transactions, regardless of which spouse is the primary supporter of the family.

5. Observe the same standards in requiring credit data on the spouse regardless of the sex of the applicant.

6. Change in marital status shall not be the sole consideration in requiring re-application for previously issued credit cards or the re-negotiation of the existing credit arrangements.

7. Consider a spouse's income, if necessary when a couple applies for credit.

8. Consider alimony and child support as a source of income.

9. In appraising a woman's credit worthiness, consider her credit history when single or married.

10. An individual's credit-rating shall not be altered solely on the basis of the credit-rating of the spouse.

11. A credit reporting agency shall upon request of a spouse, keep a separate file on the husband and wife.

Credit is a form of borrowing. It is a way of obtaining goods, services, or money in exchange for a promise to pay for them at some future time. Using credit has both advantages and disadvantages.

con't from pg 11

each spouse free to engage in a business without having to have the other spouse's agreement or opinion in individual transactions. However, where both spouses actually participate in the business, the contribution of each would be recognized. Bill 14C 7(2) "where one spouse has contributed work, money or money's worth in respect of the acquisition, management, maintenance, operation, or improvement of property in which the other has an interest, the court may by order:

- a) direct the payment of an amount in compensation therefore; or
- b) award an interest in the property appropriate to the contribution.

JOINT TENANCY OF REAL PROPERTY, JOINT BANK ACCOUNTS, SAVINGS, DEPOSITS, ETC

Bill 140 8a) The fact that property is placed or taken in the name of spouses as joint tenants shall be prima facia proof that a joint tenancy of the beneficial interest in the property is intended

- b) money on deposit in a bank, savings office, credit union or trust company in the name of both spouses shall be deemed to be in the name of the spouse as joint tenants" and that beneficial interest in the property is intended.

Next issue: Bill 140 - Support Obligations

by Joan Packota, Thunder Bay Club, Canadian Federation of University Women.

News on the Metro Toronto Women's Credit Union:

They have been in operation for one year and have 430 members and assets over \$100,000. They now are offering five-percent interest on savings, to be paid quarterly on the minimum quarterly balance.

NORTHERN WOMEN'S CREDIT UNION NEWS

They have been in existence for approximately two months and have a membership of 70 women. Theirs assets to date are over \$6300.00. They would like to thank all women who supported them to date and encourage more women to invest.

THE NORTHERN WOMEN'S CREDIT UNION IS NOW OPEN FROM 1 PM TO 9 PM ON TUESDAYS AT THE NORTHERN WOMEN'S CENTRE, 120 W. AMELIA ST., AND FROM 1 PM TO 4 PM ON TUESDAYS AT THE NORTHERN WOMAN REGIONAL JOURNAL, 316 BAY ST. MEMBERSHIP IS \$5.00 AND DEPOSITS CAN BE MADE.

Although credit-granting policies and practices have changed considerably in the past year or so, the whole credit-granting industry will not necessarily be aware of all the changes. If you are denied credit and believe you have been discriminated against because of your sex or marital status, ask to see the senior credit officer of the agency involved. Be prepared to assert your claim and to back it with facts. If your request for credit is still refused and you are not given a satisfactory explanation, contact the Women's Advisor of the Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations, 555 Yonge Street, Toronto.

Plea to Ombudsman!

Mr. Robert Cooper
CBC, Box 500
Stn. A Toronto

Sir:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter written to Mr. T.V. McCallum of the Law Society of B.C.

I am sure that in this vast country, there are many women who have been or are in the same position as I am. There are many questions which could be asked - why are women treated as they are?

It is my opinion that too many women are in complete ignorance of the law as it applies to them. I fail to understand why any man can use the law to his own advantage - there are many cases of "battered wives" that have never come to light. Being a woman, I can understand why many never do - if a charge is laid against the husband, he may very likely lose his job, which would leave the family in dire financial straits. In this case any sense of security that a woman has had is then completely done away with. If a woman is ignorant of the law, she does not have any knowledge of what can be done and she is fearful of retaliation if she stays in the immediate area. I believe every woman should have the opportunity to be as well-educated as she can in Family Law and her rights as an individual, and not just as a woman.

Naturally, every woman wants to keep her family and home together. For her, this has been a small source of security and safety, but why should she have to tolerate violence, abuse and mental anguish to do it? Would it not be far better if she were able to take steps to see that these things were not allowed to happen? My personal experience of trying to get help was met with indifference.

The children of such a union are the ones who suffer the most - torn between their love for both parents and unable to understand why these things are happening.

How many women in the country have suffered the anguish of a mental and physical breakdown, simply because they were forced to become too dependent on the husband to supply them with their only material and emotional needs--only to find that the husband cannot be relied upon for those needs when they are needed most?

When a woman has been out of the labour force for a number of years, a job is not easy to find, as I am discovering myself. In many instances it requires re-training, or perhaps even returning to school to complete an inadequate education. She has spent all her time caring for her family and home, which is really no different than if she were out working except that she is receiving no salary for her services. Her days are often much longer and she must be able to perform many tasks--nurse, housekeeper, laundress, chauffeur, carpenter, gardener--and on and on. It is an established fact that if every hus-

band had to pay his wife for all the services performed, he could not possibly afford to pay for them. For a woman, therefore, who has spent half of her life, or more, in this manner, it comes as a big shock to suddenly find herself, and has lost all or most of her possessions- a cruel and terrifying experience! At this point she is depressed and the very thought of court appearances and dealing with the law is one she simply CANNOT endure.

I believe that all household furnishings and other possessions should automatically become the property of both parties, and therefore an equal division be made of all these articles or a fair monetary settlement made for the person who has been deserted or forced to leave. Perhaps the husband did pay for all these possessions, but who but his spouse works hard at keeping them in good condition and caring for them. Why then are they not just as much hers, as his?

It seems to me the rights of women have been very badly neglected. How is a woman to survive when she has all her dignity stripped from her, and must try to begin again when she has so little earning power? And what of a woman who has small children - who is going to care for them and how great is the cost of any care she can secure for them, when she finally does find employment? It seems to me that men have dominated women long enough - they should no longer be allowed to do so. How many more women in this big country will suffer the same indignities and mental and physical abuse that I did, before something is done? Why must a woman be pushed to the very brink of mental and physical breakdown before anything can be done to help her?

It hardly seems fair for a woman who has been faithful, frugal, and hard-working, to be treated in such a shoddy manner! If my own personal investigation into this matter helps just one woman, then I shall feel that I have accomplished at least a small triumph in winning equal rights for women everywhere

Yours very truly,

Lillian E. Turner



The following is a copy of the letter to Mr. T.V. McCallum of the Law Society of B.C.

Sir;

Re: Divorce between Turner vs. Turner, Dec. 13, 1976

I am writing to you to inquire about legal procedures in a divorce

case which was recently completed before Judge Wetmore of the Supreme Court of British Columbia. My lawyer, here, Mr. John Hornak had asked for a copy of the Decree Nisi before it was to be heard in court, but never received one. At that time, certain properties had not yet been settled and to this day have not been properly settled. I feel I was deceived and denied any rights to object to or have any agreements changed, in that I received no copy of the Decree Nisi BEFORE the 3 month period was up. I also have not received a copy of specific charges laid against me, and the only ones I read were ones in the Petition for Divorce which I read at my lawyer's office all of which were quite incidental. Had not my oldest daughter Lori come to Thunder Bay for Christmas, I would still have no knowledge of the divorce or other agreements made. This, to me, is a highly unethical procedure and I wish to voice my strong objections to such procedures. I had to get in touch with my lawyer who then wrote for copies of both the Decree Nisi and the Decree Absolute. It was rather shocking and unnerving to find that legal action in which I was a participant had gone through legal channels without my knowledge or my counsel's knowledge.

The Petitioner and his legal counsel, were all in communication during the entire 2 year period, and I can see no reason why I was not sent papers of any kind. The Petitioner has repeatedly reneged on agreements made, and now that the Decree is final, I have no other way to handle it, except through legal counsel in British Columbia, which I can ill afford, especially with 2 young children to care for. This was also the reason why I did not appear or have legal counsel in Vancouver to represent me. Simply because the Petitioner is a member of the Vancouver Police Force, does not entitle him to any special or favoured treatment. Of a houseful of expensive Victoriaville French Provincial furniture, I received only a few items, worth less than \$2000. The separation was one known as "constructive desertion" in that I had been threatened repeatedly by the Petitioner. The Petitioner refused to support me, and has repeatedly been late in sending the minimum child support he is supposed to, to which I also strongly object. In the past he has been irrational, brutal and very abusive. I would strongly urge that every man applying for a law enforcement job should be very carefully analyzed psychologically. I feel this whole case was mishandled and my rights as an individual have been denied me, and I would appreciate it very much if an investigation were made to determine why it was allowed to happen, and what recourse I have in settling this in a more satisfactory manner.

Lillian Turner

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7

WORKING WOMEN

CO-SPONSORED BY NWO INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DECADE

Evelyn Gigantes

Evelyn Gigantes set the mood for the Working Women's Conference on Friday Night. Her plea to be relentlessly determined while maintaining the feminine qualities that set us apart from the Macho approach is one that finds response in most women.

She noted that every oppressor is oppressed and stated equality for Women would be a step in the direction of freeing men from the bondage of stereotyping in their own Roles. She reminded us all that we are the best Educated, the most affluent in the world. We have birth control which guarantees freedom of choice and stability in our lives and we have the vote. As such we have the responsibility to use our strength and our energy in promoting equality for women all over the world.

The hostility of women to women must be seen as a challenge to better communication. Those who stay at home must not be made to feel as parasites, which lends itself to a natural feeling of hostility toward the aspirations of her sisters in the paid labour force. She reminded us again the feminine culture respects fertility, warmth, sensitivity and love.

Grace Hartman

The banquet of the Working Women's Conference was highlighted by an address by Grace Hartman, National President of Canadian Union of Public Employees. She spoke on "Role of Women in their Unions". The following is an excerpt of her address.

"The inequalities suffered by women at the hands of insensitive employers a few years ago are now perpetuated by legislation. Unions are the only vehicle through which women can seek equality of opportunity at the work place. One would have hoped that the trend of women turning to the labour movement for this kind of support would have continued in an effort to end discriminatory practices. However, the Anti-Inflation Board mechanism has had a very substantial effect in slowing the process. But the obvious question is being asked about the advantages of joining a union, negotiating a decent increase in earnings only to have a large part of it taken away from them by AIB decision.

The end result of this practice can be seen in the organizing statistics for Ontario. In the first six months of 1975, the Ontario Labour Relations Board heard 609 applications seeking certification for new local unions -- this was the six months prior to the wage controls legislation. For the same six month period in 1976, after the legislation was in full operation, the Ontario

Labour Relations Board heard only 509 applications -- a drop of 16%!

I believe that any thinking person can accept some things as self-evident. And it's self-evident that women who want to have a say, and to have some influence in their destiny at the work place, will only get that opportunity by joining unions that will speak out and act on their behalf.

But the AIB has discouraged it. By their very existence they have discouraged it. That is the Trudeau gift to working women. And in so doing, they are further widening the gap between unionized and non-unionized wage rates. Or perhaps being more realistic -- they are permitting a widening of the gap between male and female rates of pay.

When the AIB legislation was first introduced, I was most critical of it. There did, however, seem to be one feature of it that held a ray of hope for women. I'm referring to that section of the regulations that permitted wage increases in excess of the guidelines for the elimination of discrimination by sex pay rates. I thought it might permit us to work toward the elimination of male-female pay discrepancies. As a matter of fact, this part of the legislation was hailed by both Beryl Plumptre and her eventual successor, June Menzies, as a recognition by government of discriminatory practices and was essentially a feminist regulation.

My expectations in this regard proved that I was naive indeed. Instead of the AIB permitting increases to women in order to observe the principle of equal pay for work of equal value -- they had riders on the regulations. It would allow an upward adjustment for women only in cases where women were performing the same work in the same establishment and the jobs were called by exactly the same title. In addition, to seek redress against the obvious wage discrepancies, the local union must first be convinced that the case is just -- the local union then must approach the employer and obtain their agreement that the employer has been discriminating! The employer -- and only the employer -- must then appear before the AIB and ask consent to end the discrimination which they, themselves, imposed! The sinners must voluntarily go before the Board, admit they are sinners and then ask permission to stop sinning! How is that for a "just society"?

This may help you understand why, out of 4000 applications filed with the AIB seeking redress against roll-backs, only 20 have been appeals against sex discrimination in wage rates. When I learned that so few applications had been filed with the AIB, I couldn't help wondering what the results of the 20 applications were. So, I had June Menzies office contacted for the in-

formation. They couldn't tell me. They didn't refuse to tell me. They just didn't know!"

"It cannot be denied that the controls legislation has had a devastating effect on the labour market. The unemployment statistics in this country are just staggering. As reprehensible as that situation is for everyone, women have suffered from it most. As an example, last fall, there was a decrease in the number of unemployed men by twenty-one thousand, coupled by an increase in unemployed women by twenty-four thousand. The September figures released by Statistics Canada show that unemployment fell from 6.3 to 6.0 percent. The unemployment figures for women in that same period rose from 8.7 to 9.4 percent."

"The role of women in the unions has changed. They are no longer passive viewers at union meetings. They have things to say and they say them. They no longer sit with a raised hand to second a motion. They make the motions. They have long since ceased to be token anything at conventions. They are at the microphones airing their opinions."

So, the role of women in the unions has changed. The unions will never be the same again and that is a step in the right direction. The contribution of women in their unions has been enormous and it is an ongoing process. Their union is an obvious vehicle to provide for them the opportunity to be heard -- the vehicle for self-expression. And in a very short period of time, I suggest that they will be a voice, and for that will give pause to government everywhere when they contemplate legislation that interferes, in any way, with their right to play a proper and meaningful role in the life of this country.



N'S CONFERENCE

TING COUNCIL & THUNDER BAY & DISTRICT TRADES & LABOUR COUNCIL

PRESENTATION TO THE HOUSEWIVES
WORKSHOP OF THE WORKING WOMEN'S
CONFERENCE.

by Florence Richard

Anything that can be had for free is usually regarded as of no value.

The position of the housewife in today's society is directly related to attitudes developed throughout ages of history. To use an analogy from what has become known as the "third world countries", we have all seen the TV documentaries where, in subsistence level societies, the birth of a female child is regarded by the family as something of a calamity. On the other hand, the birth of a male child is celebrated as high good fortune. This way of thinking cannot be explained by economic considerations alone. True, the boy will work for the family, but so will the girl. Her burdens will not be less by reason of sex. True, that when the girl comes of age a dowry must be provided. But from where does this tradition originate? Why have dowries never been provided for sons? Why is the son considered to be a gift himself while the daughter must have a dowry in order to be acceptable?

The only conclusion to be arrived at is that women, in a male dominated society, are generally regarded as part of a man's goods and property. Whether that man rides a camel or a Cadillac, his wife occupies pretty much the same position. Her usual role is to take charge of all domestic duties. This may entail anything from running the home, to making the meals, to mothering, to chauffeuring, to taking care of household accounts. When and if the housewife works at a paid job, whatever she earns, as a rule, becomes part of her contribution to the home, which she may or may not have a legal share in. With a more enlightened husband she will, of course, share all benefits. All too often, however, we are reminded that comparatively few men are so enlightened.

In our society, because of pressure and lobbying by women, laws are grudgingly being changed. The process is slow and painful.

The housewife and mother who is employed outside the home must accelerate her activities in order to cope with two jobs. If her traditional home duties are neglected, she will be confronted by husband and family. If she is incompetent on her other job, she will hear from her employer. She is constantly under obligation to others. She has lived so long without rights or consideration, she no longer thinks herself worthy of either.

We all know some housewives (in more enlightened situations) who enjoy working for their families and ask nothing more in life. We also know many whose lives are a nightmare.

As the family unit has long been considered the backbone of the nation the wife and mother has certainly been the mainstay of the family. There is something inherently wrong with a society where this essential member must rely for her welfare on the vagaries of human enlightenment.

Thirty-six percent of Ontario's work force is made up of women. Needless to say, they are generally employed at the hardest, most menial jobs for the lowest pay.

Since woman's traditional role has been to marry, to have children, and to be unpaid slaves of the nation, her employer is not suddenly going to become generous as soon as she emerges out of the home.

Wherever she goes, she is haunted by centuries of abuse. Only recently has organized labour taken a second look, and realized that women are in the work force to stay, that their reasons for working are largely the same as men's reasons for working. "If you can't beat 'em, join 'em;" or have them join you.

The dominant male is aware that this vast pool of cheap labour represents a threat to his own job security and rates of pay. 'Why hire a man, when a woman can be hired for less?' Women are now being included in the mainstream of organized labour.

This is indeed helpful for the "gainfully employed" woman. But no one has as yet reached out to the original base of that cheap labour source, the exploited housewife. It is unlikely, however, that anyone will see the housewife as an exploited person until she herself makes this discovery and moves to cast out time-worn, self-effacing images.

If anyone objects to being seen as an exploited person, do not be concerned. The housewife is not seen by society as a person of any kind. She is not seen period. Even when she reaches the age of retirement, only her spouse qualifies for Canada Pension. Even though she may have spent her entire life caring for him, putting sons and daughters through school, into the work force, and/or armed services, her contribution to the common good of the country is recognized as precisely ZILCH!

When and if the husband (who has been the contributor) dies, his widow may apply for the survivor's benefits. She will still receive by virtue of his contributions. She is not even allowed to make any monetary contributions as the 'self-employed' person is encouraged to do.

It is fairly obvious that no matter how essential the housewife is in our society, she will just have to muddle through without her rights or recognition until she demands pay for her services.

I think that the time has come to talk about salaries for housewives. And let us keep in mind that even universal education was at one time ridiculed as some crack-pot's utopian dream.



Evelyn Armstrong

Evelyn Armstrong addressed the Conference on Sunday morning on the future of women in Unionized Labour. A strong woman with a strong voice, she stimulated her audience to consider the past and the present as well as the future. She stated that the inequality in wages for the sexes is a bonanza for the corporations who derive over two billion dollars in extra profit just because of this injustice.

I.W.Y. was the catalyst that for the first time raised the awareness of a broad spectrum of women from all walks of life and challenged the sham of the presence of equality being practiced and perpetrated.

She berated the advertising media that portrays women's biggest concern as being the "whiteness of her laundry" and drew hoots from the audience at "the ring on a shirt collar that leaves HER apologizing because HE has a dirty neck," the Education System that still is rank with sexism and those unions still not pushing for day care (she made an exception in the case of CUPE).

She encouraged the group to affiliate itself with the Toronto based Organized Working Women, who are committed to a massive educational process to inform working women of labour issues and suggested that women's committees be formed within the union structure to lobby the union itself to make women's issues appear in the bargaining process. She left us with her favourite quotation, which also happens to be mine, "BEHOLD THE TURTLE, THE ONLY TIME SHE PROGRESSES IS WHEN SHE STICKS HER NECK OUT."

The conference endorsed a resolution to organize a chapter of O.W.W. Gert Beadle.

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New Ways of Keeping Women Out of Paid Labour

CONTINUED FROM VOLUME 3 ISSUE 3
OF NORTHERN WOMAN JOURNAL

WHY CAN WE NEVER REMEMBER THE FACTS: THE NEED FOR ANALYSIS

The more statistics I read, the more reservations in my mind were disposed of, the clearer my consciousness became and the more furious I became. "Women must know this" I kept saying to myself, "If only women knew..." and then another thought struck me. How come I didn't know? I've been in Women's Liberation for about six years, and a worker for longer than that... how come I didn't know? Had I just become privy to some sacred information? I expanded my research. You know there are volumes written on this subject... magazine articles, newspaper stories, doctoral theses, best-seller books, pamphlets, manuscripts, all telling the same tale. Worse yet, as I looked over the material it dawned on me that I read most of this before. Something was terribly wrong. I read all this stuff now with my present awareness, my present consciousness, and I can envision female workers lining up for battle Monday morning; I read it then and can hardly remember having done so.

Maybe I've just never been very interested in the issue before. But, what does that mean? I'm a worker, why shouldn't I be interested? I was interested enough to join W.L. so how come I didn't get the low-down on this issue from my connections with the Movement?

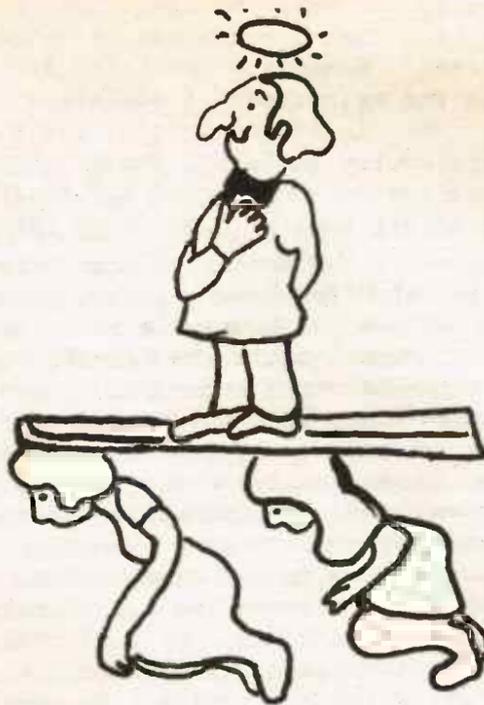
It is very clear that a radical feminist approach to the job in question is necessary now. We must have a way of understanding reality. As a political feminist movement we must have a political feminist way of understanding that reality. Trying to "make sense" of the facts, much less organize ourselves around them, is all but impossible without such a guiding principle. When you are serious about building a political movement designed to effect real change it is essential to be clear when presenting the issues. It is essential to be definite, to be precise, to be simple, to avoid confusion. Confusion halts progress and saps the energy unnecessarily.

To analyse a situation means to defend the reasons for something, but the liberals seem to deny there are reasons for discrimination, for example, or for good reasons.

Liberal economist Barbara Bergman, for instance, goes under the assumption that there are no good reasons, only psychological hang-ups. Bergman denies that there is a conflict of interest involved, even suggesting the employer is going against his interests. "...Discrimination does not by and large serve the economic ends of those who do the discriminating...the financial gains to those who do the discriminating are low or negative. The major cause served is

psychological (it feels so good to have women in their place)." Whenever I run across this ambiguous, erroneous nonsense, I see stars. Keeping women in their place may feel good but it pays in a lot more ways than that. For instance, if discrimination does not by and large serve the economic ends of those who do the discriminating, then how is it economists have computed the total underpayment of women workers as amounting to \$109 billion each year? Bergman is making a plea for irrational causes by advancing this idea of oppression for the 'hell of it', or because 'it feels so good'. Though I don't doubt it, aside from being a bit naive, I'm afraid it's a bit more serious than that. This clouds the very real benefits... more than psychological...which men receive from keeping women down. Discrimination benefits male employers in terms of money, status, recognition, power, prestige and fame - to name just a few factors.

To make matters worse, some liberals, while they imply that men and employers have nothing to lose by ending the present system, imply that women do. Juanita Kreps, a liberal economist who has done a fair amount of investigation into this issue of job discrimination, suggests that a reason for discrimination is women's desire for protection. According to her, the real issue is the stereotyped roles of the male as the 'protector' and the female as 'protected'.



"And if the protected gains equal status, would she not lose more than she gains?" But what are we protected from in the labour force? We cannot run elevators late at night when the pay is higher and we cannot serve in restaurants and cabarets at that hour. We can however clean office buildings till all hours of the morning because cleaning office buildings is a low-paying job and nobody wants to protect us out of our low-paying jobs. It has nothing to do with the issue of protection, it has to do with the issue of money. I can envision by no stretch of the imagination or flight into fantasy

Re-edited from Red Stockings
by Colleen Price

how women could possibly lose anything by equal status, except for the monopoly they seem to have on the lowest paying jobs in the entire labour force.

Caroline Bird doesn't have an analysis either, though she claims of *Born Female* that "this is a frankly feminist book. It counts the social, moral and personal costs of keeping women down on the job and finds them high..." But she doesn't question why, if the costs are so high, employers are doing it. For whom are the costs high? Are they high for men or for women? For private interests or the general public good? She says "We are despoiling talent...we are wasting talent... we are hiding talent..." But who is the amorphous "we" she is exhorting? Women can't be discriminating against women on the job because they're not the ones doing the hiring. They're not the bosses, very few of them anyways.

Born Female is an exact example of what's wrong with the liberal approach. Bird does excellent research and lays out the facts of discrimination for us precisely, and there they lie. Since the book lacks a political analysis...a frankly political analysis... a way even of understanding the full impact of those facts, they never become the stirring, moving force they could be. Instead they're just another pile of statistics.

THE ECONOMIC ISSUE APPROACH

The liberals avoid analysis by taking the problems they're dealing with out of their political context then proposing to resolve them. The liberals don't see causes, they don't see inter-relationships, they don't see connections, they just see problems'. When you discriminate against women because they're women, whether that results in not letting them have full control over their own bodies or not paying them an equal amount of money for an equal amount of work, it is a political problem.

You might think that I am squabbling over words and ask what the big deal is about emphasizing that job discrimination is a political problem. It is essential to understanding the problem that the issue be viewed in this broader political context, because doing so reminds us that unequal power is the ultimate problem. Whatever strides are made in the paid labour force, whatever reforms are won, they will never be permanently secured unless we are simultaneously building a power base equal to the power of men. Women have at different times in history made tremendous advances in the paid labour force... witness World War II, for example, but we didn't have the power to hold our ground.

Decade Council Goes to Atikokan

DECADE COUNCIL GOES TO ATIKOKAN

Fourteen members of the NWO Decade Council travelled to Atikokan on Jan. 29/77 via chartered bus to meet and visit with interested women in that community as part of the outreach program the council has espoused. Although the representation from Atikokan was less than we had hoped for, the interest and enthusiasm made the effort an unqualified success.

Members of the council introduced themselves, giving their occupations and committee on the Council; the Atikokan women introduced themselves and stated why they had come.

Lisa Bengtsson gave a short description of her job as a Social Development Officer for Secretary of State; she is a resource person with contacts in NWO communities. Lisa can be contacted at the Secretary of State Office, 240 S. Syndicate Ave., Thunder Bay at 623-5241.

Colleen Hughes is a Community Educational Consultant for the Secretary of State and she gave a short description of her job, dealing with the organization of groups throughout Northwestern Ontario. (She can also be reached at 623-5241.)

REPORTS:

Reporting for Herstory - Gert Beadle congratulated the town of Atikokan for its response to this important chronicle and stressed the project must take the time to make a quality presentation.

Leona Lang, Secretary of the Decade Council and Chairperson for the Working Women's Conference Committee reported on the coming conference co-sponsored by the Thunder Bay and District Labour Council to be held at Confederation College on Mar. 11, 12 & 13.

Trudy Perroud for the Northern Women's Credit Union reported on the granting of the charter to this group and the progress to date.

Joan Packota of Lakehead University Women's Club gave an extensive review of Bill 75, comparing it to the new Family Law Reform - Bill 140. A stimulating discussion followed.

The role of the Northern Woman Regional Journal in the ongoing reporting of progress made in the interests of women was presented by Gert Beadle who said she hoped a clearer vision of the term 'sisterhood' would emerge from its pages and called for the support and goodwill of all women - complimentary copies were distributed.

Gert, who is a member of the Citizens' Committee for Crisis Homes Inc. described the formation and motivation of this group - which stemmed from a blueprint of an 'ideal' haven for women as set out by Mary Tomlinson (who with her group first approached city council to set up a crisis house) The Atikokan women felt there was a desperate need for crisis housing in Atikokan. Children's Aid has been approached many times by women in crisis situations but this is out of their jurisdiction.

Gert advised the women to a) form a Committee to approach Town Council

with the need for a crisis house, and b) start documenting cases of women in crisis situation to present to Council as proof.

Lisa informed women of the Young Canada Works Program grants available (deadline August 29th) and suggested they choose this route to start their project on a crisis house.

A home which provides a real haven and emotional support for women and children in crisis situations was envisioned; the home and food to be provided, with the care of children and housekeeping duties done by the women themselves. Lisa advised the Atikokan women present to lead an interest group in seminars and workshops in crisis housing and daycare feasibility for Atikokan. A copy of Mary Tomlinson's Model of a Crisis House was presented to Joyce Meyers.

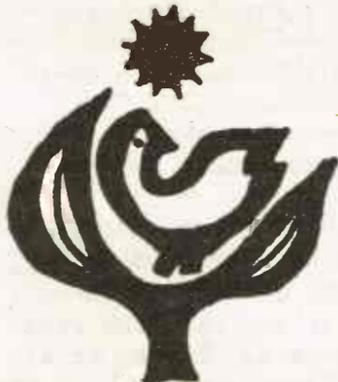
Other Concerns:

Concern was expressed regarding the problems of Atikokan's teenagers (male and female)

- Need for a social centre for teens.
- Need for more preventative care rather than crisis situation care of teens.
- Failure of High Schools to educate teens for their future regarding interpersonal relationships.
- Realization that girls of 14 - 15 years old are more mature in their thoughts than a generation ago.

Goals: Get more Atikokan women involved in Atikokan teens' problems Get a teenage social group set up - let teens plan the direction they will follow. (Sue will see Lisa re: possibility of applying for grant from the Secretary of State to fund a feasibility study by teens of a teens' social centre.)

Meeting was adjourned at close to 5:00 pm.



FAMILY PROPERTY LAW

FAMILY PROPERTY LAW

In October 1976, the Attorney-General of Ontario presented the Family Law Reform Act - Bill 140 to the Ontario Legislature. Bill 140 has received first and second reading, but it was withdrawn from the order paper in December 1976 for technical revisions by the Ontario Justice Committee. It is quite possible that it will be re-introduced for third reading during the spring session of the Ontario legislature. If it passes third reading it will become law very quickly, possibly by the summer of 1977.

DIVISION OF MATRIMONIAL PROPERTY - BILL 140

Family Assets System.

In Bill 140 the Family Assets System has been adopted as the basic system of governing property relations between husband and wife in Ontario.

The division of matrimonial property under Bill 140 applies only at marriage breakdown where:

- judgment nisi of divorce if pronounced.
- a marriage is declared a nullity - spouses are separated and there is no reasonable prospect of the resumption of co-habitation.
- judgment absolute of divorce is pronounced.

Bill 140 Part 1 4. i) "Each spouse is entitled to have the family assets divided in equal shares notwithstanding the ownership of the assets by the spouses"

Bill 140 Part 1 3a. "Family assets" means property owned by one spouse or both spouses and ordinarily enjoyed by both spouses or one or more of their children for shelter or transportation or for household, educational, recreational, social or aesthetic purposes, and includes:

- i) money in an account with a chartered bank, savings office, credit union or trust company where the account is ordinarily used for shelter or transportation or for household, educational, recreational, social or aesthetic purposes.
- ii) where property owned by a corporation or trustee would, if it were owned by a spouse, be a family asset, shares in the corporation or an interest in the trust owned by the spouse having a market value equal to the value of the property.

JUDICIAL DISCRETION

Provision is made for Judicial Discretion to be used in certain situations where a spouse appeals to the court because he or she feels division of the family assets in equal shares would be unfair. Bill 140 4(2) "where, upon the application of a spouse, the court is of the opinion that a division of the family assets in equal shares would be inequitable, having regard to:

- a) any agreement between the spouses
- b) the duration of the marriage
- c) the date when the property was acquired.
- d) the extent to which property was acquired by one spouse by inheritance or by gift; or
- e) any other circumstance relating to the acquisition, preservation maintenance, improvement or use of property rendering it inequitable for the division of family assets to be in equal shares, the court may:
- f) make a division of the family assets resulting in shares that are not equal or
- g) order other property of a spouse to be transferred to or vested in the other spouse as the court considers appropriate."

BUSINESS PROPERTY

The family assets system does not subject business property to automatic sharing and would thus leave

Greater Need For Crisis Homes!

BUT WHY DOESN'T SHE LEAVE HIM?

ANALYSIS

Until the women's movement raised the issue, wife-beating went unrecognized and unreported. Beaten women were forced into pretending that theirs was a non-problem. In this way, wife-battering has much in common with rape. Both were seen as personal rather than social problems until the women's movement raised consciousness about them. Both stem from the system of male supremacy within which women are pieces of property to be used/abused by men. But there are two important differences between rape and wife-beating. One is that the wife-batterer is supposed to be the very person to whom the woman can turn for shelter from the storm. The other, and this is vital, is that in the case of wife-battering (partner-battering might be a more accurate term), the woman is economically dependent upon the man.

Woman's position in the family as an unwaged worker is one which society has trained her for and encouraged her to enter. Her skills, those of home maintenance and child rearing, are not skills she can easily sell, as society can conveniently pretend that these are non-skills. Stemming from this economic dependence is a whole network of emotional and psychological relationships between the woman who is being beaten and the man who is doing the beating. Then there's the kids. Even if the woman is working, she's earning less than the man 90% of the time. Her income is keeping the family above the poverty line. To ask a woman to walk out of this overnight (as in "If a man ever struck me, that would be it....I'd be out that door so fast...") is to ask her to abandon not only her physical shelter and her arrangements for having something to eat, but also the whole social fabric she has been trained to accept. Betsy Warrior writes:

"Women's economic dependence of males must be abolished and the family structure itself must be changed. Sexism, like racism..is a political philosophy of which wife-beating is but one expression. Only when this political crime is not simply a matter of male-female sexual politics but reflects the domination of our society by those who exploit the many for the profit of a few. As long as our social decisions are being made on the basis of what is humane, the wife-beater has a whole arsenal behind him. As a feminist lawyer puts it, "A judge isn't going to put a guy who makes a living in jail and his wife on welfare. In terms of the respec-

tive values of our society, his earning money outweighs her possible injury".

The growing movement which demands an end to wife-battering also recognizes that the violent expression by the man upon the woman is an expression of a violent society. He's taking out his anger upon her which is produced within him by having to compete for his job, by being pressured by his boss, by layoffs, speed-ups, etc. Instead of fighting back against this exploitation, he finds it easier to release his frustration by kicking his wife around. It's one step up from kicking the cat. The battered wife is thus a casualty at the end of a long line of abuse and alienation which is integral to our capitalist system.

Transition Houses are a necessary step in combatting this brutality: women must have a safe place away from their attackers. But finally it's a temporary Band-Aid solution as are more sensitive responses from the legal system. What we are really opposing is the violence of a whole society.

ACTION

Throughout the last decade, feminists have been working upon public education to dispel myths surrounding wife-battering. When TIME, in Sept. of '74 professed to enlighten us on the subject of "Wife Beaters and their Wives" by telling us that the men were 'mother's boys' and that the beaten women were "aggressive, efficient, masculine and sexually frigid", we didn't let them get away with it.

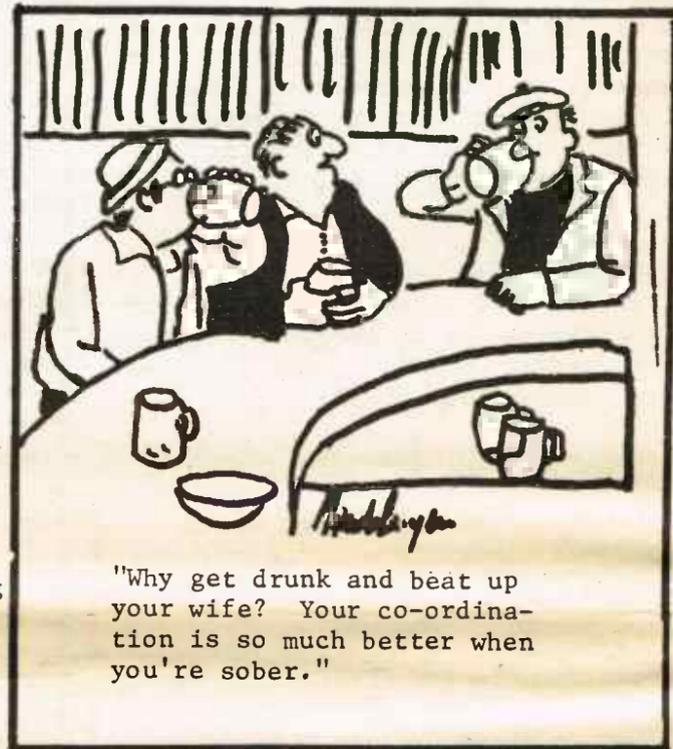
The women's movement has consistently opposed the ideology of the church and of psychiatry which rationalizes the oppression of women. ("Women are like the masses in wanting to be mastered and ruled." - Freud) Myths surrounding female masochism have been widely brought into doubt.

Along with public education, the women's movement has demanded social, economic and legal changes which will make it easier for the battered woman to escape her husband. For an excellent account of these demands, and of the current parlous state of Canadian justice with respect to battered women, read Violence Begins at Home, which appeared in "The Canadian" (The Province's weekend supplement) on Nov. 2, 1976. Vancouver Status of Women member Arlene Gropper and Joyce Marvin investigate the alternatives for the battered woman. Where can she go? The police consider 'family disturbance' calls trivial matters. In a recent six-month period in Vancouver they bothered to make written reports on only 17% of such calls. And locally, only a few cases ever do reach the courts. Gropper and Marvin quote a JP's remark: "Most charges by battered women are withdrawn at a later date and besides, these are private matters between a man and a woman.."

Where can a woman go? An extensive study of wife-battering in the Vancouver area in the fall of '76 indicated that well over half of the women contacted Emergency Shelters, Transition Houses, Crisis Centres and the Vancouver Status of Women. Almost a quarter of the cases in this Vancouver study contacted Vancouver Transition House. Of the 330 women contacting the

Transition House, 180 had to be turned away because of lack of facilities.

Credit Kinesis
(Vancouver Status of Women)



"Why get drunk and beat up your wife? Your co-ordination is so much better when you're sober."

Locally

The following was contributed by Lucy Rissanen of a L.I.P. project (social support for Native People) ending in July who asks for public assistance in finding homes for 16 native women and their 38 children.

Case 1 -Native women, 8 children. -came to Thunder Bay, Oct. 75 first person in city Crisis Homes. S.S.F.N.P. found them a home - a slum.

Rats in basement, frozen water lines, drains clogged, unsafe steps, windows broken, etc. Application to O.H.C. not successful, has money for rent; feels children a cause for discrimination.

-sister Hilda arrives, 6 children husband abusive, burn marks on body, held over a stove. City Welfare says 'Go home - not out responsibility'. Children temporarily at C.A.S.

Upset, emotional problems, one child disturbed. Woman ready to give up. No money, forced to return to brutality if no place found.

Daughter arrives with baby.

If you can help, phone 623-0391

A Memory Forever: Rape

A MEMORY FOREVER.

I will never forget the time I was raped. It was a nightmare. It was after work, around six o'clock and I was walking home with an associate of mine, Kevin. We'd been working together for seven months and he seemed nice enough, well-mannered, polite and attractive.

All the way home, we told jokes, talked about our jobs, ourselves and some trivia. We separated at his bus stop and then I was alone to walk home. I wasn't scared, since no thought of rape entered my mind, and besides, it wasn't dark. To get to my house, I had to cross a field, used as a short-cut, cross the drive way and I would be home.

A group of boys were walking through as I entered the field. They came closer and I was thinking about what kind of a snack I'd make myself before supper, when all of a sudden I heard a high crack and fell to the ground.

I fell on my face and as I tried to get up, I was hit again. Somewhere, as if echoing in my mind, I heard laughter and shouting and felt blows to my arms and face. It

seemed like there was a crowd all taking turns. I cried out but to no avail. Quickly, one locked his thighs around my head. I started to vomit and cry and kick out but they pinned my whole body down and the assault continued on.

It seemed like an eternity before they finished and then they left. As I lay there looking through a veil of dirt and tears, I recognized one of them. It was Kevin. I screamed and pounded the earth, wishing I were dead. After I was all cried out I got up and saw that there was blood across my stomach and running down my thighs. Deep, dark bruises swelled about my arms and my back hurt violently. I traced my fingers over my face and felt it was wet, puffy and sticky with blood.

Struggling to get up, I vomited again and headed home just a short way ahead. I was so close to safety, so close. I walked into the living room and everybody stared. My mother screamed, my two young brothers cried, and my sister ran to the phone.

The result of the trial was that Kevin was acquitted; I and my family were humiliated right out of town. Kevin's story was that he walked me

home and I enticed him - there were no other people.

By Julie Stojko

This article was submitted as fiction from a young author from Terrace Bay. Her insight will, we hope, find more exposure in the Northern Woman Journal in the future.



RAPE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT CENTRE

THUNDER BAY RAPE & SEXUAL ASSAULT CENTRE

The Centre is not permanently located at McKellar Hospital. Our new address and phone number:

THUNDER BAY RAPE & SEXUAL ASSAULT
CENTRE

McKellar Hospital, Box 47
Thunder Bay, Ont. P7E 1G6
623-3220 (answering service)

The phone is handled by an answering service. A Centre member will return the call within 24 hours.

We are getting ready to print our educational package and to distribute brochures throughout the city.

A general meeting was held Feb. 8 at Confederation College to acquaint more people with the Centre and to recruit new volunteers. The turnout was far less than expected but we hope that those who attended will pass information along to others.

We plan to hold a workshop later this month to prepare volunteers for the activities that the Centre will be undertaking, especially for victim support and speaking engagements. Further notices of the workshop will be sent out soon.

The Centre still needs many volunteers. Even if you have only limited time available but are willing to support us in the activities of the Centre, please call. We especially need volunteers who have time available during daytime hours.

The Centre is preparing a resource library on rape and we will gladly make this information available to anyone wanting it.

con't from pg 7

REGARDING TURNER VS TURNER

MENTAL CRUELTY

Spent several weeks at Hollywood Hospital for nerves - unable to remember date, but hospital would have records. Complete mental and physical breakdown at age 28 - largely caused by harassment and cruelty by husband plus physical abuse of boy we were to adopt. I called the Welfare and had the child removed from our home before the situation could worsen. Spent 6 weeks in Riverview Hospital, under care of Dr. Adler - received 6 shock treatments while there. At a later date, I received 6 more shock treatments at Royal Columbian Hospital as an out patient under Dr. R. Harrington, Psychiatrist, at whose office I attended for some time. I also spent another week at Riverview Hospital at a later date for nervousness, at my own request because of the pressures and home situation. At present I am under care of two doctors re: nervousness, due to stress of the situation at hand. On two occasions I was deserted by him - no charges laid. He also tried to stop the adoption of the child Shawn on his last desertion, but it had already been completed.

PHYSICAL CRUELTY

Has made a number of threats on my life - has threatened suicide on numerous occasions. We spent approx. 3½ years in marriage counselling. I found that when I began to become more independent as a person, he began to become more difficult towards me. Physical attack 1964 - police called

ny neighbour - no charges laid Physical abuse while on holidays in 1974, thrown from car with threat of killing me - damage done to right leg and hip - inflamed hip joint and required several weeks of treatment from chiropractor. Has damaged and broken furniture, punched hole in bedroom wall, deliberately driven erratically when angry, making me suffer emotionally. Has used foul and abusive language against me many times for which there was no reason. Was forced sexually - even to the point where I was fearful of him after I had major surgery and still had stitches - admitted he had married to make sex legal - used force many times to the point where I COULD NOT respond and would fight him off in self defense. Fired service revolver in house during first year on police force - I have also had to struggle with him several times since for his gun. Many more incidents too numerous to mention, but all equally cruel. During the entire period of marriage to him I cared for the children and him in the best way I knew, and also made sure his home was in the best possible order, with no thoughts of ever committing any wrong against him deliberately or otherwise.

William (Bill) Cook previously acquitted of a rape charge has been charged with attempted rape. Women wishing to attend his court case can do so on June 13th at the court house.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

Does this mean we should not fight for equal pay? No, not at all. We should always fight for what is rightfully ours; but we should also keep our analysis clear. Women aren't oppressed because they are paid less money for equal work (which is the implication of the "economic issue" approach), they are paid less money for equal work because they're oppressed. In the first case, the focus is on economic advancement as a way of overcoming oppression (that's why liberals refer to a woman with a successful career as 'liberated') and this tends to be individually advancement oriented. In the second case the focus is on political power building as a way of both fighting for and securing economic advancement and this tends to be collectively oriented. The point is that economic equality for all women can never be achieved without political power.

THE WORK ISSUE IN THE EARLY WOMEN'S LIBERATION MOVEMENT

If the liberals are at least partially responsible for the lack of progress of women in the labour force market it is interesting to recall that from the start of the movement the job issue was their special province.

My initial attraction to the movement had little to do with the question of job discrimination. My initial was toward the radicals who were concentrating on general feminist political theory, "raising consciousness". This just seemed more important and a matter of top priority the first step toward further changes. There was a general wariness in the beginning of the Movement toward getting too caught up in single issue questions before the basic groundwork had been laid, and I think that strategy proved to be correct.

There were differences in interest regarding the job arena. The left said socialism first and all else will follow. The liberals said jobs first, and all else will follow. The questions of housework, child care, sex, etc. would all be altered once good jobs came through. But radical feminists looked at countries where women were making more progress in jobs than the U.S. and countries which had socialism, and all else wasn't following. They looked at themselves, some of whom had good jobs, and all else wasn't following. Radical feminists knew there were other basic and important things to be done to win women's liberation in addition to fighting for socialism and jobs now. The first and immediate need was to raise feminist consciousness, organize a power base, and deal with women's oppression within the family (Housework, sex, child care) and the so-called body issues (abortion, false beauty standards and clothing requirements).

Neither the liberal feminists nor the left were working on these very basic feminist issues and many actually opposed them. They seemed to be taking care of other issues how-

ever. It almost seemed like a logical division of labour, at least for the time being. And so, radical feminists temporarily left the fight for jobs now to the liberals, and the fight for socialism to the male left and their non-feminist women. Jobs and socialism didn't follow.



HOW SEGREGATION WORKS AGAINST WOMEN

The first thing we see is a dual labour force. Men and women might work in the same labour force but they are separated, for all practical purposes, by the work they do. For instance, women make up the majority of clerical workers while men make up the majority of craftsmen and foremen. Women make up the majority of household workers while men make up the majority of managers and administrators. And the division becomes even more sharply delineated when we look within job categories.

In the professional field: Women are nurses and teachers, men are doctors, lawyers, scientists, draftsmen. In the service occupations: Women are cooks, nurses' aides and waitresses, men are bartenders, guards, firemen, policemen and detectives.... Among managers and proprietors: Women operate small retail establishments, men manage manufacturing plants and wholesale outlets.

Even in the same occupation men and women are in different positions. In teaching, women are concentrated in the elementary levels while men monopolize the college and university faculties.

Well, so what? Men and women work at different types of jobs. The significant factor is not that the jobs are different, but what that difference amounts to. In each and every job category listed above the comparable "woman's job" commands less pay than the male version, is generally less prestigious, opens up fewer opportunities for advancement and is generally not the kind of work thought highly of by society's

standards

It doesn't seem to make a damn bit of difference where we are in the labour force, what sphere we move in or what position we occupy, compared to men it's a less advantageous one. If we're in an all-female occupation we make less money than comparable male occupations; if we're in an all-male occupation we make less money than the men in that occupation. If we work in the factories or the universities we occupy the bottom rung.

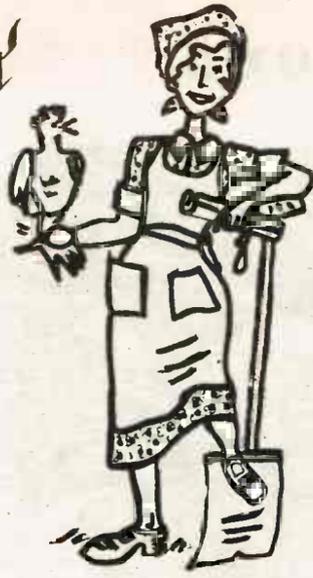
Actually it comes as no surprise to anyone that the labour force is segregated, one only wonders at the consistency with which segregation has been maintained. If one has a feminist idea that men and women should work side by side in all fields then one is shocked at how pervasive the sexual division on jobs still is. But it is not immediately apparent that these things are the result of oppression, discrimination, politics and power. We saw how separated men and women were in the labour force and now jobs remain divided by sex into "men's" and "women's" with women's being synonymous with low pay, low status, low importance, etc. At various times there have been laws and written company rules clearly enforcing this pattern. However, when the pattern persists during times without such laws, three possible explanations are left.

Either the continuing segregation patterns, the relentlessly continuing segregation patterns, are attributed to nature, a natural division of labour based on abilities and inclinations, as the conservative anti-feminists would say; or to tradition and education as the liberals say, the tradition in society whereby both men and women each learn and play their different, respective "sex roles", or to the fact that women are being kept out of men's jobs by discrimination and exploitation, by force without laws, for the benefit of some against the interests of others.

That division of labour is based on natural abilities, is disproved by history as well as a review of other cultures. The division of labour has changed. When babies were born at home, without instruments and all the formalities now attendant on it, delivering babies was natural for a woman; she was called a midwife. Then the Chamberlain family invented forceps, sold the idea to the Medical College of Amsterdam to which only men were admitted, and it suddenly became natural for men to deliver babies. Canning and preserving food used to be very much a woman's job before the invention of canning machinery which made food preparation a paying business. Men took it over then, although they still employed women in their factories.

**CON'T IN
NEXT
ISSUE**

A Glimpse of the Past



These were long days, the days I learned to live with silence. I was not used to this ticking of the clock in such a vacuum. Outside the window it was still dark; only the stars remained cold and unwinking before the dawn. My young husband had left for the bush; he will be there till nightfall; the sleigh tracks he left behind him are like pencil-shadings in the snow. The house is warm. The pot-bellied stove sends out comforting waves of heat. The kerosene lamp sits among the remains of breakfast. There was a hearty good breakfast for my provider this morning, I gathered four eggs from the six hens yesterday. Do they know how grateful I am? I may get none today, though I will probably visit the nests a half-dozen times before the day is over.

This is my first winter away from home. Funny, I never thought about food there. It just came - such a quantity of everything. It was such a chore gathering eggs and cleaning them to sell at the market. How I hated washing the cream separator, with its fifty-two discs - Ugh! But the cream, thick and yellow - how we lavished it on everything! Will I ever again make a proper tea biscuit?

I shake the nostalgia out of my mind and set about the chores of the day. The cow has to be milked. She is almost dry, heavy with calf, but still she shares - patiently chewing her cud while I burrow my head in her flank. There is a small piglet in the straw, squealing for his breakfast. I never use soap in my dish water and I keep up a running conversation, reminding him it's coming with chop in it too. Now some grain for the chickens and I'm back in the house and it's daylight.

This is my first house; I came here in July. The first night I spent here was my wedding night. It rained all night. We moved the bed four times and finally slept under the staircase. How fortunate we were to have been part of the make-do generation, a board here and there a bit of roofing off an old shed, a lot of laughing, a lot of loving and very little of anything else! As evidence of our maturity, we had planted some garden in the spring and now if the potatoes don't freeze and the hens keep laying, we have high hopes for the future. The white pine floor is unfinished but white. I scrub it when I am bored, when I am mad and when I have excess energy. It is also as bare as the house itself. An old cast iron cookstove that leaks ashes in the oven, shines with polish. The homemade table has bright oilcloth. The chairs are benches and the cupboards are orange crates, but the curtains on the windows have hours of cross-stitching on their sugar bag hems.

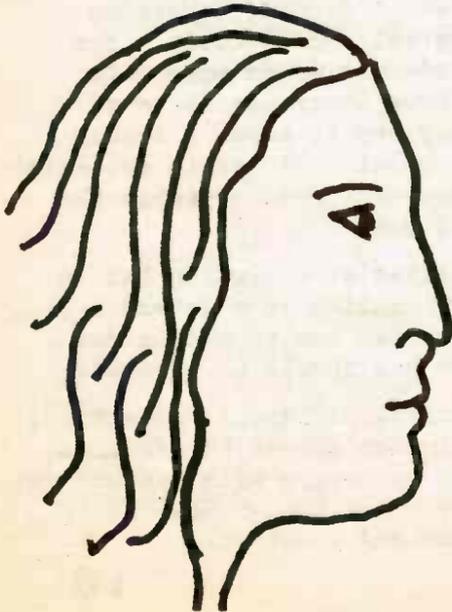
With the dishes washed and the bed neat, I begin the daily chore of melting snow in the barrel behind the kitchen stove. Heating water and piling the snow in the barrel, each

day I bring the water up to a decent level to sustain the laundry and bathing needs. One never knows when a blizzard will make every movement outside the door a hazard. To have wood in the shed and water in the barrel is of prime importance.

I sing a great deal these days, sing and whistle through my teeth and learn to carry on long and animated conversations with myself. In short I became good friends with myself and have enormous confidence in my ability to hold up half of the sky, as they say now. But each time my husband leaves, I know that moment of being abandoned, isolated, set adrift in silence with only my own resources to sustain me. I must sternly remind myself that money pays the taxes and we need another cow. As the day passes I want everything done that would deprive me of his company, hay in the barn for the horses, the cow milked, the animals fed and his supper ready for the table. I glow and sparkle as if every moment of the day has been high adventure. I want to be praised and appreciated and marvelled at, but I soon learn I've done nothing spectacular. I just pulled my weight as indeed he has done. The business of survival is a serious one. Any spirit of adventure is my own fantasy and not shared. The period of foolishness is behind us and I am expected to share a common anxiety, a general pessimism for the future. What a thorn in the side, in the midst of an era that seems to hold so little promise - to be saddled with one who persists in thinking that in spite of all obstacles we are even now living in paradise!

A story from the Herstory committee

Herstory is not the ascent of women up the token poles of this society; the crucial women are the millions who never become famous



There is a destiny that makes us sisters;
None goes her way alone.
All that we put into the lives of others
Comes back into our own.



CONFERENCE CONTINUED



The excitement and enthusiasm which we all felt as we joined in the Conference on Working Women was a heartening indication that large numbers of women in Thunder Bay are ready to take on new responsibilities. I joined in a workshop about women and unions and heard nurses, factory workers, seamstresses and postal workers discuss their common problems and decide on how they could pool efforts to overcome them.

I am leaving this conference with a renewed faith in the capabilities of women. It has been a delight to be invited to participate in the work that the women (and men) of this community are doing to change the circumstances of their lives. The success of the conference is a tribute to the organizers, a sign that the time is ripe for change and a source of hope for women throughout Ontario.

With thanks,
Evelyn Gigantes

It is difficult to believe that this Working Women's Conference was the first one that most of the committee members had organized. They did a superb job of coordinating the arrangements. The speakers, the workshops, the accommodation and food were exactly what was needed to insure a really good conference. The delegates knew this from the first moment of Evelyn Gigantes' key-note address. The same enthusiasm and active participation marked the workshops and the rest of the weekend's program. Many women met others with similar interests, made contacts for further action and learned new skills. I expect there will be continued action to help women in the Thunder Bay area.

I made some wonderful new friends and met some of my favourite old ones. Thank you for inviting me and giving me such a wonderful welcome. I think there will be some very effective lobbyists from this area - and some good role players and actors too!

Kay Macpherson
Vice-President, National Action
Committee on Status of Women



RESOLUTIONS:

Resolutions proposed and carried at the plenary session of the Working Women's Conference.

1. Changes in Ontario Labour Relations Act to enforce binding arbitration in first contracts if negotiations fail and guaranteed union security (union shop) in that first contract.

2. Changes in the Employment Standards Act to require employers to show just cause for dismissal and to empower the act to reinstate employees unjustly dismissed.

3. Part-time and contract workers be covered by legislation to make it possible to be organized to take advantage of fringe benefits now enjoyed by full-time employees.

4. Changes in Canada Pension Plan to assist homemakers now discriminated against.

- a) making C.P.P. available to non-contributing homemakers
- b) making full amount of spouses pension available to the survivor.
- c) making widowed women eligible for old age security at 60 years of age under the same conditions as married women now benefit.

d) enough guaranteed annual income for homemakers to allow them security and dignity.

5. Recommended that women work towards elimination of wage controls; and that this conference endorse the C.L.C. 10 point program which together comprise a positive programme to fight inflation and relieve the related social problems:

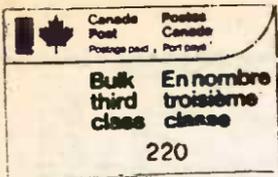
- A major program of subsidized low-rental housing for low-income families.
- Effective rent controls covering not only existing house structures but also new rental accommodations to curb gouging of tenants.
- An active program to curb land speculation and to establish land banks.
- Subsidized mortgage rates for lower income families to enable them to purchase homes.
- Regulation of oil and gas prices which has seriously fuelled inflation.
- a negative income tax, or some form of tax credits, to protect those who have little or no bargaining power and who fall into lower income brackets.
- An increase in old age pensions

- A definite guarantee that any tax concession made to corporations will be used for investment purposes to create jobs and not end up in higher payments of dividends.
- Full employment policies to abolish the high rate of jobless in this country.
- A stable monetary policy in line with potential economic growth and the total eradication of wasteful government expenditures which benefit only a privileged group at the expense of the ordinary taxpayers.

6. A chapter of Organized Working Women be established locally - committed to educate women more effectively to move their unions to address themselves to women's issues (day care, equal pay) and to recognize their responsibility to organize the unorganized women.

7. The practise of excluding Native people from English as a Second Language courses now taught is discriminatory and should be changed.

8. The teaching of Labour History in Canadian Studies should be promoted in the high schools - with assistance from Thunder Bay Labour Council by way of books and speakers.



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People who did this issue: Thyra,
Gert, Eve, Pat, Noreen, Lynn, Marg,
Florence

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