

broadsheet

new zealand's
feminist magazine

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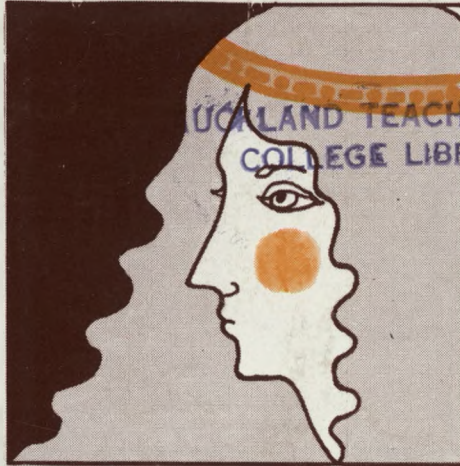
Going your own
way after
your marriage
breaks up
How it feels

How a
cohabiting
contract works

Broadsheet
in the States

The Continuing
Saga of
International
Women's Year

Why
I want a wife





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Cover: Vanya Lowry

Letters



Dear Broadsheet,

Catherine Wilson (Jan. Broadsheet) presents an excellent case for a Homeworkers Wage. The title Homeworkers Wage is the best so far, avoiding mention of sex and 'benefit' and 'allowance'.

The concept of paying people who care for dependants is a natural outcome of the women's movement. We in New Zealand, being behind the rest of the world, can avoid the pitfalls that women's liberation has fallen into elsewhere. A new principle worthy of adoption is *That women should be liberated within and not outside their biological roles.* Bearing and rearing children is a valuable social service that should be payable in the coin of the country. Equal Pay itself can never do the entire job. It can never be implemented before there is equal opportunity, and there will never be equal opportunity while women continue to bear children and do the intimate early parenting. The only way to get justice is to extend the working world into the home, by paying women or men to work there.

Juliet Mitchell (Nov. Broadsheet) says "I do not think we even fully understand how or why women are oppressed." Perhaps one answer to this is that society has always assumed that women's reproductive function is a disadvantage, something to make them dependent. With improved contraception it can be turned into an asset. Even with zero population growth we will still need to reproduce ourselves, so women should be paid for the work they do in bearing and caring for children.

Erich Geiringer (June 1974 N.Z. Economist) says of women's liberation "There is only one simple solution - money". Half the money should be taken from the men and given to the women, he argues. With money women can effect all the social changes they desire; without it they are politically impotent.

In my view, then, it is money as much as education, which is the big liberator. Money buys holidays for tired mothers, it buys gestetners and secretaries for women's organisations, it buys buildings and businesses and staff. *Women will never hold political power while they are economically dependent or enslaved.*

Could it be then that instead of trying to adopt masculine virtues woman could insist that her feminine virtues be paid? Could some of the feminine virtues be injected into the male-oriented world of decision making? - sensitivity, nurturing power, tenderness, a love of art, ability to express feelings of inadequacy and be passive?

Clearly this is a time to rethink our system of exchange of labour. What sort of jobs do exist on the open market anyway? We could well do without those which encourage insane consumerism, produce useless goods and write off dishonest advertising as a tax deductible expense. Money must be redirected away from the useless industries and into the domestic industry, which after all produces people, prevents crime, delinquency, alcoholism, mental illness and so on. Women need to be made into legal economic units doing valuable work. The injustices which exist on separation or death would be eliminated or at least minimised if the married woman was granted her employee's rights. Healthy adult women are part of the nation's working force and deserve to be paid as such.

The only real dependants are children, elderly people and invalids. A tax system which treats women as dependants is now becoming obsolete for we all know the misery which ensues when she is absent, or deserts her husband and family. To replace her costs \$60 to \$100 a week, so that is what she is worth!

Curiously enough the suggestion of a Homeworkers Wage comes just as we move into a big recession. Great social reforms have come after big recessions. Could this be one of them?

Deidre Kent

One of our readers, Joan Simmons, wrote to Tom McGuigan, the Minister of Health, asking why prostheses were not available as a charge of Social Security. She received this reply from him:

I am sorry that your letter of 22 January on the subject of breast prostheses has not been replied to earlier.

First, let me say how much I appreciate your reasons for raising this matter again and also how much I understand the difficulties experienced by those who need these prosthetic appliances. Although there are a number of areas in which Government assistance in the field of health is already provided and, in fact, Government expenditure in this field is quite substantial, there are, as you suggest, some areas where Government assistance could be justified. However, for obvious reasons it is not possible to do all that the Government would like immediately and some priorities have to be set.

I can assure you that the question of additional Government expenditure in the health field is being considered currently and that I hope to be able to take a proposal to my Cabinet colleagues outlining some measure of assistance in these areas.

Dear Broadsheet,

When the 1975 United Women's Convention was being planned I offered a workshop on feminism, more because I felt that we should grab some time than because I had any specific ideas about what we should do. My only priority is to use this rare occasion when feminists around the country can be together as productively as possible. I should therefore like suggestions/offers of things we should do.

My own feeling is that (on the precious occasions when we can get together) time is often wasted by going back to square-one to explain basic premises to those who have never heard of the problem before, and therefore we should separate the attempt to reach out and explain ourselves from our need to debate amongst ourselves.

I would like this to be a workshop where we can get straight down to discuss issues of immediate pressing importance to the New Zealand Movement, and feel that it should therefore be a workshop directed toward already committed feminists. Also as I feel that we should not lose the opportunity to meet altogether at one time I have asked not to repeat the workshop; this means that we can caucus together and still have time to infiltrate

many other sessions as possible. I should like to hear reactions to these two proposals as well as brain waves or workshop activity.

Hillida Bunkle
103 Karori Road,
WELLINGTON.

Dear Broadsheet,

Hilary Haines steps lightly into an area of real concern to thoughtful women when she eggs the hesitant on with a cheery, "if you want to go out to work, for goodness sake do so..."

Women's Liberationists are rightly concerned with quality of life as experienced by women. The question is, do we or don't we want something better for our children? It is little use fuming over the cabbage-like existence of the average suburban housewife if we are quite prepared to make cabbages of our own children. Sadly, the roots of suburban neurosis go well back into childhood experiences. It is not so much the harm done by placing a child in substitute care, but something more subtle - a kind of damping down of a child's spirit, a limiting of her early experiences, a pushing down of a growing personality into the future cabbage mould. I am speaking, of course, of day care centres and the child under three or four years who goes there regularly.

Professor Marie Clay had this to say: "Since all-day care involves a child for the majority of his waking hours, I must assume, as a parent, that the child

Will model himself on others, not on me
will build close relationships with others
will be shaped in behaviour by others
will learn the language of others
will base all his later learnings on what they teach him.

would, indeed, want them to be professional people... If my child were to be cared for all day by other people I would want the staff to emphasise the things that I valued, and to know how potent their own attention was in shaping behaviour..."

We should be aware that language development is definitely retarded by all-day care - a matter of current concern in countries like Russia and Czechoslovakia where mothers contribute in a big way to the work force.

Hilary Haines protects her position by saying "if you can find good child-minding arrangements..." But it is a lucky woman who can find a good child-minder and keep her. And it is the changing flow of minders that is so disturbing to very small children. Husbands, of course, can be excellent minders. Many mothers have no choice but to work, and for them we should insist on the highest standard of child care. It is selfish and senseless to edge them out with a flood of children from mothers whose need to work is not so desperate - it only represses standards for all.

Maternal deprivation is no bogey; it is a sad fact of life for many children, and an observed ingredient of depression in many adults. Those of us who lack the inclination or the stamina for parenthood are surely better advised not to embark on it. But for those who do embark and then find they can't cope, I believe there are better solutions than "get a job", and more roads to personal fulfilment than the dubious one of paid employment. Why don't we discuss some of these instead of trying to pass the buck on to our children? In the long term view, the child's needs are also society's needs.

Hilary Dobbie

Dear Broadsheet,

I was interested in reading about the Sexist Sauna experiences of the woman interviewed by Julie Thompson in January Broadsheet, because I have worked for a year in a city health studio.

I would very much like to see a sauna and massage centre sensibly designed with facilities available for men and women, to be enjoyed by approximately equal numbers of both sexes, and without the sexual overtones colouring the vast majority of the existing centres.

The studio I worked in is probably the nearest to a "straight-out" health studio (excluding those catering exclusively for one sex) in Auckland. Although from time to time certain potential clients (not the regulars) did request so-called "relief" massages (refer Sexist Sauna article).

I can't deny that the studio I worked in was owned by a man and those massaging were all masseuses, the majority of the clientele were male. It was/is however, quite clearly a 'straight' health studio, the decor simple, the girls certainly employed for their skill at massage and pleasant personalities, rather than for their "exotique" qualities, so the clientele attracted were, in the main, those interested in a good sauna, unpretentious surroundings to relax in and a thorough massage.

Seeing clearly the potential for relaxation, well-being, maintenance of general good health via saunas and massages, I have found it sad that these particular means for these vital aspects of living are being enjoyed by a proportion of one half of the population. Women would benefit equally after a hard day's work.

There are several reasons why women in any numbers have not as yet involved themselves regularly in these sensible activities besides the obviously male-oriented atmosphere of so many of the studios. Money is one. Massages are expensive. While a small number of women used the sauna facilities in the studio I worked in, only three, all of whom were young professional (liberated) women had regular massages. Being in the minority in what has been recently in the west, at any rate, a traditionally male-frequented institution, does not encourage relaxation; and in our society many people feel naked without clothes and the naked woman is often thought good for a perv.

Widespread changes of attitude are obviously necessary before both sexes can enjoy these activities in a relaxed way and on an equal level. Another reason why so few women: while the men work, sauna after, the women are often preparing the meal, caring for children, and there are no facilities for the caring of small children at any of the health studios, as far as I know.

And I speculate on further reasons for the virtual non-attendance of women: the idea that women provide a man's relaxation and sensual pleasures, but the men have it. The traditional/Victorian view of sex for example as a physical activity enjoyed by men and (they say) endured by women. Men being conditioned to have in some ways a greater awareness and acceptance of their physicality. Women conditioned to be more 'restrained', not to actively enjoy. Plus women being often more self-conscious about their bodies because of the pressure of the media, particularly advertising that their figures should be of a particular shape and size. A friend of mine, when I asked her why not sauna, said she'd like to, but that her figure was "no good". If only women with "good figures" use saunas then the whole tradition of the sexist sauna will continue..

Liz Eastmond

EDITORIAL

New Tactics In the Abortion Struggle

Anti-abortionists are stepping up their activities. We need to be aware of the new tactics they are employing.

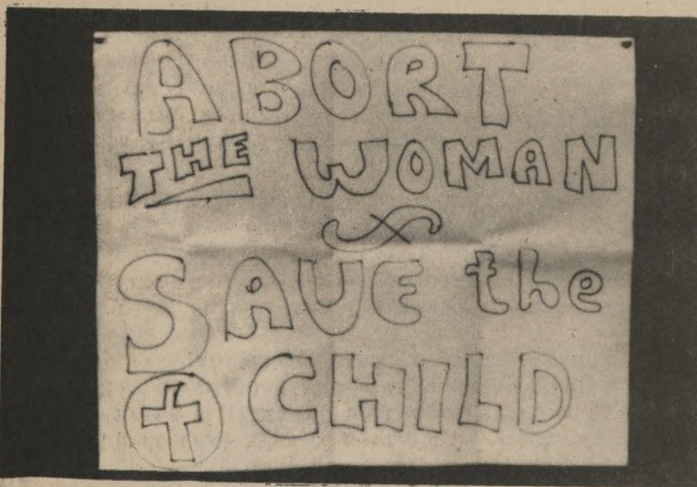


Photo: Ed Hayson.

Anti-woman poster used by Right to Life group at Auckland University

Driving around town recently I found myself behind a car with a back window plastered with anti-abortion stickers: "Abortion kills - adoption cares" etc., together with little drawings of distinctly baby-like fetuses. Apart from being momentarily enraged on observing that the driver was a male it made me start seriously thinking about what our anti-abortion foes are up to, and what we're doing about it. A very pregnant friend was accosted recently in Takapuna where she said an anti-abortion stall had been set up in the shopping centre. When she refused to sign a petition the man from the stall followed her down the street demanding "Would you like to kill your baby?" I also heard of a father who was horrified that his thirteen year old daughter had been similarly accosted, shown lurid coloured photos purporting to show aborted fetuses and badgered into signing a petition.

The anti-abortion forces are stepping up their campaign. A recent letter from the President of the Christchurch branch of SPUC (Society for the Protection of Unborn Child) to members of that Society said that they were launching a petition hoping to get 100,000 signatures. These would be presented to Parliamentarians in an attempt to show that New Zealanders are opposed to abortion. The petition was to be signed only by 18 year-olds and over but clearly from the case of the 13 year-old they won't be too fussy about that detail.

The actual wording of the SPUC petition is :
The undersigned petitioners humbly pray Parliament to act:

1. To recognise the right to life of the unborn child.
 2. To protect all human life, no matter at what stage of existence.
 3. To stop exploitation of the practice of abortion.
- We wonder how many people will read this petition carefully and understand what exactly they are signing.

We feel that this is an unrealistically moderate statement of anti-abortion policy and one which does not truly represent the SPUC position. People may support the statements and sign the petition but may not endorse the SPUC position or tactics. After all, what SPUC is actually trying to do is to make abortion impossible to obtain.

Last year a prominent opponent of abortion said to an acquaintance of mine that while the anti-abortionists realise they are fighting a losing battle they are morally obliged to fight to the last ditch. And beyond, if overseas experience is anything to go by. In the States even though the law almost allows abortion on demand anti-abortionists are fighting to have that changed. We have to recognise that our opponents are rabid and fanatical and will stop at nothing to impose their wills on the rest of the population.

SPUC is apparently pretty unhappy at the police prosecutions of Dr. Woolnough from the Auckland Medical Aid Centre, even though its own members were largely responsible for the police raids on the clinic. It's easy to see why. Overseas laws have been liberalised as a result of favourable judgements in the courts. If it is found that Dr. Woolnough's abortions were legal it will widen the scope of the present New Zealand law and enable many more women to obtain abortions and more places to open up performing terminations. SPUC would have preferred that Dr. Wall's Bill restricting abortion to public hospitals had come up before Parliament where it hoped the Bill would become law. However, Parliamen-



Women showing support for Dr Woolnough outside the Magistrates Court.

arians are not keen to have to commit themselves publicly one way or the other on the issue as they would have to if it came to a vote in the House, particularly in election year. They would much rather see the matter settled non-politically in the Court.

Apart from their attempts to have the matter come up in the House the anti-abortionists admit to making deliberate attempts to infiltrate other groups and have been setting up new organisations ostensibly with other aims but with implicit or explicit anti-abortion policies. Thus we see amongst the names of the Auckland Committee of Family 75 the names of known anti-abortionists such as Mihi Strother, Jan Way and Nina Barry-Martin (the woman who by falsely identifying herself to Clinic employees found out information about the Clinic, swore an affidavit outlining her version of the conversations, which mysteriously found its way to Parliament and thus, in part, was responsible for the police raid).

Catholic women and noted anti-abortionists like Connie Purdue turned out in force to the elections for the Auckland Regional Committee of International Women's Year and got some of their number elected to that Committee.

NOW Auckland was inundated with SPUC women who tried to change NOW's longtime policy in favour of free contraception and contraceptives available to under-16-year-olds. A prominent Labour Party woman in Auckland who is also determinedly opposed to abortion is organising groups of Labour Party women with, we think, a predictable intent. And a new organisation calling itself Feminists for Life is increasingly vociferous in Auckland. Anti-abortionists are clever enough to realise that under their SPUC or Right-to-Life banners they tend to be dismissed by most of the population. By

infiltrating or forming new organisations not overtly anti-abortion they hope to lend credibility to their demands and give the erroneous impression that their views are much more widespread than they are. We need to be aware of this happening in organisations we belong to, be they feminist groups or Plunket and also relentlessly expose the composition and intent of groups these people are forming or infiltrating.

Pro-abortionists need to really mobilise themselves this year to ensure we retain the gains we have made and make more. If you believe abortion should be available to women do something about it. You can:

Join WONAAC or ALRANZ and work for them or donate money to help their work **

WONAAC
P.O. Box 2669,
Wellington

ALRANZ
Box 11-051
Auckland

Auckland Secretary, Audrey Peterson, is desperate for helpers on information street stalls she organises. Phone 480-148. You are always with someone else when manning these stalls.

Write to your MP's and the Ministers of Health and Justice and the PM expressing your views.

Write to the newspapers either initiating discussion or answering anti-abortion letters.

Object to anti-abortionists coming into the schools your children attend and showing them their vile pictures and filling their impressionable minds full of distorted facts. Or demand that pro-abortionists be given equal time in your school.

Photo: Margot Nash

Photo: Margot Nash



Dr Woolnough leaving the Magistrate's Court

Postscript

We have just heard that Norman Douglas who chaired the Select Committee on Women's Rights decided that abortion does not come within the terms of reference of the committee. He is a well known member of SPUC who chaired their recent rally with Carolyn Gerster where those attending were almost outnumbered by the Mormon choir. However, his views are not shared by the many groups both pro and anti abortion who made submissions relating to abortion. Write to him asking what is happening and also when the report will be out.

BEHIND THE NEWS

The Continuing Saga of IWY

Last month we were critical of what was happening in New Zealand for International Women's Year.

Broadsheet reports on further progress.

A month has passed since we last reported on International Women's Year activities. What's happened since then? In Auckland, a Regional Committee was appointed at a meeting of interested parties.

The selection of committee members began by asking for volunteers who were enthusiastic and willing to work. Apparently there weren't too many of those around, so nominations were called for.

Nominations came thick and fast. And even faster when the Mayoress of Onehunga reminded them of the prestige involved and how we couldn't have just anyone. However, a committee was finally elected, with several positions being filled by two persons who were to alternate. A meeting was called for a week later to begin action.

A circular was then sent out to all members of the committee, advising them that their committee was being disbanded and that a new one would be formed

at a meeting on Wednesday the 26th of February. Obviously, some heavy politicking had gone on behind the scenes. Presumably the conservatives did not like having feminists and the consequent possibility of waves on their committee. And of course, the conservatives knew that they could achieve their goals by ensuring that there were large numbers of other conservative women there.

On the appointed day hundreds of women turned up and had to pass through a checkpoint on the door before being admitted.

We wondered how the groups were chosen. Many seemed to have absolutely no connection with the goals of IWY. For example, Family 75, Catholic Women's league, the Lyceum Club etc. and there was no checking of how the nominees had been selected. It was quite obvious (merely by listening to the conversations going on as we waited half an hour to start), that women were getting themselves nominated for a club or a group of which they were simply a member. So the farce of representation was continued by listing the nominees and the group from which they came as a representative. There were 36 nominations for 16 places (from an originally agreed number of 7, then 11).

Only three representatives of any one organisation were allowed to attend, but nevertheless this could be twisted to

include more representatives of any one organisation by sending three representatives of each branch. The catholic women did this.

Voting methods were surprising. A piece of plain pad paper was handed to each woman and these were our voting papers. I had to leave early (the meeting as usual was in the middle of a working day) and took 45 minutes before voting actually started and I had to get back to work and enquired about proxy voting. No one had apparently thought of that. I therefore filled out my paper without even seeing the final list of candidates which a man was writing on a blackboard with irritating slowness. I handed this form to a friend to hand in. The final results were published in the newspaper a couple of days later and it was only when a group of us were sitting around talking about the meeting that we realised that 4 persons, apart from my appointed proxy had voted on my behalf. Others, seeing me leave, asked for another piece of paper and filled it out on my behalf. So much for the stringent checking at the door.

No time was allocated to women to present their interests or skills. They were merely introduced, stood for 5 seconds, then sat down. So unless one knew the woman personally or by reputation (which it appeared few did), it was possible to vote only on an appearance or group affiliation basis - a very poor one.

making such a decision.

The result was predictable: out of a committee totalling 22, there are only five who support feminism - Shirley Drews (NOW), Cherry Raymond (NOW) and Brigid Mulrennan (Young Socialists). The age balance (which even the May-ess hoped for), I would guess by looking at the meeting that about five there were under forty. There is no one who was involved with the planning of the United Women's Convention in 1973, and no one representing the women out of Auckland.

Anyway the Auckland Regional Group is now formed and we'll keep reporting on what they're actually doing.

The newsletter arrived the other day from the Committee on Women for 1974. It contained nothing new, despite its length and contained one absolutely extraordinary item. A woman called Pamela Gruber from the National Council of Churches has suggested as an activity for the year a "Women & Water" campaign. Study groups could be set up to look at, among other things: How long one has had clean and running water supply in the home; the hundreds of gallons of water used for (how often is the tap turned on in one day!); Biblical and theological significance of water, e.g. Moses striking the rock, Jesus and baptism and water into wine.

This sort of suggestion shows how completely misunderstood the aims of IWY have been. It is a pity that where water is inaccessible, it is most often the women who have to walk the long distances to get it, but couldn't we just stick to New Zealand? We've got enough problems of our own. There seems to be a growing attempt to deflect attention from problems at home by focusing on the problems of overseas women. A sort of 'we don't know how lucky we are' attitude which makes one feel terribly unselfish and egocentric when arguing against it. A person is not going to be terribly popular by saying 'Look, I'm sorry about the women in Pakistan, but let's concentrate on our needs here in NZ,' but it has to be said. Taking the hat off whatever gross deficiencies exist in New Zealand could prove safer than looking at, for example, what the Government hasn't done here.

The bright note has been struck by the appointment of Rosslyn Noonan as Advisor for International Women's Year. Although not identified with any one women's rights group, Rosslyn is a committed feminist and young as well. We include an interview with Rosslyn in this issue.

The broadsheet has been criticised for being negative about IWY. We will continue to be as critical as along as the activity and

organisation for the year continue to be in their present forms. There are a number of reasons for our being outspoken.

We don't want the population in general to regard what's being done for IWY as typical of what feminists want. The women's movement wants a restructuring of society, not a few mild reforms here and there. In many people's eyes, IWY is about women's rights. Therefore, IWY could be seen as representative of what the women's movement wants. We want to correct that impression. Many people haven't really thought about IWY. They are accepting it in the form its being presented to them. We hope to make them think.

When the 7-Day TV crew wanted to interview women who saw something of the matter with IWY in New Zealand, they had to come to Auckland to interview Broadsheet people, as we were the only group being vocal in criticism. We know many people share our views. It is the function of a feminist magazine to articulate the views of the movement and we will continue to expose areas of dissatisfaction and injustice where necessary. And one does wonder about the aim of the Committee on Women when such an item is included as a possible project in their newsletter on IWY.

Sandra Coney.

Rosslyn Noonan Feminist gets job of advisor for IWY

How does the newly appointed advisor for IWY see her job? MARY SINCLAIR interviewed Rosslyn Noonan to find out.

Ros, what qualifications do you feel you have for the job of Organiser for International Women's Year?

Well, in various organisations and activities I've been involved on the organizational as opposed to policy-making. These

include things like organising NZUSA's Congress (an inter-University activity) in the days when they used to have them. Also, because I've been mainly concerned with the Labour Party for the last few years, I've been involved in organising two election campaigns, one in Remuera in 1969 and one in Miramar in 1972. Another job I've had was Assistant-Director on a children's TV serial -- that was basically organisation -- getting people from one point to another, making sure they were there on time, making sure all the equipment, props and so on were there. So in various ways I've been involved in organisation.

Another qualification for the job -- on my application I suggested that having been a junior lecturer and a tutor was useful because both things involved discussion groups as opposed to standing up and lecturing to people. They both involved getting people's ideas from them, getting them to look at a particular thing and drawing their own conclusions. I think that this particular job calls for that particular ability. You sometimes need a leader or a catalyst, someone who's used to doing that sort of thing.

I think too, being a committed feminist, though not necessarily a wellknown one or even a member of very many organisations, that in my own personal life and my work, I feel strongly that I am a feminist. I doubt that anyone without that commitment could really have done the job in any way effectively. What do you actually see the job as doing?

Well, after a week in it, I'd have to say that obviously it might develop quite differently or that additional things might come to mind. But I think the job operates on several levels. Obviously to quite a large extent the job will be what I make of it. But it always has to be remembered that I am actually an employee of the Committee on Women, and as such not in a position to make policy decisions.

Exactly what group do you work for - can we get that straight?

I work for the Working Party of the Committee on Women. The Committee on Women was set up by the National Development Corporation and was originally simply a subcommittee of the Corporation. When the Labour Government dismantled the NDC they maintained the sector councils and these were groups of individuals with particular interests in various fields -- for example, there's a sector council on Social Development and one on Industrial Relations, and so on. The Labour Government actually made the Committee on Women into a full sector council, so in that sense it felt that it was recognising the need for a particular advisory group on women. But it maintained the membership exactly as it had

been under the NDC, I understand.

The Committee on Women has direct access to the Prime Minister and that in itself can form quite a valuable pressure group if it chooses to. It is serviced by the Cabinet Office which gives some indication of its importance at the advisory level. It is basically involved in fairly quiet pressuring, but it does have some strong policies on the employment of women in the Public Service, and I think we're going to hear more of that this year. I'm not really concerned with the general policies of the Committee on Women. They have an Executive Officer, Helen Sutch, who is supposed to service them and do research papers and so on.

The Committee on Women was asked by the Prime Minister to coordinate activities for International Women's Year. The UN had asked that the Government name what they call a Correspondent. Ms Miriam Dell was named as the New Zealand Correspondent and the Committee on Women, under her chairmanship, set up a working party which includes the three women members of the Committee on Women and an expanded membership including people like Dr Margaret Sparrow (a doctor at the University Health Centre), Ms Letitia Robinson, Mr Hatton Dixon (United Nations Association representative), Lindsay Wright, Peter Kyle (a lawyer).

This Working Party has also attached to it various officers from different Govt. departments like Tourist and Publicity, Foreign Affairs and any other department which is relevant for any particular piece of work. I understand that in fact various Govt. departments have been very good; they've sent along representatives and asked what they can do and volunteered their help. And of course their services do represent a certain basic contribution. So I'm actually employed by the Working Party, although legally I'm employed by Foreign Affairs as the Committee on Women and the Working Party aren't incorporated bodies, so they can't actually sign contracts.

How do you see the year working - what are your aims and expectations for IWY?

The Working Party are my employers and they presumably have some opinions on matters of concern to women, like child care and so on. My job as they saw it was basically someone to move about the country making sure that activities relating to IWY were happening. Because of course, International Population Year (which was last year) passed virtually unnoticed in New Zealand, apart from the fact that we sent a deputation to the Bucharest Conference. But most people wouldn't even have heard of that, so they obviously didn't manage to get the message through to New Zealanders.

My job is really to make sure that not only do things happen in the big centres, but that this actually spreads out further than that. But from the Committee's



Photo: Thursday Magazine

point of view, I'm not there to impose anything on anybody. If I happen to be useful because I happen to know how to go about setting things up or the best people to go to, I can be used as a kind of resource -- that's what it comes down to -- by various groups and organisations. Also, though this isn't perhaps relevant to the feminist groups, I've found even in the short time that I've been involved, there has been a great demand for actual information on what women's status is in New Zealand. A lot of the feminist groups may think we've long since passed that point, but I'm afraid the fact of the matter is that we haven't; So at one level I'll be providing very basic information. From my point of view the job operates at one level as basically a consciousness raising exercise, which I feel we should be grateful that I'm being paid to do. Because, while there's a certain amount of awareness, there's also a feeling of being threatened.

By what?

By drastic change, particularly as many

see "Women's Lib" as they call it as something that's very threatening to them, while at the same time expressing views which are identical with the feminist views. For example, one woman I met was an ambulance driver in a voluntary capacity and was very angry because the city professional drivers' association would not accept women, and she felt she was just as good as they were, but they wouldn't allow her in their association. She could see that that was an area of totally unnecessary discrimination and this was the sort of thing she hoped IWY would change, but then she finished off by saying that of course she wasn't a supporter of "Women's Lib". But when I talked to her further and we discussed what "Women's Lib" was about, she began to see her image of "Women's Lib" was a distortion of the media, and that the sort of things she was complaining about were exactly the sort of things it was about.

I feel this is an extremely important thing I have to do, and in order to do it I have to be extremely careful that I

...n't myself become a media personality
...cause that would completely destroy
...effectiveness. I don't want to be quoted
...every issue that comes up. I have to
...careful because I'm well aware that
...personality and style can get in the way
...what you're saying and trying to do.
...I've got long hair and I look young and
...it already is a bad start. Therefore I
...realise that I'm going to have to be
...most careful that my dress style doesn't
...let off the people I'm most trying to
...reach, because I belong to a 'different'
...world from them.

...of my very status, my appointment gives
...me access to people who otherwise would
...not sit and listen, and I feel at that
...level the job is very important. Particu-
...larly in the smaller towns which I hope
...to get to -- I'm planning pretty much
...to ignore the big centres once I've been
...to them all, because frankly there will
...already be pretty active groups (the re-
...gional councils of the Committee on
...men) covering all ends of the spec-
...trum, and either they get on or they
...don't, and they plan their IWY activi-
...ties. They've each got a basic grant from
...the Committee on Women of approxi-
...mately \$300 (which doesn't sound like
...much and isn't), but that's for adminis-
...tration in the big centres; like, it'll pay
...for a telephone bill and setting up an off-
...ice but not much more.

...is the grant for Regional Councils,
...not for individual groups?
...but there is some money for individ-
...ual projects and really the only way any-
...one's going to get any of that is if they
...are active in with projects. Obviously this
...hasn't been possible yet, because up till
...now they haven't known about it. What
...I'm hoping is that, because it's IWY, we'll
...be in a position to pressure other sources
...for money, because it gives some status
...to see, to the Committee on Women, me,
...and through me, other groups.

...What about more concrete results of
...IWY?

...There are other things that we should
...be able to achieve this year -- the Com-
...mittee on Women would like to see
...some concrete results. I can see two
...things at the moment -- an again I may
...have other ideas later on -- one is re-
...quests for project money for specific
...things, like halfway houses or child
...care centres or women's health centres.
...but I don't want to say 'Why don't you
...ask for money for this?'. It needs to
...be something that does come out of the
...community. Part of my own personal
...philosophy is very strongly against both
...bureaucracy and things that aren't
...really in community control, whether
...worker participation in industry or
...otherwise. At the moment, I think
...the level of our society should be aim-
...ed basically for small groups doing
...their own thing. So I'm certainly op-

...posed to us even arguing that the
...Government should announce a great
...overall policy which would solve all our
...problems by looking after everything.

...Having said that, I want to make it
...quite clear that I certainly believe the
...Government has a responsibility for
...quality child care in a real sense, but
...I'd still like to see it controlled by the
...women who use it (and perhaps funded
...by the Govt) so that we can get the widest
...possible diversity in child care.

...The other thing is the legislative level.
...The Committee on Women has decided
...that it's technically better to wait for
...the report from the Select Committee
...on Women's Rights and then to try and
...spearhead action based on the recommend-
...ations of the report, rather than to devise
...priorities now. I think that's quite a sens-
...ible idea and what I'm hoping to organise
...is a conference of women from all over
...New Zealand from a broad cross section
...in such a way that whenever the Select
...Committee does report, we can have a
...two-day instant think tank in response,
...in which we decide which recommend-
...ations we accept, if any, and which ones
...we don't, and then those can be the ones
...we concentrate on for the year.

...What part do you see men playing in IWY?
...The Committee has as its stated policy that
...men must be involved and there's obviously
...a lot of sense in this, particularly if you're
...using local authorities' facilities and so on.
...I think men have an enormous part to
...play, childminding and making the tea,
...doing all those other ancillary tasks that
...we're certainly going to need done during
...the year. Some men have access to research
...material, etc, which we should certainly
...use. We should use what resources they
...have to the fullest extent. I see the year
...hopefully as widening everyone's options.
...I think it's important that men should be
...able to stay home and mind their child-
...ren without feeling any kind of stigma
...attached. Although we may well say
...that if there's any stigma attached it's
...their own fault, nevertheless I don't think
...that's very helpful to the individual male,
...who, with all the goodwill in the world,
...has been conditioned in the way he has,
...and in a sense is no more master of his
...own destiny as an individual than is
...any individual woman. I think too that
...the type of achievement-oriented
...pressures that are placed on men in our
...society are no better than the pressures
...that are placed on women. The truth
...of the matter is that at the moment,
...our society is geared to consuming,
...and this very capitalistic basis puts
...both men and women in an invidious
...position.

...What effect do you think you, as the
...organiser or the actual fact of IWY
...will have, or can bring to bear on the
...male-dominated power structure
...in New Zealand?

...I don't think that I individually or

...the Year can have much effect on
...the power structure at all. The only
...way to alter the power structure is
...by displaying superior power, or by
...very intricate knowledge of how the
...power structure works so you can
...employ it to your own advantage. Now
...I hope that I'll be in a position to learn
...how to exploit the power structure to
...the best advantage, but then it can only
...be changed with a great deal of press-
...ure from anyone who wants to see
...change. I don't believe, apart from in
...a revolutionary situation (which we
...are far from in New Zealand), that
...you can get a sudden or quick change.
...Mostly social change comes over a very
...extended and long drawn out period.
...We are going to try though, and the
...Committee on Women has planned
...an end-of-the-year conference which
...is aimed at bringing together represen-
...tatives of the various power sources in
...our community -- that is, from trade
...unions through to employers' federations
...through to bankers, politicians, etc --
...and confront them with very highpow-
...ered evidence that demonstrates the
...low status of women in their particular
...fields and we shall ask them what they are
...going to do about it. Now, providing
...that this works the way I hope it will,
...and which I'm sure is the Committee's
...intention, that could prove quite embar-
...assing for them and put them on the
...spot. Hopefully, it will actually elicit
...some positive action and responses -
...they may say "We'll do a,b,and c",
...and then it'll be just up to everyone to
...make sure this happens. It's not going
...to happen this year -- this conference is
...intended for the end of the year as a
...kind of a wind-up session, which I
...think is good timing, because then we'll
...have the Select Committee's report's
...recommendations and the United
...Women's Convention recommendations
...and workshop reports which should
...provide a good basis. With these and
...other sources, we should be able to pre-
...pare fairly high-level and intensive re-
...search papers which should be effective.
...I must say there is no better way than
...to confront people with totally ir-
...refutable statistics, whatever one says
...about statistics being used for whatever
...purpose you want -- they are invaluable
...for this sort of an exercise.

28 year old Rosslyn is an MA Hons
graduate. She has worked as a junior
lecturer in History at Auckland and as
a tutor in History for two years at
Victoria University. For the past three
years she has been mostly involved in
writing. The Ministry of Works comm-
issioned her to write two books, one a
history of the MOW and the other a his-
tory of the National Roads Board. These
will both be published later this year.

Rosslyn has also been involved in processing survey material which formed part of a survey carried out by the Wellington Chapter of the National Organisation for Women in 1973/4 on MPs' attitudes to women and women's issues. This will also be published later this year.

Rosslyn has been involved as a mother in various organisations such as play-

centre and kindergarten associations. She has also worked on the National Council of Churches commission on Church and Society and has been an organiser of two political campaigns for Labour Party candidates, one in Remuera in 1969 and the other in Miramar in 1972.

The position of Organiser is initially a six-month appointment and involves the

promotion of IWY in all aspects, including through community groups. Rosslyn will also be responsible for arranging meetings and will do correspondence and secretarial work. She is currently involved in arranging the organization of regional councils for the Committee of Women.

Dealing With Inadequate Medical Advice

A group of Auckland women, disturbed by the inadequate medical advice many women receive, has formed an Action group to deal with these problems.

Consider these stories:

Story Number One

A woman in her thirties was bleeding lightly (spotting) from her vagina continuously. She went to her general practitioner every month for 18 months, and at no time did he examine her. At the end of the 18 months she went to a different doctor. He examined her and she was admitted to hospital immediately with stage one carcinoma of the cervix.

Story Number Two

A young woman went to the doctor with genital warts. She was prescribed 'paint', and told to apply it to the warts twice daily. By the next day the woman was having excruciating pain in her genital area. It was painful to pass urine and to fuck. She returned to the doctor and told him. He said to continue with the paint. The pain persisted, so eventually she stopped using the paint and the pain went away. Months later she was talking to a medical student friend about the warts (which she still had). The friend, after checking in a textbook, was able to tell her that the reason for the pain was that the paint should have been washed off a few hours after application.

Some Thoughts On The God/Patient Relationship:

We have told you about these women because their stories illustrate the inadequacy of our medical service. We have heard countless similar stories, and we would be surprised if most of you people reading this could not think of an example of shoddy treatment given to you or one of your friends.

It has made us so angry that we can no longer stand to do nothing about it.

So far, all we're sure of is that the medical

system should benefit the people who use it. It seems that as consumers who pay for this service, we have a right to demand relief from sickness, pain, discomfort and anxiety, within the bounds of present resources of knowledge and (unfortunately) money.

In practice, we should be able to expect:

- * that the doctor will do everything in his/her power to make an accurate diagnosis.

- * that we will be given at least enough information to ensure recovery and prevent recurrence of the illness.

- * that the doctor will do everything possible to minimise pain or anxiety.

- * that we have the freedom to choose the doctor who gives the best service.

Some Vague Proposals and Brilliant Ideas:

We have decided to move. We are going to call ourselves Action Group for Improved Medical Services (AGFIMS).

So far, we plan to collect as many stories as we can about inadequate or bad service from general practitioners, specialists and hospitals. We hope that lots of people will write with information once they know that we exist.

When we have lots of information we will write to the doctors and hospitals we have received complaints about. No names will ever be used - we have decided to stay anonymous ourselves for the same reasons that you would probably want to. We will need to get some advice about this (from you, from lawyers, from people with pressure group experience), but we might just write to a doctor and say 'We have received 25 complaints about you. They are from 'x' kind of people (e.g. businesswomen,

businessmen, homeworkers, students) and they are regarding x (e.g. not being thorough enough, not giving enough information, not taking the patient seriously). We are concerned that this sort of thing is happening and we hope that you will take steps to improve your service and any other nice things we can think of. In some cases it may be a good idea to complain to the medical association, or to threaten (and take) legal action. The point is that as a group and anonymously we can take action that is out of the range of the individual.

We plan to have a very efficient filing system and keep lists of:

- * doctors who have given inadequate service.

- * doctors who have given bad service.

- * doctors who have refused contraceptives to unmarried people and people under sixteen.

- * doctors who will not make abortion referrals.

Eventually we may be able to make recommendations for changes in the system itself, with figures to support our suggestions. We should certainly be able to make both doctors and people a little more conscious of what a health service is for. But all this will remain just casual in the air etc. without a lot of support.

So Now We Get To What You Can Do

Which is:

- * Write and give us suggestions.

- * Write and tell us that you think it's a brilliant idea and you are right behind us and might even help if needed.

- * Write and tell us about any doctor brutality that you know about for sure. Give as much information as possible especially the doctor's name and address and roughly when it happened. Give your own name and address so that we can write to you if we need any additional information. n.b. your name will never pass our lips.

- * Send a big fat cheque (or postal note)

This is our address: Action Group For Improved Medical Service, c/o Ponsby Post Office, Ponsby.

or you can ring Mary at 769417 or I at 764857.

Coming Festival of women's films

The New Zealand Students Arts Council intends to host a Women's Film Festival in October, in Auckland this year.

The films, made by women, will be obtained from those shown at the Australian Women's Film Festival which were collected from all over the world.

The Australian group has received government finance (a loan) to administer the festival which will be shown in seven Australian capital cities. The Festival aims to:

- * explore women's creativity through films
- * counteract the reluctance of distributors to release women's films in



Photo: Adrienne Childie

In Australia — Leonie Crennan, Barbara Levy and Margot Knox (left to right) of the Sydney Women's Film Group at work on "Home".

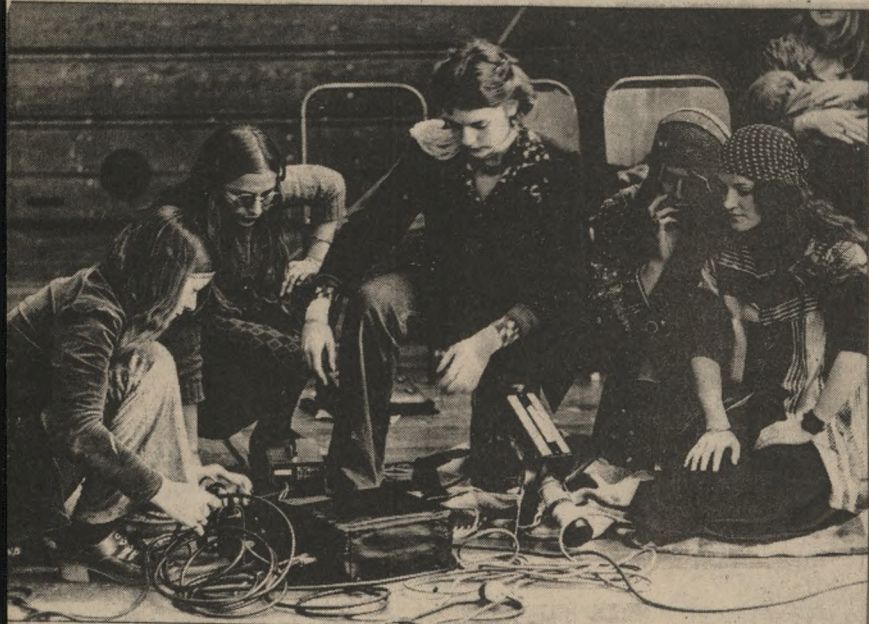


Photo: Robin Morrison

Auckland — Stephanie McKee (left) and Catherine Cardiff (centre) with video equipment at the 1973 United Women's Convention.

Australia

- * raise people's awareness of the realities of the female culture
- * produce a feminist critique of women's films
- * provide an historical and cultural context of women's cinema
- * break down Australia's insularity in this field.

Concurrent with the main viewing there will be:

- * screening of video tapes including interviews with women film makers
- * video tuition
- * child care
- * photographic exhibition
- * discussion workshops
- * screenings for children and additional free screenings for women.

It is not yet known how ambitious our New Zealand festival will be, much will depend upon getting people together to co-ordinate it. If you can help in any way at all please phone Kathryn de Nave Auckland 502904

ROYAL COMMISSION ON ABORTION

Another shelf for the 'hot topic'

In December last year a deputation from the Labour Women's Council, led by Labour M.P. Dorothy Jellicich, requested that the government set up a Royal Commission of Inquiry into the subjects of contraception, abortion and sterilization. The proposal is now being considered by a government sub-

committee.

In a recent press statement the Women's National Abortion Action Campaign (WONAAC) expressed their opposition to this proposal, condemning it as yet another delaying tactic to take the heat out of the growing pressure on the government to act on

the abortion issue. Diane Cleary, a spokeswoman for WONAAC, pointed out that the government has had sufficient opportunity to gather information about the need for legalising abortion. "As long ago as 1972 the Labour Party conference agreed to a proposal for a study of the matter,

which was to have been completed in two years and its results reported back to the 1974 conference. Whatever happened to that study? Was it also proposed as a means of staving off the growing pressure for change? "

There is also a fear that the Select Committee on Women's Rights, which held its hearings last year, will ignore the issues of abortion, contraception and sterilization, submissions on which were prepared by a number of groups. In the November 1974 issue of the Labour Party's newspaper *The Nation* the following appeared in an article on the Select Committee: "The controversial issues of contraception and abortion were not included in the committee's terms of reference".

In fact, the terms of reference of the Committee were extremely broad, and included a directive to the committee "to recommend the adoption of policies to alleviate any area of social injustice".

The WONAAC statement comments: "We believe that if it wanted to, the Select Committee on Women's Rights could have dealt with the matter and made recommendations aimed at achieving an early decision in the interests of women's rights. We are curious to

BEHIND THE - NEWS -

see the outcome when the Committee's report is made to Parliament in its next session.

"...In our view, the most important consideration is the fact that thousands of women have made public their support for women's right to choose abortion - through demonstrations, petitions, public meetings and women's conventions. This should carry far more weight than the findings of a Royal Commission . . . Even a referendum cannot resolve a matter which is the personal business of each woman concerned. The only just solution is for the government to repeal the abortion laws, making abortion a medical matter like any other.

"This would be a highly appropriate action to take in recognition of the current International Women's Year."

a week.

The Social Welfare Department's advisory social worker, Mr Ian Johnston, has described the sharing of premises as "an extremely good idea" and would like to see it happen much more often. He is, I'm told, most approachable for advice on how to go about setting up centres.

The Department has funds available to assist voluntary agencies start day care centres. There are some snags - for instance, although the Government will pay up to two-thirds of capital work costs for those starting from scratch, there is as yet no assistance for equipment or furniture.

This means that a group like the Eden-Epsom one, which doesn't need a capital grant, still has to find \$3000 for equipment. Eden MP Mike Moore, who has worked hard for the project since its inception, is heading a fund drive, but for a very small group, all of whom are working full-time as well, it's an uphill battle and any help would be appreciated.

If you would like to help, donations can be sent to the treasurer of the Eden-Epsom Community Day Care Society, Mr Jack Scott, at 31 Mont le Grand Rd (Ph: 601-216). Or if you have any equipment suitable - all sorts of things are needed, from a fridge and stove to changes of clothing and toys - please phone Shirley Andrews at 603-843.

When the Eden-Epsom day care centre opens, it is hoped to look after about 30 children. This will go a tiny way towards bridging the huge gap between the need for pre-school care and its provision.

In her address to this year's conference of the New Zealand Association of Child Care Centres, Labour MP Ms Dorothy Jelicich said it is estimated that there are between 30,000 and 40,000 working women with pre-school children - but a mere 3000 of these children are in child care centres.

So if you are keen to set up a day care centre in your area and you know any friendly Boy Scouts or vicars or anyone else who might have premises with potential going to waste, it might be worth a try ...

The Social Welfare Department will probably post you a copy of its six-page publication entitled "Day Care for Pre-School Children- Grants to Voluntary Welfare Organisations."

A New Day Care Centre with an unusual beginning

Boy Scouts and feminists hand in hand? It sounds bizarre, but it's happening - at least figuratively - in Mt Eden.

The St Alban's Scouts have done their good deed for 1975 by agreeing to share their premises - the old St Sepulchre's Church in Grange Road - with the Eden-Epsom Community Day Care Society.

It's a mutually beneficial arrangement. A fire last year badly damaged the church; and the Scouts, whose membership is not exactly booming, must have wondered whether it was worthwhile undertaking repairs.

But then the dilapidated though still beautiful church was spotted by members of the day care society, which was set up last year after impetus from the National Organisation for Women, to provide a day care centre in Mt Eden involving as many sections of the community as possible.

Feminist persuasion was used on the leading scouts. As a result, the Scouts will raise a loan to rebuild the damaged

part of the church in two sections - one for their own use and another for the day care centre which will be specially adapted to meet the requirements of the Social Welfare Department.

The day care centre's rent will help pay off the loan and maintain the building and everyone, hopefully, will be happy.

How far the co-operation between the two groups will extend beyond the business side is a moot point.

My suggestion at one planning meeting that the Cubs and Scouts might like to drop by the day care centre after school to play with the little ones was met with an embarrassed silence by the Scouting representatives. I don't think they thought I was serious ...

The project is believed to be the first of its kind in New Zealand. But it could be the first of many. Just think of all those Scout halls up and down the country standing empty except for a couple of nights a week.

St Sepulchre's is a perfect example. At present its total use by Cubs, Scouts Guides and Brownies is only nine hours

Auckland gets a Women's Centre

On March 8, International Women's Day, a Women's Centre opened in Auckland. Broadsheet reports on what the Women's Centre hopes to achieve and how you can help.

For those who have not yet heard about the Women's Centre - after about a month of searching and negotiating, we took out a lease on a large old shop at the above address on February 14th. Since then we have been cleaning and redecorating the shop and planning activities for it.

We want the Centre to be a drop-in centre and contact point for women and women's groups.

In time we expect many activities to grow up around the Centre and we welcome new ideas and plans from all women. Groups have already been set up for the following activities and all welcome new members:

LIBRARY GROUP

This group will organise existing newsletters, magazines and books and oversee the conversion of the back room of the shop to a library/reading room. DONATIONS OF FEMINIST LITERATURE AND BOOKS BY OR ABOUT WOMEN ARE DESPERATELY NEEDED. Our present collection is more gaps than collection.

Contact : Jenny Mackintosh 655-726

REFERRAL CENTRE GROUP
Hopefully, the Centre will soon be able to start operating as a referral centre for women with problems or difficulties. They will find a supportive environment at the Centre and information will be on hand about their

Photo: Margot Nash



Members of the House Committee waiting to see the landlord.

rights (e.g. social service entitlements) and about alternatives to their present situation (e.g. child care in their area which would enable them to work, Strawberry Villa, the Halfway House which is about to be established.) There are two groups of women working on this project. One is compiling the actual information needed to operate the service and the other is organising a roster system of women who are will-

ing to give their time to operate the referral service. Volunteers are still urgently needed for the roster. At present we are planning to be open :

| | | |
|----------|----------|--------------|
| Friday | Full day | 10 am - 9 pm |
| Saturday | | 1 pm - 4 pm |
| Sunday | | 1 pm - 4 pm |
| Monday | | 6 pm - 9 pm |

This will depend on course on the number of women available.

Contact : Miranda 689-494

OR fill in the form below :-
SOCIAL GROUP

Most people involved with the Centre feel that it has an important role to play as a social centre for women, so a group for organising such activities has been set up. Parties and film evenings have been suggested and other ideas will be welcomed, particularly if the can be combined with fundraising.

Contact : Anne Rippon 362-446

Other groups have been set up for the day-to-day running of the Centre, for working out matters of policy (members of this group all belong to at least one other group) and for publicising events at the Centre.

For all general information about the Centre contact :-

Pilar Michalka 762-776

FINANCIAL GROUP

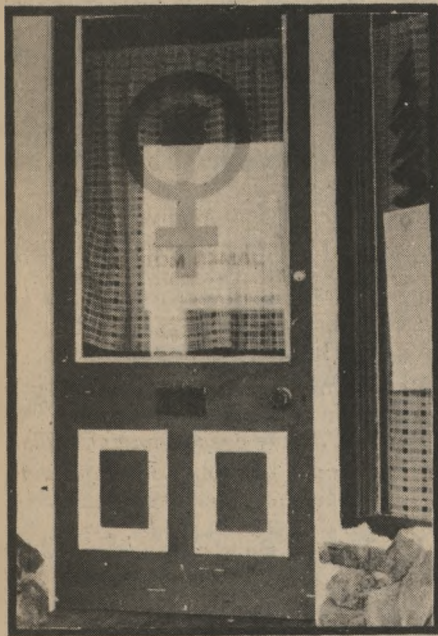
As many of you will know, money to set up the Centre was provided by Auckland Women's Liberation, but



Photo: Ed Haysom

right new curtains and red lettering after the shop had been decorated.

from now on we are totally dependent on pledges for payment of rent, telephone, rates, insurance (only the place glass windows), and any maintenance which becomes necessary. The most common amount for pledges seems to be 50c per week. Some people have been able to pledge \$1 per week and others can only manage 20c. This is obviously going to involve organisation and paperwork. To minimize this and expenses for paper and postage, we would like to ask everyone offering pledges for the Centre to pay as far in advance as possible and to try to remember when their pledge has run out and renew it without having to be "chased" by the treasurer for that period. Please fill out the form below and enclose it with your pledge. Cheques should be made out to Auckland Women's Centre, and if posted, sent to Jenny Mackintosh, 229 St. Andrews Road, Epsom, Auckland 3.



The front door to the Women's Centre.

TEAR ALONG HERE

- * I enclose \$. . . pledge to the Auckland Women's Centre. This is to cover a period of months at \$ per month.
- * I am unable to make a regular pledge but enclose a donation of \$
- * I am interested in helping to roster the referral service and would like to be contacted about this.

Name.....
 Address

More progress with the Halfway House

Much progress is being made with Auckland's first Halfway House for women.

The Halfway House Group presented submissions to the Auckland City Council early in February. We asked the Council for a house, rent and maintenance free, to use for one year, in order to run a pilot scheme. In this time we hoped to provide immediate help, for women, and also reveal the true nature of the problem of "homeless women" in Auckland. We hope to persuade the government of its obligation to finance a series of Halfway Houses in N.Z.

The Council has responded favourably. It has offered us a house which we are assessing for its suitability.

The Aims of Halfway House

Long Term

1. Provide data about the needs of many women in our N.Z. society, to what extent these are being met, and in what way they fail to be met.
2. To provide the means by which women in N.Z. can come to learn of their own potential as individuals and therefore to be a spearhead of social change.

Short Term

1. We will provide temporary accommodation for women who need to leave intolerable domestic situations i.e. we aim to help women who live in constant fear of beating, who dread their husband's homecoming; women who have been put out of their homes with little knowledge of how to go about supporting themselves; young unmarried girls whose pregnancies cause embarrassment to their families.

How Will Halfway House Achieve Its Aims?

Halfway House will provide more than just temporary food and shelter, great though the need for this alone is. It will provide a warm and supportive environment, emotionally as well as physically. It will be the environment not a charitable institution. but of women acting and living together to find solutions to our own problems. The house will be staffed voluntarily 24 hours a day by women, many of whom will have been trained in counselling techniques. We aim to hold regular meetings of the house roster women, so

that we can come to share similar beliefs about the manner in which women can realise their full potential as individuals.

In addition to the House Roster, we wish to establish a Play Group Roster so that any children can be looked after separately from their mothers in order to give mothers a chance to recuperate without the worry of children.

However of equal importance to the regular house staff, will be feminists who come in regularly for an evening and lead discussions on the multitude of topics that are of vital interest to women. We hope that women with films, something of an interest to say, or just with an interest in being with women and talking, will feel that the house is a good place to be.

We want to offer unconditional support to women who require it. We do not want to reinforce the role of women as the traditional female i.e. mother-wife-housekeeper, passive, selfless, dependent. We do not want to put bandages on society, but we acknowledge the breakdown in the structure of society and realise that the structure is not good for women. We do not want to "help" women but rather want to provide the space for women to start helping themselves.

We are part of the women's movement because we share the aims of the movement. We recognise the oppression of women and encourage them to reach for their independence and self identity. We can not cater for the needs of men as they have completely different needs. We can identify with women at their problems. We will do this through short term emergency shelter and long term contact and support. We hope that the organisation of Halfway House will become self-perpetuating, i.e. that women who come to Halfway House seeking help will return to give help.

If you can help with:

book-keeping; MONEY; TIME; professional skills; educational equipment e.g. chalk, blackboards, etc; children's play material; furniture, kitchenware; blankets, sheets, etc; please contact us

Join our play group or transport roster - phone Valeska 763-477

Join our house staff roster - phone Bronwyn 763-477

Help with our financial campaign - phone Joy 766-287

Help with food pledges, furniture, linens offer us a room in your house to be used as a back-up to Halfway House - phone Annie 764-865

Donate us your professional advice, real estate skills and contacts - phone Brenda 766-287

Can you help us? Write P.O. Box 47-1 Ponsonby, Auckland.



Han Suyin

"I object to the word feminism. It is compartmentalising yourselves." was the opening statement of the seemingly inexhaustible, vital, dynamic Han Suyin, well known author doctor and lecturer recently in New Zealand. She is brilliant, strong, speaks with her whole body, vehemently gesticulating as she outlines her ideas which contradict any feeling that you may have had that she's not a feminist.

She says that the word feminist would not be understood in China - there the liberation of women is an integral component of the revolution, and if their liberation fails, then the revolution as a whole will fail. She feels though, that here we need women's Liberation and exhorts us to be more militant about it, not merely reformist. She tells us not to see men but the

system based on exploitation and injustice, as our adversary. I replied that to me unfortunately they are one and the same. New Zealand men, she says, are trying to make fun of women, and place women's Liberation in a discrete category.

However, she says, nothing is instant and women's liberation is gradual and still has to be worked for, even in China. Huge progress has been made for women since the revolution and is going on, but the conditioning of Chinese women is very deep and it will take generations of encouragement and incentives to completely change. In the meantime, girls and boys are educated alike; there are no prefixes such as Miss, Mrs or Mr; 56 days paid maternity leave is granted; abortion, contraception, tubal ligation and vasectomy are available free and on demand; free nursery care is provided in factories etc.; breast feeding is

encouraged, and women are paid, breastfeeding or not, to spend half an hour morning and afternoon with their babies; pregnant women work a 7, not 8, hour day still on full pay; housewives' factories exist within walking distance of women's homes where they can work full or part time.

The institution of marriage survives. Late marriage is encouraged, originally introduced as a method of family planning, and premarital sex is discouraged. She commented that with the accessibility of contraception this may relax, but at present Chinese society (particularly the 85% rural population) is very non-permissive. Prostitution has been eradicated. She also emphasised that with Third World women, sex is not a main issue - there are too many other 'real' issues in their lives.

Divorce, still considered a failure, for childless couples is by mutual consent and if there are children (and only two is the encouraged number in each family) the 'street' i.e. the neighbours, discuss the situation, often with female assessors and everything is talked out. Often one child goes to each parent or each parent's family and if both children go to one parent then the maintenance is automatically deducted from the other parent's salary. No such thing as alimony exists, as it is not needed in this society where neither partner sacrifices years of his/her life child bearing and rearing.

There is no social stigma attached to unmarried people - male or female they can, if they desire adopt children. It all sounded too good to be true and I questioned her about the actual number of women in Big Bopper positions. She explained that the jump from feudal women to liberation is huge and must be gradual - if instant, alienation of the mass of Chinese women would result. Change has to work from the base up - i.e. start with the peasants and their revolution. There is a laid down regulation that there must be a minimum of 30% female on every committee everywhere. Some have more than 30%. However the percentage of women on the Central Committee is 22% and although a vast improvement on even two years ago, their ultimate aim is for 40% women on this most important committee. Why not 50%? Because there are always women having children. She encourages us to "fight on all levels and about everything"; "look to your young - they must lead the the revolution"; "be militant"; "reformism is inadequate" and "you must fight to change the entire system". Rosemary Ronald

REPORT FROM THE U.S.A.

A member of the Broadsheet Collective, SHARYN CEDERMAN, has just returned from a visit to America. Here she reports on what she saw of the feminist movement and activities there.



The Women's Centre, Los Angeles

The specific purpose of my visit was to see what was happening in the feminist movement. I wanted to meet a wide range of people who were actually doing something. I was hoping to boost my own flagging morale as well as learn more specific things such as how women's centres operated. The pace was hectic beyond belief and my body finally collapsed a week before the end. The trip has far exceeded my expectations and hopes of recharging myself. Many of my ideas have been clarified and strengthened. I have also seen many new things and found new ways of looking at things, but most importantly, I have met some superb women who have reaffirmed the real meaning of sisterhood for me. Women who responded with open and warm acceptance and love. Women who opened their homes and their hearts to me, who talked for hours with me despite their own busy schedules. Women who have been thinking and work-

ing and exploring feminism for many years and who have had the chance to test their ideas out both in practise and in argument with others.

This was the most exciting part meeting all those wonderful women, some whose names are well known - such as Robin Morgan, poet and radical writer, Lorraine Rothman and Carol Downer, founders of Self Help, Sidney Abbott and Barbara Love, authors and radical lesbians, others whose names were not so well known but whose contributions are just as strong - Joanne Edgar, co-founder of Ms magazine, Valeria and Joanne who began the first feminist credit union, Helen Marieskind, a New Zealander who is a professor in Public Health at a university just out of New York, all the women working in the Feminist Women's Health Centres, Phyllis and Leslie, both feminist architects . . . the list could go on.

19 - 22 December Los Angeles

Made initial contact with feminists and personal friends. Hit by disorientation and jet lag, three hours in a freeway jam in the worst smog for a year, all contributed to the shock to my system. Astounded at the blatant examples of sexism for commercial gain, especially during the flight to San Francisco with PSA airlines. Their hostesses fulfilled the most obvious stereotype of sexually attractive women and wore very tight short tunics over shorts.

22 December - 3 January San Francisco

Mostly spent doing touristy type things, driving all over the place, visiting some out of the way areas such as Sausalito (north of San Francisco, a beautiful shopping area on the harbour edge with super seafood restaurants), Los Gatos (up in the mountains, south of San Francisco), Carmel, Big Sur, Monterey, Oakland, Berkeley. Also saw several movies and sampled many different kinds of restaurants and explored the shops. Visited the Sisterhood Bookstore in Berkeley and bought \$50 of books and magazines. Discovered by accident the Berkeley Women's Centre opposite a health food restaurant I was eating in. Wandered in and received a very warm welcome by a staff member who spent an hour talking with me about how they had begun, the problems they had had and how they had resolved them. The Centre was funded with the assistance of county grants and this meant that they were able to pay staff members and had a very attractive and inviting centre. It was used as a meeting place for a wide variety of groups and also acted as a referral centre for women with all kinds of problems. The main ones were employment as the unemployment rate in the area is very high, especially among women, and accommodation as rents are very high by our standards (you would probably pay around \$250 per month for a 1-bedroomed flat). Child care was also a major problem as there were not enough good quality and inex-

ensive centres available. Also visited the Feminist Women's Health Centre in Oakland.

1 - 8 January Santa Ana, Orange Country

Based at Feminist Women's Health Centre in Santa Ana, where Lorraine Rothman works. It was great to meet up with her again and receive such a warm welcome. I was able to participate in all their activities and really see how the place worked. The pregnancy screening clinic impressed me - the women from the FWHC shared the knowledge they had acquired about signs of pregnancy with women who believed they might be pregnant. These women did their own urine tests and collated symptoms that indicated to them that they might be pregnant.

Then based on this information, they made a decision for themselves about whether they were or were not likely to be pregnant. Many did not wish to continue the pregnancy and they were given the opportunity of attending the abortion clinic run by the FWHC. Here a doctor is employed by the FWHC to do the actual abortion as this is required by law. However, all the other aspects are performed either by the woman herself or by the FWHC staff. The whole atmosphere is very exciting - to see women who have actually taken back the knowledge of their own bodies into their own hands and make their own decisions based on information they gather. The abortions done here are all under 12 weeks and are performed by vacuum aspiration. The women have a choice of having or not having local anaesthetic. Many choose not to, knowing that the procedure is so short that any discomfort will be minimal. A counsellor goes into the procedure room with the woman and remains with her all the time, answering her questions, explaining what is happening and reassuring her over any fears she may have. The women pay on a scale fee basis according to their income.

attended a meeting of three chapters of N.O.W. and heard a long report about the split in the N.O.W. board which culminated with 13 board members calling themselves the majority caucus, walking out of the December board meeting. The 9 members who remained represent a smaller membership than the 13 who left. There also appeared to be a geographical basis, in that generally it was the women from the mid-West based around Chicago who stayed



The proofreading office for Ms magazine is filled with greenery, in contrast with the bleak streets outside !

and the women from the two coasts who left.

Also visited the Feminist Forge, a feminist jeweller in Laguna Beach, and Persephone's Place, a feminist bookshop where I acquired some cards which say "You have just insulted a woman. This card is chemically treated. In three days your prick will fall off". This bookshop was very attractive and had a good range of literature but was not doing terribly well, mainly because the location was rather out of the way. Best selling items in feminist bookshops were usually T shirts, posters, and paperbacks. I was also impressed with the children's books that were available and have brought some back with me.

8 - 11 January Los Angeles

Based at the Feminist Women's Health Centre - again a very warm welcome from the women who gave me every assistance, including the use of a car when I needed it. A trip to the Women's Building was an early priority. Unfortunately they had not recovered from the holidays and there was very little happening - many of their outlets were not open. They have many organizational problems including losing the building in June and having to find alternative accommodation. I did talk to women in the Women's Switchboard, the administrators (who are paid a minimal wage), the Sisterhood Bookstore, the N.O.W. office and an art exhibition. I understand that the Women's Studio Workshop has a very exciting

programme but nothing was on during my time in Los Angeles. I travelled out to the Los Angeles Women's Centre in Venice, which is a rather run down area on the coast. The centre acts as an umbrella and meeting place for a number of groups and is not the kind of place where one can drop in to find out what is going on. They are having problems including finance and structure. I got the impression that it would be difficult for new women to feel very welcome there unless they knew someone. The Gay Community Service Centre was quite a contrast a bright friendly welcome, an efficient service offering referrals and contacts and groups of all kinds which one may join. However they are heavily funded by outside organisations and it seemed as if the men had all the real control. Funding from outside groups is looked upon with some suspicion by most radical groups as a means of control, however long the reins. My feeling was that it must become more difficult for groups to challenge the existing power structure when the staff members' salaries are dependent upon that power structure's support. So that funding seems a very effective way of ensuring that groups working for social change are contained within acceptable limits.

A visit to a USA court showed another way of controlling and limiting groups which are threatening the power structure - charge them with all kinds of small charges. That way they have to spend a lot on legal fees to defend themselves and in



Letty Lottin Pogrebin, Editor and co-founder of Ms magazine in her office in New York.

paying their fines. Also by making the charges small and boring the group cannot make political capital of it - who is going to march to support someone charged with malicious mischief or wilful trespass? The women from the FWHC had spent a year trying to persuade the county authorities to close down an illegal abortion clinic being operated by Harvey Karman and his associates. Eventually, the women, tired of waiting for the slow process of the authorities, moved in on the clinic and removed all the equipment and transported it to the office of the city authority. Thus the clinic was forced to close down, but three of the women were charged with fairly minor charges. This was my first and only experience with USA courts and it was rather horrifying to someone used to British principles of justice. The concept of plea bargaining is quite accepted there and in fact the courts could not operate if everyone was tried on all their charges. What happens is that people are charged with several charges of a varying degree - the lawyer then goes and bargains with the court authorities to plead either guilty or no contest to one of the lesser charges in exchanges for dropping the more serious charges. This means that the courts do not have to spend a lot of time and energy in presenting evidence and the whole process is speeded up. It was rather horrifying though and seemed to bear little relation to the principle that justice should be seen to be done, and that defendants are entitled to a fair trial. In the FWHC case the lawyer had plea bargained

and had arranged to plead no contest to one of the lesser charges in exchange for dropping the others. The women had been interviewed by a probation officer who had reported favourably on them. They were fined a total of \$315 and given one year's summary probation with certain restrictions on their activities regarding Harvey Karman. There is also a civil suit pending.

Watched part of a three hour prime time documentary called "Of Women and Men" produced by CBS, for International Women's Year. A very wishy washy effort that seemed to be overly concerned with sex rather than with real social change. Could not be described as feminist by any stretch of the imagination.

11 - 13 January Detroit

Stayed with Patricia Hill Burnett, a former International Vice President of N.O.W. who is planning an international women's convention in Belgium in 1977. Visited the Feminist Women's Health Centre run by two valiant women, Cathy Courtenay and Jackie. Cathy has been working very hard to set up a health clinic in Detroit and served as a great reminder of the power of one woman who is really determined. Through her I also met two amazing women who set up the first feminist credit union. Unfortunately my interview with Joanne and Valerie has not come out on tape but later issues of Broadsheet will keep you informed about this idea which is so brilliant, so simple and with very widespread ramifications for the benefit of wo-

men. Again, two very hardworking and dedicated women achieving so much in such a short time. They were a real inspiration. And through them I met two women working in a very exciting area - feminist architecture. Again, there will be more news of this in later issues. But it was very exciting to meet women who are exploring and challenging an area which affects all of us though we may not realise it, an area which has been totally male dominated for so long.

16 - 28 January New York

New York was on the one hand the most exciting place and on the other the most disappointing. I was not able to see as many places as I wanted to as they were not concentrated in any one area and were often staffed very erratically so that one would go to a particular district and find that some of the places weren't open or that they were apartment buildings with no way of identifying which apartment was the one wanted.

I spent two days at Ms magazine which was very interesting. I met all the staff and talked to many of them, both about their particular jobs and also about N.Z. and what was happening here. I sat in on an editorial meeting and went to a presentation to Gloria Steinem of a beautiful patchwork quilt which had been made for her 40th birthday by a woman artist and sewer on behalf of the staff. They were all very complimentary about Broadsheet and were very impressed that we had been going for so long and that it was all done on volunteer labour.

All of the viable concerns in the US usually begin with volunteer labour but had as an early priority the payment of staff for time spent. Volunteerism has many political overtones which NZers are not really aware of. For example, one woman calculated that for one particular charity with which she was involved it would have been cheaper to have had all the women on the committee make a personal donation than to spend all the time they did, buy clothes for the functions pay for childcare, travel etc. etc. Groups working for social change do not want to be associated with this kind of activity and feel very strongly that it is crucial that staff be paid for their efforts. Groups which attempted to function on a voluntary basis found that it was always the same few people who were actually doing all the work.

the ones with a strong commitment. Others drifted off when their volunteer activities conflicted with their personal pursuits. So this left the small group of committed women doing all the work as well as putting in the money and getting all the shit thrown on them when someone disagreed with what they were doing. After many women were lost to the movement because of enormous personal sacrifices that they had made for no recognition, it was realised that personal and economic needs for recognition must be met. Often the women were making very small salaries and would have been better off on unemployment, but the amount was not the most important factor. At one place they had set a low salary as a target figure and the concern owed them for all the times when it could not pay the salary. They knew that through their own hard work one day the concern would be able to pay them a proper salary and that there was no reason why they should sacrifice themselves economically, so they drew a small salary at the beginning, on the understanding that it would be paid back gradually as the strength built up.

In New York I had the privilege of spending four hours with Robin Morgan a very beautiful and strong feminist who is a constant source of inspiration to many women within the movement. I was saddened to hear of the case against "Sisterhood is Powerful" which has totally depleted the royalties for some years to come as well as taken money from Robin's future books. Lucinda Cisler sued for plagiarism of her bibliography (if you can imagine such a thing as even being possible). The lawyers from the publishing house settled out of court. It is the publishing house which decides what they want to do in a case like this - the author has no power at all. Robin was very thrilled to hear that "Sisterhood is Powerful" and "Monster" have reached N.Z. and has agreed to visit N.Z. and Australia early new year, if we can arrange finance for the trip. Anyone with any contacts which might assist with sponsorship please contact me. Also at Robin's apartment were Susan Rennie and Kirsten Drimsted, two very exciting women who edited and produced the New Woman's Survival Catalogue. They are presently working on a new edition to cover the English speaking world. This will be out hopefully in October.

I visited the The Feminist Press out on Long Island and bought one copy of each of their publications. I also visited the Women's Action Alliance and the Women's Health Pro-



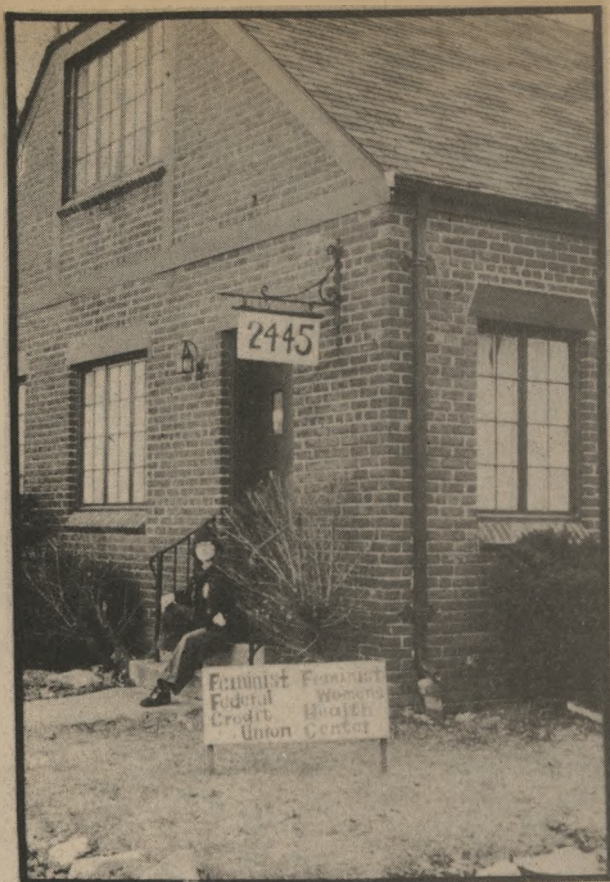
Susan Rennie

ject, both of which employ women full time to run their operations. They both act basically as umbrella groups for action in a particular field. Of course I went to Mother Courage restaurant for a delicious meal and there I was lucky enough to meet Sidney Abbott and Barbara Love, authors of "Sappho was a Right On Woman". I went to a meeting of New York peace and feminist women, held to discuss action for International Women's Day. Quite an extraordinary meeting. Every woman had her own particular point of view and was insistent that it be heard and be taken into account. This meeting was to decide the basic theme of the "call" to march which would be publicised. It was fascinating to see all these women (about 100) trying to write a very short item, trying not to offend any group or to leave anyone out, and at the same time trying to keep it short and appealing to as many women as possible. There is a very obvious contrast with N.Z. women in that because of the way of life and the sheer numbers of people in New York (about 9 million in the city and about 16m in greater New York) people have to be very aggressive to succeed in putting their point of view forward. So the whole atmosphere at the meeting was rather daunting as the women shouted and yelled and were reluctant to follow meeting procedures that they had previously agreed upon, in their urgency to get their point of view across. At the end of the meeting, I identified myself and assured the meeting that International Women's Day would be celebrated in the South Pacific. This was greeted with a cheer and there was great interest that there

were feminists in that little country just off the coast of Australia, or was it off China somewhere. No, it was near South America, or was it by Indonesia. These were some of the reactions to mention of N.Z. (not just at that meeting). I was asked how come I spoke such good English, and what kinds of food did we eat, and didn't we have headhunters there? Mostly people thought it was part of Australia.

Visited Lolly Hirsch, who produces "The Monthly Extract - an irregular periodical". A fine woman who does much to spread the word of self help and women's health. Also attended a very interesting meeting of about 20 women working in the field of women's health in all different ways. Was very moved by "A Woman Under the Influence", John Cassavettes' film about a woman, Gena Rowlands, cracking up under the strain of her life style. Did not have enough time to see some people and places I wanted to - like Majority Report, the Women's Centre, Women in Films and a feminist production of "Medea". Found lots of New Zealanders in New York, many doing very well and thoroughly enjoying life in New York. Felt very tempted to stay and wished I had more time to spend there as there is so much happening. Returned through Los Angeles where I tied up a few loose ends, before returning home at the end of January.

On reflection, some of initial enthusiasm about the effect of the feminist movement on USA society has waned. Distance has given me perception into areas which I had seen only on the sur-



Cathy Courtenay, a fulltime worker at the Feminist Women's Health Centre sits in front of the combined offices of the Feminist Federal Credit Union and the F.W.H.C. in Detroit. 1800 women hours brought the building up to its present attractive and comfortable state.

face, and I became aware that although, to a visitor, the USA seems to have made great progress in raising the awareness of people and minimising the sex role differences, in fact most of those changes are very superficial and do not affect the power structure which is of course the chief target. There are thousands upon thousands of women working for what are described by some as "liberal" causes, that is, things which ease the short term situation of women, but do nothing to make real long term change in the power structure. In fact, the power structure, which seems to be mostly big business and politicians, has absorbed and contained the women's movement and is using it for its own purposes. Recognising that there was a threat

from the movement they have used many tactics and have succeeded in separating women into those who have "reasonable" demands and who win the eventual approval of men, and those who have "unreasonable" demands and must be stamped on or made to appear so extreme that women feel frightened of losing the support of men if they become involved with these groups. I am reminded of Richard Goodwin's words in his brilliant article "The Structure Itself Must Change" in Rolling Stone, June 6, 1974 - "Political faith, which is nowhere stronger than in America, diverts the energies of discontent and the purposes of those anxious for social change into the struggle of parties and candidates, thus reducing the possibil-

ities of serious challenge to private power. Even the most enlightened politics will withdraw its support once movements for social change seriously threaten economic relationships."

We must recognise the battle we have chosen is not an easy one. We are not going to have male support, because men do not want to give up their power. But we must not be persuaded to retreat into the safety and complacency of doing only "acceptable" things and thereby never achieving our goals. We do have support from women around the world and we must work together and use that support. We are building a revolution and let us not forget that. I think it has been forgotten by many in the USA as the women have been diverted into side issues. Many of the side issues are necessary for we cannot sacrifice the needs of present women in our goal to achieve long term results but we must not forget our long term goals of the abolition of sex roles and the equal distribution of power within the society. Often in the day to day struggle within a sexist society we become disheartened at the enormity of our task and we wonder if our efforts really achieve much. But I feel very strongly that we will succeed and that we must succeed if the world is to survive. My contacts with other women who feel the same way have strengthened my beliefs and have also increased my sense of urgency. We must keep asking ourselves with everything we do - is this going to help alter the balance of power, is this really going to help break down sex roles and assist women in the long term, or is this just another way of co-opting women into the existing system by promising them a few band-aids to ease their wounds. But Sisterhood really is powerful and sisters are strong and growing stronger - as one poster said - Sisterhood is blooming, spring-time will never be the same again.

SHARYN CEDERMAN

N.B. Later issues of Broadsheet will publish extracts from some of the conversations Sharyn had with feminists in the USA.

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CONTACT : Sandra Coney 764 - 893

feminist diary

February

In the Boston Criminal Court Dr Kenneth Edelin was convicted on a charge of manslaughter for abortion of a 20-22 week foetus. Despite a suspended one year sentence for Edelin it is feared the conviction will set a precedent and influence obstetricians in their decision as to whether to carry out abortions in the second trimester of pregnancy.

The conviction, however, is not expected to influence the women's right to elect abortion in the first trimester (within 14 weeks after the last menstrual period). These abortions are relatively simple procedures and account for 800,000 of the 900,000 legal abortions performed annually in the U.S.A.

A booklet recommending the urgent establishment of abortion clinics similar to that in Auckland has been written by Mr R. C. Megget, President of the Wellington Family Planning Association. The booklet is published under the pen name 'Rona Calverley' after Mr Megget's mother who was an early pioneer in birth control, because the views it expresses were Mr Megget's rather than the official policy of the F.P.A.

The booklet says New Zealand women "must contest the platitudes of men on this personal subject and act to protect their own rights."

It urges a good health and sex education programme for all young people, a universal free contraceptive advice service, with contraceptives free under the national health service, and a legal, medically ethical, abortion service for all women whose contraceptive method has failed.

March

A group of 20 women who demonstrated against charges being laid in connection with the Remuera abortion clinic case complained that their demonstration was filmed by the police. Superintendent R. P. Silk said videotape recordings of demonstrations had been used by police as a training aid for years. Police say films also come in handy countering allegations made by demonstrators.

March 8 -International Women's Day was commemorated in Auckland by the opening of the Auckland Women's Centre at 125 Ponsonby Road. Report in Behind the News.

March 12 Lady Patricia Harris has accepted the office of Patron of the Abortion Law Reform Association of New Zealand.

Dr Han. Suyin in Auckland. See Behind The News

March 13 Justices of the Peace recommended that their power to grant search warrants for the seizure of medical files be relinquished.

March 15 Police intend to lay three further charges of illegal abortion against doctors from the Auckland Medical Aid Centre pending the outcome of the trial of Dr Woolnough



A Government Committee has been established to study defects in the implementation of equal pay and to recommend ways of overcoming these difficulties.

The Government announced that \$68,000 has been set aside for IWY activities for the year.

The Auckland Medical Aid Trust's legal advisors commenced proceedings in the Supreme Court to seek an injunction to prevent the police using copies of the files taken from the Clinic last September, on the grounds of copyright.

UNITED ARTS ENTERPRISE

During Auckland's Summer Carnival a number of Auckland Feminists were offered an opportunity to present the Feminist movement to the public. We showed two films 'Womens Day 20c' made by Adrienne Martyn and 'Living Together' made by a group of Sydney Women. The films were followed by questions and Broadsheets were sold.

This was all done under the auspices of United Arts Enterprises which "exists to bring together people interests in and concerned with the quality of life with the specific purpose of improving and enhancing same in N.Z."

If you're an artist (of any sort) or just curious you can contact U.A.E. at 861-891 or write to Box 5938 Wellesley Street, Auckland.

FEMINIST HEADS NEW DETENTION

BROADSHEET was concerned that the proposed periodic detention centre for women in Epsom would reinforce stereotyped sex roles. **SANDI HALL** interviewed **EVA BOURKE** head of the new centre, to see if our fears were justified.

There is an old saying among probation officers: "Women offenders are either menopausal, shoplifters or ship girls." But Eve Bourke, and many of her contemporaries in social welfare know that this is not and never has been true. Women offenders have total equality in crime; they commit the entire gamut of actions that society has deemed to be antisocial, or criminal. Eve Bourke makes another very sound point: everybody is an offender in one way or another; but society has decreed some offences punishable. And Eve has spent many years attempting to alleviate, constructively, some of the consequences of being an offender.

Eve has a diverse background in helping her fellow human beings, and experience which ranges from teaching, to being on the staff of the adult pre-release centre for men in Mount Eden, Auckland. Her experience includes a five year term as a Child Welfare Officer in Auckland for the Freeman's Bay, Ponsonby, Herne Bay, New Lynn and Newton area, which was in those days "a hotbed of brothels and sly grog shops." Eve enjoyed her work in those areas: "the people sinned (if that's the right term) with great gusto!"

When Eve Bourke heard that there were plans to establish a periodic detention centre for women in Auckland, she immediately applied for the position as head of the centre. "I felt it was vital that a woman be head of this new centre; that a woman at the helm was necessary to the successful working of the centre. And I am most anxious that the centre be run in a social welfare sense."

The new centre does not look in the least like a building in which corrective

conditioning, even in its widest sense, will be done. It is a roomy, single level house, built on the attractive, homey lines so many houses in the suburbs

display. At the rear of the house, there is a stretch of lawn, a small vegetable garden and many bushes on the fence-line. The front porch looks onto a rather sketchy rose patch, and low double gates made out of ordinary mesh fencing give access to the garage area. Inside, the rooms are comfortable and light, and although there was little furniture to be seen during this interview, it was obvious that the accent is to be casual and relaxed, rather than utilitarian and severe.

"One aspect of the centre that I'm particularly pleased about is that we have facilities for looking after children. There will be a trained woman in charge of the children, so the mothers will not necessarily have to look after them; and this often is in itself a great relief to the mother. To have a day in which her duties in this area are taken from her shoulders can go a long way to showing her exactly how much we are concerned about her situation."

Eve Bourke radiates concern when she talks. It is a calm and gentle concern that affects even those people who are not wholly under her direction. "You cannot afford to become totally emotionally involved, because you are the person who needs to bring a degree of objectivity to the problem."

The centre can cater for up to twenty-five women at one time. They will spend Wednesdays, Friday evenings and Saturdays at the centre until the sentences

expire. For the first two or three weeks, they will remain at the centre, being assessed as they interact with the other women present, help one another, or talk to Eve and her staff. One area that is measurable by tests is the self-image area and such tests will be given to the women. Tests given to women offenders at the beginning, the middle and the end of the term could very well measure with a high degree of accuracy the change in attitude in herself and towards the community. Also, Eve is a strong believer in group therapy and is pleased that she has access to people trained in conducting it. "Of course, some women may be wary of group therapy, particularly if they have experienced it before, because it has often been mishandled in the past. It would be patently useless to force such a person to participate."

The centre will be used for women from 15 upwards. There is no top age limit to the women who will be sent there. This can be an excellent thing, Eve feels, for it could well be the first time many younger women have had the chance to meet and interact with a wide variety of older women. Thus, the younger women will have the chance to relate to different age, racial and social groups.

Regarding the sort of person who will be expected, Eve says her experience shows that most offenders have a common bond of no strong father or mother figures; a history of being unable to relate to school systems; and a lack of purpose, no sense of direction. There are always exceptions to these broad outlines, but in the main these aspects crop up often enough to form a common theme. I asked Eve whether she thought many

PERIODIC CENTRE



of the offenders could be angry at the secondary role society has meted out to them as women. "I must draw on my previous experience to answer that, because we've not actually got underway here yet, but in the main, I'd say no. In most offenders, it simply does not occur to them to question their position in society. They do not seem to be aware of the subordinate role for women that the feminist movement is working so hard to eradicate. They are often frighteningly accepting of the awful things that happen to them." And in order to make them more aware of themselves as human beings in their own right, Eve sees as mandatory the need of the centre to deal with these women's husbands. "We operate on the principal of minimal gains. If a person leaves here marginally better and happier than when she arrived, then I'll be quite content."

The sort of activities that the centre plans for its women will be removed from the domestic scene, unless there is a group of women who are genuinely interested in that area. "One of the ways that the feminist movement could be of great help to the centre is in the Saturday activities. The women will

not be allowed to usurp a paid position, nor will they be able to earn money with their activities. But I am extremely interested in suggestions from other women on the sort of thing my women could do; for instance, I've thought of phoning the University to see if they could help fix up digs, or seeing if they could do something that might awake an interest they may follow later on. Any and all suggestions would be welcomed. I'd just like to think that they could leave on Saturday thinking, well, I have been of use today, someone needed me today."

Other areas in which feminism could actively help women offenders are more complicated, but equally valid. Eve feels that much of the pressure put upon women by mass media and advertising accents a 'screwy' set of values with the wrong priorities. "Be a good housewife, have all the appliances, keep your sheets whiter than white ... if you don't you haven't really made it." This is the attitude that Eve (and so many of us) finds so deplorable, and which feminists should work harder to eradicate. The second area is the education system. Eve doesn't feel that that is a cause of criminality, but it certainly doesn't help in

so many cases. Inadequacy, and a low self image often can stem from the fact that school has little relevance to some of its pupils' lives and is not sufficiently flexible to meet the needs that these children have. Schools do not enter the sacred parental realm of personality and character, and the majority of parents would resist strongly if it did. But the over-emphasis on an academic standard which is so divorced from the child's home experiences often pressures the child to become alienated from school in order to retain some positive character traits in the home. "Our primary schools are making some great strides, but the secondary schools are still far behind on this front. There's lots of work to be done in this area," declares Eve.

The periodic detention centre for women is a first in New Zealand, and its future will be carefully watched by as varied an assortment of people as feminists, police, welfare workers, educationists, lawyers and the neighbours whose homes flank the centre. In the capable and caring hands of Eve Bourke, I am certain that it will be an unqualified success.

Sandi Hall

WHY I WANT A WIFE

Most men seek a wife to take over where their mothers left off. In this classic of the women's movement, JUDY SYFERS explains why she wants a wife.

I belong to that classification of people known as wives. I am A Wife. And, not altogether incidentally, I am a mother.

Not too long ago a male friend of mine appeared on the scene from the Midwest fresh from a recent divorce. He had one child, who is, of course, with his ex-wife. He is obviously looking for another wife. As I thought about him while I was ironing one evening, it suddenly occurred to me that I, too, would like to have a wife. Why do I want a wife?

I would like to go back to school so that I can become economically independent, support myself, and if need be, support those dependent upon me. I want a wife who will work and send me to school. And while I am going to school I want a wife to take care of my children. I want a wife to keep track of the children's doctor and dentist appointments. And to keep track of mine, too. I want a wife to make sure my children eat properly and are kept clean. I want a wife who will wash the children's clothes and keep them mended. I want a wife who is a good nurturant attendant to my children, arranges for their schooling, makes sure that they have an adequate social life with their peers, takes them to the park, the zoo, etc. I want a wife who takes care of the children when they are sick, a wife who arranges to be around when the children need special care, because, of course, I cannot miss classes at school. My wife must arrange to lose time at work and not lose the job. It may mean a small cut in my wife's income from time to time, but I guess I can tolerate that. Needless to say, my wife will arrange and pay for care of the children while my wife is working.

I want a wife who will take care of my physical needs. I want a wife who will keep my house clean. A wife who will pick up after my children, a wife who will pick up after me. I want a wife who will keep my clothes clean, ironed, mended, replaced when need be, and who will see to it that my personal things are kept in their proper place so that I can find what I need the minute I need it. I want a wife who cooks the meals, a wife who is a good cook. I want a wife who will plan the menus, do the necessary grocery shopping, prepare the meals, serve them pleasantly, and do the cleaning up while I do my studying. I want a wife who will care for me when I am sick and sympathise with my pain and loss of time from school. I want a wife to go along when our family takes a vacation so that someone can continue to care for me and my children when I need a rest and a change of scene.

I want a wife who will not bother me with rambling complaints about a wife's duties. But I want a wife who will listen to me when I feel the need to explain a rather

difficult point I have come across in my course of studies. And I want a wife who will type my papers for me when I have written them.

I want a wife who will take care of the details of my social life. When my wife and I are invited out by my friends, I want a wife who will take care of the babysitting arrangements. When I meet people at school that I like and want to entertain, I want a wife who will have the house clean, will prepare a special meal, serve it to me and my friends, and not interrupt when I talk about the things that interest me and my friends. I want a wife who will have arranged that the children are fed and ready for bed before my guests arrive so that the children do not bother us. I want a wife who takes care of the needs of my guests so that they feel comfortable, who makes sure that they have an ashtray, that they are passed the hor d'oeuvres, that they are offered a second helping of the food, that their wine glasses are replenished when necessary, that their coffee is served to them as they like it. And I want a wife who knows that sometimes I need a night out by myself.

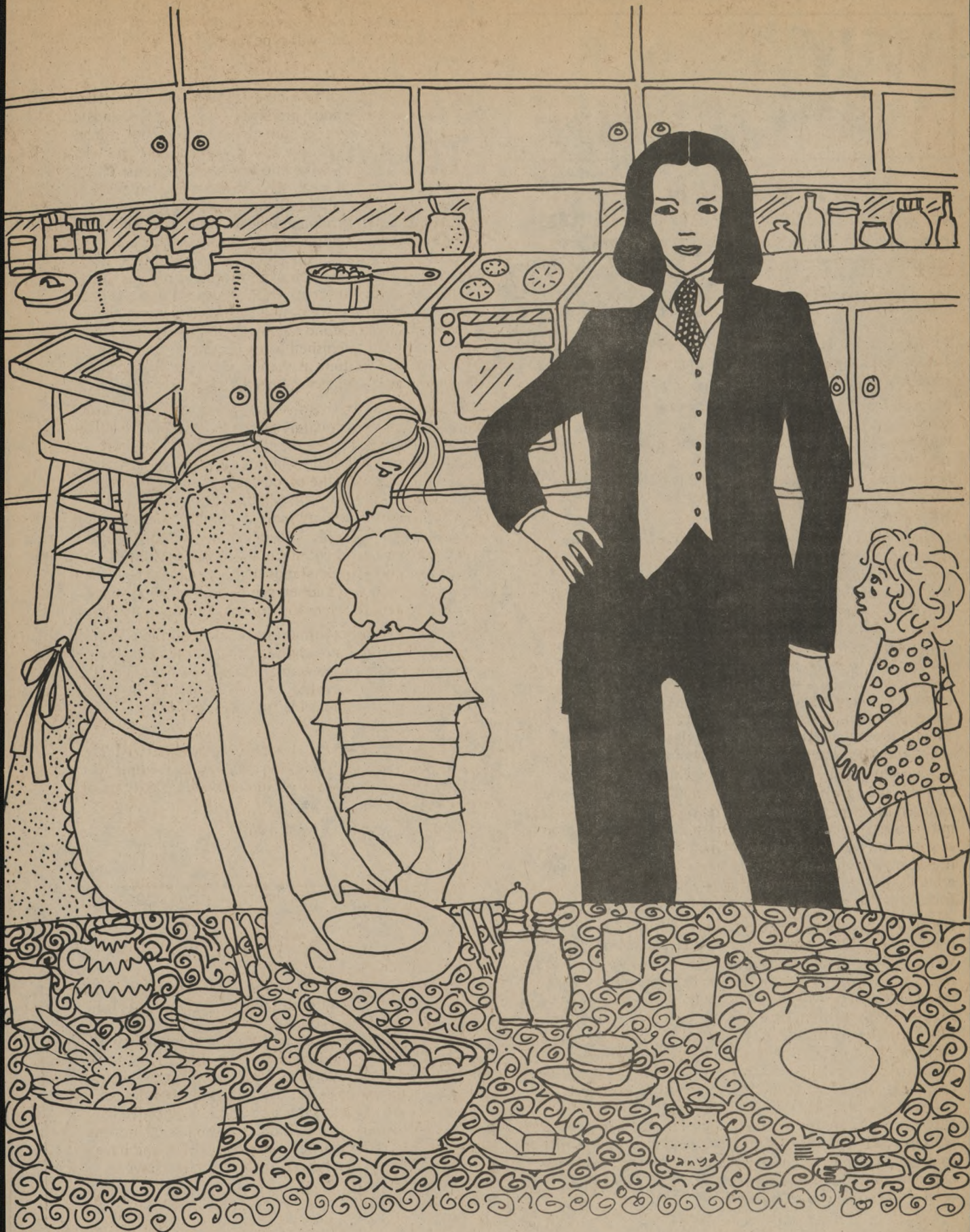
I want a wife who is sensitive to my sexual needs, a wife who makes love passionately and eagerly when I feel like it, a wife who makes sure that I am satisfied. And, of course, I want a wife who will not demand sexual attention when I am not in the mood for it. I want a wife who assumes the complete responsibility for birth control, because I do not want any more children. I want a wife who will remain sexually faithful to me so that I do not have to clutter up my intellectual life with jealousies. And I want a wife who understands that my sexual needs may entail more than strict adherence to monogamy. I must, after all, be able to relate to people as fully as possible.

If, by chance, I find another person more suitable as a wife than the wife I already have, I want the liberty to replace my present wife with another one. Naturally, I will expect a fresh, new life; my wife will take the children and be solely responsible for them so that I am left free.

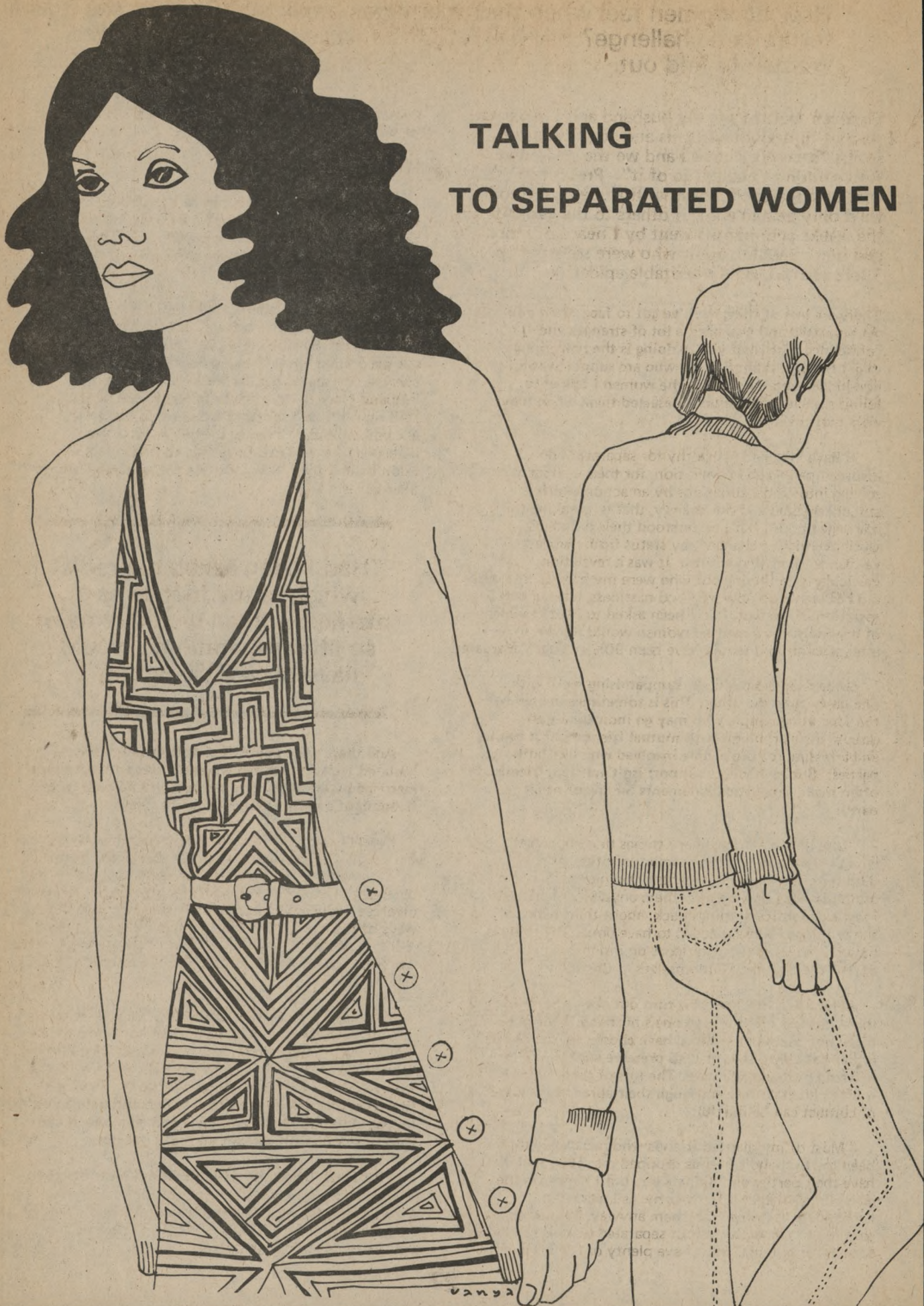
When I am through with school and have acquired a job, I want my wife to quit working and remain at home so that my wife can more fully and completely take care of a wife's duties.

My God, who wouldn't want a wife?

Judy Syfers has been in the women's movement for almost two years and is a member of Sudsofloppen, a small Californian group. She was one of the organizers of Breakaway, a community liberation school for women's studies and was a co-teacher in an introductory seminar called "A Wide Range Look at Women's Oppression" at Breakaway. She worked on and spoke at the August 26 demonstration last year in San Francisco and is now active in the Women's Abortion Coalition. On the less glamorous side, she says, "I am married, am a housewife, and have two female children; all three of those factors serve to keep my anger alive."



TALKING
TO SEPARATED WOMEN



How do women feel when their marriages break up? Do they see it as a failure or a challenge? SANDRA CONEY talked to some separated women to find out.

Eighteen months ago my husband and I separated. At that time all our friends and acquaintances seemed securely married and we the odd ones, who couldn't "make a go of it". Pretty soon it became apparent that rather than being different we'd only beaten a lot of others to the gun. As the weeks and months went by I heard of more and more people I knew who were splitting up. There seemed to be a veritable epidemic.

There are lots of things you've got to face when you get separated and you need a lot of strength and confidence that what you're doing is the right thing to get through it all. Friends who are supportive and non-judgemental, help. But the women I talked to found some of their friends deserted them when they were most needed:

"I have long had sympathy for separated and divorced people and admiration for their courage in solving intolerable situations by an action which is still unacceptable in our society, that is, breaking the marriage bond. I felt I understood their problems. Until overnight I changed my status from married woman to separated woman. It was a revelation. Particularly in finding out who were my friends, and who did not want to know me — no nastiness, just sudden cessation of contact. Had I been asked to predict which of my friends as a married woman would remain so after separation, I would have been 90% wrong." Margaret.

Some friends take sides, sympathising more with one party than the other. This is sometimes invited by the separating couple who may go individually to discuss their problems with mutual friends which can be embarrassing for the people involved who like both parties. But even where support isn't enlisted, friends often make simplistic judgements on one or other party:

"One of the extraordinary things that happened when I separated was the reaction of other people. I didn't ask for their judgements or opinions and nor did my husband. But they gave them anyway. I heard the most extraordinary things back, about third hand, of shitty things I was supposed to have done. The thing is, nobody really knows what goes on inside a marriage except the two people themselves". Christine.

Often the "friends" who turn out not to be, are those one has met through one's husband. They are often not people one would have chosen as friends but rather have been tolerated to preserve amicability between husband and wife. The loss of these friends is often no great loss, although their abrupt withdrawal of contact can be hurtful:

"Most of my married friends who had originally been my husband's friends dropped me. They still have their parties and dinners etc. but I'm not on the guest list. Not that it bothers me as I was never particularly at home with them anyway. My lawyer gave me a long lecture about separated women not being socially acceptable. But I have plenty of friends in my

own right. If anything, being separated has made me closer to them as I tend to seek out their company more than previously. I tend to go out more as there's less to keep me at home." Christine.

Married women friends can be a problem. Many feel threatened by the presence of a sexually mature, unattached female near their husbands and try to minimise the danger by inviting one around when their husbands are absent:

"I feel I can't go and visit people in the weekend when their husbands are there because I feel I'm intruding on their time together. Most of my friends ask me around when their husbands are going to be away — like sailing for the weekend. Usually the husband plans to do something else so the wife says "All right I'll find something else to do" and they ask you around. It's rarely the wife who is the enterprising one. Their husbands come first except I don't think their husbands feel the same way about their wives." Diana.

"Had I been asked to predict which of my friends as a married woman would remain so after separation, I would have been 90% wrong".

And there's the opposite situation where the husband feels a separated woman poses a threat to his marriage by attempting to seduce his wife over to the freedom of a more independent life-style.

"I feel I can't ask my married woman friends out for a night on the town or at my place. Their husbands tend to feel really threatened if you do and can be very unco-operative about baby-sitting. You know: loose divorcée seduces virtuous, married woman into the ways of the world. I think they feel insecure in their ability to hold their wife's interest so they want to keep her away from possible competition in pubs etc." Christine.

Separated women face difficulties socially in going out by themselves or with other women. A trip to the pub can turn into a nightmare fending off men looking for a pick-up and coping with their abuse if you don't manage to handle the situation delicately. Having to find a partner can be a fruitless search and unless you're prepared to put a bold face on it and go alone, it can mean a sharp cutting down on social outings:

"It's hard to go some places without a male partner, e.g. the pub, dances, certain parties where everyone expects couples to attend and harder still is the lack of any partner for an unplanned outing to the beach or cinema or theatre." Margaret

But loneliness can happen within marriage just as easily as without:

"Occasionally you think you're lonely but it's not as lonely as sitting in silence with someone simply because you're married. It can be more lonely married than single. Now I choose who I want to spend my time with.

If I have something I want to go to, I ask someone I know who would enjoy doing that thing. You're not just doing things together because you're married." Diana.

Because of babysitting problems and lack of money, some women find they can't get out much at all. The only way to cope with that is to learn to like your own company and have plenty of things you enjoy doing at home.

"It's so easy when you're married and your husband is doing most of the financial yakker to dither and be a dilettante about your career."

"I didn't go out a lot. I needed the time to sort myself out. I probably wouldn't have been able to handle a relationship with a man because of the way I was feeling. I worked full-time with my 18 month old daughter with a baby-sitter so I felt I should stay home in the evenings. I didn't mind. I met a lot of people at work and had contact with different kinds of people." Jennifer.

Financial problems loom large for separated women. Often they find to their horror that the assets they thought they were building up as a couple are regarded in law as the husband's property.

"I always presumed that when you married you just shared everything, that it was our money. Meanwhile my husband was buying things behind my back and lying to me. Even now I don't know what my husband earns or what properties he owns. I asked my lawyer if my husband is obliged to tell me and he said you can ask but he won't necessarily tell you. At the time that you like each other and wish each other well, I think you should decide what you will do if you separate. I don't know whether it could be legally binding. Now everything just goes through my solicitor to his and so on and there's so much spite and bitterness." Diana.

Many women like Diana don't really know their financial situation within the marriage, till it comes to splitting up:

"Although I am a professional person with a large income, I have no capital, no house until the jointly owned house is sold, and I am committed to paying large premiums on life insurance on my husband's life because the policies are held as security on the mortgage. This topic of insurance really bugs me. I know so little about it, don't really understand how it works and I have found it difficult to find a simple book on the subject. I realise what a great gap there is in the education of women in this field. I feel angry and ashamed that I, an intelligent, highly-qualified professional in my own field, could have allowed myself to end up in an intolerable financial situation through sheer ignorance." Margaret.

For most separated women, managing one's financial affairs, though worrying, can provide a challenge and a sense of satisfaction in doing it well:

"It's so easy when you're married with your husband doing most of the financial yakker to dither and be a dilettante about your career. My hand has been forced. I've discovered all sorts of things about my work habits and skills I didn't know I possessed. For the first time in my life I've had to budget and save and plan my survival ahead. Before, I really left it entirely up to my husband. He used to spend a night each month paying all the bills. I never even asked how much money there was to do it. What a cop-out I was, I can't get over that. I wonder if he resented it?" Christine.

"I was completely responsible for myself. I had to eat, pay bills and the babysitter. But I liked it because it was a challenge. I lived a very simple and careful life and I handled it quite well." Jennifer.

The women I talked to found this aspect the most



rewarding part of being separated. Being independent, coping with problems and gaining pride in being able to cope.

"I feel strong and more of an individual than ever before in my life. I am proud that I finally had the guts to make the break, and glad, when I see married couples airing their bitterness and animosity in public that I have escaped. I feel free." Margaret.

"You learn to enjoy your own company and start liking yourself again - that's the biggest thing. I had become such an unpleasant bitch and shrew. I suddenly found out that it was only because I was married. Germaine Greer said marriage "kills your spirit". That's exactly what it felt like. I was apathetic and unenthusiastic. Somehow when your survival is in your own hands you're forced to be much more enterprising. Another nice thing, you can be optimistic. You may not be mad about the situation you're in but it's better than knowing that what you've got, you've got for the rest of your life. When I was married I completely lost my identity. When your husband criticises and puts you down the whole time, you end up feeling a failure. When you go out into the world you meet lots of people giving you impressions of what you are and your self-confidence comes back." Diana.

"I think everyone needs someone to share the mundane things with. Like, "the bloody plumber didn't turn up" or "Auntie May has sent a Christmas card."

All the women mentioned the sheer relief of escaping from an intolerable situation:

"As my marriage had slowly and painfully ground to a halt I had got more and more screwed up myself. I had constant chest pain which was a result of tension, I drank and smoked excessively and I got really thin. Getting out of that gruelling situation I just relaxed all over. All the uncertainty was over, the agreement was signed, I had found a new place to live and had time to unwind." Christine.

Jennifer, who had been beaten by her husband also experienced this great feeling of relief:

"I had been so frightened the last two months I had been living with my husband. I thought he would kill me if I didn't keep my mouth shut. I felt much better with just my daughter and myself. There was peace and quiet, no arguments and no friction."

Like Christine, Margaret found she needed help from alcohol or drugs to get over the actual separation period:

"I was interested to read a report from the U.K. that recently separated women going through the initial adjustment period tend to suffer from depression, sleeplessness and weight loss, and use more alcohol and

tranquillisers than previously. Yet another eye-opener for me, that my "stable, non-neurotic" self is just as prone to the use of such crutches as anyone else. I've had the lot but it's temporary, and who doesn't need a crutch during a personal crisis, which, however painful, can be a period of real growth?"

"I feel strong and more of an individual than ever before in my life. I am proud that I finally had the guts to make the break . . ."

The women I spoke to, who had all sought their separations (i.e. had not been deserted), all felt happier being separated, despite the difficulties, than they had been in their married state. When you get separated, everyone tells you of course you'll get married again, as if all you're waiting for is another chance to make a go of it. I find I'm excessively wary of marriage and feel 90% sure I'll never marry again. Jennifer was the only woman I spoke to who had actually remarried. I asked her how she had the courage to get around to it again:

"My second husband was completely different from my first. I knew him very well and we were very much in love. My first divorce didn't put me off marriage. It was just that the guy was rotten".

Diana isn't totally put off marriage either:

"I think that getting married is the ideal way to live if you're going to have kids. But it has to be based on two people caring about each other and helping each other - not just charring and breadwinning. I think everyone needs someone to share the mundane things with. Things you wouldn't bore your friends with. Like, "the bloody plumber didn't turn up" or "Auntie May has sent a Christmas card."

Sandra Coney

"You may not be mad about the situation you're in, but it's better than knowing that what you've got, you've got for the rest of your life."

Footnote: All the women I talked to were well educated, articulate and sympathetic to the feminist movement. They are in no way supposed to represent the views of all women.

In a future issue, other problems of being separated will be discussed. Readers are invited to write in with their experiences of coping with relationships with men and problems with children.

AVOIDING THE PITFALLS OF MARRIAGE

Many women whose marriages have broken up are wary of going into it again. Overseas, cohabiting contracts are becoming a popular alternative. Here's one a Christchurch couple have had drawn up in an effort to avoid some of the pitfalls of living together.



Elizabeth Sewell author of this article

After ten years, my marriage had provided ME with absolutely nothing. Oh yes, I could do all those domestic chores and our three children were delightful, but as a whole person, I was non-existent. I was so and so's mother or so and so's wife and entirely dependent financially.

his idea that peace must reign regardless, discussions and arguments were out -- if they did arise, he removed his presence. It was like living in a state of sonambulism -- aware of opportunities but unable to participate.

Separation ended ten years of marriage (much to his surprise) but he, being a fair man and not wanting arguments, left. Being alone with the responsibility of three children is terrifying.

Financially, I was probably better off than most. Six dollars a week per child and the mortgage payments. I had tried my hand at many things to augment the family

income, but seemed master of none. Fate and friends came to my rescue. They found a ready market for the copper jewellery I was making -- suddenly I was in business.

Five years later, after many little legal battles, I was divorced. Divorce entailed debts -- debts everywhere; my now ex-husband had skipped the country three years after the separation, leaving maintenance and mortgage payments very much in arrears. To keep the roof over our heads, I had to work long hours making jewellery, which in turn meant I had no time for the unit I was doing at university. I was now employing three people and their salaries had to be paid. but somehow we managed. I came out of the divorce with a house and two dollars a week maintenance per child, which has never been paid. I felt marvellous, independent and able to stand on my own feet.

We had problems but we could solve them. Men - married men in particular, were one of those problems. They all felt, as one man put it, "...they would like to do me a favour..." but experience taught me a quick lesson.

There was one relationship in particular (unmarried), that grew along with me. It was not easy, but our emotional attachment, the ability to talk things out and our respect for each other helped overcome seemingly insurmountable barriers. This relationship resulted in the need to be together more frequently than we were able, so the logical conclusion seemed marriage. But neither of us liked its strictures, nor did we like the idea of just living together. We felt a commitment of sorts was necessary, but a commitment that suited us. We knew of no other such Agreements when we made ours, but felt we could learn from past mistakes and past pleasures. The Agreement, as it became known, must, we felt, cover all foreseeable pitfalls, yet allow freedom, individuality and protection for us both. Consequently, the major portion deals with arbitration in case of disagreement and financial responsibility. Yet the portion I feel is of the most importance is the clauses one to four inclusive. They simply state that both of us have the right to maintain our own identities within a frame work of consideration and support for the other.

We now have a frame work within which to work. Money, possessions, individuality, discussions, arbitration, review and termination are all covered; parts are still under review, but it is working and working well. I am sure it is not everyone's answer but I sincerely feel that women and men should consider what marriage entails; also, discuss their expectations and take a cold hard look at what it is going to involve and how their lives are going to be altered.

If they worked from there, not from the euphoric glow of 'love', it would help women towards equal rights and marriage towards shared responsibility.

THE AGREEMENT

WHEREAS the parties have known each other for some considerable time and have respect and affection for each other

AND WHEREAS after careful consideration of what they believe to be the matters to be considered including social religious and moral aspects including the welfare of any child or children of either of the parties of their own free will and without duress or inducement they have decided to live together in the same household

AND WHEREAS the said Elizabeth has in her care and control three children of a former marriage AND WHEREAS while they live in the same household the said is desirous of treating the children as though he were their father though he is not

AND WHEREAS the parties are desirous of setting out certain matters and principles with regard to the future regulation of their lives

NOW THIS AGREEMENT WITNESSETH

1. EACH party agrees that the other shall for all purposes be entitled to retain their own name.

2. EACH party agrees that the other shall be entitled to pursue their own career interests and activities and agrees to support each in achieving those objects.

3. THE parties agree that the household duties of the household shall be shared equally both in terms of time and task such equality being achieved by sometimes alternating tasks and sometimes sharing them.

4. THE parties acknowledge that it is their intention that their relationship shall be one which is primary but not necessarily exclusive but if one party should feel deprived of such primary relationship by the career interests or activities of the other, the matter should first be discussed between the parties and then if necessary referred to a third person for guidance, such third person to be mutually agreed upon by the parties within seven days and failing such agreement nominated by the person who claims to feel deprived.

5. THE parties agree that all property owned by them separately before this agreement shall remain their separate property and all property acquired by them separately after this agreement shall, subject only to the provisions of this agreement, remain their separate property.

6. THE parties acknowledge that the property acquired by them situated at and known as Christchurch is and shall be owned by them as tenants in common in equal shares.

7. THE parties acknowledge that the furniture and household effects owned by them and now situated in the said property at Christchurch are and shall be owned by them jointly, save and except that part or parts of the same owned by either of the parties before this agreement and declared by them in writing remain their own and separate property, a schedule of such items being attached hereto.

8. THE parties acknowledge that in respect of any liability for any loan made to them upon any security over the said property situated at the parties will jointly pay the principal and interest payable in respect of the same in approximately the same pro-

portions that their respective personal gross pre tax incomes bear to each other except that while such income of one is more than fifty per cent more than such income of the other, the party receiving the greater income shall alone pay such payments.

9. THE parties agree that all usual household family and property expenses including insurances, rates, power and fuel shall be paid by the parties jointly in equal proportions and that the parties shall share equally in the management and control of such expenditure and household affairs.

10. THAT this agreement shall continue until terminated in accordance with the provisions of this agreement or upon the marriage or death of one of the parties but may be reviewed in all its provisions by the parties each year on the anniversary of this agreement and amended in accordance with the written agreement of both the parties made at that time.

11. IN the event of one of the parties desiring that all or any of the provisions of this agreement be reviewed and in the event of the parties not being able to agree upon amendment after review or upon three months notice in writing given by one party to the other this agreement shall terminate and shall cease to have any future effect except that matters which shall have arisen under this agreement shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of this agreement.

12. IN the event of this agreement terminating under the provisions of the same the party who gave notice or first marries or the personal representatives of the party who first dies shall offer to sell to the other the share of that party in the said property at or any other real property owned by the parties as tenants in common at the date of termination marriage or death at a fair market value of the same and upon reasonable terms and conditions such value and terms to be fixed in the case of dispute by a person appointed for that purpose by the President for the time being of the Canterbury District Law Society and in the event of such other party not so agreeing to buy within twentyone days then the party who so declined shall thereupon offer to sell to the other or the personal representative of the other the share of the party in the said property and in the event of that offer not being accepted within twentyone days the property shall be sold and the net proceeds divided equally between the parties or their personal representatives.

13. THAT the costs of and incidental to this agreement shall be borne by the parties equally.

14. THE parties agree that it is their common intention that if any part or parts of this agreement should be found to be illegal, unenforceable, void or voidable or be hereafter amended, each of the remaining parts or each part or parts shall nevertheless remain in full force and effect as a severable and separate binding agreement between the parties.

IN WITNESS whereof these presents have been executed the day and year first before written

SIGNED

What to do and What not to do

YOUR SEPARATION AGREEMENT

If two people can work out a fair and practical working arrangement for the future this can reduce the strain and emotional upset which inevitably accompanies the break-up of a marriage.

When a husband and wife have agreed to separate permanently and have agreed on such matters as custody of children, maintenance, division of property, it is advisable to record the arrangements in a written separation agreement.

The advantages of entering into a separation agreement are:-

- (a) Where two people can settle their differences in a mature sensible way it can avoid the bitterness and wrangling and both parties are more likely to honour the terms of a bargain they have freely entered into.
- (b) There can be no argument later on as to what has been agreed.
- (c) The terms of an agreement can be enforced through the Courts.
- (d) Either party can apply for a divorce after the agreement has been in force for two years.

What are your rights and obligations as a separated person?

Your spouse cannot force you to return and must not annoy or molest you. You can each lead your own life as if unmarried and live or work where you like, go out with whom you like, but adultery gives grounds for divorce even though you are separated.

What if you get ill or things change and you need more maintenance:

The Court can increase or reduce maintenance where the circumstances of either party have changed since the separation agreement was signed.

You want to become reconciled

If you both agree there is nothing to stop you

becoming reconciled at any time and no legal formalities are necessary. If you come together for a trial reconciliation for a period of up to three months and this turns out to be unsuccessful, you can still bring divorce proceedings after you have lived apart for a total of two years. If you are together for more than three months then you have to sign another separation agreement.

What if agreed maintenance payments are not kept-up?

The agreement can be registered and enforced through the Courts in the same way as a Court Order. See the Maintenance Officer at the Social Security Department or your solicitor. The Court can make an attachment order on wages and as a last resort will send to prison a person who refuses to pay.

You want a divorce

Keep a note of the date of your separation agreement and shortly before the two year period is up, see your solicitor. A divorce usually takes a further five to six months.

How much is it likely to cost?

Legal Aid is available for Court proceedings but not for a separation agreement nor where there are no Court proceedings nor for divorce proceedings. It can be obtained for disputes as to custody, maintenance, property etc. Ask your solicitor for details.

The cost of having a solicitor act for you depends on the amount of work involved but the solicitor who draws up the separation agreement might charge \$40.00 and the solicitor for the other spouse about \$20.00

Will

If you have made a will this is not affected by the fact that you are living apart and have signed a separation agreement. If you have not made a will your estate would be distributed as an intestate estate. If you have no children your spouse would inherit your whole estate. If you have children your spouse would get your personal property, \$12,000.00 and one third of the residue and the children would get the rest. You should give thought to making a will or changing your existing will when you separate.

when you're thinking of getting separated

Matrimonial Home

Where the married couple own their own home the separation agreement deals with the home. If there are no children usually the home is sold and the proceeds shared equally or in some other shares. If there are children the spouse who has custody of the children is often given sole possession of the home until the youngest child has left school.

Furniture and personal effects

It is far better for the parties to reach agreement between themselves as to how these will be shared as it is unsatisfactory and expensive to specify every piece of property in the separation agreement.

Social Welfare Benefits

Normally the Department of Social Welfare insist that any married person receiving a social welfare benefit take legal steps to obtain maintenance from their spouse. If the person on a benefit agrees to accept maintenance of less than the amount of the benefit the Department will sometimes reduce the benefit to that figure. No married person receiving a benefit should sign a maintenance agreement without first having advice from a lawyer or the Department of Social Welfare.

Comment on Separation Agreements

You will probably be advised by your lawyer to carefully read the agreement before you sign it. Do so. Once you have signed it you are bound by it. Be aware of the consequences of the agreement for you and your children. Be prepared to think out the realities of your situation for yourself even though your lawyer will help you do so. Be aware of what you are doing. N.B. All these proceedings can take a long time.

Attachment Order on Wages

This order is only suitable against a man who is consistently employed by the same employer. The man who changes jobs frequently cannot have an effective attachment order out against him for obvious reasons. Therefore a woman whose husband falls into the latter category will in fact be relying on Domestic Purposes Benefits if her husband fails in his maintenance payments.

Matrimonial Home

Where the property is sold or divided up whoever has made the biggest financial contribution is usually the person who benefits the most.

The person whose name the property is in, usually the husband, legally owns the property. This, however, can be affected by contributions to the home other than financial, i.e. : thrifty housekeeping, maintenance of the home by the wife by her efforts in interior decorating, and the garden (keeping up the resale value). Whether the home is a registered Joint Family Home is also important.

It may pay to know where you stand even though your marriage is happy as the provision for your future is important.

SEPARATION ORDERS

People often talk about a **legal separation**. This can be by separation agreement or separation order.

Where the husband and wife are able to agree about custody of children, maintenance and the sharing of their property, they can sign a **separation agreement** and need not go to Court. Such an agreement is normally written down by a lawyer and signed by the husband and wife.

Where they cannot agree, either spouse can apply for a **Court Order**.

Conciliation

In nearly every case where a person applies for a separation order, the case is first referred to a marriage counsellor (called a Court Conciliator) whose job is to see whether there is any chance of the parties being able to reconcile their differences. Within three weeks of the application for a separation being filed, you should get a letter from the Court Conciliator asking you to call. Whatever your feeling towards a reconciliation, you should go along and see the Conciliator. The Conciliator makes separate appointments to see the husband and wife. If there seems to be some chance of a reconciliation, the Conciliator may ask the husband and wife to come along together at a later appointment. If the Conciliator believes a conciliation is not likely, the case will be referred back to the Court.

Grounds for a Separation Order:

To obtain a separation order the person asking for it (the applicant) must show:

- Either — there is a **state of serious disharmony and that a reconciliation is unlikely**; in other words, that the marriage has completely broken down.
- Or — the conduct of the other spouse has been such that it is **unreasonable to expect the applicant to live with the other**.
- Or — the other spouse has been convicted of a **serious assault** of the applicant.

Court Hearing:

The Court proceedings are held **in private** in a special Domestic Court. The procedure is simple and informal. In deciding whether there is a state of serious disharmony, the **Court looks at the marriage relationship**. The applicant will tell the Court about the **quality of the marriage** — whether the husband and wife go out together, eat meals together, talk to each other, share a bed or has their relationship irretrievably broken down.

The effects of a separation order are:

- (a) A wife is freed from the control and authority of her husband and may live and work where she pleases.
- (b) Neither spouse can force the other to return to live with him.
- (c) A **separated person** can live and work where he pleases and can lead a normal social life as if unmarried. However, adultery remains a matrimonial offence and a separated person who is proved to have had sexual intercourse with another can be divorced on the grounds of adultery.

(d) If a separated person has made provision for his spouse by will prior to the separation, that provision is not affected by the separation order and if a person wishes to cancel the provision made in the will for the spouse, a new will should be made. If there is no will, the spouse of a person separated by separation order gets nothing.

(e) Either spouse can go for a divorce after two years.

At the same time as making a separation order, the Court can:

- * Order that one spouse (usually the husband) pay **maintenance** for the other and for any **children** who were living with the husband and wife at the time of the separation.
- * Give one party the **right to live in the home** (whether it is owned or rented) and to **use the furniture**.
- * Make orders for **custody of and access to the children**.
- * In special circumstances make a non-molestation order making it a criminal offence for one spouse to molest or be a nuisance to the other.
- * Order that one party (usually the husband) pay a fixed sum towards the other party's costs.

Reconciliation:

A separation order does not prevent a reconciliation if both the husband and wife agree.

Custody of Children:

Courts in deciding which spouse shall have custody of a child consider what is best for that child. The wife is commonly given custody of young children because she usually has a closer relationship with them and is better able to care for them. With older children, the Court is likely to give more weight to the wishes of the children.

Access:

When a Court makes a custody order it will usually make an order that the spouse who is not given custody shall have "reasonable access". The Court leaves it to the father and mother of the child to work out detailed arrangements. If they cannot agree then the Court can be asked to define access. With young children, access is usually visiting access – a father may visit the children or take them out for the day. As the children grow older, it may be more convenient for the children to spend some weekends with the other parent – or to spend a week or so during school holidays. Many arguments arise over access and it is usually the children who suffer in the end. A large measure of give and take is necessary on both sides for access to work properly. Try not to let your feelings towards your spouse influence your attitude towards access.

Maintenance:

The Court tries to work out a financial arrangement which is **fair to both parties** and which will ensure that the wife and children have enough to meet their reasonable needs without pushing the husband below subsistence level. Maintenance is not awarded as a punishment, although the Court can take into account the conduct of the parties in fixing maintenance.

Children's Maintenance:

The amount awarded by the Courts for maintenance of children depends upon the age and needs of the children, the resources available and the standard of living to which they have been used. Maintenance usually falls into the range of \$4.00 to \$10.00 per week per child and an average figure is \$7.00 or \$8.00 per week for each child.

Possession of Home:

The spouse who has custody of children is usually given the right to live in the home and to have possession of the furniture and household chattels because in ordinary circumstances, the Court considers it is important they should have stable home environment.

Non-Molestation Orders:

At the same time as it makes a separation order or at some later time, the Court can make a non-molestation order. It will only do this where there is a real likelihood that one spouse will annoy or molest the other spouse or the children. After a non-molestation order has been made against a person, it is a criminal offence for that person to annoy or molest the other spouse e.g. by following, watching, waylaying or making persistent telephone calls.

The comments made above are suggestions of what to be aware of when contemplating such proceedings. Do not rely on them when deciding your course of action, but discuss any matter of doubt with your legal adviser.

Comment on Separation Orders

In any Domestic Proceedings be prepared to search for a good lawyer. There are some very good Family Law lawyers around. Do not be content with second best. The lawyer you feel happiest with is your best bet. After all your future is being decided on in these proceedings.

It is possible to get Legal Aid in these proceedings. The ground of Serious Disharmony is where the relationship between husband and wife has deteriorated.

The sort of factors in proving that are as follows :

- * lack of communication between husband and wife,
- * deterioration of the relationship through flagging interest and boredom,
- * lack of response to each other; neutral feelings,
- * one partner growing away from the other,
- * partners changing and developing at different rates and thereby outgrowing each other,
- * infidelity,
- * financial difficulties causing deterioration i.e. you are not paid enough money to feed and clothe your children adequately.
- * wife or husband beating
- * treating 1 party as a kept servant or a meal ticket.
- * attitude to the children, child beating.

All these sorts of things will very obviously lead to a breakdown in the quality of the marriage relationship. This is not an exhaustive list.

CAUTION:

The aim of this article is to explain in simple terms some aspects of the law and for clarity a number of matters have been over-simplified. You should not rely on these notes in making any decision. Legal matters are complicated and if in doubt, you should see your solicitor.

ME ON TV?

why not!

I'm Marie Jones, TV co-ordinator for a couple of TV Producers - nice guys I guess, but very demanding. 'Find this - find that - make the tea!'

Now tea I can cope with, but when they run short of actors, they're also short on temper.

Right now my talent files need updating - so help! (Whatever your age).

If you've got anything to offer in front of a camera or a mike - give me a call - please - and we'll have a quiet little audition while the bosses are out. I'll even make you a cup of tea.

Marie Jones
782-080

Sent by: Lorraine McArthur



temporary office
is only a phone

AUCKLAND RATE SCHEDULE — EFF

CLERICAL

| | HOURLY RATE |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Grade 1 — Filing Clerk | \$2.60 |
| Grade 2 — Intermediate | \$3.00 |
| Grade 3 — Senior | \$3.05 |
| Grade 4 — Bookkeeper | \$3.28 |
| Grade 5 — Male | \$3.63 |

MMARGARET Thatcher may run the House for Britain's Conservative Party but Mr Denis Thatcher is boss of their house.

He is a successful businessman in the mould championed by his wife as a right-wing politician.

Denis Thatcher's own success, and his pride that he is still the major bread-winner in a family where the wife and mother earns, as from last Tuesday, \$20,000 a year, allows him to turn away from those who cruelly dub him Mr Margaret Thatcher.

Sunday Times

Herald

ANGEL WANTED

Nan, our tea lady and general purpose Angel, has decided after many years to give it all away and go and live with her son in Australia. We don't want her to go, but realise that she must and so we are looking for another Nan. To be like Nan, our next Angel must be prepared to put up with continuous and unreasonable requests for tea and coffee, order pies, sandwiches, smokes and handle everything from wolf whistles to cheek. In return we pay her well and look after her.

If you could be our next Nan, then please ring POP 82-187 and ask for Nan, who will tell you all about us.



Usually \$2.50. A beautiful vacuum cleaner just like Mum's. Made of non-scratch plastic in great colours. Now, every little girl can help Mum with the cleaning. Cash and carry.

hogwash

The Feminist Eye

TELEVISION

Shirley MacLaine, that woman I think of as liberated, has done it again. In "Can Can" she reacted (or of course the character she played reacted) in traditional fashion to a proposal of marriage. The character had hopes but finally it all had to "come right". To satisfy conventional standards, the Can Can dancer got married, got respectable. I say she did it again, because almost exactly the same thing happened to her delightful character in "Irma La Douce" where she played a very happy French prostitute. In that she ended up with her advanced pregnancy showing through her white lace wedding dress as she marched up the aisle to marry the policeman who'd been trying to reform her.

It was a humorous film, but again, right at the end, conventional morality had to be appeased; the woman had to be knocked into line, into her proper role of wife and mother, so that the audience knows all's well with the world, the old and comfortable order goes on in spite of little naughtinesses like prostitutes who enjoy their work. The whole thing was escapist comedy of course, but couldn't they have kept the escape route open and the comedy going without the concession to convention?

Maybe the six wives of Henry the Eighth are there because of their association with the great man but the series is really about women as people. There are no caricatures or superficial judgements. Particularly enjoyed Anne of Cleves who through her great good sense and high intelligence managed to get her way and keep her head.

Joanne Edwards

Television reinforces the view of the world that each of us possesses. A new series, "Casanova 73" will reinforce all the sexist stereotypes around - both male and female.

The plot of the first programme went something like this: Husband is married to efficient slightly cold wife. They are wealthy; he is a businessman; they have one son at boarding school.

This son is expelled in the next programme for taking pornographic pictures of the "unfulfilled" mathematics teacher, who, in the same programme becomes fulfilled by Leslie Phillips. Leslie likes a bit of skirt on the side, especially women from the Ding-a-Ling Club. Air hostess falls in love with him, promising to write twice a day. He has to feign illness for some two weeks so as to meet the postman twice each day, before his wife collects the mail, to destroy the letters. This leads to many antics, sweating and anxiety which wife does not notice.

Finally it turns out that air hostess has been eaten by a shark. Tension eases. Wife suggests an evening out at the Ding-a-Ling Club - he goes to pieces, and using his incredible charm, persuades her she'd prefer to go somewhere else.

The programme begins with the most tasteless credits I have ever seen - quick cutting from breasts - thighs - Leslie Phillips - legs - alluring women - his and Mercedes sports penis - in toto a pathetic banalisation of women's bodies.

Poor Leslie is hung up about his age - 44. He finds a grey hair and quickly checks his pubic hair - all clear. He chomps vitamin pills ("and to think women grumble about taking one") and does a little light exercise.

He sees women as "crumpet" ("a man needs a change") and never has a thought about his wife's sexual needs. He fantasises about himself as superstud, which includes having those significant backaches from his sexual activities.

He can never confront his wife as an equal and, of course, cannot leave her and the comfortable marriage she provides. But he does turn on his sexist charm for her, when he wants something from her.

The wife is slightly hard and a bit of a fool not to notice the extreme anxiety her hubby gets into over the mail. She is dutiful down to promising sexual favours to get what she wants. She, too, is worried about her age, about 40, and decides to have her breasts lifted - again.

The air hostess ("Valerie? Which Valerie?") does not appear, but just like the silly woman she is she falls in love with him. He talks in his sleep about

her ("I'm Valerie - fly me!") Finally he reads in the paper she's been eaten by a shark. Such a death doesn't really matter, she's just crumpet anyway. Naturally he is extremely happy at her demise, but the false sympathy he must display before his wife is sickening. But off they go to dinner to live happily ever after for that night.

Never let it be said that this programme remains on the narrowly sexist. Oh no. There's a laugh at homosexuals and standard jokes about Japanese. Japanese jokes appeared the next week too. The whole programme is about unreal characters, stereotyped reinforcing stereotypes. In fact the programme is so bad, that the loss of Monty Python was made more acute, but I could hardly believe that this programme comes from the B.B.C. Complaints about the programme may be laid with:

Controller of Programmes,
Northern Television,
Box 2209,
AUCKLAND.

Kathryn de Nave.

BOOK REVIEWS

Rubyfruit Jungle
Rita Mae Brown
Daughters Inc (not avail NZ)
\$4.00

Portrait of a Marriage
Nigel Nicolson
Bantam Paperbacks \$1.95

There is a growing rate in the publication of finely written books which have lesbianism as their common theme. Many of the books published in the past that dealt with the lives and activities of lesbians were sheer sensationalism, a sort of flabbier-than-soft pornography.

Both of these books make good reading. Though very different in style, they both depict a large slice of the life of a woman who happens to be a lesbian. In *Portrait of a Marriage*, Nigel

Nicolson has presented a well rounded picture of his mother, Vita Sackville-West. The pain and conflict she experienced is most finely drawn by the use of a manuscript she left to him after her death. In her lifetime (1892-1962), lesbianism was considered a scandalous topic; to be the member of a famous family, married to a brilliant diplomat, centre of a social whirl that constantly gave the papers copy for the Events columns was one thing. But to violate all the rules of that social strata, to go on long holidays with another woman, to involve your husband and hers in drama after drama so that the whole world was aware of your actions was quite another. Vita was her own protection, for her attitude and affections, both for Harold and Violet, kept her sure that the outcry was unimportant. What gave her the most pain was having to choose :

“ . . . because I hold the conviction that as centuries go on, and the sexes become more nearly merged on ac-

count of their increasing resemblances . . . such connections will to a very large extent cease to be regarded as merely unnatural, and will be understood far better, at least in their intellectual if not their physical aspect”.

Rita Mae Brown feels no such conflict. Though her central character Molly experiments sexually with men, she realises very early in her life that she prefers to make love with women. Her conflicts arise when people that she cares for castigate her for her lesbianism - - even past lovers who are 'happily' married: "I don't think of those kind of things, I'm a mother", to which Molly replies "What does that do, shut down the part of your brain that remembers the past?" But Leota replies "I'm too busy for that stuff. Who has time to think? Anyway, that was perverted, sick". Molly takes it easily, but with regret. More important perhaps than her lesbianism is Molly's struggle to make it as a film maker in a class of indifferent school-

mates led by a professor who is actively anti-women (or at least, anti-Molly). And although her final exercise is brilliant (readers will love Molly's account of the exercise), nothing much has changed by her brilliance. And she speaks with an air of resignation but not hopelessness when her experiences do not produce the results she'd hoped for.

Perhaps the strength of these and other realistic books about people will be the forerunners of a whole gamut of literature that to date has been socially unacceptable.

Sandi Hall



Rita Mae Brown

BroadSheet on the Arts

INTERVIEW: **BEVERLEY WAKEM**

Top media job goes to a woman

Beverley Wakem won recognition in the world of Broadcasting recently. She has been appointed to the top job of Controller of Programmes in the newly established Radio New Zealand.

BROADSHEET interviewed Ms Wakem in Auckland shortly before she took up her new position. We asked Ms Wakem about her reaction to the newspaper reports which emphasised that she got the position against men of far greater experience.

Somebody also said, "She's climbed higher than any woman's climbed before" and it made me feel like some sort of Lady Edmund Hillary. However the interviews were not garden tea parties. I imagine that my questioning was more stringent because I am so young, because I have only been 10 years in the organisation and because I am a woman. People asked about my experience, but when do you stop getting experience and start being practical - start actually producing something? I think I got the job because it is a changing world; there is a changing view of the function of radio and television in New Zealand and because I walked in with some ideas which seemed right for what they wanted at this time. Quite a lot of younger people seem to have taken heart at my appointment and are quite enthusiastic about it. These people are, after all, the next generation of New Zealanders. These are the people with ideas. The organisation of Broadcasting isn't perfect. When I first moved to T.V. from Radio, three people took over the job I had been doing on Radio. That was when I first saw the light. I thought, 'Every woman around here is carrying more than her fair share of the load!' We've never had a woman station manager in all the years of broadcasting. Why? I can count on one hand the number of women who have made the lower rungs of middle management. The head of women's programmes, when it existed, was the highest a woman ever got to. It's now been disestablished. Until my appointment the producer of Viewpoint was the most prestigious post a woman held. That was a woman's programme too.

Beverley Wakem is well qualified to hold her post. Apart from her years with the NZBC she has just returned from the US where she did a Masters Degree in Communications at the University of Kentucky which has an excellent communications department. After completing her degree she undertook a study in the States on sex role stereotyping in television programmes and advertisements. **BROADSHEET** asked her about this work.

As part of my degree work I began a project on sex role stereotyping in daytime commercials on the major networks as opposed to night-time commercials. It was terribly depressing. I discovered that in the daytime women see predominantly war-time movies, and soap operas etc. The commercials associated with these programmes showed women who had a variety of role, including professional roles, but they were never seen actually performing in their professional role. They were always seen in their domestic situations, looking after children. These were the commercials associated with the soap operas"

So they would be doing commercials like, 'I'm so tired when I come home from the office I love my dishwasher'.

That's right. Of course the soaps are a whole thing in themselves. N.O.W. in America has done an excellent study of these. The only commercial I saw where a woman was doing something that was a predominantly male activity was changing the oil in a car and even then she ended by phoning the man in the garage to help her through with it, but at least women were shown to be taking some kind of initiative. They certainly ordered the household and when they were shown as domestic managers they did it well.

But night-time was completely the reverse. At prime time viewing, women were quite clearly sex objects. These were commercials like: The great he-man walking up the beach falling for a bikini-clad blonde. He's wearing the right garments and the clear indication is that if you use this product you too can get a girl. There was a very clear difference in the definition of women's roles between day-time and night-time commercials.

From this study I decided to see how early this kind of sex role stereotyping begins. I took a sample of Saturday morning children's television which is primarily cartoon fare, interspersed with the odd news item and news back-grounder. It was not very sophisticated. I took a composite sample of programmes from 3 major networks and looked at roles and role models. I considered things like initiative taking in the sense of taking action to solve problems; visual appearance - looking at the physical appearance of the females - were they all comely, shapely and physically attractive, were the males all the muscular he-man type? and share of on-camera appearance. I found that although it was not as bad as some earlier studies had suggested, there was still too much blatant sex role stereotyping. Females were almost always shown as nurturant types, concerned with domestic things, unable to do certain 'masculine' activities well. Males would always have to come in and solve the problem and wrap things up. There was a show called Josie and the Pussycats. Jose and the Pussycats are an all female pop band. They work beautifully together. They get involved in all sorts of adventures and they could manage to solve their problems on their own. But they always have these males along, and they always play a dumb blond role at the end. One of them will say, 'What do you think guy?' and guy rushes in with the way pointed to him by the girls and wraps the whole thing up. They always leave the final solution to him which is again showing the male to be in charge.

Throughout these programmes there were all sorts of remarks like, 'What a dumb thing. Only a girl would think of that'. But there were, on balance, many women characters shown who were able to show initiative, solve problems

and were leaders. However, when you weigh this against the fact that there were about 10 male characters for every one woman character, then you begin to see it in some kind of perspective.

When women were shown in occupational roles they were school teachers, librarians, secretaries (with some belittling remarks about the other functions of secretaries). Women were rarely shown as professionals.

Does this difference between afternoon and evening programmes lead you to a theory of conspiracy on the part of the programmers?

Conspiracy is too strong a word for it, I think. But I would have liked to have gone into the networks and sat with people who programmed and people who made commercials. They are obviously adhering to a very stereotypic line.

They've also researched the market.

Yes that's true. But they are also in fact responding a little to public pressure, to the changing feelings of both men and women about the role and status of women in society. It's very slow, and there's still too much of the put-down material which is belittling and demeaning to women and showing women in a very subservient role.

BROADSHEET asked Ms Wakem about Community Access in Television.

I am all for community access, although I have seen some disastrous examples of it in the States. I think controlled community access is a good thing. I don't think it's good just to open a channel and let everybody have a go. That's bad programming, it's bad broadcasting. Until we have sufficient channels we must go a bit sparingly on how much of this type of programme we do have. The sort of thing I would like to see is handing over air time to community groups to share in the making of a programme. We would help with our expertise in the broadcasting side of it and in looking after such things as libel and indecency (while not being too fettered by these either). I would also like to see panels of people answering questions of callers; or people with a point of view speaking to which there would be a right of reply. This is done to a limited extent in the talk back programmes but the potential of community access is much wider than these programmes.

I'd like to see some kind of counselling programme. Maybe a Sunday evening with a psychologist or a minister of religion. Somebody who is in tune and has got lines out to all sorts of organisations, who acts as a kind of referral service and who puts people in touch with organisations or other people who can help them. Another type of public access could be job referral services, community bulletin boards etc.

Radio is lively, capable of a great deal of personal involvement on the part of the listener, and it is immediate. One of the great things too about radio, and something that people often lose sight of, is that the listener is an important part of the equation. A programme is only as good as the reaction the listener has to it.

Perhaps groups could apply to make their own programmes the studio providing technical expertise, the groups providing the editorial content, and the group would make its own programme. The programmes would not be live except in extremely rare circumstances.

"Yes that's a good idea. It is important that various ethnic groups around can make their own programmes which reflect something of their own culture and share with us some of the problems they face assimilating into N.Z. society.



Photo: Bill Beavis

"That brings up the question of access to equipment. Could the N.Z.B.C. have more flexible use of its equipment? "

Several things could happen. One is the concept of a station within a station where you take minority group (e.g. Feminists - Ed.) representatives and take them onto the staff as supernumeraries and train them in the use of all technical equipment and also in production techniques. That way a producer/director is trained who can go back into her community, translate her community's ideas into viable radio and television programmes and go back to the studio and produce them.

A training programme can also be formed this way. Eventually those people can be absorbed into the staff. In this way minority groups can be recruited and trained where they may not otherwise come forward. We could work in conjunction with radio and television programmers in the universities, where they exist. They don't exist to a large extent here yet.

There are all sorts of possibilities. I'm not sure that I am in favour of total separate stations. They have been talking about Polynesian radio, but this might be unnecessarily devisive.

Julie Thompson and Kathryn de Nave.

GROUP NEWS

COUNCIL FOR THE SINGLE MOTHER AND HER CHILD

Phone : 370-257

1st Floor,
Friendship House,
100 Greys Avenue,
CITY.
P.O. Box 6849,
AUCKLAND.

Our office at Friendship House is now open.
The hours will be Monday to Friday 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.
Any single mother willing to come and help please ring
Joss at 370-257.

FUNCTION OF THE OFFICE

A place where single/solo mothers can come for information about Social Welfare Benefits, Lawyers etc. We still have copies of our information booklet 'Everything a Single Parent needs to Know.' We have four rooms. An office, a private interview room, a room with toys and books, and a room for women to relax and talk to one another. A couple of cots for babes to have a sleep. Any single/solo mother requiring information or wishing to meet other women, can use our rooms. We will need books, toys, a couple of armchairs (small), some paint for the walls, and four carpet squares.

The rooms were originally for single mothers only, but we have decided to include solo mothers as well, on a trial basis. If it works well, we'll make it permanent. Our new phone number is 370-257.

Joss Shawyer reports that the numbers of women coming into Friendship House for advice and help is so great that more than one woman is needed to handle all enquiries. The woman at present running the centre has a salary of only \$20 per week to support herself. First priority is to find a way of paying her adequately. When that is under control a second person will be employed. Anyone who has suggestions for sources of income or who would like to make a donation could ring the House.

Joss reports that many more separated and divorced women are being helped than single mothers. Many arrive with only ten cents and no idea where the next meal is coming from for them and their children.

WONAAC AUCKLAND

Formerly the Women's Abortion Action Committee, we have changed our name to the above to avoid confusion, as some people thought that the national body, WONAAC was a different organisation from the local W.A.A.C.

In answer to S.P.U.C.'s policy of touring schools with their foetus-slides, we have just sent out letters to all Auckland secondary schools offering speakers on abortion, contraception and sterilisation for liberal studies classes, and also a slide set tracing the history of the movements for contraception and abortion. These slides can also be

made available for the use of other groups, and enquiries should be made at the address below.

With the police laying charges relating to abortions performed at the Auckland Medical Aid Centre, we have a busy time ahead of us participating in the defence of the Clinic. A coming activity on this is a forum which will be held on Friday March 7th at the University, B28 at 1.p.m.

Business meetings are held on Wednesday nights at 7.30 in the Women's Common Room Auckland University.

WONAAC, PO Box 68-266 Newton. Brigid: Ph 577 303

UNITED WOMEN'S CONVENTION

Registration: Forms are now available on application to the Registration Officer, P.O. Box 17 080. We can accommodate 2000 at the Wellington Show bldgs. and already applications are being received in considerable numbers.

The closing date is May 1. The fee is \$8.00. Please note that we want to consider applications for a reduction in this fee e.g. from pensioners, beneficiaries and others who are able to make a reasonable request for financial assistance.

Your fee will include the provision of two boxed lunches, coffee, a choice of entertainment on Saturday 14th and use of a creche.

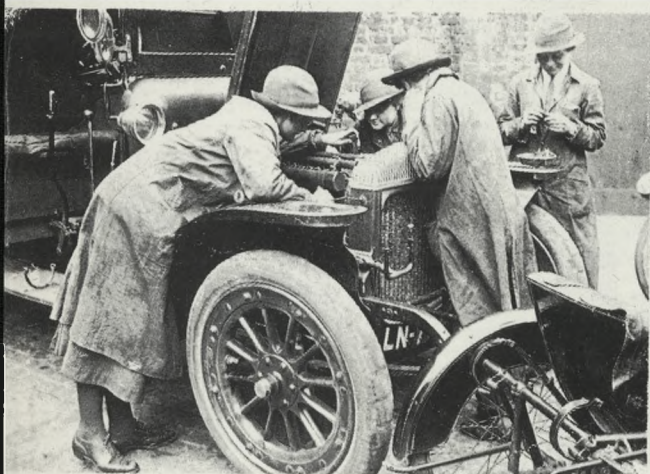
We have been asked whether men may attend: the answer is no. This convention is for women, first and foremost. It is obvious from the interest already shown that we will have to limit our numbers, and without doubt there will be some people who will be disappointed. We do not wish these people to be women. In addition some workshops have specifically requested that there be no men present: if we do find that men may be able to attend as observers only, by paying a fee, we will ensure that all such requests are safeguarded.

HELP!

We still need more help on the magazine. We need writers, photographers, artists, typists, people to get advertising or promote the magazine. If you can help please phone Sandra Coney at 764 893 or write to 11 Wallace St, Herne Bay.

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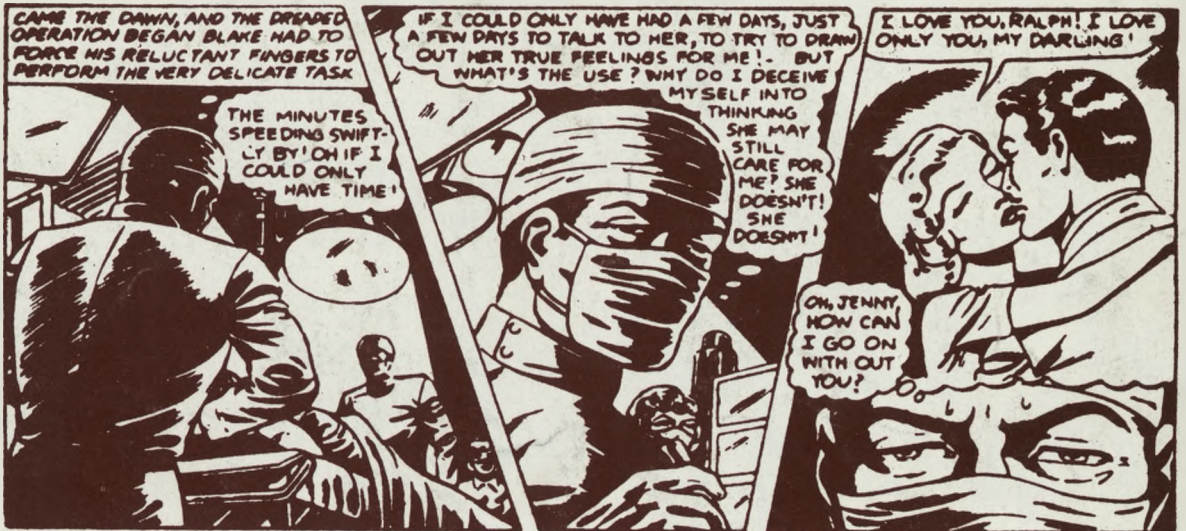
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