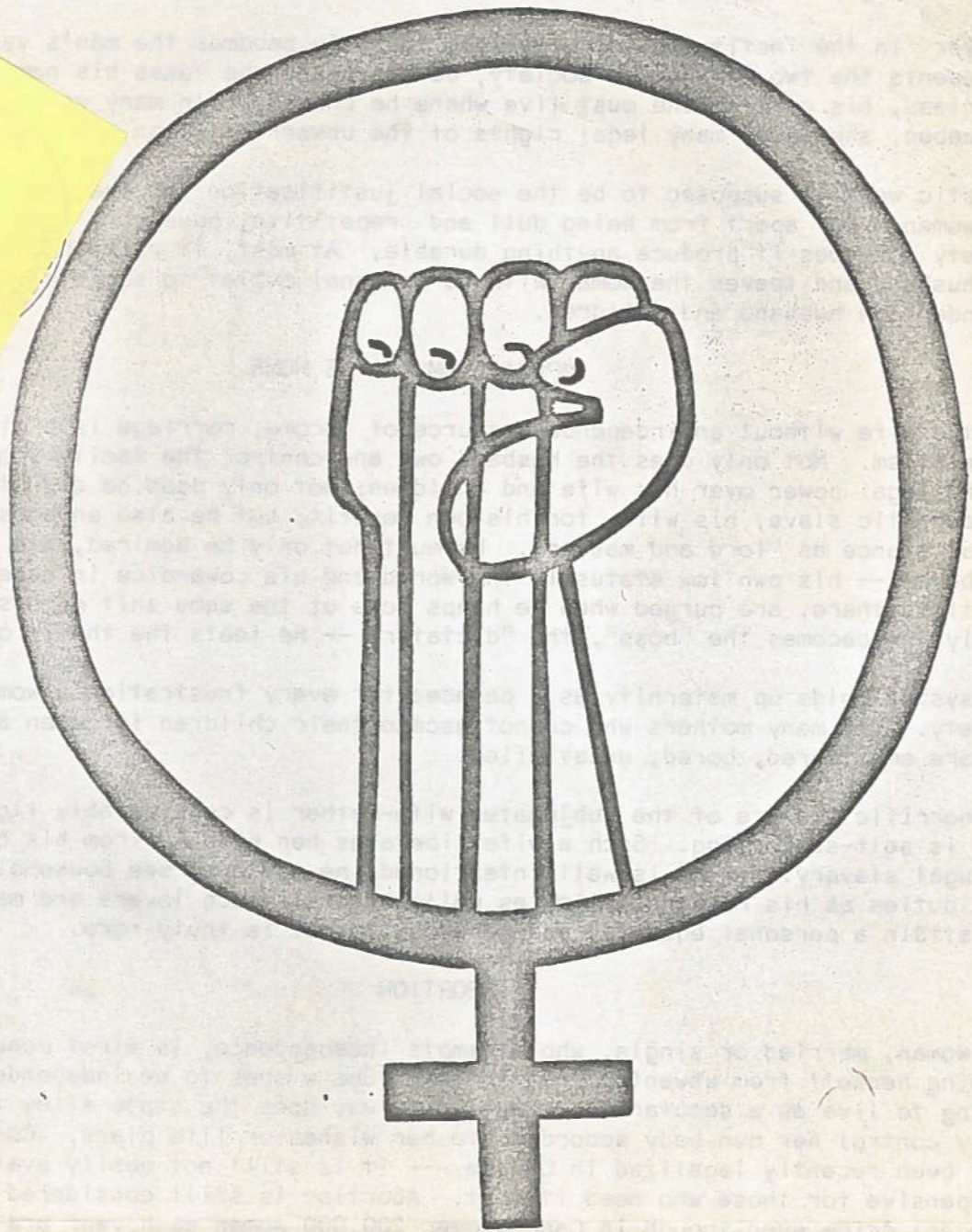


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THE OPPRESSION OF WOMEN IN CANADA

by Marie Henretta

Women are victims of a system of male supremacy as virulent as racism. The system decrees that women are of inferior intelligence, are irresponsible, inconsistent, emotionally unstable, illogical. It decrees that women's place is in the home, that they should be content with their subordinate, "feminine" role.

Women are mystified into accepting their inferiority or "differentness" by the system's sugar-coated image of the wife-mother role.

However in the institution of marriage, the wife becomes the man's vassal. He represents the two of them to society, as the head; she takes his name, belongs to his class, his circle; she must live where he chooses. In many cases, for example in Quebec, she loses many legal rights of the unmarried woman.

Domestic work is supposed to be the social justification for the married, non-working woman. But apart from being dull and repetitive, housework does not benefit society nor does it produce anything durable. At most, it refreshes and cares for the husband and leaves the woman with no personal outlet to society, continually dependent on husband and children.

IMPERIALISM IN THE HOME

For the wife without an independent source of income, marriage is a minute system of imperialism. Not only does the husband own and control the family property; not only has he legal power over his wife and children; not only does he direct the labour of his domestic slave, his wife, for his own benefit; but he also engages in a psychological stance as "lord and master". He must not only be admired, his commands must be obeyed -- his own low status in the world and his cowardice in accepting the humiliations there, are purged when he heaps more of the same shit on his wife. Vicariously, he becomes the "boss", the "dictator" -- he feels the thrill of domination.

The system holds up maternity as a panacea for every frustration a woman feels in society. Yet many mothers who cannot escape their children for even a few hours a day are embittered, bored, unsatisfied.

The horrific picture of the subjugated wife-mother is considerably lightened when the wife is self-supporting. Such a wife liberates her husband from his own form of conjugal slavery. If he is well-intentioned, he may even see household and child care duties as his responsibility as well as hers. Such lovers and married couples may attain a personal equality and generosity that is truly rare.

ABORTION

Any woman, married or single, who attempts independence, is first concerned with freeing herself from unwanted pregnancies. She wishes to be independent without having to live as a secular nun. But in no way does the state allow the woman to fully control her own body according to her wishes or life plans. Contraception has only been recently legalized in Canada --- it is still not easily available nor inexpensive for those who need it most. Abortion is still considered a revolting, indecent crime even though in Canada over 200,000 women each year are forced to seek illegal abortions where unqualified back-alley butchers inflict on them the dangers of infection, hemorrhaging, uterine perforations, even death. Although an abortion performed by a qualified physician in a well-equipped office is 50 times less likely to result in death than childbirth, the law metes out a sentence of life imprisonment to the doctor and two years to the woman if such an abortion is performed, i.e. other than for danger to her life or health as decided by a conservative, often Catholic and all-male committee of doctors at each hospital.

The humanity of such committees may be judged by the fact that at Royal Victoria Hospital, twelve and thirteen-year-old pregnant children are categorically denied abortions, as are girls who are victims of incest, and even married women with children, who are diabetics. Needless to say, in Catholic hospitals, any abortion would be far too "dirty" and "sin-ridden" to be even debated upon. (Source: McGill Daily).

Women must struggle for improved, less expensive contraception as well as complete legalization of abortion on demand. Oral contraceptives, whatever their medical

shortcomings may be, are the first 100% effective way in which woman can control her body.

ECONOMIC EXPLOITATION

Nothing can guarantee the single or married woman her eventual liberation more than her ability to adequately support herself through productive labour. Even this modest demand of women is denied in the capitalist society which seeks to exploit every worker in as many ways as possible. Thus women, together with social prejudice against them and the total burden of caring for children, must today struggle to attain wages and job opportunities that are equal to those of male workers.

Women now form one-third of the Canadian labour force. But they are shunted into sex-segregated "women's occupations". Most working women are employed in low-paying clerical or light factory jobs, or as salesgirls, or in service occupations as waitresses, laundresses, cleaning-women, or hairdressers. Of the 15% of working women classified as professionals, over 85% are either schoolteachers or nurses.

It has become an axiom of the system that when women enter an occupation, wages fall. Even adjusting for part-time workers, women earn 50% less than men. In 1961 the full-time male worker earned \$5514 while the full-time woman worker earned \$2634. The average woman teacher earned only \$3400. In fact only 1.1% of Canadian women workers earned over \$6,000. (1961 Census).

The federal government --- the nation's largest employer --- actively discriminates against women. In 1967 90% of women public servants earned less than \$6,000 as opposed to only 59% of the men. A woman working for the government has 100 times less chance than a man of making \$14,000. Only one in 35 candidates accepted by government for its executive training program is a woman. A recent government report points out that while federal salary rates stipulate equal pay for equal work, women with the same education and experience as men usually earn less.

The capitalist sector of the economy discriminates even more blatantly against women. Women's chances for entry into high-paying jobs are even less than in government. Women are often paid less than men doing the same work. Labour unions frequently act as a party to this discrimination by accepting lower pay scales for women in union contracts.

WHAT IS TO BE DONE?

If working women are to defeat overt job discrimination they must agitate for laws, and their enforcement, which prohibit this crass exploitation of working women. They must militantly organize the underpaid working women into new, radical trade unions which respect the principle of equal pay for equal work. Women must also demand low-cost child care centres which will not only free mothers to work, but also provide for the healthy development of their children.

Radical student and working women have come to realize that traditional union demands are not enough. They do not want to get just a larger "piece of the pie" from the capitalist class: but rather they seek to abolish the capitalist class and to recover the wealth that all workers (white and blue collar) have created and which has been stolen from them. Thus they struggle for a revolution that is both feminist and socialist, in which there will be equal human beings creating a society in which all share freely.

THURSDAY NIGHT MEETINGS

The Women's Liberation Movement of Montreal has been meeting on Thursdays at the University Settlement, 3553 St. Urbain Street, since October. Until Christmas the meetings took place every Thursday, but after the New Year small groups were formed to meet every week at a time and place of their own choosing, and the general meetings were then changed to every other Thursday. The next meeting will be on Thursday, April 2, at 8 p.m.

At the general meetings there is no hierarchy of leadership. Decisions on chairing the meetings, the topics to be discussed, the studies to be done and the activities to be undertaken are group decisions. One of the small groups is responsible for organizing each Thursday meeting and this responsibility rotates among the small groups.

The issues raised and studies presented at the Thursday meetings have included:- Women in the nuclear family, alternatives to traditional marriage, the history of women in Quebec, the economic exploitation of women, the need for liberalizing our abortion laws, and the women members' relationship to other movements in Quebec.

MONDAY NIGHT CLASSES

Dr. Marlene Dixon gave a course at McGill this semester on the sociology of women. Some of the topics which were discussed were;- the history of women's movements; women and the family; women in labour movements; imperialism, colonization and women; concepts of masculinity and the ruling class; women's work and economic function in Canada; women and the education system.

Extensive bibliographies of books, journal and newspaper articles and pamphlets relating to women were given out as a major aim was to familiarise women with the literature available.

The orientation of the course is suggested by the list of questions originally posed:-

- . Why are women defined in terms of their relationship to men - as some man's "chick" or wife and not as an individual in her own right?
- . Why is there the assumption that woman's main fulfilment and recognition come through association with a husband and children?
- . Why are women automatically responsible for the care of children and house?
- . Why do we think of ourselves as inferior? Why do we hesitate to speak freely and confidently in mixed groups?
- . Why is the issue of equality for women laughed at?
- . Why are so few women in positions of leadership or responsibility in the university?
- . Why are women channelled into certain courses and careers - teaching, nursing, languages, clerical, secretarial?
- . Why are women concentrated in the marginal, service areas of the economy as a surplus, expendable and generally unskilled labour pool?

THE SMALL GROUPS

Women attending the Thursday night meeting are invited to join or form a "consciousness-raising" group, preferably with no more than ten members. They meet weekly in someone's home to discuss the problems they have in common as women in this society.

The aim is NOT group therapy. Although the experience can be very similar - discovering common experience and dispelling feelings of aloneness - the small groups then go on to an analysis of these common experience and discussion of alternatives. It becomes very clear that our individual experiences as women are not unique and that an analysis of the system and structure of our society is necessary to determine what are the real problems, and not just the symptoms of the ills.

Besides the questions suggested for the Monday night classes, new groups could begin with some topics suggested by the New York Radical Feminists:-

- . Discuss your relationships with men. Have you noticed any recurring patterns?
- . Have you ever felt that men have pressured you into sexual relationships? Have you ever lied about orgasm?
- . Discuss your relationships with other women. Do you compete with other women for men?

Growing up as a girl, were you treated differently from your brother?

- . What would you most like to do in life? What has stopped you?

As in all Women's Liberation meetings, the small group expects participation by all, and frowns on any individual or group dominating or excluding the others. Though this lack of conventional structure can create difficulties frustrating for those burning for action, most members feel that a non-authoritarian, anti-elitist approach is basic to the movement.

GROUP FOR UNMARRIED MOTHERS

Unwed mothers are forming a group to discuss the problems of their situation. They have already been offered a meeting place. For information call Dorothy Baert at 849-5014 between 4 and 8 p.m. any evening.

BURNING FOR ACTION?

Any woman is welcome to bring individual or group proposals for action to the larger meeting. A resolution was passed in February that any action taken under the name of Women's Liberation be approved by a majority of the Thursday night meeting.

THE PILL SCARE

by L. WYNN

Newspapers are out to sell, rather than inform, especially when it comes to hard core hot news on sex, death or violence. It would be too much to expect them to neglect the sales value of cancer scares about the pill, which involve at least two of these perennials.

Typical of the sensationalist headlines is "SURGEON SAYS PILL 'TIME BOMB'" in the Montreal Star. Using material from international press agencies which have spread the fear around the world, the Star distorts by leading with the terrifying, unsubstantiated claims, and relegating the qualifications and contrary evidence to small print down the bottom.

The opening paragraph begins, in the best newspaper style:

A surgeon with 50 years' experience in breast cancer told Congress today the birth-control pill is a "potential time bomb with a fuse 15 to 20 years in length."

As is intended, every pill user is thrown into an agonizing conflict, between fear of pregnancy and fear of death, between the desire for an uninhibited and happy sex life and the uncertainty as to whether a dreadful punishment will follow 20 years hence. The heading and leading paragraph have the greatest emotional impact and are best remembered.

Only the more sophisticated reader will absorb the fifteen paragraphs which follow, qualifying and denying the headline. When put in context, it loses much of its force:

Although there is no conclusive evidence that oral contraceptives cause breast cancer, the potential hazards involved in their protracted use by healthy young women cannot be ignored... It seems to me that official policy and sound medicine should strongly dictate that the lowest effective doses of the pill be used for child-spacing purposes not to exceed two to three years.

This is from the testimony given by Dr. Max Cutler, director of the Beverly Hills Cancer Research Foundation, to the Senate subcommittee hearings on the pill. As usual it is given priority in the press treatment, while a contrary opinion by someone at least as expert and probably more, does not even get a sub-heading.

WAVE OF ABORTION-SEEKING

Dr. Al Schulman, associate professor of obstetrics and gynaecology at the New York Albert Einstein College of Medicine, blames the subcommittee for causing a wave of abortion-seeking and questions its majority-vote approach to scientific information. "The Pills have probably been the most carefully scrutinized medication in medical history and we have been hard-pressed to find any significant or harmful effect from using these agents."

The only well-publicized attack on the pill scare was that by Dr. Alan Guttmacher, president of the World Population Council and of the world-wide Family Planning Association. While admitting that there are 1.5 blood-clotting deaths per 100,000 women per year, he compares this with 22.8 deaths as a result of pregnancy for the same age groups, 20 to 34. (This figure does not include deaths from abortions.) The risk of pregnancy with the IUD is far higher than with the pill, and still higher with the diaphragm. He points out that the press publicity has caused many women to give up the pill, and that this is more dangerous than having doctors prescribe it carefully and give general examinations including PAP tests every six months.

WOMEN'S LIBERATION PROTESTS

The Washington branch of Women's Liberation protested the hearings first, on the grounds of their lack of representation of women. (Something we all could agree on, especially with regard to the forthcoming Food and Drug Directorate hearings in Ottawa which are restricted to medical evidence only. It is important that the needs of women are not forgotten as drug firms and doctors argue over the unsatisfactory scientific evidence.)

The second point of protest by the Women's Liberation members was that drug firms were using women as guinea pigs. This accusation implies that the guinea pigs really are endangered by the pills, and for this there is no conclusive evidence. The original Puerto Rican guinea pigs who have been on the pill for over ten years have shown less incidence of cancer than for similar women, though the reason may be just that they are receiving regular medical attention and are promptly cured of common infections like trichomonas and thrush. As for the cancer research on mice given high dosages, no one claims any more that this proves anything.

Women's Liberation should attack the drug firms for still selling out-dated, high-dosage pills, for selling them at so many times the cost of manufacture, and for not putting their enormous profits into developing better alternatives faster. Their failure to inform doctors and the public of facts in the best interests of women is just another inevitable consequence of the commercialization of health - the fact that medicine and pharmaceuticals are profit-making concerns. Let's hope that the perfect contraceptive does not go the way of certain inventions, such as the steam-powered car, which were not developed because they would not have made enough profit for big corporations.

THE LOW DOSAGE PILL

Many GP's, besieged by pharmaceutical salesmen and floods of advertising and free samples, do not even know what the lowest dosage pill is. Since the only really well-established research on fatal effects is that done on thromboembolism in Britain, with HIGH DOSAGE PILLS, women can reduce even this small danger by simply changing to the lowest dosage pill. These .05 pills (i.e. .05 mg. of estrogen) are a fraction of the original dose, and have been reported to lessen or cut out altogether side-effects such as pseudo-pregnancy symptoms, sore breasts, nausea, and the possible "loss of libido" (the quaint Latinized medical term for not feeling like sex). It seems obvious that unknown long-term dangers would also be much reduced.

To date in the U.S.A. and Canada, the lowest dosage pills are still OVRAL with 0.25 mg. of D-norgestrel (the progesterone) and 0.05 mg. of ethinyl estradiol, a preferable form of synthetic estrogen; OVULEN 1, NORINYL 1, and ORTHONOVUM 1, with similar makeup but less satisfactory mestranol for the estrogen content. Possible side-effects such as break-through bleeding and not having a period are usually easily treated, but there are some women for whom the small dosage pills are not suitable.

PRECONDITION FOR OUR LIBERATION

Whether the present .05 pill is good enough or not, it is certain that something like the pill is a basic precondition for the liberation of women. It has already freed millions from the restrictions that prevented them from having the same sexual freedom as men. Women are no longer forced into subservience by pregnancy or the fear of it, by the need to select only good financial providers as partners. Within a relationship, they have more chance of overcoming frigidity now that they no longer have to fiddle each time with embarrassing mechanical or chemical contrivances, which usually required the use of a modern bathroom, were relatively unsafe anyway, or killed spontaneity.

But unless it is accessible to all women who want it, the pill or its successor cannot be the great liberator. At present, as with everything else, it is more available to educated middle class women in cities. Since the U.S. legislation allowing free contraceptives through clinics to any women, regardless of age, Quebec is now probably the hardest place in North America for poor, rural women to get contraceptives. Even if they could find a doctor to prescribe correctly for them outside the cities in Catholic Quebec, it will still cost between \$5 and \$15 for the fee and \$2 a month for the pills. If they are under 18, they can get married, have a baby, and get divorced legally but NOT have contraceptives prescribed for them. Girls under 18 are turned away even from Protestant hospital clinics in Montreal. Until two years ago, the respectable Family Planning Association was not even legal here.

WHAT TO DO

For birth control information in Montreal, call the Family Planning Association, 933-8347; the Centre de Planification Familiale, 849-2441; or the editors of the Birth Control Handbook at the McGill Students Society. Those who want to investigate the research could start with the recent medical indexes under the heading "Contraceptive oral" and read the British Medical Journal first. A recent issue is devoted to the pill. The Washington hearings are printed in the F.D.A. Report, 1969. A thorough review of the research is being made by the editors of the Birth Control Handbook for a paper to be made available to Women's Liberation groups in the U.S.A. and Canada, probably this summer.

Whatever the eventual conclusions about the present pill, it is certain that no woman should rely on the press for balanced information about it, nor make up her mind to go off the pill because of the scare stories. Nor should she rely on the opinion of one

doctor, especially a GP who has neither the training nor time to read or judge the latest research. In Quebec above all she should beware of GP's and gynaecologists with conscious or subconscious prejudices against effective contraception and against women enjoying their sex life. The point has been made elsewhere that insecure men, perhaps with potency problems of their own, feel especially threatened by the prospect of sexually liberated women. Whether this psychological reason applies or not, doctors tend to accept the culture of the society, and until quite recently in Quebec, the large patriarchal family was part of it.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Women's Liberation was represented by Brenda Zannis at a teach-in organized by La Ligue des Femmes to celebrate International Women's Day on March 8. Speaking in fluent French, Brenda spoke of the oppression of women and mentioned some of the issues which have been discussed. She stressed that Women's Liberation was a new movement in Montreal.

Other speeches covered the winning of the vote for women in Quebec, the new Civil Code (by lawyer Louise Mackay), the activities in consumer protests and other fields (by La Ligue des Femmes), the anti-Vietnam movement (by the Voice of Women), and the dangerous working conditions for 69 women in the Squibb pharmaceutical factory in Montreal. (The teach-in agreed to boycott Squibb products until the strike was settled.)

A male chauvinist who called himself the president of the Association for the Protection of Car Drivers descended to the pathetic level of the long-disproved argument that women are bad drivers, and was quickly disposed of by a Women's Liberation member who pointed out that women had fewer accidents than men and that the meeting should not let this man crap on women.

The final resolutions passed were in support of the municipal vote for everyone over 18, and of making March 8 a paid holiday for women.

TRIALS SET FOR WOMEN DEMONSTRATORS

Altogether 160 women who face trial for demonstrating against Montreal's anti-demonstration law last November are in danger of being found guilty.

Even if the law is later pronounced unconstitutional by the Superior Court of Quebec, the time for an appeal may have elapsed. This is because the trial dates in the Municipal Court are April 2, for the 134 who were first arrested and charged, and April 7 for the 26 who were subpoenaed months after the demonstration. The Superior Court has been listening to the lawyers argue about the law for three months, and may well take another three to make a decision.

The women's lawyer, Louise Doyin, will try to get another postponement of the April trials, but they have already been postponed from February when the Municipal Court rejected the women's plea that the law was illegal. If she fails, then the women may be found guilty and fined. Even if the Superior Court later decides that the law cannot stand, the time for an appeal may have run out.

The appeal to the Superior Court is being made by Claire Dupont, President of the employees of French CEGEP's, as an individual. This arose out of the demonstration a month after the women's. It would have cost the women about \$100,000 for each case in a higher court.

The women demonstrators are being advised to be at court on April 2 and April 7. There is apparently no need to cancel summer vacation plans.

KRASSNER vs DIXON

At Paul Krassner's one-man show in aid of the American Deserters Committee at McGill on March 11, Marlene Dixon attacked him for male chauvinism and for his flippant approach to Revolution, and the real dangers involved.

Krassner's denial of male chauvinism rested on two rather weak points: First, that he was urging the desegregation of New York Times work ads ten years ago in The Realist, before anyone else thought of it; and second, that his marriage was wrecked by girls calling in the middle of the night to find abortionists. Even if true, neither point answered the original charge against his display of sheer male egotism.

WOMEN'S LIBERATION LITERATURE

A set of pamphlets on Women's Liberation is available for \$2.75 from the New England Free Press, 791 Tremont Street, Boston, Mass. 02118. Among them are:- The Myth of the Vaginal Orgasm, by Anne Koedt(10c.); Women: The Longest Revolution, by Juliet Mitchell (15c.)

McGill University has set up one of its Senate committees, this time to investigate discrimination against women at McGill in such matters as student admissions, hiring, promotion, salary and benefits for staff, and use of facilities. After some protest, the original terms of reference, which covered only staff and students, were extended to include over 2,000 non-academic staff.

The committee was condemned in advance by Marlene Dixon as an attempt to co-opt and whitewash, since McGill was an oppressive institution. Whatever their opinion of the outcome, Women's Liberation members may still be interested in cases of discrimination presented and in suggestions made. The committee has invited written submissions, and is holding public sessions for oral presentations.

OVER 2,000 WOMEN EMPLOYEES UNREPRESENTED

The first public session, chaired by Professor Brian Grossman of the Law Faculty, was held on March 19. About 12 people were present, including the Committee. The members, who were chosen without consultation by the Nominating Committee of the Senate, were Professors R. Johnston, H. LeMaitre, P. Wallace, S. Goldbloom, Brian Grossman, Helen Reynolds, Warden of Royal Victoria College, and student politician Julius Grey. There are supposedly three students on the Committee but only Mr. Grey was in evidence, though more had applied for the position, including at least two women students.

Ex-librarian Jean L'Esperance asked why there were no representatives of the over 2,000 female employees of McGill, including secretaries, administrative assistants, librarians, technicians, and janitorial staff. She was told by the Chairman that the Nominating Committee chose the members and that no additions could now be made. L'Esperance's opinion is that non-academic staff will be afraid of losing their jobs if they speak openly to the Committee.

ACTION URGED

Misgivings as to the effectiveness of the Committee were apparently shared by Professors Myrna and Irwin Gopnik, who presented the first brief. The brief was not read out so that the audience could join in discussion, nor were notes taken of any of the oral submissions. However, Myrna Gopnik (Linguistics) pointed out that the Committee's approach was narrowly legalistic, and that discrimination can be combatted only by a public education program designed to change values and attitudes, and possibly also by "reparation" or preferential treatment for women, on the model of educational programs for black students in the U.S.

Women's Liberation members would agree with many of the points made by the Gopnik's in their brief, a copy of which we later acquired. They begin by saying that the Committee is not set up just to show that the University is no worse than the rest of society in the way it prevents the full participation of women in decision-making processes, and of men in socialization processes:

Whatever the origin and past function of the differentiation of social roles according to sex in our society in the present, it has no justification at all beyond custom, and economic exploitation. Women and men alike are increasingly unwilling to permit the dead weight of this custom to oppress them while facilitating their exploitation. Their inability to persuade society to change, an effort which dates back at least to the early movements for Universal Suffrage, and the resultant frustration has led in the past and is leading again to abandoning the polite rhetoric of appeals such as this one in favour of more militant words and direct action.

(This recognition that both men and women are oppressed by the system, and the refusal to be simply anti-men, are in line with Women's Liberation thinking, though some would doubt whether their lack of participation in child rearing bothers unliberated men. The financial burden may well oppress them more.)

"POLITE RHETORIC"

After referring to their own recommendations as "the polite rhetoric of appeals such as this one," the Gopnik's go ahead and make them in the hope that the Committee may actually do something ... a hope which not all Women's Liberation members share. Their excellent recommendations, which are summarized below, did not get the informed discussion they deserved.

1. A permanent committee to act on grievances and eliminate their causes
2. A yearly census on the distribution of men and women in every section of the University, aiming at an eventual 50-50 ratio. An immediate goal would be that the distribution of men and women faculty in each department be equal to the distribution of its graduate students.

3. An active policy of recruiting women students into male-dominated professions such as law, medicine, dentistry, engineering, business, university teaching, and urging male students to enter nursing and elementary school teaching. In addition women should be favoured in recruitment to faculty and administration to eliminate present inequalities.
4. Parenthood leave, family sick leave and day care facilities for both men and women employees.
5. Research and courses on the role of women in society within various departments.

UNIVERSITY DAY CARE

Relevant to the fourth recommendation was the reading out of a letter from graduate student Karen Al-Aidroos, detailing the problems of mothers at McGill. This document revealed that although graduate students had organized a day care co-op, McGill had refused to co-operate by offering space to them. (University of Toronto parents have at least had such a day care center this winter, until the University's refusal to do the \$2,000 worth of renovations necessary to meet regulations. The resulting demonstration and sit-in show that Toronto students realize the need for day care and its connection with discrimination against women.)

BELL CANADA "the greatest discriminator against women"

The Bell telephone operators in Montreal who were ready to strike for better pay and conditions won the pay increase (\$13.50 a week over the current maximum of \$92.25 for bilingual operators after four years). They did not get the union security and seniority clauses they wanted, nor the improved conditions. The pressure is on operators every minute of their 7½-hour day.

According to the President of the Traffic Employees Association, Mary Lennox, Bell Canada is "the greatest discriminator against women of any big employer." She says her union takes the view that women are people.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

The following items have been culled from recent Women's Sections of newspapers where they have been relegated along with the usual junk and items on education, housing, consumer affairs and social action.

Mrs. Jeanne Warren, the first woman ever called to the Quebec Bar, will be made a judge on April 10. She told The Montreal Star she had to resign her position in the Quebec Civil Service when she later married, because married women were immediately disbarred. The experience doesn't seem to have left much of a mark. She claims women's only problem is that they don't try hard enough to take advantage of the freedom they have.

Neutralizing The Montreal Star's report on the March 8 teach-in on "women in the 70's" was an article beside it headed "Do women really want equality?" In it the head of the London Graduate School of Business complained that not one woman had applied to his school. It appears not to have occurred to him that we not only want equality but that we realize that we'll likely never make it as executives the way things are now, presupposing that we want to make it as executives!!!

The Montreal Star's slick annual fashion supplement says "Women's Liberationists go around braless in baggy pants and sloppy sweaters to show their disdain for fashion." Play the same game but stylishly, it suggests, with a new, natural wardrobe of noclothes clothes and lots and lots of nomakeup makeup. Is it possible that the fashion and cosmetics industries feel threatened ???

MONTREAL MEN'S PRESS CLUB

Women are welcome to the Montreal Men's Press Club all right - as long as they're with a male member. Women in the media and public relations are let into the wood-paneled bar downstairs in the Mount Royal Hotel only as guests of a male counterpart.

This illogical ruling will be challenged for a third time at the club's April 25 annual meeting. If two thirds of the voting members support a change, some 120 women will become eligible for membership. Most women who support MMPC membership do so on principle, more than for any advantages admittance would offer. Male supporters say the present rule is discriminatory and impractical - the club's treasury is badly in need of funds. In votes last April and September less than the required two thirds of voting members but more than half voted in favour. A core of traditionalists feel this last bastion of male journalistic freedom will fall with official female admittance.

WOMEN LOSING FORMER GAINS

Are you finding it harder than ever to get a good job?

The individual woman's frustrations can be placed in perspective through an analysis of the economic function of women.

Women are exploited as surplus, expendable labour. They are brought into jobs formerly restricted to men in periods such as the world wars, only to lose them again when the men come back. Thus during the 50's they were told once more that woman's place was in the home, as wife, mother, and consumer of cosmetics and fashions.

In spite of this, until about two years ago women born in the 30's and early 40's benefited from belonging to that small generation, which catered to the needs of the post-war baby boom. Post-war prosperity and the demands created by the post-war generation made more good jobs available for women; for instance, about 20% of professors and principals in Canada were women in 1961.

TOO MANY GRADUATES, TOO FEW JOBS

But now, the labour supply is increasing and demand decreasing. The baby boom is now through college; the graduate schools of the United States are bursting at the seams with eager young Ph.D.'s with no jobs. Canada is one place for them to go. The draft increases this trend; qualified draft-dodgers have done well at the University of Toronto in particular. In the United States, because of their parents' post-war affluence, the upgrading of education requirements for jobs, and partly because of fear of the draft, more middle class students have stayed at school longer than ever before. They now want good jobs.

A second cause for the over-supply in Canada is the closing of the historic American outlet for unemployed Canadians. Now that immigration from the Western Hemisphere is limited to a total 120,000 a year, new graduates who always went south in the past are now bottled up in Canada. It is also dangerous to migrate, even if they can, because they become liable for the draft - as they would if they went to Australia or New Zealand too. Britain has plenty of unemployed graduates of its own, and even if one were allowed permanent work there, a lecturer earns about \$50 a week.

Formerly, any self-respecting Canadian male with a good degree went to the States, leaving opportunities in Canadian universities, schools, and professions for women. Now that situation is reversed, and government cutbacks in education do not help. (McGill, for instance, loses \$7½ million from its budget for the next year in all probability.)

WOMEN AT THE BOTTOM, MEN AT THE TOP

Forced by snowballing inflation, women are coming into the Canadian labour force in increasing numbers, but into the worst-paid, least protected tertiary industries and small sweatshops. Cases of women earning 95 cents an hour and less for midnight to dawn shifts in a canning factory are not untypical of Montreal.

Women come into the bottom jobs, but when the occupation rises in status and pay, men enter it. Even traditional feminine occupations such as teaching, librarianship, social work and nursing are being invaded by men, who increasingly take the top administrative positions, often over women with more experience and ability. For instance, there is a growing number of male elementary school principals and head librarians.

For women students with a plain B.A., the best they will get will probably be secretarial work. Even teaching is getting very competitive. The 70's may well see women lose in every occupation the gains they have made in the last few decades.

Montreal Women's Liberation is in the process of getting an office, a mailing address, and a telephone. Further information will be in the next issue. Meanwhile all women are welcome at our Thursday night meetings.

Since there are no leaders, officials, or spokesmen for Women's Liberation, views expressed in articles are not necessarily those of our members.

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