

A WOMAN'S PLACE

429-4063

RECLAIM THE NIGHT



Sept. 1980

Red Herring

Red Herring Co-op Books (1652 Barrington St.) is once again DESPERATE for volunteers to help run the store. We need people to staff the store((notice it's been closed quite often this summer?), to help order books, for publicity etc.-- there are always lots of jobs to be done. You don't have to be a member of the co-op to be a volunteer. Call the store (422-5087) or Pamela Manley (422-2115) to talk about what hours you can spare--we are very flexible.

Watch for news of our DISCOUNT CARDS next month-- subject to approval by the co-op membership.

Co-op Books

WOMEN AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

Oxford Street School, October
4th, 1980, 9:00 to 5:00.

In the last ten years one worker in Canada has been killed on the job every two hours of every working day. Every 16 seconds a Canadian worker suffers a disabling injury.

A study done by the U.S. Public Health Service estimates that for every death caused by an accident on the job, there are seven caused by industrial diseases. The National Cancer Institute estimates that 20-40% of all cancer is occupationally related. In Nova Scotia up to 350 people may die this year of cancer arising out of the work they do.

In spite of this terrible toll, workers face numerous obstacles to getting cleaner workplaces. Often they don't know what they are working with and so can't pinpoint the causes of their discomfort. Management turns complaints around, blaming the worker rather than cleaning up the workplace. Companies argue that they can't afford to clean up--profitability will fall. Government is slow to enact meaningful health and safety laws and reluctant to enforce those that do exist.

Women workers face additional obstacles. Women generally do different work than men and the hazards of many women's jobs have not been studied. They are assumed to be safe. The double day which most women work is ignored; a recent study showed that working women with small children at home have a higher rate of heart disease than men workers. The reproductive role leaves women vulnerable to substances which may harm the fetus. Too often it also means they won't be hired at all.

Beginning at 9:00 am. on Saturday, October 4th, the Women and Occupational Health Conference will be held at the Oxford School (6364 North Street). The day will allow us, as women workers, to identify the major occupational health hazards we face and to start developing ways of dealing with these problems.

Jeanne Stellman, author of *Women's Work, Women's Health*, co-author of *Work Is Dangerous to Your Health* and executive director of the Women's Occupational Health Resource Centre at Columbia University is the key note speaker. Jeanne is one of the most knowledgeable people in North America about the hazards of work and her speech will provide us with an excellent introduction to the day.

Following this we will break

into workshops, by sector, to identify and discuss the specific problems of our workplaces. With lunch we will be showing the film "Working for Your Life: Women and Occupational Health". In the afternoon a panel will discuss "the solutions": the law, the union and the community. The day will close with a plenary session with workshop reports and planning for the future.

The Conference will be an exciting opportunity to share information about the work-

place hazards we face and to begin to talk about what to do about them. There are lots of leaflets to distribute; come and get some for your workplace. We'll see you on October 4th.



GETTING BACK INTO The Workforce

a free Workshop for women on : organizing a job search
writing a resume
interviews
retraining programs, etc.

*Thursday afternoon, September 18 from 1:30 - 4:00 pm
at: 1225 Barrington St., Halifax*

WOMEN & TRADES

a Workshop on training for trade occupations: November 7 & 8
more information available in the next newsletter

*sponsored by the Women's Employment Counselling Service - 422-8023
an Outreach Project of CESC*



URBAN SURVIVAL: THE WORLD OF WORKING CLASS WOMEN by Ruth Sidel, Beacon Press, 1978. \$8.25

Red Herring Co-op Books has just got in a new book about working class women in America. It is not a theoretical or a sociological study, but a straight description of the lives of eight women, as told in interviews with the author, Ruth Sidel.

The women are from different ethnic backgrounds, some are married, the youngest is 23, the eldest 68. Ruth Sidel describes the interviews as open, with no set questions, and all the women had the last word about the edited version which went into the book. There is a short introduction then the main part of the book is separated into eight chapters, with one woman talking about her life in each.

None of the women see the feminist movement as something which affects them greatly but their observations about their own experiences tell us that they are aware of women's problems, and that they agree with the aims of the women's movement. Maria Perez says: "No, I don't

think that women's life is especially hard but I do think that there should be day care for everybody, especially for working women so that they don't have to worry about their children." (pg. 104)

What comes out in all of the accounts is that work is a central part of their lives, although sometimes there is a conflict between going out to work versus staying at home to look after the children: "I really did enjoy my work and I was very angry with my husband because he did not want me to go back." (pg. 78)

The last chapter is a discussion about what the women have said. Ms. Sidel brings out how the working class status of these women affects all areas of their life--the quality of health care and education, where they can afford to live; their economic oppression is their main oppression. The author ends with a vague call to women--to "form alliances across class lines and across racial and religious lines in order to organize collective action." (p.173)

The book is useful and interesting as an oral history of women--there aren't many about--but there could have been a little more analysis by the author.

Women

RECLAIM THE NIGHT



September 27,

9:30 p.m.

A Woman's Place
1225 Barrington St.
Halifax, Nova Scotia

JOIN WOMEN MARCHING FOR OUR RIGHT TO BE SAFE ON THE STREETS,
WITHOUT MALE PROTECTION, AND PROTEST VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN.

FREE DAYCARE PROVIDED: 24 HOUR ADVANCE NOTICE

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 429-4063

BRING WHISTLES AND FLASHLIGHTS. CELEBRATION AFTERWARDS AT A WOMAN'S PLACE.

*This march is organized for and by women to demonstrate our independence;
to fight back against rape and abuse of women;*

to unify our struggle as women of different classes, ages and political philosophies.

*This night we will assert our right to walk the streets unafraid. By walking together
we multiply our individual power and in solidarity we support one another in our
personal struggle to determine our lives.*

Women unite! Take back the night, our bodies, our dignity, our rights!

BONDING: Better Obstetric and Neonatal Decisions In the New Grace

Dr. Harris Miller, Deputy Minister of Health, announced yesterday that the Department of Health will recommend that the Grace Maternity Hospital be included in the Medical Centre being planned for Camp Hill. BONDING (Better Obstetric and Neonatal Decisions in the New Grace) opposed the initial decision to include the Grace in the Camp Hill Complex on the grounds that there had been no consumer involvement in the decision, and that the care of sick newborns would be jeopardized by a site removed from the specialized services of the IWK. The announced decision to continue with plans to relocate the Grace on the Camp Hill site does not resolve either of these issues. There was no consultation with consumer groups during the preparation of the study to determine the optimal site for a maternity facility - the views of the service population of the institution were, once again, not considered. As well, there is no resolution of the problem of convenient access to pediatric specialists at the IWK.

BONDING is preparing a rebuttal of the feasibility study in which this decision was based to be sent to the Minister of Health, Dr. Gerald Sheehy. BONDING is particularly concerned that although the feasibility study states that "maximum medical benefits" (p. 15) would be offered by a site located between the IWK and the VG, this site was passed over in favour of Camp Hill.

We ask that all interested groups or individuals call the office of the Minister of Health to request a copy of the "Grace Relocation Study", and to ask for an opportunity to review the study before cabinet makes a final decision regarding the location of the Grace.

WOMEN AND POVERTY: THE IMPLICATIONS

There is as yet little recognition of the connection between the way that women workers are treated and the incidence of poverty in Canada. Current government policies, and the UI review in particular, fail to make the connection between the way policy-makers view women's work and the fact that so many women are poor. For example, the Report on Women and Poverty, published recently by the National Council on Welfare, has clearly expressed the problems caused by continued female dependency. It says:

A more likely explanation for much of the poverty in Canada.. is that one-half of the population (women) is brought up on the assumption that it will always be financially taken care of by the other half.

The fact is that the majority of Canadian women will experience poverty at some point. They will not always be taken care of financially because of divorce, separation ... However, as long as most people cling to this myth, reinforced by the government's encouragement of women's economic dependence, the poor will continue to be primarily women. UI proposals such as tying benefits to family income deny women the right to



be considered as individuals in the labour force, promote their continued dependency and resultant susceptibility to poverty.

There is no doubt that changes which reinforce a married woman's dependence on her husband will be detrimental to all women workers. In addition, as the Advisory Council on the Status of Women has stated in its recent submission to CEIC, the options under review contradict the "principle of entitlement for all workers, and are inconsistent with the federal commitment to promote equal employment opportunities for women."

The government's response to women's concerns about changes in the benefit structure has been predictable. Proposals basing benefits on either the number of dependents or on family income are lauded as a way of redirecting social benefits to the low-income families who need them most. However, it is the function of social welfare programs to protect the needy. Unemployment insurance is intended to protect workers from poverty arising from unemployment. Both types of assistance are

SERVICE NUMBERS

essential, but they should not be confused.

In addition, restricting UI protection for married women denies them their legal right to participate in and be protected from contingencies in the work world on the same

terms and conditions as everyone else. Even if UI were replaced by a limited social assistance program, there is no reason why such an income redistribution should take place at the expense of women's financial autonomy.

Clearly, the government must articulate its commitment to the status of women. Promises of job creation incentives and assistance in job retraining will remain unfulfilled if women are not guaranteed the economic freedom and protection necessary for them to become autonomous and equal participants in the work force.

excerpt from: A Brief
Concerning the Proposed
Amendments to the Un-
employment Insurance Act
and Their Impact on Women

ASSAULT:

S.O.S. Project- preventive child
abuse 423-4380

BYRONY HOUSE - shelter for abused
women and children 422-7650

HELP LINE - 422-7444

HEALTH:

WELL WOMAN CLINIC - 428-2784

PLANNED PARENTHOOD - counselling
and information 455-9656

TEEN PHONE - 426-8743
- 455-9656 after 5 p.m.

SENIOR CITIZENS:

INFORMATION AND REFERRAL CENTRE
422-4290 or 422-5852

LEGAL AID:

PORT CITY COUNSELLING - 425-6731

DALHOUSIE LEGAL AID - 423-7197

NOVA SCOTIA LEGAL AID - 423-1291

EMPLOYMENT:

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT COUNSELLING
SERVICE - 422-8023

FAMILY BUDGET - 422-5897

A WOMAN'S PLACE

PRESENTS:

HERSTORY - HISTORY

WOMEN'S EXCLUSION FROM MALE CULTURE

<u>DATE:</u>	<u>TIME:</u>	<u>TOPIC:</u>
Monday, October 6	7:30 p.m.	"Exclusion: Myth or Reality"
October 13	7:30 p.m.	"Women's Biology: Fate or Fiction"
October 20	7:30 p.m.	"Women's Work: Private or Public"
October 27	7:30 p.m.	"Women and Language: What's in a name"

Fee: \$5.00 (to cover cost of written material)

**REGISTRATION and
INFORMATION at**

429-4063
429-4068

SUBSCRIBE NOW!!

subscription rates \$5.00/yr.

name: _____

address: _____

postal code: _____

phone no: _____

**A WOMAN'S PLACE
1225 BARRINGTON ST.
HALIFAX, N.S.
B3J 1Y2**



COPI
POST

SIMMONS 80/10 EXP.
6038 WILLOW ST
HFV NS
B3K 1L9

MS-11-4.1.9.7