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### The Montana Women's Resource, Spring 1979

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# Women and Technology

The Women's Resource Center in Missoula held its fifth state conference April 27, 28 and 29 on women and technology.

"Should women involve themselves in high technology?" "Should they involve themselves in appropriate technology?" How would each kind of technology affect women's role options?" These are questions raised in the conference.

Judy Smith opened up the conference Friday evening with a statement of the issues. "If we give up energy-intensive technology, how big of a price will we as women pay?", she asked. "Would a back-to-the-land movement increase or decrease the amount of options women have?"

Smith termed the current role women play in appropriate technology "frustrating", saying that AT, or appropriate technology, still tends to be largely male-dominated. This phenomenon "makes good sense" because it has always been part of the male role to be involved in both science and technology, said Smith. Specific needs of women are not now considered in most discussions men have on the use of different types of technology, she said.



Gary Kannenberg of the Environmental Studies Department at Missoula then discussed ways for women to get power to affect a change in the way environmental and technological issues have been handled by men thus far. He suggested that women:

- get an engineering degree at MSU and then work up to a vice presidency in a corporation so they can have more control.

- attend workshops such as those put on by the Alternate Energy Resources Organization (AERO) at the conference, so they may learn skills to affect change themselves without having to have a higher power positions.

- support a political candidate who believes women should get more involved in technology.

Kannenberg termed "ignorance", or lack of education, the greatest barrier in achieving a place of equal footing for women with men technologically and environmentally.

## ENERGY USE DOUBLES IN DECADE

Energy use in the United States has doubled since 1960, according to Kannenberg. He sees the problem in America as being "the wrong use of fuel for the wrong job." For example, a coal boiler heats up to 1200 degrees F to yield 140 degree hot water for home use. Nuclear reactors heat up to 2000 degrees to achieve 140 degree water. Using the proper fuel and matching it to its task is what is meant by appropriate technology, he said.

"How do we switch to these other methods to save on fuel consumption? Consumers must make the switch as a whole, Kannenberg said.

The conference then broke up into discussion groups to bring out ideas and thoughts individuals have about women and technology.

## PANEL OF FOUR WOMEN

The conference re-convened Saturday morning at 10:00 to hear a panel composed of four women discuss technology. These women included Corky Bush, Women's Studies, Idaho University, Sue Armistage of Washington State University, Jan Zimmerman of the National Women's Agenda Satellite Project (NWASP), and Elizabeth Copinger of Ecotopex.

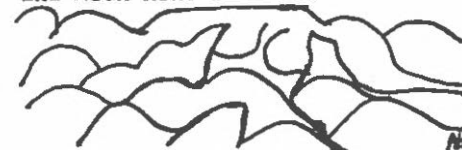
Corky Bush spoke first, describing through use of a slide show of paintings associated with technology that women's role has been very limited in technology.

In Bush's first slides, one could see that woman was depicted on the fringes of the paintings which focused on men and technology, or women were not pictured at all. Examples of this sexism in art are works by Pat Lion (who painted a male romantic-worker figure), John Weir, who painted a gunnery with women on the edges of the scene, John Cope, who painted a suspension bridge with females in the foreground with backs turned, and Lois Head, who painted a hooker on a sidewalk in a factory town. In "The Strike" of 1896, a woman pleads with men not to strike. In "Amalgamated" women are shown hunched over sewing machines. In "Strike Talk", women passively organize a garment industry's strike.

Many paintings with women in them showed women waiting...and waiting...and waiting...for fathers or for husbands, spending "idle hours", and assuming the status of a beautiful decoration, a new role for women. A value was seen in women who waited beautifully and peacefully, Bush said. "Beauty, luxury, and ease are ideals," Bush said, but "reality is different."

In 1812, John Vanderlyn painted the first nude female in American art. He used an old Greek concept in his painting; that of Ariadne being deserted by Theseus. This painting was the beginning of archetypal beauty.

Fields and hills took on the shapes of women in Grant Wood's and Alex Hoke's works.



CONFERENCE CONTINUED page 5

# Women's Liberation or People's Movement?

## editorial

Can we attain a liberation of women, so that women can be considered full human beings with all rights as men are considered human beings? Can we attain equality by working as separatists in our society or more easily and happily by working with men and children as well, so that all of society feels part of the change?

This question came to mind after I had participated in the Women and Technology conference put on by the Women's Resource Center and the Montana Committee for the Humanities, April 27, 28, and 29.

I had listened to many intelligent, enthusiastic women deal with the issue of "how to get a piece of the pie", or how to get power equal to that most males enjoy. The goal is for women to have control over their world, with equal weight in the decision-making of such issues as whether to use appropriate technology or high technology in the future.

Some women at the conference had advocated not working with men to attain a woman power. They preferred to not be subjugated to unequal treatment by men in order to gain that power.

I, too, intensely dislike being treated unequally by men or other women or children. Inequality is unpleasant for everyone. I feel that in order to insure equality for every human being, we must work together to alleviate the burden of inequality.

An approach some women take to solving the question of a liberation for womankind is to work, live, and love separately from men. These women may be Lesbians or they may not be. Their lives seem to still involve children, either as friends to them or as mothers of them. Occasionally, these children are male. Should these male children and female children be able to experience the joys of a full human experience, including relationships with older males? Should they be trained by both women and men of our generation to not be satisfied with a sexist world, and to seek a more equal one? I think so. Will these children not then feel more comfortable in being the individuals they are instead of having to wrangle with sex roles society has cast on them?

I suggest we teach male children, from the cradle, that enjoyment can come for them from playing with dolls as girls do, which can later be transferred to an enjoyment of their children; that enjoyment can come from helping his father, mother, and siblings with the housework, that it can come from cooking meals, and from the satisfaction of having clean clothes and the garbage taken out.

I suggest we teach female children, from the cradle, to feel they have a part in the technological world about them, and to feel they have control over that world. I suggest teaching them the pleasures of constructing their world through use of carpentry skills, teach them the satisfaction of fixing their cars, bicycles, motorcycles, helicopters, airplanes, computers, and all other "male machines."

At the same time these non-traditional skills are being taught our children, the traditional skills must not be let to fall by the wayside. If one were to let these skills disappear, the result would still be a human being not in control of his/her life and not functioning at his/her highest level.

These changes in childrearing practices cannot come through work by the parents alone. Each part of society must work toward this equality.

I spoke with a man after the conference who had been in my discussion group. He said he had felt an animosity directed at him by some of the women, as if they did not want him there. So he left. He had come with a concern for woman power and a desire to see technology include women, and had gone away feeling as if we'd said, "Go away. We don't need your help. We can do it ourselves."

But can we?

Angie Helvey

Editor's Note: This editorial does not reflect the views of all the women of the Missoula Women's Resource Center. Feel free to reply to it.

# Women's Issues Interrelate

## guest editorial

by Ellen Carole

Since attending the Women and Technology conference I have tried to decide if the issues presented differed fundamentally from women's issues in general. After considerable thought I have decided that they have not. The issues for women and technology are the same as those of women and economics, women and politics, women and education, etc.

All of these issues find women questioning not only "how to get a piece of the pie" but what the make-up of the pie is.

We cannot liberate women simply by gaining equal status with men, in my vision of the pie. Equality of status is a primary step toward profound social changes in the power structure of society. In the feminist movement we must work on changing women's status as we change the structure of society. One change leads to the other change. This emphasis is not found in those philosophies aimed at a human liberation. The changes I suggest do ultimately lead to the liberation of human beings as a whole.

Why do we find the same suppression of women in technology as we do in economics, politics, and education? These issues all have the same history and were all set up in a society of male domination.

I approach the issue of technology as first a feminist and then as a technologist. I hope that others will approach the issue this way too. If we simply move to assume male status without changing "the pie", technology will continue to grow until it becomes an uncontrollable monster.



(guest editorial continued page 3)

## Letters to the Editor

### feedback

Women must first achieve credibility, and education and experience with technology are two ways to achieve this. Women must choose the life task that is best for their particular abilities as individuals, whether it be in politics, economics, law, farming, unions, technology, etc. In addition, we must sustain a feminist criticism through work with other women in support groups on local and national issues. Through feminist actions, day by day, we can formulate valid, necessary and fundamental change.

So, we can work with some men (Yes, men can become feminists), we must work with and for children, but both the liberation of men and the liberation of children will first require a liberation of women. QEC

Editor's note:

Carole had been in my discussion group and she too was exposed to the man I mentioned in my editorial (page 2). Here are her comments on the way he came across: "He stated his opinion that women should stop being so paranoid about the superficial issue of women's liberation and get on to involved in the appropriate technology movement." As one can see from Carole's guest editorial, she did not agree with this man's views. Here are some comments from the man himself, Jim Borzym, who is employed by the Environmental Information Services.

"Instead of women being so feminine-centered, women should bring their status up to equality and get on with their personal battles in the world. It's important for people to be people", Borzym said.

"Women are as capable as men are to become engineers, planners, designers, and policy-makers. My concern is for them to see themselves as people who have a part in the power structure in such areas as technology."

Borzym was unable to attend the whole conference. Don Gest attended a few more workshops than Borzym, and here are his comments: "I thought the conference was boring, especially the last panel on the last night. I heard a lot of heavy feminist comments, which I expected. Certain women overbore on that and missed the point of discussing technology. They dis-

CONTINUED PAGE 4

Dear Sisters,

Some feedback on your Winter, 1979 issue: when I saw it in the mail, I wondered if it was still worth keeping up the subscription. Missoula and the campus there seem very distant from out here in the flatlands. (Billings) As I read, I decided yes, it was still worth it. However, it is a major frustration to read about bills of feminist interest coming before the legislature and to realize the information is nearly two months old! Having been involved in publishing a similar newsletter, I realize this is a perennial problem, and I don't have an easy solution. As a suggestion, though, two pages of timely information every couple of months would be a lot more useful than a major production three times a year in which 90% of the dates mentioned have already passed.

Particularly distressing to me was to learn about the "Women and Technology" conference at this late date. Maybe you are only trying to reach college students, in which case three weeks might be adequate lead time. For those of us who have to arrange time off from work, child care, transportation, etc.--no way. I'll be sorry to miss it, but so it goes.

Obviously, I wouldn't have bothered to write if your newsletter did not have great value to me. Keep up the good work.

Cheryl Jenni  
2527 Wyoming  
Billings

Editor's note: We did put rough outlines of the conference in fall issues of the newsletter, but they may not have been included in each copy.

### pre-history of squabble

Ladies,

I was interested in your article on our current Helena idiocy, the squabble over the book, "Our Bodies, Ourselves" in the fall 1978 issue. Perhaps you might be interested in the pre-history of the controversy, allowing for the fact that all I know about it is taken from newspaper accounts and that some of the details may be inaccurate.

Apparently it all began when a Helena "housewife" named Beverly Glueckert, took upon herself the office of community censor and checked out the contents of one entire shelf in the Sociology Section of the Public Library. This consisted of eighteen books which, under library policy at that time (over a year ago), she was able to renew indefinitely. Eventually the library realized what was going on and made a change in renewal regulations. Mrs. Glueckert refused to return the books, saying she considered them "trashy", objected to her tax dollars being spent on them, and condemned them as "child-seducing." (Note: the Sociology section is on the opposite side of the library from the Children's Department.)

After considerable hassling back and forth, along with numerous protests from other library users (I was one), plus an anti-censorship editorial in the Independent Record whose editor is not usually noted for his liberal views, the Library Board appealed to the County Attorney who gave Mrs. Glueckert a week to return the books or be charged with theft. This forced the return of the books, although she immediately checked fifteen out again, announcing her intention to read them, fill out the proper forms, and submit her objections to the Board in accordance with standard procedure. That was in September.

In the meantime, of course, she had picked up a handful of supporters and the School Board controversy was launched. She also filed for a position on the Library Board to be vacated Dec. 31st. At that time the Independent-Record listed her fifteen "trashy" books as follows: "Couplings and Groupings"; "Women, Men and Bible"; "Source Book for the Women's Liberation Movement"; "Homosexual Behavior Among Males"; "Between Consenting Adults"; "I'm Running Away from Home but I'm Not Allowed to Cross the Street"; "A Primer on Women's Liberation"; "Is Marriage Necessary?"; "Movers and Shakers:

continued page 4



## Letter to Editor, from page 3

American Women Thinkers and Activists"; "The New Intimacy, Open-ended Marriage and Alternative Lifestyles"; "Pairing"; "From the Closet to the Courts--the Lesbian Transition"; "Growing Up Female"; "The Body Snatchers"; and (naturally) "Our Bodies, Ourselves."

What has happened since I do not know, except that Mrs. Glueckert probably still has the books. I'm sure she did not get the position on the Library Board. Either I missed it or the newspaper was by that time taken up with the "Our Bodies, Ourselves" hassle. Incidentally, at the public meeting held by the involved School Board on Jan. 10th, speakers opposing the book were outnumbered 36 to 28. One high school senior commented that she had never heard of the book until the controversy came up, didn't even know it was in the school library, and didn't think that one book could corrupt her morals, rearrange her head, or make her "go to hell" anyway. I understand that the book has been selling out in bookstores. The principal thing that has been accomplished is that not only many people who, like the girl above, had never heard of it before are now familiar with its contents, but there are a great many copies floating about where before only two or three gathered dust on library shelves.

### feminism included in attack

Of course Mrs. Glueckert should never have been given any publicity in the first place. Since it is too late now, her idea of "trash" makes informative reading. Although I disagree with her, the books on sex, homosexuality and alternate life styles were no surprise, but the inclusion of several about the Women's Liberation movement struck me first as ludicrous, then, appalling. I knew these people were violently opposed to women's liberation but I hadn't realized that they considered it obscene. A recent long and surprisingly literate letter to the Editor enlightened

me. The writer began by saying that he wished to applaud "Mrs. Glueckert, the valiant educator, homemaker, wife and mother of six who alerted a complacent citizenry of (?) the pornography being purchased with tax dollars," and continues "As an educator I too has observed the devious inroads of the women's liberation movement, pushing their humanistic and hedonistic philosophies via the National Education Association and the National Library Association." Which puts us Libbers in our place. This is the first letter supporting Mrs. Glueckert I have seen showing any degree of education, and makes me wonder who the man is and what particular axe he has to grind. He finished his letter with a quotation from Edmund Burke, "The success of evil depends upon enough good people doing nothing," which should have provided a subject for several Sunday sermons.

Although this writer, S.M. Uhlenkott, calls book-burning and censorship "well worn and emotional cries," he doesn't hesitate to condemn the banning of prayer in the public schools. Apparently censorship is objectionable only when indulged in by other people. The whole affair does make things interesting-especially in view of the new pornography law.

Sincerely, Gayle Netzer  
920 N. Rodney  
Helena, Mt. 59601

ed. note: While this letter is longer than we usually can run, we felt the information it contained very important. There are many links both nationally and in Montana between the "new right" and the anti-woman groups. Those that deplore the "new morality" usually are referring to the new role options being sought by women.

### male view of conference — from page 3

cussed ways of getting somewhere, but not with technology. They were largely negative in their comments. I also attended a few workshops, such as the one on non-traditional jobs. I didn't stay long, because I felt out of place."

## WRC funds cut

by Judy Smith

The Women's Resource Center has had its operating budget cut in half and is facing the possibility of losing a half of its space in the University Center. Although this budgeting and space allocation process has gone on every year since the center began in 1974, this is the first year the operating budget has been seriously cut and that an attempt has been made to move several other groups into Women's Resource Center space.

The WRC has a paid staff of two students and two CETA workers and a core of 20 volunteers who put in over 100 volunteer hours a week. The WRC continues to serve well over 1000 people a quarter including drop-ins, phone referrals, and programming participation. Programming includes several weekly Brown Bag discussions, women's studies classes, self help groups, speakers, conferences and assertiveness training sessions. The library has over 500 titles and the vertical file includes information on 150 different topics. This newsletter, the Montana Women's Resource, reaches over 900 readers. The WRC outreach program provides materials and speakers to high school and university classes, women's groups, and other interested groups and individuals in Missoula and throughout the state.

As a multi-purpose, drop-in center the WRC uses its available space maximally. (1/3 of the current space is unusable because it is blocked by restaurant equipment.) The WRC has a library, referral and resource space, a drop-in, meeting space, two counseling spaces for CETA employees, and a general work area. All of these distinct spaces are necessary for the multiple functions of the WRC.

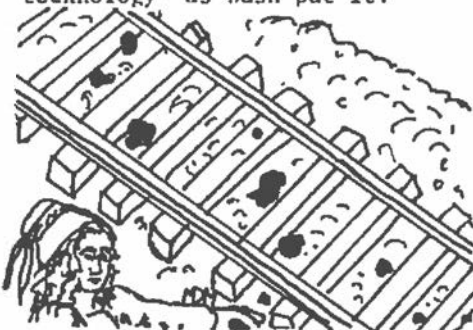
With over five meetings a week, 20 drop-ins a day, and 20 volunteers and four staff workers all existing space is needed and is used.

The WRC has provided this kind

continued page 16

Henry Kroner painted a bride and groom standing on an apartment balcony in a "June Night." If one looks carefully, one can see that there is no way out of the painting: the fire escapes lead nowhere, said Bush.

Only one painting showed women a part of technology. That was done in the 1940's by Francis Chriss. It shows women walking along the railroad tracks picking up pieces of coal dropped by the cars, "following after technology" as Bush put it.



Next, Sue Armitage spoke. She mentioned that Catherine Greene was the real inventor of the cotton gin. Greene gave Eli Whitney the money and the glory for her invention. She was penalized for her power of invention, not fitting to her role as woman, said Armitage.

Armitage stressed the concept of woman as sustainer in these early days of America. Human comfort and sustenance was woman's technology, she said. Armitage played tapes of older western American women who had lived in the west when it was just forming. Men could not have worked or lived in the west without women, she said. Women did much of the hard work in those days, Armitage said. "The role of woman as sustainer is past, and it cannot be recaptured by our society. However, technology has not liberated women, for women still spent as much time on housework as they had before commercialized food and small electric appliances had been invented," she said. "A redefinition of women's role associated with technology is necessary," and "it won't happen by itself," Armitage said in closing.



Zimmerman speaking, Bush contemplating, Coppinger writing

Jan Zimmerman, next panelist, spoke of a need for women to feel control in decision-making in modern technology. She has participated in NASA meetings with other women on the National Women's Agenda Satellite Project. In one of the meetings, it was said that "women have been given Tang, Teflon, and a better refrigerator door." "What more could they want?", they asked, said Zimmerman.

Zimmerman would like to see NASA allow public sector experiments with satellites. She would like to see national free-WATS-line access, and a computer data bank for women.

Zimmerman mentioned President Carter, saying that the President does not feel the American economy is a woman's issue. Bella Abzug, ex-chairperson for the Committee on the Status of Women, feels the economy is a woman's issue. Jobs, poverty, technology, and general consumerism affect women too, Abzug said, according to Zimmerman.

(See article on new chairperson who fills Abzug's seat, page 4).

The current trend toward a recession in our economy will affect women, said Zimmerman. It will bring with it a move back to the traditional roles women have held, because "men need the real jobs, society says", said Zimmerman. The media is reinforcing that backward trend towards suppression of women. It attempts to recreate the myth that women belong barefoot and pregnant in the kitchen, Zimmerman said.

Women are the money circulators that keep the economy going today, she said. They spend more time on shopping each year. They don't mind taking on volunteer or part-time jobs and being part of America's "surplus" labor because with more time these women can spend more money, Zimmerman said. She condoned a move away from the surplus function women have now by sharing work with men, such as by working half a day at a job and having their mate work the other half day, and by getting paid to do things women do now as volunteers.

"An illusion that women have control in our society over technology, is being created", said Zimmerman. NASA takes photos of women posing in space helmets to promote this illusion, she said. Some women feel that "if we as women just stay home and cultivate our gardens, things will be solved. That's not the way change will come," said Zimmerman. She mentioned that the current Iran uprising of women protesting their low social role was not covered by the media.



Multi-national corporations feed data into computers for us to hear or to view, and the media thus had a chance to be biased in its presentations. "The media has only become honest since the Viet Nam War, let's keep it that way a little longer," said Zimmerman.

The future brings with it a possibility that a family may do all their business by phone-computers. If both men and women stay home and work, children will no longer need to be stuck away in day care centers, she said.

One machine that was sanctioned for male use only after its invention and which was termed "magic" is the typewriter. Who uses this coveted prize now? Women, said Zimmerman.

# Women and Technology Conference, cont'd

## Panelists, from p. 5

"Women run faster and faster to get a hold on the technology males use, and by the time we get there, it's gone," she said.



The NWASP was "ghettoized", said Zimmerman, by being told to work on social service issues instead of being applauded for their interest in computers. The women

of this project were told "There's no such thing as a free lunch", and if they wanted equal access to computers and satellites, they must pay the price, equal to that a corporation, such as Del Monte, can pay.

NASA refused to let NWASP be plugged into the public service satellite as they had requested, out of fear that the satellite would be used to transmit controversial women's issues.

Zimmerman ended her part of the panel discussion saying, "No matter what, we must battle. Technology isn't the answer to win that battle. Working together as people is," she said.

Elizabeth Coppinger was the last to speak on the Saturday morning panel. Coppinger said that "technology is not the saviour of women: it only sells them a new package." A revolution in the home may come when energy runs out, she said. Coppinger urges us as women on to a "higher quality of life" in which there is a sense of community, the individual has control, meaningful work is possible, a sense of belonging is prevalent, and one can feel an ability to accomplish one's goals. In short, she would like to see a de-centralized society, Coppinger said.

After the panel, the women at the conference broke into groups to attend Hands On and Information Sharing workshops.

## Hands On and Information Sharing Workshops

I attended some of those workshops, and will share what I learned. The first one I attended was the Alternate Energy Resources Organization (AERO) workshop, from the Hands On series, in which a solar food dryer was made. I was in charge of cutting the boards for each side of the dryer. I hadn't built anything for a long time, and using the saw and marking off the inches with a carpenter's mark was a pleasant experience for me. I felt a good deal of cooperation of effort among the women I worked with. I left to visit other workshops before the dryer was built, but it was finished by the 3:00 time.

see photo number 10 page 7

The next workshop I dropped in on was that of women and the back-to-the-land experience, where different experiences were shared, as were roles women have now in these land experiences, and options to these roles. Kayla Weiner, of Heron Mt., called the back-to-the-land movement "detrimental to women," for they once more "become pregnant and have to wash their children's diapers out in the creek," she said. "It's a patriarchal conspiracy", Weiner said.

see photo number 5 page 7

I got in on the tail-end of the group discussing women and regional energy issues, run by Ann McMillan of Washington. McMillan said that we "must dispel the borders in the northwest and create a regional awareness of the seriousness of having nuclear power plants in our communities and of having the Northern Tier pipeline run through our land." McMillan said there exists plans for 42 nuclear power plants in Washington, and until Dixie Lee Ray, governor of Washington, a pro-nuclear person, no longer makes the decisions about the state, (perhaps in the 1980 election an anti-nuclear person will get voted in), the state will continue to be ravaged, said McMillan.

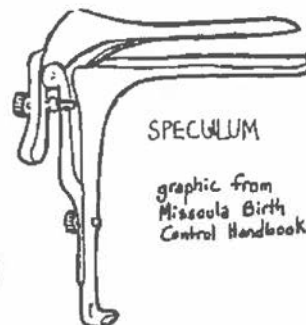
Montana Women's Resource spring page 6

Montana must be conscious of these issues, she said, especially about the issue of water flow in its own state. Outsiders may have plans to trap that water and we should know about them, she said. Montanans should also be aware of what's happening at Colstrip, she said. McMillan publishes the Skagit Valley Guardian. For a subscription, write:

Ann McMillan  
Route 1 Box 311  
Guernes Island, Washington  
98221

The last workshop I attended dealt with self health, and it was moderated by Martha Towle from the Blue Mountain Women's Clinic and by Kathleen Coyne, non-traditional job counselor at the Women's Resource Center.

Towle described the way the women's health movement got started in the late 1960's. Carol Downer a health activist, observed an IUD removal in the clinic she worked in. From observing the removal, Downer got curious about her own body. She took a speculum home with her and using a speculum, a small device used to examine the vagina and cervix, Downer saw her cervix for the first time. Downer got other women together to see what she had observed. After learning to do speculum exams on themselves, the women began to discuss other mutual health experiences and their feelings about their bodies. Skills sharing and consciousness-raising were the key components of this first group. Other groups soon emerged and the self health movement began to proliferate.



SELF  
HEALTH  
WORKSHOP  
cont'd page

SPECULUM

graphic from  
Missoula Birth  
Control Handbook



# Women and Technology

## Hands On and Information Sharing Workshops



Photos: No. 1: Woman participates in weaving workshop. Weaving is one of the first technologies women have become involved in. No. 2: Leslie Underhill of the WRC directs bike repair workshop. No. 3: Women involved in "Hands On" chain saw workshop inspects blade. No. 4: Another weaver. No. 5: Kayla Weiner of Heron, Mt. in center discusses her experiences about land and technology for women. On her right is a woman from Oregon's WomanShare. No. 6: Martha Towle demonstrates self breast exam in self health workshop. No. 7: More chain saw workshop, led by Marcia Hogan. No. 8: Melissa Young directs "Hands On" carpentry workshop. No. 9: Kathleen Coyne demonstrates cervix exam, using speculum, mirror and flashlight. No. 10: A union carpenter who helped with the solar food dryer, AFRO's workshop, inspects craftswoman's work.



# Women and Technology Conference, cont'd

Today there are one thousand groups of women working on self health in the U.S. alone. Europe, Canada, South America, and New Zealand women are also caught up in the movement, Towle said.

Further evidence of the women's self health movement is that books are now being written by women that explore the issue of women's health. An example of this literature is the book, Our Bodies, Ourselves, put out by the Boston Women's Health Book Collective. This book was banned from Helena libraries in a heated debate in early January in Montana. (See letter to the editor and the Fall issue of the Montana Women's Resource.)

Towle and Coyne mentioned that as health consumers, women and men are taught that doctors have current medical technology access. However, they said, doctors are beginning to call up women who are part of this women's health movement to gain information they as doctors do not have access to.

Breast cancer is the "number one killer" of women in the U.S., and cervical cancer is the "number two killer" of women, said Coyne. Speculation upon this phenomenon includes: possible hormonal imbalances, a previous history of cancer in the family the woman comes from, infertility, having a child late in life, (after 35), late onset of menopause, diet and environmental effects, and effects of drugs to relieve hypertension, such as Resprin. Most cancer is discovered by the women themselves, said Coyne.

Here are some methods to use in discovering whether or not you have cancer:

For the breast exam, stand before mirror. Raise arms above head. Note contour differences in breasts, dimpling of skin, changes in nipples, nipple discharge. Lower arms. Note differences in the way breasts fall, if any. Note size and weight differences. Now, rest palms on hips. Flex chest muscles. Look for differences mentioned above. If you would like to do

IN THE SHOWER:



(graphic from the Missoula Birth Control Handbook, c. 1978)

this procedure in the shower, where water aids in producing a gliding motion over the breast, rub palm in a circular motion around each breast. If you would like to do the self exam laying down, place right arm under head to examine right breast, left arm under head to examine left breast. Go around breast in a circular motion with opposite arm.

For a cervical self-examination, purchase a speculum, (sold at Blue Mountain Women's Clinic for 40¢.) Do not share this speculum with other women, for it may spread bacteria. Get a small mirror handy that you can hold with your feet. Get a flashlight handy, so as to observe the inside of your vagina. Take the speculum and rub K-Y jelly on it, or some other vaginal cream. (Do not use vaseline; it clogs.) Close the speculum. Slide it into vagina sideways. Turn the handle up, and lock it in place. You can now observe your cervix, with the help of the mirror and flashlight.

The os of the cervix opens during ovulation and menstruation. Pull out the speculum. Check for discharge. It should be a whitish color. Yellow, brown or gray discharge is unusual and it may be the sign of an infection.

for cervix exam, see photo page 7

BEFORE A MIRROR:

Women should know their sexual partners well enough to know if they have herpes simplex one or two, contagious infections that spread easily, said Coyne.

Another possible source of breast cancer is skin irritation. Our society reinforces women to wear tight fitting clothing that does not allow our breasts as well as other bodily parts space to breathe, said Coyne. Nylon underwear seems to contribute to an increase in vaginal infections. Cotton underwear is a better alternative as it breathes better.

This process of using a speculum to inspect one's cervix is a good one, because women can better understand their bodies. They can determine if they have an ongoing infection. If an infection is found early herbal remedies may be useful.

Most breast tumors occur in the nipple-to-armpit area, and a "very mutilating" operation called the pectoralis major is performed to extract these cancerous lumps, said Towle. If lumpectomies, or sole removal of the lump, are performed, the cancer still has a chance of spreading, said Coyne.

Women at the self health workshop expressed resentment at hospitals: "When you go there, they take away your clothes, take away your modesty, and take away your power. You're treated like a child."

advocates for support

"Patients advocates" were suggested as one way of dealing with the fear hospitals exude for some people. These advocates help the patient with his/her presence by aiding support so the patient can ask intelligent questions.

Both Towle and Coyne urge women to wait a few days after an examination when a decision about having an operation must be made, so one can react more calmly to the situation. Also, it is good to get two or three opinions about having the operation or not, they said.

Women who nurse their babies have less of a chance of getting cancer, said Towle. This may be because each woman's breasts build up for pregnancy each month and if pregnancy does not occur, breasts may acquire a fluid build-up, which could be dangerous, said Towle.

### sponges as tampons

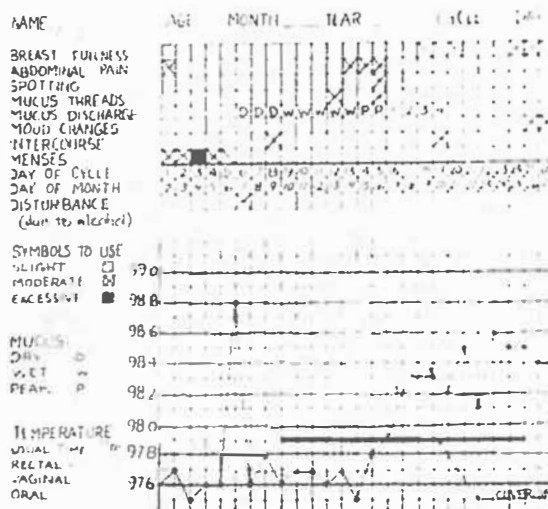
Menstrual sponges, which can be purchased at Body Basics in Missoula, were discussed as a substitute for tampons. Some women find sponges to be more comfortable than tampons. They are also a lot less expensive. Sponges last six months to a year, if well stored in a cloth sack. To cleanse, use a mild soap such as Dr. Bronner's which helps to break down mucus. It was mentioned that some tampons have Vitamin A added to them to increase one's menstrual flow so that more women will buy tampons.

Towle and Coyne warned against using deodorant tampons, which may disturb the natural vaginal environment. The perfume agent is unnecessary, because blood has no odor until it meets the air.

Methods of birth control were discussed. The method a woman chooses should fit her lifestyle and her level of motivation. A sympto-thermic method of birth control should be used only if the woman has time to take her temperature and mucus everyday, and to chart that information on a graph. The diaphragm is a reliable method if the woman is motivated to use it. The complication rates for these two methods is minimal if they are used correctly.

Most women choose the IUD and the pill as their methods of contraception. They are the two most technologically complex methods of birth control. Both have very definite complication risks. Heavy advertising by the companies that manufacture the pill and IUD's was suggested as a reason that many women do not use the more simple and less risky devices.

### SYMPTO-THERMIC GRAPH



[graph taken from the Missoula Birth Control Handbook, c. 1978]

"The answer is there" for a better method of birth control, but the question is "how high of a priority is it to society?", one woman said.

What about birth control in other countries? In China, men are beginning to use a birth control pill three years after a pill was introduced for women. The pill will be used alternately by men and women. Towle said it was interesting to note that the U.S. has not produced a pill, despite years of research. It appears that shared birth control is obviously a high priority in China.

In some European countries a cervical cap is used as a method of birth control. The cap is as effective as the diaphragm. The cap sometimes cost less than a dollar. One woman noted that feminist Germaine Greer said that the cap would never be widely pushed in the U.S., because there wasn't enough profit involved.

Mental health was discussed next. Towle mentioned her own brief experience with a male therapist, as she was disturbed by the discrepancy she observed between the roles she would like to see open to women and the roles they actually have. His analysis of her problem was that she didn't feel she was pretty enough.

Images of women in drug company ads was also discussed. Too few ads have images of women as physicians. Most ads for tranquilizers and other drugs depict women as sick and passive. Most drug ads are directed at the female patient. In fact, most tranquilizers are prescribed to women.

Another article in Ms. magazine by Barbara Ehrenreich dispelled the myth that women are suffering as much stress as men with their increasing influx into the job market. Research by Ehrenreich concluded that there was no documentation for the articles that have said women were acquiring the same physical ailments as men. What is true, is that women are expected to be "superwomen", having two jobs, that of career and home life maintenance.



She's gotta ticket to ride...  
she's got two tickets to ride...

As a summary of the self health workshop, Towle and Coyne said that the issue is not that women do not need doctors and medical technology. The issue is that women need to be more aware of their own bodies so that they feel a greater sense of control about their well being. Simple technology is available to provide the means to a better way of health care.

### side effects of pill noted

Several women who have recently gone off the birth control pill have experienced these side effects on their bodies: spaciness, cramps, migraine headaches, tiredness, a rash, sweaty or cold hands, shrinking of breasts, a greater enjoyment of sex, bleeding, and a face more broken out. Have you had any effects from birth control methods you would like to share with us so we can keep a better handle on the technology we use?

# Women and Technology Conference, cont'd....

## Hacker, Hale, Badgley and German Wrap it Up

The synthesis of the conference came after a dinner break. Sally Hacker, sociology teacher from Oregon State University and author of Women and Agribusiness, spoke first. Hacker said that "although women now have devices such as dishwashers and garbage disposals to make housework easier, this causes men to help even less in washing dishes or carrying out the garbage than before use of these devices."

Hacker suggested that women organize into a research collective to get more of a handle on technology. She suggested getting trained in auto repair, wiring and carpentry skills. Hacker herself is taking skills courses such as a pure science course, which she reworks into feminist science, she said. She keeps a diary while enrolled in these classes. "You've got to be able to talk the language", she said.

Hacker said Agribusiness men see women as "dumb and sexy". They also think of them as earth, fertility and childbirth symbols, she said. Men have a tendency to want to change what they find in nature, and as they associate women with nature, this may indicate a desire on their parts to also control and change women, she said.

Susan Griffith, a feminist author, who was to have been present at the conference, was referred to by Hacker. She spoke of Griffith's book Women and Nature: The Roaring Inside Her, and a chapter in that book titled "Timber."

In "Timber", Griffith writes, "These trees (men and women) have the same soil, the same sun. Yet dead branches (women) are found in among the live ones (men). They have grown to no purpose."

Hacker also mentioned Griffith's view of the Renaissance, the period most prominent in world history. Griffith views it as the most degrading period for women. Women in that period of time were burned as witches if they were not good wives and mothers.

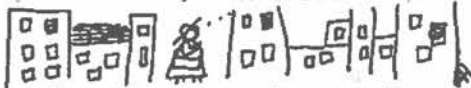
Hacker closed her portion of the panel saying that our society has "Leaped to a masculinized humanism without first dealing with feminism."

Louise Hale, sociology professor at MSU in Bozeman, was next to speak. She first described our society as having a system of rewards given for competence and motivation which results in power. This concept is in contrast to our societal policy of social change, which endorses a manipulation of our physical environment, including mastering technological skills to achieve this power. Hale also described a corporate policy present in today's America which has "much effect" on everyone. She said that this type of society does not represent the "polity", or government, of a people. By manipulating our economic lives, the corporate society manipulates us as people, Hale said. Women are most manipulated, she said.

Hale named Equal Employment Opportunities and Affirmative Action as two institutions which attempt to deal with this manipulation but they are "not very effective, unfortunately," said Hale.

Hale said that women use "informal mechanisms" now as a way of change. She mentioned that sex is the "most effective social change impetus."

Hale said that cultures have a tendency to be "enormously consistent", which makes change "difficult." The way women are now acquiring skills to find a more obvious place in the world is by working in ghetto situations, Hale said. "This may be more pathetic than women not acquiring these skills at all," said Hale. "Becoming barefoot and pregnant is just as good as taking HEW site visits," she said.



Women have a tendency to believe that it is "all their fault" for consuming too much, but men must assume responsibility for this consumerism too, she said. "Our personalities jerk when electric stimulus is applied", and this applies to both sexes, Hale said.

Hale finished her speech saying she is "incapable of conceptualizing a non-sexist world: the enemy is US," she said.

John Badgley spoke next, substituting for Bob Keisling. Badgley is from the Institute of the Rockies in Missoula. He said it was "very important" to him to represent men at the conference on the issue of women and technology. "The question of where we are going in our society is more serious than we realize," he said. Women who have influenced him include Margaret Mead and Cora du Bois, both anthropologists.

Mead, in the late 40's, said that America was experiencing "One basic revolution, symbolized by two inventions, the bomb and the pill." Badgley said that he had looked at the question of women and technology comically after Mead's statement, but that he has grown more serious about the issue.

Badgley advocated that men and women come together for survival. Competition gets in the way of a coming together now, he said.

Someone in the audience said, after Badgley's speech, "Women have experienced 2,000 years of suppression not easily forgotten."

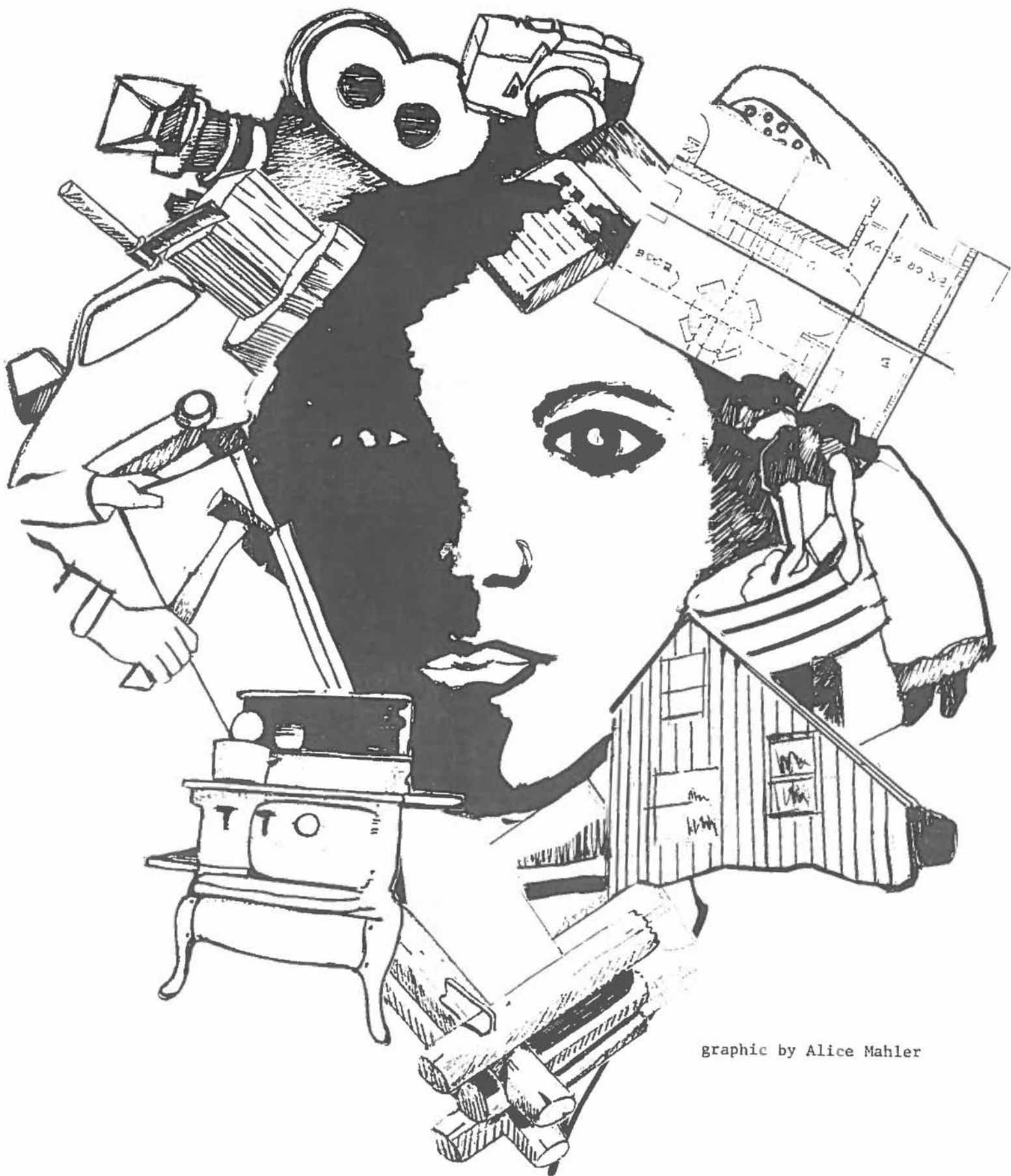
Ann German, a Libby attorney, was the last to speak. She mentioned hearing a woman say she had "learned how to cut off the chains women wear" in her chain-saw workshop. German said she had heard many excited women sharing ideas at the conference.

German spoke of a need for survival as Badgley had, but said that the issue of feminism must be fundamental to this environmental issue. A sex-role impact statement is needed, she said. "If 'x' equals a woman in the kitchen, what does 'y' equal?" she said should be included in this statement. History has treated the subject of women as mythical, and this concept must be changed, she said.

Jan Zimmerman ended the conference saying that women have the idea that "we don't deserve power." "In my opinion, we're not asking for enough power," she said.

one last conference comment, page 12





graphic by Alice Mahler

# FEMINIST SCIENCE FICTION ADDRESSES TECHNOLOGY

by Kathleen Coyne

"Will technology create a utopian society where machines will remove the drudgery from our lives or will it create a monster that will enslave us?" Science fiction is one way women can explore futures that may be possible for our society.

Some questions explored by feminist science fiction writers address such issues as: "How does technology affect sex roles? "What could a non-mechanized future mean for women?" "What could future birth control and birth technology mean to parenting?"

Two authors who have explored such issues are Marge Piercy in Woman on the Edge of Time and Suzy McKee Charnas in Motherlines. Their visions of the future are very different. Piercy envisions an androgynous society where high technology is used humanely and a high quality of life exists for both men and women. Charnas envisions a non-mechanized society composed of roving bands of horsewomen who reproduce parthenogenetically (development of an egg without fertilization).

## different messages

The two women authors have very different messages about how technology can affect our future as women. Piercy seems to be saying that technology can break down sex roles. The jobs with the most drudgery, strain, and mindlessness are done by machine, Piercy writes. Reproduction is extra-uterine, three adults parent a child sharing responsibilities equally. In addition, much of the responsibility for child care is shared by the community. The interesting and creative tasks are shared with no sex role division. In Woman on the Edge of Time, technology gives us the capability of creating an androgynous culture.



Both authors show a parallel reality in which a highly technologized society has brought about extreme sex roles in which women have existed as men's slaves.

Charnas creates several interesting dynamics in Motherlines. On a desert, two groups of women have an uneasy co-existence. One group composed of horsewomen who live in tribes reproduce parthenogenetically. The other group, the Free Fems, have escaped from a highly technologized society where women are slaves. The horsewomen have no desire to create any surplus and they live in a non-mechanized existence. Charnas seems to be saying that high technology would only extend sex-role stereotyping.

These are common themes in feminist science fiction and reflect prevailing attitudes towards technology. Often, science fiction novels are set at a time in the future when technology has caused disaster. For example, after a nuclear holocaust or after the depletion of fossil fuels. The society is then picking up the pieces of technology in an attempt to undo the damage. Rarely is technology seen as a tool that women can use to help end sexist society.

This theory that women do not see technology as a liberating device is reflective of the ways women view technology. Traditionally, we have not controlled technology and are afraid of it. This fear can be seen by the small amount of women involved in math, engineering, or other "hard" sciences. On a more day-to-day level, the fear is seen as a majority of women experience anxiety about technology caused by lack of experience in handling various tools and mechanized appliances.

Science fiction, then, is an important way we as feminists can project a non-sexist future. What will a non-sexist future be like? Science fiction allows us to create and to control the future, using humane and ecologically-sound technology. ♀ KC

## DID YOU KNOW?

Women earn less than 60% of what men earn today.

"Information is the currency of the 20th century."- Jan Zimmerman

A woman shared with us that her mother once broke her ankle wearing the "Barbie Doll sandals" popular once again.

male "guinea pig" volunteers  
to experience pregnancy



"Will a male ever be able to have a baby?" "Would he want to?" Larry Culp, a UM sociology professor, says he "likes kids so much", he would be willing to be the first male to try having a child, if he knew enough about it to think it safe. Culp said he would like to see it become possible that the fetus form on the mother/father's back, to aid in freer movement. Any more males out there that would like to have a child, carrying it through its fetal development in a grafted-on pouch? It may someday be a possibility.

Culp also attended the Women and Technology conference, and he terms it a "very positive experience." "It was a consciousness-raising for males. I wish there had been more males there to discuss these issues", he said.

## from page 10 discussion ends conference

A short discussion period followed the end of the conference. One woman mentioned that there is "no woman's bathroom on the twelfth floor (meeting floor) of the Steven's Institute of Technology", and that this indicated to her how closed to women the doors of technology really are. She had gotten a feeling from the conference that we as women are "commiserating" about our inequality and are not planning anything to alleviate that inequality. Judy Smith replied that this expression of "feelings and thoughts" often does not happen in men's groups, so it is an accomplishment to be able to share those things, she said. ♀ AH

# Where do we go from here?



by Judy Smith

Over forty conference participants met Sunday to plan how to continue the education and exchange process that has been started. Everyone had more questions than answers about women and technology, but all felt the issues raised in the conference were extremely important and needed more study and discussion.

Many different ideas were proposed during brainstorming including: starting a women's environmental group, organizing a public education committee, starting study groups, planning a conference for next year, setting up skill learning sessions throughout the state, establishing a newsletter, educating environmental organizations, creating a computer-based resource and skill exchange.

After discussing priorities and possibilities the group settled on several on-going projects: 1. a public education committee (contact person is Ann German, 503 California, Libby Mt., 59923), 2. a study group to develop a study guide that could be used to establish similar groups around the state (contact person is Linda Smith, 315 S. 4th E., Msla, Mt.), 3. a committee to educate environmental groups (contact persons Kayla Weiner, Heron, Mt., 59844 and Jan Strout, Rt. 1, Box 10, Belgrade, Mt., 59714). 4. a list of all people attending the conference and skills and resources available to be developed and mailed by the Women's Resource Center, UM, Msla., Mt. 59801.

If you would like to join this network involving women in an on-going process of awareness, education and future action around the issues of women and technology, contact any of the people listed. Tapes and transcripts of the conference will be available from the WRC in the near future. ♀JS

## Swallow invented Ecology, modern "Home Economics"

Ellen Swallow was the first woman student allowed in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the first to graduate with a science degree. She created an interdisciplinary environmental science. In 1892 she named it ecology.

Ecology encompasses nutrition, air and water pollution, transportation, architecture, waste disposal and industrial and health safety in Swallow's definition.

Swallow believed this science should be open to everyone, not just the educated few. It never achieved the status of other sciences: rather, it became "Home Economics." Swallow's work rarely receives credit.

—♀—

(from Something Old, Something New, Something Borrowed, Something Due, women and appropriate technology, by Judy Smith, c. 1978.)



from an  
INFAC  
graphic

BOYCOTT NESTLE BOYCOTT NESTLE BOYCOTT

by Maryann Garrity

Infant formula companies have begun an intensive promotional campaign in the world's poor countries, to sell their products. The modern benefits of bottle feeding are praised as Bottle feeding is praised as a way to "supplement mother's milk". The bottle is pushed on doctors and hospitals in these poor countries. Expensive gifts of equipment are sent to them, along with fancy advertising pamphlets. The aggressive advertising campaigns reach women in hospitals, urban slums, and rural villages.

"Baby Bottle disease" kills thousands of babies each year. It is caused by the improper use of this infant formula in developing countries. A mother switches from breast milk to expensive powdered formulas because they have been convinced that these formulas are the modern and best form of infant feeding. But without safe drinking water, and a way to sterilize bottles and nipples, and

enough money to buy the necessary formula, and without refrigeration, formulas can cause serious infections and malnutrition which often result in death.

Hunger and malnutrition increase for the benefit of corporate sales charts. Nestle, the gigantic Swiss transnational which has "manufactured infant formula in Europe for over 100 years", sells more than a third of all infant formula in the world. Nestle ignores moral arguments.

### 50 page packet

Instead of acknowledging its' company's impact on these poor countries children, Nestle sends a 50 page "information" packet, starting "Dear Friend", and continuing "I'd like to give you a little background on Nestle's involvement" in this issue of baby bottle disease, and one reads the name of Nestle's president, David Guerrant, at the end of the packet.

INFAC is a coalition of concerned groups and individuals committed to stopping formula promotion to save infant lives. A local Missoula INFAC group is being reorganized. It needs your help and support for a variety of programs to educate the community and to follow up with effective plans of action. For more information about the boycott, contact Maryann Garrity at 549-5882, or Kris Roby at 728-9261.

Here is an example of products Nestle sells which the conscious consumer boycotts: CRUNCH bars, \$1,000 bars, Hot cocoa mix, Taster's Choice coffee, Nescafe, Nestea, Pero, Libby's Stouffer frozen foods, L'Oreal cosmetics, and Contique by Alcon.

Jarlsburg and other Norwegian cheeses are now off the Nestle boycott list. A drop in sales convinced Norway's cheesemakers to end U.S. distribution contact with Nestle. ♀MG



## Lynda Bird Robb heads Women's Advisory Committee

[article taken from AP story]

Lynda Bird Robb replaces former Rep. Bella Abzug as chairwoman of a revamped President's Advisory Committee for Women.

Robb, 35, daughter of the late President Lyndon Johnson, is a "self-described feminist", not a member of any women's organizations, and is a contributing editor to "Ladie's Home Journal."

A White House statement said, "The choice of Mrs. Robb emphasizes the importance President Carter places on women's right to choose freely among playing the role of wife and mother, combining work in the home with work outside the home, and pursuing a career outside the home."

Robb hopes to "represent those women who have not belonged to anything in the women's movement." She said, "I'm not a voice for all women, I am a channel for the

voices of millions of women."

Carter said, "(Robb) will bring greater understanding of the concerns of women who have chosen the role of homemaker." She will be able to provide them with greater perspectives on the effects of women's issues in their lives, he said.

Carter appointed four new members to replace women who resigned from the committee in protest when Abzug was fired in January.



### EEO employee joins staff

Darla Rucker has joined the Women's Resource Center as its Equal Employment Opportunities officer.

Rucker has handled an employment case successfully already. A woman who had worked as a produce clerk applied for a produce clerk's job at Buttreys Foods. She was not recommended for the job: a man was. Rucker called the personnel manager at Buttreys. Soon her call was returned by the northwest region manager, who said he would take care of the situation. The woman was given the job the next morning.

Rucker said that most situations that arise that are unfair to women involve talking between the EEO person and the discriminator. She got her skills for the job from "grassroots organizations", from counseling at a handicapped peer group, and from being an ASUM Central Board delegate involved in investigations with Lynda Brown, head of the EEO office on campus.

Rucker says the current method of practicing equality despite sex, race, or creed, is "good in

theory", but she's not sure it's working practically, because bureaucracy bogs it down, she said. Rucker is "not willing to put in the three years it usually takes for a complaint to be processed by the Human Rights Commission." She would like to alleviate the inequalities before the case reaches the investigation stage, so it can proceed faster.

Rucker is now handling five cases, and has not started advertising yet.

"Civil rights fascinate me, and this job satisfies that fascination", she said. It could be a "prime way to get into law", but that "may just be a pipe dream." She enjoys working surrounded by feminists, she said.

Rucker, along with Louise Hale, (see Women and Technology conference article, page 10,) said that EEO and Affirmative Action are "not enough" to satisfy the demands women are making. Saying this does not mean they are totally ineffectual and should not be used, she said. "Using the tools available to us is, in a small way, pushing forward," she said.

## Violence on File

by Jane Burnham

The Women's Resource Center is beginning to develop a file of theoretical articles relating to violence against women. Consideration of family violence, such as battered spouses, child abuse, incest, rape, sexual coercion, and pornography will be included in the file.

Questions to be answered by the violent?" "How and why do victims react to violence?" "Why do people watch pornography?" "What about television violence and movies: how does sex-role socialization perpetuate and encourage violent behavior and victims' reactions to violence?" "Does the media reinforce myths and images that encourage violence?"

### available to everyone

When the file is complete, it will be available to everyone. Articles and annotated bibliographies from the file will be produced and mailed upon request.

Due to lack of funding, no books or expensive articles can be provided.

Have you done research in any of these areas, or do you have any ideas about the project that you would like to share with us? Do you know of any groups, individuals, or publications that deal with these areas? Would you like to volunteer some time to help in getting the file together? If so, please let me know. Call me at 243-4153 at the Women's Resource Center. *QJB*

The House of Representatives has passed a bill (in October) which protects the privacy of rape victims by preventing cross-examination into the victim's prior sexual experiences.

Q goings on goings on goings on goings on goings on going ♀

## Lesbian Coalition

The Montana Lesbian Coalition recently held its quarterly meeting in Missoula. About 40 women attended the three-day conference. The coalition brought up such business as the "Amazon Spirit" newsletter policy, task force reports, and by-law discussions.

The conference also included small consciousness-raising groups dealing with individual lesbian herstories, an educational discussion on the herstory of the Montana Lesbian movement, and discussion of "process" within the group as a whole, (i.e., how we currently make decisions and interact within the coalition, and what kind of changes we would like to see made.

Though the coalition is still young, we all feel it is gaining strength. Lesbians interested in finding out more about the coalition, contact the coalition at P.O. Box 523, Helena, Mt. 59601. The next conference is planned for August 24, 25, and 26 in Helena. All Montana Lesbians are welcome.

## waste transport discussed

Feminists from the Women's Resource Center took part in a discussion of the hazards of nuclear waste passing through Missoula and other parts of Montana. This took place May 17 in the City Council chambers room.

## training session

Four women from the Women's Resource Center are planning to attend a training session in Seattle June 25-29 to discuss how to run a women's resource center. Emphasis will be on budgeting skills. These women are Maryann Garrity, Heather Mort, Kathleen Coyne, and Darla Rucker.

## evaluation of WRC

The Women's Resource Center volunteers and employees filled out evaluation forms of how the programs went this year, and what changes need to be made, on May 22 at a volleyball pot-luck meeting.

## Violence Conference

Alanna Brown, an MSU English professor, reports to the newsletter on the "Violence in the Family" conference in Glendive April 27 and 28.

Lenore Walker, author of Battered Women, and a psychologist, discussed patterns of violence found among the abuser and the abused.

Laura Museo of Denver discussed child abuse. Mariellen Davey discussed incest. Marvin Shaw, an MSU professor of Religious Studies dealt with the topic of creative interaction and fulfillment in the family.

Brooke Quigley discussed violence: images of it and language about it. Donna Moore, an Affirmative Action officer, discussed law enforcement as it relate to family violence.

Eastern Montana College was represented by Marti and Bill Jones, Patrick Kelly, and Tom Grewe. EMC may hold a conference in June and have Lenore Walker as main speaker.

Patty Callahan of Action for Eastern Montana, (which deals in health services), directed the conference. The Montana Committee for the Humanities helped to sponsor the conference.

Alanna Brown called the conference "very informative, helping to examine how our society stereotypes human beings, which causes destructive interaction, being manifested in violence."

## Women's Place cut completely

Women's Place, located at 210 N. Higgins, is a place for women to go who need any kind of help. It features a 24 hour rape/crisis line. The number is 543-7606. It held its training session for new members May 14-21. They met in an organization marathon May 15. They hostessed a "Sacajawea Run" May 19 at Fort Missoula, to encourage women to be health-conscious.

Because Women's Place, a group funded by ASUM, was cut completely from the ASUM budget in spring budgeting, they are now atarting a fund-raising campaign, including benefits and rummage sales.

Women's Place is open 9:00-6:00 daily.

## walk-in

Every Wednesday, walk-in services are available at the Blue Mountain Women's Clinic. Services include gynecological exams, pregnancy tests, and birth control counseling. Each Tuesday and Thursday the clinic is open from 9:00 to 1:00 for appointments. The clinic is located at 218 E. Front. The number there is 542-0029.

## Unity in Community

The Women's Resource Center had a table full of information placed in the Southgate Mall for the Unity in the Community program in Missoula. Information included newsletters, Pro-Choice abortion material, ERA information, Brown Bag and Nutrition workshop times and topics, Montana Women's History project cards for sale, the Montana Divorce Handbook on sale, information on CETA jobs, information on the Nestle's boycott, and Women's Resource Center brochures.

## Women's Studies convention

Several women from the Women's Resource Center will leave May 30 to take part in the first national Women's Studies convention in Lawrence, Kansas. The national women's studies association is located in College Park, Maryland, at the University of Maryland. For further information about NWSA, write there in care of Elaine Reuben.

## apology

The Montana Women's Resource extends apologies to Kitty Corak of the Center for Student Development on the Missoula campus for printing in the winter issue that Corak made the following statement:

The center is "having trouble coming up with a definition of rape", and they now term it "male assault." They do not want to align themselves against the rapist who may come to the center for counseling, so they just counsel victims and do not get involved in the legal aspects of rape."

Colleen Kochivar of CSD made this statement, not Corak.

## male awareness

A men's awareness group has formed in Missoula following Warren Farrell's presentation of the "Liberated Man." The group shares experiences in relating to women and to other men, and desires a better understanding of the limitations placed on society by stereotyped male-female roles. The group meets Sunday evenings at 7:30. The locale changes weekly. If interested in joining the group, call Jim at 728-2207.

## Jumping Jenny Jamboree

The Helena Women's Resource Center is getting ready for its annual fund-raiser, the Jumping Jenny Jamboree to be held in Helena June 9, at the Auction Barn. Cost is \$4.50 per ticket and includes a dinner, auction, and dance. The center will elect its new officers May 23. There are presently six women holding CETA staff positions in the Helena office.

There are presently six women holding CETA staff positions in the Helena center.

## women's festival

A Montana Women's Festival is being planned on or near July 13. Workshops teaching self health, assertiveness, etc. will be held. A nationally known singer will be present for the event.

## female law graduates

Seven female law graduates at UM have jobs guaranteed them, while the other thirteen do not.

## TV and women

Minorities and women continue to be poorly cast and underrepresented both on the TV screen and behind it, a report from the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights says. The report compares 1977 data with data for 1969 through 1974.

These groups are stereotyped into demeaning roles most during the family hour, the report said.

The groups are also underrepresented among network news correspondents. When females appear as experts on news, they are experts only on women's issues.

## Older Women and Sexuality

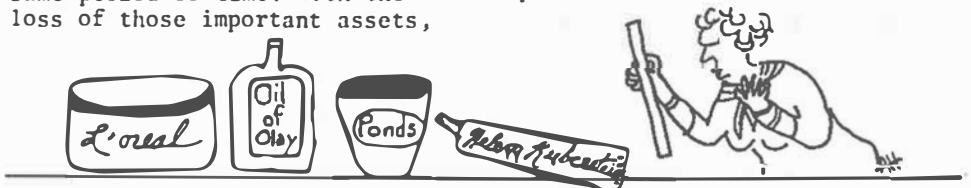
Judith Brier and Dan Rubenstein, in an article "Sex for the Elderly? Why not?" in the magazine *Perspective on Aging*, Nov./Dec. '76, discuss a double standard our society uses concerning roles in human sexuality.

"Traditionally", Brier and Rubenstein write, "women are more intimately concerned with aging than men, since their status attainment depends largely on the ability to maintain sexual attractiveness. Sontag (1972) feels that 'the double standard about aging sets women up as property, as objects whose value depreciates rapidly with the march of the calendar.'"

Thus the female role as sexual partner and sexually desirable object is strained for many middle-aged women and older women; often a woman's primary role as mother ends at approximately the same period of time. With the loss of those important assets,

an identification crisis and a corresponding degree of prestige loss may arise out of this ambivalent rolelessness.

This double standard is a socialization process that starts early in life. "Masculinity" is identified with competence, autonomy and self-control, qualities that improve with age; "femininity" is identified with weakness, incompetence, dependence, passivity and compliance, pejorative qualities not expected to improve with age. The aging man may, as he grows old, become "dignified" and "venerable", while the woman can become "ugly" and "wasted." Sontag calls this social convention an "instrument of oppression" that enhances a man but progressively destroys a woman. "A male doesn't need to tamper with his face. A woman's face is the canvas on which she paints a revised portrait of herself."



## Resource Center faces difficult situation

continued from page 4

of service on a very minimal budget from ASUM (approximately \$6,000). Being aware of the limited nature of student funds, the WRC has attempted to provide consistent levels of programming by using ASUM funds for operational costs and by searching for outside funding for special projects and programs.

The WRC faces a very difficult situation. It cannot maintain the level and quality of programming and services on the budget it has been allocated. (\$3200.) The center will have to divert more energy to funding and developing other sources of operation funds, at the same time trying to maintain its programs and services.

Requests for WRC educational resources and services come in daily. Financial and space resources have always been the center's basic limitations. This year some of those serving on

Central Board have chosen to increase this limitation. However, the WRC will make every effort to continue offering a wide range of services and programs.

Therefore, the center will need help from all those who support and use its services. The Montana Women's Resource, as well as other programs, will have to become totally self-supporting. Several special fundraising events are being planned for next year. Anyone who can help, please contact the WRC, 243-4153.

.....ads?..... SACmerger

Note: One way the newsletter staff plans to solve the funding problem is to start advertising in its pages. If you would like to advertise in the newsletter, contact us at 243-4153. Another solution may be to join the Student Action Center staff which produces The Paper Sac, so that we can combine efforts and monies.



# ♂ ♀ ♀ ♂ Why do men rape? — one man's answer ♀ ♂ ♀ ♂

Editor's note: A woman friend who has taken a sexuality class referred me to the following testimony of a would-be rapist as she and I were discussing the topic of rape. Here are parts of this testimony, printed to help other women to better understand why men rape.

The testimony was phoned in to the "Jim Moore Show" on KGO Radio in San Francisco four years ago. The man who called in was attempting "to understand and to overcome his violence." He describes his personal motivation to rape, and the image of masculinity prevalent in our culture.

"In Florida in 1964, I was charged with assault with intent to commit rape. But the way I was treated by the police was incredible. It was as if I was a new recruit on the force. A captain in the sheriff's office of the jail took me into his office and gave me a cup of coffee and took out his handkerchief and wet it in the sink and helped me clean up my face, which was scratched. He looked at me and said, "Damn women always causing trouble for everybody." He did not treat me like a criminal at all. And my lawyer kept asking me, "Are you sure she didn't do things to encourage you?"

When she saw me (in court), she started crying. My lawyer asked her a few questions: "Did she touch me first?" "Had she had sexual intercourse before she was married?" "Had she had sexual intercourse outside of marriage since she'd been married?"

I wish I could say something to her. (But) it would be completely futile. She would miss the point of what I was trying to say.

I never sat around and thought, "Well, I'll go out and rape somebody." It was an instantaneous decision. She was a nurse in a doctor's office to which I was going at the time, and we found ourselves alone one noon. I was not too stable, and I took the opportunity of finding an attractive woman alone...I was seventeen and trying to prove that I was a man. I didn't fit in with what I saw on television: that John Wayne image, so I had to do something to prove my manhood.

I grabbed her from behind, and turned her around and pushed her against the wall. I'm six foot four, and when I was seventeen I was too. I weighed about two hundred and forty pounds at this time, and she didn't have much chance to get away from me. She tried. I pulled her back and hit her several times in the face quite hard, and she stopped resisting and said, "All right, just don't hurt me." And I think that when she said that-- the first time she said, "I'll submit. Please don't hurt me"--all of a sudden a thought came into my head: "My God, this is a human being." I came to my senses and saw that I was hurting this woman, that a person was involved, that it was not an actress in a movie.

When I did release my grasp on her, she went for my eyes. I jumped back, and she got me right below the eyes, and raked downward with her fingernails. It was extremely painful even though it didn't do any real damage to me. I put my hands to my face and felt blood, and stepped back and just let her go. That took everything out of me.

## traumatic experience

(Rape) is a very traumatic experience for a man who has never had a feeling of violence toward a woman before to realize that down inside him somewhere it's something that can erupt that suddenly.

Because I am an upper-middle-class white, my case was handled very delicately. I was put in a private mental hospital first. Then I was transferred to the state hospital. I spent a total of sixty days actually in custody. All I had to do was to be a good boy and they let me go.

I remember three months after I was out I'd become so obsessed with myself as some sort of maniac that I actually became one. I remember walking up to a neighbor woman's house with my father's pistol in my pocket, and I was going to, I guess, attack this woman, although I didn't have any real plans in my head.

As I approached her house I thought, "My God, what am I doing? I'm not..." I didn't want to do it the time before. I would wake up in the middle of the night and actually vomit at the recollection of it. It was such a traumatic experience, but you don't know how many men are people who just have absolutely no thought of themselves as being a man as we understand the term in this society today, and have no prove it some way, and that rape is the only way that's open to them.

I changed my opinion of myself when I met a woman who I could talk to about this experience.

I have been through a long period of psychotherapy. I've never been violent again to a woman--I had never been violent before this happened. The attack...ruined my life. I was a kind of a victim at first. I had no image of a man who could be gentle and kind and still sexual. The emphasis was always on being superaggressive in every respect of life. No one is born John Wayne...I think the instincts of a ruthless businessman could be almost the same as a rapist.

When I tell people of my experience, ...men want to know all the details. Their response is, "You should have gone ahead and done it. Every chick wants it." When I tell women about it, they'll tell me their experiences. They'll say, "Well, a man pulled me into his car," and it's like trading stories.

In the sexual relations I've had recently, I guess I'm gentle. I never have any sadistic instincts. I've heard that rape, rather than exclusively an act of intercourse, is a sadistic act. You don't want so much to rape someone just for the orgasm; you want to hurt a woman.

When you hurt a woman, you keep looking back and you keep saying "Why?" and "Will it happen again?" There was no warning for me, and so all I can do is walk around and wonder if it will happen again. It hasn't, but I certainly am frightened of it."

Thanks to Diana E.H. Russell, asst. professor of sociology at Mills College, Oakland, California, for use of the testimony. It comes from the book Readings in Sexuality, c. 1976, by Chad Gordon and Gayle Johnson.

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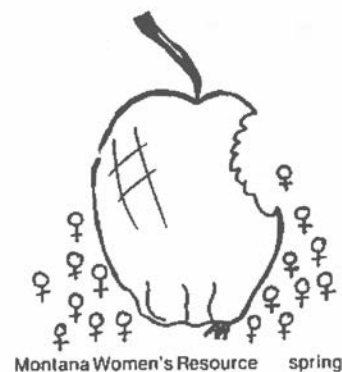
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A mailing get-together to mail this issue of the newsletter will take place Friday, June 8, at 12:00 in the Women's Resource Center. Anyone who can help, please come.

## AAUW Scholarship Winners

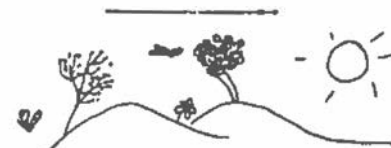
The American Association of University Women (AAUW) held a scholarship contest in April. Winners are: Fonda Jo Hollenbaugh, \$300, and Linda Bangs and Zola Ferguson, \$200. Hollenbaugh is a senior in pre-medicine and microbiology. Bangs is a junior in home economics, with an emphasis on dietetics. Zola is a senior in pre-physical therapy.

## Sexual Preference Workshop

A workshop June 16 to discuss sexual preference in the schools will be held in the Liberal Arts building on the UM campus. The workshop is from 10:00-4:00, and costs \$2.00. Betsy Hess, who has an MA in Clinical Psychology, and Jodi Leslie with a Master's in Counseling are the directors.

Values, referrals, information on theories, myths, and homophobia, and counseling techniques will be discussed.

The workshop is funded by the American Association of Sex Educators, Counselors, and Educators. Sponsored by the Women's Resource Center and the Montana Lesbian Coalition.



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