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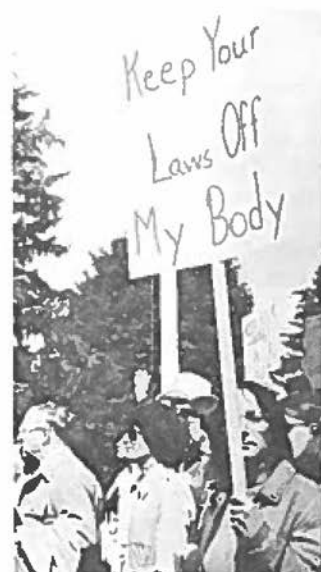
JERRY FALWELL



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in
Helena
MT.



Vol.5, No.3 Montana Women's Resource

National Abortion Fund Established

by Donetta Alvernaz

Abortion rights are under serious attack in Congress. It is very likely that Congress will enact anti-choice legislation within the next year. The most threatening anti-choice legislation being considered at this time is Senate Bill 158.

If enacted, S.158 would give Congress the opportunity to include the developing fetus as a person under the 14th Amendment of the Constitution. If Congress decides that a fetus is a person, with the full rights of a person protected under the Constitution, abortion will, in essence, be outlawed.

The Separation of Powers Committee has been hearing testimony on S. 158 and plans to complete its work on June 26th. If this subcommittee approves S. 158, it will be sent to the Senate Judiciary Committee for a vote, and then to the Senate floor. The counterpart to S. 158 in the House of Representatives is H.R. 900 and H.R. 3225. These bills are now in the subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights. The chairman of this committee, Rep. Don Edwards, is Pro-choice and has not yet scheduled any hearings or other action on these bills at this time. It is important for all Pro-choice advocates to continue lobbying their Congressmen. Without this effort, the rights which we have obtained in the area of reproductive choice in the past several years will be wiped out.

While it is clear that abortion is under attack and our freedom of choice is being threatened, many people do not realize that this freedom has already been denied to indigent women. Over the past several years Congress has been whittling away at Medicaid funds for abortion. The most recent legislation regarding Medicaid funding of abortion occurred on May 21, 1981. At this time, the Senate voted to provide Medicaid coverage for abortions only in cases of life endangerment. This vote occurred on a Helms amendment offered on the Senate floor to the supplemental appropriations

bill, H.R. 3512. Since the House also attached language to H.R. 3512 which prevents Medicaid funding except in cases of life endangerment, there is no funding in cases of rape or incest for the period of time that H.R. 3512 is in effect (June 5, 1981 through September 30, 1981). The question of Medicaid coverage for abortions will come up again this summer when Congress considers FY 1982 Labor-HHS appropriations bill.

This most recent action of Congress completes the denial of the right to a safe and legal abortion to women who depend upon Medicaid. Because Medicaid funding falls under the jurisdiction of Congress, the impoverished welfare recipient becomes the easiest target of the anti-choice zealots.

Most welfare recipients are women with young children to support. These women are often without the job skills to provide for their families. Many are employed full-time, but receive only minimum wage. Underpaid, these women rely on Medicaid for their medical care. The financial situation of welfare women is often a desperate one. If these indigent women become pregnant with an unwanted child (unwanted usually because of their economic condition) and are unable to attain an abortion, their burdens increase and chances for escaping the Welfare Merry-Go-Round are greatly diminished.

There are now 2.6 million Medicaid-eligible women of child-bearing age. During 1977, the last full year of Medicaid abortion funding, 295,000 women chose abortions. In 1981, over 350,000 indigent women who become pregnant and desire abortions will have a stark, and sometimes dangerous choice. The current average cost of an abortion in Montana is \$190, hardly affordable to the woman whose monthly income is sometimes not even that amount.

Contrary to the popular myths regarding welfare, the

Welfare mother does not enjoy a life of ease at the taxpayers' expense. In Montana, a woman with one child receives welfare payments of \$193 per month. She must pay her rent, utilities and most other expenses from this sum. When her child is over the age of six, the woman must either return to school or enter a job-training program. Although this sounds like a helpful requirement, it is merely another way of keeping her in her place. She must complete her "education" or job training and be "employable" within one year. If, for instance, she wants to enter a two or four year university program, the woman faces greatly reduced or eliminated welfare aid.

Most job training or educational programs which can be completed in a year's time are in traditional areas of female employment. These areas (which include secretarial or nurses' aid jobs) are low-wage employment. Thus, the indigent woman, while forced into job training, is still likely to require welfare aid when her training is completed. She may no longer qualify for welfare payments, but she may continue to qualify for Medicaid.

As is often the case, women, especially poor women, are being punished for their reproductive capabilities. Congress has most callously denied these women the right to terminate unwanted pregnancies, even if these women are the victims of rape or incest.

There is, however, a new hope. A national Abortion Fund is now being established to help rectify the disastrous situation which these women face. This national effort (The Abortion Fund), is now soliciting donations from individuals and organizations across the United States. The initial goal of The Abortion Fund is to have \$5 million dollars on hand by November 1, 1981. Once the fund is established, any woman who holds, or is entitled to, a Medicaid card will be eligible for funds to pay for an abortion. To help as many women as possible, each woman will be asked to contribute \$25 towards her abortion.

Each woman will be encouraged, though not required, to repay the Fund the cost of the abortion in small payments (about 50¢ a week) over 48 months to help establish a revolving fund for other women.

The abortions which The Abortion Fund will cover will be performed by the physician or abortion clinic selected by the woman. The Fund will approve payment only to those clinics and physicians who are licensed by state law and who meet the standards of quality care set forth by the National Abortion Federation. Only first trimester abortions will be funded.

While it is important for Pro-choice advocates to continue to lobby Congress and make their voices heard, during this time of crisis for the indigent woman, donations to The Abortion Fund must also be made. Please take a moment to make a contribution to The Fund. We cannot forget our welfare sisters, for they carry a heavy burden under this oppressive anti-woman administration.

To make contributions, or to request further information, write to:
The Abortion Fund
1801 K Street N.W.
Suite 200
Washington, D.C. 20006

Bank Americard/Visa and Master Charge are accepted.



Women's Network

MONTANA MOBILIZATION TO DEFEAT THE RIGHT TO LIFE AMENDMENT

October 17

Missoula, Montana

March, Speeches, Music, Theatre

This event is supported by a variety of groups as a time for Montanans to demonstrate their support of reproductive choice.

The New Right and the Right to Life groups are pushing a Human Life Amendment which would deny reproductive freedom to all Americans: it would outlaw abortion, IUDs and other birth control methods, and force a return to illegal abortion and unwanted pregnancy. They are pressuring our elected officials in Montana and Washington to vote for their amendment and attacking those who support choice.

October 17th is a time for all of us who support choice to demonstrate our opposition to this amendment. Groups and individuals are being asked to endorse, organize, and help to publicize this event. More information can be obtained at 315 S. 4th East, Missoula, 59801

Women's Resource Center

243-4153, University Center
Summer hours 10-2, or by appointment. Referrals and information.

Women's Place

543-7606, 210 N. Higgins
Services in the area of violence against women, divorce, self-help health classes, support groups.

Blue Mountain Women's Clinic

542-0029, 515 Kensington 24A
Birth control, pregnancy testing, abortion clinics, gynecological services.

Battered Women's Shelter

YWCA, 543-8277 (Counseling)
543-4555 (Crisis Center)
24-hour phone lines, listeners, Outreach teams, volunteer training.

Human Resource Council

728-3710, 207 East Main

Poverello Center

728-1809, 535 Ryman
Food, shelter, referral

Planned Parenthood

728-5490, 235 East Pine

Hospice

549-7757

Student Health Center

243-2122

Free Counseling

Rape Domestic Violence
Divorce Women's Health

Referral Service
Support Groups
Educational Talks

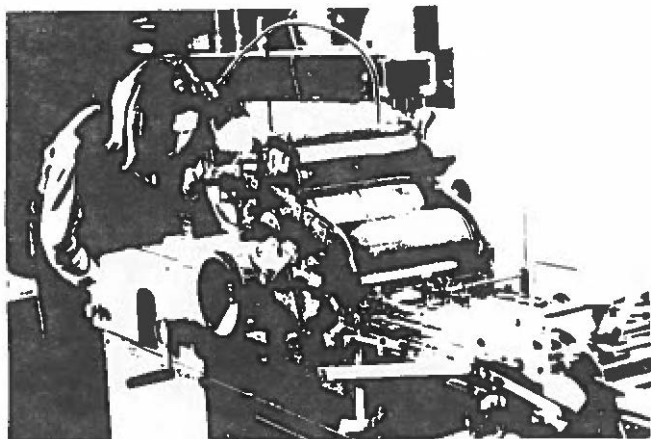
24hr Crisis Line

543-7606

Walk-in Office hrs.
9am-3pm Mon. - Fri.



WOMEN'S PLACE
210 N. Higgins Rm #218
Missoula, Montana 59801



Mountain Moving Press:

Missoula's All-Woman Print Shop

LIN SMITH

"I helped start Mountain Moving Press five years ago. I bought out my two partners two years later. It's very important to me to try to make a go of a small business, working with other women in a non-traditional field and attempting to create working relationships that, if not always satisfying, are infinitely better than those I experienced working in commercial print shops.

I became intrigued with printing while working on an underground paper in Austin, Texas in the late 60's. There were times when the paper couldn't get printed because the printer disagreed with the ideas or language being expressed. It occurred to me that if I could run the press the paper couldn't be held up. I also thought it was important for societally unpopular or unfamiliar viewpoints and ideas to have an outlet.

I learned offset printing from an excellent instructor at a community college in Austin. The school was well-equipped and offered a two-year printing program, the last six months consisting of classes on how to start your own business. Since the thought of starting my own business hadn't entered my head, I attended the program for one and a half years and applied for a job.

My experience working in commercial shops has given me the intense motivation to work even nights or weekends to help Mountain Moving survive as a small business.
(CONTINUED P. 12)

NANCY BALL

"I came to Mountain Moving Press in the fall of 1978 with a limited knowledge of how a print shop operated. I had worked in another shop but spent most of my eight-hour days collating, folding, stapling. Boring. Every other day or so I got to break the monotony by a marathon plate-burning session. The job was short-lived. My real goal was to run the press and there was no way my boss was going to let any woman run his press.

Lin was running the shop alone when I started to work here. There wasn't a lot of time to spend showing me how to do things but in two weeks' time we had put out a book for the League of Women Voters. I was impressed.

I was mostly responsible for the layout, darkroom work, stripping and burning the plates, and bindery work. Lin took care of the paper ordering, estimates, billing and running the press. We started having weekly meetings on Fridays to plan our schedules for the coming week and evaluate the jobs we had done recently. We were always looking for the most efficient ways to do things. Time is always a factor. Then, Lin could only pay me for part-time, so there were days when we finished eight hours' work in four.

There are still hectic days like that, but when Susan joined us the work load shifted. I had started estimates, billing and paper ordering. I was teaching Susan darkroom work and stripping and plateburning. Lin still ran
(Column Two, P. 12)

SUSAN STUBBLEFIELD

"Working in a woman owned and operated printshop has been a professional, political and personally pleasant work experience for me.

The three of us respect one another's training, experience, interests and abilities. We try to juggle these to both get our work done and satisfy our preferences and goals in our own training. We all share and trade job responsibilities. Though Lin usually runs our larger press, both she and Nancy share press-work now so that both of them can have more variety in what they do.

At our weekly, and sometimes daily meetings, we work and rework schedules, determine our workflow, and brainstorm on problem jobs.

Good communication is imperative in our kind of work and we are always conscious of improving our skills in this area to keep a smooth-running shop.

Viewing ourselves as professionals, we take pride in the quality of work we produce. We are always open to expanding our knowledge and skills. Consequently, we take the time to attend workshops on various aspects of printing: layout,

(Continued Column three...P. 12)



Assertive Problem Solving

by Candace Crosby

Martha was tired when she got home, there had been hassles at the office, and her dinner meeting had taken an hour longer than she thought it should have. John was reading when she came in.



"Long day," she sighed, sinking onto the couch.

"Mmm," he responds.

"How was your day?" Martha asks.

"O.K.," John glances up from his magazine as Martha fidgets.

"Want some tea?" she tries.

"No thanks."

Martha goes into the kitchen, where John has done the day's dishes. He has, however, left a greasy fry pan on the stove and the tea pot on the counter, the dull remains of the morning's tea still in it.

This is really annoying. Martha grimaces, picks up the fry pan and shoves it noisily into the sink. A sharp exhale carries the movement from counter to sink with disgust. Why do half the dishes?

As her tea water boils, Martha finishes the remaining dishes in aggravation. Cupboard doors are slammed as she puts the dishes up. She hopes she is making her point. When John later comes into the kitchen for a glass of water, Martha glares at him.

"What's wrong with you?" John inquires.

"You don't know?"

"No."

"I had to finish all the dishes."

"I didn't ask you to do them."

"I had to wash them so I could have some tea," Martha says wearily, "you leave them for me all the time."

"I don't do it all the time. You are just in a bad mood because you work too much."

"You always throw that at me when I'm tired," Martha sighs.

"It's the truth," John says knowingly, "when you are tired you always find an excuse to get mad at me."

"You purposely left the dishes for me to make me mad. You know it's my sore spot," Martha accelerates.

"You are just too sensitive. I didn't do it on purpose."

"Well, you are too insensitive;

you didn't even talk to me when I got home."

Enough of this scene; you are probably all familiar with where this stalemate leads: "Martha" and "John" both angry at each other and unable to find any mutually satisfying conclusion.

Let's look at some of the behaviors which brought these two into a headlong collision.

First, we have Martha being tired. This is often a time when arguments are fought because the person's tolerance is lowered. (Which is not to say that her argumentative assertions aren't valid.) But, as in the case of the dirty dishes, problems have usually existed over a long period of time without persons confronting and/or resolving them.

Martha's nonverbal first response to the problem was a passive behavior that eventually led to her more aggressive actions. Both her passive and her aggressive behaviors failed to convey her feelings or needs in a manner effective to open up communication with John. Her sighs and pan-banging were suppose to signal John that a problem existed. He isn't directly told, but is suppose to recognize the problem from her attitude or simply because he is in a relationship and therefore he "should know." (Expectations of "mind reading" is common in close relationships.)

When John came into the kitchen, Martha started with a non-verbal cue (glaring), which John responds to, probably already on the defensive. Then Martha accused him of deliberately leaving the dishes to aggravate her, and of doing it "all the time." John probably leaves dishes some of the time, or maybe more times than not, but the claim of all the time is exaggerated. He responds now to an accusation of a chronic behavior pattern instead of a particular incident. It is important in assertive situations to criticize a particular act instead of the other person's total behavior, i.e. "you are too sensitive/insensitive."

John's response to Martha brought in the issue of how much she works. By the end of the confrontation, Martha adds the issue of John ignoring her when she comes home.

We often have the tendency in arguments to exhume past issues that remain unresolved. In effective problem-solving, these extraneous issues should be handled separately. It is important to be specific when dealing with a problem assertively.

The timing of problem-solving between people is also crucial. It may have been more productive for John and Martha to have discussed the issue of





Marriage – Why Bother?

Excerpts from Brown Bag Lecture by Judy Smith

I always begin by pointing out that I'm the product of a normal All-American family. My mother and father really cared about each other and about us kids. I was aware from an early age that my Mom gave up something when she decided to get married and raise kids—she was a professional singer and chose marriage and family over an artistic career. She was always very positive about that choice, but as long as I can remember, I've been aware that women give up things to get married.

And I see my life as a series of choices—nothing is given. I choose what I do, where I live, who I live with. I am willing to take responsibility for these choices. I accept no excuses, no outside limitations. I am not willing to do things simply because other people want me to—whether it's my mother, the government, or the Moral Majority—or because it's expected of me. And since the cost/benefit analysis of marriage has always shown the cost is high, and I am totally unsure of any benefit, why would I choose to do it?

Marriage in this society is still not really a matter of choice; 'old maid' is still a stigma. I've experienced lots of pressure to get married. Even though I am over thirty, many people are still waiting for me to grow up and realize I have to 'tie the knot.' After all, even Joanie Caucus in *Doonesbury* is giving in. (Actually research does show that the longer someone puts off marriage, the less likely they are to marry eventually.)

I am interested in long-term committed relationships; I've been working on one for over twelve years. I see no evidence that supports Sinatra's old song: "Love and Marriage, go together like a horse and carriage; can't have one without the other."

Other kinds of relationships are also very important to me. I'm not interested in having my life defined by one other person. There is no one person who could meet all my needs and I don't want anyone to expect me to meet all of their needs. Friends are important, family is important—I don't want to pick one relationship over all the others. I don't believe in the two becomes one—in my relationship we are working to make choices in our lives so that we are together, but we are not one unit. We are two people who care a great deal about each other. (This whole question of the limitations imposed by absolute pairbonding can be seen in heterosexual and homosexual relationships, in the counterculture and the traditional culture.)

Marriage is a social institution—a legal relationship with the stamp of approval from other social institutions such as the church or the government. For some reason, relationships are supposed to be okayed by institutions. Marriage is what you are supposed to do when you are an adult in this society. It has roles and expectations—husband and wife. No matter how different individuals may want their marriage to be, that cultural baggage of role and expectation is always there, in your family, your friends, the rest of society and even in yourself.

Marriage is based on the two becomes one theory—ownership—security. Traditional marriage has really become a problem for women. We all know it is based on female inequality — women

loved, honored and obeyed. Jesse Bernard's work in the 1960's showed that married women had much worse mental health (more depression and lack of satisfaction) than single women. It was the opposite for men; married men had much better mental health than single men. Her conclusion was that everyone would like a wife: someone who took care of you, made you feel good. But it was unhealthy to be one.¹ This survey was repeated recently (1980) and only seventeen percent of single women saw marriage as positive; seventy-five percent saw it as burdensome.

People are now talking about egalitarian marriage—that the power differential would be removed and the woman and man would function as equals in the relationship. From talking to people who have tried different relationships, I think being married works against having an equal relationship. Because of the cultural baggage; because of the hundreds of years of expectation and role division; because you're still expected to be Mrs.---. Sure you can say: "Yes, I'm married, but I'm not Mrs. ---; but it takes energy over and over again. If you weren't married, then you would not have to explain why you have your own name."

I lead a large part of my life as a single woman and as a single woman I am treated differently. In many settings I am not seen as a male attachment; people realize that I have my own interests, skills

and choices. People hire me, consult me, know me because of who I am, not because of my relationship to a man.

The hardest part of the cultural baggage to overcome is the part we all carry around inside. It takes energy to be constantly challenging the old marital roles and staying out of the old ruts; let down your guard, or be tired one day, and you'll find yourself right back in them. Sure, just this one time he can make that decision, you can let someone call you Mrs.---, you don't really care that someone asks you what your husband does when they've just met you...

I'm not saying unmarried, long-term, committed relationships are easy--they aren't. We've all been raised in a sexist society and that makes any kind of equal relationship hard. But marriage certainly has built-in problems;

the weight of an oppressive history for women to carry around; extra expectations to deal with.

I don't find marriage worth it. It's my experience that love and commitment don't come from the institution but from the relationship. I believe the institution is actually harmful: to equal relationships, to the development of a wide range of meaningful relationships, to full human potential. It's an institution I don't believe in; I see no benefit that outweighs the cost.

¹See Jesse Bernard's The Future of Marriage and her recent article on the family in Society magazine, 1981.

WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER

SUMMER CALENDAR

243-4153

10 to 2

- | | |
|---------|--|
| July 1 | "UNION MAIDS" A History of the U.S. Women's Labor Movement |
| July 22 | "THERE IS A WORD" A True History of the Women's Movement Focusing on Matilda Joselyn Gage, Feminist Theorist and Activist during the first wave of feminism in this country. |
| Aug. 5 | "SEASONS OF OUR GRANDMOTHERS" A contemporary history focusing on the traditions, culture and old women of the Coeur d' Alene Tribe, Elaine Clayborn, Native American Studies instructor will lead the discussion |

These films will be shown in the University's Montana Room 360F at noon on the dates shown.

- | | | | |
|---------|---------|---|-------------------------------------|
| | THE ARK | Noon
Skill Sharpening Workshops | 532 University Ave. |
| June 24 | | "Introduction to Stained Glass" | Adrienne Corti, WRC |
| July 2 | | "Teachers Coping with Sexual Harassment in the Workplace" | Adrienne Corti (UC Montana Room) |
| July 15 | | "Shiatsu Acupressure for Health & Well Being" | Mary Birch, UM Sociology Department |
| July 29 | | "Making Tofu" | Laurie Sutherland, The Tofu Factory |



BITTERROOT EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES FOR WOMEN

has the following titles available:

Montana Birth Control Handbook (2nd ed.) 60¢ + postage for indiv. copies.

Montana Divorce Handbook (2nd ed.)—Information and resources from around the state. \$4.95 + 75¢ postage.

Conference Proceedings: Women & Technology—Speeches & materials from the conference, April 1979. \$2 + 50¢ postage.

Women & Appropriate Technology by Judy Smith. Republished by BER. Available soon!

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★ one block directly north of Missoula City Hall ★
★ phone 728-1738 for estimates ★
Hours: Mon-Fri, 9-5:30; Sat, 10-2

My Daughter—Tatyana — by Dr. Ulysses Doss

I was not prepared to be a father, and most certainly ill-prepared to be a single parent of a daughter. Divorce left me insecure, frightened, inadequate, fearful — knowing there was little chance for me to succeed. Even though I represent a growing minority (fathers raising daughters) this fact did little to ease my aloneness and fears.

Didn't most pictures and movies show father and daughter love-dovie; the daughter described as daddy's little girl? I could not but ask, what happened to us, to me, to her?

This was compounded by the fact that my former wife and my daughter, Tatyana (Toshi), were inseparable. Never had I seen a mother and daughter closer than these two. Everywhere her mother chose to go, Tatyana was not far behind. They were inseparable, mother and daughter one.

No matter how hard I tried to gain Tatyana's nearness, if not her love, Toshi seemed to resent being with me when her mother was home. Her mother, sensitive to this situation, encouraged Tatyana to include me. Yet it was too obvious that this child was not daddy's little girl.

The crowning blow came a year prior to the divorce. I discovered that the Brownies were supposed to ask their fathers to attend a father-daughter banquet. This was my chance, my long-awaited opportunity, I thought. We would have a special evening together and this might begin the process of our growing together.

I decided to play cool and await the invitation. It never came. There were a number of girls without fathers. Tatyana thought since they were taking their mothers, why not do the same? Her mother refused to be a part of that plot and gave her a choice: Invite your father or don't go. She chose not to go. I was angry. Pissed, if that is the proper term for insulting anger, frustration and disappointment.

Then, over two years ago my former wife abandoned us for another and immediately my relationship with Tatyana began to change. Although earlier I could sense a thaw in her attitude toward me, it was neither inviting nor warm. Now, in her mother's absence, she was a totally different person.

For the first few months prior to and after the divorce, the children saw their mother infrequently, and Tatyana's protection of me was something to behold. That first Monday when the children and I were alone together, I attempted to comb her hair in preparation for school. But no matter how hard I tried, the hair would not obey my intentions. I started to cry. Tatyana started to cry, and then she said, "Don't worry, Dad, I'll teach you." Imagine that -- this seven-year-old was going to ease her father's pain by teaching him something which even she didn't know how to do.

Eight months after the divorce, I chanced a picnic with one of my former students who invited me to break from my retreat from women. I noticed that all my children, particularly Tatyana, were rather cool to her. Later in the afternoon, while my date was with the boys, I asked Toshi what she thought about the young woman. Out came, "I want you all to myself." We had a long talk. This was a one time only date with no follow-up between the woman and myself. It gave the children and myself an opportunity to work out their fears about being displaced, or having to share me with a stranger.

Several months later, I returned from a movie with a female friend and found all three children waiting up for me, long past their bedtimes. This gave me another opportunity to show them that I could take care of myself, and while they had me and we had each other, I — like their mother, needed to love and be loved. I was also able to reassure them that this person

would also love them.

By the time I was seeing a woman seriously, because of their love for me, they were able to reach through their fears and extend themselves to her. Tatyana, however, while also reaching through her fear, maintained a distance until the situation found me safe and contented. She remains still the most protective.

Buying clothes for the boys was always a rather simple matter -- walk into Sears and pick out this, this, this, and this, and off we would go. But with Tatyana, shopping became a series of painstaking frustrations. She had her own ideas about clothes. If I selected an item not of her choosing, it would soon be buried in her closet or under her bed.

Since she was the youngest and only female, I tried to protect her from her brothers' abuse. She would use slow-down tactics while doing chores, knowing this would irritate her brothers because no one could leave until the tasks were finished. Little by little, I discovered that Tatyana could take care of herself without my protection.

Toshi's memory for details and stories is just about legend in our home. She remembers not only North Dakota jokes, but off-color jokes and sexually suggestive stories. It used to make us laugh when Toshi, little and naive, with her tiny innocent voice would come forth with such blushing comments.

I believe that sex is something to be discussed openly and children should ask questions outright. I generate discussions by asking Tatyana questions like, "Do you have breasts yet?" Of course, she giggles and tells me the reasons why she has to wait. This opens up dialogue between us about the phenomenon of sex.

Once after she returned from camp, I asked Tatyana if she was pregnant since her stomach was bulging. She responded, "There were no boys there." So I

Excerpts from Brown Bag Lecture on Single Parenting

realized that from our sharing, she had learned that two are responsible for the creation of children. As a natural follow-up, shortly thereafter, a book about her coming physical changes was in her hands. I waited for this time to discuss menstruation with her.

Behold the joys of being a father, a single parent, and a friend. Within the first year of the divorce, I invited Tatyana to go out with me. Her first date, our first date alone, found us eating together at her favorite restaurant, Burger King, attending a movie, and eating a box of popcorn half as big as she. To all who will listen, she retells that evening with the gusto of first dates.

This year's father-daughter banquet found me sitting with the loveliest of all daughters. The first week she was informed of the date, I was asked. I continued to be reminded for six weeks -- time, place and reasons why.

Toshi runs track, yet she is most feminine. She is shy, yet aggressive, young, but old. She informed me that I could always come and live with her, or if that weren't possible, she would stay to care for me. I told her she had too much to discover and that I would be all right. And yet, she looked at me disbelieving.

Of all my children, Toshi is the only one who really teases me back. She knows I do not like cats, so she leaves notes around for me with enclosed pictures of kittens.

Tatyana seldom relays messages from school until it's too late, cleans her room by hope, and says amazing things like: "You must love someone before you marry them and even then it might not work."

With Tatyana, and no less Kimathi and Matanda - my sons - being a single parent is being locked into knowing the joy of learning and the confusion of it all. The only solution I have come to grasp is patience with

myself, with her, with the boys. Also, it is learning to listen, to communicate needs, and it's having the gift of imagination, plenty of courage, and fear, and an endless supply of love.

My beloved daughter Tatyana.



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131 W Main

Poems by Michele Talpole



Sculpture & Photo
by Blue Ballou

Repossessing the night

Friends, you have plagued my nights long enough
with your insatiable skeletons. This is your last chance.
This is the last time I will tolerate your bones
in my dreams. A heap of memories bound by love
will prop those bones and I will make you dance all night
because in the morning you will have to leave, all of you,

forever. You, Kathy, fifty feet under the sea you
removed the mouthpiece as if you thought water were enough
to sustain you. Look, it wasn't my fault and my nights
are not your rightful resting place. I had no chance
to save you, everyone agrees, and nothing like love
will bring you back now. So go away with your bitter bones.

And Caroline, your almost perfect body was bone-
white when they found it in the roadside rubble. You
had pressed the peddle down stupidly because you loved
the way the world blurred, because there was never enough
motion, because you were drunk, because taking the chance
seemed like fun, as it had been all those other nights.

And you, Diana, are another statistic proving that night
is not a good time for women, or anyone, whose bones
are likely to shatter if, by chance,
some man chooses to pick up an axe, to strike you
precisely on the head and then, as if that weren't enough,
to confess and tell the world he did it for love.

I tell you, I have begun to wonder a great deal about love.
Was it love, Lola, that made you kill yourself that night?
Or was it a lack of love? or had you simply had enough?
Did you watch the razor slice through flesh and stop at bone?
You should have left a note explaining it all. Because of you
I got drunk and had to sleep with strangers for months. The chance

that if left alone I'd see the world the way you did, was a chance
I didn't want to take. I am not brave and I love
life even at its worst. Friends, there is nothing I can do for you
anymore. I am repossessing my inadequate nights.
You will no longer inhabit my dreams and fill them with bones,
bones and young blood because I really have had enough.

I am giving you this last chance, this last night,
because I did love you and did keep your bones
alive for years and you should understand that I have had enough.

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That time of year

Of course, it's in the air.
Rare legs and arms, white
as the winter left behind,

appear everywhere. Under trees
laden with blossoms, pink, yellow
and vibrant with bees,

dogs couple. A man walks by
and a woman wonders
where his shirt tail is tucked.

The sunsets have been perfectly
primitive, cerise melting
into magenta over mountaintops.

Talk between strangers
is sensational. Sparks fly
from their tongues and every

nerve ending catches fire.
This is when the old grow young
and the young begin worrying

about growing old. Damp grass
caresses bare feet and the toes
dig into earth like worms.

Everything is on the verge
of ripeness and women's breasts
are rounder and lovelier

than ever. No one will admit
to not being in love. We cherish
the stars and inevitable moon

so conscious of our own
imperfections and longing to touch
those of others.

Press a hand to your lips
and call it love. In that cauldron,
memory, the present

has already altered. It's all instinct
and good weather. Everyone is lusting
after anyone.



Rooster Meat

A shift in the maze of feather and flesh --
chickens flutter from underfoot and close in
behind us. The farmer says: A bargain,
two roosters for the price of a hen.

Pointed beaks peck at my boots as we pass.
My stomach throbs with the barnyard's pulse.
Already I see the butcher block, long and stained --

I don't care that a chicken's brain is only
the size of a thumbnail. My ten year old hand clings
to grandmother's long skirts. The skin
on my arms puckers like a plucked bird's.

Under each of grandmother's thick arms
a rooster strains from side to side.
For a moment, I am caught in the glare
of dark and frantic eyes.

I've heard that a rooster's body,
after the axe has fallen, will run about
headless, but these only twitch.
I imagine a sense of dignity.

Sunday, rooster meat is piled
on a platter at grandmother's side.
Pieces are passed the length of the table
and on my plate rests a thigh thick as my arm.

This is the ancient recipe
grandmother keeps, not enough
to hide the rooster eyes still burning
at the back of my mind.

Photo by Lydia Viscaya

in one shop I was hired to do what I wanted to do - run a press - but I was sometimes asked to collate carbonless paper, clean the owner's office or make coffee. I refused and left the job after six weeks. In other commercial shops, men would stand over me and tell me how to adjust the press or wouldn't trust me to cut the paper I needed for the job I was printing, thinking I would cut it wrong. In another shop, they cranked out the work at a minimal quality, just good enough to keep the job from being rejected. This was too much for me. I wanted to have some input into deciding how well the job was printed.

Now Mountain Moving Press is an all-woman shop. I enjoy working with women and teaching them a non-traditional skill. I encourage women I work with to periodically upgrade their skills by taking classes. They can then teach me new skills so we can establish a shared teaching and learning relationship.

I am not comfortable being seen as "the boss." Though I have had more thorough training and longer work experience than my co-workers, I encourage them to problem-solve on their own. Then we all put our heads together, knowing I have to make final decisions.

The three of us have a common value of turning out the best work we are capable of. We give each other feedback and attempt to create an atmosphere where constructive criticism is positively responded to and we are beyond the point of being defensive or taking it personally.

It is important to me that everyone working learns how to do everything so that we can trade jobs and enjoy more variety and flexibility in our work. It means sharing the responsibility of the more demanding work--running the press. I initially wanted to 'prove to the world' that women can do things as well as men. This experience of working in a non traditional area with other women has given me a stronger sense of the rightness of those feelings.

the press, but we were all responsible for the end product.

Susan and I decide on a daily basis what needs to be done and who deals with what. We rotate the work so one person isn't stuck answering the phone or running the folder all the time. The folder is no ones favorite job and the darkroom is a good place to escape when you're not up to dealing with the public.

I look at Mountain Moving more in the light of a quality print shop than as an all-woman shop. Some people have come to us because they've heard we were all women; but they come back because we do good work..and this takes alot of cooperation and organization.

We check our own work and proof each other's. This helps to eliminate any problems before the job reaches the press. We open ourselves up to each other for suggestions on how to improve a layout or how to get a good camera reproduction.

Our egos don't get in the way. Astrologically we are compatible and it's been easy to be around each other. I don't feel there is any single factor that makes it all work. We try to keep our personal lives separate. I think this is conducive to a good working relationship. After being together all day--we go our separate ways after hours.

We believe in the issues and the people we print for. We do alot of printing for the womens' community, environmentalist and alternative businesses. We are three women working in a non-traditional field, learning from each other, enjoying ourselves and hopefully doing a service for the Missoula community.


Susan
Nancy
Lin



camera work, four-color stripping techniques and press operation.

Because all of us at the shop are women, we don't encounter sex discrimination regarding use of "dangerous" equipment, job duties or clean up of the shop. All of us have had previous experiences in other print shops where we were discriminated against as women.

Also, as women, we reserve the right to refuse printing services to individuals or organizations with sexist or racist biases. Our commitment to printing is political as well as professional.



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Photo by Lydia viscaya

kitchen chores at another time. Martha could have said, "John, I would like to talk with you about kitchen cleanup, but tonight I'm rather tired. Could we arrange to talk this over tomorrow night after dinner?"

It is important, however, to follow through on your commitment to discuss issues at a later time. If you continue to ignore the issue, except when it is a glaring aggravation, it will only continue to resurface. It will likely grow to become "the straw that breaks the camel's back" type of situation.

In discussing a problem assertively, it is best to use "I" statements. "I" statements are ways in which one expresses his or her personal beliefs or needs instead of vague generalities. In this instance, Martha might say, "I feel angry when you leave part of the dishes because I think the person doing dishes is responsible for fully cleaning the kitchen."

In this manner, Martha is now describing a specific habit of John's which makes her angry because of the value she places on cleanliness and an individual's responsibility to complete the tasks that they begin. John may not share this same value. He may have different standards or feel he can finish a job at a later time. Each person needs to respect and try to understand the other's position in order to reach a compromise. With clear knowledge of each other's values, they can then attempt to reach a resolution without having to prove the other person "wrong."

The fact that Martha may handle a situation assertively does not demand that she will "get her way." Assertiveness means that you handle a situation in a way that expresses your feelings and beliefs in a positive manner. It takes some practice to learn to solve major and minor problems in a relationship. Through trial and error we find the best methods of resolving differences; ways

that are compatible with each person's style.

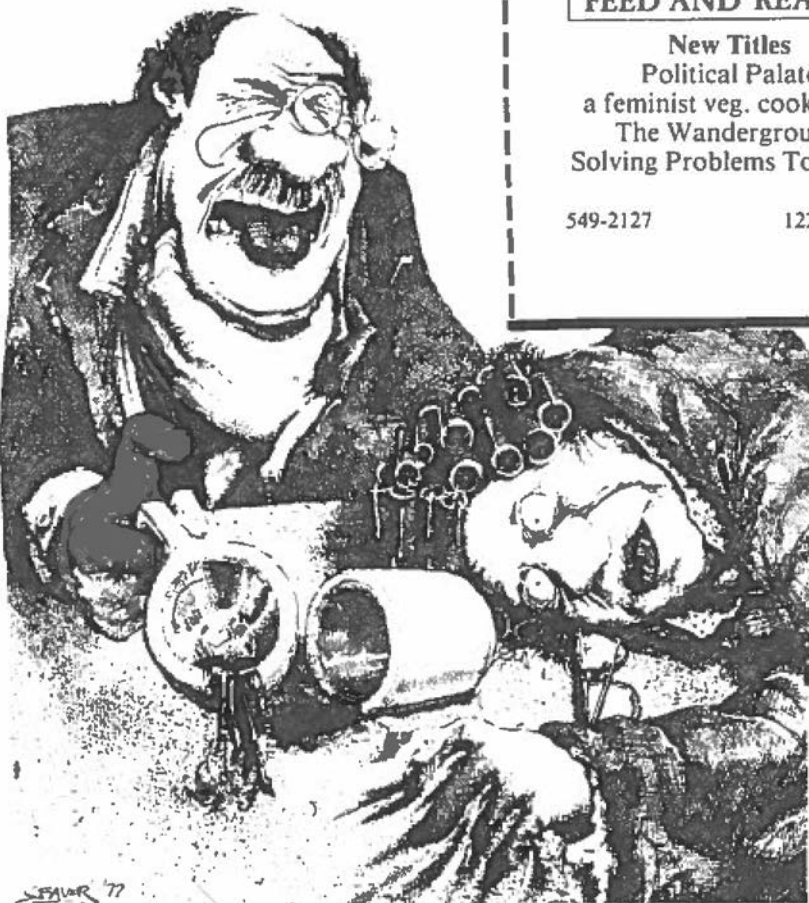
For more information on assertiveness you may want to read:

The Assertive Woman, Phelps and Austin.

How to Be An Assertive (Not Aggressive) Woman, Baer.

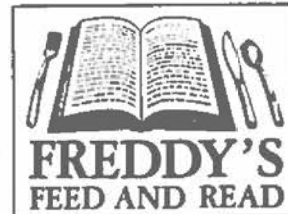
When I Say No I Feel Guilty, Smith.

Also, there are assertiveness classes that can help you learn how to act and react in a more positive manner. In Missoula, call The Women's Resource Center at the University of Montana or the Missoula Mental Health Center.



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Friendships With Women

by Anna Southwick

Growing up, giggling, going to football matches, handstands, girls' gangs, dreaming, chasing the boys, parties, walks with my best friends, school work and phone calls, lots of girlfriends-- I remember all of them. Alison, whose mother kept an incredibly clean house and always had whole-wheat sandwiches for lunch. Or Judy, whose family was kosher, but loved me anyway. I decided I would always know these girls, "We would always be friends."

In high school, we would sit (about ten of us) and talk--about everything: babies, teachers, parents, sex, politics, swearing, women's lib, money, the boys we liked, the girls we thought were great. Sometimes people at school would criticize us as "a bunch of silly idiots" or "a pack of bitches." I didn't take notice, I think, because I felt secure and content with my friends. I knew I wasn't silly or a bitch.

I have moved from Australia now, so I don't see any of these women anymore. I miss them all and I wonder if they still feel the bond that I do. We were very idealistic and had a lot of confidence in love and courage and our intelligence. In answer to "What will you do when you grow up?" some of us would answer "change the world." We all felt lucky to know each other and we gained strength and support from our relationship.

The feeling of "We will always be friends no matter what" was our reality. Once I started to work after high school, I saw that alot of the world wasn't operating on the same principle; women were competitive (for power, position or love). Jealousies developed in their dealings with men. As the women I knew married, their female friendships were put aside for their number one priority--men.

I saw media that portrayed womens' friendships as gossipy or bitchy, never based on respect or love, let alone intelligence. I remember at eighteen feeling angry and tricked and very much mis-

represented.

One of the hardest things for me to hear in my late teens was my mother saying "Well, that's it--that's the last time I have a close woman friend. You just can't trust them." It hurt me that my mother wasn't sharing the same sorts of feelings I was with my women friends. Her statement was final and came from a deep hurt she felt. At that time I was close to her, proud of her accomplishments and content with our relationship.

During the process of leaving home and breaking ties with my family, I came to resent my mother, discount her intelligence and decisions and feel angry at the way she had mothered me. I agree, to a point, with friends who tell me this is a natural process of growing up and establishing myself as an independent woman. However I feel it is based somewhat on this world that seems to have a stake in women not being friends, on varying degrees of misogyny, on a conscious effort to keep us apart instead of a strong group comprised of every age, race and background.

Now, because of this rift with my mother, I feel I have bought into this readily available misogyny. This was a shocking revelation for me. I had always felt more aware, loving and liberated than that. This made me reflect on the relationship between my mother and grandmother. I would ask my mother, "Do you love your mother?" Her reply would be, "No, but I like her alot." She would go on to reminisce about incidents in her childhood which supported her decision not to love her mother. Recently, my mother has told me she has begun to love her mother. Ironically, this has come about since my grandfather died and my grandmother is her own person once again. It is a pity that it took twentyfive years for these two women to forgive each other and reestablish the loving feeling we are told is the easiest and

most natural of bondings--mother-daughter.

On my last visit home, I talked to my mother about friendships between women and how important they were to me personally. I told her how I see the power of women working together in respect and affection. We imagined the ramifications of our using that female power fully. Our talk was a healthy step in mending our problems.

The bond I am forging between my grandmother, mother, my women friends and myself strengthens me. In trying to be a sane and cooperative women in this unsettling world, I work on the divisions of anger and mistrust I find in my personal relationships. The most basic one, which many of us skip in our feminist efforts, is patching up our problems with our mothers. Even from a distance, I am now trying to work on this in my own life.

When I started working in a womens' organization in Missoula a year ago, I brought with me all the idealism I felt towards the womens' movement. I found competition and fear between the various female groups of this community. I believe this comes from our being surrounded by misogyny. We have seen our mothers mistrust women in their lives. We must change that attitude so we trust each other and ourselves. Instead of remaining apart, we must join each other to form a real, loving, powerful part of this world. Only through women recognizing and strengthening our affinities with our sisters will we be able to "change the world"--and who can deny that it needs a whole lot of work?



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Photo by Jane Kies

Gone is the state Women's Bureau which was established to help women obtain better, higher paying jobs and avoid discrimination. It was an important aid to women who still make only 59 cents to every dollar their male counterparts in the work force earn.

Gone, too, is the state 4Cs program which worked statewide to establish child care centers for working parents. A scarcity of responsible child care providers is a pressing problem for many women who must work outside the home.

Funding for contraceptives was zapped by the cost-conscious legislators. Many felt the state shouldn't be in the business of supplying birth control devices. Unfortunately the state is in the never-ending business of supplying food to the babies of those devoid of such devices.

When a senator who led the fight against the contraceptive funding was asked what those persons should do who relied on state funded contraceptives, he replied, "Let them use Saran Wrap."

It will take more than Saran Wrap to patch the damage done to women by the 1981 Legislature."

LEGISLATURE STABS WOMEN

Editorial by Carol Van Valkenburg
from The Missoulian

"The treatment environmental issues would receive at the hands of the 1981 Montana Legislature was of great concern to many citizens after the conservative sweep in the November elections.

Now that the session is history, environmentalists are breathing a bit easier. Women, on the other hand are gasping for air.

This Legislature viewed women's rights as an expensive fad that had run its course. It choked off funding for the state Women's Bureau, day care and family planning.

Legislators didn't bother with the sacred cow of previous sessions - the Equal Rights Amendment - because they knew repealing the state's ratification of the ERA would only focus emotional attention on what would really amount to flogging a dead horse.

Instead, as Rep. Ann Mary Dussault pointed out, legislators made "sneak attacks" on other, less visible women's issues.



Easter Protest, Maelstrom, 1981



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Jan and Jonathan Anderson
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