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NEWSLETTER**

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Well, what can I say; I know this was supposed to be a fall newsletter, but I didn't get off my you know what in time to get information to include.

This is the first time I have attempted something like this, so you will have to bear with me and my mistakes. In fact I cannot understand what I must have been thinking of when I agreed to do it in the first place. Someone caught me at a weak moment. However, many of my colleagues have done it in the past and I do think all the members of this group should make an effort to help keep the group going. So for the time being this is my contribution.

It is with that thought that I would like to add a few personal observations. I would like to thank all those people who responded to my cry for help and sent me snippets of information, or personal views, or even notice of future meetings. I do appreciate your input and take full responsibility for the inclusion or not of said material. I would also like to encourage those who thought they would be too late for this newsletter, to forward information to Geraldine Pratt who is planning the next edition to appear sometime in the spring.

My sense of duty!! was not my only reason for volunteering to do this newsletter. Another is the fact that I am not: a) a social geographer; b) a feminist; or c) working on some aspect of women in society. I know that many of you have heard me say this before but I think it is important that this group is recognised as representing Women in Geography, as well as Women and Geography whatever their professional teaching and research interests. Several people wrote and told me they had no "specifically 'feminist' geography" research upon which to report. That is not the only thing we are interested in. It is also important to know what any of the women geographers are doing and what their particular accomplishments have been and what their aspirations are for the future.

If it is the wish of the group to concentrate on the feminist aspects of the subject so be it, but that is not my understanding of its role. Those of us who meet at C.A.G. meetings have discussed this, but I suspect there are others who have a view and I for one, would like to hear from them. Could we perhaps have some comments on the role of this group, which could be included in a future newsletter. See . . . another reason for editing this is to ram my position down your throats. . . . Take note of the comments in the minutes from Halifax!!!

I am glad to be able to tell you that the use of an old girls network seems to be increasing, and it is even spreading to some of the old boys. I have had two people call me in the last couple of months asking for the 'lowdown' on female colleagues or ex-

students and in both cases an appointment has been forthcoming. I too, was able to benefit from the knowhow of one of my female colleagues; I am sure many of you can add examples to the list. Incidentally, the Directory is a great help. I think a vote of thanks should go to those who worked so hard to produce it.

Well, I think that is enough musing, let's get on with the serious business of the newsletter.

It is with special pleasure I am able to include in this newsletter a list of appointments, both in Canada and overseas, of members of the group.

Damaris Rose passed on the information that several of the C.W.A.G. members are up for tenure this year. I would like to wish them all the best.

A 'gentle reminder' from Suzanne MacKenzie, to those department heads who have not yet replied to the questionnaire on women faculty and grad students. PLEASE return the completed questionnaires to her as soon as possible. Also, would any members working in non-academic settings please write to Suzanne with any pertinent information, including address, so they can be included in the next survey.

Don't forget that the CAG meeting is in Chicoutimi, where apparently there are a number of very interesting women graduate students.

I think it is very important that we let people know that we are available for outside projects. I know I am not the only one who is involved in student counselling, for example and I also go to high schools to talk about Geography as a whole and my involvement in it. I am sure there are a number of you who are similarly involved. Could you perhaps let the group know, and maybe suggest ways for us all to become more "viewable."

GERI SWEET

RECENT APPOINTMENTS

Judy Wiesinger is in the middle of a three-year appointment as the Coordinator of the Centre for Canadian Studies at Edinborough. Judy will be in Chicoutimi for the CAG this year.

Jane Law and Clare Mitchell have joined the Faculty of Geography at Waterloo University, Marie Sanderson is now an adjunct professor in the same department, which brings their contingent of women to five, 20% of their faculty. Ed. note: as I understand it these are all potentially permanent positions, the University is to be

congratulated, and it is hoped copied by other institutions.

Alison Gill and Audrey Kobayashi have been appointed to the Editorial Advisory Board of the Canadian Geographer.

Betty Sills is teaching at Wilfrid Laurier University.

Linda Paul and Marilyn Lewry are both working as sessional lecturers at the University of Regina, although I think Linda is only part time at the moment. Ed. note: considering the size of the department this must be the highest percentage of females in the country. It also means I lose my status as the only woman teaching geography in the prairies!! Congratulations, Regina.

Caroline Eyles has been appointed as a University Research Fellow, for five years, in the Geography Department at McMaster University

Congratulations to all these people, and any others, whom I have missed.

FUTURE POSITIONS

Be on the lookout for a tenure track position in Urban Geography at L'Universite de Montreal.

Also one for a specialist in environment at University of Quebec in Hull.

There is a position at Carleton for a feminist scholar in Women's studies, tenure track in any one of the Social Sciences, including Geography. Letters of application, with two sets of documents, should be sent to the Director of the Institute of Women's Studies at Carleton.

GRANTS AND SO ON

Anne Sodlewska, Queen's, has received a SSHRC grant to study the cartography of exploration.

Wendy Charlton at McGill has received a CMHC grant to study "Barriers to Access for Independent Elderly Women."

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Sharon Smith, Carleton, is involved in a female student awareness programme in the Ottawa High Schools. She is invited into local high schools to talk to students about non-traditional fields of study, especially those which are science oriented. She is also

living proof that women in Geography can succeed in other areas too. The baseball team for which she plays is at the top of the Ottawa league.

Geri Sweet has a small contract with a regional office of Manitoba Hydro, to test the viability of a new waste dump site.

MINUTES OF THE CWAG GENERAL MEETING

Canadian Association of Geographers Annual Meeting
Saint Mary's University, Nova Scotia
June 4, 1988

Report on the Financial Statement

CWAG has a budgetary surplus, and there were a number of suggestions about how to use the money. These were: i) use it for creating a Directory of Women and Geography; ii) use it to invite a student from the U.S. or from Great Britain to attend the CAG Annual Meeting; iii) give the money back to the Association on the condition it will be used to subsidize a women student's attendance at the Chicoutimi Annual Meeting. After some discussion, the decision was to leave the issue to next year.

The meeting also decided to ask Audrey Kobayashi to remain treasurer. A number of members pointed out that Audrey has done a super job, and changing treasurer also means changing signing authority, which creates some difficulty.

Questionnaire

A questionnaire on the number of students and faculty in Canadian Geography Departments will be mailed out in September. Anne Gilbert has translated the questionnaire into French. Beth Szplett mentioned that a number of heads of Geography Departments want information about women Ph.D. students nearing the completion of their degrees.

Directory

Beth Szplett reported that the Directory of Women and Geography is now almost complete, although some revisions remain. She thanked Donna Maitland for assistance in printing. Copies will be sent to every university that has a geography department for evaluation. A copy will also be sent to the Women and Geography Study Group of the IBG.

There was some discussion about the problems of contacting women geographers not in the university system. Some suggestions were: i) inserting an advertisement about the Women and Geography

group in The Operational Geographer on a regular basis; ii) getting a list of colleges and attempting to get information to women that way.

It is not clear yet what the costs of printing and mailing will be, and some of the budgetary surplus may be used to get the Directory out.

Newsletter

Geri Sweet volunteered to put together the fall issue of the CWAG Newsletter, and Gerry Pratt volunteered to do the subsequent issue.

A number of issues were identified with respect to the Newsletter. There was a feeling that the focus of the Newsletter should be on women in geography rather than primarily on women's issues. A focus on the latter has meant that women in physical geography have been excluded or made invisible.

Damaris Rose suggested that the Newsletter could print systematic information on women receiving grants, for example, SSHRC, NSERC, and provincial granting agencies. One way of collecting this information would be to have regional representatives call granting agencies to obtain a list.

Finally, the point was made that the content of the Newsletter frequently reflects the personal network of the editor because people are not sending in news items.

Chicoutimi CAG

There were two suggestions for sessions at the 1989 CAG Annual General Meeting at Chicoutimi: i) a workshop on how to make the classroom teaching environment more responsive to women and minority groups. Jane Laws and Beth Szplett will look into the organization of this workshop; ii) Iain Wallace indicated that a section on Global Change was being organized for next year. One of the sessions will focus on values, and he suggested that there should be a speaker on feminism in this session.

Resolutions for the CAG Executive

The CWAG Specialty Group voted to submit the following resolutions to the CAG Executive:

Given the increasing number of CAG conference participants with children:

Be it resolved that future Local Arrangements committees ensure that childcare is offered at Annual Meetings, if this

is possible. If it is not possible to offer childcare, a list of local day-care facilities with per diem rates should be made available to participants.

In light of reactions to recent documentation on the part of members of the Association:

Be it resolved that all CAG documents be written in gender-inclusive language, following the guidelines adopted by the Government of Canada.

Be it resolved that the CAG Executive urge the Canadian National Committee of the IGU and the Canadian Delegation to the 1988 International Geographical Congress to support the proposal for and IGU Study Group on gender issues.

Co-ordinating Committee

Chair: Suzanne Mackenzie
Secretary: Evelyn Peters
Treasurer: Audrey Kobayashi
Regional Representatives: Alberta and B.C.: Gerry Pratt
Prairies: Geri Sweet
Ontario: Jane Law
Quebec: Damaris Rose
Maritimes:

Other Business

Damaris Rose pointed out that the Canadian Women and Geography Specialty Group had been called the Canadian Women in Geography Specialty Group in both the program for the CAG Meeting in Halifax and in Don Janelle's recent article in Professional Geographer. She asked the group to help make sure these errors are not repeated.

Quebec Report (Damaris Rose)

In September 1987 a special issue of the refereed journal Cahiers de géographie au Québec, vol. 31, no. 83, focusing on "Espaces et Femmes" was launched. The issue was coordinated by Anne Gilbert (Association canadienne-française de l'Ontario) and Damaris Rose (INRS-Urbanisation, Université du Québec). The special issue included contributions from French- and English-speaking Canada, France, Spain, and Brazil. Several members of CWAG have articles in this issue: Anne Gilbert
Lyse Pelletier
Fiona Mackenzie
Suzanne Mackenzie
Damaris Rose

Sales of this issue have apparently been the best ever, and it has been mentioned or reviewed in various newspapers (including La Monde Diplomatique in France!), magazines and journals. The Centre for Urban and Community Studies at the University of Toronto is negotiating with the Cahiers and individual authors to translate and publish some of the contributions in English.

The issue can be obtained for \$10 from the Geography Department at Laval.

Lyse Pelletier (Ph.D. student in geography at Laval) obtained a curriculum development grant to set up a course on women, gender, and geography. She taught the course (in seminar format) in the winter of 1988, and it went well. Details and syllabus are available from Lyse.

A group of women graduate students in the environmental disciplines in various Montreal universities have been working on a critique of the recent planning proposals for Montreal's downtown and surrounding central neighbourhoods. They will be presenting their brief at the public hearings on the planning proposals, next week. Look out for news on how things went in a future edition of the newsletter and probably in Women and Environments.

WORKSHOPS AND MEETINGS

An International Symposium on WOMEN, WORK and PLACE at McGill February 12th & 13th. For more information call Audrey Kobayashi.

There will be a workshop on Gender and Development at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, England. April 16th to 21st, 1989. Further Information can be obtained from Janet Momsen.

A reminder that there will be a conference on The nineteenth Century Canadian City: Internal Change and External Links, at The Centre of Canadian Studies, University of Edinburgh. It takes place May 4th - 8th, 1989. For more information write to Judy Wiesinger, at the centre.

University of Lethbridge, Alberta. October 19th- 21st, 1989. Aboriginal Women of Canada: Past, Present and Future. Contact Professor Christine Miller, Native American Studies, U of Lethbridge, Alberta, T1K 3M4.

BITS AND BITES

Evelyn has been especially good to send me so much material from Queen's. Laurentian University is in the process of developing an Employment Equity Programme and has asked the CWAG for input. As the letter was received at Queen's in the early summer I am assuming that this has been done and I will make sure a copy of this newsletter is sent to them.

The IGU has approved a gender and Geography study group, to be chaired by Janet Momsen. Copies of the newsletter from the IGU have been sent to most of us I think, if you did not receive one or if you are interested in future newsletters, fill in the form below, and send it to Janice Monk, SIROW Women's Studies, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ. 85721, USA

The Social Science Federation of Canada is in the process of evaluating the position of women in the social sciences. I assume that you all received the recent information asking whether there should be a special VP, a subcommittee, and so on. We shall be hearing more about this in the near future.

As you know, Audrey and Suzanne are working on a survey of women faculty and grad students. If you have anything to add please let them know. They are particularly interested in hearing about non-university based people. You might check and see if your chairman has done anything about the survey.

The University of Toronto is offering a course In Gender and the City, which will look at the differences in the Geographical experiences of men and women. Ed. note: I am still waiting for a course in the classification of landforms by gender.

Nina Laurie, McGill, has completed her Masters and has enrolled at University College, London, England.

Canadian Feminist Geographers were represented at the IGU in Australia, by Geraldine Pratt. The study group on gender set up at that meeting would like input from as many people as possible. Please get in touch with Janet Momson in the Geography Dept., University of Newcastle, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 7RU, England, or Janice Monk in Arizona.

Carleton has put in writing the fact that they are committed to hiring additional female faculty, especially in areas where they are underrepresented.

I would like to remind you all that we do have a directory with a survey of members' research interests. If you do not have this and are a member of the women and Geography group, please let the CAG know.

RECENT PRESENTATIONS/PUBLICATIONS

After considerable thought I decided not to include specific titles. I am simply going to point to authors and topics, should you wish to know more drop them a line. This does serve, however, to show that we are indeed a diverse group.

Anne Sodlewska, Queen's, A Monograph on Historical Cartography.
Sharon Smith, Carleton, A presentation on ice and water in frozen soil; at CAGONT. A poster on Frost heave in Nottingham, U.K.
Nina Laurie, McGill, Thesis on Women's Cooperatives in Peru.
Geri Sweet, Winnipeg, A Monograph on Caves in Manitoba. In addition there are all the papers presented at the CAG in Halifax and I am sure there as many more from the regional meetings.

ADVERTISING

University of Massachusetts Press has a catalogue of Books which they publish, on Women's Studies.

The 1988 Canadian Women's Directory is available from Les Editions Communiqu'Elles in Montreal.

Matrix, the story of women in dialogue. The Spider Press Collective, Nanaimo B.C.

Recherches Feministes, Two issues a year from Laval University.

Videos on Feminist/Women's Studies, from Groupe Intervention Video, Montreal.

The editor takes no responsibility for the material in this last section.

P.S. By the way, several people told me that their colleagues did not get my note requesting information for the newsletter. If they are not listed in the directory I could not contact them. The letter was sent to department heads in institutions which do not have women on staff. Incidentally, I didn't get any tangible feedback from non-academics and we really do need to add something from all branches of our group. I know there is some interesting work being done in Ottawa, so I hope it can be included in the next Newsletter.

All the best for 1989.