

Teacher set for women's study course

"Thus women's entire education should be planned in relation to men. To please men, to be useful to them, to win their love and respect, to raise them as children, care for them as adults, counsel and console them, make their lives sweet and pleasant: these are what they should be taught from childhood on."

Emile
Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1792)

by JOHN POPE
Citizen Staff Reporter

Opinions like this will be fuel for the fire in Pam Fraser's class this September.

For this is when the Prince George Senior Secondary School teacher and her students will begin the first women's study course in the city.

But their study of Rousseau and the attitudes that other famous people had towards women will have a different orientation.

Students will be introduced to historical and cultural perceptions of women in the past so the present and future may be understood.

"It's to encourage women to make full use of their abilities where they haven't been encouraged to do so before," says Fraser, in explaining one of the progressive aspects of the elective course.

"It's also a positive thing for men because it will break down the stereotypes and build up individuals."

The former history major

at the University of Victoria knows it will also mean an opportunity to teach an important area of knowledge she learned about by chance.

This was her discovery in the early 1960s of Betty Friedman's book *The Feminine Mystique*.

Fraser read the book "by chance" before it became known through the media and its impact led to a continuous involvement in the feminist movement.

"A lot of the things just seemed to make sense," says Fraser.

"She made points like the syndrome of girls in high school and how they peak in elementary school or junior high then their academic performance declines."

"That really hit me because I have certainly seen it happen. Some girls think it's not feminine to be intelligent or display intelligence."

Another aspect of the book Fraser remembers is the "feminine mystique" put across by advertisers and other people in the 1950s.

This doctrine held that a woman's place is in the home and it was put out in a subtle fashion to encourage women who entered the work force during the Second World War to give up their jobs to returning servicemen.

Fraser says one of the major goals in her course will be to make women aware there are opportunities outside the home.

"They will learn they can obtain a much better financial situation for themselves and thus more independence."

"But there will be a lot of

psychological things too, like women's attitude towards themselves and their fear of success."

Fraser says the need for women to be more assertive is still a problem today and may be seen by looking at financial and employment statistics.

She says the national average income in Canada is still about twice as much for men as it is for women.

A study by the Canadian department of labor showed an 83 per cent difference in 1972 when men working full-time made an average of \$9,455 compared with \$5,166 for women.

Other statistics from a 1975 study in Canada show two-thirds of the people on welfare are women and only nine per cent of the doctors in Canada are women compared with 24 per cent in the United Kingdom, 19 per cent in Italy and 70 per cent in the U.S.S.R.

But Fraser believes the employment and financial opportunities for women are gradually changing for the better and she views this course as being part of a progressive change.

"Most of the objections to the course are that it will create more hostility," says Fraser.

"But the whole textbook for the course is very positive and is more of an exploration of the possibilities. There's nothing about male the oppressor and I don't

News about Quebec said 'all hogwash'

ORILLIA, Ont. (CP) — Brian Bielby admits he had some misgivings about moving to Quebec to take a job.

But after working for a while at Farnham, a town of 7,000 about 55 kilometres southeast of Montreal, the industrial engineer said he likes working in the Eastern Townships.

"The only thing I'd heard about Quebec was what I'd seen in the papers or heard on the television," he said in a recent interview. "And when I got there I found out it was all hogwash."

Bielby, his wife Jennifer and their two children went to Farnham last Christmas for a

closer look after receiving a job offer at Metallurgie Farnham, a new ductile iron foundry that will begin production at the end of this year and employ more than 200 workers.

He said the ratio of English to French-speaking people in the area is about 40 to 60 per cent.

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Mill value fight set

PORT ALICE, B.C. (CP) — The Port Alice, B.C., municipal council will appeal a decision of the British Columbia court of revision to reduce the assessed value of the Rayonier pulp mill, a municipal spokesman said today.

The spokesman said the appeal, to the appeal board of the B.C. assessment authority, probably will be heard in the fall.

The reduced assessment means that the mill, which paid \$110,742 in taxes last year, will pay \$86,240 this year, the spokesman said, which could force council to increase the mill rate.

She added, however, that

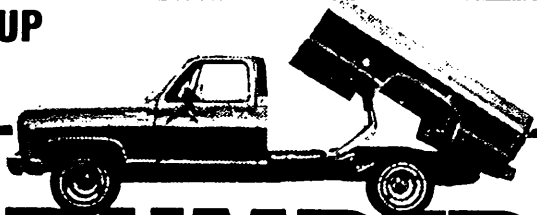
home-owners would not necessarily have to pay more taxes because recent changes to the assessment laws have lowered the assessed values of homes while increasing those of businesses.

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