

Female oppression lacking

No need of women's lib

By PEGGY PAWELKO
Staff Writer

While women liberationists are fighting for equality, local institutions appear to be granting it quietly and without much ado.

Grade 11 female students at L. V. Rogers Senior Secondary School, all on individual timetables since a new program was started this year, can enrol in any course from cooking to auto mechanics.

The boys, likewise, have their choice of courses.

As a result, four girls have decided the industrial courses are their bag and 24 boys have switched to cooking and typing programs.

The community services course, teaching textiles and cooking, is no longer compulsory

under the new program.

Neither are the students counselled into female — male-type careers.

Principal Ernest Montgomery said counsellors make a "very sincere effort to match the interests and abilities of the students to the courses."

"The fact that some girls are still classifying themselves as stenographers for some businessman is a society thing. We don't tell them to," he said.

Mr. Montgomery feels Women's liberation is a fascinating topic and his interest was sparked while doing post graduate work at the University of Victoria a few years ago. He ran across a survey that showed as early as Grade 4, girls begin to value the response of boys in mathematics and science and their own marks in these sub-

jects drop.

But at LVR, he's found only subject girls don't like physics. Biology and Math has as many female fans as males.

He said an equal number males and females go on university, but Dr. C. L. Kaller, president of Notre Dame University has an enrolment two-thirds men and one third women.

All courses from the arts and science, education and secretarial courses offered are open to men and women and Dr. Kaller said the university doesn't worry about sex or religion.

Everyone has some difficulty though, he said under the heavy financial burden of the university.

There was a problem at one time with wage classification in the maintenance area but that has been cleared up and if discrimination is found in any other area it will be investigated.

But the B.C. Teacher's Federation feels women are still discriminated against. Enough so to hire a full time staff member for two years to work towards an improvement of the status of women in education in B.C.

Elizabeth Wallach, librarian at LVR, said this a good thing.

"Women are stereotyped in textbooks; that's what I object to — the stereotyping."

"Women are geared towards femininity from Grade 1, from kindergarten even. Girls are given dolls, boys are given tractors. Girls read that they cry when they are hurt, boys are not supposed to cry even when they break a leg."

She said a lot of girls want to climb trees and play soccer but by the time they reach teens they have been battered into submission.

But changes are in the air.

Canada Manpower Centres will no longer accept applications from employers if they specify male or female help.

Provincial legislation forbids publication of any help wanted advertisement if it discriminates against men or women.

Females are being hired by a lower mainland logging company to work on a par with males and two local cedar companies have hired women for male-type jobs.

But there are still employers who won't hire women for a "man's job" or men for a "women's job."

There doesn't seem to be much of a market here for male nurses or male waitresses, although there are men willing to do the jobs.

Professors at NDU are hired on a qualification rather than a sexist basis, but fewer women apply for university teaching positions than do men.

This, Dr. Kaller said, is because fewer women are qualified. It's just a fact of history.

The same goes for LVR. Twenty-eight men are on staff there and only five women.

But Mr. Montgomery said more women are elementary school teachers.

"They seem to have more patience in looking after kindergarten - age children. I know it would drive me crazy to have to dress these children," the principal said.

In education, Mr. Montgomery said, there tend to be more men than women in the higher paid jobs.

But then, what about Eileen Daily?