

HILLEL SCHWARTZ

Chaste Tree

mule's heart, sicklewort, vinegar:  
you will not bear though love  
take us, like eclipse, unaware.  
drugs for spastics, honey and alum  
killers, in our safe lust we hide  
them behind mirror cabinets —  
whose face is it clear as skull  
and crossbones on our willow bed?  
what child's tooth, mint, agate  
to ward off unkind months, still  
life? you jum, jumping  
backwards does it, for both's sake,  
seed spent and spilled,  
nothing left to chance, nothing  
begun, we have touched and finished  
touching, are free: a clean break.



DEBORAH EIBEL

The White Keys

The player plays on and on —  
The white keys only —  
Then he tries F#.

But the man  
Who has just made his way  
Into the music room  
Says "Keep on in C major!  
There is so much talent  
Behind closed doors."

But how much longer  
Can this go on?  
Behind closed doors  
A bit player  
Says "Leave things  
As they are.  
No sharps and flats."

A bit player —  
Not a star —  
Would say things like that.  
And the pianist  
Has to answer him.  
"This is my room.  
You have no right  
To be here."

# The World Congress of Women

by Milnor Alexander



The theme of the World Congress of Women in Moscow from 23-27 June 1987 was "Toward 2000 — Without Nuclear Weapons: For Peace, Equality, Development." There were 2800 women delegates from 154 countries; and 800 national and 73 international, non-governmental organizations (NGOs); and 15 UN organizations. The Congress was sponsored by the Women's International Democratic Federation (WIDF), with headquarters in Berlin, German Democratic Republic. There were 103 delegates from Canada, including 17 from B.C., representing a wide range of organizations.

Mikhail Gorbachev addressed the opening session, stressing his *glasnost* (openness) and *perestroika* (restructuring) policies, and seemed to be sympathetic to women's concerns. Freda Brown, the President of WIDF, chaired the session, and gave the opening address.

The session closed with an enthusiastic performance by young people.

There were eight Commissions which functioned daily at the Congress: Women for Peace and Disarmament; Women in Society; Women and Work; Women, Children and Families; Women's Involvement in the Struggle for National Liberation, Independence and Self-Determination; Problems of Development and Women; Mass Media and Women; The Role and Cooperation of NGOs in Implementing the Forward-looking Strategies Adopted in Nairobi in the Summer of 1985.

Three discussion Centres functioned parallel to the Commissions. In one there were Hearings on violations of women's rights. The Centre on "Women and Socialism" provided information on the life of women in socialist countries, and an opportunity to talk with some of them. The third Centre functioned as a topic