

## November Blues

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Penny Lang has been called "the first lady of folk," among other epithets,\* but she doesn't need hokey accolades. She was born in the east end of Montreal; her parents, musicians themselves, pinched pennies to buy her the Martin guitar she still plays. (She's promised to pass it on to her son Jason, who plays in the Montreal band Rockabayou and frequently accompanies her.)

She was prominent in the Montreal folk scene in the 60s and was once offered a contract by Warner, but a variety of family

commitments, personal difficulties, and concerns for artistic integrity led her out of music for many years, and not until this decade did she record her first album. (Several have followed.) "November Blues" can be heard on her CD *Yes (She-Wolf Records SWPL-9701-2; see the listing in A Peak in Darien, page 20)*. It offers a fine response to a certain sort of neoconservative smugness. [GWL]

\*My favorite is "...une toute jeune femme de 54 ans," by Marie-Christine Blais in a 1996 article in *La Presse*.

(no chord) \_\_\_\_\_ G7 C

Well I'm just sit-ting here and feel-in' like a no-good; I ain't do-in'

what I should; I like to have my fun; I like to have my lov-in' too.

Ain't got no reg-u-lar job, Got the no-reg-u-lar, no-mon-ey blues

You know I once had me a job in a ware-house, Had me a min-i-mum sal-a-ry,

too. And then the boss-es start-ed talk-ing in a mean way and I de-ci-ded I was

through, I was through, Now I'm sit-ting here and I'm wait-ing on that wel-fare man  
(2nd time) Now I'm sit-ting here and feeling like a no-good

I guess he'll get here when he can. I know he's gon-na ask me ques-tions,  
I'm not doin' what I should I like to have my fun; I

ques-tions I can't ans-wer true Be-cause I don't see life like him, I'll  
like to have my lovin', too. Ain't got no regular job Got the

al-ways catch the no mon-ey blues. You know I once  
no-regular, no mon-ey blues.

And you know, you know be-cause I don't see life like you, I'll al-ways catch the no mon-ey

blues.

Well, I'm just sitting here & feelin' like a no good;  
I ain't doin what I should;  
I like to have my fun;  
I like to have my lovin', too.  
Ain't got no regular job,  
Got the no-regular, no-money blues.  
You know I once had me a job in a warehouse,  
Had me a minimum salary, too.  
And then the bosses started talking in a mean way  
And I decided I was through,  
I was through.  
Now I'm sitting here and I'm waiting on that welfare man  
I guess he'll get here when he can.  
I know he's gonna ask me questions,  
Questions I can't answer true.  
Because I don't see life like him,  
I'll always catch the no-money blues.

You know I once had me a job in a warehouse,  
Had me a minimum salary, too.  
When the bosses started talking in a mean way  
I decided I was through,  
I was through.  
Now I'm sitting here feeling like a no good  
I'm not doin' what I should  
I like to have my fun;  
I like to have my lovin', too.  
Ain't got no regular job,  
Got the no-regular, no-money blues.  
Because I don't see life like you,  
I'll always catch the no-money blues.

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One member [of the Calgary Singers' Circle] noted, "I have so many songs inside my head but not many places to share them, especially songs that others don't know.... The sharing of a song that has meaning to me can be uplifting."