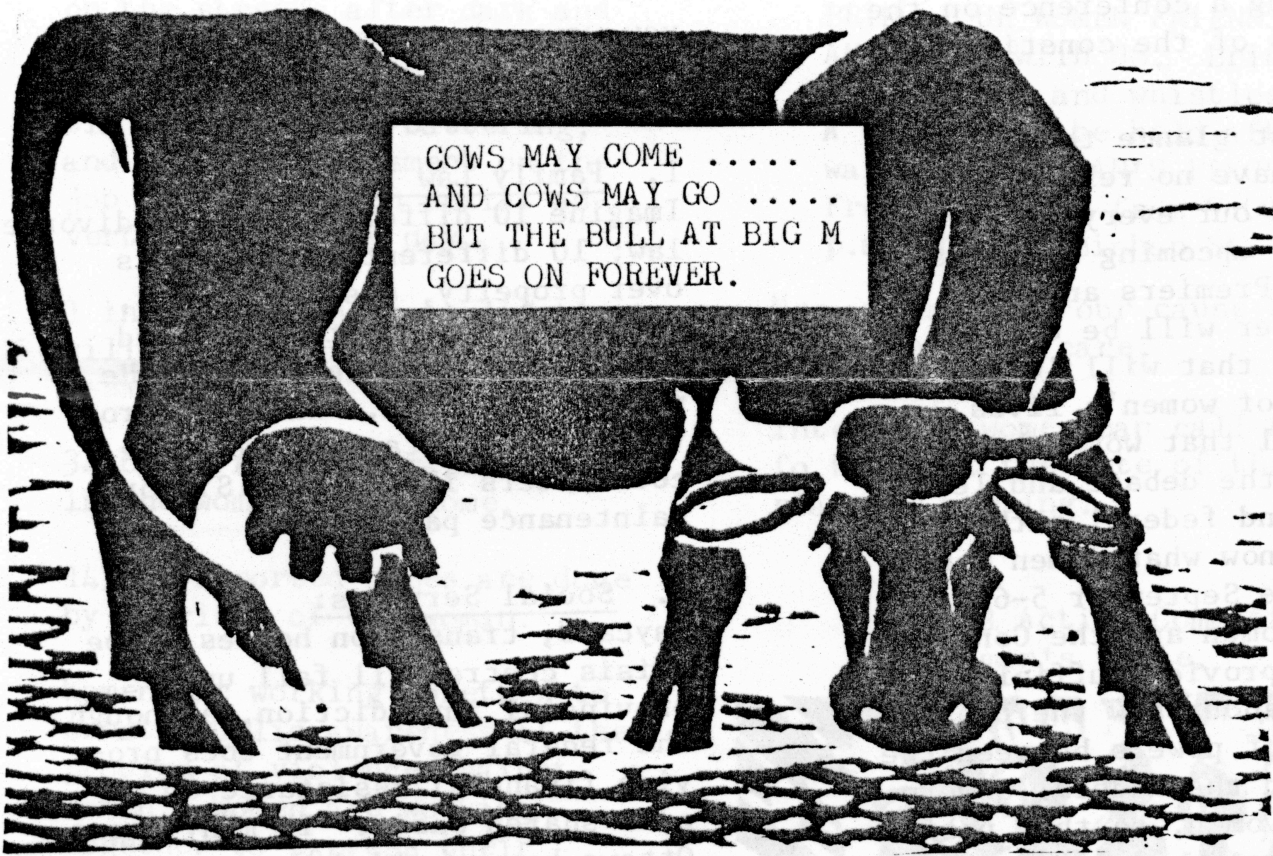


A WOMAN'S PLACE

429-4063

NEWSLETTER



AUGUST 1980

WOMEN & CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

"Mothers of Confederation"

Although the debate over constitutional reform has been suspended for the month of August, it all promises to heat up once more the first week of September. On the first weekend the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women is sponsoring a conference on the implications of the constitution and women.

At first glance the topic appears to have no relevance to women and our everyday lives. However, the upcoming meetings between the Premiers and the Prime Minister will be considering issues that will influence the quality of women's lives. It is crucial that women become involved in the debate and let provincial and federal authorities alike know what women want. Hopefully the September 5-6 meeting on Women and the Constitution will provide sufficient information about how the present arrangement of powers between the Provinces and the Federal Government affect women, so that position papers can be developed by local women's groups throughout the country. The topics to be discussed in Ottawa include:

- entrenchment of women's rights
- family law
- the rights of Indian women
- employment

- women's services
- overlapping jurisdiction and women's experience

On September 8 at 7:30 pm there will be a meeting of the Coalition of Women's Groups at the YWCA to discuss the Ottawa meeting and to develop a position about constitution reform.

HOW WILL CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM EFFECT YOUR LIFE?

1. Family Law Reform:

Imagine 10 different sets of divorce law; 10 different arrangements over property, custody rights, maintenance payments. You and your spouse divorce in N.S. He moves to Alberta. Will the Province of Alberta recognize the court orders issued in N.S. for maintenance payments?

2. Social Services:

Daycare, transition houses, rape crisis centres all fall under provincial jurisdiction, although the federal government does provide financial assistance on a cost shared basis. In many cases Ottawa has provided the money to facilitate the establishment of these services, but once the money has dried up the service is in jeopardy because the province will not or cannot provide assistance. How can we create a better system to avoid these perennial problems?

(cont' on page 4)

RECLAIM THE NIGHT

The Social Action Committee of A Woman's Place has been meeting regularly to discuss and organize around the issue of Women Against Violence Against Women (WAVAW). This is a national and international ad-hoc organization fighting against violence against women. Most women feel unsafe on the streets after dark and unsafe alone in their own homes. Every woman is a potential victim of rape, wife battering, and sexual harrasment on the job and faced with sexist advertisement every day.

1 in 3 women in their lifetime will be victims of sexual assault.

34.6% of reported rapes occur in the woman's own home.

14% of reported rapes are done by a friend of the woman.

Women are working together to create public awareness of the problem of violence against women. Women are working together to express their anger about violence. Women are working together to rally women to lobby government, police, and agencies to improve conditions for women. Women are marching together to experience being safely out on the streets after dark without male protection.

A RECLAIM THE NIGHT MARCH will be held SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1980. We will meet at 9:30 p.m. at A WOMAN'S PLACE, 1225 Barrington St. to follow a designated route around Halifax on foot.

BRING YOUR WOMEN FRIENDS AND MARCH WITH US. Bring flashlights and whistles. A party will be held afterwards at A WOMAN'S PLACE. Free childcare from 9:00 p.m. at 5172 Bishop St.

Men who support our cause can help out with child care.

Interested women can call 429-4063 fo tind out the date of the next planning meeting.

Social Action Committee
A woman's Place.



(cont. From Page 2)

3. A Bill of Rights:

In the new constitution there must be a bill of rights which includes the recognition of and the entrenchment of women's rights.

Premier John Buchanan says there will be no bill of rights unless N.S. gets offshore oil & gas. Will we allow the province to bargain off our basic rights?

Nova Scotia's Minister Responsible
for Intergovernment Affairs -
EDMUND MORRIS

Write him and let him know that women are concerned about constitutional reform and want to participate fully in the process! Contact him and his federal counterpart, Jean Chretien

Women and Occupational Health and Safety Conference

After the success of the "Women and Unions" workshop in March, the Nova Scotia Women's Action Committee and several other women decided to follow it up with a workshop which deals with more specific issues concerning women and work.

The first workshop will be in early October (possibly Saturday 4th) at Oxford Street School. The topic will be Occupational Health and Safety in mainly traditional "women's occupations".

In the past there has been little attention paid to health in less obviously hazardous jobs, for example in offices and hospitals. However we consider that there are different kinds of hardship other than industrial accidents (having to stand all day, sexual harassment).

Details for the workshop are not yet final but we hope to have people from different workplaces. We are also hoping to get an American film called "Working for Your Life".

The emphasis will be on remedies to the hazards and resource people will discuss union contracts, compensation and labour laws and how efficient or inefficient these are in increasing our control of our workplace.

Our next planning meeting will be Thursday Aug. 14th., 7:30 at A Woman's Place. We will need lots of help so come along or take some leaflets to your own workplace.

**BATTERED
WOMEN
NEED
REFUGES**



**FOR HELP,
CONTACT:**

422-7650

Canadian Association of Sexual Assault Centres

As a regional representative for the Atlantic Provinces, within the Canadian Association of Sexual Assault Centres, I am relaying to you information on Women Reclaim the Night; otherwise known as Take Back the Night.

This event expresses itself through demonstrations and marches with August 2nd marked as the international date of occurrence. The purpose is to raise the level of awareness towards the reality of violence against women. We are not safe on the streets at night, or, as statistics reveal, in our own homes. Pornography is an area where violence towards women is often portrayed in an aggressive, sado-masochistic manner. Therefore, many of the Take Back the Night marches happen through red-light districts. In pornography we are depicted by the male-inspired fantasy of so-called "soft porn" as sex kittens -- demure, submissive, with a promise of suggestive promiscuity to the humiliating stance within hard-core sadistic porn -- woman as willing victim. Woman in pornographic material is presented as sex object within the traditional virgin/whore motif, a "creature" who will submit to any sexual whim.

To have violence directed towards our personhood is a violation -- that is why we are angry. To be viewed as objects for men's pleasure disturbs us.

Take Back the Night represents the protest of all women. Every girl and woman lives in fear of rape, battering and harassment. Women have always been united against hard-core porn, not for moralistic reasons, but because it could lead to the death of our sisters, and it has. Violence towards women has been exemplified to the extent of "Snuff" movies, in which women are tortured, mutilated and killed.

Susan M. Clancy
158 O'dell Ave.
Fredericton, N.B.
902-454-3157
902-454-0437

Sandra Lore
1225 Barrington St.
Halifax, N.S.

Dear Sandra Lore:

I have your letter of July sixteenth and I would like to comment on it.

Our advertising for Big M shows wholesome young people of both sexes in beach attire. They are shown surfing, swimming, picnicing and doing other things which normal young people do in the summer. There are no racing automobiles, no motorcycles, no smoking, no alcoholic beverages. These ads were produced in Australia, but they portray young men and young women enjoying the sort of activities and dressed in the same sort of attire which can be seen on the public beaches or at the public pools in Nova Scotia.

I have not read all of the material which you enclosed with your letter but I have glanced through it and I must say that I am in sympathy with most of what I have read. In this Company, of the six people who report directly to the President, three are women. These are not token women; they received their appointment because they were the most qualified applicants. They are Miss Florence Cox, who started as an office clerk and is now Corporate Secretary and Treasurer; Mrs. D. Peters, who rose from a position as stenographer to become Personnel Manager; Miss Charlotte Landry, who also came to us as a clerk and is now Purchasing Manager. Their salary scale, by the way, is the same as it would be for men occupying the same positions.

The advertising which I find disgusting is the type which portrays some woman urging other women to use a particular type of perfume, or lipstick, or undergarment because it will make them more "alluring". That, to me, is exploitation to a far greater degree than showing young people enjoying themselves on a beach.

Yours truly



H.F. Curry
President and General Manager

pd

**An Account To Settle
The Story of the United Bank
Workers**
by The Bank Book Collective
127 pages, Press Gang
Publishers, 1979
\$3.25 paper

reviewed by Diana Pepall

An Account To Settle is the story of the United Bank Workers, a SORWUC local, written by members of the UBW themselves. The book explains clearly the reasons for the various decisions that were made and the obstacles which SORWUC met in their valiant attempt to get a union in the banks.

Hearings were held before the Canadian Labour Relations Board (CLRB) which resulted in the landmark decision that a single branch of a bank constitutes a bargaining unit—at the time a tremendous victory for SORWUC.

Later, the decision was made to stop applying for individual branches and to apply to the CLRB as soon as possible to have all the bank workers in the province, that worked for the same bank, be the bargaining unit. Then the decision was made to withdraw from negotiations altogether as “The banks were mainly interested in stalling negotiations and depleting our limited resources by tedious branch-bargaining ... Time was on the side of the banks.”

SORWUC is a grass-roots, women-oriented union whose main objective is to organize the unorganized.

Locals are run by the members themselves. All decisions are made by the members by referendum. For instance, when contract proposals were being worked out by the UBW, each branch made their list of proposals, conferences were held and all proposals were voted on in referenda. All UBW members, from both certified and uncertified branches, could vote.

Even though SORWUC has not yet organized bank workers, many have benefitted from the campaign. Wages have increased, dental plans have been introduced, and there are no longer deductions from tellers' wages to cover cash shortages. Some banks pay overtime, have coffee breaks, improved vacations and a job posting system.

An Account To Settle is an important book—important because so little has been written about Canadian women in labour struggles, because it continually draws parallels between women bank workers and all women, and because it shows us that women will respond to a democratic women-oriented union. Everyone should read the book, especially bank workers.

If you work in a bank, buy one for yourself; if you know someone who works in a bank,

buy your friend this useful and informative account. (Fortunately Press Gang has published An Account To Settle at an affordable price.)

Excerpts from book
review in UPSTREAM,
April, 1980.

THE THEME FOR NEXT
MONTH'S NEWSLETTER
WILL BE ON WOMEN
IN THE WORKPLACE.

PLEASE SUBMIT ARTICLES
TO DESK AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE.

NATAL DAY

SERVICE NUMBERS

Twenty-five women marched in the Halifax Natal Day Parade as part of the Social Action Committee's campaign of Women Against Violence Against Women (WAWAW).

Signs such as "Sexual Harrassment Is Not An Employer's Right", "End Violence: Beat Unemployment Not Women", and "Streets Without Creeps" were carried behind a banner to make the public aware of the issue.

Women from Bryony House also carried a banner reading "You Can't Beat Bryony House".

Pamphlets talking about Bryony House as a refuge for battered women and their children and announcing the Reclaim the Night March, Saturday, September 27 were handed out to women watching the parade. We participants wer encouraged by the response we received from women all along the parade route - clapping and shouts of "good for you".

We plan also to participate in the Dartmouth Natal Day Parade on August 4.

Social Action
Committee
A.W.P.

ASSAULT:

S.O.S. Project- preventive child abuse 423-4380

BYRONY HOUSE - shelter for abused women and children 422-7650

HELP LINE - 422-7444

HEALTH:

WELL WOMAN CLINIC - 428-2784

PLANNED PARENTHOOD - counselling and information 455-9656

TEEN PHONE - 426-8743
- 455-9656 after 5 p.m.

SENIOR CITIZENS:

INFORMATION AND REFFERAL CENTRE
422-4290 or 422-5852

LEGAL AID:

PORT CITY COUNSELLING - 425-6731

DALHOUSIE LEGAL AID - 423-7197

NOVA SCOTIA LEGAL AID - 423-1291

EMPLOYMENT:

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT COUNSELLING
SERVICE - 422-8023

FAMILY BUDGET - 422-5897

A WOMAN'S PLACE

PRESENTS:

HERSTORY - HISTORY

WOMEN'S EXCLUSION FROM MALE CULTURE

<u>DATE:</u>	<u>TIME:</u>	<u>TOPIC:</u>
Monday, October 6	7:30 p.m.	"Exclusion: Myth or Reality"
October 13	7:30 p.m.	"Women's Biology: Fate or Fiction"
October 20	7:30 p.m.	"Women's Work: Private or Public"
October 27	7:30 p.m.	"Women and Language: What's in a name"

Fee: \$5.00 (to cover cost of written material)

REGISTRATION and
INFORMATION at 429-4063;
429-4068

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT COUNSELLING

1225 Barrington St., 3rd floor

Halifax, Nova Scotia

SERVICE

- * FREE COUNSELLING FOR WOMEN TO PREPARE THEM FOR THE WORKPLACE
- * ASSISTANCE IN RESUME WRITING & INTERVIEW SKILLS
- * GROUP AND INDIVIDUAL COUNSELLING

for more information call 422-8023

DO YOU KNOW SOMETHING WE SHOULD KNOW??

As a woman's centre, we are responsible for maintaining an up-to-date information and referral service. Women call our number asking for information on doctors, lawyers, agencies, groups, services, etc. We would greatly appreciate your information, recommendations or criticisms that you think will help other women. Please call 429-4068, or write 1225 Barrington Street.

We Specialize in Italian Cooking

HALIFAX, N.S.
2590 AGRICOLA STREET

Zia Maria
Ristorante & Pizzeria
Ltd.

Open 11 A.M. to 1 A.M. Daily



NO COMMENT ?



Last winter, one of our volunteers sent a registered letter to Zia Maria's Ristorante regarding the above advertisement on paper match covers. She is still waiting for a reply.

SUBSCRIBE NOW!!

subscription rates \$5.00/yr.

name: _____

address: _____

postal code: _____

phone no: _____

A WOMAN'S PLACE
1225 BARRINGTON ST.
HALIFAX, N.S.
B3J 1Y2



Ms. C. Simmons.

655

Halifax, N.S.

B3J 2B2

SIMMONS
6038 WILLOW ST
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B3K 1L9

80/10 EXP.