

Northern Woman Journal

VOL.8, NO.4

THUNDER BAY, Ont.



Jennie
July 04

As the right-wing British Columbia political violence against the powerless escalates, we learn of the economic attempts to silence the Vancouver Status of Women Council, and the potential demise of our sister newspaper, Kinesis. While in Saskatchewan the anti-woman lobby gets support from that province's leading politicians. In Ontario women's options are being legislated out of existence (see Day Care story). And, in our own community, we witness the attempts of certain City Council members to abolish Women Centre's funding and grant the funds instead to the anti-choice lobby. (While this attempt failed, Council did provide \$1000 to an anti-choice group.)

Any lingering misconception that women are merely the coincidental victims of a national/global economic recession must quickly be put to rest. Misogynist policies evolve not from (male) policy-makers ignorance, but with the deliberate intention of forcing women into dependency/poverty situations. The backlash against women multiplies in direct proportion to the knowledge, the analysis, the articulateness and the strength of the women's movement.

We dare not pause to take a breath.... lest oxygen itself be denied us.

On the flip side of the coin we suddenly find that wife-battering has become a Political issue in Ontario. The cause of battered women presumably a high priority with a score of Cabinet ministers. A victory for women's groups one might think. But let us not be deceived.

What we are about to witness is the institutionalization of this urgent women's issue into a provincial/municipal bureaucratic morass that will create the illusion of service to women, but will, in fact, leave women poorly served, perhaps even more seriously harmed than at present.

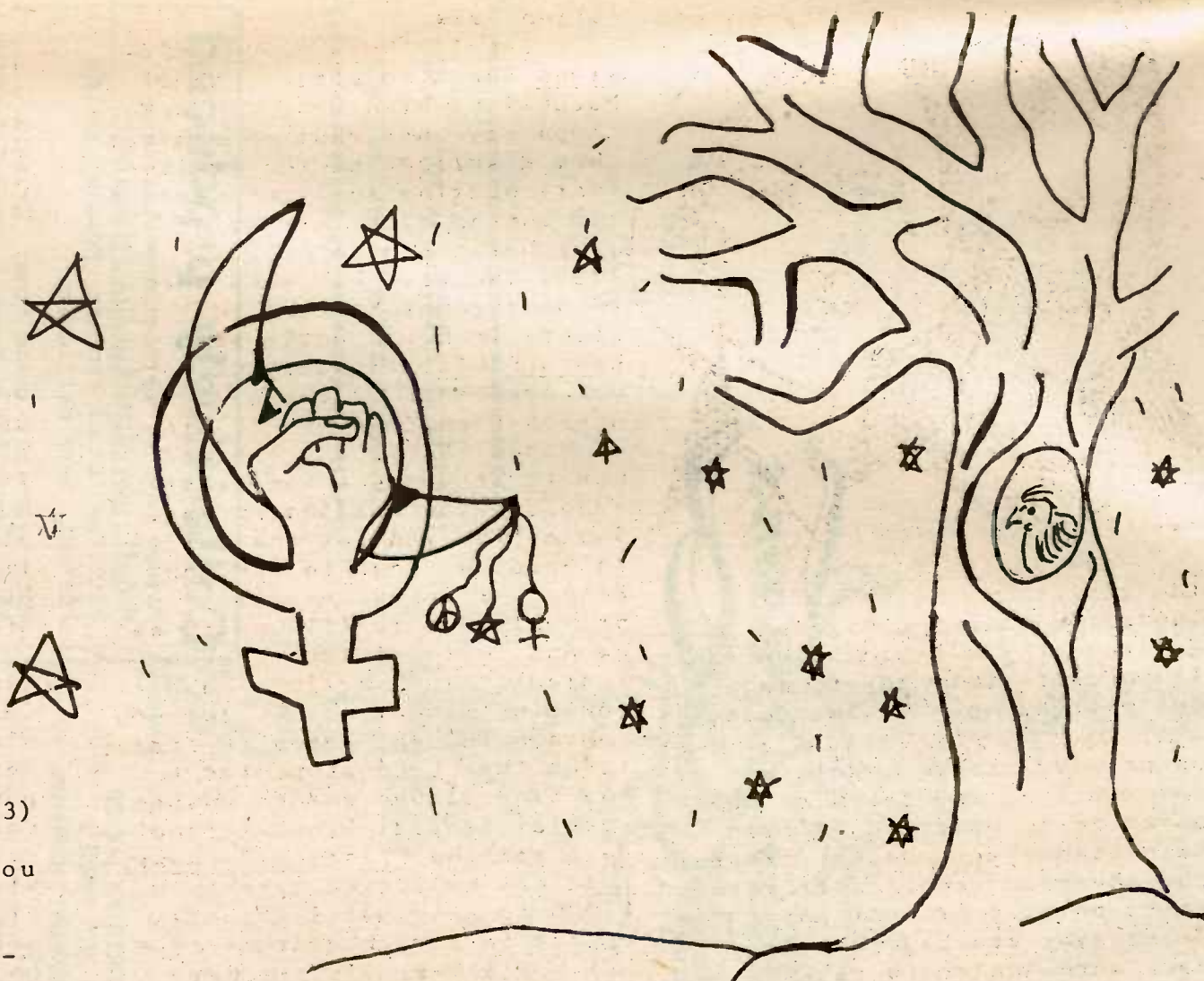
While bright young Toronto civil servants compete for brownie-points on the backs of battered women, and as a gaggle of southerners trip over each other to research battering in the north, our Transition Homes are still scraping for funds to survive. The years of effort by community groups to provide services relevant to our northern communities, and sensitive to the particular situation of battered women is being eroded; the depth of experience and the wisdom of the women who have pioneered these services, in many instances, ignored.

There is no doubt that the poorly-planned intrusion of the provincial government with its pre-designed conditions, its lack of consultation, has caused a major set-back for the Transition Home movement in Northwestern Ontario. The community support, so painstakingly nurtured, quickly eroded because of provincial largesse; replaced, in some instances, by community hostility. And what assurance is there that battering will remain a Political issue. While monies may flow freely in a pre-election year, no guarantees exist that such funding will remain available. There is great danger that, as battering loses its Political appeal, it will again be left to women --- but without the community support --- without the trust --- with a legacy of inappropriate service to overcome -- and with the reality of having to start all over.

The even greater danger is that services for battered women will become an institution in the fossilized bureaucracy -- will become a "profession" --- controlled by men.

It will require enormous strength to ensure that wife battering remains a women's issue. We dare not pause to take a breath

V your VOICE



graphic by Carol

Dear Women:

I'm just writing to say thank you for printing Josie Wallenius' article (in Sept. 83) You Can't Hold Your Children With Nuclear Arms, and thank you to Josie for writing it.

If any woman wants to receive the Greenham Common newsletter to copy and share, write to Annie Butcher at the camp.

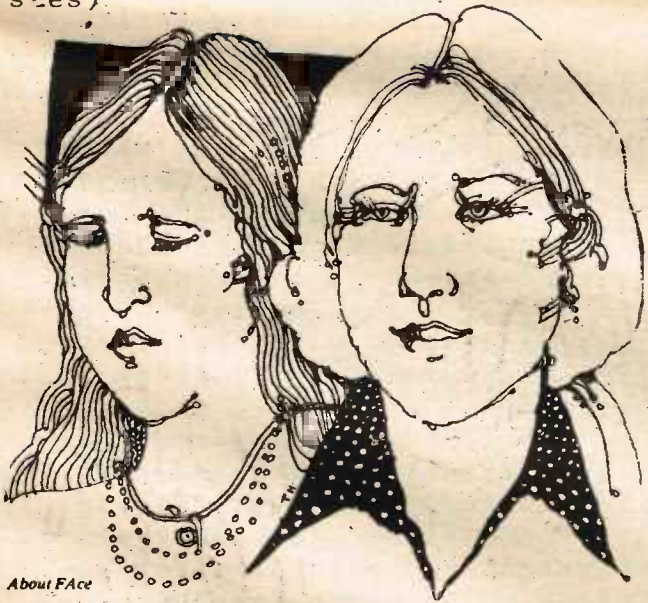
love and strength

Carol
Newbury
Berkshire
England

continued on Page 6

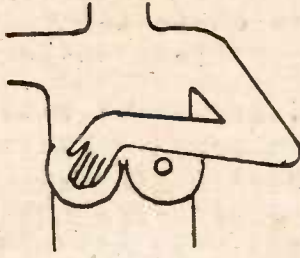
by JOAN BARIL

●●● Spring and International Women's Day, was celebrated March 8 by a luncheon of immigrant women at the Circle Inn, organized by the Multicultural Association. Then on March 10, the fourth annual Women's Day social at the Strathcona clubhouse, with pot luck food, and dancing ●●● On the 15th was the official opening of the Northern Woman's Book-Store (316 Bay St.), with music and poetry readings ●●● March 9 and 10, the feminist feature movie "Born in Flames" was shown at Lakehead University ●●● which brings us to City Council. March is also the month the Women's Centre, the Physical and Sexual Assault Centre, the Social Planning Council approach for funding. Chief opponents of the Women's Centre are Aldermen Polhill and Reid, as well as former Progressive Conservative candidate Al Laakonen and P.C. party stalwart Dick Waddington. Picking through an impressive list of Women's Centre activities, Laakonen pounced on some pro-choice talks as a reason to deny funding. Later he asked Ald. Betty Kennedy "What is pro-choice anyway?" Uncomfortably straddling the fence is another Tory, Ken Boshcoff whose grudging support is belied by his private comments ●●● (a brief moment of silence in sympathy for Mila and Flora who hope to make the P.C.'s more sensitive to women's issues)



●●● No fault divorce - the tiniest social benefit announced with the biggest government fanfare. Now we can flash dance into court, say our marriage has broken down, wait one year and voila! end up as poor as ever. Unless some sort of country-wide mechanism is in place to enforce maintenance and support orders, the enormous problems of mother/child poverty are not going to dance away ●●● and just to make sure that mothers know their place, the Ontario government is dismantling the day-care subsidy system. The effects will be to turn day care into a charity for the poor, and force low and middle income married women into the kitchen. ●●● Women's Centre will

be investigating the implications of the new provincial policy in its Day Care Project, slated to start in April. Through a combination of interviews and surveys it will also analyse existing day care services and accessibility ●●●



●●● Ever get anxious about cancer - about losing a breast? What woman doesn't? But worry no longer. Two Montreal doctors have hit upon the "perfect preventative" and a sure-fire method to deal with the worry. They cut off healthy breasts. Now, that makes sense, doesn't it? It's all logic to surgeons Gaston Schwartz and Norman Bellevue at Montreal's Royal Victoria Hospital. "We're treating women's fears", they say. In the U.S., more than 11,000 of these "preventative mastectomies" have been performed. A typical victim, according to a report on CBC's Market Place is a woman who has experienced cancer in her family, perhaps her mother or a sister. Reasonably worried about what this means, her fears are exploited to the point where she agrees to what is, in effect, a mutilation. ●●●

People: Nova Scotia midwives Donna Carpenter, Charlene MacLelland-Brent and Linda Wheldon have had charges against them dismissed at the preliminary hearing into the death, six months after birth, of baby Darah Bracket on July 18, 1983. The case has been seen as an attempt to discredit midwifery in Nova Scotia ●●●

Laura Sabia, founder and former president of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women (NAC), has decided not to stand as a Conservative candidate in Spadina riding. Sabia, who ran for the Tories in Spadina, lost to NDP Dan Heap. Her recent decision is probably due to ill-health ●●● Ann Cools, former student radical, black activist and founding member of the Toronto women's refuge, Women in Transition has been appointed to the Senate. She was an unsuccessful federal Liberal candidate ●●● the Kristina Potapszyk fund has collected more than \$2000 to help her legal expenses in a complaint of sexual harassment against her former employer, Liberal M.P. Al MacBain. Her complaint, upheld by the Human Rights Commission, will be reviewed by tribunal April 9. The fund has a goal of \$30,000 to help victims of abuse and harassment. All victims of harass-

ment need moral support for they are often under stress. The immigrant women who bravely took on Commodore (and won) endured months of stress, including job loss and marriage problems ●●● If you are in the market for a home computer, by-pass Commodore. The company is appealing the Ontario Human Rights Commission decision against their foreman, Rafael De Filippis who, after a long history of blatant sexual harassment of the immigrant women who work for the company, was convicted and fined. The company has also promoted De Filippis to assistant manager. The boycott of Commodore Business Machines is supported by many groups including NAC and the Ontario Federation of Business and Professional Women. In the meantime, new charges of harassment have been made against DeFilippis ●●●

●●● The Doctors' Trial has been called "the largest single constitutional court battle in Canadian history". Defense council, Morris Manning, for Doctors Henry Morgentaler, Robert Scott and Leslie Smoling has presented a massive amount of evidence and a long complex legal argument during a mini-trial before the trial, in an effort to have the charges quashed on the grounds that they are unconstitutional. Lawyer Manning based his arguments on eleven points including the assertion that the committee system is arbitrary and causes delays which may lead to medical complications. Even if Manning wins the motion, the federal government will undoubtedly appeal.



●●● On the cover, a naked woman is spread-eagled and hung up in what looks like a complicated dog harness. A strange looking gag is stuck in her mouth. Inside are more women, all bound into grotesque positions. Always a gag. Some are being beaten, some not. Page after page. Ads for videos-bondage! torture! chains! Fiona Karlstedt of the Women's Centre stuffs this magazine along with other exhibits into her briefcase. Another talk on pornography, this time to the United Church Presbytery. "There is no use talking about it without showing people what we are talking about. Some people still think we're talking about Lady Chatterley's Lover. These magazines are the kind found in transparent wrappings, a lot of it at kiddie level." ●●● Meanwhile the Fraser Committee on Pornography and Prostitution is wending its way.

Update

The issue of pornography pivots around definitions - the difference between sado-porn and sexo-porn. ACTRA (Association of Canadian Cinema, Television and Radio Artist) sees sado-porn as akin to hate literature. It stated its members will refuse work in productions which advocate sexual torture or rape or where children are sexually exploited. The key work here is "advocate". Other groups would extend the definition to include dehumanization and degradation ●●● which brings us to the question of censorship. Should sado-porn be censored? If so, the problem is one of precise definitions in language



that has specific legal clout. No one wants to close the library to get at a single magazine ●●● What about education? Yes, but in a wider context. The enjoyment of cruelty is not a perversion. It is a potentiality in all of us, easily pandered to in a sado-machismo world. "Whips and Chains" videos give a "cruelty high". The plots of B-grade horror movies are series of mutilations and grotesque deaths. Outside the movie theatre lurks the 20th century where the most appalling deeds have been done by normal people ●●●

●●● Internationally. Women voted for the first time in Jordan ●●● A Swiss organization "Sentinelles" has been set up to rescue Middle Eastern women who are in danger of being killed by their families in cases of "family honour". They cite, as an example, a woman doused with gasoline and set afire for being pregnant. She spent two years in a European hospital recovering. Another young woman who was helped to flee her country after her father and brother had made plans to bury her alive for smoking a cigarette in a public place ●●●

●●● Another bombing by anti-choice supporters of an abortion clinic occurred in February in Norfolk, Virginia. No one was hurt. Anti-choice supporters provide the most active terrorist activity on the continent with over a dozen bombings in the past decade.

●●● There was something mythic about the tv scene, a

woman and an outdoor fire, a woman stooping over a cooking fire. And there is something mythic about the place, Greenham Common Peace Camp where in spite of arrests, brutality, slander in the press, and the destruction of tents by local bailiffs, the protesters still remain after three and a half years ●●● word about other women's peace camps filters in from feminist magazines. A small group of women have set up camp near Cole Bay, Saskatchewan, near Primrose Lake weapons range, where the first cruise missile test in Canada was held March 7 ●●● There are now a score of camps world wide at places like Pine Gap, a U.S. air base in Australia, Seneca Falls, New York State, Arizona, and even Sicily. The places are different but, "The women and the energy are the same", Sue Harker, a peace activist who has visited several camps, states in Kinesis (Feb. 1984). Women try to speak with their bodies; they lie in front of trucks, scale the fences and dance on the silos, or link hands to encircle as 30,000 women did at Greenham in December. Women use their symbols; they make and exchange banners,



hang children's pictures and craft work on fences. At Greenham, the women crocheted the fence. The themes of spinning, webs, spiders, the suffragist colours of purple and green give depth to the deadly seriousness of the cause ●●●

●●● Quote: "My people up in Canada tell me the test went very well" -- a U.S. Strategic Air Command official referring to the cruise test of March 7, 1984.



Coerced to Conceive

by anna mccoll

Romanian president Nicolae Ceausescu, leader of the Socialist Republic of Romania, has decreed that the degradation of women is to be practised, sanctioned and enforced by the state police.

In the article, "A War on Abortions" (Maclean's April/84), Sue Masterman reports that in a new edict proclaimed on International Women's Day, Ceausescu states that every married woman employed by the state shall submit to a pregnancy test once a month. If her test is positive she will be held accountable should she be found not pregnant the following month. Should a woman claim to have miscarried, she will be required to produce written proof from her doctor. If a woman continually fails the conception test, that too will have to be accounted for - birth control devices are not available. If a woman is declared to have chosen to abort, she is liable to a prison sentence of up to one year; a doctor performing an abortion may be sentenced to from two to five years.

Ceausescu's hard line, anti-abortion stand is intended to raise the average number of births to at least two to three per family from the present 1.43 per family. Women who fail or refuse to bear children for the state are unlikely to receive promotions, and may even lose their jobs.

Romania is known for the strong links in the past of its ruling class with Nazi Germany. Could this be what we see surfacing-- fascism within a communist state? I think not; it is merely a continuation of the subjugation of women regardless of which male ideology prevails.

The Romanian regime, in a singular, simplistic and callous attempt to alleviate its economic plight through the physical and psychological oppression of women, proves once again that only we feminists can achieve the autonomy, the dignity and the self-determination that is the right of every human being.

C. A. R. A. L.

MEETING

Wednesday, May 23

8 p.m.

Womanspace

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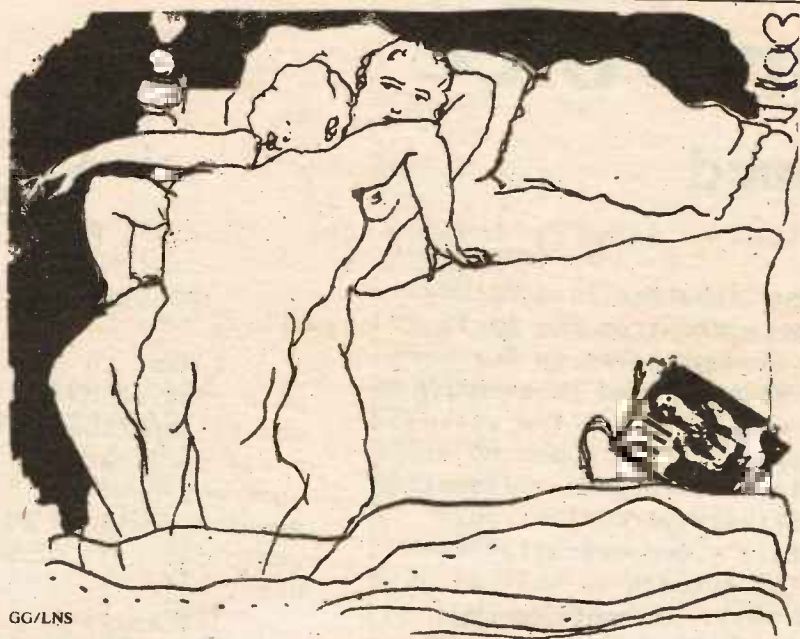
C. A. R. A. L.

MEETING

Wednesday, May 23

8 p.m.

Workspace



GG/LNS

There is no denying that we live in a violent society. The images are pervasive; the statistics staggering. According to recent national estimates, 25% of girls are sexually abused before they are eighteen years old, and at least one in ten cohabiting adult women is battered. Sources for these figures include reports from the police, courts and health care workers, rape crisis centres, transition houses, and surveys done by academics and agencies. Our own community, which many once considered a haven from the type of violence and crime characteristic of larger urban centres, has recently witnessed several brutal assaults on women, one of which resulted in the death of a 15 year old girl.

We have been conditioned to accept violence as a mode of entertainment. It is the stock-in-trade of the mass entertainment media and is evident everywhere you look: in magazines, on television, in movies, in advertising, and on record covers. Hard core pornography, in which we see the female body stripped, bound, raped, tortured and murdered, could not have happened without the way being paved for it through the seemingly antiseptic objectification of women in advertising and in such soft porn magazines as Playboy.

For too long, we have ignored the viciously sexist nature of pornography. One reason being perhaps that the producers and protagonists of pornography often used the words pornographic and erotic interchangeably. This confusion has led to the obscuring of the reality of violence against women in favour of civil libertarian arguments such as the right to freedom of speech, expression and sexuality. But pornography is not about sexuality or freedom of expression. It is about the obscene use of power - the physical or psychic violence done to one human being by another. The pleasure of the powerful in the humiliation and dehumanizing of the powerless.

For our purposes, pornography is defined as "a presentation, whether live, simulated, verbal, pictorial, filmed or videotaped, or otherwise represented, of sexual behaviour in which one or more participants are coerced overtly or implicitly, into participation; or are injured or abused physically or psychologically; or in which an imbalance of power is obvious or implied by virtue of the immature age of any participant, or by contextual aspects of the presentation, and in which such behaviour can be taken to be advocated or endorsed."

SURVEY OF LOCAL STORES

When we learned that the Commission would be coming to Thunder Bay, the Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre sampled 22 retail outlets in the community. These included candy and smoke shops, bookshops, drug stores, gift shops and corner stores. The rule (with two exceptions) was that if a store carried any magazines at all, a portion of their stock was pornographic. There was a large variance from store to store as to the number and type of magazines, display, and attitudes toward the sale of pornography.

With the exception of one store surveyed, all receive their stock from one area distributor, who provides whole "packages" to the outlets. Informal censorship is practiced by some store operators who systematically review all the magazines provided to them by the distributor, returning those they find personally objectionable. One drug store manager refuses to handle any pornography in her store.

What we have is a situation where store owners or their employees decide from their own value base what magazines will or will not be sold, and how they are displayed.

Not once in our discussions with store owners/employees was the issue of freedom of expression mentioned with regard to the sale of pornography. What was consistently mentioned was the revenue it generates, and the perceived unemployment which would result if sales were curtailed. One bookstore owner advised that "skin" magazines accounted for over 50% of his magazine sales, and that they in fact "paid the rent". A corner store operator commented that she and her husband would be retiring in a couple of years and had to sell those magazines to make a living.

Many of those canvassed were uncomfortable talking about pornography. Some were openly hostile, demanding to know what we thought we were doing in their store; others were defensive and evasive, telling us to contact their head office in Toronto for clarification of store policy.

Several female clerks expressed embarrassment at having to handle pornographic materials.

In all but two stores that we visited, pornographic magazines were not separated off from other types of publications and in some cases overflowed into racks containing other categories such as computer or sports magazines. Special packaging in the

form of clear plastic wrappers was found in only one store and only on some of the magazines. It was obvious from the brutal and violent representations on the covers why.

Magazine displays were generally visible and accessible to all customers. An example is a bookstore in downtown Thunder Bay North. Of five magazines displaying full covers at the eye level of the average thirteen year old, three had nude models on their covers. One showed a woman clinging to a parking meter with the caption "Sidewalk Slut: Two Bits Will Get You Two Tits."

There is agreement among psychologists that changes in behaviour can be brought about as a result of exposure to the symbolic models portrayed in books, films, television and advertising. The fact that children learn much about the world through such observation is well founded. And what are we telling our children when they see magazines such as the one mentioned above? We are telling them that women's bodies can be bought and sold.

In a corner store located across from an elementary school, Playboy and other similar magazines are displayed in a four foot rack placed immediately to the right of the entrance. It is the first thing a child sees when he or she enters the store. It is a silent form of conditioning.

In a gift shop located in downtown Thunder Bay South, we found the "Family Reading Centre" which contained such magazines as "Big Boobs", "Girls on Girls", "Hot Ass", "High Heeled and Dominant", "XXX Movies", just to name a few. The top racks hold most of the pornography, but some titles spill over into a section holding computer magazines. Immediately adjacent to the magazine display are two video games. At the time we were in the store, we noticed a boy of about fourteen casually leafing through one of the magazines, oblivious to the sign in front of him indicating that those magazines were restricted to persons "16 and over".

Most of the store owners and employees spoken to claimed to sell pornography only to adults, but one commented that "anyone who could reach the magazines" (on the top three racks) could buy them. Another claimed that he didn't sell to thirteen year olds "unless they had a moustache".

It is quite common to see young female clerks working in these outlets. We have difficulty believing they would challenge a prospective customer regarding the purchase of pornography.

There is no question in our minds that pornography, at least in printed form, is easily accessible in Thunder Bay. Overall, there were in excess of 100 different titles in the candy/smoke/drug/gift/book and corner stores we surveyed. In one bookshop, where half of its space is allocated for pornographic materials, we recorded the titles of 116 other publications. Time and the hostility of the owner prevented us from recording titles displayed on numerous other racks.

continued on page 6

Many people in our community are tired with being confronted with pornography wherever they look. While awaiting more substantial measures at the federal level, a recommendation will be made to city council that a municipal by-law, similar to those already in place in other Ontario communities, be established requiring that pornographic material be placed at least 1.5 metres from the floor and behind barriers of a size and nature that only the titles are visible. A symbolic gesture but not much more.

It is our conviction that we can no longer continue the pattern of paralysis by analysis awaiting conclusive scientific proof of the link between pornography and violence against women in the real world. We need immediate action. It is clear that without government assistance, the pornography industry will continue to grow. We support, as does the Canadian Coalition Against Media Pornography, the proposed amendments to the Criminal Code put forward by the Minister of Justice, and endorse the recommendations of the Coalition respecting further changes to those amendments.

We also endorse the Coalition's recommendations calling for:

- (1) inclusion of specific provisions in the Criminal Code related to the protection of children;
- (2) the establishment of guidelines on sex-role stereotyping and pornography for all government-funded communications and cultural agencies;
- (3) amendment of the Broadcasting Act to include protection on the basis of gender;
- (4) removal of the exemption for broadcasting in the hate message section of the Canadian Human Rights Act;
- (5) monitoring by the RCMP and other police forces of the use of pornography in sexual assault, wife battering, incest and sexual murder cases;
- (6) departmental directives to Crown Attorneys to regularly ask about the use of pornography in sex-related crime hearings and trials to establish the connection between the use of violent pornography and crime;
- (7) reform and strengthening of customs procedures and policies, which emphasize the government's intention to stop the easy flow of pornography into Canada;
- (8) the removal of pornography from stores licensed in government buildings and airports;
- (9) increased funding for sex education groups that teach a healthy alternative to young people.

Pornography should not be allowed to flourish as an accepted part of our society. To do so is to deny women their fundamental human dignity.



Your Voice

continued

N.W.J.

Good news from the Thunder Bay delegation returned from the April 15 Project ELF demonstration in Northern Wisconsin! We succeeded in accomplishing all our objectives on the weekend and there were no arrests and no violence! This is certainly an affirmation of much positively persistent work since last fall's demonstration when there were 150 arrests as well as an incident of physical confrontation by the area's pro-ELF'ers.

It was an extremely reinforcing experience having had the opportunity to share in the positive energy generated by feelings of trust in people, hope in a loving world-sharing visions of peace, affirmations of life.

We walked the cross-shaped network of power lines in all four directions (including very wet marshlands) planting seeds - peas and sunflower seeds which will grow up along the power line poles (and outlive their presence).

The hopes of our symbolic gestures had already been realized (in part) before we planted our seedlings along the access road to the site. Where trees had already been cut down by the navy to build the lines we witnessed dozens of little ones already growing to replace each larger one removed.

We sang and we shared. We invited the site workers to join us in bread-breaking. They came out and witnessed our celebration. A fence still separated us and they avoided sharing bread in our presence. We left a loaf by the gate. Several large holes were dug in the gravel in front of the main gate of the transmitter station and the trees were left (with notes of Peace and Love) for the site workers to plant.

The work continues. C.A.T.E. (organizers of this Celebration of Life) hold vigils at sundown, first Sunday of each month. Dialogue with security, ELF workers and area citizens continues. A Women's Peace Presence to Stop Project E.L.F. is beginning this summer (Chequamegon National Forest). All women and children are warmly invited to visit and share in the search for new beginnings from this part of our world, thereby joining in spirit and action with other women's groups internationally.

Transmitting Love
Thunder Bay Delegation
to Stop Project E.L.F.

photo by

Joyce Michalchuk

CONGRATULATIONS
Anna and Margaret
on the opening
of the Northern
Woman's Bookstore



Hi:

I want to thank you for sending us a copy of NWJ. I find it to be one of the finest feminist (enlightened) publications anywhere. I'm not sure why/how, but it gives me very genuine feelings of sisterhood -- an essential part of everyday life and hope.

I'm enclosing the most recent issue of our publication - Echolocation - I wrote the piece on Feminism in an attempt to appeal to people who support the motions but shy from embracing the word itself, thereby denying themselves a great deal of valuable works. The response has been wonderful. The feminist content of submissions has escalated and many misconceptions have vanished.

The aim of Echolocation is to motivate creation/art/love of our planet through examination of the present ongoing Rape of the atom, Rape of the planet and Rape of woman. It really serves as a disguise to unify the collective which focusses on it. Our theme is 'Dare to Hope'. And we do.

Thanks again.

Melissa Tennant

Dear NWJ:

I allowed my subscription to the Northern Woman Journal to expire some time ago but I've had a renewed interest!! Mainly due to the Women in Transition Conference held in Dryden over the weekend... so many people recommended the Journal that I've decided to renew. Please send me your next issue. Thanks.

Patricia Johnson
Dryden



HELP PREVENT RAPE!
SISTERS GIVE RIDES
TO SISTERS

FACING

It is clearing
 The waxing moon is high
 clouds shroud its luminescence
 but a cold white light
 seeps through the smoky barrier.
 Snow falling gently means a warm night
 for a change my anxiety will be at low tide.
 I sleep
 with moonlight
 breaking at each dream's end
 awake for only a few minutes between waves.

On clear, endless nights
 when stars perform macabre dances
 receding and proceeding
 within ocean of coldness
 the moon's light reveals
 faces
 contoured opposites
 shadows of mortality and death.
 The hunter and the killer
 reflect the horror
 of my exposed primal darkness
 Wailing images
 surround my sleeping presence
 Visions of flamed destruction
 of bloody carcasses
 invade my dreams.
 I sweat with burning
 I freeze with terror
 Alone, awake
 I stare at the lunar light

Time wanders away
 I am footless to follow

When it is so cold that trees crack
 When noises snap the soundless night
 When crystal rainbows whip the air
 I hear all movements
 completely
 Like animals seeking shelter
 The faces crawl under my house
 and begin to climb
 with footsteps echoing deadened thunder.

I listen
 in bed
 gripping

Who are they? Near?
 Where are they? From?
 What do they? Want?
 So close. Too close.

As the blackness breaks to grey
 My day face rises as the sun
 The other visages
 hide
 beneath their sheltered clutch
 Readily awaiting the moonlight.

Teresa Legowski

STEPPING OUT



I fall out of myself sometimes
 the gatherings of my life
 hurtling around the room
 circles spinning round a full moon
 I climb out, drowsiness swept aside
 float and stretch to touch the night.
 I glare at her pale reflection
 her bloodless moonlit face
 sliding into her eyes
 and backing out when nothing's there.
 I'm strong and wild
 but she's afraid
 tugging at me, imploring
 she's a dusty shell without me
 I'm the fire in her love
 the passion she strangles
 rarely sets free
 her anger never lost
 yet seldom released.
 I climb out of her
 and fall back in
 I'm she

Rosalyn Taylor Perrett

OUR BODIES

Our bodies are our own
 Have we become too comfortable with ourselves
 When we forget the naturalness
 and independent beauty of our bodies?
 Have we become too comfortable with ourselves
 When we forget our bodies aren't accustomed
 to being themselves?

Or - have we never become comfortable enough?
 Expression and movement, unencumbered
 defy form in any finite sense
 When freely flowing, size and shape need not
 - nor can they, have boundaries or end
 We must become comfortable with our bodies
 They are our own - our temporal home.

Our bodies are our own
 Bear they another life - or 2.5 (as some think they ought to)
 - or more
 or none

They are our own.
 They're gifts given us to wear
 on the occasion of our earthly birth
 They're ours to nurture, love and enjoy
 and to share IF WE CHOOSE
 Until the day we leave this earth
 We must remind our sisters
 and others, too

OUR BODIES ARE OUR OWN!

Judy McMartin

FOR WOMANSPACE; FOR WOMEN'S DREAM

There must be this place to dream
 Where shared successes and support nurture
 And discontent angers to action dormant disquietude

There must be this burning ground
 Cauterizing confusion planted by the threatened
 In their wry fields
 Overtaken by the damp and womb-lush women
 With their moist and searing speech

Those who don't understand may never know
 Burning fields like these
 I smile inwardly at our collective "secret"
 Which we do not keep concealed
 We hide nothing here but woman's dream, revealed.

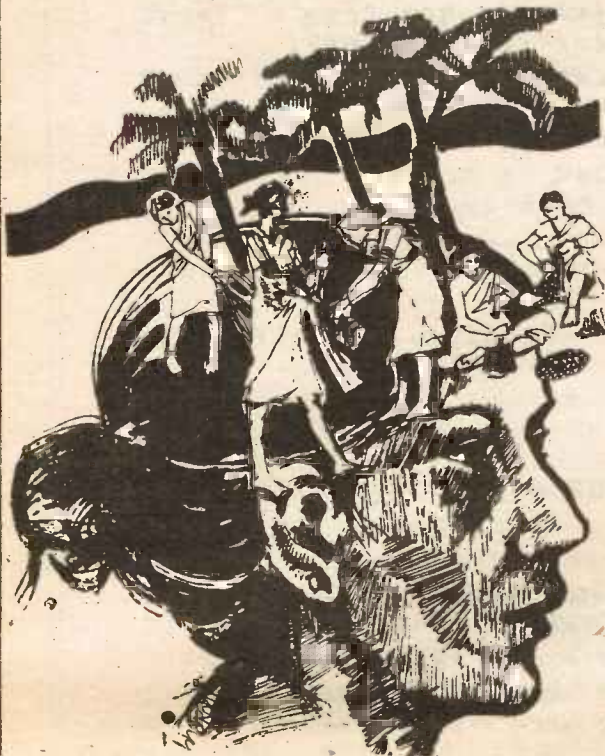
Joyce Michalchuk



Women Making Changes-

by JUDY McMARTIN

(Fading Backdrop) We see a person with a hand held out, waiting - one amongst hundreds, thousands or millions of others. Waiting for the chance to have a meal - some beans or rice or potatoes - whatever, just a little nourishment. (Super-imposed) blurring this image, linked up to brother Challenger, we see Canadarm- waving its costly military hand in outer space. Canada, still a colonized earthling, already allied with super-imperialism proclaiming a super-technological display of 'foreign aid' - Solar Max rescued!



by Bharati Murchandani in *manushi*

Women know that the tragic absurdity of the contrast is inexcusable. Women know that these two extremes of our changing reality offer a wide range of responsibilities to choose from. There's much dynamic movement - women's movement - going on in between - women making connections - making choices - making changes worldwide.

FOCUS ON EL SALVADOR

A.M.E.S., Salvadorean Women's Association, is transforming her society within a framework of similar extremes. A.M.E.S. was born in 1978, legally recognized in September 1979 in an assembly entitled "Isaura Gomez" in honour of a companera and her 12 year old daughter who were assassinated by the repressive forces. A.M.E.S. is a democratic organization of strong, determined women, working within El Salvador, externally in Nicaragua and abroad, organized and mobilized to implement social change.

A.M.E.S. educational role - "their continuous effort to eradicate established feminine and masculine values" is an integral component of the revolutionary process. Simultaneously, they are working together with the popular movement of peasants, shantytown dwellers, housewives, students and other workers, represented by FMLN-FDR, to ensure the survival of their people.

Women in El Salvador have made the connections and are making positive changes. More than half of the broad coalition of social and political groups that comprise the FDR (Frente Democratica Revolucionaria) are women. Women are also actively participating in the arms struggle as members of the FMLN (Farabundo Marti Liberacion Nacional),

the military component of the popular coalition. When the choice is to die of starvation or to die fighting to keep them alive - it's impossible not to make the connections! You do whatever - within your own individual capabilities - to help bring down the mighty military monster and to re-create a strong foundation for the survival and continuing life of your people.

An important aspect of A.M.E.S. work is continuing to increase their international connections, by participating in conferences and other events of Solidarity with Central American Women, as well as touring Scandinavian and European countries, the United States and recently Canada.

Estela Ramirez, as person responsible for A.M.E.S. External Relations Commission, visited Canada on a two month educational tour, sponsored by the Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Development. Estela came to us as a connector - to educate us - to heighten our consciousness, in the hopes of increasing our solidarity with Women in El Salvador. The educational tools companera Estela brought to Canada were her person-emanating great strength of spirit (womanspirit herSelf) - and two sets of pictures - brought from El Salvador (her native home) and from Nicaragua (where she is living as a political refugee and working for A.M.E.S.). With these pictures, Estela shared with us the contrasting dynamics of her reality - a reality, which as a member of A.M.E.S. she is working very hard to keep changing positively, through social development.

The pictures from El Salvador told the horrors of the current situation much more clearly than this article could possibly express. Amongst the innumerable atrocities were depicted dead bodies floating in a river, - children who could not swim, drowned in attempting the river crossing, fleeing the too well known horrors of the military, the security forces (of which there are 7) or the Death Squad. Being able to swim did not ensure the safety of others -- shot down by helicopter fire from above. Others who do succeed in river crossings are met by Honduran soldiers on the other side. (Honduras is the U.S. military base in this regional war, with 6 major airfields - U.S. constructed or improved, Canadian tax dollars helping with road improvements too.) (C.A.U. March '84)

Mothers deaths are multiplied, as they often attempt crossing several times, trying to save lives of their children. We see one woman whose breast has been cut off, after having survived the ordeal of torturous rape.

Repression in El Salvador, the smallest and most densely populated Latin American country, has 'displaced' 1/5 of its 5 million population, has 'lost' another 3,000 desaparecidos - (unaccounted for human beings) and has taken more than 45,000 lives in the past 4 years. Guerillas, left-wing rebels, insurgents, or just plain "commies" - as pointed out by the U.S. military (Washington via training centres in Panama-U.S. Southern Command) for 'disposal' by El Salvador's military regime - include any religious worker who has taken to heart their commitment to social justice, educators, young children, foreign volunteer health workers, pregnant women carrying "communist fetuses" and anyone courageous enough to offer a meal or a night's shelter to a refugee from a neighbouring village, fleeing the tor-

tures of the Death Squad.

Military repression in El Salvador is genocide. The number of massacred villages has risen in direct relation to escalating U.S. military 'aid'. According to reports by Amnesty International, America's Watch Committee, Human Rights Commission of El Salvador, etc. the slaughtered masses have been, for the most part, unarmed civilians, and mostly women, children and older people. In El Salvador, repression comes in many very ugly forms of inhumane treatment - women always being subjected to atrocities that go far beyond 'simply' being killed or threatened with death.

Working within this framework of a military regime - fortified by more than \$1 billion US dollars worth of American economic interests - Estela states simply "Killing is not the solution to our social problems." An obvious fact to women - to grassroots workers - obviously, not a concern to be considered by the military - money makers. Estela reminds us that A.M.E.S. is a social organization - women working together to improve social conditions of all Salvadorean people. So, with these pictures, Estela does not want us only to cringe at the horrors, but to get a feeling for her people. Pictures of children to remind us that the numbers of dead we read about in the newspapers are human beings that deserve the attention and respect of their rights to survive as people and to self-determination as a nation.

Self-determination in the 1980's does not mean we can close our eyes to this situation of extreme crisis and let them take care of their own problems. It does include demands that foreign military intervention be stopped.

It does include economic support from the international community to neighbouring Nicaragua whose people are struggling to maintain their successful social revolution. Respect for human rights and national self-determination in the 80's does include opening our eyes to genocide in Guatemala which by 1982 had already claimed 83,500 lives (13,500 in 1981 alone). It does include remembering that tiny Grenada's peaceful, social revolution, which was just beginning and already showing signs of positive growth, was tragically halted by the U.S. invasion and is being interrupted by continuing U.S. military occupation. It does include withdrawing of political and economic support from the Honduran government which is involved in "unprecedented joint military exercises with the U.S. Defense Dept...."



continued next page

Focus on Women in El Salvador

which has in effect made clear that they are establishing a permanent U.S. military presence in Honduras." (C.A.U. Mar.84)

The increasing support of international human rights groups, church groups and women's groups is vital to El Salvador's survival. The continued efforts of AMES, working on the struggle against machismo- a struggle within and at the very root of the struggle against a patriarchal, militarily-focussed world- is doubly vital.

Women in El Salvador, sexually enslaved in 'modern times' (past 4½ centuries, since arrival of Conquistadors) via "pleasure of the master"-still commonly practised against women employed as domestics. Women and their children, economically enslaved as migrant family workers (not entitled to a salary)- 3 to 4 months work paid at \$3/day/man. Women industrial workers (earning 25% less than men) have to leave their children at home alone.

Young girls becoming young women becoming young mothers-11-13 year-olds giving birth alone often lose their babies, if not their own lives first. Girlhood being killed by rape, simultaneous to assassination. "Assassination is the first cause of death amongst children. Formerly, it was diarrhea and anaemia." (E.Ramirez)

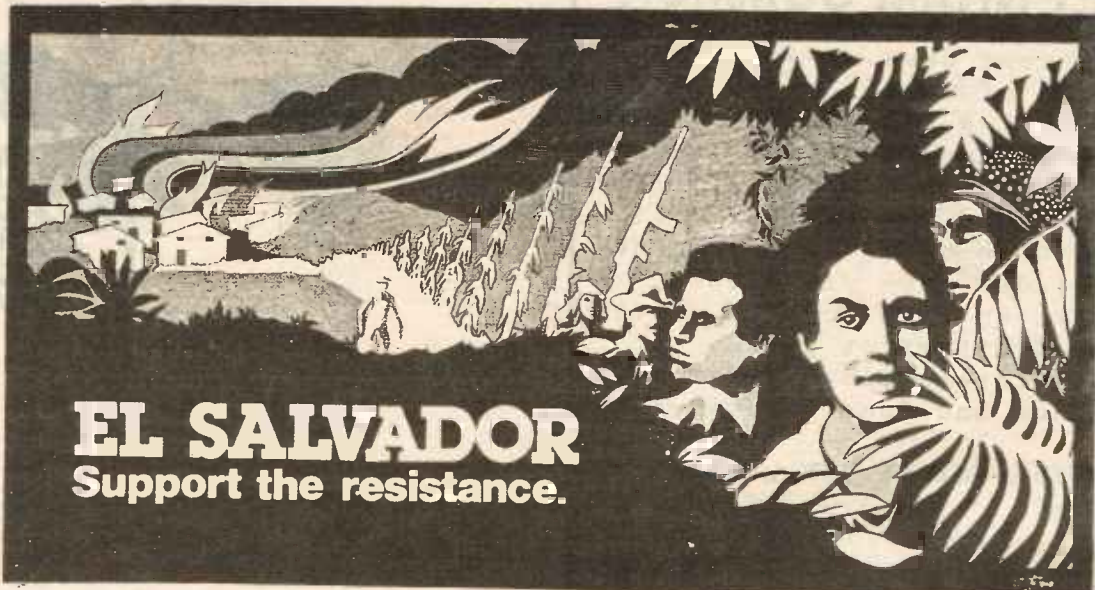
Market and street vendors can bring their children to work with them-but only because they work at home-on the streets- selling by day-sharing their cardboard box homes by night. Repression/oppression pushing more and more women to city streets-many women including their young women-children are working nights, as well. "Society encourages prostitution...but, represses the prostitute!" (E.Ramirez)

European women imported to El Salvador by the colonizers for economic reasons -as a primary commodity of trade-to create a new race of Salvadorean people to become a class eligible to inherit the property of their conquest and its wealth. This, only after the indigenous population had been decreased drastically, native women and their offspring having been raped and worked to death.

Slave trade of European women was a prerequisite to ensure inheritance of land, to keep up payments to the Crown and to perpetuate exploitive profits. Rape of native women, which earlier needed no justification other than to satisfy whims, became 'justified' in the name of economics- as it became necessary to create a race to be deemed eligible as the working class.

An over-simplification of a multi-ethnic society, created by empire-building, but, women's problems today are the same, universally, borne of the economic structure of patriarchal domination. Women to satisfy sexual desires -women to bear the pains of childbirth -to supply workers and inheritors were prerequisite to the creation of an unbalanced economics system. Women and men bearing the pains of the resultant oppression.

Today, the creative powers of Salvadorean women-fortified by hope and perseverance, encouraged and enriched by women's solidarity internationally -are transcending their ethno-economic class structure, having unified to recreate society. Testimonies of social change being made by AMES women became evident in the pictures from Nicaragua that Estela shared with us-pictures of



EL SALVADOR
Support the resistance.

socially productive, LIVING, WORKING Women.

Women are working as literacy and health brigadiers, nutrition counselors, giving assistance to refugees; caring for orphans. Women are working in self-defense training and educational workshops and production collectives. Estela proudly tells us that a member of A.M.E.S. has been elected president in one of the FREE ZONES (FMLN-FDR controlled) in El Salvador. A.M.E.S. women are making changes. Faced with continuing genocide, organization has had to become very sophisticated. The Free Zones are growing in number and strength. A.M.E.S. 'propaganda' of feminist democracy demands a basic right -- the responsibility of full participation by women in creating a new social order. The fundamental changes needed urgently to transform society for humanity's sake are being directed in El Salvador by A.M.E.S. Their educational directives are emphasizing the development of social relationship among this generation of children, preparing them for tasks and responsibilities that await them in the new society that is being recreated. Salvadorean women are not naive in their struggles -- undoing centuries old repression and deeply ingrained cultural traditions of sexual oppression. They are not educating a generation of innocent children in isolation of a generation of adults who still need educating. This determined women's work is not to preserve motherhood and innocent childhood -- most of the world's young people never knew the image of innocent childhood.

This perseverance of women is to ensure that future generations will know a balanced world. Respect for basic human rights and social work are considered threats to national security.

Regionally, reflections of similar mentality are evident in the plight of (lack of) day care facilities in Northwestern Ontario. Locally, echoes of the same insecure mentality are heard in Thunder Bay, where male-dominated decision making withdrew funding from the Lakehead Social Planning Council. Yes, we are connected.

* Knowing that we share common problems and that the fundamental causes are the same, in El Salvador, Northwestern Ontario and elsewhere. th * Knowing that it's natural to have fears, living in a world teetering on the brink of technological modernity (flames do flicker sometimes).

* Knowing that women are strong and really holding the key to making the most vital changes this world has ever needed.

* Knowing that women's groups are making positive changes all over the world to ensure equality as a social base, and working from there in the direction of quality life.

* Knowing that we're connected not marginally, from the outside world in, but from our very core - outwardly reaching in solidarity.

* Knowing that the same clock ticking on at 11:57 trying to tell us Doomsday's arriving in 3 minutes is telling some of our sisters that it's approaching noon. In knowing our strengths, sharing our hopes and dreams, overcoming our fears, sharing our problem-solving, learning together, re-creating -- women are continually growing in strength, making connections, persistently making woman changes.

(Faded backdrop, phasing out ... womanrise image phasing in-women approaching foreground from many new directions

Day Care Project

During her visit to Thunder Bay Estela Ramirez provided information about a project for day care centres in the El Salvador Free Zones. A Thunder Bay Committee formed to obtain support for this project.

A.M.E.S. hopes to set up two day care centres in each village. The day care centres are essential to enable women in these areas to continue their revolutionary work - teaching, health care, community development. Each day care centre

will be equipped to care for 50 children. It is estimated that each centre will need \$1000 to purchase teaching materials, sleeping mats, bed clothes and a basic kitchen inventory. The Thunder Bay El Salvador Day Care Support Project hopes to fund two day care centres in one village.

Please send your donation to: El Salvador Day Care Support Project, c/o NWO Women's Centre, # 4, 204 Red River Rd. Thunder Bay.

For more information please call Judy McMartin at 623-2894 or 623-9214.

GREENHAM COMMON

Recent news reports showed pictures of women at Greenham Common being evicted by bailiffs backed by hundreds of police. In fact, there are six or eight camps around the perimeter of the missile base. Although one camp at one gate was closed, those women will move to other camps at different gates.

An interesting excerpt from the Green and Common newsletter:

Nuclear alert...Practice Runs?

There have been four alerts so far. A siren sounds to recall USAF personnel who live outside the base. On three occasions, wives and children went in the cars with the men. Children in their night clothes were taken from houses on the base into the bunkers. Flags at some of the gates change from yellow to red (BOMBING IMMINENT) to black (FOUR-MINUTE WARNING). There is considerable activity inside the base. Presumably after the black flag has been flying for four minutes, those of us not in bunkers are dead i.e. the British soldiers, the M.O.D. police, the peace women and the local population.

We feel that attention needs to be drawn to the fact that the Americans are practising for a nuclear war. We are planning to demonstrate in Newbury when the next alert happens, but the rest of the country should be told about the war games being played here.

How will we know when the alert is real.....? Who is cruise defending.....?

Jill and Ann
Orange Gate

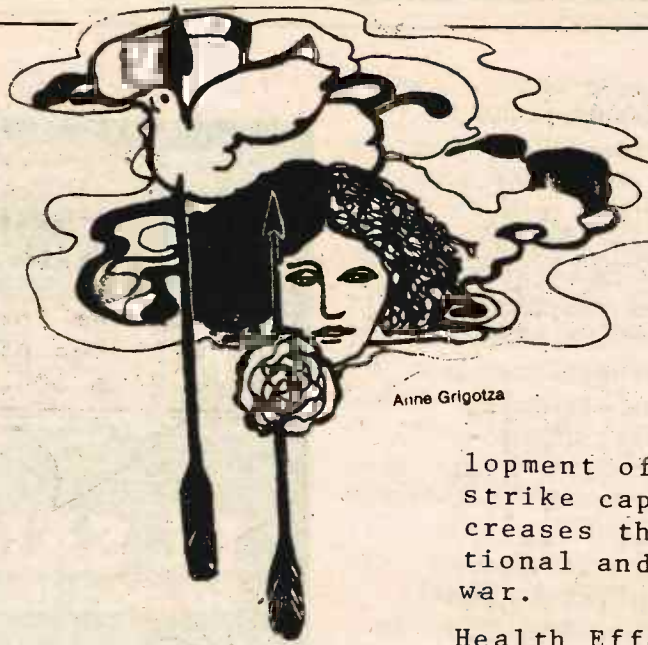


PEACE NEWS

Project Ploughshares meets the second last Wednesday of each month at Wesley United Church on Brodie Street at 8:00 p.m.

Thunder Bay Coalition for Peace and Nuclear Disarmament meets the last Wednesday of every month at Confederation College at 8 p.m.

Thunder Bay Peace Council meets first Tuesday of every month at 8 p.m. at Ogden School.



by MIRIAM KETONEN

This summer in Wisconsin women from the midwest of the U.S. will come together to form the Women's Peace Presence to Stop Project ELF. The presence will open May 28, 1984 and will continue throughout the summer to call direct attention to ELF as a first-strike weapon, to its effect on the environment and to the destructiveness of the arms race.

ELF stands for extremely low frequency. Project ELF is a U.S. Navy proposal to build a giant one-way radio transmitter in northern Wisconsin and the upper peninsula of Michigan. An ELF test facility was built in Wisconsin in 1969. It consists of two overhead lines, each 14 miles long and crossing in the middle for a total of 28 miles of overhead wire. At each end is a buried component of 1 to 2 miles in length. This system is now being upgraded. In Michigan the Navy is currently constructing a larger facility (55 miles). Together these two transmitters would transform the bedrock of the Lake Superior region into a giant antenna. 2500-mile long ELF waves would be sent deep into the oceans to be received by Trident and modified Poseidon submarines. At present there are 5 Trident and 31 Poseidon submarines but the U.S. Navy has plans for 26 more Tridents. Each Trident carries eight times as much explosive power as was used by all sides during World War II. Each Poseidon has the explosive equivalent of three entire World War IIs.

With the current communication system using VLF (very low frequency) submarines must surface to receive commands. The ELF system allows subs to approach very close to the Soviet coastline undetected. ELF could then summon all subs at once to the surface, where existing VLF signals could give them the fire order and targeting information. ELF signals, according to the U.S. Navy Vice Admiral Kaufmann in Senate Armed Services Committee hearings testimony, are necessary to Trident subs attempting to strike "time sensitive" (i.e. military) targets. Trident missiles are first strike weapons because there would be no point in firing missiles at silos unless "enemy" missiles were still in those silos. The deve-

lopment of offensive first-strike capability greatly increases the risk of both intentional and accidental nuclear war.

Health Effects

Recent studies in the U.S., Sweden and Britain have shown that exposure to ELF electromagnetic radiation is directly linked to increased cancers and birth defects. The U.S. Navy claims that exposure to ELF poses no unacceptable risk to humans. However, they cancelled a proposed human study of the effects because the results of a monkey study indicated risk to the human subjects. If exposure to ELF is too dangerous for consenting human subjects in a laboratory setting, how can it be safe for non-consenting and unwilling citizens of Michigan and Wisconsin?

The people of Michigan and Wisconsin have been opposed to the ELF facility from its inception. In public referenda 80% of voters in the upper peninsula of Michigan oppose ELF. The Governor of Michigan claimed to oppose it. Marquette County sued the Navy to prohibit the from building ELF in Michigan. The Navy used expropriation powers to obtain title to 900 acres of antenna corridor without notifying the Governor, Attorney General, Michigan County or the citizens of Michigan.

The resistance continues. CATE (Citizens against Trident ELF) has performed a series of "alternate surveys" at the facility. On Palm Sunday CATE held a "Celebration of Life" during which they planted trees along the antenna lines. Some members of the Thunder Bay Coalition for Peace and Nuclear Disarmament travelled to Wisconsin to take part. We hope that a group of Thunder Bay women will be able to join in the Women's Peace Presence sometime during the summer.

"In an age of nuclear proliferation, women are equal with men in the threat of annihilation. Nuclear weapons do not discriminate on the basis of sex. But women are not equal in the decision-making power to reverse this destructive trend. The arms race underscores the horrible fact that women are equal in death, but not in the power and means to choose life."

--Patricia Mische

Profoundly Prejudicial:

Childcare in Ontario

edited by Teresa Legowski

These are excerpts from a speech by Stephen Lewis to the annual general meeting, March 13, 1984, of the Lakehead Social Planning Council in Thunder Bay.

When we discuss child care it is essential to understand the two basic concepts that have dominated political thought in Ontario for a long time. The first is that "the root of all social and economic evil is big government". How typically simple minded to put the blame on one, and only one, aspect of a complex society. There has always been money for the private sector. The Tory wrath of political expedience is continuing this attack on the public sector.

The second essential concept is "nothing changes". The first push for child care was voiced in the Ontario legislature in 1963 by Ken Bryden. In 1974, responding to pressure for child care services, Margaret Birch expounded her general theory that child care is an indulgence of the middle class. In 1984, a major revision of all legislative acts related to children, child welfare and family welfare was conglomerated into the Children's and Family Services Act. However, one, and only one, act was excluded: The Day Nurseries Act, which deals with provision of services for pre-school children.

What kind of attitude does this indicate existing in the Tory legislative assembly? It certainly demonstrates obtuseness and insensitivity.

Now child care is left out in a fragmented limbo.

Bearing these concepts in mind, a brief review of facts is necessary. The actual cost of child care presently hovers around \$21/day per child. By 1986, a \$30/day per child minimum is projected. The Ontario government funds 30%, the federal funds 50% and the municipal funds the rest.

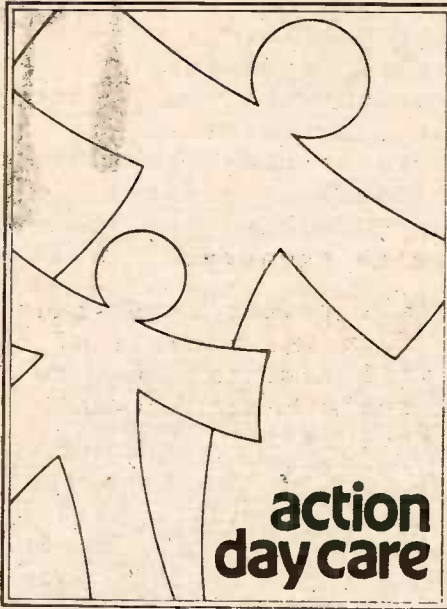
Women working with children under 16 yrs. old represent 35.8% of the labour force. Broken down further, women with children under 3 years of age, working in the labour force, have increased 26.7% from 1975-1980. Women with children between 6 and 15 years old have increased labour force participation by 19.8% during the same time period.

Is child care at risk? Lets examine eight issues to answer this question.

(1) The need is overwhelming. Income is the rationale for female participation in the work force. The majority of women with children under 6 work. It's necessary for economic survival. Does the present child care apparatus speak to social needs? What are the implications of this?

(2) Of single parent families which are women led, 43% live below the poverty line. Men (who are legislators, too) cannot identify with unemployment and poverty.

(3) The need for child care space for children of various ages ranges from 300,000 to



400,000 spaces in Ontario. Right now across the province there are 41,000 full time day care spaces available. Of these 20,000 are partially subsidized, 33,706 are filled by pre-schoolers, 4,088 by infants, 2100 by school age children. An estimated 120,000 spaces exist at homes of relatives and private baby sitter arrangements, the type of service which is incidental and at times mediocre.

Staggering facts!

(4) This society has a number of repugnant and profoundly prejudicial features concerning the following elementary issues. Where are

- (a) women's rights?
- (b) birthing rights?
- (c) midwifery rights?
- (d) children's rights?
- (e) maternity leave rights?
- (f) affirmative action rights?

How can equality in income, in politics, in health, in opportunities be achieved with "voluntary" guidelines?

(5) There is enormous value in child care. The basics for any child care program are music, reading and play, in a caring environment that facilitates affection, curiosity, creativity, awe and wonder. Here the poisonous consequences and cultural deprivation of hours and hours of television --- brutality, sexism, racism, -- are diminished.

A strong learning component is necessary, bringing a thoughtful, artful and conscious continuum. It requires imaginative design and application.

As demonstrated by World War II, where women were actively recruited into the workforce, exigency exists when society is pressed to respond to a need. Child care was set up in a matter of months with no money squabbles!

(6) There has to be a range of child care: infant care, young children and pre-school

nurseries.

Child care workers must be licenced and receive adequate pay. Without this, children are put at risk.

General guidelines and minimum standards are required.

Private, profit making child care is not necessary.

Child care for shift workers, on a 24 hour schedule is needed, at the site of employment. Recently, the United Auto Workers negotiated a contract for a Stratford plant employing 90% women, to supply child care at the work place.

Child care should be universal and non-compulsory.

It should be an extension of the Ministry of Education at the lower level, as universities and colleges are extensions at the higher level.

(7) Is there a plot that lurks in the legislature?

Here's the rub, which puts most people requiring child care in the "legislative bind".

By 1986, the only way a person can get a subsidy for child care is if that person fits the Tory legislator's definition of "need":

(a) You are on Family Benefits Allowance,

(b) You are on General Assistance (welfare)

(c) You submit yourself to a needs test to prove financial hardship.

Partial subsidies will no longer be applicable.

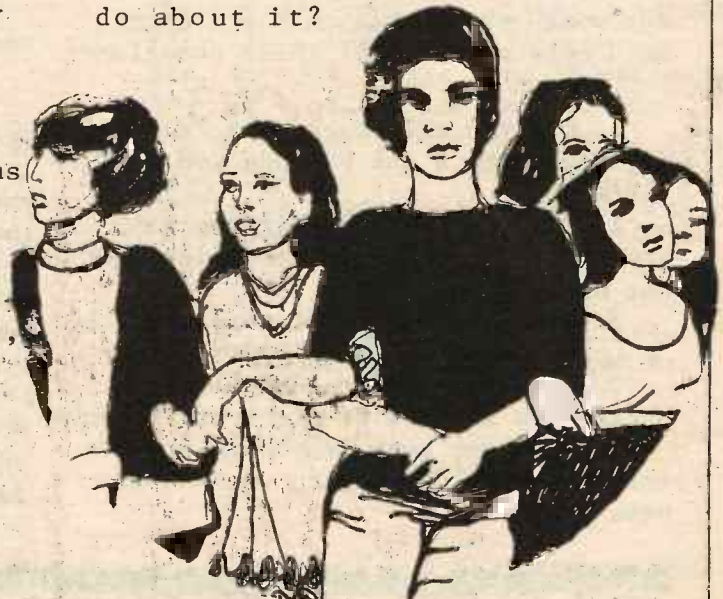
Eligibility does not guarantee availability of space.

So either you're so poor or you're so rich that you can afford child care.

Is this a conspiracy directed at children? Why is there this unrelenting passivity, this gratuitous neglect, in this society?

(8) A crusade could be legitimately mounted on any issue and concept mentioned. There is a need for advocacy in child care.

So what are you going to do about it?



The Lockup of Sexual Abuse Victims:

Blaming Women for Anti-Woman Violence

by JOYCE MICHALCHUK

Over the past winter, a disturbing trend has been developing in the courts of this continent: women are being imprisoned for refusing to testify against their sexual abusers/attackers. For whatever reasons (second thoughts about personal safety; publicity; intimidation by the attacker or the imposing legal system et al.), women are dropping charges although initially motivated to begin proceedings.

I agree with Elsa Schieder, who wrote in her article, "Victims on Trial" (*Broadside*--Feb. '84) that such women are being viewed by some as "crying wolf" and, in her words, as conforming "to the stereotypic image of the unreliable rape faker...so, as the myth goes, how are men ever going to be sure they're safe?"

Hence, the reason for the continuous and widespread publicity in the mainstream press: men's reputations are at stake.

Also, here is yet another chance for those who are inclined, to play on yet another woman's "weakness" and on her inability to proceed with the grueling court action. Give a woman her day in court and she can't go through with it. Further fuel to fire up redneck tongues.

What we really have here is yet another intimidated woman--and isn't intimidation what this whole issue is about? Sexual crimes are perpetrated under the threat of it and 90% of women do not report incidents because of it. Now, the legal system is further threatening to intimidate (and in this case,

render ineffectual) the woman who is considering laying charges.

This is not helped by the prevailing attitude of some critics who have publicly decried women who stop proceedings at some point.

This is unnecessarily harsh judgement against a woman who is one of the 10% who chooses to prosecute her attacker. The system that blatantly continues to perpetrate violence against her is further victimizing her by incarcerating, and threatening to incarcerate, her. Although by refusing to testify, it may be true that "She isn't showing a high level of sisterly concern", as Ms. Schieder believes the legal system is essentially punishing her. What emerges is the fact that central to the judicial system is its authority, which, when threatened, exhibits vicious teeth. Justice and compassion flee when faced by a questioned authority.

The legal system has now, ultimately (and in the name of common law) perverted its mandate and jailed the victim of the crime, while allowing the attacker/molester/rapist to go free.

There is a grotesquely screwed up sense of justice in operation here, regardless of any procedural adherence demanded by the judicial process.

This becomes no more evident than in the recent case of a 12-year-old Fairfield, Calif. girl who was recently jailed for nine days (in solitary confinement, no less) for refusing to testify against her stepfather, whom she alleged had sexually molested



her.

After she had refused the oath to testify, Deputy D.A. and prosecutor Kenneth Kobrin said of the incarceration: "She is a member of society. She is not being beaten. She is not being tortured. She has been told to go to her room, as society requires of her, until she tells the truth."

(What makes this case even more incredible is that California law requires that the charge be reported to the authorities

This society which perpetuates sexual molestation, jails a victim of molestation; likewise, the society we have which perpetuates rape, jails the rape victim in the name of judicial process.

If the courts continue this practice, what is assured is an even lower percentage of rapists brought to trial and convicted; moreover, this insensitivity by the courts toward women who have fallen victim to this special crime against body/spirit will continue to provide the second part of what amounts to double victimization.

Obviously, not all of us go the full route of prosecution to conviction (90% don't). If she attempts to deal with this violation (by prosecuting), a woman can now look forward to jail if the ordeal at some point breaks what may be a fragile strength.

But although it may be difficult for some to see beyond the fact that she may be allowing a rapist to go free, she must not be blamed and punished for anti-woman violence...especially by due process.

The Problems of Assaulted Women are the Problems of ALL WOMEN

Any women who doubts this statement need only ask herself these questions:

1. Did you ever back down from an argument with a man because you felt intimidated?
2. Did you feel that if you said anything more the situation might get out of hand?
3. Have you ever felt threatened by a man's superior strength?
4. Were you afraid that if he became any angrier he might strike you?
5. Have you ever stayed in a relationship longer than you should have?
6. Did you stay because you felt responsible for the other person?
7. Were you afraid of loneliness?
8. Did you stay because of the children?
9. Did you have gnawing doubts that you could not make it on your own in the outside world?
10. Were you afraid that you couldn't earn a decent living and manage the children by yourself?

- Marya Grambs, cited by Del Martin in *Stopping Wife Abuse* by Jennifer Baker Fleming, Anchor Books, 1979

Hard Earned Wages, by Jennifer Penney. Toronto; The Women's Press, 1983.
Still Ain't Satisfied: Canadian Feminism Today, edited by Maureen Fitzgerald, Connie Guberman, Margie Wolfe. Toronto; The Women's Press, 1982.

Reviewed by Susan Heald

It is hard to read Hard Earned Wages without feeling that you are right there with Jennifer Penney in the kitchens, backyards, and workplaces of some very interesting women from all across Canada. The book is a collection of personal stories of women's struggles in the workplace, especially in unions, told to Penney apparently over large pots of tea, coffee or stronger brew. With only a brief introduction, each story is written -- or so it seems -- just the way it was told. As such, it makes for interesting, easy reading. While covering the experiences of only 16 women in 12 locations, it speaks broadly of the kinds of issues most women face in most workplaces.

There is a lot of vivid detail about the skills and/or tasks involved in these jobs, which is a real asset of the book. Added to this are the stories of how these women tried to change the circumstances in which they worked.

Two women talk about working and organizing a union at Lizmore Seafoods, a Nova Scotia fish packing plant; two Ottawa women talk about doing the same for daycare centres. Experiences with two other unions -- Canadian Union of Postal Workers and the Association of University and College Employees in the Vancouver area are also discussed. All tell not only of the joys and frustrations of learning about unions, but of the larger issues that make union organizing both necessary and difficult. Two telephone operators from B.C. talk with exhilaration about the workers' takeover of B.C. Tel, and with anger of returning to work without having achieved substantial gains.

Women who have entered 'non-traditional' occupations also--of course--have interesting stories to tell, and Penney provides us with the experiences of women in Inco, Stelco, as mechanics, in bush camps, and as squidjiggers. What is striking--though not surprising--is how similar are the trials of women in all-male workplaces to those of women in 'female' jobs with--usually--a male supervisor.

It is a gift of the book, rather than a fault, that the reader is left with the sense of wanting more. I felt I could have read stories like these forever. And I realized I know a lot of women who could tell them.

Besides more stories, though, I think a bit more analysis would have been helpful. I would have liked to hear more in the way of editorial comment from Jennifer Penney about the common threads and lessons learned. But then, perhaps it's already there. The understanding comes off the pages with the smell of coffee and the warmth of laughter as women try to make sense--for themselves and for us--of all the things that happen when you set out just to make your own work a little better for you and those around you. It is another example that 'the personal is political'.



Those who have been part of--or even paid attention to--the women's movement in the last 20 years are not likely to find much that's new in Still Ain't Satisfied. But as a refresher--of both mind and spirit--it is just about perfect. Still Ain't Satisfied reminds us that we still aren't satisfied, but that doesn't make the road women have travelled and the struggles we have had any less interesting, exciting, and worthy of our notice, and our pride. It's like taking stock during a spring cleaning--realizing that some things are all used up, some have been on the shelf too long, some are there to remind us of the lessons we learned, and others just for memories.

The book is divided into three main sections: "Out of the Bedrooms", "Into the Work Force", and "Onto the Streets". Under "Out of the Bedrooms" fall topics such as reproductive rights, violence, sexuality and feminist services. Kathleen McDonnell traces the rise and fall of abortion as an issue of the women's movement. As with most of the articles that follow, it attempts to answer three questions: where are we? how did we get here? and where could/should/might we go from here? Another common aspect of the articles is the recognition of the connectedness of issues and the need for new ways of tackling problems.

Yet we already have developed new ways, as is discussed in another article which looks at the evolution of three Vancouver-based women's service organizations in search of the lessons we can learn from more than a decade of "Providing Services the Feminist Way".

For me, outstanding among the articles in this section is Joanne Kates "Once More With Feeling: Heterosexuality and Feminist Consciousness" which, as the editors say "speaks of the complexity of combining a conscious angry feminism with love for a particular man..." (p76). It also demonstrates once again the power of a personal statement to speak to the experience of many women, which is another common feature of the articles in this book.

Part 11, "Into the Work Force" tackles such topics as domestic labour, day care, sexual harassment and other occupational hazards, union organization, women in trades, etc. For my tastes, there were a few too many accounts of organizing in specific unions or specific workplaces, often without an analysis that connects these struggles with wider ones. There are a lot of new publications on women in the workplace -- such as Hard Earned Wages -- so that less emphasis in this area might have been preferable. And yet, they are all interesting tales needing to be told.

When we get "Onto the Streets" we look at women experiencing 'double oppression': lesbian, immigrant and native women, and then at "Tools for Politicization". This last is a fascinating and much-too-short collection of articles on feminist publishing, education and art.

The book begins with Naomi Wall's tale of her experience in the women's movement, and ends with a discussion by several women about options for feminist organizing. An introduction by the editors of each section and each article completes the package.

In the Editors' Introduction, they say "... we wanted to provide an overview of how feminist perspectives have changed. Both as editors and activists we were concerned to offer an analysis of how these changes have influenced our practice, the major obstacles to overcome, the successes that have been won, and the possible directions for the future... This book was undertaken to provide a comprehensive resource for both activists and those new to feminism trying to understand what this movement of ours is all about (p14)". A worthy goal, worthily met.

Books

The Women's Workbook, edited by Patti Schom-Moffatt & Cynthia Telfer, illustrated by Deirdre Chisholm, Between The Lines, 1983

Reviewed by Margaret Phillips

Comprehensive yet concise, practical yet analytical, easy-to-read yet thought-provoking, the Women's Workbook provides a most valuable resource.

That "women have the right to work, and to do it without paying a social penalty" requires awareness of the realities that Canadian women face, requires information about issues specific to women workers. Through a thoughtful examination of the issues the Workbook provides this necessary information and offers concrete suggestions for individual and collective action. The Workbook, however, goes beyond being a practical guide to women's healthier, more secure, more satisfying access to the paid labour force. A recognition is made that "to change the nature of women's work is to attack the foundation of the whole sexist structure of society". This premise is well-integrated throughout much of the book, and as Helen Levine states in her excellent article on stress, "Feminism helps us refuse the guilt trip laid on us and begin to claim full citizenship at home and in the world at large".

Resulting from a series of workshops held in 1981-82 the Women's Workbook is a compilation of expert articles that thoughtfully examine such issues as stress; women's double/triple workload; the effects of sexual harassment; the problems of obtaining quality child care. A new analysis of health and safety of "women's workplaces" is provided; the benefits and barriers experienced in union organizing, in non-traditional jobs, part-time work and job-sharing discussed; and the potential (positive and negative) of microtechnology examined.

The series is skillfully edited to provide recurring themes: the myths that restrict and inhibit women's equality; the invisibility of women's work, women workers - "In a society where women are considered less significant than men, much of our real work has been rendered invisible" (Levine p 23); and the particular experience of women in the paid labour force "In a society where much of women's work is unseen, and its value unacknowledged, its hazards are also invisible" (Jennifer Penney p51).

As an information source the Workbook is greatly strengthened by the inclusion of "how to"

examples: how to analyze your stress; how to determine quality child care; how to job share; how to prepare for non-traditional jobs. Collective strategies to eliminate harassment in the workplace are suggested; a workplace safety checklist provided.

The book is nicely balanced with well-researched information interspersed with personal accounts. The unique illustrations provide a distinctive approach to feminist symbolism. In the final article Judith Merrill suggests three possible scenarios for the future - but really she is challenging us to build our own future. The Workbook concludes with a very useful resource section.

I would like to see the Workbook in every high school/college/university counselling office, in every labour organization office, as well as women's employment, health and social centres. The Women's Workbook deserves wide readership.

All books reviewed this issue are available at the Northern Woman's Bookstore, 316 Bay St



Women and Environments, June, 1980

Who are these women?
What are they doing?
If you can answer
correctly, a free
subscription or
gift sub is yours



photo by Joyce Michalchuk

The NORTHERN WOMAN'S BOOKSTORE reports that to date the "best sellers" are:

Non-Fiction

Women and Male Violence: The Visions and Struggles of the Battered Women's Movement; Susan Schechter; South End
Pornography and Silence: Culture's Revenge Against Nature; Susan Griffin; Fitzhenry and Whiteside
Women and Children First; Michelle Landsberg; Penguin
Salvador; Joan Didion, Paperjacks

A Feminist Tarot; Gearheart & Rennie; Persephone
Look Me In The Eye; Old Women
Aging and Ageism; Barbara MacDonald with Cynthia Rich; Spinner's Ink

Fiction

The Color Purple; Alice Walker; Paperjacks
Obasan; Joy Kowaga; Penguin
Durer's Angel; Marie-Claire Blais; Talon Books
Moons of Jupiter; Alice Munro; Penguin
Sarah Jane of Silver Islet; Elizabeth Kouhi; Queenston
Zami; Audre Lorde; Crossing

Year of the Women

ANC DECLARES "YEAR OF THE WOMEN"

In its new year message the National Executive Committee of the African National Congress declared this year the "Year of the Women". ANC President Oliver Tambo stated: "Our struggle would be less than powerful and our national and social emancipation could never be complete if we continue to treat the women of our country as dependent minors and objects of one form of exploitation or another." It will be ANC's special task this year to "organize and mobilize women into a powerful, united and active force for revolutionary change".

Since 1980, and particularly in the last year, mass-based women's organizations have been formed in almost all the main urban centres in South Africa. No such organizations had existed since the banning of the Black Women's Federation in 1977.

Although there is a strong co-operative relationship between the various women's organizations in the country, so far there have been no major moves towards the formation of a national united women's organization. The ANC's call for a politically and organizationally united women's movement indicates a growing concern inside South Africa that such moves should begin.

from Solidarity News Service
No. 2/84

BOOK SALE

The Faye Peterson Transition House is holding a BOOK SALE at Victoriaville, SATURDAY, MAY 26/84 from 12 noon to 5 p.m.

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO RELEASE

CLAUDINA CALDERON

Write a support letter (as per sample)

TO: PRESIDENT ALVARO MAGANA
CASA PRESIDENCIAL
SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR
CENTRAL AMERICA

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

I and many other Canadian citizens are seriously concerned and distressed by the constant reports of Salvadorean government violence and inhumane activities against women and children.

On June 29, 1983, government security forces abducted four women, three of them pregnant - including Claudina Calderon - and along with them four children (two months-old infants, a one-year-old boy, and a four year old girl).

I respectfully urge you to release Claudina Calderon and the other women and children immediately.

Sincerely yours,



ATTENTION: WOMEN AT WORK!

Attention: Women at Work is an exciting new film about successful women in "non-traditional" trades and professions.

This 28-minute documentary profiles four women -- a search-and-rescue Coast Guard Hovercraft pilot, two general construction journeywomen and an architect. Each offers encouragement and sound advice to young women choosing a career -- and mature women returning to the workforce. Between profiles, nine teenaged girls express their views on women and work.

The film is an excellent discussion starter for many different kinds of educational settings. It probes such issues as the importance of self-reliance for women, the combination of work with family life, and the challenge of tackling new and unique career possibilities.

Produced by NFB's Studio D, the film is available from the National Film Board.



CLAUDINA CALDERON

- * 29 years old
- * pregnant, mother of a two-month old boy
- * fourth year psychology student at the National University of El Salvador
- * abducted from her residence on June 23, 1983, along with her infant son, three other women and three children, by government security forces
- * recently seen in a clandestine government prison
- * subjected to constant torture

Pensions Update

Adequate pensions for women remain an issue that must be pursued. The pension reform implied in the federal budget speech announcements will be insufficient, and will not, in any significant way, address the concerns women have been raising for years.

The Women and Pensions Committee is continuing its work and encouraging pension discussion and awareness (with recent meetings in Kenora and Dryden as well as Thunder Bay). Monitoring of proposed pension reform is an on-going task. As well the Committee is continuing to recruit "case histories", and would welcome submissions by NWO women who are willing to share their pension experience.

Considering the pension reform recommendations advocated both locally and nationally, which have been re-enforced by our recent discussions with women throughout Northwestern Ontario, the Women and Pensions Committee is focussing on the following issues:

- expansion of the CPP
- income security for immigrants
- inclusion of homemakers in CPP
- mandatory and automatic credit-splitting
- income security for women aged 60-64

Representatives of the Women and Pensions Committee will be happy to meet with any NWO women's group interested in continuing the discussion. For more information contact Women and Pensions Committee, #4 204 Red River Rd., Thunder Bay, 345-5841.

IS THERE AN ASTERISK ON YOUR LABEL?

PLEASE RENEW YOUR SUBSCRIPTION

Dryden Conference

Enthusiasm prevailed when over 100 women from 15 NWO communities met at the Bicentennial Women's Conference in Dryden, April 6-8th. Keen interest was evidenced in the workshops that were ably conducted by resourceful NWO women. Family Law (Lynn Beak), Microtechnology (Joy Fedorick), Financial Planning (Lauretta Johnson), Women and Aging (Betty Chalmers), The multiple Roles of Women (Gloria Meredith). Liz Neville, vice-president of the Ontario Business and Professional Women's Clubs was Conference guest speaker.

Following a delicious Sunday morning brunch, the Conference determined action on the workshop recommendations - with resolutions concerning equal pay for work of equal value; equal pay in replacement situations; improved retirement security provisions; inclusion of pensions in family assets; and the provision of crisis housing for women in their own communities; were adopted.

Support was also given for the Ontario Day Care Coalition recommendations and for the Kristina Potapczyk Trust Fund.

The energetic, hard-working Dryden women who organized this successful Conference are to be commended.



Canadian Women's Movement Archives

The Archives has grown out of, and is part of, the women's movement in Canada. It is ours. It belongs to all of us engaged in every struggle which gives us more autonomy in our lives.

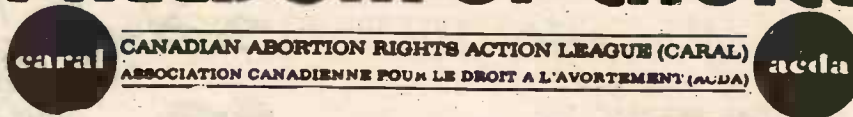
It is an organized archival collection maintained through consultation with other archivists, and is accessible to all unless donations have specific conditions to be closed to the public. Send us your material (clippings, photos, documents, posters, buttons) and use the resources.

Office hours: Monday to Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
or by appointment
P.O. Box 928, Station Q, Toronto, Ontario M4T 1P1
Tel. (416) 597-8865

RESOURCES FOR WOMEN IN THUNDER BAY.....

- Beendigan (Crisis House for Native Women) - 622-5101
- Women's Health Education Project, #4 Ste. 17, 8A N. Cumberland 345-1410
- Physical and Sexual Assault Centre, #18, 214 Red River Rd. Off. 345-0894, Crisis Line 344-4502
- JPAC Welfare Advocacy Group Maureen - 345-6777
- Single Parent Support Group Eve Ojala - 767-4190
- Free Clothing Depot, CNR Station, 9 Water Street - 345-9222
- Women's Programmes, Secretary of State, 3rd Floor, 28 N Cumberland St. Lisa Bengtsson - 345-2316
- Women's Programmes, Confederation College, Box 398, P7C 4W1 Ruth Cunningham - 475-6278
- Women's Bureau, Ont. Min. of Labour, 435 St. James St., P7E 6E3 Joy Fedorick - 475-1691
- Human Rights Commission, Ont. Min. of Labour, 435 St. James St., P7E 6E3 475-1693
- Northern Women's Centre, #4, 204 Red River Road, P7B 1A4 Fiona Karlstedt - 345-7802
- Faye Peterson Transition House 345-7456

FREEDOM OF CHOICE



The Purpose of CARAL is to ensure that no woman in Canada is denied access to safe, legal abortion. Our aim is the repeal of all sections of the Criminal Code dealing with abortion and the establishment of comprehensive contraceptive and abortion services, including appropriate counselling across the country.

"We regard the right to safe, legal abortion as a fundamental human right."

I support the statement of purpose of CARAL and wish to become a member.

Name: _____

Address: _____

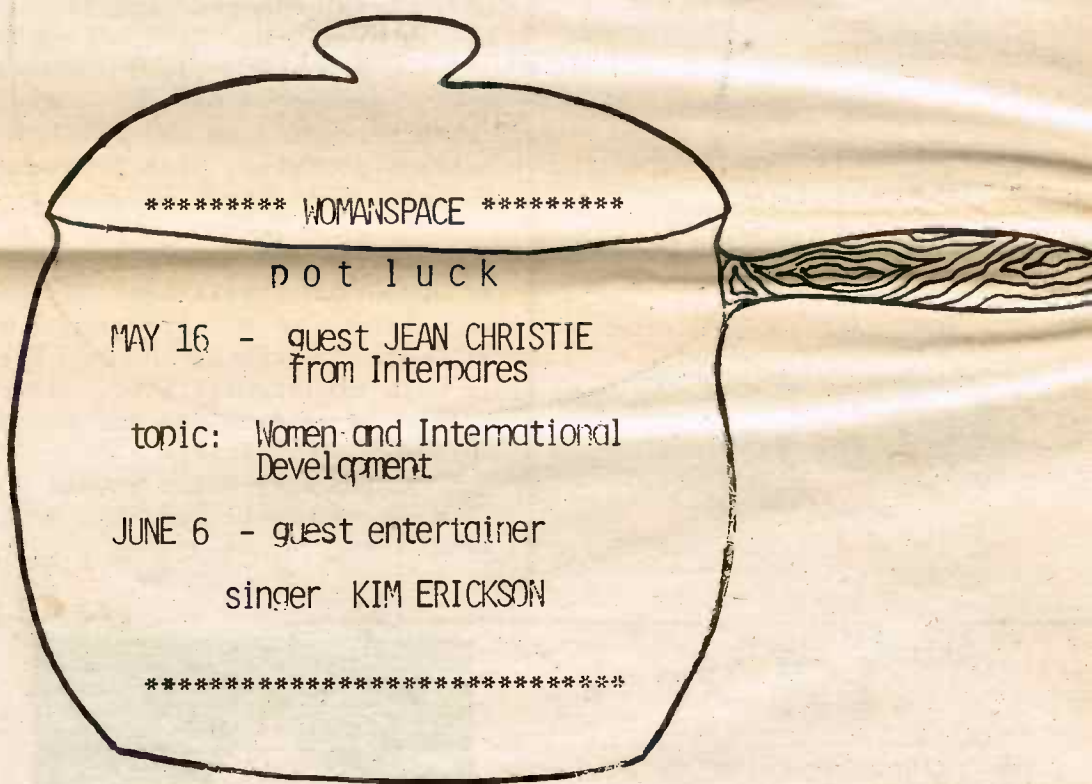
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Occupation: _____

Name of Federal Riding: _____

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Family	\$15.00
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Donation	\$ _____

RETURN TO: CARAL, Box 935, Stn. Q, Toronto, M4T 2P1



PUBLIC MEETING

"RUNNING FROM WAR"

Refugees in Central America

speaker: Jean Christie
Director - Inter Pares

Thursday, May 17th, 7:30 p.m.
Ogden Community School

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