

International
Women's Day
Committee
newsletter

November
1985

Shoulder
to
Shoulder

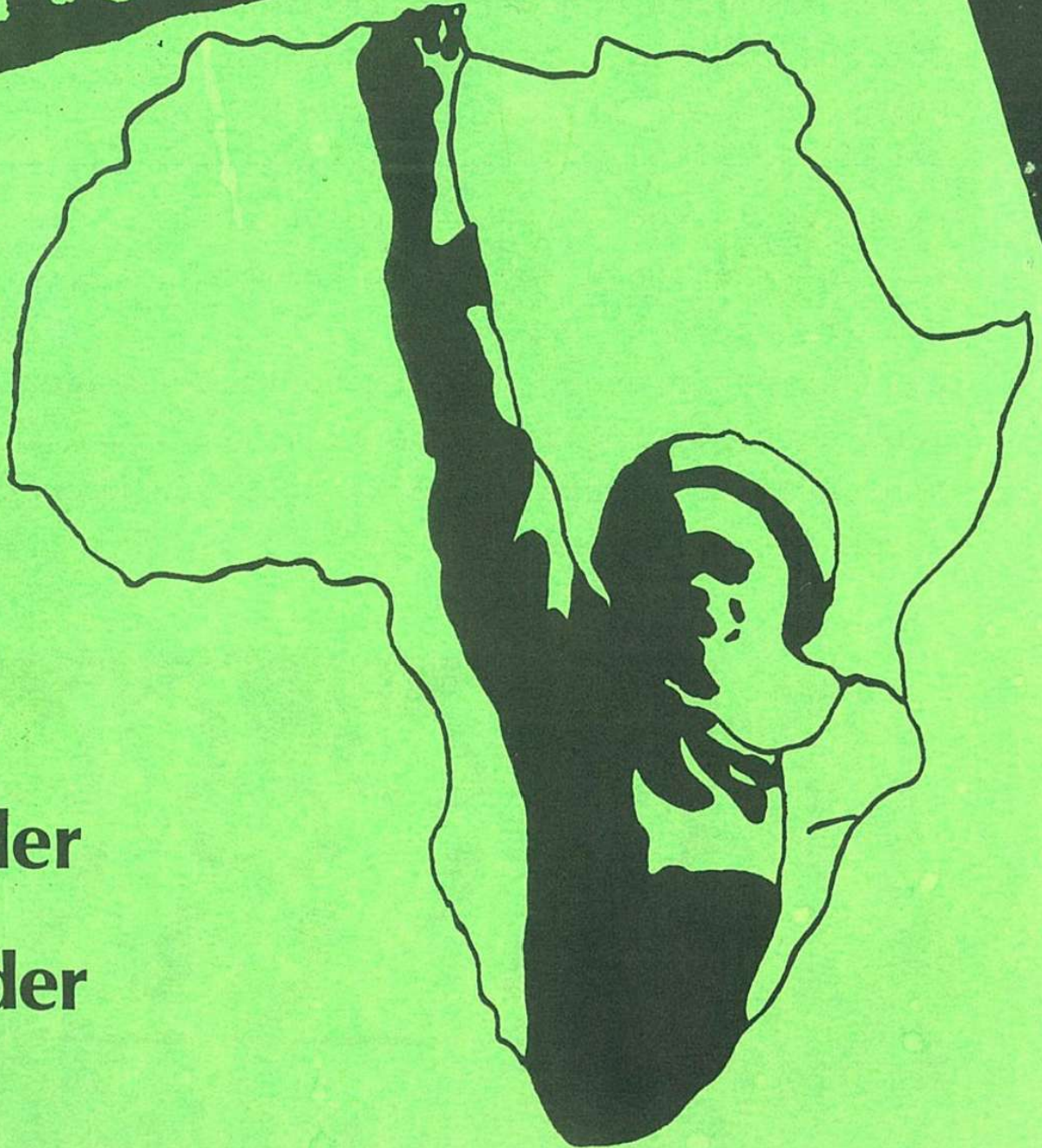
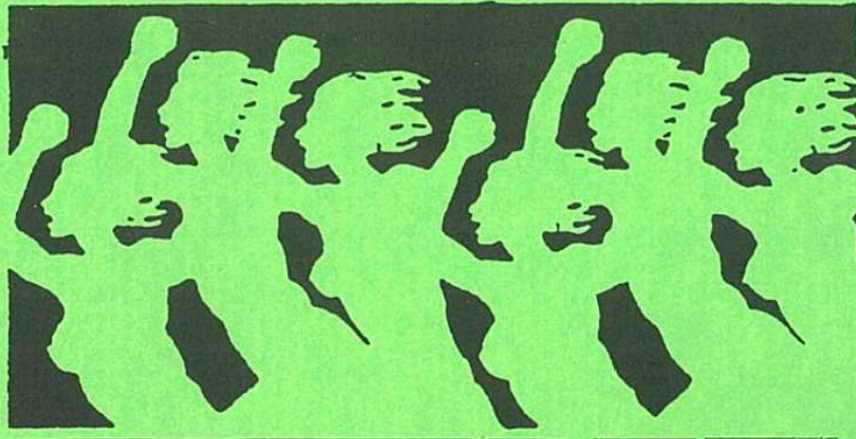


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EDITORIAL

For the past several months, South Africa's state of emergency and the deepening levels of Black resistance to apartheid have made daily headlines in the newspapers. Many anti-apartheid activists fear that media attention will soon shift to other, more "dramatic" stories and that South Africa will once again be relegated to the back pages, even while state repression and violence increase. Many more people, including feminists, need to become active in opposition to apartheid—without that involvement, the media will continue to set the limits of public awareness and political action around South Africa.

As long as Blacks are oppressed in South Africa, a major obstacle exists to the liberation of oppressed people everywhere. The protest against apartheid involves far more than lobbying the Canadian government to impose sanctions against South Africa. The very existence of apartheid in South Africa legitimizes racism generally—for this reason, opposing apartheid means opposing racism everywhere.

It is no coincidence that the Anti-Apartheid Coalition of Toronto has become involved in organizing around the Toronto Sun's racist editorial policy. (See centrefold for more details on the AACT and how you can get involved). Barbara Amiel's column, "Straight talk on blacks" (October 1, 1985) is blatantly racist, and the Sun's editorial, "Under attack" (October 10, 1985), written in response to community criticism, is more of the same.

Fighting racism is a lot more than individual people doing their homework or changing personal attitudes, important as those kinds of steps are. As black feminist Barbara Smith said in her recent Toronto talk, we are in this for the long haul. Fighting racism means building links within the women's movement and within the community at large. An example of this type of organizing was the recent meeting with Barbara Smith (co-founder of Kitchen Table/Women of Colour Press in the U. S.) sponsored by Sister Vision, Lesbians of

Colour, Zami, IWDC and the Centre for Women's Studies.

Sister Vision is a new press for Black women and women of colour in Canada. The next public event that Sister Vision is planning is a benefit with Sweet Honey in the Rock, November 16, 1985. We hope that both of these events, initiated by Sister Vision, are the beginning of new alliance between autonomous groups of women of colour and other feminist organizations. Meanwhile, the Lesbian Feminist Political Action group successfully challenged the racist and sexist admission policies at a local gay bar. All these recent activities have spurred some discussion about making anti-racism a major theme for International Women's Day, 1986. In an article in the last issue of the IWDC newsletter, we talked about some of the links between feminism and anti-racism. There's still lots more work to be done. Apartheid in South Africa, racism in Canada: in order to resist both, women must establish some new links of our own.



UNIONS AND ANTI-RACISM

by Carolyn Egan

IWDC is active in the labour committee of Women Working with Immigrant Women and was involved in the writing of the following open letter to the Ontario Federation of Labour.

"In 1981 the Ontario Federation of Labour officially committed itself to an anti-racist campaign. Prior to that time racism in the workplace was given little priority. An anti-Ku Klux Klan resolution passed at the 1980 convention prompted the Human Rights Committee to initiate a program 'to promote understanding and racial harmony in the province of Ontario'. The 'Racism Hurts Everyone' Campaign was developed, initially with a public relations phase and secondly with a structured program to bring it into the workplace. Although there are differing opinions on its effectiveness, the campaign was a public recognition by the labour movement of the need to develop an anti-racist perspective and program.

As an organization of immigrant women, we are very concerned that the OFL has diminished the importance and priority of the fight against racism by doing away with the position of full time coordinator. Making the Human Rights and Affirmative Action Programs the responsibility of one staff person undermines the anti-racism program.

We would like to highlight some of the activities undertaken over the past few years, and stress that a priority must be put in this area if we are truly committed to equality as trade unionists.

In February-April 1981, a series of race relations seminars were held by the OFL. This was followed by the 'Racism Hurts Everyone' campaign in October and November 1981. During 1983, 'Fact Sheets' on Racism and Anti-Racist actions were prepared. These actions were important in light of the fact that racism exists, and that the proportion of Ontario's population comprised of 'visible minorities' is 5%. For Toronto, the figure is 12% to 20%.

The program helped point out that the racist explanations of economic problems which blame minorities, not employer practices and government policies, divide the workforce which can then be manipulated and defeated. For business, racism helps hold down wages and boosts profits.



The program helped strengthen the labour movement by highlighting the action of new immigrants in unions—for example:

- In a 1902 Canadian Northern Railway Strike, Doukhobors refused to act as strikebreakers for the company and demanded their return fare home.

- In June 1917, construction workers in Winnipeg, many of them Ukrainians, launched a major strike over collective bargaining. While 23 foreign-born strikers were arrested, the construction workers union was recognized.

- In April 1983, Claude Dougdeen, a Trinidadian-born Canadian worker and a member of the United Steelworkers of America, was killed on the picket line at Alcan Aluminum in Toronto. Reaction to the incident prompted the Ontario government finally to enact legislation outlawing the practice of professional strikebreaking in Ontario.

The program was designed to attack racism prevalent in Canada. Racism in Toronto is continued on page

continued from page well documented in a study, 'Who Gets the Work? A Test of Racial Discrimination' by Dr. Francis Henry and E. Ginzberg. The study sponsored by the Social Planning Council of Metro Toronto and the Urban Alliance on Race Relations, found that even though resumes were equivalent, whites received 27 job offers and Blacks only 9. It further emphasized that 'Black job seekers face not only discrimination in the sense of receiving fewer job offers than whites, but are also subject to considerable amount of negative and abusive treatment while job hunting.'

In light of the hard economic times, and the racial tensions in Ontario as in the rest of Canada, we strongly urge the Ontario Federation of Labour to carry out the spirit of the resolution passed at the OFL November 1984 Convention. The Resolution called upon the OFL to 'commit further resources to strengthen and expand the educational campaign on racism', and to 'support affirmative action for visible minorities'.

We in the community need organized labour to work with us on this issue. Racism, if left alone, will divide us. We must continue to fight together because within the working class racism does hurt everyone."

CHALLENGING OUR IMAGES

by Paula Roachman

On November 22-24, the Ontario Public Interest Research Group will be holding a Conference entitled "Challenging Our Images: The Politics of Pornography and Prostitution". This conference will provide an opportunity for participants and resource people to discuss a wide variety of topics pertaining to these contentious and hotly debated issues.

The idea for the conference came from the March 8th Coalition. Two of the issues

which the Coalition felt had been inadequately addressed in this year's IWD's activities were pornography and prostitution. This was made particularly clear when the Coalition was challenged by women from the sex trade who felt that their concerns regarding the work they engage in had been misrepresented, not only by the Coalition but by the women's movement in general.

Some of the questions the conference will be addressing through films, speakers, workshops, videos, and live performances will include: What are the factors and institutions which have created an environment where pornography and prostitution exist in their current forms? Why are these issues so explosive and contentious to talk about? Can and should we work at bridging the gap between



feminists and women in the sex trade? Does discussing pornography and prostitution together, as was done by the Fraser Committee, cloud these issues or are they intricately linked? What short term and long term political and educational strategies should we be working on?

A diversity of speakers and resource people will contribute to this event including: Lillian Allen, Margo St James, Susan Cole, Mariana Valverde, John Greyson, Joan Nestle, Gary Kinsman, Svend Robinson, Varda Burstyn, Taylor Green and Debbie Field.

For more information about the Conference please write to: OPIRG, 2 Sussex Avenue-Room 302, Innis College, U of T, TORONTO M5S 1J5 or call: 978-3032

"NOT THE CHURCH..."

by Lynn Lathrop

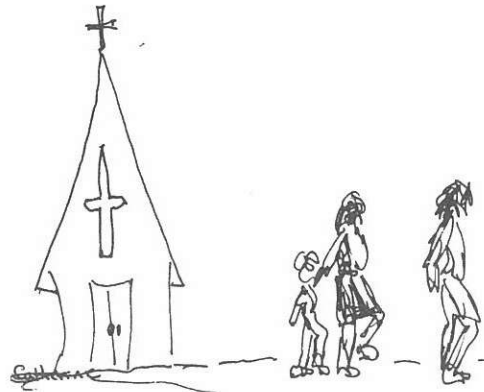
In a giant leap backwards into the Middle Ages, Ontario politicians of all stripes have closed ranks to try to push through one of the most odious pieces of legislation to come our way in a long, long time. Bill 30, cooked up by two old boys at the top - ex-premier William Davis and the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Toronto, Emmett Cardinal Carter, proposes to extend public funding to grades 11, 12 and 13 of the separate school system.

Defenders of this bill argue that the move is simply a logical extension of a right guaranteed in 1867; back then, there were no government-funded secondary schools. So, by guaranteeing funding for Catholic schools up to grade eight, the people who wrote Canada's constitution were treating the separate and public schools equally. If high schools had existed then, the argument goes, the government and policy makers of 1867 would have opened the public purse to them also. And thus, proponents of Bill 30 ask, why should Catholic parents be forced to bear the burden of their children's separate school education? Why, indeed?

As socialists we understandably recoil in horror when we think of a cozy, formalized relationship between the state and religion of any kind. The separation between the two was hard won and is of such fundamental importance that it is often discouraging to think of refighting the old battles we thought were long ago laid to rest. But as we have learned in the women's movement, we must be ever vigilant. The forces of reaction are always present and are ever ready to undermine any progress that has been made. In this case, the move by the state to offer a privileged accommodation to the Catholic Church takes us in the wrong direction entirely. What we should be arguing for is the phased withdrawal of government grants to grades 9 to 10 of the Catholic school system with the eventual goal of de-funding the entire separate school system. The money withdrawn from

that system should then be used to improve the public schools. Bill 30 pushes us away from any such concept of public control or accountability and towards a system of privatization and elitism. This is certainly not part of any socialist vision.

Nor is it part of any feminist vision. In fact, there has been a slowly growing awareness in many women's groups that the move to fully entrench a Catholic system is bad news and most especially for women. Our struggle has been a long, intense and often dangerous one away from the profound misogyny that orthodox religion espouses. What will it mean for women that a religious hierarchy that has fought us every inch of the way and opposed every progressive step we've taken has been allowed to shore up and consolidate its power base? What will it do when it has even more money and influence at its disposal? This is the same hierarchy that refuses to separate sex from reproduction and adamantly rejects the notion of women as people imbued with full human rights.



This past summer, the Ontario Coalition for Abortion Clinics (OCAC) made a submission to an all-party committee set up to listen to public concern over Bill 30. Representatives from OCAC naturally argued against any extension of public funding to the separate school system. They pointed to separate school students who were pressured by their schools, and bused at public expense to join anti-choice pickets at the Morgentaler clinic. And they questioned the

lack of courses on sexuality and contraception at separate schools. Our money should not be used to allow the Catholic Church to pursue its particular political goals and promote its ideology with respect to sexuality, OCAC spokespeople argued.

The brief also raised some other very troubling questions. What will happen to students and teachers who transfer into the Catholic school system and who do not subscribe to church doctrine on a variety of matters? It was not unusual during the hearings to hear proponents of the funding suggest that those in the system would be expected to conform to Catholic beliefs. What will that mean for a teacher (or student) who is pro-choice, or who is a lesbian or gay? What will happen to teachers who are living common-law or who disagree with church doctrine on contraception, or anything else for that matter? All teachers are at risk in such a system but women teachers especially stand to lose the most.

The Federation of Women Teachers (FWT) has warned that women will bear the heaviest burden of job loss in the public school system that will result from this funding. Because they have less seniority, they will be the first to lose their jobs. Moreover, opportunities for advancement will be particularly difficult to protect. As the FWT outlined in its brief to the committee: "We are only too aware of the barriers to promotion faced by women in the best of circumstance. To add to the systemic discrimination now faced by women teachers the additional barrier of a (non-Catholic) lifestyle, may mean that non-Catholic women teachers forced to transfer to a Roman Catholic secondary school have to abandon all hope of becoming principals or superintendents."

And finally, what are we to make of a system that has nickle-and-dimed public education almost to death and then breathtakingly announces that an additional \$150 million a year (the approximate cost of this folly) will be no problem. No problem for whom?

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WOMEN'S WORK BRIGADE

by Laura MacDonald

Canadian Action For Nicaragua is charting new territory with plans for a winter women's work brigade. CAN wants to send a group of ten to fifteen women to Nicaragua January 20 - February 16, 1986 to participate in the crucial coffee harvest. We are hoping that by developing a strong group of committed feminists we will be able to promote links with the women's movement in Canada and with all levels of AMNLAE, the Nicaraguan women's organization.

CAN is also expecting to send a mixed brigade in the summer of 1986 for those unable to participate now. We're now looking for participants, as well as for a co-ordinator with experience in both the Canadian women's and solidarity movements.

With airfares dropping and the devaluation of the Nicaraguan currency, the cost of the month should be less than \$1200, the price paid by last year's brigade.

For more information and applications, call Laura MacDonald, 763-4364, or leave a message at CAN's office 534-1766.



STRIKE SUPPORT

by Colette Forest

A candle-light vigil at the Eaton home, public rallies and a night of dazzling entertainment were some of the ways the Womens' Strike Support Coalition raised public awareness of the Eaton's workers' strike. Although formed at an Organized Working Womens' conference in early 1985 to build support for the Eaton's workers, the Coalition was never intended to be a one issue organization and is now working with the Commerce strikers.

The Coalition's first effort on behalf of the Commerce workers was a rally on September 21st which featured Marjorie Cohen, Vice-President of NAC, Arlene Mantle, a skit by the strikers, and the Bank-Busters Chorus. Interestingly, the rally, although planned to highlight the strike against the Commerce, grew to include the Graham Cable workers who are also out for their first contract and CALFAA (flight attendants). It was quite funny to see the media grapple different strikes joining together in solidarity.

The structure of the Coalition is very loose. There is no executive or formal structure—only the names of seven women whom unions can contact if they wish the Coalition to become involved in support work around their strike. The contact person will then conduct a telephone poll among the other six to determine if a meeting should be called.

If they decide to go ahead, a notice will be sent out to all those on the mailing list. The people who attend that meeting will then be the ones to work with the union on support activity. This makes for a very fluid organization but one which allows people to get involved when they have the time and energy to do so.

The WSSC involves a broad spectrum of women from unions, women's organizations and political groups. The Coalition is now planning and organizing for their next event

around the Commerce strike. Anyone interested in participating is more than welcome to get involved. Meetings are held most Thursdays at 7:15 pm on the 10th floor of the OPSEU Building, 1901 Yonge St. (Davisville stop). For further information call Colette Forest at 248-5052.

"NO SMALL CHANGE: THE STORY OF THE EATON'S STRIKE", a 50-minute colour documentary videotape by Emma Productions, will have its premiere screening on FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29th 8 P.M. at the STEELWORKERS' HALL, 25 CECIL STREET (2 blocks east of Spadina, 1 block north of Dundas). The tape documents and analyzes the strike from a feminist perspective and attempts to portray the changes the women strikers went through in their fight against the Eaton's empire, their experience with trade unionism, and their introduction to the women's movement.

\$5/\$3, cash bar; advance tickets at Toronto Women's Bookstore & DEC

For more information: 537-6207, 533-2738. ("NO SMALL CHANGE" is available for rental or purchase from V Tapes & Emma Productions)



To support the Visa strike call the strike office for details of the next "bank in".

The march into a CIBC branch is planned every other Saturday. Call 787-4423 to find the location.

LATIN AMERICAN WOMEN ORGANIZE

A few years ago, we felt the need to discuss our role as immigrant women, to explore our feelings and contradictions, and to work in an organized way for the women of our countries of origin. Being women from Latin America (L.A.) we found we had many things in common. That is how the Latin American Women's Collective came alive.

Our needs and past experiences were different, our political discussions were long and heated at times. As a result of all of the above our work did not have immediate results, but it has been rich and diverse in content.

After working for three years, being more mature, with clearer objectives and in-depth evaluations, we define ourselves as socialist feminists. Our political commitment to Latin America is not only to women's organizations, but to the liberation struggle of our people as a whole.

As integral members of the L.A. community, we are interested in debating the women's question with our people and particularly with L.A. women. At the same time, as immigrants and as feminists we consider ourselves part of the Canadian women's movement.

Two months ago, our organization went through an evaluation. We have come to the conclusion that we have started the spark for the discussion on "feminism", and the specific principles involved with the struggles of women. We also saw the need to create the basis for political discussion and action which would pave the way to the new society. We try to incorporate in our programme the priorities of the L.A. women. We use films and discussions. These will help us to raise the level of consciousness of all of us in relation to issues like sexuality, violence against us, racism, etc.

One of our main tasks is to support the women's organizations in our countries of origin. We try to concretize the work in two ways: 1) By making their struggles known, and supporting international tours

for their members; 2) By giving political and economic support to the organizations. Part of our work is to organize fund raising events. The monies collected are sent to the above organizations.

Sometimes it takes a while to see the results of our work, but once we see the achievements, we realize that they are not superficial. The consequences of our work affect us here and the women in L.A.

In order to achieve all our demands, we realize that our task is to struggle for a total change in the socio-economic and political structures. But we want those changes to include the women's issues also. This is why we believe that the first steps for the struggle of women and their rights must start now.



"NOT THE STATE..."

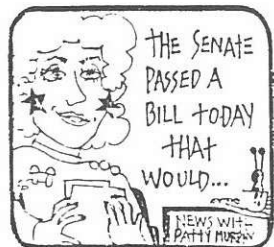
by Linda Gardner

The recent October 1 ruling of the Ontario Court of Appeal overturning the jury acquittal of Doctors Morgentaler, Scott and Smoling marks another stage in our struggle to win abortion rights for women. Over five hundred people, on short notice, attended a rally/demonstration sponsored by the Ontario Coalition for Abortion Clinics to protest this ruling. This latest decision continues the court's consistent denial of reproductive and sexual freedom for women and the legal harassment of the doctors and the pro-choice movement. It also represents a serious challenge to the independent role of juries in rejecting and ultimately changing unjust laws.

It is now an opportune time to evaluate and reflect on our strategy to determine how best to move forward. The clinic strategy, over a very short period, has enabled us to radicalize the struggle for abortion rights, to build a strong popular mass movement and to demonstrate the unfairness of the federal law. This - and keeping the clinic open for 11 months so far - is no small feat in the face of state and anti-choice opposition. The strategy was chosen to challenge the lack of access to abortion in a dramatic way and to offer an alternative means of providing women with needed services. It is not without its difficulties, but on the whole has served and continues to serve us well. But how do we continue to consolidate our support, how do we keep the momentum building, how do we best move forward to win repeal of the federal abortion law and how do we go on from this to win full reproductive and sexual freedom for all women?

For socialist feminists, assessing the nature of state power and the balance of political forces is an important part of shaping our strategy. The state has become a central institution in the regulation of women's fertility and sexuality (i.e. laws on abortion, midwifery, and prostitution; police and judicial harassment of lesbians and gay men, etc.). More generally, it has come to play an indispensable role in the

reproduction of social and economic inequality. What this means is that the state is not a neutral or hospitable terrain for feminists - we must always remember this as we struggle for our political demands. But we cannot avoid state power; we must continue to use the avenues of pressure on the state available to us: legal challenges in court (unavoidable when clinic staff are arrested), pressure on political parties, lobbying, mass action and demonstrations. But we must pursue this activity without illusion - the capitalist patriarchal state is fundamentally antagonistic to women's interests. In the coming period, we must be particularly careful to assess the ways by which the state will try to defuse our support and co-opt and accommodate our movement.



The court proceedings have been a useful weapon for the state in tying up the money, energy and resources of the pro-choice movement. In 1983, the constitutional challenge to the Supreme Court effectively demobilized and defused the movement. We must guard against this in this next lengthy appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada. There are, however, important differences from 1983. A fourth jury has refused to enforce the federal abortion law by acquitting the doctors. Strong public support for choice and a strong pro-choice movement have made it clear to the Ontario government that it will face enormous opposition if there is any move to close the clinic. Both these factors are critical in reinforcing the legitimacy of the clinic and in building the movement. In terms of the legal situation itself, there is always a chance that the Supreme Court will overturn the Court of Appeal's decision and uphold

the jury acquittal. Failing that, there would be another jury trial where a further acquittal would put intolerable pressure on the government to act.

But this is a lengthy process and the pro-choice movement cannot afford to sit back and wait. We must keep up the demand for free-standing clinics. One option the government might try to use against us is to improve hospital access and perhaps even



establish clinics with therapeutic abortion committees. We must be clear that these moves are not the solution. The existing hospital-based system is inherently inequitable in regional and social terms, it can often be unresponsive and unsympathetic, and the necessity of winning approval from a therapeutic abortion committee is bureaucratic and degrading. Control over the decision to have an abortion would remain with hospitals and doctors. But this decision must be a woman's alone.

So where do we go from here? Although it is the federal law that must be repealed, its enforcement is under provincial jurisdiction and thus the clinic strategy has been waged province by province. Recognizing the need to link up provincial struggles and to increase the pressure on the federal government, OCAC met with pro-choice activists from across Canada and Quebec to discuss the best ways to build a bi-national movement. Tribunals were adopted as a means to consolidate and build support for this movement.

The tribunals called "Crimes Against Women: the Abortion Law on Trial" are scheduled to begin in January 1986 and end in the spring. Women across the country will give testimony about the problems they have faced getting abortions both before and after the 1969 partial reform of the abortion law. It is an excellent way to highlight the intolerable situations women have experienced, and to mobilize support

for legalizing clinics and removing abortion from the criminal code. This project is in its initial stages and anyone who would like to get involved or give testimony should contact OCAC at 532-8193.

Within Ontario, OCAC will continue to build support through public education, speaking engagements, making alliances and building the pro-choice movement. In mobilizing such support, we never see abortion in isolation, but as part of a wide spectrum of reproductive rights. We try to support other struggles where we can, such as the current campaign to legalize midwifery. Women's groups and choice supporters are discussing the possibility of opening further freestanding clinics. As with the clinic in Toronto and before this, in Quebec, this could offer the potential of galvanizing activist support and broadening our movement. It would certainly raise the stakes in the struggle with the government.

So, as we assess our current situation we should not be discouraged by this latest judicial decision. We are right to be wary of the danger of being demobilized by lengthy court proceedings but public support and the choice movement continue to grow. Our task is to keep up the momentum and continue to build the movement.



To get involved with the Ontario Coalition for Abortion Clinics, to find out about our activities, to volunteer as an escort at the Morgentaler Clinic, contact OCAC at:

P.O. Box 753
Station P
Toronto
M5S 2Z1
(416) 532-8193

HOW CAN WE FIGHT APARTHEID?

SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN

by Prabha Khosla

Women in South Africa have been active in the resistance against imperialism and colonialism for many years and on many fronts. This is a rich history that has been documented to only a limited extent. (See *Women and Resistance in South Africa* by Cheryl Walker, Onyx Press, England 1982.)

Apartheid is a unique system of society, which places additional oppressions on black women - separated families, forced removals, controlled movement of labour, restrictions on access to jobs, education, health - all these factors and more, in addition to their own specific oppression that may come from historical and cultural conditions not arising directly from apartheid.

Yet, at the same time, these most oppressed women continue to demonstrate a greater capacity for defiance, endurance and an ability to survive, protect their families and to fight oppression with ever increasing strength and consistency. Women and women's organizations in South Africa have usually operated within the framework of the mass political resistance movements where they have been major catalysts for protest and challenge to the apartheid state. This is one of the reasons why women's participation and initiatives often disappear from written history; and over these many years the identified "leadership" has usually been male.

The struggles of black women cannot be separated from the struggle for national liberation. For even as women are active in increasing numbers in popular organizations, they are also organizing autonomously and making it perfectly clear that the so-called "woman's question" cannot be postponed till after the revolution.

Since the events of Soweto in 1976, women's activities and mobilization in South Africa have developed new strengths and new forms. Students, teachers, mothers, service workers, domestic workers, factory



workers, farm workers, church women, urban women, rural women are all organizing themselves for liberation and the overthrow of apartheid. Women are active in all popular forms of resistance: student organizations, civic associations, groups fighting forced removals, unions, advice centres, popular education, literacy, health, and of course organizing women as women to become an even stronger political force in the country.

Women's organizations exist in most regions of South Africa, but as most other organized activity in South Africa it is regionally specific. Many of the issues that women mobilize around are common to the whole country: rent increases, rise in the GST (General Sales Tax), forced removals, boycotts to support union struggles, militarization of the state, detentions, deterioration in education and health care, workers rights, etc... but the timing, tactics and extent of the mobilization has been determined regionally.

Today there exist many local groupings of women, large and small, some of whom have formed themselves into regional federations. Below are short profiles of a few of the many women's organizations in South Africa.

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FIGHTING APARTHEID

by Abbe Edelson

In the last couple of months, protests against apartheid in South Africa have been increasing in Toronto, as the international movement against apartheid is growing rapidly. Most recently, on October 11th, the Anti-Apartheid Coalition sponsored a demonstration in front of the South African embassy at King and Bay Streets, which later moved to Toronto's City Hall. While the *Toronto Star* reported that an estimated five hundred people took part in the protest, the figure was more likely in the area of seven hundred and fifty. October 11th is the United Nations Solidarity Day with Political Prisoners in South Africa. Toronto's demonstration was just one of many which took place on October 11th in Montreal, Ottawa, Guelph and across Canada and the United States.

At Toronto's city hall, speeches were given by representatives of the Anti-Apartheid Coalition, the African National Congress and the Metro Labour Council. Also, Mayor Art Eggleton joined in to officially unveil a street sign named in honour of Bishop Desmond Tutu. Strangely enough, the street is located in the

Harbourfront area of Toronto. Eggleton was greeted by a militant crowd, many of whom booed and shouted as he took the microphone. In the midst of trying to keep his job as Toronto's mayor, Eggleton's presence at the rally was quite timely. As well, Alderman Gilbert said that Toronto City Council had recently passed a decision not to allow entertainers who have performed in South Africa to entertain in city-run and -owned facilities. However, Metro council has not yet agreed to join the boycott. In addition, Gilbert told the crowd that pension funds from city hall would not be invested in banks with shares in South Africa.

The Toronto Board of Education has also recently taken a position against apartheid by not buying foods and services which deal with South Africa. At the University of Toronto, the U of T's divestment committee was not as successful in attempts to put pressure on the university's administration. A very watered down resolution was passed by U of T's Board of Governors which essentially stated that the university would divest only in companies that don't comply with the federal government's code of conduct which is not a clear policy. This individualizes the university's approach to divestment and takes a very selective approach to each situation.



The Anti-Apartheid Coalition

The Anti-Apartheid Coalition is made up of a number of groups and individuals and has been meeting since July 24, 1985. Over one hundred and fifty individuals have

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FEMINISM: ALIVE IN THE UNIONS

by Carolyn Egan

The Canadian Labour Congress held a Women's Affirmative Action Conference in Ottawa September 26-29th. Over 500 women activists from across Canada and Quebec assembled for workshops and plenary sessions focused primarily on affirmative action and implementation strategies. Many more had hoped to attend but the registration was limited because of space constraints. Nancy Farmer from IWDC was a delegate from her Steelworker local, and was quite instrumental in the passing of strong resolutions on South Africa and abortion rights. There was a lot of enthusiasm and energy generated by such a large gathering of women labour activists, and it was clear to anyone attending that feminism is alive and well in the trade union movement.

Other IWDC members were part of a delegation from the Ontario Coalition for Abortion Clinics which attended with observer status. OCAC has made a priority of working within the trade union movement, and viewed this conference as an opportunity to speak with rank and file women from across the country about the present abortion rights campaign. A petition had been developed by a number of labour women from Ontario. It was directed toward Cliff Pilkey, President of the Ontario Federation of Labour, and urged the labour movement to stand firm in its support for a woman's right to abortion at this critical time. A majority of the delegates signed the petition, and many took copies home to their locals. It was an excellent way to speak with individual women, and build support for the bi-national abortion tribunals "Crimes Against Women" which will be held in different provinces from January to April, 1986.

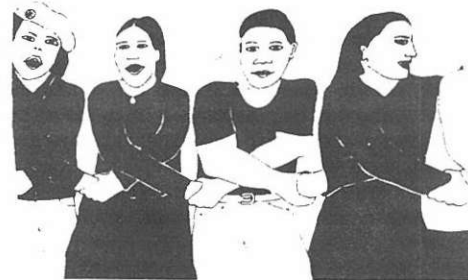
The following resolution was passed to include the C.L.C.'s position on abortion in the affirmative action package:

The Canadian Labour Congress recognize full access to medically-insured abortions as an essential element of affirmative

action and that this be written into any future policy on affirmative action.

The C.L.C. make its support for abortion rights more visible through public statements and by encouraging its affiliates to do the same.

The resolution was passed in principle at the plenary session for referral to the CLC Executive. Its intention was not only to re-endorse the CLC position but to endorse abortion rights as an essential element of its affirmative action policy. There was a hesitation by the delegates to speak to the resolution on the floor; however, the support became quite clear in the vote. After discussion and an attempt by the chair to have it deferred, a motion was passed 70 to 30 that it be included in the policy on affirmative action.



A member of the WWIW Labour Committee, Maria Willis, attended the recent CLC Women's Conference. In the plenary she pointed out a large banner that portrayed labour women linking arms in solidarity. "I don't see myself in that picture. All the faces are white." Once again it took the courage of one of the few women of colour in attendance to raise the consciousness of both the organizers and the participants. Maria's comments were met with applause, and she was congratulated for bringing it to the attention of the conference.

We should all be more conscious of the many ways in which racism permeates our lives, and should all take the responsibility to speak out in situations such as this.

FLYING ONCE AGAIN

by Nancy Farmer with thanks to Marilyn White (CALFAA)

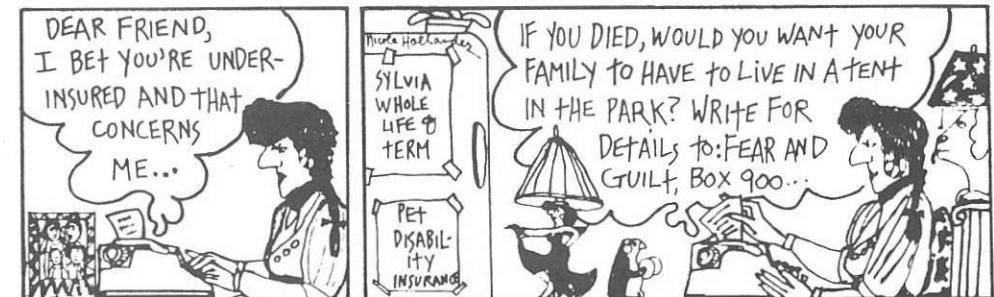
It was a tough five weeks strike, but 3,300 Air Canada Flight Attendants, members of the Canadian Airline Flight Attendants Association, voted to return to work early in October by a 66% majority.

Battling a company with unlimited resources to spend on strikebreaking and misleading advertising wasn't an easy task. Mail and cargo disruptions, delayed flights and no meals on flights were some of the "inconveniences" the flight attendants served to Air Canada. Canada-wide rallies, blitzes and sit-ins kept the strike in the public eye and put pressure on Air Canada to negotiate.

The union was able to hold Air Canada back on many of its concessionary demands. They were able to win two 3% wage increases, a signing bonus of between \$900 and \$1,100, improvements in sick leave and vacation credits, improvements in the Global Expansion Program (new overseas routes), and they kept the increase in flight time to a voluntary basis.

CALFAA, with 79% of the members being women, has always been a behind the scenes fighter on women's issues. In the sixties they had to fight such prejudices as having to quit at age 32, then having to be single, and finally being forced to resign if they had children. Today they are concerned with issues such as childcare and maternity leave. The radicalization of this union is obvious. Mass pickets and sit-downs are tactics not usually associated with Airline Attendants. The visible support CALFAA gave to striking Visa workers was impressive. In the past the different unions at Air Canada were almost hostile to each other, but recently have realized the need for a "common front", perhaps to initiate some sort of co-ordinated bargaining. The union would then become a much more formidable force against the company.

The strike was made more difficult as Air Canada used 1,800 inadequately trained scabs to keep flying. Labour must strongly protest this form of union-busting and demand laws against it. Strike breaking represents a serious threat to the labour movement as a whole and, if not discouraged, companies will make much wider use of scab labour in all disputes.



NAC PRES. GOES TO BAY ST.

International Women's Day Committee
Box 70, Station F, Toronto

August 29, 1985

To: National Executive, NAC

Dear sisters:

At our meeting on August 25, the International Women's Day Committee passed a motion to express our surprise and disapproval about the fact that Chaviva Hosek will continue to serve as NAC president after accepting a high-profile job with an investment firm that, to the best of our knowledge, deals in private pension funds.

As an active member group of NAC, we believe that the president of the organization ought to be able to speak for all organized women in Canada, including labour women, older women fighting for better pensions, and all those sectors of women who could potentially be in conflict with the finance industry. Furthermore, NAC has a policy supporting public, as opposed to private, pension plans.

For all these reasons we believe that Chaviva Hosek is in a position of conflict of interest. In our view, her credibility as NAC president has been jeopardized by taking up her new position.

Yours in sisterhood,

Mariana Valverde
for the IWDC

cc.: Chaviva Hosek, President
Southern Ontario Regional Representative
NAC Memo



NAC's President's New Job

- from Feminist Action Feministe, October, 1985

At the September NAC Executive Board meeting, the issue of President Chaviva Hosek's new job as pension analyst for Gordon Capital, working in private industry, was raised. Member groups and the press have asked questions around Chaviva's job change, and the Executive addressed this issue and formulated the following position.

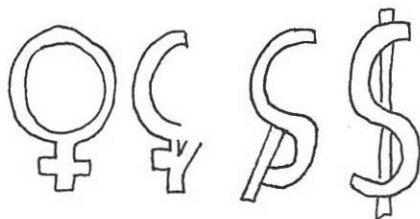
Four major questions were discussed.

1. Will Chaviva's new job allow her the necessary time to do the work of the NAC President?

Chaviva has negotiated with her new company for time to represent NAC as extensively as the NAC presidency demands.

2. Does Chaviva's new job in the private pension industry place her in a conflict of interest position with NAC policy and other NAC actions?

The NAC Executive Board recognizes that potential conflicts of interest exist. However, Chaviva strongly supports the NAC position and has negotiated with her new company the freedom to defend this position and any others taken by NAC. The NAC pension committee continues to lobby publicly through Chaviva for the extension of the Canada and Quebec Pension Plans.



3. Does the President's new job have an impact on the overall image of NAC?

The Executive realizes that this is an issue because of the identification of NAC with the President. However, NAC is not just its President but a whole organization. Chaviva's track record as NAC President has been that of a high profile feminist addressing major issues affecting the status of Canadian women. NAC's image is determined by the equality issues it fights for as the national lobby group for women.

The NAC Executive is drawn from all segments of society. Since we are a volunteer organization and all hold jobs and positions in other organizations as well as NAC, we recognize that a potential conflict of interest may occur for any member of the Executive. Each of these situations must be analyzed and dealt with on an individual basis as it takes place.

(P.S. We don't know what the fourth question was. IWDC)

continued from page 13

attended the meetings over the last couple of months. Some of the groups involved in the the coalition include Canadians Concerned About South Africa, TCLSAC (Toronto Committee for the Liberations of South Africa), Committee for Racial Equality, the University of Toronto Divestment Committee, York Students Against Apartheid, and representatives from the United Church, Metro Labour Council and OXFAM. Individuals not belonging to groups are also encouraged to attend the coalition meetings and are allowed to vote after attending one meeting. (Memberships for individuals is five dollars, groups \$25.00.) The Coalition meets at Toronto's Board of Education (155 College St.) For more information call 532-8253 or 486-5081.

Women (Women Against Apartheid)

WOZA Women (WOZA means rise-up) is a group of women committed to organizing protests and educationals against apartheid. On August 9th, South Africa Women's Day, several hundred people demonstrated at the South African Embassy at

King and Bay. With the Commonwealth Conference now under way, WOZA women have been busy sending letters to External Affairs Minister Joe Clark, Prime Minister Mulroney and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Monique Vezina. Dionne Brand of WOZA says the letters "have been urging them to make Canada's position a more effective one than just symbolic sanctions". Much of the debate at the Commonwealth Conference is expected to revolve around Britain's trade with South Africa, and Thatcher's unwillingness to support sanctions. WOZA women encourage individuals to write letters to Joe Clark, with copies of letters to Mulroney and Vezina.



Members of WOZA are available for educationals--If you belong to a group or organization which would like to hold an educational on South Africa, for more information leave a message with Wendy Hunt at (416) 923-1168 or write:

WOZA WOMEN
P.O. Box 613
Postal Station "p"
Toronto, Ont.
M5S 2X4

Another active group is the Biko-Malcolm-Rodney Coalition which has been holding several demonstrations at the South African embassy. The most recent on October 4th was an extremely spirited and rhythmic demonstration which involved the participation of many of Toronto's musicians. Many people took part in giving their greetings of solidarity with the struggle in South Africa, including Bruce Cockburn and Parachute Club's Lorraine Segato.

NAIROBI: THE BEGINNING

By Carmencita R. Hernandez

Dateline - Nairobi, Kenya, July 18-19, 1985.

The Green Court of the University of Nairobi was filled with people from all over the world. They came to participate in the N30 Forum '85.

Prepared with briefs, photographs, testimonies; armed with their experiences - historically and globally linked with one another, 10,000 women found themselves in a site of intense political discussions, rallies and demonstrations, cultural performances and international networking.

The classrooms, meeting halls and grounds of the University of Nairobi were filled with delegates attending more than 100 workshops offered each day.

Dozens of tables displaying literature, posters, handicrafts of various women's organizations ringed the perimeter of the Green Court. Organizations as diverse as GABRIELA (General Assesmbly Binding Women for Reforms, Integrity, Equality, Leadership and Action - a broad coalition of women from various sectors and organizations in the Philippines), the Federation of Cuban Women, Asian Women's Research and Action Network (AWRAN), Housewives in Dialogue and the League of Women's Voters of Japan added to the excitement and vibrance of the Forum.

Across the city at the Kenyatta Conference Centre, a stone's throw away from the Hilton and Intercontinental Hotels, government delegates from over 150 countries met in the "official" United Nations Conference July 16-26, 1985 to assess the status and social progress of women since the U.N Decade for Women began in 1975.

Linked in a crucial way, both gatherings were framed by the contention and balance of forces between imperialism on the one hand and socialism and national liberation on the other. While divergent in character, together they constituted a major advance for women.

The U.N. Decade for Women has served to project the status of women on to the world's agenda, and the women who attended the Forum came away resolute that the condition of women will remain a permanent and prominent issue internationally.

The themes for both gatherings were peace, equality and development. However, the overriding issue was the struggle for world peace and disarmament.

The blue and white Peace Tent, scene of continuous activities and exchanges and labeled as the centre for anti-Western activity, was threatened with closure by the Kenyan government. However, its popularity and the overwhelming support of participants caused the Kenyan authorities to reconsider their position.



Women articulated their concerns and continuing struggle for development and equality - all of these cannot be achieved without peace with justice.

The women of GABRIELA pinpointed the number one oppressor and exploiter of the Filipino women - the Marcos dictatorship. The groups forming GABRIELA believe that oppression is structural in nature and

therefore women's struggle for peace, development and equality has to be directed against conditions that maintain, strengthen and perpetuate discriminatory policies against women.

GABRIELA's principles include the position that women unite with men in restoring democracy and sovereignty, advance women's liberation together with national liberation and oppose any further moves to dehumanize Filipino women.

Women from the South African delegation emphasized the special burden apartheid places on women, as well as the high degree of participation by and integration of women in the liberation movement. Participants overwhelmingly gave their support to the South African and Namibian liberation movements.

Many women came to Kenya concerned about how the question of Palestinian rights and the role of Israel in the Middle East would be handled. It had been a heated and controversial point at the Mid-Decade conference in Copenhagen in 1980.

Palestinian women, despite the recent divisions within the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) presented a united front against Zionist's efforts to maintain that the condition of women in the occupied territories has improved under Israeli administration and to convince others that Zionism is a national liberation movement comparable to that of Black South Africans. Participation of African women in the workshops on the Middle East reflects both the global significance of the conflict and the increasingly intensive political and economic role of Israel on the African continent. The women at Forum '85 believed that peace in the Middle East is a paramount women's issue.

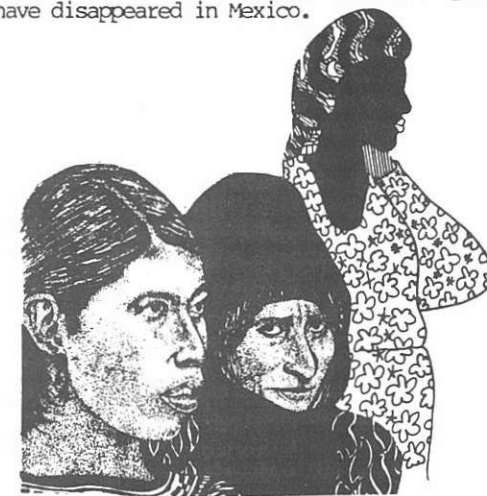
Peace in Central America and opposition to U.S. intervention in the region was a very prominent theme of the Forum. Over 3,000 signatures were gathered on a petition which read, in part: "We activists for women's rights from around the world strongly oppose U.S. intervention in Central America. We support the struggles of

Central American women for peace, national sovereignty and women's equality". The vigil held in support of Father Miguel D'Escoto's fast for peace drew a huge, enthusiastic crowd.

The conference also expressed support for the people's struggles in El Salvador and Guatemala. Representatives from major Salvadorean women's organizations told of functioning in unified teams in the liberated zones.

Rigoberta Menchu, narrator of the film "When the Mountains Tremble", recounted her own experience in Guatemala. Her village was burnt to prevent the population from assisting the guerillas and her father and brother were murdered by government troops during the siege of the Spanish embassy in Guatemala City. The indigenous people have suffered intense government repression since 1966.

Mothers and Grandmothers of the Disappeared/Detained in Latin America vividly shared their experiences. Over 900,000 people have been detained or disappeared in the region. Rosario Ibara de Piedra, the first woman candidate for Mexican president who was recently elected to that parliament, expressed her anguish over the disappearance of her son more than 10 years ago and how she turned anguish into determination and courage. Over 500 people have disappeared in Mexico.



IWDC PLANS

By Shelly Gordon

If you had seen us at 11:00 on a warm, sunny Sunday morning in September in someone's backyard, plates heaped with fantastic food, you probably wouldn't have guessed that this was the annual day-long conference of the International Women's Day Committee. If you had seen us back out there an hour later, plates again heaped with great food, you might have wondered how productive this meeting could be.

Well, the food was great and plentiful, the number of "new" women who attended was really encouraging and the discussions were very productive.

The morning session was a "round" in which each individual described her past and present involvement in the women's and other progressive movements, what they wanted out of or wanted to do in IWDC this year and any restrictions on their involvement. We wanted to assess individual's intentions and our resources before we discussed plans for the year. As usual, all IWDC members are extremely busy and many have to combine the time they have available for the group with other political work that they do. But there seems to be enough time and energy available to make our plans for the year realistic.

We finished the morning with a good discussion of IWDC's history and changes over the years.

The afternoon session was about our specific areas of work and plans for this year. Briefly, these are some of the activities IWDC members are or want to be involved in outside of the group:

International solidarity:

- Participate in the Tools for Peace Campaign by sending some contribution to a women's organization in Nicaragua;
- Participate in anti-apartheid activities, especially those specific to women;
- Maintain links with Anti-Intervention Coalition and peace movement;

Labour solidarity and outreach:

- Continue ad hoc strike support work and participation in other labour campaigns about women's issues;

Reproductive rights:

- Continue involvement with OCAC;
- OPIRG Politics of Pornography and Prostitution Conference;

Socialist Feminist public forums:

- Some people have expressed interest in continuing these; more discussion later;

March 8th Coalition:

- Hold thorough discussion soon to determine this year's level of involvement;

Other:

- IWDC members are also involved in NAC committees, WWIW, fundraising for Sister Vision, etc.



There are several things that we want to do internal to the group as well:

- Re-establish a co-ordinating committee to set meeting agendas, keep up with the mail and banking and act as contacts for the group;
- Hold internal educational discussions to complement our activities and educate us about things we're not involved in; before Xmas we hope to have educationals on South Africa, prostitution and lesbians in the work place;
- Collectively put out five issues of the newsletter over the year; have discussion about direction, purpose and readership;
- Some of the group have organized a small study group and some of us will help with presentations to the group;
- Fund-raising!!! More about this later.

The co-ordinating committee is Linda Gardner (Ph. 531-0867), Nancy Farmer (Ph. 531-6608) and Cynthia Wright (Ph. 465-5992).

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS AT WORK

by Susan Meurer

"The right to have healthy children" was the theme of a conference on workplace reproductive hazards held in Toronto. More than 150 women, trade unionists, health activists and other concerned people attended the two-day session, September 6 and 7.

Recommendations from individual workshops were presented at a final strategy session, and these reflected the action-oriented mood of the participants. The formation of a coalition to further study reproductive hazards in the workplace was urged. The founding meeting takes place October 22 in Toronto. This informal organization will look at strategies for lobbying and at means to support workers involved in reproductive hazard struggles. Other suggestions included some type of reproductive hazard hotline, and trade union recognition of the issue as a top priority.



Many of the recommendations were inspired by presentations and speakers. Sharon Clarke, Saskia Post and Lorraine Wise outlined their ongoing struggles, all of which take a different form. But all three underline employers' lack of concern for worker health and safety and governments' unwillingness to enforce or enact corrective measures. Potential reproductive hazards are used, it became clear, to discriminate against women in the workplace.

Keynote speaker, Dr. Linda Murray, occupational health specialist, stressed that workplace reproductive hazards should be of concern to both men and women. She argued that focusing on women was not only discriminatory but scientifically incorrect.

Coalition members hope to bridge the gap between health and safety and environmental concerns — two sides of one coin. Whatever toxic substances poison the air or water, first affect the working people producing or processing them — and the dose is usually much stronger. A broad coalition will help dismantle the double standard: millions of dollars, for instance, are spent cleaning up a relatively small PCB spill in Northern Ontario, but workers who handled PCBs for years in a far more concentrated form are ignored.

Women seem to be in the spotlight of workplace reproductive hazards. Some reasons for this are obvious: the myth of the ever potentially pregnant female who has no control over her body. In fact, the issue is every worker's issue. Cleaning up the workplace of these hazards eliminates any gender based discrimination. Women won't lose access to higher paying jobs and men won't endure greater exposures.

Susan Meurer works in the field of occupational health and safety and was one of the conference organizers.

The word processing of this newsletter was done by the woman at Rexdale Community MicroSkills Development Centre. Rexdale MicroSkills is an on-the-job training program for immigrant women in microfilm and automated office procedures. If you would like further information please call Shelly Gordon at 749-0640.

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Dateline - Toronto, Canada.

Delegates have returned to their home countries. Almost all have beautiful memories. Most were overwhelmed, some were sobered. As each continues her work she remembers Nairobi ...

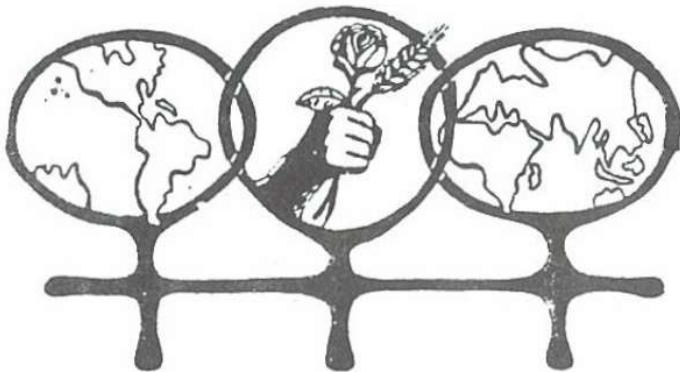
Kenya, a very rich country - rich with natural and human resources. A country controlled by transnational corporations.

Nairobi - a city filled with grandiose hotels with an abundance of water and power. Five minutes away, houses made of clay and wood, no water, no lights.

Kenya, Africa, Phillipines, Asia - sources of profit for big companies. Places were consciousness among the people, especially women, is becoming a source of strength and determination.

Nairobi, Kenya will never be the same again. Nor will the women.

(Carmencita Hernandez is a member of the Coalition of Visible Minority Women, the Coalition Against the Marcos Dictatorship/Phillipine Solidarity Network and Chairperson of the Kababayan Community Centre)



continued from page 7

Is this the same government that cannot afford to fund adequately rape crisis centres' women's shelters, much-needed affordable housing and other critically important services? We all know who will have to shoulder the burden of cost for this program. When money is tight it is those who can least afford it and the programs designed for them that get squeezed.

We have much at stake in this fight. OCAC has recognized the common ground and has elected to have a representative from its ranks sit on the steering committee of the Coalition for Public Education, which is spearheading the fight against Bill 30. It is hoped that IWDC and other women's groups will also link up with this group. Thus far it has spent most of its time and effort launching a court fight against the proposed legislation. But it recently agreed to organize a mass protest demonstration. For many of us, getting away from the courts and into the streets is a welcome tactic. Also important is that the coalition has invited Carolyn Egan from IWDC to be one of its main speakers at the rally.

The demonstration against Bill 30 is planned for 1:30 p.m., Saturday, November 2, at Queen's Park. It is hoped that women's groups will not only attend this rally but will also put considerable effort into building it. As socialists and as feminists we are going to have to fight this battle at some point. It might as well be now before this nasty piece of legislation becomes completely entrenched.



MARCH 8TH, ONCE AGAIN

The first meeting of the March 8th Coalition for International Women's Day is scheduled for Wednesday, December 11th at the Metro Library, on 789 Yonge st. (just north of Bloor). All women are urged to involve themselves in the organizing for this year's events. The themes, activities, etc. are all open for discussion.

If you are interested in becoming a part

of the Steering Committee that is planning the initial meeting, please call Laurie Bell at 863-6702. Ideas and energy are actively being sought. If you feel that your issues or concerns have not been adequately dealt with in the past please involve yourself, so that International Women's Day 1986 will be truly reflective of the women's movement in all its diversity.

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A) Federation of Transvaal Women (FEDTRAW)

Formed in May 1984, FEDTRAW consists of 22 member groups in the Transvaal, both urban and rural. They have an executive of 22 members but due to constant harassment and arrests by the security police they have a 2-tier leadership. Primary objectives are to organize women to be politically active in the struggle against apartheid and for national liberation. They have organized against Botha's "New Deal" - the Koomhof Bills on forced removals and the proposition of the tri-cameral parliament to "include" Asians and so-called Coloureds. FEDTRAW is a member of the United Democratic Front (UDF) and have a representative on the UDF Transvaal executive. Member groups have organized around many of the issues identified earlier.

B) Natal Organization of Women (NOW)

Women in Natal have united periodically to organize specific events, e.g. August 9th, South African Women's Day. But NOW was created in 1983 in recognition of the need for progressive women's organization to mobilize women for the political struggle. NOW's objectives are: "1) To struggle against all racial, economic and sexual exploitation; 2) To unite women to solve problems that affect us in the community and in our workplace; 3) To strengthen women so that we are more confident of our decisions and our actions, so that we can play a greater part in other organizations to which we belong. (e.g. civics, unions, youth)." NOW is a non-racial organization, though primarily black, and also affiliated to the UDF. NOW participates in all UDF campaigns also. They have groups in the townships, Lamontville, Kwamashu and Durban Central. Women in Durban Central are doing research and trying to focus on contraception and family planning. This is a somewhat complex issue because of government programs on the same issue for entirely different reasons, e.g. forced Depo Provera injections for black women workers.

C) South African Domestic Workers Association (SADWA)

SADWA's head office is in Durban with branch offices in Johannesburg, Mowbray,

Empangeni and Pietermaritzburg. SADWA was formed in the beginning of 1981 but traces its origin to the Domestic Workers and Employers Project (DWEPE) which was formed with the assistance of the South African Institute of Race Relations in 1970. Briefly, SADWA's aims are: 1) To protect the domestic workers against exploitation and to secure fair and reasonable conditions of employment; 2) To help domestic workers solve problems; 3) To become a mouthpiece for domestic workers; 4) To negotiate with employers on behalf of domestic workers; 5) To work towards a Trade Union.

The Domestic Worker's Association represents the majority of black domestics in Cape Town.



D) Black Sash

Black Sash is primarily a white women's organization formed in 1955. At that point they were called the Women's Defence of the Constitution League and formed to oppose attempts by the State to constitutionally remove "Coloured" voters in the Cape Province from the common roll. The Black Sash is non-party politically and undenominational and seeks by non-violent and peaceful means to: 1) promote justice and the principles of parliamentary democracy in South Africa, 2) seek constitutional recognition and protection by law of Human rights and liberties for all, 3) further the political education and enlightenment of South African citizens, 4) undertake whatever other activities may further the objectives of the organization. They run eight Advice Centres in South Africa where they assist black people in dealing with the huge web of apartheid laws. They also assist communities fighting forced removals, as well as being involved in the Detainees Parents Support Committee.

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The IWDC Newsletter provides a vehicle for socialist-feminist activists to analyze, discuss and report on our political work and our visions. It is the voice of an activist organization. If you subscribe you will be kept in tune with the key issues women are dealing with, and at the same time support a socialist-feminist group. Subscribe now!

.....

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About us ...

IWDC is a socialist-feminist group. We operate on the principle that mass actions are our most effective instruments of change. We believe that the oppression of women touches every aspect of our lives and that the liberation of women will require fundamental changes in the structure of society.

We hold bi-weekly meetings where our policy and overall direction are determined. Smaller committees work on specific events or issues or in different constituencies.

We welcome new members. For information call Nancy at 531-6608.



International Women's Day Committee,
P.O.Box 70, Station F,
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