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# NEWSLETTER

JUNE 1985

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St. John's Status of Women Council

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# WOMEN AND PEACE



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ALSO:

- Interview with Mary Daly, Part 2
- Mediawatch
- Annual General Meeting Report

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**EDITORIAL**

For many people the long weekend in May is a time to take it easy and relax, but last month 83 dedicated women spent a very busy holiday weekend studying and discussing women's role in the peace movement. Women in Newfoundland and Labrador have always been very active in the peace movement (as are women throughout the world), but this marked the first time a women's conference on peace has been held in the province.

The original impetus for the conference came from the International Conference "Women's Alternatives for Negotiating Peace" (which took place at Mount St. Vincent's University, Halifax, Nova Scotia earlier this month). Canadian women's groups were organizing an International Conference on peace -- it seemed clear that in Newfoundland and Labrador we could have a mini-conference to tie in with this great event. Through many months of planning (and financial assistance from the Women's Program at Secretary of State) the dream became a reality, and women from all areas of the province were able to get together to discuss issues of peace and development locally.

The Newfoundland/Labrador Women's Peace Conference came up with many positive ideas and resolutions, and five delegates from our conference were able to attend the International Conference, bringing with them resolutions highlighting issues of concern.

The 83 women who attended the peace conference at the Sunshine Camp came from many different backgrounds and groups, but all were unanimous in their concern for the Innu people who are affected by low-level high-speed NATO training flights over their territory in Labrador and Quebec. Two Innu women from LaRomaine, Alice Bellefleur and her daughter Anne Mestinapao, gave personal testimony about the effects of these flights on their traditional way of life. Women had no problem understanding the acute concerns of these mothers for their children's safety, when the shrieking noise of a low-speed plane can cause a child to run headlong into the bush out of fear.

Resolutions from the Newfoundland/Labrador Women's Peace Conference are included in this issue of the newsletter, along with several articles on feminism and peace, and women's attitudes towards war. The connections between the violence that affects women on a regular basis in our society (such as sexual assault and wife battering) and the violence of war are becoming very clear to feminists, as is the need for new values than can build a society free from all violence.

Women in the peace movement are speaking up strongly against the value systems, traditions, and organizations that perpetuate discrimination and allow immense armament buildups at a cost of over \$800 billion annually (one and a half million dollars a minute!)

Last month's women's peace conference left me with a strong sense of hope. The enthusiasm and commitment of women in this province to educate themselves and others on issues of peace is clear, as is the willingness to work with each other from different philosophies and groups towards a common goal.

St. John's Status of Women Council has made a clear commitment to working on issues of peace. At the May 27 annual general meeting, resolutions were passed supporting the efforts of the Innu people to stop low-level military flights, joining the Newfoundland/Labrador Peace Network, and undertaking to lobby city council to have St. John's declared a nuclear weapons free zone.

Peace is fundamental to development and equality, and in working towards the equality of women, we must also stay aware of the costs of war socially and economically to women everywhere.

*Sharon Pope*



Women for Peace by Meinrad Craighead, for the Women's Peace Alliance

## FEMINIST EDUCATION: A KEY TO PEACE

Canadian disarmament educator Dorothy Goldin Rosenberg gave the keynote address at the Women's Peace Conference (May 17-19) held at the Sunshine Camp on Thorburn Rd. The following is an edited version of her comments.

"War has always been a decision of the few for which the many paid. When women got into the peace business it was in the first place because of their experience of mopping up the leftovers of decisions in which they had no part."

Ursula Franklin, physicist

I think the key word there is "decisions". Who is making the decisions? In whose name are these decisions being made? How are they being made? And what are we going to do about it?

What we're seeing with the low-level (military testing in Labrador) is an example of militarization in Canada and the increased militarization that is taking place all over the world. We know that in Canada we are very obviously involved. We have the image of being a peace-keeping country.... Ever since Lester B. Pearson won the Nobel prize for peace this image of Canada has persisted and I don't really understand how because we are really very guilty of a lot of participation in the arms race. I'm very hopeful that we can change it.

There has been an absence of public participation and of women's participation and women's analysis until now, to the point where we really haven't been effective. Ursula Franklin calls this a "crisis in our democracy". We live here in a country where we can speak out, where we can make our voices heard... we owe it to future generations to do this.

In the past we have been largely silent but I think the time has come, the urgency has come, where we have to make our voices heard. That's the positive part and that's the energy of women but we have a lot of cleaning up to do and we have to do this under the umbrella of a whole framework of militarization in Canada being pushed by the Americans.

I think the "Star Wars" issue has pushed people over the brink. A lot of people who thought they could go along with the arms race now say it's time to stop. There's a major campaign going on now across the country (to stop research into Star Wars) and I would urge people to participate because you know where it (the research) will go. The kinds of questions we have to ask is where will it lead to? and what are the alternatives? These are the questions that have to be asked and the politicians have to be forced to answer them.

There are short-term goals and long-term goals. The short-term goals are stopping this madness as quickly as we can. The long-term goals are the long-term education we have to do in terms of the values in society. We've entitled this talk "Feminist Education: A Key to Peace" which is an implication for a value-system. The title comes from an article by Lyla Hoffman (published in the Bulletin of Interracial Books For Children, Vol. 13 Numbers 6&7, 1982 - a copy of this article is on file at the Women's Centre). When I talk about feminist education, I'm talking about a set of values that have traditionally been ascribed to women. I don't think any of us want to separate men and women, we don't want to be divisive, we want to bring people together. Look at the values which are ascribed to patriarchy: the root of the word "pater", which means 'father' is "to own" if you go back far enough. When I heard of that definition, suddenly flashbulbs went off in my head because that whole ownership, that possession, that controlling, was something I could relate to very easily, and I think a lot of women can.



OVER 60 YEARS AGO,  
MAN DECIDED TO LET  
HIS WOMAN VOTE.



AND SO WHAT?  
THE EARTH IS  
NOW A DIGITAL  
READOUT AWAY  
FROM TOTAL  
DESTRUCTION. AND,  
IN THE MEANTIME...



...EACH AND EVERY  
MINUTE \$1,300,000  
IS SPENT AROUND  
THE WORLD FOR  
ARMAMENTS... AS  
30 CHILDREN DIE  
FROM STARVATION!

THE TIME HAS COME  
TO TAKE THE VOTE  
AWAY FROM MEN...



ALAN 83  
HE CLERK

reprinted from "Negatoons" (Eden Press)

What is the game that is being played? It is not new: we need to read about the competition between the super-powers in order to understand it and push it in a different direction. There have been many proposals by excellent women over the years on peace and atomic issues: it's not a lack of treaties, it's a lack of political will... (the leaders) need to keep us scared, they need to keep the threat. How else could they push on in the arms race? It's really boys playing with toys: it comes from psycho-sexual roots of competition.

Every round of peace treaty has been a process of exploiting the arms race, both the nuclear and the conventional one. We need to understand this in terms of

the treaties that are currently going on and analyze what we would do differently, how we would do it better.

In terms of our own political directions that we have to go in I would suggest to you that we have to educate the politicians. How many of you have every communicated to your member of parliament on international issues such as peace and disarmament?

Look at two films that came out of Studio D, NFB. "Not a Love Story" and "If you Love this Planet". One is dealing with local violence to women, pornography. The other is dealing with global violence, the threat of global nuclear war. If we use those two films together the similarities become quite startling.

I think it also helps to link in with the violence in our culture. The culture is completely violent when it comes to war toys: it's so "in", GI Joes etc., that mothers who say "no, you can't have these toys" are seen by their kids as "bad mothers". You need to use the experience as a chance to educate your kids.

Following the invasion of Grenada, Has-Bro together with American congressmen and the Military, airlifted 23,000 GI Joes into Grenada. This is the militarization of our children's minds and the acceptance of violence as normal in action, playing, recreation and culture.

Look what happened with the video game "Custer's Revenge", an adult video game that came on the market about three years ago at Christmas-time. The object of the game is for the military "Custer" figure to ride across the screen on a horse, naked except for a holster with guns. The object of his prey is an Indian woman who is tied to a stake and his object is to rape her. And the more he rapes her, the more he penetrates her, the more points he scores. The caption on the bottom says "when you score you score".

Now that game was coming in as entertainment, sold as an "adult game". For a lot of us the graveness of the situation was so clear and the connections between different issues so clear: here was a game that embodied

pornography, racism, violence to women, militarism, all of those issues right in one game. It was so evident of what we really need to deal with.

Until we begin to see that the mentality that commits rape and commits war are the same mentality I suggest we can't begin to understand the global violence that's happening. It took us under two weeks, with pressure from groups right across the country to stop this game from coming in. All the women's groups, all the native groups, all the environmental groups, all the peace groups. It was so clear.

When we stopped the game we realized that this was what we have to do. We've got to all pull together in a very concentrated way and stop the things that we don't want to deal with. In a way the game gave us an example of the kind of work we have to do together to make things happen. And I know we are very fragmented, we are all working on a lot of issues, and they are all very important. But we have to see how can converge them and put the political pressure on so they have no choice but to stop.

We need to look at biological violence, structural violence, the poisoning of our earth, at how behavior is sexist, racist and classist, and at how we can connect with it to give us the knowledge and information to fight it. In "Reweaving the Web of Life" Donna Warnick talks about the origin of the word "violence" which is "viol", the French word for "rape". All these words have come to be connected with pornography and power by feminists in recent years. Donna Warnick connects pornography, violence and military virility. Shee talks about military virility and "snuff" films used as entertainment (films in which a prostitute is disemboweled). Rape is a euphemism for "kill" in war.



It's a very sad situation because it doesn't seem to be changing. But there is some very positive stuff going on. I would recommend getting Lyla Hoffman's booklet, she shows how feminist educators, both male and female, need to envision a world in which people's social political and economic roles are not determined by their sex. Feminist educators need to undo traditional socialization and develop more risk-taking, self-assured competent females and more caring co-operative and considerate males. Militarism and the arms race have yet to be addressed as basic women's issues although feminists are increasingly aware that militarism is really an extreme form of sexism, it's dependent on sexism for its existence.

Lyla Hoffman says, and I think this is very important,

"If socialization of both sexes stressed co-operation, kindness, nurturance, respect for human feelings and human differences, patriarchy - as well as militarism - would be doomed. Neither could exist without sexist ideology. Patriarchy could not exist without the threat of force and violence to keep rebellious women and non-elite men in their place. Wars would not be fought by people who believed in the non-violent resolution of conflicts."

I would just like to conclude by saying that there is very good evidence that in the past and in the present patriarchal societies had and have very different values in their analysis and their government. I think we have some very positive things to look to. There are positive things happening everywhere but how we use the tools for education that are most productive and give us the power to do it is the real question.



## WOMEN'S PEACE CONFERENCE

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WERE UNANIMOUSLY ENDORSED BY DELEGATES TO THE NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR WOMEN'S PEACE CONFERENCE:

1. This conference endorses the press release brought to us by the Innu communities of Labrador and Quebec.

(The press release, issued May 10 1985 outlines the opposition of the LaRomaine Innu Band Council to low-level military training flights over Innu territory in Quebec and Labrador. This opposition is based on the traditional and historic use of this land by the Innu, and the conviction that these low-level flights have seriously affected herds of caribou, fur-bearing animals, fish and birds. The Innu families, in particular the elderly and young, have been traumatized by these flights and it is affecting the education of young Innu in learning the traditional way of life. Further, the press release states that the Innu people have never, through treaty of agreement, ceded their collective rights to self-determination and permanent sovereignty over the natural resource. Since these collective rights are guaranteed by international agreements signed by Canada, these training flights "constitute a flagrant violation of these agreements". Because of the military flights, the Innu people can no longer leave their main camps (although in the past this was done routinely) because the men must stay in the camps to continually watch over the families in case an accident should happen, for example children may flee into the bush when flights pass over or people in canoes may become disoriented by the noise of military flights.)

2. This conference supports the wish expressed to us by Alice Bellefleur and Anne Mestinapeo of LaRomaine to "return to the country next year" and "help stop the low-level flying".
3. Resolved that this conference is opposed to military foreign aid and military intervention in all countries. We want to aid these countries in the form of food, health, housing, education and clean water with no strings attached.

4. Resolved that this conference endorse plans for a peace booth at the Military Trade Show in Happy-Valley Goose-Bay this summer.
5. This conference wholeheartedly supports the private members bill put forth by Regina West MP Les Benjamin on March 18 1985 to declare Canada a nuclear weapons free zone.
6. We urge the Newfoundland and Labrador government to conclude negotiations with the Canadian Department of National Defence and have PCB's from U.S. radar sites removed from their storage facilities in Happy-Valley Goose-Bay to the U.S. for disposal.
7. This conference goes on record as supporting the Newfoundland/Labrador Peace Network.
8. Whereas we believe schools should encourage student to think critically and make informed decisions, be it resolved that the provincial Department of Education include in the curriculum work concerning social issues in a nuclear age and that all teachers be encouraged to discuss these above issues when appropriate to the subject matter.
9. Whereas militarism, violence and pornography are closely linked, this conference urges the Newfoundland and Labrador Government to enact legislation to permit municipalities to make by-laws controlling the sale of pornography.

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP  
IN SJSWC FOR 1985-86? DETAILS  
ON PAGE 43.... AND DON'T FORGET  
THERE'S A TGIF FRIDAY JUNE 28th  
AT THE WOMEN'S CENTER



STOP THE MILITARIZATION OF LABRADOR  
FACT SHEET

Having operated fighters in Europe for nearly 30 years, as part of our NATO forces, Canadians are well aware of the nuisance that low flying aircraft can be to a civilian population (Hon. Gilles Lamontagne, former Minister of National Defence, April 1981).

- German, British and other NATO airforces are conducting low-level flight training over extensive areas of Labrador and Quebec. The military jets travel at high speeds and altitudes as low as 100 ft.
- many of the aircraft used in the training exercises have nuclear capability. The Tornado fighter bomber can penetrate enemy defences to deliver nuclear weapons at low level, in all-weather conditions, and at any time of day or night. The Tornado is essentially a manned cruise missile.
- the Department of National Defense, with the full support of the Newfoundland government is turning Goose Bay into a major NATO training facility. Two bombing ranges are being established as part of plans for massive war games which simulate attacks on Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.
- no adequate environmental impact study was undertaken. Evidence from bush pilots, biologists, Innu hunters, and non-Innu settlers suggests that a number of animal, bird and fish species are being affected.
- no adequate socio-economic and health impact study was undertaken. There is enough evidence for serious concern about the effects of the flights on Innu health, in particular that of children and the elderly. For example, according to DND, one of the aircraft presently being used in low-level flights, the F-4 Phantom II, emits a noise level of 110-126 dB at the speeds and altitudes used in the exercises. The pain threshold for most people subject to loud noise is somewhere between 110 dB and 130 dB. The noise produced by the jets may be far in excess of 126 dB presenting the danger of severe hearing impairment to the people living in the area.
- besides causing panic among children, the loud, unexpected noise generated by the aircraft creates stress in people of all ages with severe repercussions for mental health and social relations in general (e.g. lowered frustration-tolerance and impaired task performance).

The Goose Bay base is becoming a central point for NATO strategic and tactical war planning. This cannot occur without a devastating effect on the traditional culture of the Innu people of the area. If we do not speak out now, we create more space for an escalating arms race that threatens all humanity. Stop the militarization of Labrador!!!

If you are interested in learning more about this issue and/or helping to stop the military buildup in Labrador, contact:

St. John's Ploughshares  
PO Box 13392, Stn. A  
St. John's, NFLD, A1B 4B7

Native Peoples Support Group  
PO Box 582, Stn. C  
St. John's, NFLD, A1C 5K8





local effects on the environment demonstrate the close links between militarism, racism and the economic system. The carnage in Beirut was vividly described by a Christian Lebanese woman who described a typical day in that war-ravaged area: water and food shortages, valiant attempts to live a "normal" life--sending the children to school with instructions on what to do in case of a rocket attack, the problem of getting stranded on the other side of town during attacks, the constant tension of watching for the safe return of family members-- and her own efforts to aid refugees, both Christian and Muslim. These few examples can convey only inadequately the sense of urgency and unity expressed by women the world over about the global crisis in all its interrelated forms.

Our communication with each other was not limited to talk-- every evening we shared music with each other, sometimes formally, but just as often, informally. Songs were written for the conference by women musicians and the presence of singer Salome Bey added spirit to the conference. A powerful woman with a voice well-suited for her gospel/blues music, Salome Bey performed for a packed house of conference goers one evening but her presence electrified nearly every session of informal singing which characterized the conference. Other performers also contributed their music, most notably "Four the Moment" (an a cappella quartet with a political message) and Rita MacNeil. The new NFB film on women and peace, "Speaking Our Peace;" was screened at the conference followed by a panel discussion with some of the participants in the film. Films, music, art and discussion reiterated the themes of this very important conference; all the delegates were determined to return home and communicate the results and to build on the foundation the conference provided. A continuing form of communication among participants was deemed a high priority to provide real information <sup>and</sup> pressure for real negotiations. As Sister Rosalie Bertell noted in her remarks, weapons-counting is not the issue--there can be no "winners" or "losers" in our age of nuclear power. Negotiations carried on in secret by the military or the politicians must be replaced by broadly-supported, open negotiations which recognize needs, fears and our capacity to share. Only then will we have peace-- the absence of collective violence, violence against the individual and structural violence. If there was one single agreed upon message that emerged from this meeting it is that peace, social justice and development are interdependent and must be viewed as such.

## MDI: a Mother's Day Initiative

56 343 Woodbine Avenue,  
Toronto, Ontario, M4L 3P5  
tel. (416) 6990669



Whether we live in the city or country, Prime Minister Mulroney's forthcoming decision on Canadian participation in Star Wars affects us all. Numerous authorities have examined the 26 billion dollar, 5 year research program and concluded that it is not the technological salvation we all wish it were. Instead, it has the potential to double the arms race, thus becoming the greatest threat to peace the world has ever known.

Best-selling children's cookbook author Lisa Bevelander launched a nation-wide appeal on Mother's Day, urging women young and old to write to Mila Mulroney about the Star Wars issue. Bevelander explains, "As a mother of three, expecting a fourth child, she may be the political figure most able to relate to mother's fears about the arms race. Also, she has recently established an office on Parliament Hill".

"Everything we do as mothers is ultimately for the protection of our children" Bevelander says, "although tragedy can strike in spite of our best efforts". Nine years ago she lived every mother's nightmare, helplessly watching as her three year old son was hit in a fatal car accident. Since then she has dedicated herself to making life better for children, first by promoting healthier foods through her cookbooks and presently by promoting peace.

The Star Wars debate is a supremely critical one for humanity. Once it is determined it will affect life on earth for generations to come. Canadians should never underestimate their power to influence this decision. If we speak for peace together, we could give hope to others around the world.

The government welcomes public response on the Star Wars issue. The deadline for a decision was postponed partially for that reason. While the Prime Minister's study group prepares recommendations for the cabinet, there is still time to speak out.

Mrs. Bevelander urges everyone, but especially mothers and all those who love children, to write a simple letter, "from the heart", telling how they feel about Star Wars and the arms race. She asks that the letters be sent to Mila Mulrone, before or by June 2nd. Historically, June 2, 1873 was organized as a Mother's Peace Day by Julia Ward Howe, a Boston woman who deplored the tragedy of the American Civil War.

"It will be impossible to protect our children from nuclear war once it starts" Bevelander says, "that's why we have to fight now. In a democracy we can fight for what we believe in by writing letters, and EVERY LETTER COUNTS! It is even postage free. Please write to Mila Mulrone, care of the Prime Minister's Office, Langevin Block, Ottawa, K1A 0A3, and encourage other women to do the same".



DAWNA GALLAGHER

"Well, it depends on what you mean by destruction — are you saying all life, or just life as we know it?"

reprinted from "Megatoons" (Eden Press)

# women and words

The following three poems by Roberta Buchanan were read at "A Women's Peace Celebration" held at the LSPU Hall Monday May 20th. ELEMENTAL POEM was specially written for this event.

## BREAK-UP

In our long battle, I thought that I had won  
Or at least bought my peace,  
But I was wrong.  
Ours was a fight to death, and I survived  
But oh at what a price:  
A living death with the spring gone  
The wrinkling and the greying of the skin  
Feeling of getting old and feeling ill  
Mourning for youth, the faltering of the will  
The sleepless nights alone.  
The price of freedom is a heavy price to pay  
I drag my ass around from day to day  
Somehow the vital principle has received a crack  
But I can never go back.

## SOCIALIZATION

In some societies (which shall be nameless)  
The men are trained to kill  
The women are trained to do the washing up:

Which is the better?



In some societies (which shall be nameless)  
The men are taught to make war  
And the women are taught to make babies:

Which is the better?

ELEMENTAL POEM

EAST WEST NORTH SOUTH

EARTH AIR FIRE WATER

We turn to the East: AIR  
 Blue space - breathing - the kiss of life  
 The wind driving sails and waves across the ocean  
 Impelling clouds across the sky.  
 Blowing away the cobwebs at Cape Spear  
 We take deep breaths and laugh.  
 Meditation on the breath  
 I watch you breathing as you sleep.

Otherwise:

Difficulty in breathing, the poisoned air  
 Tear gas, poison gas in the trenches  
 Coughing up one's guts  
 Emphysema, asthma, bronchitis  
 Choking, throttled, the breath stopped  
 The air that kills.

We turn to the South: FIRE  
 The singing kettle on the hearth  
 Cooking: the bubbling pot of beans  
 The barbecue that friends and neighbours share  
 The camp fire, sitting in a circle  
 Glowing coals, warmth in winter  
 Making love by firelight  
 Candles burning before the shrines  
 Solar energy  
 The fiery sunset flowing red  
 The stars dancing round the sky.

Otherwise:

Smoke from the death camps: Auschwitz  
 The burning of people  
 Witches burned alive in the burning-times  
 The mushroom cloud at Hiroshima  
 Bombed houses catching fire in Philadelphia  
 Napalm burns on screaming children  
 Caught in cross-fire  
 Fire that destroys.

We turn to the West: WATER  
 First element, the waters of life  
 The sea womb of the Mother Goddess, giving birth  
 To strange creatures, bearing exotic cargoes  
 Aphrodite rises from the foam  
 The waterfall tumbling over cliff  
 The holy well, the sacred spring  
 That heal our spirits  
 Swimming in the sunset  
 Immanence is light on water.

Otherwise:

The flood that destroys, the burst dam  
 The raging sea, sailors drowning  
 The Ocean Ranger gone, bodies never found  
 The water cannon on the protest march  
 Polluted lakes killing fish; mercury poison  
 The poisoned water that kills.

We turn to the North: EARTH  
 Gaea, Mother Earth, the Deep-Breasted One  
 The nurse of seedlings, infusing the blossoms  
 Forming the fruit  
 Digging our gardens  
 Manuring, tiling, sowing seeds  
 Until the bean hangs on the vine  
 Until the lettuces fan out their delicate leaves  
 Carrots, potatoes plump and swell  
 The fertile earth, abundantly feeding her children  
 At the last our final resting-place.

Otherwise:

The parched earth, desert, famine  
 The rain forests cut down  
 Defoliation - stripping the earth  
 Chemical warfare where nothing grows  
 The earth poisoned with PCBs  
 Eroded soil, the waste land  
 The bomb - nuclear winter  
 The poisoned earth.

EARTH AIR FIRE WATER

Essential elements, natural sources, re-sources:  
 Extract, extort, exploit, rape, destroy, kill  
 Or reverence, worship, conserve the sacred grounds of  
 being?

The ideas and opinions expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily representative of the ideas and opinions of the St. John's Status of Women Council. The Newsletter exists to provide a forum for women's opinions and an outlet for their expression. We welcome letters, comments, book reviews, poems, articles and suggestions.

WOMEN AND WORDS/Les femmes et les mots  
Newfoundland and Labrador

50 Freshwater Rd., St. John's, Nfld. A1C 2N5, Tel. 753-6542, Marian A. White, Coordinator

ATTENTION INTERESTED WOMEN AND WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS!!!

WOMEN AND WORDS, a Provincial Chapter of the National Pan-Canadian WOMEN AND WORDS is planning to publish a 1987 Almanac/Calendar. Under a grant from the Women's Program of the Secretary of State, our association intends to research the lives and work of a number of Newfoundland and Labrador women. Once compiled and edited, we will use some of these stories in the Almanac/Calendar.

The intention of this project is to uncover stories of women's lives that would be of interest to other women both historically and as an identity. It is one of the goals of WOMEN AND WORDS to bring women together in order to share their experiences and to learn from each other. The Almanac/Calendar will feature various women in all walks of life. There is no one particular 'type' of woman we are looking for; however, she should in some way support the belief that women have a unique history of their own whether that be expressed in her politics, her art, her writing, or in how she raises or has raised her children. The basic outline of the Almanac/Calendar will be such that space will be provided for recording a daily agenda or comments on events in our everyday lives. Through this method we hope to encourage women to express themselves through the written word.

We are now having a general call for submissions. Please type all entries. Do not send original work as we would like to keep the stories on file for future projects. If at all possible submit a black and white photograph of the woman or negative; however, if this is not available we will make the necessary arrangements to have one taken. Honorariums will be paid after selection of the women to be highlighted.

DEADLINE -- June 30, 1985

For more information on this project or on WOMEN AND WORDS in general please telephone the above number or write the above address.

Women les  
 and femmes  
 Words et les mots



## MEDIAWATCH

by Diane Hollett

Mediawatch is a national women's organization working to improve the image of women and girls in the Canadian media. We focus on sexism, from language which assumes everyone is male, to the most dramatic form of sexist imagery - pornography.

As the new provincial representative of Mediawatch, I'd like to invite all interested persons to find out what Mediawatch is and how you can participate. Given the enormous amount of sexism in the mass media, there's plenty of room for involvement in a variety of ways.

One of the most effective forms of direct action Mediawatch sponsors is a complaint form printed and distributed free of charge. You can use this form to make government (through the CRTC) and the communications industry aware of your opinion.

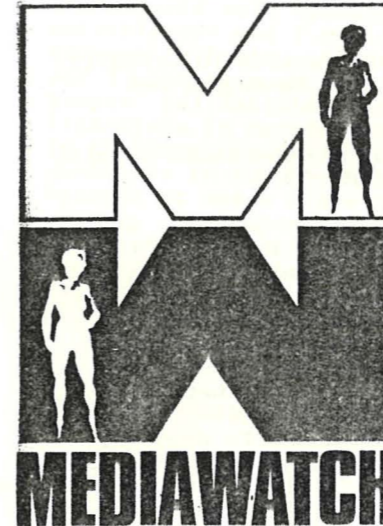
Do you ever get tired of women being portrayed as if our "place" is only within the home; that our main function is to be a sex-object? Does it bother you that women are portrayed in the media as submissive, dependent, unintelligent, and rarely seen after age 35 on TV?

When an image of women in the media bothers you because of a sexist bias, take action and complain. Industry, i.e. advertisers, consider one letter of complaint representative of anywhere from 40 to 500 other consumers who feel the same way but never get around to writing. Your voice has impact!

An exciting and useful project I hope to see locally developed is a slide show, film or video on an aspect of media portrayal of women such as how women are portrayed in cosmetic ads, or the increasing use of violence in 'high-fashion' magazines. A tool such as this would be very useful for educational presentation to community and youth groups. Perhaps someone with the artistic/technical know-how would find this an interesting project for the summer!

**DO THE MEDIA REFLECT  
CANADIAN WOMEN'S  
REALITY?**

For more information about Mediawatch, please contact me. I have pamphlets and complaint forms ready for distribution. Mediawatch also has a video which I would be happy to bring along and speak to your group on sexism in the media, how it affects you and what you can do about it.



**ENSURING  
A GOOD  
REFLECTION  
OF YOU.**

Hope to hear from you,

Diane Hollett

home address:  
29 Sunrise Ave.  
Mount Pearl, Nfld.  
A1C 1B6  
368-5062

or: Women's Resource Center  
Thompson Student Center  
Memorial University of Newfoundland  
St. John's, Nfld.  
A1C 5S7  
737-4366

**DON'T FORGET THE TGIF FRIDAY  
JUNE 28TH AT THE WOMEN'S CENTER.**

## INTERVIEW WITH MARY DALY - PART II

The first part of this interview was published in the May 1985 Newsletter. Thanks to Nancy Creighton, in whose house the interview was done, and who provided us with lunch afterwards; and to Marie-Annick Desplanques, who spent six hours transcribing the tape. The tape is deposited in MUNFLA (Memorial University of Newfoundland Folklore and Language Archives) for private study only; not to be reproduced without the permission of Mary Daly.

I was curious as to how Mary Daly, educated in Catholic schools, came to be a radical feminist and to reject her Catholic beliefs.

RB: I want to go back to your schooling. Was there a point at which you said "I'm no longer a Catholic"?

MD: It took a long time for me to reach that point. No, I didn't say that; I kept looking and looking; I thought there was something there but, see, my primary interest always was philosophy, and so I kept gathering degrees and studying and studying, and, by some kind of kinky twist I got in[to] theology. You know, I really wanted to go on in philosophy, and finally I got the doctorate in philosophy as well as in theology, but it was always a matter of seeking that which was just beyond the façade. I think I always knew that things are not the way they seem but I didn't know how to name that. I always had a very strong sense of wanting justice and a lust for learning, so that pushed me to those fields...where you asked the most ultimate questions. And finally, it pushed me across the ocean without having any money...to the University of Fribourg.

RB: Why did you go there? Why did you choose that?

MD: Because I wanted to get the highest degrees in theology and philosophy, and I was still a Catholic in the sixties, and so the highest degrees available for a Catholic were not available to a woman in the United States. I applied at the Catholic University of America, and I was super-qualified - I had all languages, all philosophies, all the background, and they wouldn't let me in.

RB: Why? Because you were a woman?

MD: Because I was a woman. And so the only place where I could study was either Switzerland or Germany, because in those countries the universities were state-controlled, and in the state universities they were not allowed to exclude women from the faculty of philosophy [or] the faculty of theology. So I was driven to do that, and I had to, somehow, find -- I had no money and my mother was dependent on me, so I had to find a way to get over there. And what I did was, I wrote - I made a list of Catholic bishops and I wrote to them. This was in the sixties, you know, when there were getting ready for Vatican One. And I said "Look, you say you're for lay

theologians and that. Well, I want to study." And the then Cardinal Wright [?] - he was then bishop - had access to a fund which was actually a woman's money, ...so he loaned me some money which I paid back later. And I got over there and I taught in junior year abroad programmes in Switzerland, in Fribourg. But also, the reason why I ended in Fribourg, Switzerland, rather than Germany was because I got an exchange scholarship to Switzerland rather than a Fulbright to Germany...it's a Swiss scholarship. So I went over there. I had three jobs teaching in three junior year abroad programmes in Fribourg. The courses were taught in Latin; people in the streets were speaking French and German. I had a motorbicycle and I would go from teaching my students to taking courses in Latin. I was taking eighteen hours a week credits, and I went through four degrees there, and I jumped all the hoops: [a] Baccalaureate in Sacred Theology and then a licentiate in Sacred Theology, and finally the highest degrees in theology, by their standard, the canonically approved doctorate in Sacred Theology -- which they had to give me because it was a state-controlled school. They couldn't keep me out. And then I finally did the thing I really was into, which was to finish up the doctorate in philosophy. And meanwhile I started my first feminist book, The Church and the Second Sex, and I came back to the United States, to Boston, started teaching in Boston College which is Jesuit-run... I came back in '66, and I went over there in '59. It was a real adventure!

RB: When did you become a feminist?

MD: I think I was always a feminist!

RB: You were in a really male institution [in Fribourg]. All the young students were male. Did they hassle you? Did they give you a hard time?

MD: It was more that they shunned me. But these were priests and they were terrified of women, so that we would go into the classroom, and they would always space themselves carefully from me, so that there would be an empty seat on each side of me, because it would be sinful to sit next to a woman. They were very peculiar. These were priests from places like Spain and South America and Italy. There were seminarians too. ...It wasn't so much that they hassled me, it was that there really was this disbelief that I would go through with it. They were hoping that - especially the professors - that I wouldn't stay and stick it out. And the more I saw that they thought I wouldn't finish, the more stubbornly I decided that I would finish, ...so that it sort of egged me on.

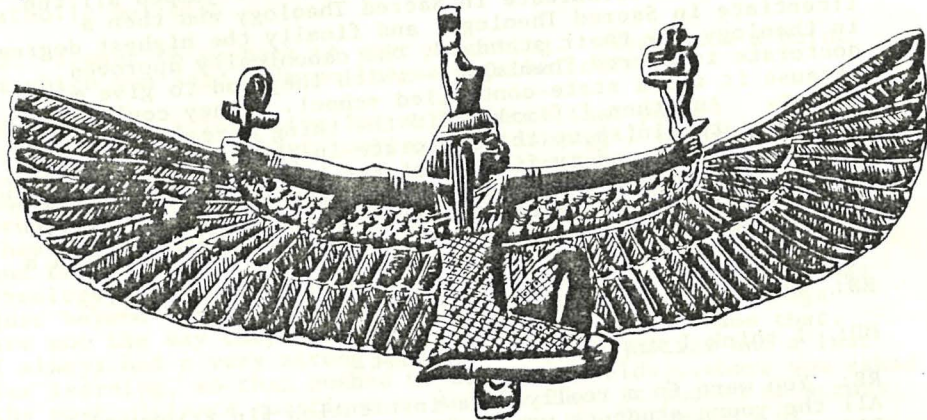
RB: Did they more or less ostracize you?

MD: Well you see I didn't really need their company, because in the meantime I was teaching all these American students, in the Junior Year Abroad programme. There were female students from Rosary College, Chicago; and boys from Georgetown University, and Lasalle College in Philadelphia, and so actually I was always with my students. We would go out to the beer halls and the tea rooms, so I didn't need the company of

priests and seminarians. It wasn't even interesting. They were just my classmates and teachers.

RB: So you were always a feminist?

MD: Yes, as long as I can remember; except there was no one really to talk to about it. I remember being enraged when I was a little kid, that girls couldn't be altar girls - it was so obviously wrong. But when I went and spoke about it to other girls and women, on the whole they would just think I was ridiculous or fanatic or something. And so my way was to just keep moving...and pretty much in the realm of ideas, trying to create my own reality. Then in the Sixties when Vatican One happened, I went down to Rome, and I posed as a journalist and got into the Council meetings at St Peter's; it's that I personally wanted to be a



World-renowned radical feminist philosopher

**MARY  
DALY\***

on

**“Be-Witching:  
Re-Calling the  
Courage to Sin”**

priest - I did not. But I thought, women should have the right to be there -- or to be anything -- so I went down, and that sort of cracked open something. I wrote an article which was published in Commonweal, a liberal Catholic magazine, and it was called "A built in bias". And then I was invited by a British publisher to write a book on women and the church, so I wrote The Church and the Second Sex.

But the thing was, that there had to be something out there in the climate to make it possible to speak as a feminist. Meanwhile in the U.S. the feminist movement was starting to percolate out of the civil rights movement. So when I went back in '66, it was a whole new environment. The fifties, the 'forties, were utterly deadly; but in the late sixties there was the civil rights movement. That was the beginning of the feminist movement, and there was a great deal of hope everywhere, so that there was a movement with which I could identify. And each thing that I did led to something else.

As a result of The Church and the Second Sex -- which was mild; it was rational, trying to re-argue for reform of the Catholic Church -- I was fired from my job at Boston College. And then there were four months of student demonstrations, and as a result of that, I was rehired. They couldn't not re-hire me, and I got tenure. And that helped me to see through the whole system. So I moved down to more and more radical books. When I brought that book out [again] in '75, I came out with a post-Christian introduction, telling women to please get out of the church. I think by 1970 I was basically out; and then I became very very publicly out of it -- post Christian, anti Christian in the early '70s.

RB: Did you ever think of leaving Boston College? I mean, it must be a fairly hostile environment.

MD: Yes. But one of the things that I learned: -- well, first of all, there was the phenomenon of the grapevine, blacklisting. So as I became better and better known, I became more and more frightening to other institutions. So, sure I thought about it, but once you understand that phenomenon, that strategy, you realize that the word goes out from dean to dean to dean, to faculty member to faculty member, and nobody wants what they consider to be a trouble-maker. And when I began to see through that: that was the myth of liberalism, you know. Like Harvard and Yale and all that, they're just as evil. So really the best option for me was to stand my ground there, and I did. And in spite of their harassment I managed to teach only feminist theory: that's all I will teach - radical feminist theory..

RB: Can't your head of department say to you, "You have to teach ... say, Philosophy 1000."

MD: You would think that in theory, he can; well, you would think that he could, but he can't. It's hard to explain. I think they're afraid of me. [Portion omitted.]

RB: For centuries, women were excluded from universities. Doesn't it worry you to turn that around on them, and exclude them [men] from your classes?

MD: No. Hardly. I mean, I think it's bizarre to imagine that; because we're not anywhere near the situation where that would be threatening to men. Women always want to be so reasonable, you know. They use the expression "reverse discrimination". That's ridiculous. The universities are totally male-controlled. Even if it's a women's college, often the president is male and some of the faculty is male. But that isn't what matters. What matters most is the fact that the textbooks are, and the methodology is, all male. Women haven't yet our own thought forms, you know. I'm trying to create them, along with many other women. So I think that's a totally false problem. It would be like saying, aren't you worried if you're a lesbian that there won't be enough [people] on the earth, when you're living in a totally over-populated planet -- it's not a real problem. The real problem is to have any woman space at all in the university.

RB: One thing which very much upset people here was the idea that you wouldn't take questions from men.

MD: Good!

RB: I think that a lot of people hadn't heard of you, but they heard that!

MD: Right.

RB: And it seems that if women do anything like that -- although women have been excluded for centuries -- it upsets both men and women a lot.

MD: Yes, but I think that's good if it upsets them. At least they're feeling something, even if they're angry....I think that some men will begin to think thoughts that they haven't thought before, and I see only good coming out of it ultimately. Because it's clear if you think it through: why I would have the policy of accepting questions only from women; when women have been silenced for thousands of years, and when it's an audience composed of 90 or 95 % women. It would inevitably be the case that some man would be droning on and on. And women have not yet felt free within themselves to take their own space. So it's good, and I don't care if the anger is felt... it's making people think. I think that from the experience last night [at Mary DALY's lecture], that the primary emotions felt were not hostility and anger, but women were very happy to have the space clear for them. For once.

TO BE CONTINUED.

Roberta Buchanan

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING -- A NEW STEERING COMMITTEE,  
RESOLUTIONS ON PEACE AND PORNOGRAPHY

The annual general meeting of the St. John's Status of Women Council was held Monday May 27 at the Grad House. About 30 council members attended, and resolutions passed included making the issue of pornography a priority in the coming year, and support for the Innu people in their campaign against low-level military flights in Labrador. The following women were elected by acclamation to serve on this year's steering committee: Diane Duggan, Bonnie James, Sharon Pope, Pat Balsom, Ann Escott, Grace Ollerhead, Annette Clarke, and Astri Thorvik. Following are the minutes of the AGM.

St. John's Status of Women Council  
Minutes of Steering Committee

Chairperson: Marian Hopkins

Date: May 27 1985

Location: Grad House

Time: 8 pm - 11 pm

Present:

Terry Lynn Young, Marian White, Pauline Stockwood, Cheryl Hebert, Judy Stacey, Kathy Porter, Heidi Bruckner, Diane Duggan, Ann Escott, Linda Gosse, Roberta Buchanan, Pat Balsom, Sheila Moore, Diane Siegal, Joan Scott, Marilyn Porter, Rae Perlin, Lynn Murphy, Beth Lacey, Grace Ollerhead, Sharon Pope (recording secretary), Anne Hart, Marian Hopkins, Dorothy Inglis, Bonnie James, Mary Doyle, Annette Clarke, Bev Carter, Anne Donovan, Anne Kavanagh

1. Call to order
2. Approval of agenda
3. Minutes of previous AGM May 28 1984 MOTION: that the minutes be accepted moved by Ann Escott, seconded by Diane Duggan CARRIED
4. Business arising from the minutes - nil
5. First call for new business
6. Reports: Reports were published in the May newsletter. The following updates to reports were made:

- 6.4 HOUSE: Ann Escott reported that the fire escape at 83 Military Rd. is now completed at a cost of \$3,000. Doors and windows are still to be done which will bring the cost up to about \$5,000.



- (at this point there was a short break while everyone did "rounds", i.e. introducing themselves and describing their interest/involvement in St. John's Status of Women Council)
- 6.8 PEACE - Sharon Pope reported on the Newfoundland/Labrador Women's Peace Conference, held May 17-19, and on the upcoming demonstration in support of Innu concerns over low-level military flying in Labrador.
- 6.9 STAFF REPORT - Beth Lacey gave an update on the staff report — see "Women's Centre" report following the minutes.
- 6.10 TREASURER'S REPORT — a copy of the financial statement for St. John's Status of Women Council was distributed at the AGM (copies are available at the Women's Centre)
- 6.11 KIRBY HOUSE - Cheryl Hebert reported that from Oct 23 1984 to the present, 23 women and 46 children have stayed at Kirby House. A secretary of State Grant provided funds for research and analysis of service. There has been a new board of directors since January 1985 and the restructuring of the board is allowing a more collective operation. A written philosophy is being developed. A new staff person, Susan Mercer, began work at Kirby House March 6 (funding through Canada Works for a period of one year). Also, two students are being hired through a SEED grant to work for 10 weeks as childcare workers. The Board of Kirby House wants to look at other funding arrangements to provide permanent staffing. Fund-raising is a priority in order to do the necessary repairs and buy furnishings. (In discussion following Cheryl's report it was noted that 2 full-time staff are needed at Kirby House. Cheryl explained that in the second stage for battered women there is even more sorting-out to be done than in the initial time at Transition House.)
- 6.12 TRANSITION HOUSE - Marilyn Porter gave an impromptu report noting the real material problems at the house as well as problems of liason and communication with the offices of Transition House. She also described some of the day-to-day problems at the house as well as the problem of a top-heavy board, and noted it was time to re-think the whole structure.
- 6.13 RAPE CRISIS CENTRE - Diane Duggan commended Anne Donovan, the counsellor at the Women's Centre, for her work and support in counselling in the last six months, in which there has been more cases of child abuse come for assistance to the Women's Centre than in the last five years. Many of these women have already been through social services, etc. Diane said she is planning to do a small training session soon for people interested in being rape crisis counsellors.. She also reported on possible plans for a regional conference of rape crisis counsellors the last week of August. (In discussion following Diane's report there was a consensus that there should be an information evening on child sexual abuse)

**DUE TO RECENT PROBLEMS, NO MONEY WILL BE KEPT AT THE WOMEN'S CENTER IN FUTUR**

- 6.14 National Action Committee - Bonnie James, who served as provincial NAC representative for most of last year, described NAC as "really alive and well with knowledgeable women who know how to deal with governments". She described the structure of NAC and noted that one group of individual can have a lot of influence on an organization, as SJSNC did on NAC this year with a resolution on sexual orientation. The new provincial NAC representative for this year is Crystal Eagan who is with Gander Status of Women Council. Dorothy Inglis also spoke about NAC's role in the Eaton's strike, where 80% of Eatons staff were being reduced to part-time workers, the majority of these being women. Dorothy said that "the whole conservative trend is to put people in positions where they can't form unions — women have to be the first ones to scream about this."
- 7. MOTION - that the slate proposed by the nominating committee be elected by acclamation to next year's steering committee of St. John's Status of Women Council (Astri Thorvik, Diane Duggan, Ann Escott, Pat Balsom, Sharon Pope, Annette Clarke, Grace Ollerhead and Bonnie James) - moved by Beth Lacey, seconded by Sheila Moore CARRIED
- 8. New Business:
  - 9.1. MOTION - that the auditor for 1986-87 be Ella Cheng. moved by Ann Escott, seconded by Diane Duggan CARRIED
  - 9.2. Pornography resolutions:
    - Moved that the St. John's Status of Women Council reaffirm the position contained in its brief presented to the Fraser Committee on Pornography and Prostitution in May of 1984 by officiall adopting the definition of pornography contained within the brief and by officially adopting the intent of the brief. - moved by Pauline Stockwood, seconded by Anne Hart — CARRIED
    - Moved that the St. John's Status of Women Council endorses the recommendations in the Fraser Committee Report on Prostitution and Pornography and calls upon the Federal Minister of Justice to act upon them without delay. -moved by Pauline Stockwood, seconded by Dorothy Inglis — CARRIED
    - Moved that the new steering committee of the St. John's Status of Women Council make pornography a priority and that Dorothy Inglis and Pauline Stockwood, feminist members of the Citizens Coalition Against Pornography, act as liason with St. John's Status of Women Council. -moved by Marilyn Porter, seconded by Diane Duggan - CARRIED

- 9.3. PEACE RESOLUTIONS

Moved that St. John's Status of Women Council support efforts of the Innu people to stop low-level military flights over their territory in Labrador and Quebec. -moved by Sharon Pope, seconded by Diane Duggan - CARRIED

Moved that SJSMC lobby city council to declare St. John's a nuclear weapons-free zone. -moved by Sharon Pope, seconded by Dorothy Inglis - CARRIED

Moved that SJSMC join the Newfoundland/Labrador Peace Network -moved by Sharon Pope, seconded by Dorothy Inglis - CARRIED

- 9.4. LEAF - Sharon Pope reported on the Legal Education Action Fund, a national organization set up to help fight Charter cases under the new "equality rights" section of the Charter, Section 15.
- 9.5. Women and Words - Marian White reported on plans to publish a 1987 Almanac/Calendar, and asked SJSMC members to give serious consideration suggesting names of women who would be suitable to be featured in the almanac, that is women whose lives in some way support the belief that women have a unique history of their own.

9. Announcements

10. Adjournment - MOTION to adjourn - moved by Marilyn Porter, seconded by Cheryl Hebert, CARRIED

11. FILM - Headstart



**WOMEN'S CENTER REPORT**

Well, we have a new steering committee since May 28. They look like an energetic crowd, don't you think? Just as well, as we have a busy year ahead. I've just returned from two conferences, CARAL and NAC. The CARAL conference was quite informative and consisted of speakers and strategizing. I'll have a full report on file at the Centre. This was the first year I was at the NAC conference and it was an eye opening experience. While the workshops were the usual fare, the lobby organizing and the business aspects were awe-inspiring. The lobby day itself however, was disappointing. The Liberals and NDP's were very receptive ( of course they can't give us anything ) but the PC's were quite indifferent ( they don't have to give us anything ). A few interesting aspects of the conference were the passing of a sexual orientation resolution and the first lesbian caucus. There'll be a full report with a list of all resolutions on file at the Centre.

As well this past month, I have been working on a brief to submit to the parliamentary committee on equality issues. I have also attended a conference on Child Sexual Abuse and subsequently am sitting on a subcommittee on policy around child sexual abuse. I have also been attending Coalition for Equality meetings and am active on this committee. If anybody wants further details or input on the above, please give me a call at the Centre.

BETH LACEY

This month 82 women came in for crisis counselling. The majority of women wanted information or help in the areas of divorce/separation, employment problems and financial problems. The end of the university semester was probably responsible for the increase in information calls.

As well, this month I became involved in a group called "Housing Action Committee" (HAC). HAC's long term goal is to lobby for more adequate and affordable housing. I regularly receive calls from people seeking adequate affordable housing.

As part of my spring cleaning efforts I gave it a new coat of paint. So please drop down for a cup of coffee and a chat.

STATISTICS:

Drop-ins .....43  
 Phone-ins .....100  
 TOTAL 143  
  
 Office Calls .....14  
 Information Calls .....47

Counselling

Divorce/separation .....25  
 Employment Problems .....10  
 Financial Problems .....8  
 Housing .....7  
 Wife Abuse .....7  
 Sexual Harassment .....7  
 Advocacy .....4  
 Social Assistance .....4  
 Other .....10

ANNE DONOVAN

## BOOK REVIEW

by P. Spearns

### THE COMMON SECRET: SEXUAL ABUSE OF CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

by Ruth S. and C. Henry Kempe

New York: W.H. Freeman and Co. 1984

The authors of this book, Ruth and Henry Kempe, have wide experience in pediatrics and child psychology. Despite the fact that The Common Secret deals with the sexual abuse of children and adolescents in the United States, the data and statistics can be applied to the Canadian situation as well. This book serves to advance the understanding of those who know little about the subject of sexually abused children, an important subject that has been in the closet for far too long.

Social change over the last hundred years has increasingly awarded children rights as individuals. Children are no longer regarded as chattel wholly possessed by their fathers, at least in enlightened countries. However there is a general failure to appreciate the widespread and pervasive sexual abuse of children.

Incest and other types of child sexual abuse can be traced back to antiquity. Gradually, incest became a criminal offence in many parts of the world (as late as 1908 in England). Incest still carries no penalty in Portugal, Turkey, Luxembourg and numerous other countries.

At present, incest is found at all levels of North American society, with a tilt towards higher economic and educational levels. Pedophilia, exhibitionism and sexual abuse victimize children of both sexes.

The recent growth in child pornography and child prostitution suggests that little has changed over the centuries except the degree of social recognition of the problem by the public. Laws are only being gradually formed that reflect communal concern with this problem.

The categories of sexual abuse described in The Common Secret include incest, pedophilia, exhibitionism, molestation, statutory rape and rape, child prostitution and child pornography.

Incest is defined as any physical sexual activity between family members. Blood relationship is not required, and the term "family" is used to include non-blood related family members as well as blood related members in the family type of living arrangements.

Pedophilia ("love of child") refers to the preference of an adult for prepubertal children as a means of achieving sexual excitement. Exhibitionism (indecent exposure) involves the exposure of the genitals by an adult male to girls, boys and women. The exhibitionist experiences sexual excitement from the encounter (he may masturbate while exposing himself) and enjoys the shock of surprise of the onlooker.

Molestation includes such behavior as touching, fondling or kissing the child, especially in the breast or genital areas, engaging in the masturbation of the child or urging the child to fondle or masturbate the adult.

Sexual intercourse (statutory rape) with a child of either sex includes fellatio (oral genital contact), sodomy (anal genital contact) or penile-vaginal intercourse. It may occur without physical violence through seduction, persuasion, bribery, the use of authority or other threats.

Rape is defined as sexual intercourse of attempted sexual intercourse without consent of the victim. Even very young children (under 6 months) have been objects of rape, but the majority of victims are over 5 years of age. The perpetrators are generally younger men under 35 years of age. Rapists tend to approach child victims because they are considered less threatening to the self-confidence of the rapist and are unlikely to have the strength to resist.

Child pornography is the arranging, photographing, and distribution of any material involving minors in sexual acts including other children, adults or animals regardless of consent given by the child's legal guardian. All materials depicting sexual activities involving children are unlawful in the United States and in Canada.

Child prostitution involves children in sex acts for profit. The practice generally involves frequently changing partners, and child of both sexes are involved in prostitution.

The average age at which incest begins is 8 to 9 years. Father-daughter incest is the most common, highlighting the fact that the perpetrator of sexual abuse generally tends to be someone the child knows and trusts.

The vast majority of sexual assaults are against girls, although boys do account for about 12% of the victims of this crime. Contrary to public opinion, sexual assault of boys are perpetrated at least as often by heterosexual as by homosexual male offenders. But whether the victim is male or female, rape is an act of sexual domination in which the victim feels powerless (usually because of fear of injury). Yet being taken unaware or being ineffectual in fighting back leaves the young victim with doubts about his or her self-esteem. Often the rape is not reported and the victim may continue to suffer silent doubts about his or her normality.

Rape of children and adolescents is viewed with particular anger by most societies, and the penalty for convicted offenders is usually more severe than for rape of adults. Vaginal penetration should be viewed as an act which is no more or less damaging and aggressive than anal penetration or oral-genital acts which may be forced on victims of both sexes (although the danger of pregnancy may make the effect of vaginal penetration more long-lasting).

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Child sexual abuse is a largely hidden yet pervasive tragedy that has damaged the lives of tens of thousands of Canadian children and youths. For most of them, their needs remain unexpressed and unmet. These silent victims - and there are substantial numbers of them - are often those in greatest need of care and help. Only a few young victims of sexual offences seek assistance from the helping services and there are sharp disparities in the types and adequacy of the services provided for them in different parts of the country, and even within communities.

*From "Sexual Offences Against Children". Report on the Committee on Sexual Offences Against Children and Youths.*

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Symptoms often seen after sexual abuse are indications of the far reaching psychological effects that it has on the child. Fears of vulnerability, of being unprotected, may also be expressed in concerns about being physically damaged, about feeling small or helpless, about not being knowledgeable or important enough to have any control over events. Anxiety may take the psychosomatic form and be expressed in sleeping difficulties, eating disorders, vague pains or aches, joint symptoms, bedwetting and so forth. These physical symptoms are often the only ones noted by family, school or physician and the cause may go unnoticed.

A major fear of child victims is that of a loss of nurturance, of a threat to the relationships with the parents or other loved ones who are important to the child. In preschool children this may be expressed as direct fear of loss or love and in symptoms of oral deprivation such as thumb-sucking. In older children it may be expressed as fear of loss of love and approval and great sensitivity to any rejection. Guilt is an important part of the effects of prolonged sexual abuse. Unrelieved guilt may be accompanied by anxiety or depression and may give rise to secondary symptoms of a neurotic kind.

Loss of self-esteem or poor self-image often occur in even very young children who somehow feel damaged or different. Often such children are preoccupied and have poor cognitive development and as a result do poorly in their school work. Most often, the preoccupation is with fantasies or anxiety related to the sexual abuse and its consequences.

Difficulty with impulse control is often found to be characteristic of sexually abused children. Such children seem to have trouble with delaying gratification, resisting impulses, following social rules and considering the consequences of their actions. Poor impulse control plus angry feelings make for behavior problems in sexually abused children. Feelings of anger are readily displaced to such situations as peer interaction. For further discussion of the long-term effects of the sexual abuse of children refer to The Common Secret.

(The Common Secret) is very informative about the subject of sexual abuse of children and adolescents, and should be read by everyone who would like to know more about it. Parents can protect their children by becoming well-informed about the subject and passing such preventative knowledge on to them. Numerous case studies are included in the text as well as a comprehensive list of supplementary reading material. This book is definitely an eye-opener - don't miss it! A word of caution is in order however. Those with weak stomachs may find some of the factual material offensive.

**SEXUAL OFFENCES  
AGAINST CHILDREN  
IN CANADA:**



P.M.S



*Premenstrual Syndrome* sometimes referred to as (PMT). premenstrual tension is not a myth. Now there is Good News! PMS is real. Although there has been no major breakthroughs for woman who may suffer premenstrual symptoms such as irritability, depression, mood swings, food cravings, breast tenderness, bloating, weight gain, and the list is lengthy. There is not a defined set of symptoms appearing on a certain day of the month.

Every woman with premenstrual Syndrome has her own personalized profile. PMS is an extremely individualized condition. The only experiences common to all sufferers are that the symptoms become more intense during ovulation and menstruation. This condition is becoming more, and more recognized, and we as woman can develop a deeper knowledge of one's own body, emotions and needs. Taking the first step toward self care and with help from our families, friends or support groups, can lead us to future growth, health and a sense of empowerment.

For those who may be interested, there will be a meeting on June 10 at 8:PM.  
at Planned Parenthood 203  
Merry Meeting Rd  
for more information call  
579-1009

WOMEN'S ECONOMIC FORUM

The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives sponsors research and education programs to encourage debate and promote the development of progressive policy alternatives. Many of the issues addressed by the Centre are of particular interest to women. Activities have included a workshop on affirmative action in Toronto, a one-day seminar held in Ottawa on the Federal government's agenda for change and research and publications on the future of work, micro-electronics, women and jobs and pensions.

The Centre is hoping to hold a one-day Women's Economic Forum in the Fall. The idea is to present an educational-information workshop which would demystify economics and talk about how economic policy is developed, in language that we can all understand. Naturally, we intend to have a feminist bias.

Depending on the response from women, we could hold such workshops in regional centres such as Ottawa, Toronto, Montreal, Halifax, Winnipeg and Vancouver. If you are interested in participating please let us know:

RESPONSE FORM -- WOMEN'S ECONOMIC FORUM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postal code \_\_\_\_\_

- I am interested in the Women's Economic Forum in St. John's (city).
- I would like to find out more about CCPA.
- Please send me a copy(ies) of Economics Demystified: A Dictionary of Economic Terms for Non-Economists; payment is enclosed (\$4.00 ea.).

RETURN TO: 251 ouest Laurier West, Suite 901, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5J6 (613) 563-1341

**NEW N.A.C. REPRESENTATIVE  
FOR PROVINCE**

Dear NAC Members

This letter is to introduce myself as the new NAC regional rep for Newfoundland and Labrador. I was elected by NAC delegates from this region at the NAC annual meeting held May 10-13, 1985, in Ottawa. I thank you for the vote of confidence and hope to represent your concerns, issues and requests effectively at NAC Board meetings.

In order to do the job of regional rep effectively, I would like to be in regular contact with you. Enclosed is a suggested list of things you can do to enable me to represent you at NAC Board meetings and in NAC committees. Please consult this list regularly and keep me informed about your group and its activities, needs, and concerns. My address and phone number are: 10 Lee Street, Gander, NF, A1V 2L1, 651-3745.

I will also send you a report after these Board meetings to keep you informed of NAC's priorities and activities. In addition, I will probably call you when urgent action is required regarding some major piece of legislation or some important issue. I hope to meet many of you at women's workshops and conferences this year, and possibly to visit many of your groups personally.

In solidarity

*Crystal Eagan*  
Crystal Eagan  
Regional Rep

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HOW TO GET THE MOST OF THE NAC CONNECTION

1. Put your Regional Representative on your mailing list.
2. Appoint a NAC liaison person to:
  - a. report to the Regional Representative any concerns you want raised at the national level
  - b. read MEMO carefully and be responsible for raising NAC concerns at the local executive/steering meeting
  - c. consult other NAC groups about experiences with government departments
  - d. inform the NAC office and the Regional Representative about changes in officers/address, including their own appointment as contact person
  - e. communicate to MEMO information to be circulated nationally; e.g. your group has a video others may rent or buy.
3. Send the liaison person to an AGM if at all possible.

**NOTICE**

**MEMBERSHIP FOR THE COMING YEAR  
IS NOW DUE.**

**MEMBERSHIP IS \$10 REGULAR,  
\$5 FOR STUDENTS AND UNDEREMPLOYED**

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**YES, I want to renew my membership in St. John's Status of Women Council (and keep receiving my newsletter)  
Enclosed is my membership fee for '85-'86**

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**Please send me a questionnaire to fill out on my commitment to/expectations of St. John's Status of Women**

**Name:** -----

**Address:** -----


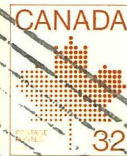
**Phone:** -----

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**THERE WILL BE A TGIF FRIDAY JUNE 28TH  
AT THE WOMEN'S CENTER. SEE YOU THERE!**

Contributors to this month's newsletter were: Sharon Pope, Roberta Buchanan, Janet Marshall, Linda Kealey, and P. Spears. The next issue will be on Pornography. All contributions welcome. Deadline: Sunday June 30th.

St. John's Status of Women Council  
PO Box 6072  
St. John's A1C 5X8



**MEMBERSHIP FEES NOW DUE  
- SEE PAGE 43 FOR DETAILS**

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**DO YOU LIKE THE NEW LOOK  
OF THE NEWSLETTER?**

**HOW ABOUT A NEW NAME  
TO GO ALONG WITH IT?**

**WE'RE OPEN TO SUGGESTIONS!**

**THIS NEW FORMAT COSTS  
EXTRA \$\$\$\$\$\$'s EVERY MONTH...**

**CAN YOU HELP OUT?  
ANY DONATION WILL DO!**

**- JUST SEND IT TO:**

**NEWSLETTER DEVELOPMENT FUND  
PO BOX 6072  
ST. JOHN'S, A1C 5X8**