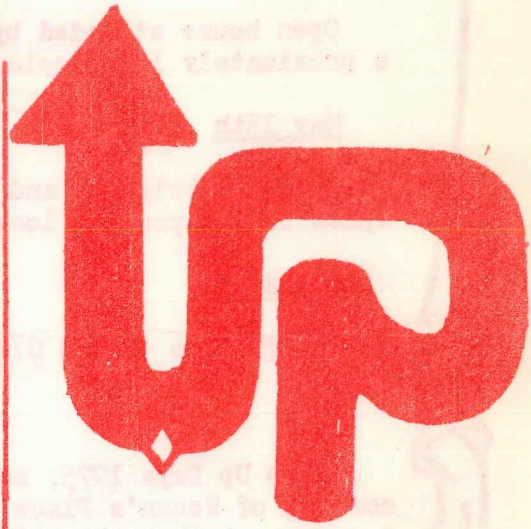


SKY

FOR REFERENCE ONLY

Y. W. C. A.
RESOURCE CENTRE

WOMEN HOLD UP HALF THE



JUNE 1976

LETHBRIDGE ALBERTA

VOL. 3 NO. 2

(A WOMAN'S PLACE PUBLICATION)

THE ANNUAL REPORT



Some of our more outstanding projects and programmes for this past year (1975-76) include:

May - 1st

Open house attended by a proximately 100 people.

May 15th

Moved to brighter and better space in our present location.

May 24th

Garage sale - made \$140.00.

July

Whoop Up Days 1975, some members of Women's Place provided day care at the exhibition grounds, the Lethbridge and District Exhibition Board donated the space and as an acknowledgement of this non-profit making venture, gave a cheque for \$100.00.

We also shared a booth with various women's groups and with the Why Not? Campaign; as a tribute to International Women's Year.

During this past year we have been able to offer some courses through our participation in the Association for Life Long Learning. These include, Status of Women in other countries (held in co-operation with the Public Library). 6 sessions French Conversation - ongoing Women in Canadian Literature - ongoing Self Defense for Women. Two Assertive Workshops, one held by Vivianne Plenge of Calgary and the other by Marcia Erikson also of Calgary. Consciousness Raising - ongoing

Fall

Sponsored the Red Light Theatre Group, a Toronto based company of actors who performed "What Glorious Times They Had," a play about a period in the life of Nellie McClung.

We had hoped this performance would prove a fund raising project for Women's Place, as it happened we were in the red approximately \$200.00. However it cannot be denied we all enjoyed this rare experience of live theatre and meeting the company at the reception later. Can't.

Some of our members have had the opportunity to attend conferences.

Two board members attended Calgary's Women and Stress workshop. Keynote speaker Phyllis Chesler author of Women and Madness.

Our voting delegate to the Thunder Bay Conference on Women's Centres was JoAnn Darricades.

Also a car load of women travelled to Calgary to hear Kate Millet author of Sexual Politics and Flying.

The political interest and involvement of members of W.P. has been evident in the action taken locally over the city council by-election issue.

The support given to Childrens House (picketing and letter writing) in their campaign for funding from the City of Leth. The decision was reversed and funding allowed.

Provincially - Three board members were on the 7 member Steering Committee of the Southern Alberta Status of Women Action Committee.

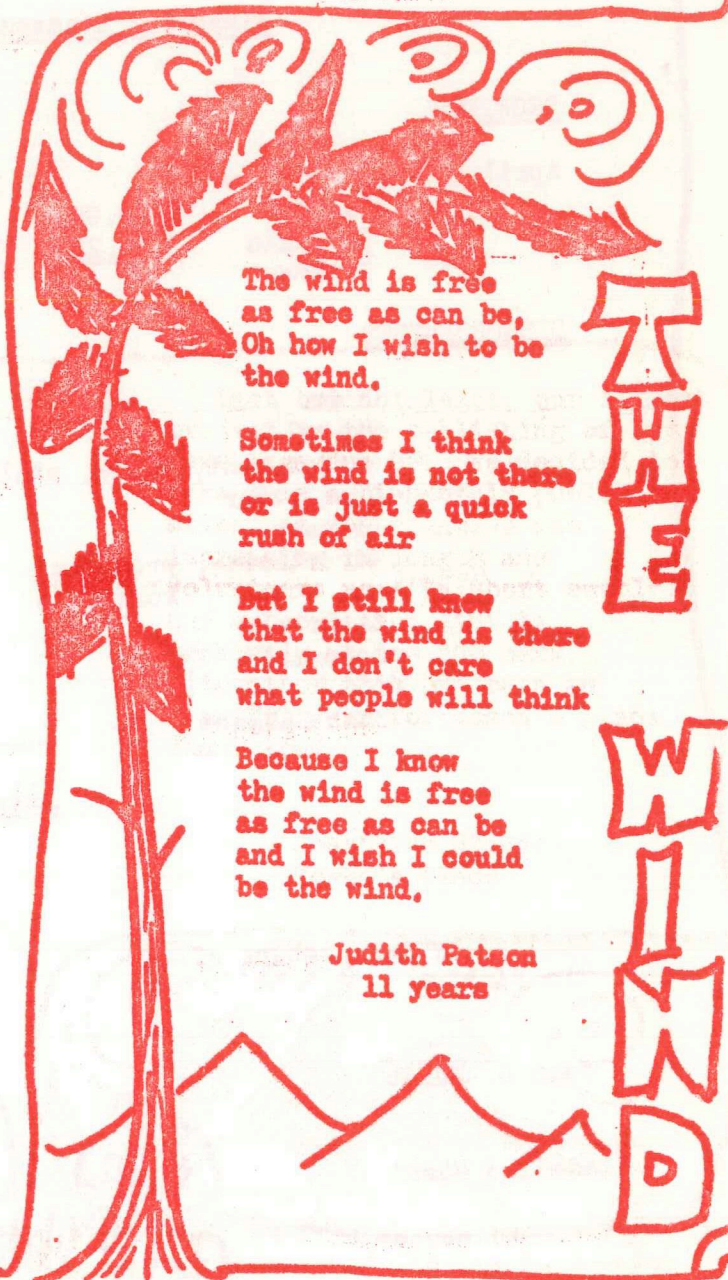
BOARD MEMBERS ATTEND CONFERENCES

Nationally - Two voting delegates attended the Ottawa conference of the National Action Committee.

Our board has been meeting 3 times a month, and have held an open general meeting once a month with guest speakers.

Last but not least, our biggest project is the publishing of our news magazine UP. We decided to make this a bi-monthly publication, as the magazine was increasing in length and volunteers were in short supply. Our subscription list is presently at the 100 mark. Altogether this has been an eventful year for Women's Place. Thank You!

Josephine Staddon
Women's Place



The wind is free
as free as can be,
Oh how I wish to be
the wind.

Sometimes I think
the wind is not there
or is just a quick
rush of air

But I still know
that the wind is there
and I don't care
what people will think

Because I know
the wind is free
as free as can be
and I wish I could
be the wind.

Judith Patson
11 years

THE ANNUAL

GENERAL MEETING APRIL, 1975 -
MARCH 31 1976

Financial Statement

RECEIPTS

April 1/75	Bank Balance	1491.20
	Grant	4000.00
	Deposits	5681.25
	Interest	9681.25
		136.73

DISBURSEMENTS

Grant	4000.00
Travel	254.24
Office rent, phone, utilities	1158.50
Newsletter	853.62
Library	153.94
Advertising, programs, workshops	281.07
Materials	854.98
Honoraria	1185.45
	8741.80
Bank Balance	2567.38

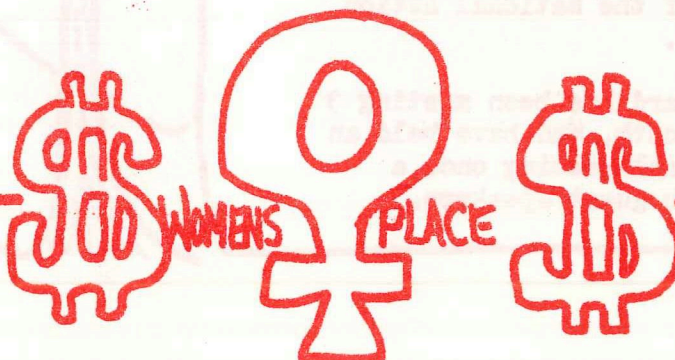
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Audited by two members of
the Board.

Jean D. Kuijt

Adeline Miron

J. Daryl Sturrock, Treasurer.



3.

REPORT FROM THE N.A.C. CONFERENCE IN OTTAWA.

First on the programme of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women Annual Meeting and Conference (in Ottawa, April 23-26th - 1976) was the grand opening with guest speakers, Hon. Marc Lalonde, Hon. Ron Basford and Hon. John Munroe - Ministers of Health and Welfare (also responsible for the Status of Women), Justice, and Labour respectively. None of the speakers showed up, in their place they sent people to represent them and their departments. The audience and guest panelists felt they could not effectively direct their questions to lesser ministers who lacked the power to change things. There was a general discontent throughout the audience and the panel, (who had been invited to question the missing guests), at the lame excuses for their absence, and the apparent ignorance, of women's issues, of the chosen people. As we murmured our discontent amongst each other, it soon became apparent to us, where women stand in regards to priorities with the government. Women from across Canada representing 80 organizations (having travelled many miles) were brushed aside in favour of an extra day of Easter Holiday!

The absence of the guest speakers was a blessing in disguise as it made us all very angry and gave us greater unity in our purpose - to obtain equal status with men in our society.

We all went enthusiastically to our first workshop (there were 10 in all) to discuss the priorities of women in our region, province, territory or Indian Nation, and listened to the problems of women from other regions. Each workshop had different priorities and each woman chose the workshop that most interested her or the organization she represented. Eudene Luther and I were voting delegates from Women's Place and she will give a more detailed report on the priorities of women at the workshops. Each workshop made its own resolutions and at the end of our workshop it was noted that many of the resolutions from the workshops overlapped - e.g. resolutions on day care, abortion, sex-education, fertility etc. Group leaders from each workshop formed a Workshop Committee to formulate, amend and adopt the resolutions from the workshops. They were then brought before the general meeting to be voted on, then to be presented to government as recommendations - that they improve existing laws, enforce existing laws, remove bad laws.

CONT.

4

LOBBY

We were all given a briefing on how to lobby and on the last day of the Conference we all went out to lobby. Here are some Aides to Lobbying:

1. Relax - Be friendly - Be positive.
2. Be on Time - 30 minutes is enough time. Be neat.
3. Know your topic.
4. Education - tell what - N.A.C. (in this instance) is about and what it is talking about at the Conference.
5. Give M.P.'s benefit of doubt. Assume they're interested if not knowledgeable.
6. Don't be afraid to say "I don't know".
7. Refer to committee - the woman you are lobbying with, or the group you represent.

Appointments were set up and groups of four women went lobbying with one M.P. A woman from Saskatchewan, Manitoba and British Columbia and myself from Alberta lobbied with John Reynolds from the Burnaby, Delta B.C. Riding - (P.C.) We were briefed on the type of person he was (which wasn't too promising) and also that he was an anti-abortionist, so if we wished to bring up that topic to wait till close to the end of our appointment which we did. We were told he might rave about abortion and we would not get a chance to discuss our other interests - one of which was day care. He told us the women in his riding were not interested in day-care or working as they were all affluent. Being our first lobbying experience we lamely pointed out how an overabundance of money was not the problem of the women in our

communities which seemed to surprise him. He seemed to have no knowledge of how women across Canada are economically pressed or any of their other problems. He did tell us he was against abortion, when in the end I brought up the topic, but he listened politely. I received quite a lot of support from the women with me. I think we gave him a better idea on why we and other women would like to see abortion removed from the criminal code. We didn't convince him but we gave him food for thought. By the time I finished my second appointment lobbying with Robert Briscoe - from Kootney West (P.C.) I felt almost like a veteran lobbyist.

A. Miron

A - FROM BOUNDARIES TO FREEDOM

1. Auctioneer

Body boundaries
House boundaries
City boundaries
Country boundaries
Ocean boundaries
World boundaries
All are boundaries
Within boundaries
Heaven, Heaven, Heaven,
Heaven
Heaven, Heaven, has no
boundaries.

Joan Hall

5.

REPORT FROM THE N.A.C. CONFERENCE BY EUDENE LUTHER



Recently I had the privilege of attending the annual National Action Committee (N.A.C.) meeting which took place in Ottawa April 23rd to 26th. The purpose of the conference was to assess N.A.C.'s effectiveness and to consider possible priorities for 1976-'77. May I take this opportunity to thank the board members for sending me as one of their representatives. The four-day experience is not one I shall soon forget.

Two hundred women from all the provinces and territories discussed such questions as Native Women's Rights, equal pay for work of equal value, and child care, to develop priorities for action aimed at legislative change that will support equal rights and responsibilities for women.

Other resolutions will be detailed in the next issue of Status of Women News. If you are interested, Women's Place receives copies every month.

WHAT IS N.A.C.?

The National Action Committee on the Status of Women (N.A.C.) evolved out of a committee for the Equality of Women (1966) which led to the Royal Commission on the Status of Women. Therefore, one of its prime objectives is to press for implementation of the Commission's recommendations. N.A.C. represents 80 non-governmental Women's Organizations in Canada.

PRESS-RELEASE FROM N.A.C.

The effect of federal wage and price controls on women, the right of women to safe legal abortion, and the need for cross-country effort to tell women about issues of particular relevance to them, were designated as the 1976 priorities for the National Action Committee on the Status of Women during this year's annual meeting.

THE CONFERENCE

Friday night a group of 3 Canadian women questioned five Government representatives (4 men and one woman) on what had been done during I.W.Y. and what would be done in the future. Following this debate, questions were answered from the floor. All key questions of concern to women across the country were articulated during the evening, thus setting the mood for the workshops that would take place all day Saturday and part of Sunday. Sunday afternoon was spent electing the new executive and passing resolutions. Sunday evening was spent learning how to lobby and Monday was the lobby of M.P.s.

NAC. REPORT THE ISSUES

HUMAN RIGHTS BILL C-72

1. The new human rights bill will be introduced in July.

The bill prohibits discrimination in all areas of employment as well as services, facilities and accomodation.

It will establish a Human Rights Commission independant of any department but will report directly to parliament through the minister of Justice. It will introduce affirmative action programmes and will establish the right of an individual to know what information the government is holding on them. However, changes will occur in the bill before it goes through parliament as a result of a statement from N.A.C.

(a) The Federal Advisory Council on the Status of Women has recommended that the principle of equal remuneration for work of equal value be incorporated and that work should be assessed by criteria of skill, effort, responsibility and conditions of work.

(b) Complaints can be initiated by the commission under the bill but limitations and restrictions are too great. Strong initiatory powers would be advantageous to minority groups.

(c) Bill C-72 does not apply to the Indian Act; Section 12 (1) (b) of that act should be repealed because it is discriminatory against Indian Women as it deprives them of their rights and property when they marry as non-Indian. Mary Two-Axe Early, a native woman attending the conference, dramatically stated her case and called for the patriation

of the B.N.A. Act with Human Rights included in it. She called for the support of all women in Canada. We can all do our bit by sending a cable or letter to our M.P., the Prime Minister and Marc Lalonde (Minister responsible for the Status of Women) and Hon. R. Basford, Minister of Justice, to express our feelings about the new Human Rights legislation, Bill C-72.

2. FAMILY LAW REFORM

There is new research being done on Family Law Reform which should provide for no-fault-divorce, new arrangements for distribution of property and maintenance payments and recognition of children as individuals with rights in a divorce case. Watch for news on this!

3. ABORTION

The Badgley Committee has been set up by the government to study the case of abortion. The committee is studying abortion committee's to see whether or not they are operating equitably across Canada. They will report sometime in the fall. However, we should pass for removing abortion from the criminal code and not be just content with a recommendation that committee's operate equitably. Watch for news on this in the fall!

M.A.C. REPORT CONT.

4 RAPE

The criminal law has been amended recently to remove the need for the judge to warn the jury not to convict on the testimony of the victim. Also, the defence council may not question the victim as to past sexual activity unless a written request is filed before hand proving that this evidence is necessary. However, this is only the first step toward a fundamental revision of laws relating to sexual offences. Since questioning of the victim's past sexual experience was left largely up to the discretion of the judge, it was pointed out that the government should be appointing more women judges and magistrates. See the article on Rape and the Law, this issue.

5 DAY CARE

Day-Care is still a prime concern of all women right across the country. Until adequate day-care is provided, women will continue to be disadvantaged economically and emotionally. Women urged that the government give more federal assistance for general day-care. However, that is not in the immediate future. Sharing will remain as follows: Municipal 20% - Provincial 50% - Federal 30%. The federal government will pay 50% of rent and depreciation on a building. Marc Lalonde felt this to be fair and advised that we continue to pressure local governments for adequate day-care and buildings to house day-care centres. The money is definitely available at the federal level.

6 WOMEN'S PROGRAMMES

The Secretary of State money for Women's Programmes has been increased from \$200,000 to \$500,000. It was pointed out by one of the delegates at the conference that this was a measly sum when compared to a 1½ billion dollar increase in the defense budget.

7 CANADA PENSION PLAN

The Canada Pension Plan will now be shared equitably between spouses upon dissolution of the marriage and upon death of a woman, her spouse and children are entitled to C.P.P. earnings. However, there is still no provisions for a homemaker to accumulate her own pension separate from her husband. A government spokesman stated that homemakers do not work, therefore are not entitled to a

Canada Pension Plan. As you can see, there is a great need to raise the consciousness of certain government officials and representatives.

8 BILL C-73 WAGE & PRICE CONTROLS

This was by-far, the most talked about bill during the four day conference. Wage and Price controls freeze women in their unequal status. Because of percentage increases price controls do not cover such things as housing, energy or food. Because of government spending outbacks, the social services such as day-care, family-planning centers, hospitals and man-power re-training programmes are suffering.

WAGE AND PRICE CONTROLS

8

Cont from Pg. 1

This means that women are suffering disproportionately by bill C-73 and in fact the bill will bring about further economic depression for women. However, the federal government refuses to take any responsibility for the cut-backs by the provinces.

NUCLEAR ENERGY

A number of Canadian women expressed their concern for Canada's involvement in the development of nuclear energy and the sale of Candu Reactors because of the potential for human disaster. N.A.C. will call on the government to give priority to research on other sources of renewable non-polluting energy. According to an article in Weekend Magazine, the development of nuclear energy gets 72% of federal energy research money whereas only 2% goes to research on renewable energy resources.

However, government representatives assured us that Candu reactors were very safe and that our energy requirements in the future justified the development and sale of Candu reactors. N.A.C. will call for a moratorium on development of nuclear energy and sale of Candu Reactors.

LOBBY

WITH

M.P.s.

After years of writing letters and making phone-calls, N.A.C. decided to meet with the policy makers face to face. In terms of my own experience, I believe this may be effective. The monumental task of improving the Status of Women in our own province and in our country is the task of all women. If we can not run for office we must attempt to educate our elected representatives by letter, phone-calls and visits. Trade Unions and labor negotiators must be urged to review contracts as they apply to women and speak up for us. Women must demand to know where money is being spent and if we don't agree with government spending priorities we must voice our concerns.

Start to-day! For example - Would you like to see more Day-Care Centres in Lethbridge? Express yourself!

Write a letter to:

- (1) City Council and the Herald
- (2) Your M.L.A.
- (3) Peter Loughheed
- (4) Helen Hunley

Write to at least two people so your letter is not ignored. Follow up with a phone-call, and if possible, a visit.

EDUCATE YOUR M.P.

LETTERS

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN RAPED ?

Although there is much concern and discussion about rape these days, very little is actually known in terms of what the experience means to the woman herself. We are now beginning a study on the social and psychological effects of rape on women. For this study, rape means any act of sexual intercourse you are made to commit against your will whether it be by your husband, neighbour or a stranger. The results of this study will be used to help women who have been raped. Because everyone's experience is unique, we need to talk with and receive information from as many women as possible. Great care will be taken to guarantee that the name of the participants are never associated with this study. Anything you might tell us is strictly confidential. If you have ever been raped and would be willing to fill out a questionnaire or be interviewed, please write to me at the address below or call (519) - 742-6745.

Betsy Spaulding
c/o Psych. Dept.
University of Guelph,
Guelph, Ontario

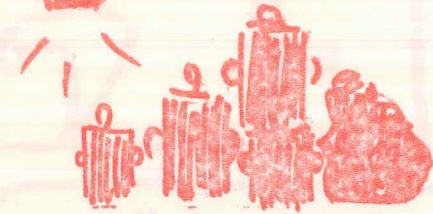
Although there is much discussion and concern about the issue of abortion today, there is little information on how Canadian women have responded to having an abortion. We are now doing a study of the experiences of Canadian women who have sought and obtained a therapeutic abortion inside Canada or elsewhere. If you have had an abortion and would be willing to fill out our questionnaire, please send your name and address to us and a questionnaire will be mailed to you. Great care will be taken to ensure your anonymity and confidentiality and no names will be associated with the study. If you are interested in helping us in this research, please write to:

Kathy Logsdail and
Lorraine Wood,
c/o Department of Psychology,
University of Guelph,
Guelph, Ontario.

HAVE YOU EVER HAD AN ABORTION?

10.

THE RAPE POEM



There is no difference between
being raped and being pushed
down a flight of cement steps
except that the wounds also
bleed inside.

There is no difference between
being raped and being run over
by a truck
except that afterward men ask
if you enjoyed it.

There is no difference between
being raped and losing a hand
in a mowing machine
except that doctors don't want
to get involved,
the police wear a knowing smirk,
and in small towns you become
a veteran whore.

There is no difference between
being raped and being bitten
on the ankle by a rattlesnake
except that people ask if your
skirt was short
and why you were alone anyhow.

There is no difference between
being raped and going head first
through a windshield
except that afterward you are
afraid not of cars
but half the human race.

The rapist is your boyfriend's
brother.
He sits beside you in the
movies eating popcorn.
Rape fattens on the fantasies
of the normal male
like a maggot in garbage.

Fear of rape is a cold wind
blowing
all of the time on a woman's
hunched back.
Never to stroll alone on a sand
road through pinewoods,
never to climb a trail across
a bald without that aluminum
in the mouth when
I see a man climbing toward me.

Never to open the door to a
knock
without that razor just grazing
the throat.
The fear of the dark side of
the hedges,
the back seat of a car, the
empty house
rattling keys like a snake's
warning.
The fear of the smiling man
in whose pocket is a knife
waiting to glide its shark's
length between the ribs.
The fear of the serious man
in whose fist is locked hatred.

All it takes to cast a rapist
is to be able to see your body
as jackhammer, as blowtorch,
as adding-machine-gun.
All it takes is hating that
body
your own, your self, your muscle
that softens to flab.

All it takes is to push what
you hate,
what you fear onto the soft
alien flesh.
To bucket out invincible as a
tank
armored with treads without
senses
to possess and punish in one act,
to rip up pleasure, to murder
those who dare
live in the leafy flesh open
to love.

...Marge Piercy
Wellfleet, Mass

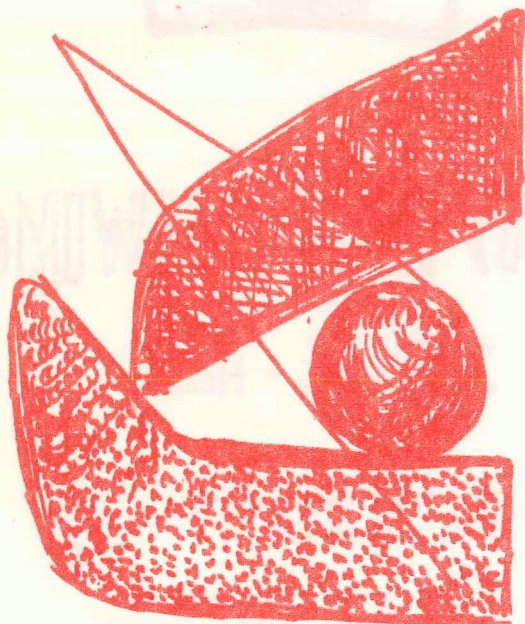


"AGAINST OUR WILL"

By Susan Brownmiller

a Book review by

VICKI ZIELKE



In her book "Against Our Will", Susan Brownmiller takes an objective and informative look at a rarely discussed topic "Rape". She delves into the history of rape beginning with the stone age, through biblical times, the middle ages, up to the present. Some comments she has made about the stone age are as follows:

"Man's discovery that his genitalia could serve as a weapon to generate fear must rank as one of the most important discoveries of prehistoric times, along with the use of fire and the first crude stone axe.

From prehistoric times to the present, I believe, rape has played a critical function. It is nothing more or less than a conscious process of intimidation by which all men keep all women in a state of fear."

She goes on to say that most probably marriage was instituted to protect women from rape by many men, not because of an inclination towards monogamy. Throughout history it is proved that a crime against a woman's body was a crime against the male estate, that women had little more value than a horse or a piece of land.

Brownmiller then discusses "war rapes" in which she has done a remarkable job of research on World Wars I and II, Bangladesh and the Vietnam War. Time and time again women are exploited by men. They are the spoils of victory as she points out in the following excerpt:

"Down through the ages, triumph over women became a way to measure victory, part of a soldiers' proof of masculinity and success, a tangible reward for services rendered. Stemming from the days when women were property, access to a woman's body has been considered an actual reward of war."

Further in the book, Brownmiller goes on to describe the persecution of Jewish, Mormon and Indian women and both black men and women. Black men were used as a scapegoat for all rapists and were punished to the fullest - often they were lynched for even looking "the wrong way" at a white woman.

con't..

Book review - "AGAINST OUR WILL" - Cont.

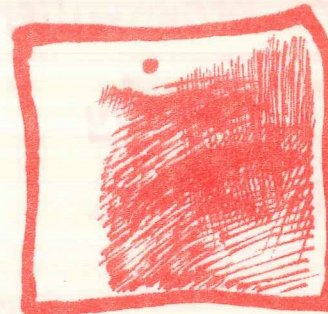
The chapter called "Police Blotter Rapist" is an interesting one in which Brownmiller describes the typical rapist as by police standards, also several studies which were done involving rapists including Amir's Philadelphia study, as well as interviews with actual rapists regarding their crimes.

The next section in her book deals with homosexual rapes in prison. This is a subject not heard about or read about often. She goes into considerable detail, explaining the power structure of an institution and why there would still be rape of a homosexual nature even if there were co-ed prisons.

The last 1/3 of the book is dedicated to women, how they have been destined to be victims from birth and how they can fight be. Women are conditioned to be helpless, ineffectual and passive individuals and they are taught from an early age that they are incapable of defending themselves.

But women are beginning to fight back and after you read this book, you should have a feeling of uneasiness in the pit of your stomach if not outright anger. In her book, Susan Brownmiller has allowed us the opportunity to gain some insight into the whole realm of rape. The last two sentences in her book sums it up completely:

"My purpose in this book has been to give rape a history. Now we must deny it a future."



PLAY ZEN DRAWING

By
J. Eisert - Hall

Now take this square
This square and I.

Black square on light
Cross hatched white paper
Four sided boundaries.

Being square
Boundaries four sided
On white paper
Holding textured
Black and white
And light on dark
Lines on white areas
Against snow lines
In this shape and I
On light in dark
Melting textured light-darkness
Square I being
Cross hatched
White and black
All snow lined textured
No sided boundary being

Now _____ take this person.

RAPE AND THE LAW

THE MYTHS

1. All Women want to be raped

This myth is supported by literature, uninformed and insensitive writings on female sexuality, and off-color jokes.

2. It is impossible to rape a woman against her will

This myth is evident in the kinds of questioning that many women have to undergo by the police and lawyers. ie. that the rape victim did not put up much of a fight-not through panic or fear - but because she really wanted it to happen.

3. Rape is a crime of passion and not a crime of violence

ie. That rape victims dress provocatively and behave provocatively when in actual fact a great many rapes are carried out on females who are little more than babies and on those in their 80's who show advanced signs of senility.

THE LAW

(From a report on the National Conference of Canadian Rape Crisis Centres)

As we are all well aware, rape and related offenses are as much a problem in Canada as they are elsewhere. Rape is increasing absolutely. Reporting rates are low; rates of 'founded' to 'unfounded' occurrences do not reflect the actual incidence of the offense but the biases of individuals and the realities of what occurs in the courtroom. Few rapists are apprehended, even fewer are convicted and sentences are low. On the basis of the most generous estimates at every level of the criminal justice system, we can state that not more than 5% of rapists are convicted. In Canada in 1972 1230 rapes were reported, 119 cases went to trial, 69 of which resulted in a conviction.

Many of these difficulties are a direct consequence of the fact that 'rape' has been defined as a sexual offense. Thus, the victim is seen as being as much on trial as the accused; she is often perceived as having been a 'participant' in the 'rape event', evidence as to her past sexual history is considered relevant to her credibility; and corroboration of her testimony as to the non-consensual nature of the act is required. This framework also permits the accused to be perceived as someone who intends no harm to the victim and who is motivated only by 'normal' desires for sexual gratification.

The present sexual status of rape is itself a product of the under-lying assumption that women are forms of private property and that their property value resides in their sexual and reproductive functions. From the perspective of the victim and of a framework which assumes that women are fully 'persons' within the law, rape is a form of assault and creates a potentially life-threatening situation. Rape violates the most basic principle of social life, namely, the freedom from unprovoked attacks on one's physical person. Any such attack creates potential risk of life, whether it is directed to sexual organs or to other parts of the body. It is the fact that rape is essentially assaultive in nature and that it always creates such a risk,

which must be reflected in the criminal law. The victim is simply a person who is subjected to an unprovoked attack on her physical person and her attacker is a person who intends to subject her to his desires, regardless of her wishes. As such, his actions are not benignly motivated and the risk he creates is what deserves punishment.



HOW THE LAW HAS CHANGED RECENTLY

1. A judge must no longer instruct the jury that uncorroborated evidence is dangerous to accept and that corroborations of a rape victim's testimony is needed to obtain a conviction.

2. The victim may no longer be questioned as to her past sexual experiences unless a written request is filed and it can be shown that this information is necessary to defend the accused. However the present law still does not cover the following:

(1) Rape is still considered a sexual offence rather than an assault of a violent nature and therefore implicates the victim.

(2) A male cannot be raped.

(3) A husband cannot rape his wife. This gives no protection to a wife who is separated from her husband and/or seeking a divorce. In addition, husbands do assault their wives and such assaults often take the form of assaults on their sexual organs. Therefore the defense of marriage should be abolished.

(4) The present section 146 assumes that a person between the ages of 16 years and 14 years is unable to consent to the act of sexual intercourse.

Although this may be seen as a protection for young people, the clause "of previously chaste character" tends to cancel out any actual protection which is meant to be afforded by the section.

(5) It should be up to the victim to request a closed court if she feels the necessity. The open court system protects the civil rights of an accused. In

addition, closed rape trials only perpetuate the attitude that rape is a shameful and embarrassing crime to happen to a victim.

N.B. Watch for a report on Sexual Offences to be released sometime in the fall.

Eudene Luther

STATUS OF WOMEN MUST IMPROVE

Seventy-eight women from 18 communities in Southern Alberta spent eight hours discussing their status in Alberta and concluded that although change is vital it will not come easily.

The Strategies for Change workshop was held in Lakeview School on 27 March and was one of four workshops held throughout the province to examine the status of women in Alberta and make concrete recommendations which will be presented to Legislature.

The regional workshops were organized by their own Local Alberta Status of Women Action Committee. Delegates had prepared for the workshop by studying an information kit, enabling them to become familiar with the discussion and contribute to the small - groups more readily.

In the morning, Dorothy Richardson, one of the four guest speakers, described the Individual Rights Protection Act existing legislation to prevent discrimination. Other speakers also explored the other bureaucratic, non-bureaucratic and voluntary structures which could be adopted.

During the afternoon session, the women broke up into 9 groups and put together a structure that seemed most feasible. These 9 structures will be condensed and given in a report to the Alberta Status of Women Action Committee. A copy of this report will be sent to all the participants in the workshop before it is sent to Edmonton.

Status of Women Must Improve con't.

The day's work was summed up with a composite of the structures by Jean Kuijt, SASWAC member, "There was a strong request for input from the grass roots level and most felt that a women's

ministry would only ghettoize women's affairs."

The consensus of the delegates was that the Alberta Women's Bureau is worthless in its present format and is useless as a vehicle for improving the status of women.

The Alberta Women's Bureau was created by the government in 1970 and has done nothing more than serve as a somewhat mediocre 'information office.' It was agreed that the bureau (not an actual department but affixed to one person, Helen Hunley, Minister of Social Services and Community Health) is powerless to take on any of the functions of advocacy or lobbying, necessary to make citizens and MLA's aware of the need for women's 'equality'.

Chairperson, Jeanna Baty asked "Is it all going to end today?" The delegates felt not and decided to work towards forming a Regional Council on the Status of Women, with the same kind of community representation as was at the workshop.

Ms. Baty in closing said, "The unity and enthusiasm of the day shouldn't end here. Women from all over Southern Alberta have come together. We have met new people - is the sharing going to end today?"

Josephine Staddon



FRAGMENTS

By J. Eisert-Hall

X said that I am Y.
X, said that I am Y.

X2 saw me last night
and formed definition Y2.
X3 saw me yesterday
and formed definition Y3.

X4 heard someone speak of me Y4.
X5 heard someone speak of me Y5.

X6 heard that someone had
heard of me Y6.
X7 heard that someone had
heard that someone had heard Y7
of me.

Who am I to you but definitions.
Take me as Z.

$Z = y + y_1 + y_2 + y_3 + y_4 + y_5 + y_6 + y_7.$

SOUTHERN ALBERTA STATUS OF WOMEN ACTION COMMITTEE REPORT

The four regional strategies for Change Workshops are now completed. All the raw data which came out of those conferences, must now be compiled into a brief to be presented to the provincial government sometime in the fall. In Southern Alberta, three people have been chosen to help organize the brief writing.

Calgary, Edmonton and Grande Prairie have done likewise. Two people from each region, making a total of 8 people will be responsible for the brief. The other four will be replacements in the event that someone cannot attend. Jeanna Baty, Barbara Houston and Eudene Luther were chosen as the Southern Alberta Representatives.

Barbara Houston and Eudene Luther attended an April meeting in Edmonton. The following is a brief report on that meeting:

1. A financial report was submitted by the four regions. The remaining money will be used for travel expenses for further meetings, for the hiring of a brief-writer and for the printing and distribution of the brief.

2. It was decided that if eight people would be responsible for the brief—another eight people were needed to form the Alberta Action Committee and take on the task of writing up a constitution and apply for funding. An Alberta Action Committee will be

vitaly needed upon presentation of the brief as there must be a contact group for the government and a follow-up pressure group within the private sector. Any women interested in forming the Alberta Status of Women Action Committee are urged to contact Eudene Luther at 345-3396, Coaldale as soon as possible.

3. Anne Hall and Dorothy Richardson were left with the responsibility of hiring the brief-writer. There has been no news yet. The brief-writer will visit each region as often as is necessary to discuss the raw data accumulated at the respective workshops.
4. Each region is responsible for formulating their own report to be given to the brief-writer. The group-leaders and S.A.S.W.A.C. will be meeting soon to discuss our report.

Southern Alberta Action Committee Report - con't.

In light of the National Action Committee meeting which I attended recently, I cannot stress enough the importance of forming a strong Alberta Action Committee to provide a vehicle of communication and liason between other women's groups in Alberta. This group will provide a focal point for the follow up and organize lobbying with the provincial government for legislative changes.

The next meeting will take place sometime in July in Calgary. I will keep you posted on happenings.

Eudene Luther

We feel pleased with the diversity of women that the day attracted and feel excited at Southern Alberta's recognition of the need for improvement of women's status. The goals of our two groups are therefore united - we thank you for your help and hope our efforts will be beneficial to Women's Place.

Sincerely,

Barbara Huston

LETTERS

April 3, 1976.

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Southern Alberta Status of Women Action Committee I would like to thank you all for your moral and practical support in the months leading up to and culminating in the March 27th Workshop "Strategies for Change." It was a tremendous help to our publicity of the day to have the use of the February newsletter. I did regret that the quality of that publication was not up to usual Women's Place standards - all the more to your credit! Our thanks also for the opportunity to speak at the General Meeting.

SWAG - Status of Women Action Group

Dear Sisters,

UP is terrific. I like the layout, the graphics and the content. SWAG would like to subscribe, and is enclosing a cheque for \$3.00. Please send UP to our office at the above address.

We produce a monthly newsletter for our 700 readers. It has, till now, been great on content but dead loss for style. We're about to crib some of your ideas to improve that.

Thanks much...

Sincerely

Alice Ages,
Office Co-Ordinator

WHAT'S UP AT W.P.

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