



AWARE



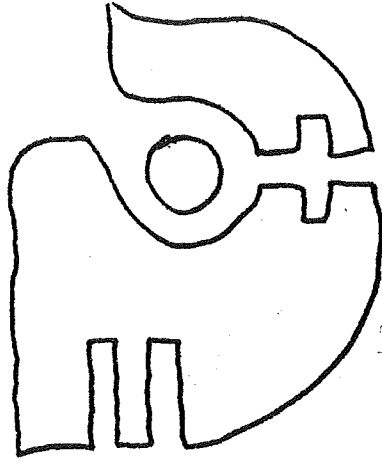
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Special Issue on Peace, Barbara Hayes, Guest Editor



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From Despair to Empowerment by the
Back Roads

Greenham Common Letter

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We live in dangerous times. Every part of our lives is distorted by violence. There is no safe place. The mentality that underlies rape is the mentality that produces war and has brought us to the brink of annihilation.

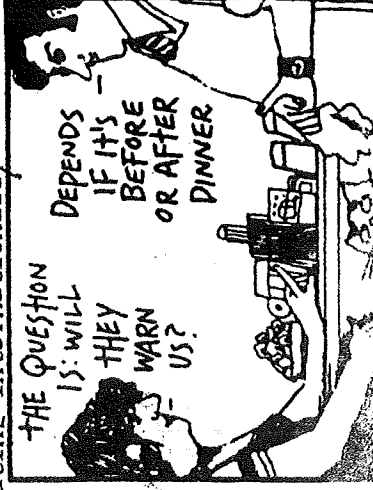
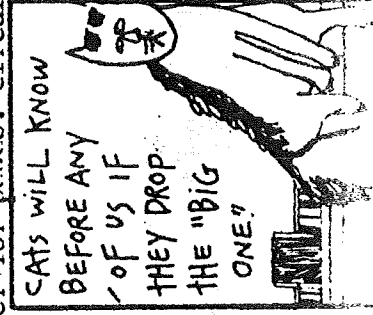
We must learn what violence is and to identify its structural, biological, symbolic, economic and psychological aspects. Whatever the reasons, we affirm that to deprive or to deny the natural rights of dignity, self-respect, and the right to live life to its fullest is the hidden premise of the logic of violence.

The oppression of women is the archetypal oppression upon which all other oppression is modelled--and which legitimates it all. Women and children are the poorest and hungriest of the world's peoples. Another definition of this is slavery.

There is violence in our structural systems; laws which support privilege, which support hierarchy. We have psychological violence; humiliation, advertising fashion and pornography.

As women we know that each human comes into the world helpless, without language and culture, and that we human beings are perhaps the only self-evolving species. As such we are responsible for living in harmony with the earth and all its creatures. WE know that change and choice are ours when we are courageous enough to live them--to reclaim our worth, our minds and bodies, our children, our land, our spirits and our own lives.

(from a chain letter for peace, circulating internationally--*circles of life*)



Nicole Hollander
Cartoon

LETTER FROM GREENHAM COMMON PEACE CAMP

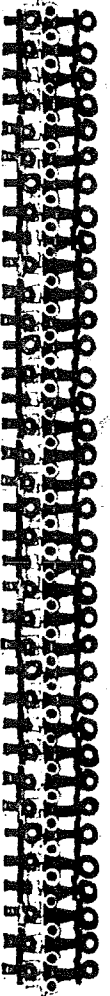
The Greenham Common Women's Peace Camp started in 1981 with a group of 36 women who walked from Cardiff Wales to Greenham, near Newbury, England, where the US Air Force Base was preparing to receive 96 Cruise and Pershing missiles--small, low flying missiles easily used as first strike weapons. The 9 day walk to Greenham was ignored by the media so four marchers chained themselves to the fence. People came to camp at Greenham in support of the action of the four women. From that beginning, the women's Peace Camp has held permanent vigil around the base in spite of evictions, arrests and winter weather. Janet Griffiths (Sue Carr Nichols mother) wrote us about her experience at Greenham for this newsletter:

'I went to Greenham Common for the first time in December, 1982. It snowed. It was a national occasion with many hundreds of buses and thousands of people. The perimeter fence is nine miles long. At 1½-2 mile intervals there are gateways through it to the base. Each of the gateways has been given a colour of the rainbow by the women who keep continuous vigil there. The main gate is yellow. On the opposite side of the road that passes this gate is a standpipe for water, paid for by the women, which serves all the gates with water. Women bring containers and fill them daily. The camps have a tattered appearance. Campfires are sheltered from frequent showers beneath flimsy and temporary plastic sheets, tied to nearby bushes and trees. The Common land around the base is covered by heath, pine, gorse and scrub birch, mixed with bramble patches.

The women's temporary homes are moved or confiscated weekly now, so pans and pots, cutlery, etc., are kept in old prams for rapid removal. The "benders", which were made in the first few years, were made by bending the young birch trees and covering them with layers of plastic. They were very cosy inside with generous layers of donated blankets. Now women sleep in the open in plastic survival bags. There are camp cats to keep down rats and there are many fleas!

The yearly national pilgrimages to the peace camps have a festival feeling about them. Those who go to Greenham take candles, wood and food and spend the day walking--sloshing rather--through six inches of mud around the grim perimeter fence. There are large untidy patches in the fence where numerous holes have been cut and repaired, even curtains hung at the sides of the holes to draw more attention to them as windows. The barriers have become steadily heavier and thicker--more rolls of barbed wire or razor wire beyond the overhanging 10' fence, with rolls of barbed wire on top. The high lookout towers floodlight everything inside at night. (Still women get inside, dance on the missile silos and paint peace symbols on planes!) People hold hands and there are so many that it is possible to make a continuous chain around the base. Photos, mementoes, international messages, pictures & symbols made of flowers and brightly coloured wool are attached to the fence or woven into it. Buds and tees are planted and when daylight fades thousands of people light candles and leave them flickering in the earth around the fence and along the roads leading to the base. But when the thousands return to their homes, a few dozen women remain. Some have lived there, on and off, sleeping rough, for more than three years. They become a little dishevelled in appearance, bulkily dressed, smelling strongly of woodsmoke. Their hands become ingrained with dirt. The greater community support for those who remain is wonderful...the women are the national conscience for their children of the future. The spiritual support and it is difficult to describe it otherwise--that the women give to each other is even more impressive. The isolation of walls and separate hearths is gone. There is an almost tangible caring."

-----there is more to Janet's letter, call 863-1176-----



COURT APPEARANCE FOR PENTAGON PROTEST

You are all invited to attend the trial and sentencing of the 14 people who staged a sit-in at the N.S. hotel to protest the collaboration of Maritime businesses with the U.S. Pentagon & who were charged with trespassing. Thirteen of the accused have pled not guilty to the charge while one person pled guilty. The sentencing & trial will take place on APRIL 17th at 10 AM in courtroom #1, 5242 Spring Garden Road, Halifax. Interested people are asked to attend as a show of support. Fund raising events are planned to raise money to help pay legal fees and fines for those who have chosen that route. (This article appeared in Ms. J. Davis' OPEN LETTER, RR#4 Tatamagouche BOK 1VO. Ms. Davis is the one person pleading guilty to the charge of trespassing.

ANTIGONISH!! CHAPTER OF VOICE OF WOMEN???

Interest has been shown in starting a chapter of Voice of Women in Antigonish. Voice of Women was formed in the 60's simultaneously in Halifax & Vancouver to address the issues of violence and environmental issues. Several women are willing to get started and we need to involve more of you out there. Call the Centre and leave your name & phone number and we will get in touch.

MONCTON IN MAY

May 10th-11th at the Université de Moncton, a regional "FORUM OF WOMEN FOR PEACE" will be held (with simultaneous translation.) This forum is part of a larger Conference on Peace organized by the Faculty of Arts. The schedule includes workshops on Educating Children for a Peaceful World, a panel to analyse violence & ways to resolve conflict, and a celebration of Peace.

This Forum of Women for Peace would welcome a large number of women from all parts of the Atlantic region. This is an excellent opportunity for anglophone and francophone peaceworkers to get together. Financial help for attending this conference may be available from the N.S. Secretary of State office.

Barbara Roberts and Alice Wiser are carrying on research on women's experience in dealing with conflict and peace making in the family, community organisations, places of work and places of worship. They hope to reach thousands of women in Canada and abroad. If you can fill out this (quite long and thought-provoking) questionnaire, or if you can copy it and send it to friends here or overseas, please contact the center 863-6221. We will have one copy on file for copying at least. Barbara and Alice will be working on this for the next few years and would very much appreciate all our help in the project.

THE EFFECTS OF MILITARISM

****every minute 30 children die for want of food and inexpensive vaccines. Every MINUTE the world's military spends \$1.3 million (\$1,333,333) on armaments.

***In Canada money for military expenditures is diverted from education, health, and other social services. Women are not only the beneficiaries of social services, but most of women's jobs are in the social services. In cutting social services in favor of military expenditures women, who make up a majority of the poor, are hurt most.

**** Workers are told to tighten their belts while corporate & government officials sign away billions of our dollars to arms manufacturers.

***Canada exported \$150,000,000 of military equipment to the 3rd world in 1983. Western and eastern governments manipulate 3rd world conflicts to protect and further their own financial interest.

***Cold War Rhetoric is the fuel for the 3rd world interventions and repressions by which we profit.

(from a handout given out at the N.S. TATOO)

ATLANTIS

A Women's Studies Journal

Revue d'Études sur la Femme

Mount Saint Vincent University
166 Bedford Highway
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3M 2J6

CALL FOR PAPERS

Special Issue of ATLANTIS on Feminist Peacework to be edited by Barbara Roberts. (You may have met Barbara Roberts last summer when she was taking the orientation section for an Ma. of Adult Ed. at St. F.X. She has written many papers on violence and pornography that we have used in writing the pornography brief)

ATLANTIS' poster is in the WRC (above Celtic Music Store) with more detail and deadlines for articles, reviews, etc.

THE PEACE RIBBON

Come Build A New Earth

"Pieces for Peace".

*What I cannot bear to think of as lost forever in a Nuclear War is the theme being preserved in needlecraft by women all across North America forming a ribbon to wrap the pentagon. Each piece will be attached by ribbons to the rest piece to form the long Ribbon. The wrapping is scheduled for August, 1985 the 40th Anniversary of the Bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Individuals and groups will speak. Panels 18+36 inches illustrating the theme by embroidery, baking, tie dyeing, etc. After the Pentagon encirclement the Ribbon will be housed permanently in the Chicago Peace Museum. The Deadline is May, 1985. For further information contact Joan Mac Kenzie 68 Genelle B.C. WDG 100.

Beth Parker is working on a panel and you will be able to see it at Lightsome Gallery all this month. Beth and Jeff are celebrating 10 years Anniversary of their gallery. They have many beautiful works of women's Art on display. The theme of Beth's panel is the loss of the future of her children. Thank you Beth for saying it for us all!

* * * * *

MAIN THEMES OF CONFERENCE-----

- ***Define true security.
- ***Analyse the current status of international relations.
- ***Trace the links between all forms of violence and the threat of war.
- *** Share skills, experience, and ideas on alternative ways to resolve conflict and build trust.
- *** Explore how the application of these alternatives could reduce present levels of hostility.
- *** Promote ways to transfer global resources from arms to development.

The International Conference will invite a total of 300 women; 100 as panelists and resource persons, 50 of them from Canada and 50 from abroad. Local fundraising is to concentrate on helping Third World women come, because it is expected that CIDA will agree to match \$3 to \$1 raised for this purpose. Women who are nationally recognized as being experienced in non-violent resolution of conflict will be invited; two women from the Soviet Union, two from China, two from the USA etc.

The second 100 participants will come from the Canadian groups who have endorsed the conference, with the hope that their groups will pay their expenses; the final 100 places will be allocated on a geographical basis by population.

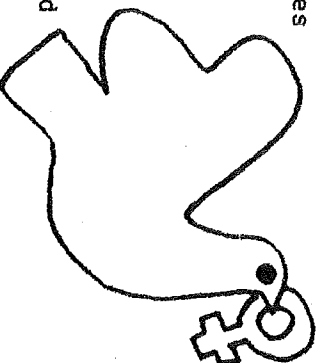
Sessions will be made available to the public by as much TV and Video as possible.

Two Personal Statements

Janet Griffiths added this to her letter to us: I have always been saddened by war. I was 9 when Malaya was invaded and all material possessions were taken from my parent's home. My mother & I lived a nomadic existence for 3 years and when we eventually reached Britain, the first bombs were falling on London. Homes and lives were shattered, family life destroyed. Peace in Europe was exhilarating--NO MORE WAR!--and then the terrible bomb was dropped in Japan and its ominous shadow has never left the surface of the earth. People in power have used it as a threat ever since. People have made gross fortunes out of manufacturing weapons that if ever used will mean the end of life as we know it on earth. People in power have had to use more and more repressive measures against their own populations who, in the case of the third world are starving to pay back loans and interest on loans to wealthy nations, and in the case of wealthy nations to repress people who feel that threats made with weapons so deadly may one day be implemented.

Janet also describes the camp at Molesworth where she has stayed. In Canada there have been peace camps at Cole Bay Alberta and in Ottawa. In Herizons, March '84, Peace worker, Monique Foley said, "Everybody wants peace. I heard that a thousand times this summer (at the Ottawa Peace Camp). 'Oh yeah,' we're for peace, but we're scared of the Russians." I answer "nobody wants war. But nobody wants to do anything for Peace...to put in an effort. If you can risk a nuclear war...if you can risk that many nuclear armaments behind you, Well then, you can risk anything. You can even risk to trust the Russians!"

* * * * *



International Women's
Peace Conference
Mount St. Vincent
University

June 5-9*

*****WOMEN IN THE CHURCH PANEL*****

Irene LeForte, President Elect of the National CWL, Reverend Marian Stewart, Sr. Mary Eileen MacEachern and Madeleine McGowan, past chairperson for the National UCW made up the panel for a Women in the Community sponsored event. Each woman made a brief presentation before discussion was opened to the audience of 81 people. Irene LeForte spoke of her work in the church and all that service has meant to her. Rev. Stewart talked about Jesus as a feminist, showing how Jesus in his ministry went openly against rules about speaking to or touching women and using them as witnesses. Sr. Mary Eileen, a member of the Sisters of St. Martha from Sydney, said that rather than using religion to rationalize the status quo, the call of God is for Christians to reflect, to criticize wrong and to evolve, in spite of the fear of change and the fear of developing our gifts. Madeleine McGowan gave a brief history of women's work in the United Church from the pre 1930's independent Women's Missionary Society, through the present UCW to the polarization that occurs between Christian feminists and those who don't "make waves".

The panelists have more material to present but the lively participation from the audience took us to ten o'clock and beyond. The discussion started with a question about the importance of working with and speaking to men. No one disputed that that was important, but all stressed how important it was to speak with women first.

Difficult questions--abortion and the ordination of women--arose, but the necessity for dialogue even on these divisive issues was affirmed. Mrs. LeForte spoke for many women when she said that working in faith, hope and trust, being open to the spirit will bring changes in the right times.

The stories, experiences, moving statements and questions--discussions of scripture all made the evening most inspiring. To come together with women who have been working inside or outside of their churches in the spirit of hope was invigorating and reassuring.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY PARTY

This year our party and celebration for International Womens Day was a great success.

Held at the Tin Room at Coady and featuring a cash bar and Womens band, highlighting some local talented women.

Attending were women from the New Glasgow Womens Center, Transition House and some members of the W.H.E.N. Board and of course, many of Antigonish's finest.

Barb MacDonald said a few words of welcome and reminded us of the importance of our community of sharing and celebrating as women.

Over \$44.00 was collected for the International Peace Conference to be held in June in Halifax. This money has been sent to the co-ordinator of the event, Marion Kerons.

The singing and dancing were enjoyed by all in various levels of participation and skill.

For those of you who couldn't make it, don't despair--next years celebration will be bigger and better.

Women in the St. Andrew's area are starting a study group on Women in the Economy.

If you are interested in being part of this, call Pat at 863-1176. We haven't set a time or place for meeting yet.

Deadline for the next issue of AWARE is April 30th. We welcome announcements articles and new reporters! *Thanks. to Monica for her help this issue!*

THE WHEN CONFERENCE!!!!!!

The When Conference on Mental Health at Truro, April ~~26-28~~ ^{pro-(19-21)} promised to be a great event and a GOOD TIME! Brochures, applications and a list of people going interested in car-pooling are up at the Centre--315 Main Street above the Celtic Music Store.

Deborah Chansonneuve, new volunteer co-ordinator at the Naomi Society, will be giving one of the many fine workshops on Saturday--Body Image--the ideal is no deal. There will be a play "SIDE EFFECTS" on the drug industry, Joella Foulds will sing. There is daycare available, gym facilities, cheap rates and the feeling that this is one you shouldn't miss.

SIDE EFFECTS will be on at the DeCoste Entertainment Centre in Pictou on April 24th at 8:00 PM. The Play challenges high tech health care and its consequences. It exposes Marketing and the procedures of Drug companies in Canada and the third world.

From the Guest Editor-----

I am happy and delighted to be guest editor on this peace issue. I have been living in Nova Scotia ten years now and feel I have earned my right to space and a home here. My concerns and work at this particular time are focused on working with women to envision a peaceful world, which means working on exposing the domination and injustice done to women by a male-ordered world, working to learn new ways of being authentic, powerful, valuing ourselves and other women. I am teaching my children to respect all others, male and female, whatever colour or race, helping them to recognize our interconnectedness to each other and everything that lives. We cannot do violence to ourselves or our environment.

This planet, our home, is the only home we have. We must protect it at all costs. That I live in Nova Scotia on the Back Roads, gives me a certain perspective. My experience so far-clear-cutting land, devastating the land, spraying deadly chemicals to kill weeds by the roads, control pests, kill hardwood..our food is poisoned, our air polluted, our water ways in danger from chemical run-offs and acid rain. There is no safe place on our planet. We have to work for change now if we wish to reverse the process.

From the back roads to the New roads!! from despair to empowerment, with women's energy and power. No one can kill the spirit!

Barbara Hayes, Feminist, peace activist, mother, sister



NEW STAFF-----

Congratulations to Star Levatte-O'Neill and to Bev Renny who are our new co-ordinator and office manager, respectively.

Next issue we will have more on, about and/or by Star and Bev.

We hope to have a social with the new staff before they start working--Social to be announced.

Thanks to the hiring committees for their fine and thorough work in this difficult process.

ATTENTION--URGENT

TRICIA MIFFLEN has lost a lot in a fire in her apt. She needs Bedding-sheets, blankets- & towels. We will have a benefit--
Date TBA.

On Friday, March 29th, the Pictou County Women's Centre and the Dept. of Psychiatry and Mental Health at Aberdeen Hospital held a day-long workshop series on sexual assault and sexual abuse. The sessions focused on incest, rape, and services to victims in Nova Scotia. Representatives from Antigonish who attended the workshops gained a deeper understanding of the psychological effects of sexual abuse on victims and made valuable contacts for future networking on this issue.

INDICATORS OF SEXUAL ABUSE

- chronic low self-esteem
- promiscuity
- drugs and/or alcohol
- repeating the relationship, i.e. battered women
- problems with sexuality
- problems with intimacy

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

- LISTEN** letting her talk about her experience is a way of helping her get in touch with her feelings.
- BELIEVE** don't judge her. She's probably carrying enough guilt already.
- SUPPORT** give her clear indications that you're with her, not against her. Affirm her worth as a person. ♀

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Antigonish Women's Association was held on Thursday, March 28, 1985 at 7:00 p.m. at the Antigonish Women's Resource Centre.

Present for the meeting were: Janice Landry, Avon Burkholder, Ann Uloth, Phil Campbell, Mary Burns, Diane MacKinnon, Vicky MacLean, Madeline McGowan, Janet Tremblay, Joyce Daigle, Angela Miles, Tricia Miffen, Grace MacKinnon and Barbara MacDonald.

The minutes from the March 6th meeting were circulated and approved.

The Treasurer's Report was given. The Association has, at present, \$718.00 in its account.

The main purpose of this meeting was to hear the recommendations of the Hiring Committee regarding the positions of Coordinator and Office Manager. The Hiring Committee consisted of Mary Burns, Madeline McGowan, Diane MacKinnon, Janet Tremblay and Vicky MacLean. Madeline McGowan reported to the Board on behalf of the Hiring Committee. Madeline reported on the system used by the Committee, which involved a point system. The persons who came out highest in this system and who were recommended for hiring were: Star Levatte-O'Neill for Coordinator and Beverly Renny for Office Manager. Madeline also gave a description of Star's and Beverly's background. Madeline moved that the report of the Hiring Committee be accepted. Janet Tremblay seconded the motion. The motion was carried. It was moved by Barbara MacDonald that the recommendation of the hiring of Star Levatte-O'Neill as Coordinator and Beverly Renny as Office Manager be accepted. This motion was seconded by Janice Landry and unanimously accepted by the Board. The Hiring Committee will inform Star Levatte-O'Neill and Beverly Renny of their status. The Board gave thanks to the Hiring Committee for the wonderful job they did.

A Committee made up of Barbara MacDonald, Avon Burkholder and Madeline McGowan will draw up a detailed job description for each position which will be presented to the staff at a later date. They will also meet informally with the new staff just to touch base with them. This motion was moved by Vicky MacLean and seconded by Tricia Miffen.

It was also agreed upon that the new staff will be put on a three month probationary period. Moved by Janet Tremblay, seconded by Vicky MacLean.

If the positions are not accepted by Star and Beverly, the Hiring Committee will reassemble to review their findings and give recommendations to the Board.

A Committee made up of Joyce Daigle and Vicky MacLean will meet to discuss strategies of reorganizing the meetings of the Board. If anyone has any input, please put it in writing and drop it off at the Centre by April 3. They will present their recommendations at a potluck supper for the Board to be held on Wednesday, April 17 at 5:30 p.m. at the Centre. Janet Tremblay reported on a C.E.C. sponsored program which pays for a worker for a two-week period. Janet indicated that there was a person was specified that she was interested in working at the Centre for two weeks, beginning April 1. It was moved by Angela Miles to have this person work at the Centre. The motion was seconded by Avon Burkholder and accepted by the Board. Tricia Miffen and Barb Morton will help to initiate this person to the Centre.

There is an orientation session for volunteers who will be operating the Centre for the month of April, to be held at 10:30 a.m. on March 29.

The next meeting of the Antigonish Women's Association Board of Directors will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 17 at the Centre. This meeting will be a potluck supper for the Board.

