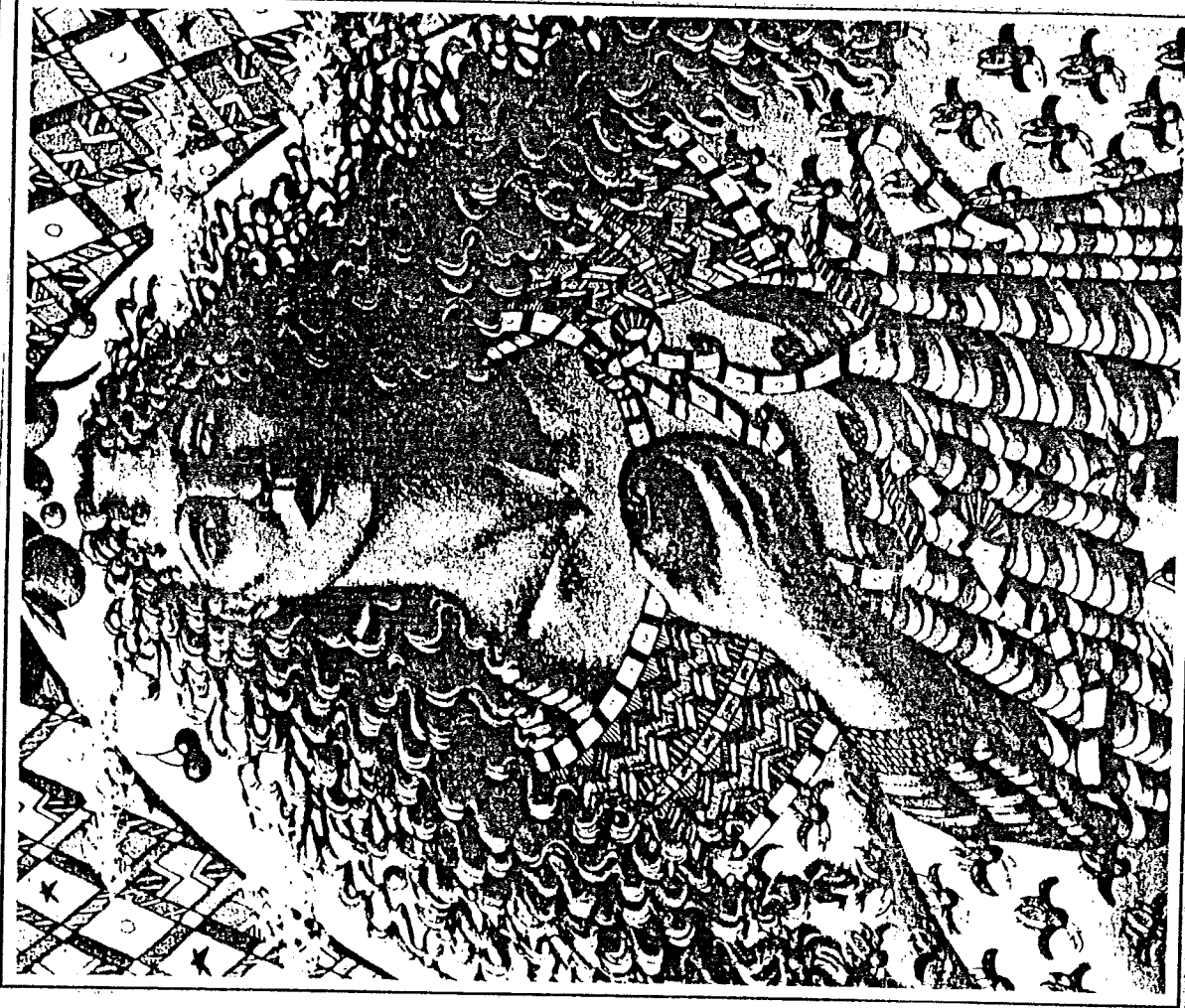


AWARE



NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED BY ANTIAGONISH WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION
RESOURCE CENTER 863-6221 FEBRUARY 1990

WELCOME



I am the soul of nature that gives life to the universe. From Me all things proceed and unto Me they must return. For behold, I have been with you from the beginning, and I am that which is attained at the end of desire.
— From the traditional "Charge of the Goddess," poem version by Stanhawk, from the Motherpeace tarot deck. Oil 36" x 30", artwork © 1989 Sudie Rakusin. Photo by M. J. Sharpe.

TO THE 90S



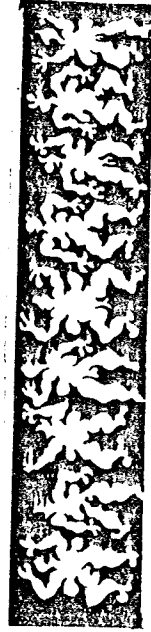
As we enter a new decade we all have hopes for positive changes in women's place in our society. We asked women around the province the following question.

If you could make one change for women in the 90's what would it be and why?

We received the following responses.

One change for women in the 90's would be better pensions for women including a homemaker's pension.

— Pictou County Women's Centre



If there is one thing I could change for women in the 90s, I would replace the existing members of the legislature with women and men who understand women's interests and work to fulfill women's need. We need that change to make equality for women a reality in our lifetime.

— Alexa McDonough, Leader, NDP



I would like women to be able to slay our own dragons. When I see the barriers in front of women, many of them coming from fears (justifiable fears from neglect, abuse, abandonment) I would like us to have a sense of our own power, our own strength and courage.

— Nancy Wright, GLOW

My response to the question "If you could make one change for women in the 90s what would it be and why?" is:

to have the media stop presenting youth and slenderness as being the only form of happiness. You are made to feel less than perfect if you are not in these categories.
- Jackie Fletcher, National Poverty Organization



If I could make one change for women, I would choose to have a strong global feminist movement. I think it would have the most impact and would allow us all to realize our dreams.

A worldwide global feminist movement would be strong enough to successfully challenge patriarchy. We would have the power to stop contemporary patriarchal and racist institutional ideas and practices that do violence to women and other powerless groups in both subtle and not-so-subtle ways. All women would participate locally, often with others, by challenging and changing systems and practices that they find around them - in the family, the community, governments, the legal systems, the social welfare and health systems, and in all bureaucracies, politics, businesses, unions, media, universities, schools, hospitals, doctors offices, courts, churches and everyday life. By working together on this joint project, the world environment will begin to feel the power and energy from these new ways of knowing and of acting. If my wish for a strong feminist movement comes true, we will be on our way toward living and flourishing in a transformed, environmentally friendly and peaceful world.
- Linda Christiansen-Ruffman, CRIAW



I am hoping for a huge breakthrough in education in the area of wife and child abuse to the extent that one will see less need for women's and children's shelters.
- Pat Skinner, Affirmative Action



Planned Parenthood Nova Scotia would like to see family planning clinic services throughout Nova Scotia, not just in Metro Halifax-Dartmouth as is now the case. If this could be achieved by the turn of the century, both education and medical services would, hand in hand, reduce unplanned pregnancies, reduce the rates of spread of sexually transmitted diseases (and, many subsequent Pelvic Inflammatory Disease cases, and infertility resulting from same), and, generally reduce costs and suffering associated with lack of information and services: family planning and sexuality.

We would also like to see expanded media campaigns promoting healthy sexuality and nonsexist behavior, to counter the messages currently promoting irresponsible sexual behavior and the perception of men and women as sexual objects; messages which come from the advertising and entertainment industry.

- Mary Hamblin, Planned Parenthood Nova Scotia



Not so much a change but an improvement - an improvement to the public transportation system in rural areas. Many of our women are living in poverty because they can't afford transportation to go to work. I have lost jobs in the area where I live because I needed a car to get the job and the job to get the car. (which comes first the chicken or the egg?) In our area you can get from Ecum Secum west to Sheet Harbour for 9a.m. but there is no way home until after 8:15p.m.. There is no transportation at all from Sober Island, Malay Falls, Mushaboom or points east like Spy Harbour and Tangier to Sheet Harbour. Sheet Harbour is the hub of District 1 and where most jobs for women can be found. This holds true for all rural areas within Nova Scotia. So, for the 90's I would like to see public transportation become a priority for the women's organizations.

- Norma J. Cross, Lea Place



A Change that I would make for women in the 90's would be that we develop our self-esteem so much that we can tell ourselves we are beautiful, witty, intelligent, important ... and believe it. The approval of men and those with power would no longer be necessary and there would be no stopping us!

- Eileen Carey, AWA

I think the most important change would be to get women involved in social/economic/political decision-making processes in sufficient numbers to be able to say "This system does not work for women and other living things. It needs to change!" with some impact. I see this happening more and more in small organizations, with women beginning to articulate their discomfort. The change I hope to see is to have this dialogue deepen and broaden to bring women's perspective into decision-making, so that we can transform our relationships, our being, and our world.

- Rieky Stuart, Coady International Institute



There are, of course, many changes we want for women: Equality in all areas of our lives, an end to poverty and violence. In the aftermath of the Montreal Massacre, it is clear that we live in a world that is becoming increasingly hostile to feminists. If we could make one change in the next decade we would see a positive response to women working for women, a greater understanding and acceptance of Feminist goals and a solidarity between all women working for a better world. With such a change in public attitude we can at last take two steps forward without taking one step back!

- Debbi Forsyth-Smith, Advisory Council on the Status of Women.

... to have a National Child Care program - adequate, affordable and accessible child care for anyone who needs it.

- Mary Clancy, Status of Women Critic, Liberal Party



I would like to see a change in society's attitudes towards violence against women. This change would filter down through society through the legal system, educational system, religious institutions and would lead to an overall change in behavior.

- Patty Munroe, Second Story Women's Centre, Bridgewater



Real democracy and freedom from violence of all forms of oppression; loving friends and a supportive community; for each woman, faith in our own wonderful ideas; and peace. Shalom!

- Muriel Duckworth, Voice of Women



Revolution!

- Donna MacDonald, W.A.C.N.S.



We are the Nine Muses, the source of inspiration for all the arts and sciences. May we bestow our creative energies upon you.

The average 1987 salary of a full-time employee in the workplaces covered by the Employment Equity Act was \$31,047.

Taking a lower figure, \$27,500, as the cut-off point, we find the following:

- 77% of all the male employees earned over \$27,500
- 30% of all the female employees earned over \$27,500
- 68% of native men earned over \$27,500
- 23% of native women earned over \$27,500
- 77% of disabled men earned over \$27,500
- 24% of disabled women earned over \$27,500
- 78% of visible minority men earned over \$27,500
- 24% of visible minority women earned over \$27,500

The moral is that men in any group have much the same relative advantage over women in their own group, as men, in general, do over women, in general.

PART-TIME WORK : LIBERATION OR EXPLOITATION ?

Chances are good that you know someone that has a "part-time job."

And chances are even better that someone is a woman. Part-time workers are a growing segment of the labour force and the majority of them are women. On the one hand, part-time work can be an alternative way of combining family responsibilities with a more flexible work schedule; on the other hand, it usually means a job with low wages and no benefits or chance for promotion. Part-time work is a women's issue.

PART-TIME WORK: WHAT IS IT?

The term "part-time" is a general one and can refer to many types of work schedules: casual, temporary, contract, seasonal, permanent, job sharing, flexi-time. Broadly defined, a part-time worker is anyone who works less than the normally scheduled monthly or weekly hours of work established for people doing similar work.

PART-TIME WORKERS IN NOVA SCOTIA:

WHO ARE THEY?

Recent statistics document how women form the vast majority of part-time employees. Although only one out of six persons employed in Nova Scotia in 1987 worked part-time, 71.9% of these part-time workers were women. Of all employed women, more than one out of four were employed part-time. 22,000 of Nova Scotia's 57,000 part-time workers in 1987 (38.6%) were classified as "involuntary": those working part-time because they are unable to find full-time jobs. 16,000, or 72.7%, of involuntary part-time workers were women.

These numbers can be explained in large part by the fact that part-time employment is more prevalent in the service sector, such as clerical and sales jobs where women also predominate, than in the manufacturing sector.

ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES

Part-time work has the potential to accommodate the needs of workers with other responsibilities, such as child care or further education. It also offers retired people and others the opportunity to remain active in the labour market and supplement their income. Employers see many advantages to hiring workers on a part-time basis: increased productivity, decreased absenteeism and error, and staffing for evenings, weekends, and peak periods. All of these result, of course, in substantial cost savings.

The primary disadvantage of part-time work for employees can be summed up in two words: unfair treatment. Compared to full-time workers, most part-timers receive lower hourly rates, are denied access to pension and benefit

Plans, and are kept in low skilled jobs with little job security or advancement opportunities. These conditions can lead to increased work stress, especially for involuntary part-time workers who may have financial worries or difficulties finding adequate child care.

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

-because the Nova Scotia Labour standards Code's provisions are based primarily on "normal working hours" as set by individual work-places, part-time workers are effectively excluded from many protections? -under the Nova Scotia Pension Benefits Act employers with pension plans are required to allow part-timers to join the plan if they earn more than \$9,200 annually and have been with the employer for two consecutive years? -part-time workers often do not qualify for unemployment insurance (UI) benefits either because they do not work enough hours or their earnings are too low to be insurable?

UNIONS AND PART-TIME WORK

Most part-time workers are found within the least unionized occupations; where they are unionized, they fare better than their non-union counterparts, due to their coverage under the collective bargaining agreement. The traditional attitude of unions has been to denounce part-time work as a way for management to undermine full-time jobs; when unions do support improvements for part-time working conditions, management usually resists strongly.

MAKING THINGS BETTER

Providing pro-rated benefits is a necessary first step towards enhancing the nature of part-time work. Alternative work schedules, such as job-sharing, flexi-time, or shorter work weeks, should be encouraged in recognition of the needs of workers with other responsibilities. For many women who chose part-time jobs, it was not a free choice, but the only alternative available. Resolving the problems inherent in part-time work is linked to the need for men and women to become equal partners in household responsibilities and the need for high quality and affordable child care.

(This article is based on "Women and Part-time Work in Nova Scotia," Background Paper, September 1989, prepared by the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women.) - Judith Maclean



PORNOGRAPHY: A COMMUNITY CONCERN

I have received several calls recently from people in the community concerned about the ease with which young people access pornography.

Over the past weeks I've spent some time researching the laws and/or bylaws covering the sale of pornography and the licensing of video outlets.

Pornography is an issue that has been around for a long time. It is easy for me to feel defeated by it - to feel the battle is too hard to fight, a concensus on its definition too hard to reach, and that its really an urban problem easy to avoid in rural Nova Scotia. Other, less horrific struggles, push pornography to the back of my mind.

However, last week my 9year old son brought home a copy of Conan the Barbarian that he borrowed from a classmate. For those of you lucky enough to be unfamiliar with Conan the Barbarian, it is a comic book aimed at adolescent boys. Conan and cohorts are muscle-bound, blood thirsty, breechcloth clad men frequently portrayed with arrows and swords piercing their anatomy, and blood dripping, severed heads hanging from their belts. The women are sketched as seductive, tone of evil temptresses. The pictures and text directly link sex with violence, including rape. In this particular book, one man holds the woman while the other "has his way".

I went through the book with my child to try to help him see the message underneath what was printed on the page. Being a typical 9 year old boy he has grown up in a world where most boy's toys are designed to be played with by acting out violent, power over, might is right scenarios. What is disturbing beyond the seduction of young minds to violence is the connection made with sex - that it is the prerogative of strong, powerful men to "take and conquer" women at whim. This connection between violence and sex begins in comic books, is reinforced in rock videos and popular media and lays the groundwork for children to grow into consumers who support the billion dollar pornography industry. Pornography is based on the degradation of women and by its very nature alienates men from women. Children, especially young boys need to see images of men who are strong and powerful yes, but also gentle, kind, and respectful towards women.

Pornography is legal. Video outlets are liscensed on a year to year basis by the Department of Consumer Affairs. All outlets are inspected twice a year through spot checks to ensure they are carrying only videos classified by the provincial censorship board and that they are not renting restricted videos to minors. All videos must be classified as general (GP), adult (14 years and over), or restricted (18 years and over). Offenders are subject to license suspension.

Most video outlets carry party/exotic movies. These films contain scenes of explicit sex and are usually kept under the counter. Any videos found by the Dept. of Consumer Affairs that have been rejected by the Censorship board are seized. Consumer Affairs finds out who the supplier is and charges may be laid by the RCMP. Both the RCMP and the Dept. of Consumer Affairs will look into any consumer complaint against a particular video.

85-90% of all pornographic reading materials come from the U.S. Magazines are viewed by Canada Customs authorities two months before publication date to weed out offensive issues. Once a magazine is accepted by Canada Customs it may be sold to any member of the public regardless of age. There are no federal, provincial or municipal laws/bylaws preventing the sale of pornographic magazines to children.

WHAT CAN BE DONE ABOUT PORNOGRAPHY?

1. We can educate ourselves. See what videos and magazines are available locally. For people wanting to acquaint themselves with basic research on pornography we have reading material available at the Women's Centre.
2. We can find out what our children are reading, watching and listening to and open a dialogue with them about pornography. Talking with kids can help them understand what healthy and unhealthy sexuality are and to differentiate between the two.

3. We can tell store owners which materials we find objectionable and why and ask them to remove it from their shelves. If they refuse, we can boycott them and tell them why. We can find creative ways to honour those who refuse to profit from pornography.

4. We can report videos we find offensive to Calvin Jones, Dept. of Consumer Affairs, 863-3213. Offensive magazines can be reported to the RCMP. It is important to let our municipal councillors know.

5. Write the Right Honourable Brian Mulroney, P.M., our M.P. Francis LeBlanc, the Honourable Barbara MacDougall, Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, the Honourable Doug Lewis, Minister of Justice, the Honourable Marcel Masse, Minister of Communications. All the above can be addressed, postage free, House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6. Send copies to your municipal council member.

6. Write Premier John Buchanan, Dr. Bill Gillis, our M.L.A., Attorney General Thomas J. McInnis and lobby for stricter video classification guidelines.

7. We can talk to our council representatives and ask about municipal by-laws restricting pornography in Antigonish.

8. We can contact the school board and/or individual members and encourage them to implement sexuality education programs in all schools throughout the district. We can let them know our concerns about pornography and ask that it be addressed as part of the school curriculum. We can support the idea of a parent/teacher/student meeting to discuss the issue.

9. We can circulate information about pornography and encourage groups we are involved in to take community action on the issue.

Together we can make a difference.

Lucille Harper

A2 THE GLOBE AND MAIL, SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 1987

'Free speech' gives free rein to supporters of pornography

NEW YORK

Censorship is so explosive and so labyrinthine an issue that it would take several columns just to touch on the main points. It's dismaying, therefore, to realize that, once again, in the public debate on the pornography bill, one phrase will dominate every discussion, and one key element will be virtually absent.

The phrase which shapes the debate, a phrase made sacred and absolute by pornographers, pro-pornographers and civil libertarians, not to mention writers, artists and mediocrats, is "free speech."

The missing element is discussion of the deep, pervasive harm that pornography is inflicting on all of us.

The civil libertarians and pornographers will have the most free speech in the debate, and the victims of pornography will have the least. As always, the free-speechers will try to silence the anti-pornographers by ad feminam insult ("housewife," "prude," "anti-sex" and "fundamentalist") while being the most common and shameful terms of personal abuse) and the media, which naturally have an enormous financial and ideological stake in unlettered liberty, will give far more free speech to the free-speechers than to their opponents.

For those of us who cherish civil liberties, the last decade has offered an extraordinary spectacle: that of the American and Canadian Civil Liberties Unions, besotted by noble theory, rushing to ridiculous extremes to defend Nazis, rapists and pornographers while resolutely ignoring the grievous injuries these people inflict on the civil rights of others. It's a classic case of well-motivated but irrational excess.

Free speech is, indeed, a precious ideal, though one much honored in the breach. Society has long since recognized that speech must be regulated in many ways, most of them invisible and now taken utterly for granted. Journalists are daily prevented, by libel and contempt of court laws, from reporting what could be relevant information. Government servants are bound by oaths of lifelong secrecy, the most ardent proponents of liberty for themselves will eagerly sue others to keep them quiet.



MICHELLE
LANDSBERG

It strikes me that the people who have a corner on the free speech market in our society are pornographers, who enjoy an \$8-billion a year industry in the United States, and who can count on an automatic, impassioned defence by media and free-speech idealists.

Even the gruesome torture and debasement of women is now respectable, so long as it is done elegantly. When a Manitoba judge acquitted Penthouse magazine of obscenity charges, he cited the testimony of respected civil libertarian spokeswomen, who praised the artistic merits of the "strange and beautiful" photographs in question. The photographs (later ruled obscene by two Ontario courts) showed Japanese women hanged by their necks from trees, or naked, bound, trussed, with ropes tightly fastened around their breasts and through their genitals, and wearing death masks.

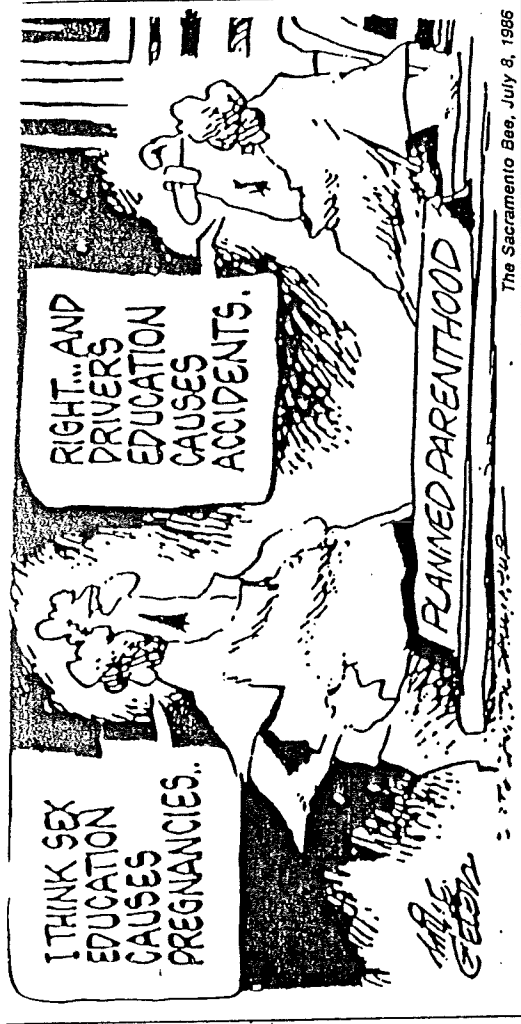
Much fine and high-minded scorn is reserved for those feminists, like me, who are concerned about the harm that such despicable — and widespread — images do. Civil libertarians demand rational, objective proof of harm. But no proof, it seems, will ever be good enough for them. When Linda (Lovelace) Marchiano described in detail how her pimp beat, brutalized and terrorized her into performing in Deep Throat and pretending she loved it, her horrifying testimony was received in silence by the free-speechers. I know of no instance in which it moved them to reconsider. When women in rape crisis centres or battered women's shelters tell how their men forced them to emulate Deep Throat, or insisted on other violent, painful, humiliating or dangerous practices in imitation of popular porn, their voices, too, are simply shrugged off by the libertarians. Not heard. Not paid attention to.

The civil libertarian blindness and deafness on these issues is disturbing. We know, after all, that our sexuality is profoundly conditioned by society. Fashions in women, like fashions in clothes, change, at the dictate of men, every few years. Generations of Chinese men learned to be aroused by tiny, bound, suppurating feet. (They've unlearned it now.) Now our own generations of little boys — almost all of them, in fact — get their sex education from Playboy and Penthouse, learning that bondage is sexy, that women are consumer items; and that violence is a turn-on.

Little girls learn the lesson, too. Moonlighting, starring a wisecracking woman detective, is a TV sit-com that's extremely popular among teen-age girls. A recent Moonlighting special featured a sophisticated parody of The Taming of The Shrew. I walked in on a room full of teen-age girls giggling uneasily at the scene of the heroine, bound, trussed, gagged and moaning, forced to wait three hours at the altar for Petruchio. He swaggered in, beaming, and declared, "How bondage doth become thee!" The girls looked at me and said, "C'mon, it's just a joke!" Girls in our society learn to be good sports about bondage, oral rape and degradation. They have to, because those porn images have seeped in everywhere. Nothing is free of porn imagery, from commercials, to circuses to videos to department store windows.

The Globe and Mail last week ran a story about a recent Writers Union meeting, where a debate on pornography had some authors staking their heads in despair at the sheer enmity of dealing with anti-pornographers. Later, the authors heard a report on the appalling economic discrimination against women writers, who are still (surprise!) severely underpaid in our culture. No one, it seems, drew a connection between our prevailing male-dominant sexual culture and the seemingly ineradicable prejudice against women.

The porn debates will not go away; this time around, attention must be paid to women's agony, and a hearing given to women's solutions. More of that another time.



PLANNED PARENTHOOD AND SEXUALITY EDUCATION

The following is a copy of a "Letter To The Editor" sent to the Casket by the Social Action Committee of the Antigonish Women's Association.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

I would like ~~to~~ bring your attention to the need for and facts about sexuality education in Nova Scotia.

Sexuality and fertility issues are of central importance to the health and well-being of all Canadians. However, many couples and individuals lack even the most basic information and support which would enable them to take control of their reproductive health.

Sexuality is understood to mean much more than "sex". It includes sexual feelings, expressions and acts, loving and caring in a relationship, sexual health and how a person feels about herself/himself as a woman or man, girl or boy.

The kind of role models our children are exposed to through the media are gender stereotypical. Boys are encouraged to identify with such macho images as Rambo while girls are asked to be Barbie. Our social structure provides little opportunity for boys and girls to communicate their thoughts and feelings to each other. Most extra-curricular, organized activities occur in gender segregated groups which offer children little chance to appreciate each others skills and strengths and to develop mutual respect.

The reality that faces our children today - incest, sexual abuse, pornography, sexual harassment, pressure to have sex, sexually transmitted diseases, etc. - makes it essential for parents and educators to provide young people with a solid self-image, information and support through which media and peer pressure can be resisted.

The Planned Parenthood Association of Nova Scotia (PPANS) was formed to ensure that information and services concerning human sexuality and fertility are available to the people of the province and to encourage informed, responsible attitudes towards sexuality from childhood to old age.

The intent of PPANS is not to be a substitute for parents in the sexuality education of children but instead to support parents in their role as their children's primary educators.

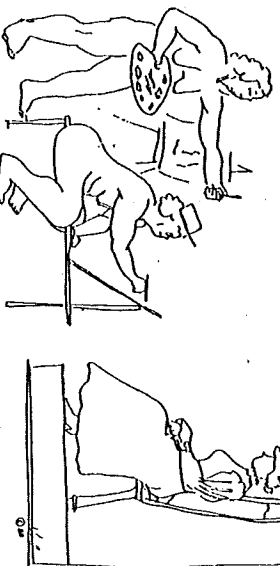
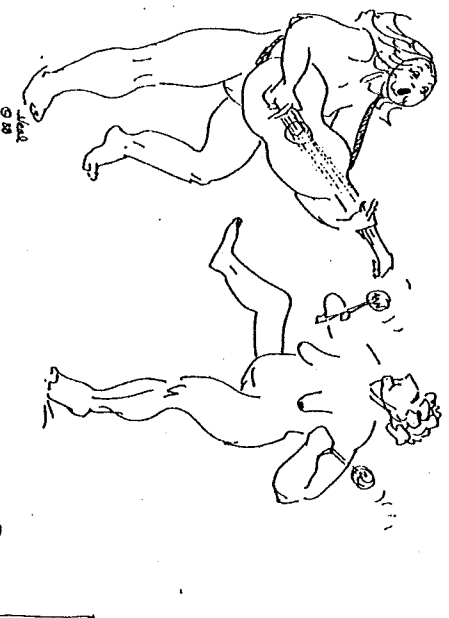
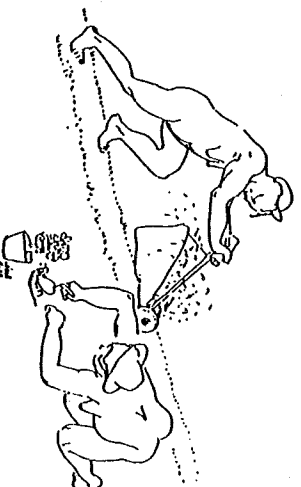
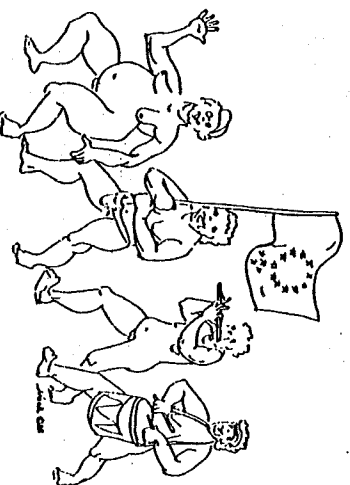
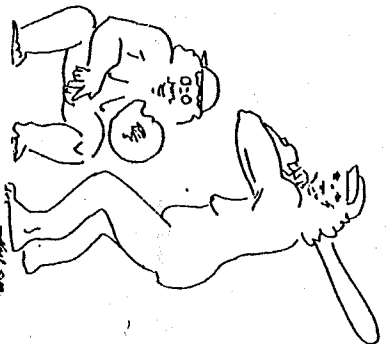
In Canada nearly 1000 teenage girls get pregnant every week. Studies show that 1 in 4 teenagers are sexually active by age 15 and more than half of these will be sexually active for an average of six months before obtaining reliable birth control. When they do seek contraception, it is usually prompted by a pregnancy scare. Further, research finds that young people who receive comprehensive sexuality education courses delay their first sexual intercourse and are more likely to use contraception when they are sexually active.

Continued....

Over half of all reportable communicable diseases in Canada are sexually transmitted and are increasing at an alarming rate with the 19-24 age group at highest risk. Problems such as sexually transmitted diseases and teenage pregnancies can be prevented through family planning education and health services. A 1988-89 study funded by the Department of Health and Fitness and Conducted by PPANS assessed the price society pays for the lack of family planning. Some \$78 million is spent annually in Nova Scotia for crisis management in these areas. Although the financial cost is high, there is no way of measuring the cost of human suffering created by misinformation and ignorance.

Education is the key to the prevention of irresponsible sexual behavior which results in teen pregnancy, sexual abuse, pornography, sexually transmitted diseases. The task of providing our children with a healthy and responsible attitude towards their own sexuality is the responsibility of the family and the community. We must work together to create a society where, we recognize the values of caring and responsibility, see the primary role of individual self-worth and knowledge as key to responsible sexuality and experience our own sexuality as a gift meant to enhance our humanity.

Social Action Committee



My Goddess Elders by Arminta Neal

My Goddess Elders manifested one day not too long ago, dancing out of the end of my Rapidograph pen and onto the paper. I'd been thinking about the fact that I will be sixty-seven years old this year and, since my sixty-fifth birthday, have had a growing awareness of my own aging, a greater sense of 'journeying.'

I'd been trying to produce images of Goddesses that would be meaningful to me in my own quest. The drawings were gloomy, serious and eminently unsatisfactory. I felt lost, in a way. Then suddenly two of these Goddesses flowed, cawing, onto the page and I felt a sudden 'click.' They were revealing Goddess to me as me in me. Yes—aging is a serious business, but it is also a very freeing time. There is no longer need for the pompous 'correctness' imposed by our Western culture (if, indeed, there ever was such a 'need'). And so my Goddess Elders go about the ordinary business (busy-ness) of life in rollicking fashion—with a healthy acceptance of themselves. And they are helping me to do the same. CO

Arminta ('Skip') Neal worked for thirty-two years as an exhibit designer/administrator at a major natural history museum. She has also been a technical and scientific illustrator. Now retired, she enjoys teaching occasional drawing perspective classes for Elderhostel in northern New Mexico and singing in the Denver Women's Chorus.

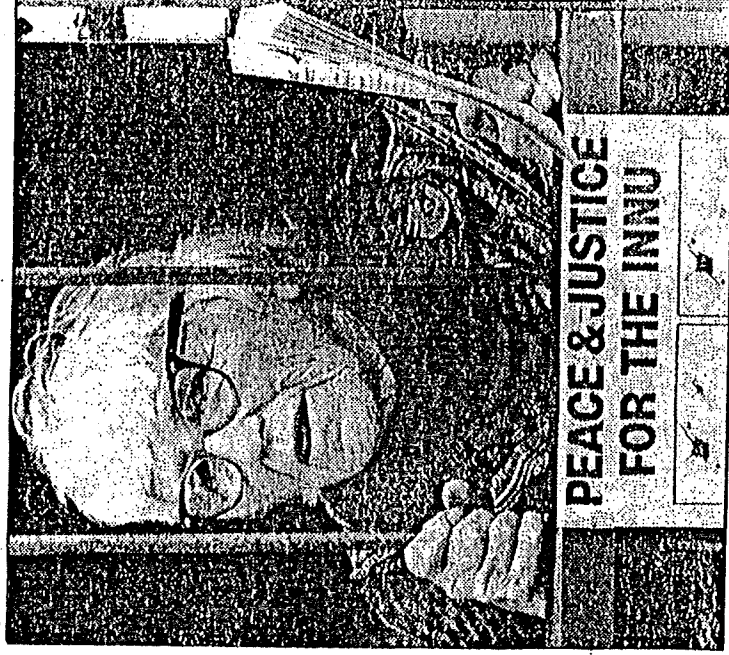
MURIEL DUCKWORTH - VOICE OF WOMEN
excerpts from her Christmas letter to the AWA

I'm fine - cherishing my family and friends as I get older, but coping not too well with my anger directed mostly at the Canadian and U.S. governments. In fact, this outrage kept me from being able even to begin to write a letter of good-will. And then -

A friend brought me a tape of the last of Ursula Franklin's five lectures (Massey lectures - CBC radio) on The Real World of Technology. I had had to miss that one where she asked and answered, "What will it take that something change?" If you missed this do send for tapes, transcripts, or the book coming out in March. I can't summarize. Just this: "We need a new social contract ...principled, political discourse...redemptive technologies," and we need "heavy involvement in political life." We must "understand, protest, and bring about change - for survival." Begin with a principled stand. "Some things are wrong, not just deplorable." Say NO to governments who supported the advancement of technology for the benefit of the few instead of meeting their obligations to the people - for justice, fairness, a liveable future. Thank you, Ursula.

Nevertheless,
Shalom

Muriel Duckworth



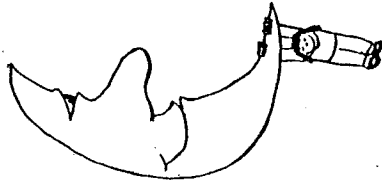
Muriel Duckworth in mock jail.

The struggle goes on. I think especially of the Innu in Labrador, and the government's wrong idea of putting a NATO base there. And of Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala, probably because I know these people and their suffering from hunger, homelessness, imprisonment, torture, death, and their courageous and ongoing struggle. We have to stand with them, understand, and act and make demands of our government.....

THE URSULA FRANKLIN, MASSEY LECTURES WILL BE REPEATED ON CBC RADIO, IDEAS PROGRAM - MARCH 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28 AT 9PM.

Violence against women worldwide

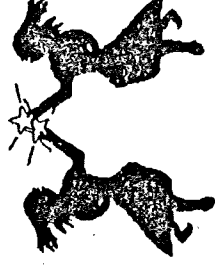
The massacre of 14 women in Montreal is not an isolated incident:



- One in 10 Canadian women will be abused or battered by her husband (Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women, 1982).
- More than 80 million African women and girls are victims of female circumcision or other forms of genital mutilation (World Health Organization report).
- 50 per cent of married women are regularly battered by their partners in Bangkok, Thailand (Worldwatch Institute report).
- An estimated 1,000 women are burned alive each year in dowry-related incidents in the state of Gujarat, India alone (Ahmedabad Women's Action Group report).

- 78,000 female fetuses were aborted after sex determination tests between 1978 and 1982 (a study of a Bombay clinic).
- Every 15 seconds a woman is beaten in the United States (U.S. Department of Justice).
- In Mexico, a woman is raped every nine minutes (Doble Jornada, Nov. 1987).

(From a fact sheet produced by MATCH International Centre, an Ottawa-based organization committed to improving the status of women globally through the exchange of resources between Canadian and Third World women.)



FIRST SUNDAY

A call for citizen initiative to support Mother Earth

FIRST SUNDAY is a movement locally based on the voluntary, committed initiative of citizens anywhere on this planet. No membership fees. No bureaucracy. You are now an independent focus of influence. With thousands of others we are connected by the unity of our action on every FIRST SUNDAY of every month.

To join FIRST SUNDAY you only have to commit yourself to the following "Planetary Citizen Initiative Pledge":

I, (your full name) am committed to implement an additional change in my use and consumption of the Earth's resources each FIRST SUNDAY of every month.

I accept my role in reducing my demands on Mother Earth by consenting, recycling and sharing more until a sustainable global future for ourselves as well as future generations is established.

(signed) Date:



Making the "Planetary Citizen Initiative Pledge" is the only requirement to join FIRST SUNDAY. Also consider the following methods of adding impact to this campaign, please:

- 1) Resolve to make your monthly changes public - e.g. put up a notice at home, in your office or in a classified ad.
- 2) Convey copies of this pledge form to friends, relatives, local media, organizations etc.
- 3) Initiate or participate in local action to spread this appeal - e.g. FIRST SUNDAY celebrations, carvass etc.
- 4) Inform the Vancouver initiators of FIRST SUNDAY of your involvement.

What can you do ?

What effective changes can you and I implement each FIRST SUNDAY of every month from on ?

- Here are examples of how you can begin to correct the overuse and abuse of Mother Earth. Pick something you can carry out starting from the next first Sunday of the month. Do what YOU can.
- eliminate purchases involving styrofoam
- process organic garbage as compost

- walk or bicycle to work
- pledge a set percentage of income to environmental poverty, or peace campaigns.
- schedule letter-writing to opinion-makers or legislators
- stop replacing unnecessary gadgets
- vacation locally
- get involved in recycling
- switch to environmentally-safe lawn & garden chemicals
- sponsor a social every FIRST SUNDAY
- campaign for media recognition of FIRST SUNDAY
- switch to more vegetable protein foods

- protect a place you love
- make your own Christmas & birthday presents
- start a vegetable garden
- support local farmers and gardeners
- buy practical natural fibre clothing
- devote at least one hour, twice a week, to seeing, touching, smelling & hearing nature
- ideas

First Sunday Initiators: Henry Dorst, Shared Vision Magazine, #8-3661 West 4th Ave. Vancouver BC V6R 1P2

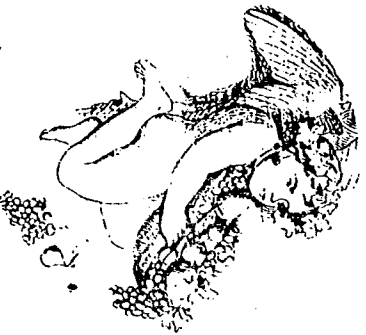
NOTICE

LA BALANCE FOOD CO-OP

We will be organizing an organic food order from La Balance at the end of February. Anyone interested in ordering should call Sian Mc Lean at 386-2474. A price list will be available at the Centre soon.

TOYS DESPERATELY NEEDED

More toys are needed for the babysitting services offered at the Mount. The toys are for children between the ages of 1 and 10 and can be dropped off at the Women's Resources Center or at the Mount. Your help would be greatly appreciated.



VOLUNTEERS AND SOBEY TAPES

We need volunteers at the Resource Centre!!!! Anyone with a little extra time who can fill in for us the occasional morning or afternoon please call Katherine at 863-6221.

Yes! We are still collecting Sobeys's tapes. Please save them for us.

Please Duplicate FREELY & Distribute

A NEW DECADE AWAKENS

The turning of the decade and the approach of International Women's Day makes these few months a likely time for reflecting on past victories and challenges ahead. As Rianne Eisler writes in her recent book, "The Chalice and the Blade";

"Never before has the world seen such a mushrooming of governmental and nongovernmental organizations with memberships in the millions - groups ranging from the official All China Women's Federation to the National Women's Studies Association, the National Organization for Women, and the Older Women's League in the United States - all dedicated to improving the status of women. Never before have there been global conferences attracting thousands of women from every corner of the world to address the problems stemming from male supremacy. Never before in all of recorded history have women from every nation on this earth come together to work for a future of sexual equality, development, and peace - the three goals of the First United Nations Decade for Women."

On the other hand, we know all about the horrific conditions of many women's lives, which is a situation that co-exists with all of the sunny "You've come a long way baby!" evidence of women's gains. Let me remind you of a few realities of life for women in our backyard:

- women and children are sexually abused and assaulted in this locality every day. It happens in our homes and on our streets. Many, many of these men get away with their crimes.

- anyone can buy pornography in our stores. Lucille has found that there are no laws restricting the sale of porn to minors, and anyway, many comic books are junior porn, explicitly linking sex, violence and male domination.

- a lack of information and alot of misinformation about sexuality and preventing unwanted pregnancy and STD's is rampant here and there are still many people who wish to thwart the efforts of people trying to correct this problem and prevent suffering.

- there is no reason to believe that the Health & Welfare Canada statistic that 1 in 10 women in our country are physically abused by their spouses has changed, or that it somehow does not apply to the Antigonish area. As yet we have no stats on the number of women who are sexually and emotionally abused by spouses.

- women and children who remove themselves from destructive family relationships by way of separation or divorce are stigmatized and punished economically for not conforming, (no matter what the costs) to the "traditional family" lifestyle.

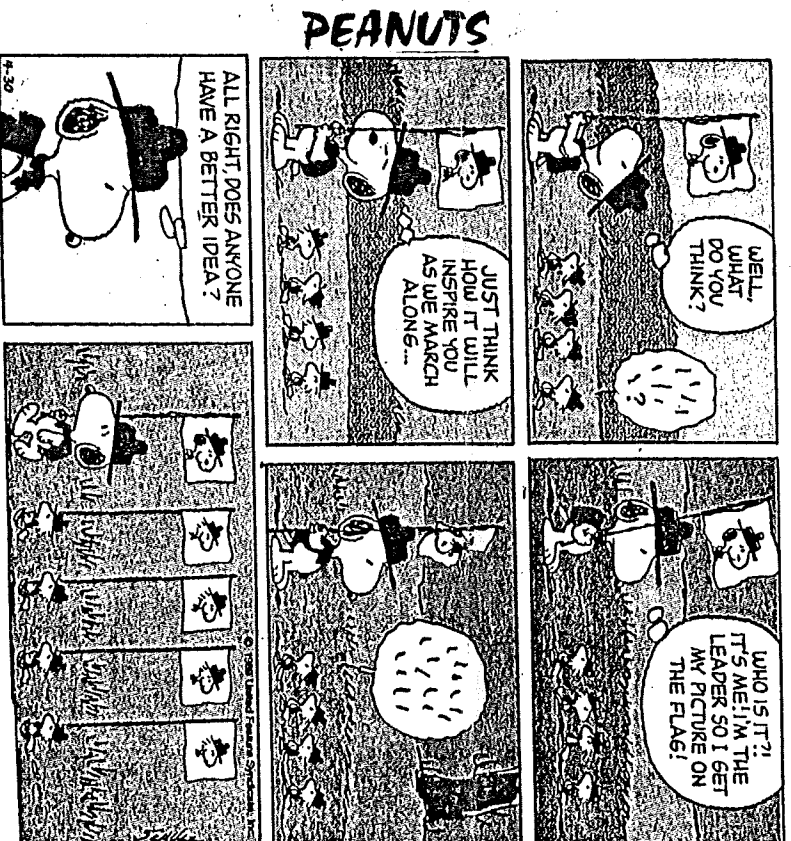
All these problems exist and more, (too numerous to mention) in our little Maritime community and they are crying to be addressed by our organization. I don't think we have any grand delusions about how much can be done and how soon things can change, but I think it would be very valuable to indulge in a little fantasizing now and then, (perhaps collectively) about what life would be like in our community if we had overcome even one problem. For instance, just take a minute to imagine what life would be like for us and all women here if we only had equal pay for work of equal value, or if we only had universal, high quality child care for all families regardless of what shifts they work. Or imagine the difference it would make if there was a decent system of pensions for women, even if they had devoted half, (or all) of their adult lives to caring for families. I like to imagine a society where no child is labelled "illegitimate" because their mother is not legally attached to a man.

continues next page...

As a membership committee volunteer I would like to open a discussion about our organization. This process could start with members taking a few minutes to answer the questions below. I hope you won't mind if I contact you by phone to either collect your responses or to remind you to mail them in or drop them off at the Centre. If you would like to reply anonymously in writing, feel free. The deadline for this first stage of the process is March 1st. The questions are:

- 1) What do you think the AWA should be doing to bring about positive change for Antigonish and area women?
- 2) What kinds of activities are you interested in attending - (political, social, educational) ?
- 3) Do you have any comments or suggestions regarding AWA activities or policies?

LET'S NOT STAND IDLE AND WATCH THE '90's SLIP AWAY
HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM KATHERINE



UPCOMING CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, EVENTS

PREMIERE OF OLDER, STRONGER, WISER, a NFB film about the older generation of black women. Musical guests will be Four The Moment. Friday, Feb. 2nd, 7:30pm, North Branch Library, Halifax.

ROSEMARY BROWN will speak Thursday, Feb. 8th, 8:30pm at the North Branch Library, Halifax.

EXPLORING WAYS OF TEACHING LAW sponsored by Public Legal Education of N.S. in co-operation with the Department of Education. Feb. 23&24, Law School, Dalhousie University, Halifax.

CULTURAL AND RACIAL ISSUES IN THE HELPING PROFESSIONS with Claire brant and Carole Christensen, Friday, March 2nd, 9-4:30, Henson College, Halifax.

FIRST WORLD SUMMIT: WOMEN AND THE MANY DIMENSIONS OF POWER, June 3-8, Montreal.

WOMEN/ADDICTION/HEALING: A JOURNEY WITHIN, June 14-16, Pictou County Women's Centre.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

On March 8th. women around the world will join hands to celebrate International Women's Day. First marked in 1908, it is commonly believed to be the anniversary of a strike in the garment district of New York City. where women fought for improved wages and working conditions. Since then International Women's Day has become a symbol of the struggles and gains women have made in our quest for equality.

This is a day for women to stand up and be applauded for their work whether it is at home, in the workplace or more frequently both. Women are also forefront in volunteer organizations of various kinds. We all know how often we go unrewarded for our work, for those mysteriously cleaned socks and underwear that end up in our families drawers and for the papers typed at the last minute on a Friday. On International Women's Day we can pat ourselves on the back for our work accomplishments as well as for our great achievements on the road to equality. It is a time to recognize women's ongoing struggle for pay equity, quality childcare, more affordable housing and an end to violence against women.

This year, to celebrate the contributions of women to the Antigonish community, the AWA is hosting a Cabaret filled with some of the talented women of Antigonish. There will be songs, skits, stories and poems. All those interested in helping out or performing, contact the Women's Resource Center. It promises to be a really exciting time so come and bring a friend to the St. James United Church. Show starts at 8:00, tickets are \$3.00 waged and \$2.00 unwaged. During the day, we are working on free coffee for all women at local restaurants. We'll keep you posted. There will be an open house at the Resource Center and we are hoping to involve the grade six classes of Antigonish and the County. There would be various projects from these classes about International Women's Day and women in general i.e. how their grandmother's lives differed from theirs, what women will be doing in the future, etc. Please join us during the day and at the cabaret. Refreshments will be served and FUN will be had!

- Eileen Carey



AWA MEMBERSHIPS ARE DUE IN SEPTEMBER - PLEASE RENEW NOW!

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

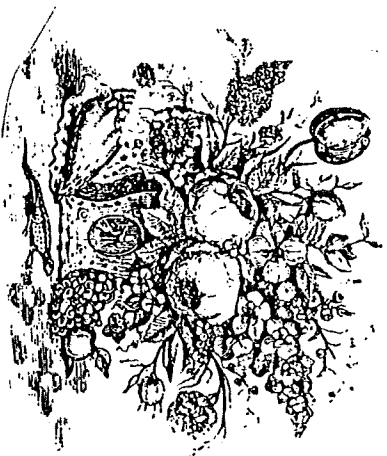
WORK _____

FEES:

REGULAR:	\$15.00
LOW-INCOME	\$ 7.00
SUSTAINING	\$25.00

A. W. A.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
BIOGRAPHIES



JESSIE E. KENNEDY - was born in Guysborough County. She had seven children. She worked at Canada Post Office for seven years and later worked as assistant harbour master-wharfinger for transport Canada for 14 years. She is presently working at Bloomfield Centre at St. F. X.

EILEEN CARET-MACKINTOSH - was born in Cobourg, Ont., raised in Manitoba and moved to Clementsport, Nova Scotia in 1980. She attended Dalhousie University and graduated with a B.A. in Sociology. Since then she has been doing volunteer work with Naomi and the A.W.A. She is presently working as a research assistant for Ann Bigelow. She plans to attend the Maritime School of Social Work in the fall.

DONNA MACDONALD - a native of Antigonish, graduated from St. F. X. in 1987 with a B.A. in Sociology. She is presently writing her Masters thesis at Acadia University and is working as a research assistant at St. F. X..

YARL GLUCK - Born in Sweden. Moved to Israel at the tender age of, nineteen. Served two years in the Israeli army. Came to Canada to study and has remained here ever since. After completing her studies at York University in Toronto, worked one year at Bishop's University in Toronto and then landed a job at St.F.X teaching sociology. Is presently involved in reflections on the good of a change of LIFE. All suggestions appreciated!

MARION MACDONALD - is a native of Antigonish. Many of you may also know her as an employee at the Bank of Commerce.

JUDITH MACLEAN - is Co-investigator of a St. F. X. research project on the role of women in the Antigonish Movement. Other interests include women and unions, pay equity and child care. She lives in James River with husband Peter and daughter Mariko.

KATHERINE WINLO - is originally from Toronto. She lived in Algonquin Park where she worked as an outdoor wilderness guide year round. She moved to Antigonish in 1987, where she is a student at St. F. X. and is involved in the women's group on campus. She always has been a growing feminist.

NASHA MURPHY - was born in Holland, came to Canada in 1950 and has been living in Antigonish for the past 27 years. She has always been interested in community affairs - being involved in 4-H and the Home & School Association. She is presently working in the Adult Education Department at St. F. X.

THEODITH THOMPSON - was born in Bermuda. She studied in both Canada and England. She arrived in Antigonish in 1987 and is presently an associate professor with the department of Adult Education at St. F. X.

BETTY-ANN FRASER - hails from Cape Breton. She is a graduate of St. F. X. with a B. Sc. in Nursing. She has been a public health nurse for several years. Betty Ann is presently living on Big Island.



RESOURCE CENTRE - UPCOMING EVENTS

The Council of the Women's Action Coalition of Nova Scotia will be meeting in Antigonish, Feb. 3-4, in the Riley Lounge of the Coady. AWA members are invited to attend. If you would like to meet the council members (a group of dynamic women from across N.S.) please come to a POT LUCK SUPPER, Feb. 3rd, 6pm at Eileen's house. Bring your favourite gastronomic delight.

Rieky Stuart will facilitate a workshop addressing the issue WOMEN AND POWER. We will look at the different ways in which women and men relate to power and examine what this means when working for social change in traditional institutions. Rieky teaches at the Coady Institute as well as working as an international consultant with several non-governmental organizations. This promises to be a fascinating workshop relevant to all women. It will be held Feb. 10th.

The NFB film FOR RICHER, FOR POORER, will be shown at the Centre Feb. 12th. The film tells the story of a middle-class woman escaping a battering husband and her subsequent struggle to restructure her life. She must cope with the lack of affordable housing, the welfare system, food banks, and legal battles. She must also address the problems of retraining, employment and depression as she reaches for independence and autonomy.

FEMINIST THINKERS is underway. We will be discussing a short paper, "The Four Feminisms", Feb. 15th and reading The Chalice and The Blade by Riane Eisler for March. The Chalice and the future history of the world in its inclusion of women and women's perspective. We are a mixed group of women with diverse interests and we welcome anyone interested in joining us.

We are preparing a CAREER PLANNING DAY with Susan Franchville from the Vocational Assessment Centre in Port Hawkesbury. Susan will help women determine their interests, skills and potential career choices and discuss how they can get started in pursuing a line of work that is interesting and challenging. Susan will be here Feb. 27.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S WEEK - MARCH 4TH-10TH
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY - MARCH 8TH
- see details in AWARE

We are planning a workshop on HOMOPHOBIA for March 14th. Ann Bishop and Jan Morell, members of Lesbian and Gay Rights Nova Scotia will facilitate. Ann has been involved in social change and social justice issues for many years. She is intelligent, insightful and articulate. This will be a valuable workshop for us all.

Barbara Harris from Dalhousie University will be facilitating a workshop on SEXUAL HARASSMENT, March 27th. As women are daring to speak out against sexual harassment in Antigonish, this workshop comes at a particularly appropriate time.

Our FILM SERIES continues. We will be showing feature length films on video that are produced by women, directed by women or tell a woman's story. These films are offered sporadically so watch for them on the Calendar of Events. Bring \$1 admission, a friend, popcorn and come out for a relaxed evening.



WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTRE

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ANTIGONISH WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTRE
204B Kirk Place, 219 Main St., phone 863-6221

February - March 1990

- Sat. February 3 POT LUCK with WACNS (Women's Action Coalition of N.S.) Council. Bring your favourite food. Eileen Carey's house, 5 Tamara Dr. 6pm.
- Mon. February 5 AWA BOARD MEETING, Resource Centre, 7pm.
- Sat. February 10 WOMEN AND POWER workshop with Rieky Stuart, Resource Centre, 10am-3pm. Please pre-register by calling 863-6221.
- Mon. February 12 FOR RICHER, FOR POORER, NFB film, Resource Centre, noon.
- Wed. February 14 HAPPY VALENTINES DAY! GLOW has invited AWA members to a social in Guysborough. Call the Resource Centre for a ride. 7pm.
- Thurs. February 15 FEMINIST THINKERS, "The Four Feminisms", Rieky Stuart's house, St. Andrews, 7pm.
- Sat. February 17 RALLY IN CANSO to support opposition to the closing of NatSea.
- Thurs. February 22 HOPE AND GLORY, AWA Film Series, Resource Centre, 7:30pm. \$1.00
- Tues. February 27 CAREER PLANNING DAY with Susan Franchville from the Vocational Assessment Centre, Resource Centre, 9am-4pm.
- March 4-10 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S WEEK, NFB Film Festival, Cable Vision
- Mon. March 5 AWA BOARD MEETING, Resource Centre, 7pm
- Thurs. March 8 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY OPEN HOUSE, Resource Centre, 10am-4pm
- WOMEN'S CABARET, Bring a friend, St. James United Church Hall, 8pm. Admission: \$3 waged, \$2 unwaged.
- Wed. March 14 HOMOPHOBIA workshop with Ann Bishop and Jan Morrell from Lesbian and Gay Rights, N.S., location to be announced, 7:30pm
- Wed. March 21 INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION
- Tues. March 27 SEXUAL HARASSMENT workshop with Barbara Harris from Dalhousie U., CAMR, 7:30pm.
- Thurs. March 29 THE FRENCH LIEUTENANT'S WOMAN, AWA Film Series, Resource centre, 7:30pm.