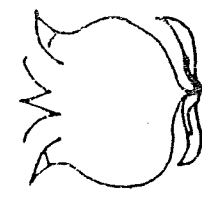


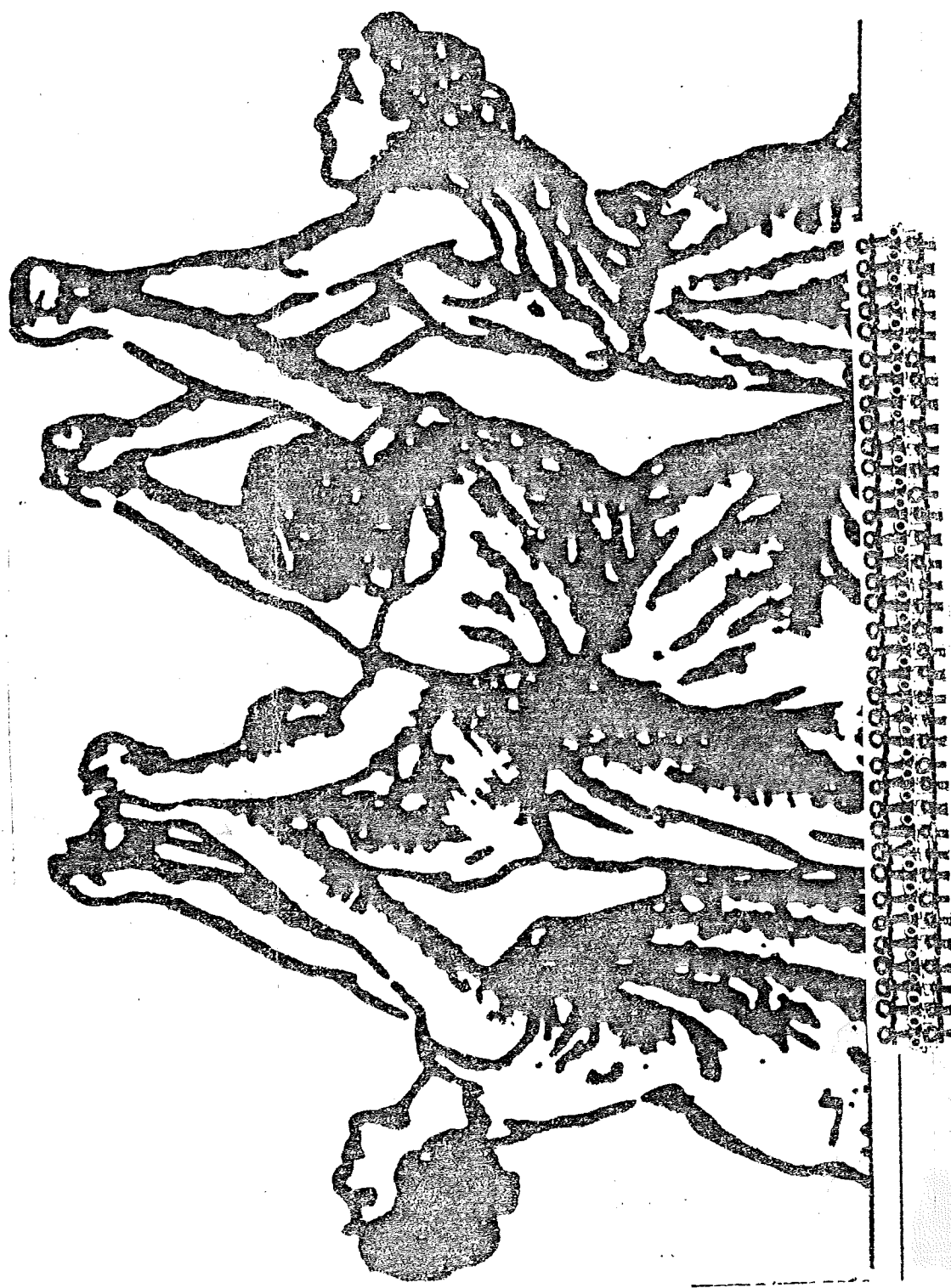
AWARE



NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED BY THE ANTIGONISH WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 5 NUMBER 1 RESOURCE CENTRE 863-6221 JANUARY 1988

a newsletter on feminism



Behind naming, beneath words, is something else
An existence named, unnamed, unnameable

I am a woman come to speak for you
I am a woman speaking for us all
From the tongue of dust and fire
From the bowl of bitter smoke
This is a song for strength and power

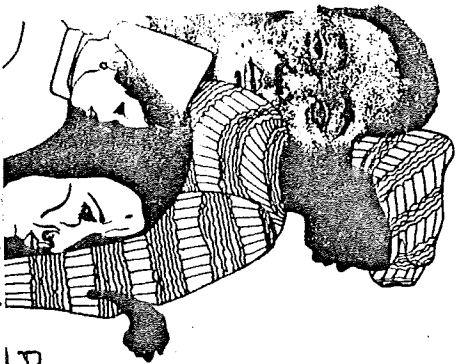
I gave birth to a daughter yesterday
The house still feels hushed and holy....
And the quality of the light is otherworldly.
It took me a few moments to realize she was there,
The sense of wonder is persistent.

- "Women's Spirit Bonding"



Josephine 819-519-9146 or 100 Mt. T. X 404
Nicole 100 Mt. T. X 404
Box 100 Mt. T. X 404





DEAR

READERS,

To introduce this issue of our newsletter on "Feminism I would like to quote from Sr. Isabel MacDougall, 's article on violence against women published in the Casket in Feb. 1987

A noted feminist once wrote "To be a feminist is to be in a constant state of rage" Some will seize upon that statement as validating their own often expressed perception that feminists are groups of angry women". Lest such benighted souls derive even momentary comfort from the statement, let me hasten to disillusion them by explaining the depths of poignancy behind such an admission. In doing so it will be necessary to define the term "feminist" and then to discuss some instances of just what it is that makes feminists angry.

A feminist is a person female or male, who is in favour of and who promotes the equality of women with men; a person who advocates and practices treating women primarily as human persons (as men are so treated) and willingly contravenes social customs in so acting.

The litany of offenses against women which angers feminists is almost endless. Any woman or man worth her or his salt is angered by the degradation of women as it is manifested in so many practices throughout the centuries and right into our own enlightened times."

There is an endless catalogue of overt, violent crimes against women and girls: rape, sexual abuse and assault, wife battering, sexual abuse of children; (overwhelmingly directed against the female child): add to this

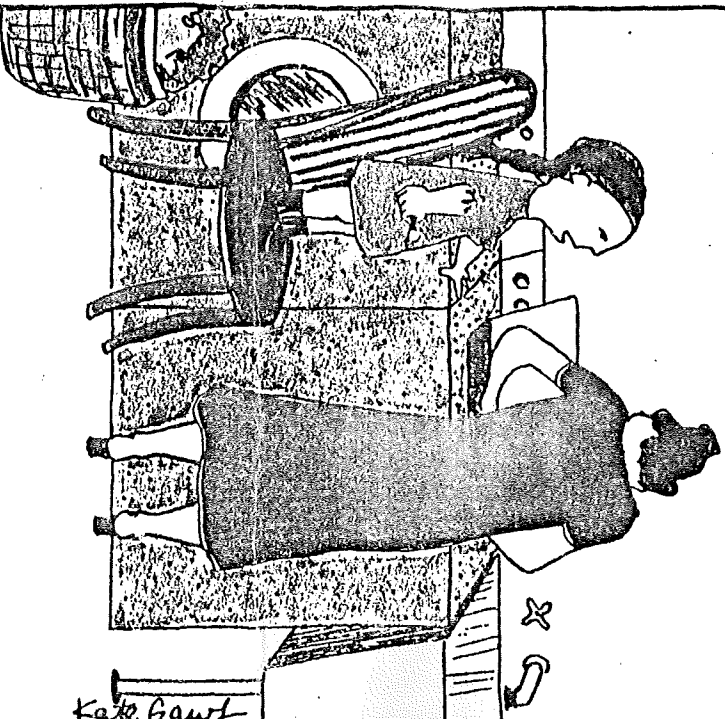
list the degradation of women in pornographic magazines, books and films in the advertising industry, the trivialization of women's concerns and culture in our courts, the male domination in our society and the churches, the enormous economic inequalities suffered by women, most of whom it might truthfully be said are just one man



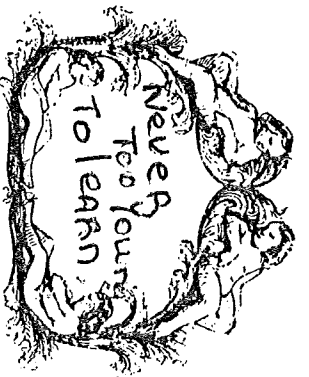
away from welfare! The proportional increase of the poor who are women has been so great in recent years that the term "feminization of poverty" has been coined to describe this situation

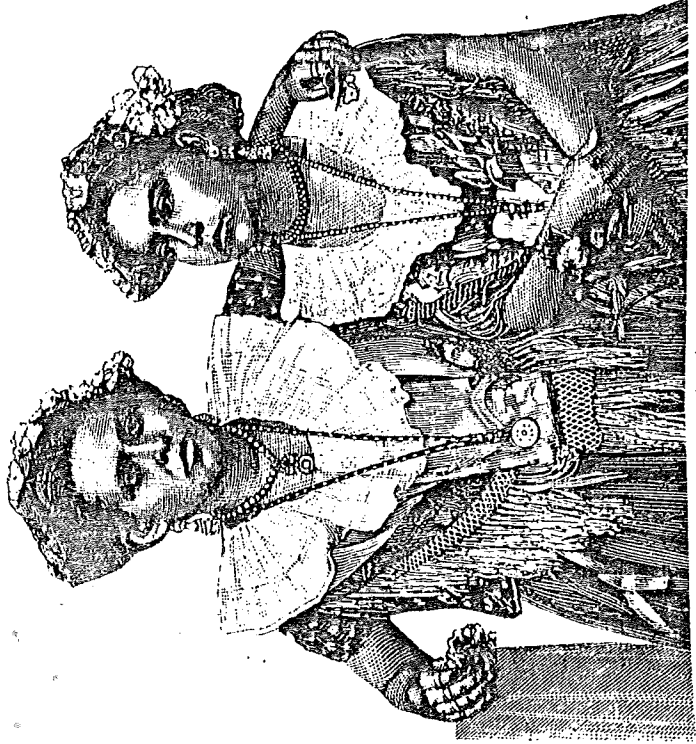
Sr Isabel continues what is an excellent article on violence against women and her interpretation of feminism is very succinct.. In this issue we will mention in several instances feminism as "sisterhood" women caring about women" and the empowerment of women which Sr. Isabel shows clearly in her writing . It is this value we must celebrate in "feminism" and keep before us as a central theme or principle in our lives and work with women.. for a more just sane world .

HEY WAIT A MINUTE—
—YOU MEAN!..
...YOU DON'T GET PAID FOR THIS?



Reconsidering a possible career option





What does Feminism mean to Women

Arlene Mantle..

Political singer, song writer.

I struggle to be a Feminist and experience my Feminism as a process. Being involved in that process helps me form a Vision of what can be; The Vision is never static, it changes with a new piece of information , another story told, a new friend met and time taken to discuss, analyse and strategise. Feminism is Activism I have experienced many changes since embarking on this process. I have learned to be comfortable with my body, to be less self critical, to love other women and to share my joy, my pain, my energy, my time and what money I have. It is not idyllic for at times I still hate my body, think racist, anti semitic or homophobic thoughts and wish I was rich. Our Patriarchal Legacy of growing up in Capitalist North America is not to be undone with knowledge and awareness alone, but must be balanced with action over a long period of time.

As a primarily middle class movement, we cannot dump our theories and information into the heads of poor women without involving them in the process. How much of our work allows the full participation of women in poor communities.? There is no room in Feminism for Liberalism.. I feel I am straddling the We and Them. However the access and privilege that I have derived from my work has given me insight and information about women who don't share my economic situation. There are two realities and the vision is that someday there will be one.

What does Feminism mean to Women

Nonqaba Msimang..
South African Women
Freelance Photographer..

I am a feminist .Mama was a feminist...She scrubbed White womens kitchens..She sold cosmetics on sidewalks..She worked in furniture shops untill she became her own boss..As a human being she was equal to any man..She was in charge of her life and her four children..She led a feminist life of Self Sufficiency."This is the only inheritance I have for you she said..She grew up in a society which said the men would take care of the family, they never did...

To me feminism is about survival..We all live on this planet ,we all have a right to decide what happens to its human and natural resources.. Feminists will have to continue preaching the gospel that daycare is not a womens issue and world destruction not a male prerogative..

Feminism Means...

Affecting small changes as well as large ones..

That all women care what happens to a sister..

That all women ,people will have the opportunity to live to their full potential...

Is the "Empowerment of Women"...

Validation, Affirmation, and Incorporation of Womens experiences..

Survival..in its starkest reality for many women.

Seeing the commonalities between us as women rather than the differences.

Means struggling with the everyday ordinary injustices..If we don't have those rights how can we gain the big ones...

Bonding as women ,our love and support for each other and our right to equal treatment under all existing life circumstances....

Creating womens Culture and heritage anew,

What does Feminism mean to women..

Muriel Duckworth
Founding member of
the Voice of Women..
Muriel speaks..



The Peace movement,
Womens Movement, environ-
mental Movement and
Human Rights, respect and
need each other, and some-
times speak with one Voice.
As a Feminist there are two
other voices that are
important to me one is the
voice of the Feminist re-
searcher who brings us
Womens experience of the
past and the present and
a VISION OF THE FUTURE
Finally there are the
Spiritual Voices one of
which is Isabel Carter
Heyward who wrote the
"Redemption of God":

With you I begin to see
that the hungry can eat
again, the children can
play again, the women can
rage and stand again.

It is not a matter of what
'ought' to be, it is a power
that drives towards justice.
and makes it, makes the Sun
blaze, the rivers roar, the
fires rage. And the revolution
is won again. And you and I
are pushed by a Power both
terrifying and comforting,
And I Love You means, let
the revolution begin.....



If the struggle of the last
decades was against the
colonialism that allowed one
nation to rule another, the
current and future struggle will
be about the internal
colonialism that allows one race
or one sex to dominate another.

One day our descendants will
think it incredible that we paid
so much attention to things like
the amount of melanin in our
skin or the shape of our eyes or
our gender instead of the unique
identities of each of us as
complex human beings.

- Franklin Thomas, The Liberty
of the Citizen

Taken from "Outrageous Acts and
Everyday Rebellions" by Gloria
Steinem, 1986.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Womens Action Coalition of
Nova Scotia will be holding
their Council meeting in our
area on 15th and 16th Jan.

On Sat 16th we will have a pot
luck supper and Social "Just
Women" 7pm..please bring food!!

Jan 23rd 11am Rally for Strikers
in front of Bank of Commerce..
Bring banners badges, support
enthusiasm!!

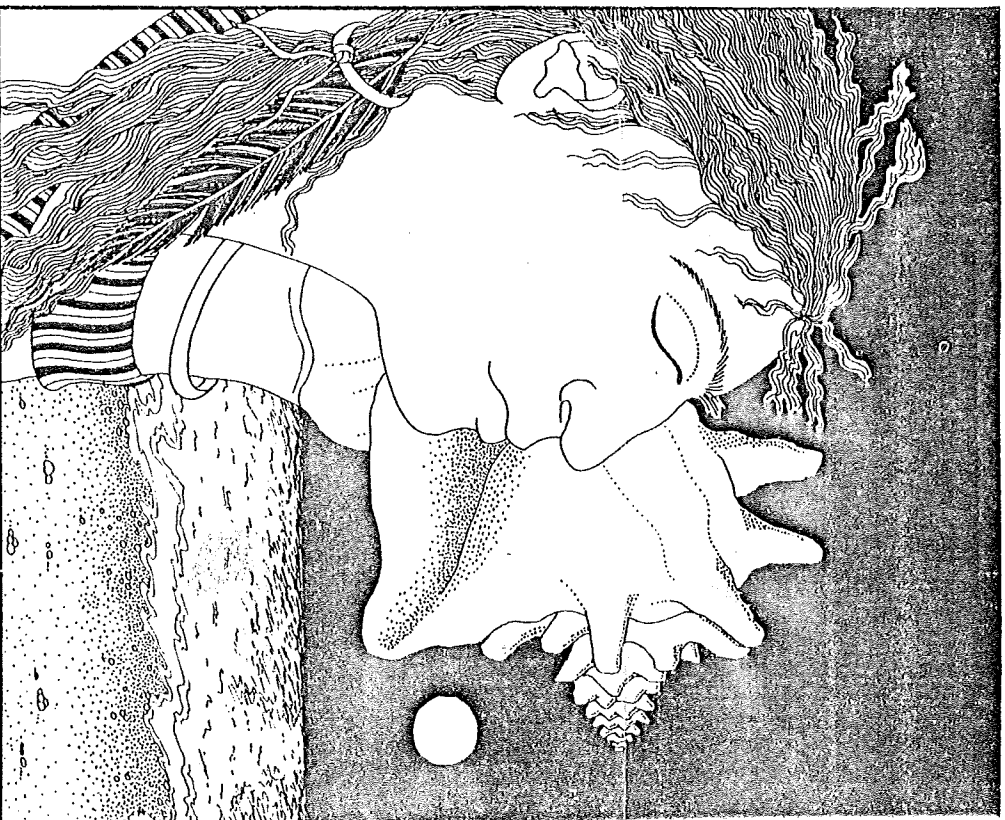
Free Trade meeting Feb 1st

International Womens Day is
coming up March 8th..Any ideas
suggestions, topics of interest
to cover, skits poetry, call Barb
Hayes 863-3515. We will need help
to organise a good event

But before that on Feb 11th there
will be an evening of fun and
inspiration to look at new visions
and directions for AWA and the
Womens Center..All past Board
members and staff and all women

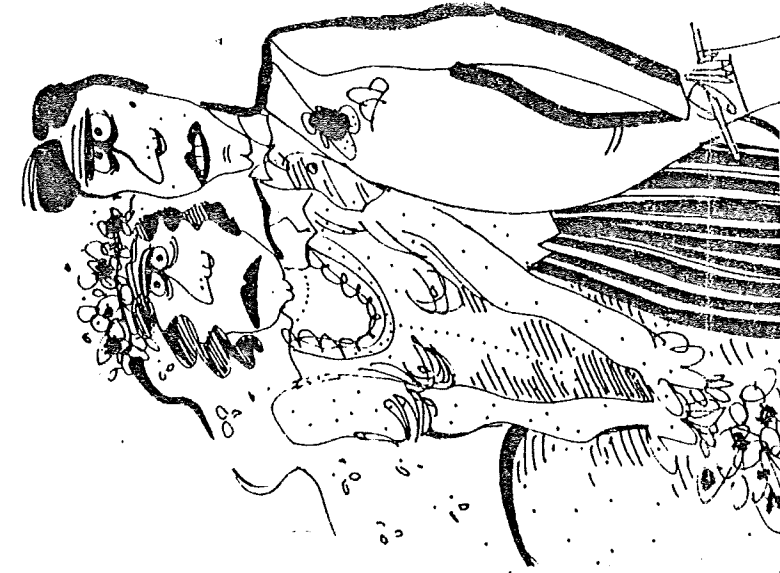
who wish to participate and give
input please come.....

Angela Miles Howard
Couch St., Beauséjour, N.B.
snacks if you wish!!



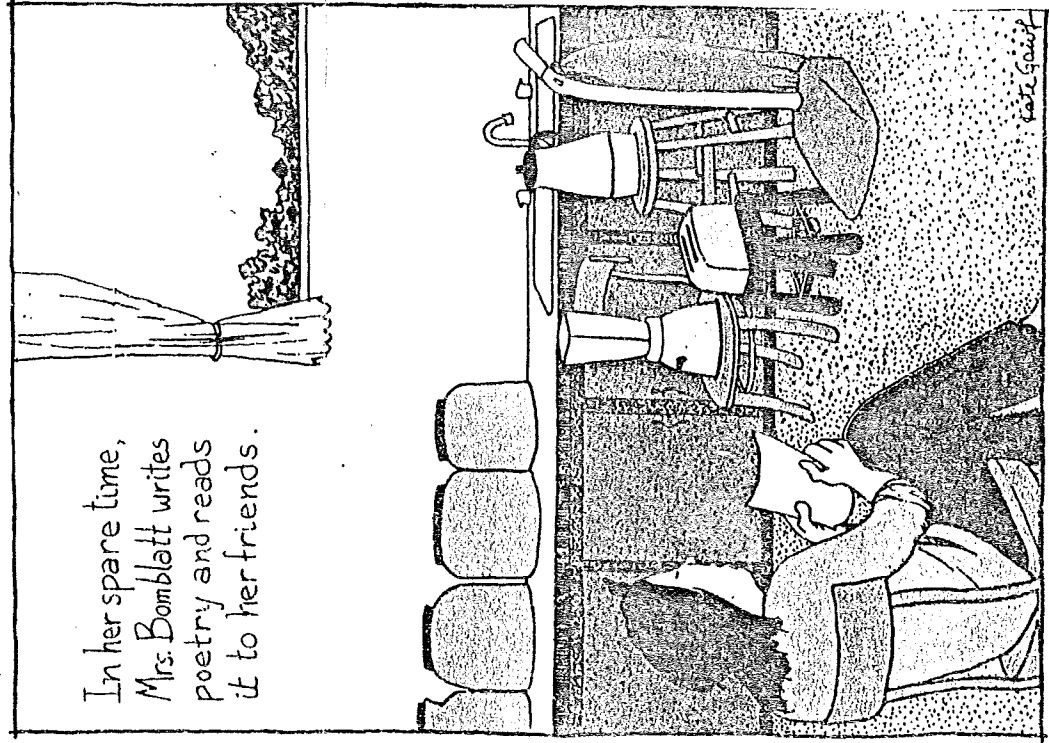
MUSE: a Woman in Touch with her Creative Spirit, her Self

HOW HARD IS THE FORTUNE OF
 ALL WOMANKIND...
 WE WERE ALWAYS
 IN FETTERS
 AND ALWAYS
 CONFINED...
 BOUND DOWN
 BY OUR
 FATHERS
 UNTIL WE
 MADE
 WIVES...
 THEN
 SLAVES
 TO OUR
 HUSBANDS
 THE REST
 OF
 OUR LIVES

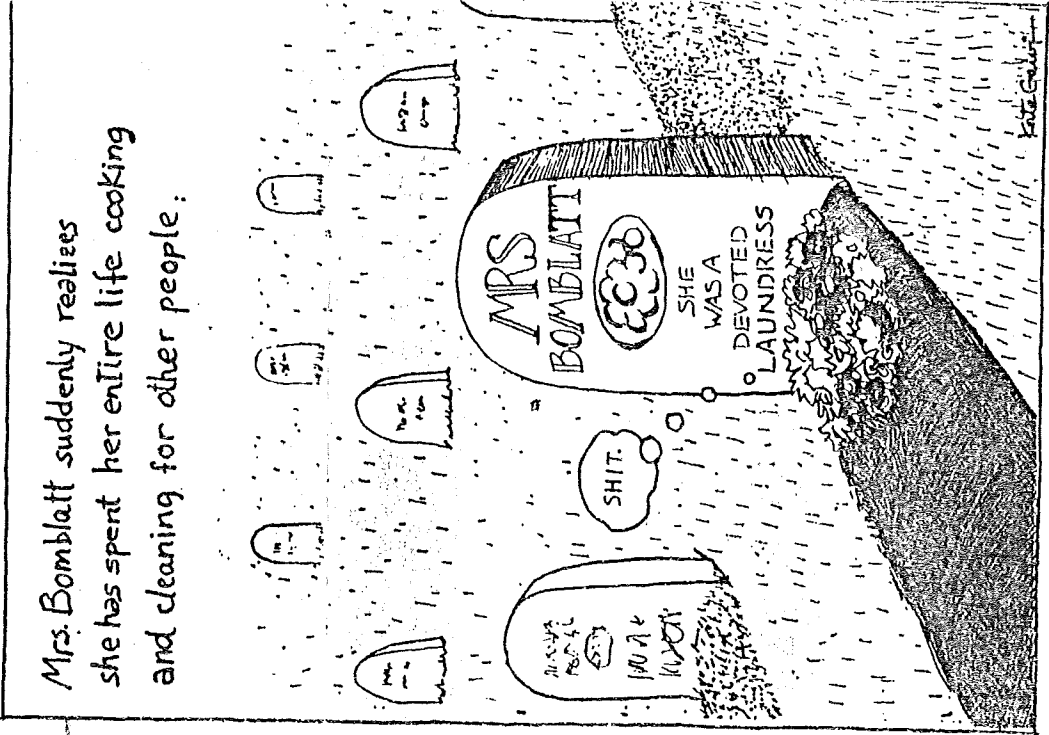


Have Courage young girls to say No
 Have Courage young girls to say No
 Have Courage young girls,
 Have Courage young girls
 Have Courage young girls to say No!
 —Georgia Sea Islands folk song^{ss}

Who says Feminists dont have
 a sense of humour???



In her spare time,
 Mrs. Bomblatt writes
 poetry and reads
 it to her friends.



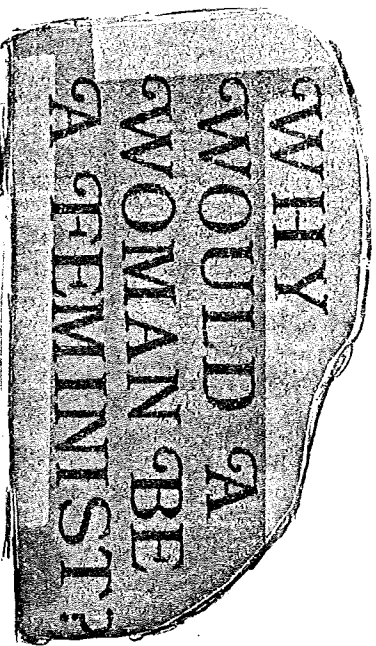
Mrs. Bomblatt suddenly realizes
 she has spent her entire life cooking
 and cleaning for other people.

MRS
 BOMBLATT
 SHE
 WAS A
 DEVOTED
 LAUNDRESS

SHIT.

Kate Galt

Kate Galt



Extracted from Anjela Miles
Why would a woman be a
Feminist

It is not too much to suggest that the functioning of our human communities, the care we show each other, the powerless and the needy has been womens work and womens concern both in the public realm and the private realm, the home. And this work and these concerns have been consistently undervalued.

Feminist re defining breaks down debilitating divisions "the good women the bad women" (by mans definitions) and housewife and working women (who both do the housework and childcare without pay) Feminists can do this because we realize we are not the only exceptions to the dominant negative image of women. All women are exceptions.

Housework is hard skilled valuable work. Sexual harassment is endemic a constant in womens lives. Our best and surest support comes from our women friends

This is SISTERHOOD key aspect of FEMINISM COMMITMENT OF SUPPORT FOR WOMEN.

Feminism is then not just the demand for Womens Equality in the World and the structures that we know. Nor is it simply the continuation of womens caring and sharing round the edges of this world

It is about transformation of this world which is threatened with destruction. Women must play a Central role, to make caring & sharing the organizing principles. & Women must love support and respect women and therefore themselves..

Feminism is a Celebration and a trust, it is what we all make it together. That is why a woman would be a FEMINIST

