

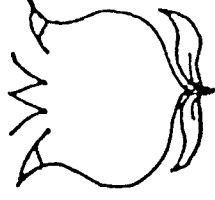


AWARE

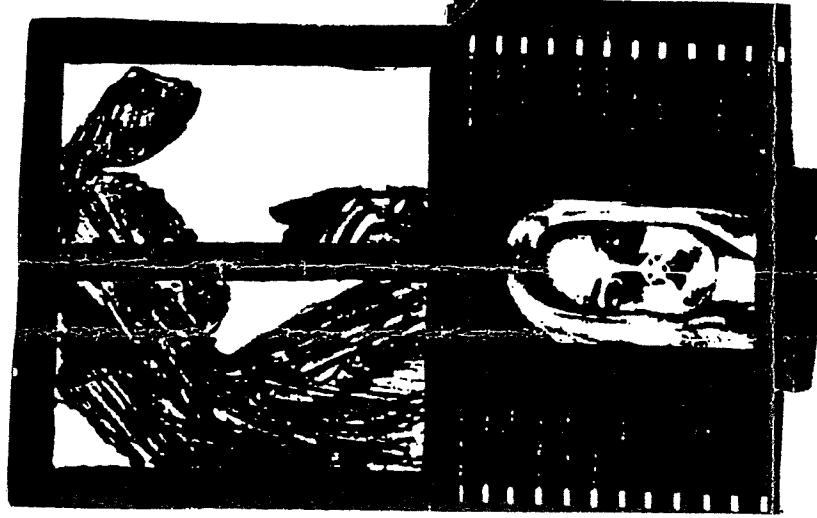
Newsletter published by Antigonish Women's Association

VOLUME 1 No. 6

JUNE 1984



IS THERE VIOLENCE IN YOUR FAMILY?



If someone in your family
uses violence
to deal with problems
You CAN do something about it.
We have a confidential Help-line
staffed by volunteer women.
Information Service for
Battered Women.

863-2852

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10 AM-4 PM.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS

A workshop will be held to train volunteers interested in operating a telephone information and referral service for battered women. This workshop will be co-ordinated by the

Naomi Society For Battered Women and will be held at the Adult Education Building on Saturday June 23, 1984. from

8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. For more information call

THE NAOMI SOCIETY 863- 3807

I am interested in attending the workshop.

Name. _____

Address. _____

Phone. _____

Mail to: NAOMI SOCIETY,
35 COLLEGE STREET
ANTIGONISH, N.S.

B2G 1X5

FLY ON THE WALL: A Report from the Res. Centre.

What a month!! Volunteers in and out of here---"Where's the washroom key?"---"Was I supposed to show the film?"

At the Board Meeting the other night, Dianne asked Oona to do a Centre report for the Newsletter. Well, I can't say she was really excited about this task, so I thought - what the heck - I've watched Betty pecking away on the typewriter - I'll do it. Being the nosy extrovert that I am, I see and hear everything that happens in this place and now I can tell people about it. By the way, I'm a fly on the wall at the Centre. I like to think of myself as at least a member-at-large, if not the official mascot.

As I was saying, volunteers are keeping the Centre door open until the funding comes through. Hats off to Patricia for lining up people to come in!! This is not always an easy task.

I understand there will be new hours for the months June 1 - Oct. 1 - the day will end at 3:30 p.m. (instead of 4:30).

That's all for this time but rest assured I'll be watching over things.

[Handwritten flourish]

- RESOURCE CENTER SUMMER HOURS -

Effective Monday JUNE 11, The Resource Center will be open from 9:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

Crafts Antagonish Membership Drive

Become a member or renew membership: Write to Box 1484-Antigonish. Crafts Antagonish Membership is \$5.00 single and \$7.00 Per Family.

Collectables Sale--June 26th, 10 AM - 9 PM--Nicholson Hall Foyer
There will be smoked dresses, antiques, flowers in glass, rugs, crochet articles, knitted goods, ceramics, wood, stained glass.

ANOTHER IMPORTANT NOTICE

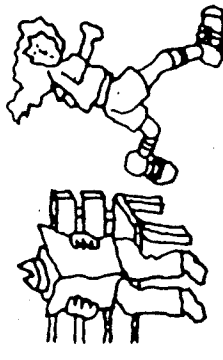
* Anyone interested in making the coming issues of AWARE informative and fun-filled is invited to drop their contributions at the Resource Center in the envelope marked Newsletter. We would greatly appreciate more input from members.



* The Social Action Committee would like the names of local businesses and organizations who you think should receive a copy of the Pornography Brief. Please call the names into the Center or drop a note in the Social Action Envelope in the office.

AVON BURKHOLDER, VICE PRESIDENT

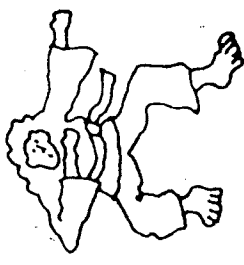
GRACE MAC INNON--ACTING SECRETARY



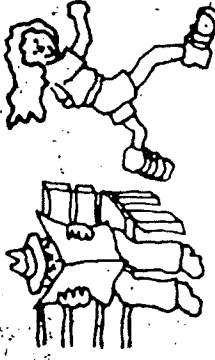
I jog to keep in shape



I learned karate....



to protect myself....



while jogging to keep in shape.

On May ninth four of us, Lucille Sanderson, Joyce Daigle, Donna Woolaver and Pat Alpert, presented the social action committee's Statement on Pornography to the Special Committee on Prostitution and Pornography in Halifax.

We arrived at the end of Francene Cosman's presentation. Most of the small audience in the pleasant lecture hall were people who were presenting briefs. The committee members sat behind a long blue-draped table equipped with microphones and water pitchers. Perpendicular to their table was one for the presenters with three chairs, microphones and water. At the back of the room was a little sound booth to record the proceedings and to provide simultaneous translation of French presentations. The audience wasn't wired for sound and twice the chairman had to remind us of that when we objected or added to presentations. It was a measure of the committee's obvious concern that people in the audience felt they could speak out. Another indication of comfortableness of the atmosphere was that people felt free to come and go during the afternoon.

We heard very little of Francene Cosman's presentation for the N.S. Advisory Council on the Status of Women. But she fielded the Committee's questions on the Council's unfinished work on prostitution with admirable care and precision. A four person delegation from the Halifax downtown resident's group presented testimony on their difficulties in coping with the street prostitution that has gone on in their neighborhoods for the past three years. They pointed out that prostitution was not a "crime without victims"; prostitutes are very young and without options; women and children who live in the neighborhoods are endangered and harassed; everyone's peace is disturbed. Two women from the Federation Acadienne de Nouvelle-Ecosse presented a paper that was very like ours in many respects, except their recommendations were aimed at legal changes where ours were in the area of education. There were two presentations that were a little off the topic. One was a statement, very well written, that said it wasn't pornography but Christianity that was to blame for violence against women. So, we shouldn't bother about fighting porn, but get right at the Bible! Another unscheduled speaker blamed child abuse for almost all violence in the world. He proposed to rectify the situation by drafting a children's Bill of Rights. He could not say how this would protect children from abuse in their own homes, or how one could view magazines advocating sexual use of children as harmless material for fantasy.

The questions the committee asked after each presentation showed what exceptionally informed, respectful listening they gave each speaker. Each committee member appeared to have special responsibility for one aspect of the inquiry. Ms. Ruffo's questions were always directed towards the interests of children; Mr. McLaren asked about the role of police in each case. Mr. Paul Fraser, the Chairperson, seemed to be the one to respond to the feelings of the presenters. It was he who complemented Lucille on her eloquence and assured a woman whose neighborhood had become a business place for prostitutes and customers that the committee did understand and empathize with her fury and frustration. All committee members educated both audience and presenters by questions that probed contradictions and gaps in information. I was very impressed with the seven people. I think they must have had superb training in listening, either through a special course or on the job.

The best part of the day (even better than lunch at the Silver Spoon) was the reception our statement received. When Lucille finished her clear and heartfelt reading and an on-the-spot afterword of her own, there was spontaneous applause from the audience. A number of people asked for copies of our presentation. This was due both to the content of the paper and to Lucille Sanderson's delivery. What a presence she has! (You can read this wonderful document at the women's center.)

Presenting this brief was an education for me. I think many of us who worked on the statement were shocked, enraged and frightened by what we found out about the pornography industry. Now I am convinced that we can do something about the problem. Becoming and keeping informed about this issue is the first step in combating it.

calendar

June

- June 19th, 5:30-7:30. Social Action Committee Meeting
Town Library
- June 23rd, 8:30-5:00. Workshop for phoneline volunteers for
Naomi Society, Adult Education Bldg.
- June 26th, 10-9PM. Collectables Sale, Nicholson Hall Foyer.
- June 27th, Noon and 7:30 PM, Movie:"A Question of Rape"
Resource Center

Wednesday

June 27



1746:
Flora MacDonald meets with fellow clan members over a final meal before beginning her journey across the Hebrides Islands. With Bonnie Prince Charlie dressed as her servant girl Betty, she successfully smuggles the unsuccessful pretender to the English throne to safety.

July



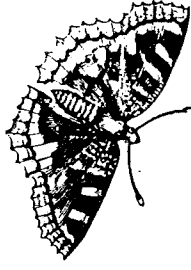
July 3, 1937:
The Coast Guard cutter "Itasca" receives a radio message from pilot Amelia Earhart, who is on the last leg of the longest around-the-world flight ever attempted. It will be the last known communication before her mysterious, and as yet unsolved, disappearance.

July 10th-11th

Main Street Shopping Mall

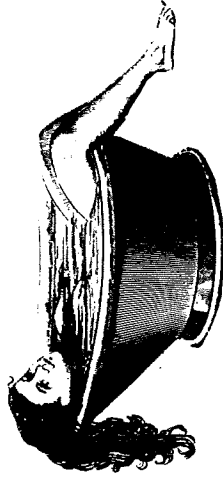
Highland Games Week

August



***** PICNIC *****

We're planning a picnic at Crystal Cliffs for August 12, from ten until five, for members, their families and friends. If you are interested in attending please contact the Center and leave your name. The Center will contact you when plans are finalized.



BRIGHT IDEAS

The Program Committee would like to get feedback from members on any of the following ideas:

1. An AWA display booth at the Main Street Mall.
2. A dinner and get together with Coady Women.
3. Establishing a baby-sitting course and a list of sitters available on short notice.

June 27th (Noon hour and 7:30 p.m.)

A QUESTION OF RAPE

This thought-provoking film provides an insight into the law and how it works regarding the question of consent in a rape case. A young woman brings charges of rape against two young men with whom she has had a casual friendship. The film uses nonscripted dialogue, actual lawyers, a real judge and a jury free to make its own decision based on the testimony of actors who were fed only the basic details of the case. The program accurately simulates courtroom procedure as Crown and Defence wage a heated battle over the question of consent.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

This will be the last newsletter for anyone who does not pay their dues by July 1, 1984. PAY UP, or you won't miss out on the coming, informative, and timely issues of AWARE !!

Dear Members:

We have discovered that our membership fee does not cover the costs of printing and mailing the Newsletter. New rates have been set.

Associate Member - \$7.00
Regular Member - \$12.00
Sustaining Member - any amount

The Associate membership fee will cover the cost of 10 newsletters a year with a bit left over. The Regular membership fee will help run the organization, which is non-profit and must become self-supporting.

The new membership year began with the Annual General Meeting on May 9 but many people have only recently joined. We will be happy to honor your \$3.00 membership but hope that many of you will want to pay the new fee.

Membership Form: (Cut out and mail to: Antigonish Women's Association,
General Delivery, Antigonish, Nova Scotia)

Name _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____

Telephone (Home) _____

(Work) _____

Fee _____

Associate _____

Regular _____

Sustaining _____

Would you like to be active on a committee? Yes _____ No _____

Would you like to take part in a neighborhood
pot-luck supper membership party? Yes _____ No _____What would you like to see AWA doing? List projects, functions, activities
below.

Interests _____

Hobbies _____

Volunteer Skills _____

Issues of Concern _____