

AWARE



NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED BY ANTIGONISH WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

RESOURCE CENTER

863-6221

NOVEMBER 1989

WOMAN TOIL



Working Together

Joyan mari

Women's participation in the labour force has increased dramatically over the past 30 years. It is estimated that by the year 2000, 45% of the Canadian labour force will be women. However despite the progress women have attained in entering the work place and working in new areas, numerous problems continue to exist while others arise. Women continue to be predominantly educated and employed in "traditional" female employment (ie. clerical) and as a result suffer from traditional "female underpayment". Women continue to earn only 60¢ for every one dollar men earn.

About 80% of the entire part-time work force in Nova Scotia consists of women. Low incomes and a lack of certain benefits such as pensions for most of the part-time labour force are factors that help explain the high incidence of poverty among elderly women. An alarmingly high proportion of Canadian women have incomes below the poverty line.

In addition to the numerous problems women face in the paid labour force women also confront problems in the home. Since work is defined as that receiving and income, domestic labour, despite its necessity to our very existence, is devalued and ignored while paid work is over valued. It is no coincidence that men dominate this sphere.

Women who work outside the home are further disadvantaged when they come home to face yet another job, housework. Women continue to be primarily responsible for childcare and domestic labour despite their increased participation in the work force.

In world where males are the preferred sex women will continue to experience discriminatory practices at home and in the work place keeping women financially dependent on men.

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MADEIRA

AFFIRMATIVE 'INACTION'

With repeated exposure of the discriminatory practices of employers, and continued pressure from women, women's groups minorities and the disabled some employers were pressured into introducing policies to attempt to 'minimize' differential treatment in hiring practices. This policy is called 'Affirmative Action'. In theory an employer agreeing to an affirmative action program sets out to identify and correct systematic discrimination practices. The aim of this policy is to correct the injustices of the past so that some day women will be fairly represented in all areas of the work force. In some cases the policy requires employers, when advertising a position, to encourage particular groups to apply, ie. the ad may read "women are encouraged to apply".

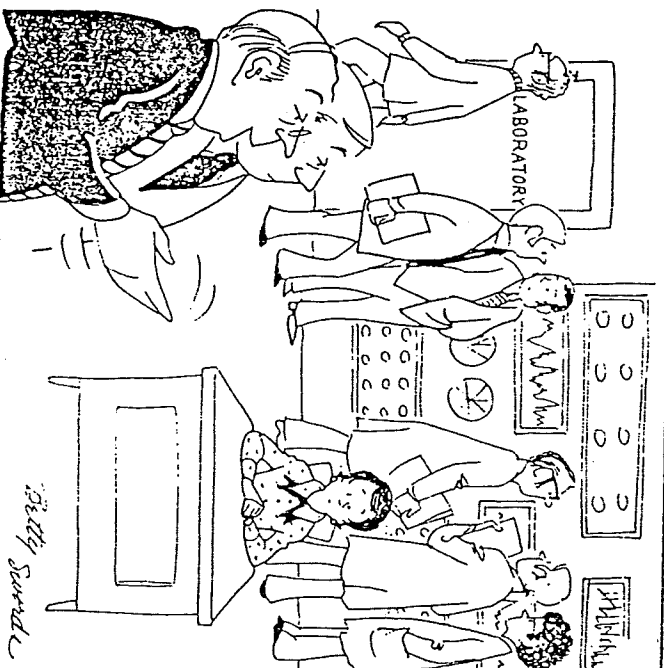
In theory this sounds like the answer to our problems. We can stop the struggle for employment equity with the employers who have adopted this policy. -- Or can we? How effective is this policy?

Several feminist researchers have pointed out problems with Affirmative Action. In Nova Scotia the largest affirmative action employer is the government with its target group including minorities, the disabled and women. Despite the inclusion of women in the target group, reports of the effects of Affirmative Action focuses on minorities and the disabled. Women are not identified numerically as benefitting from Affirmative Action. Therefore we have no way to see if this program is effective in relation to hiring more women. One is left to guess whether or not women have received representation among minorities and the disabled of the policy. There are no strict guidelines to follow nor is there any form of punishment for not following this policy. In a patriarchal society sexist employers can take advantage of this ambiguous policy. Employers may argue "no women applied" or "she wasn't qualified". Without strict guidelines to force the employer to keep records of all applicants there is no way to dispute these excuses.

Employers can also 'fudge' the job description to fit a particular candidate. A job description could be written around a particular applicant's experience ensuring that no other candidate will fit the description. Another way around Affirmative Action is through the lack of advertising. Without a mandatory advertising policy employers are able to select the applicants they want through the "old boys network".

Many critics of Affirmative Action would agree that the adoption of this policy by employers is for appearance only. On the outside employers appear to be striving towards equality. Until employers impose strict guidelines to eliminate the many loopholes in Affirmative Action policies the policy may as well be referred to as 'Affirmative Inaction'.

Donna MacDonald



"This is our experimental physics laboratory, this is our X-007 data-processing center, and this is our woman."



Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women "Ten Years After"

Employment Benefits and Social Welfare

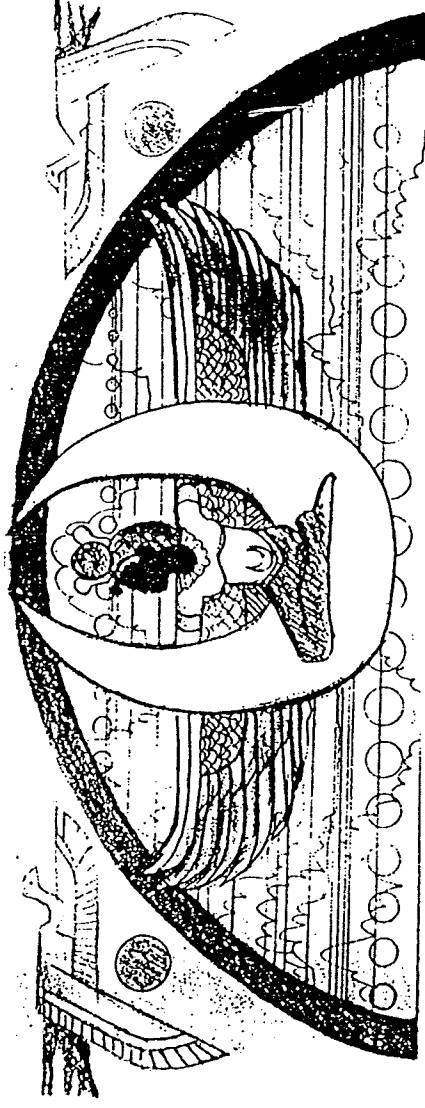
Today, the majority of all Canadian wives and of all Canadian mothers are in the paid labour force. Ten years ago, only a minority of either group was in the paid labour force. In the face of such dramatic changes, our entire social security system, including employment benefits and social welfare measures, needs to be reconsidered. Women will never achieve full social equality unless three preconditions are fulfilled: first, men need to increase their participation in familial tasks and such sharing must be facilitated through a social recognition that indeed, familial tasks are tasks for women *and men*. Second, socially useful work that is carried out within families, namely care of people who are unable to care for themselves (either because they are too young or too old, sick, or temporarily or permanently handicapped) must be socially recognized and assisted. Third, care for those who cannot care for themselves must be re-defined as a task that is shared by women, men and *society*. The most pressing issue at the present time is child care, which would consequently have to be re-defined as a task for mothers, fathers, and society at large. The recently adopted drop-out provision in the public pension plan moves in this direction, but falls short of addressing the question in its totality.

In an international comparison with countries which are comparable to Canada in terms of their

degree of industrialization and overall wealth, Canada fares very poorly indeed with respect to child care services supplied and parental benefits given. To give just a few examples: in France, for instance, more than 90% of all children aged three to five attend public "écoles maternelles," free of charge! In Sweden, new parents are entitled to a nine-month paid parental leave between the two of them. In Hungary, a new mother is entitled to 20 to 25 weeks of maternity leave with full pay, reduced working hours during the breast-feeding period, up to sixty days of paid leave to care for ill children under the age of three (with a lower number of days for older children). She may choose, after the expiration of her fully paid maternity leave, to stay at home with any child under the age of three for up to three years at approximately half the average wage. She is also guaranteed her old job back and the years spent at home count for her pension.

By comparison, Canada obviously shows up very poorly. Our maternity provisions continue to penalize women economically for giving birth, most fathers have no right to participate in child care as an employment benefit, our public day care system is totally inadequate, and our monetary transfers to families with children are so inadequate that more than a quarter of Canadian children are growing up in poverty! In addition, the number of women on family benefits continues to grow while the benefits continue to become more inadequate, due to the combination of rising inflation and largely static welfare payments.

If we seriously wish to strive for equality for women, a complete overhaul of our employment benefits and social welfare system will be necessary, and greatly increased public support will have to be given to parents (both mothers and fathers) in the form of services, entitlements to paid leaves, as well as direct monetary transfers.



DEDICATION

This issue of AWARE is dedicated to the memory of AWA member Irene MacDonald who passed away suddenly on November 22, 1989. at the age of 61. We are shocked and saddened by this very personal loss. Irene was a frequent visitor to the Resource Centre. She gave many hours of volunteer work to the office and to the AWA, and she touched us with the stories of her life and her concern for others.

Irene was a pillar of strength for her family. She was the mother of six children and seventeen grandchildren.

She will be sadly missed by us and we will always remember her willingness to share herself and to laugh, even at her own mistakes. She brought comfort and love to us all.

Lucille & Katherine

LIVING ON WELFARE IN ANTIGONISH

Most people realize that living on welfare is no joke. Most of us have heard the complaints of welfare recipients, and of course, we've all heard the complaints of hard-working people who think that welfare recipients get more than they deserve. But what is life really like for the people who experience welfare? The following is a composite account of life on assistance for a single mother. The rules and dollar figures quoted are real.

Mary is a single parent. She asked her husband to leave the family home after many years of emotional abuse suffered by herself and the two girls, Sue, age 6, and Sharon, age 12. Her daughters visit their father sporadically, (at his convenience) and it is always an ordeal. He is not above using emotional blackmail to get whatever he wants, and he is hateful toward the whole family, yet he occasionally showers the girls with expensive gifts. Mary just wishes he would save his money and make regular maintenance payments for a change instead of dragging her through Family Court over and over until she feels like strangling someone - mostly him.

Mary stayed home and took care of her kids when they were small, so when her husband first left, she had no job and had to turn to welfare. Her parents were upset about this and let her know that they were angry and embarrassed. Antigonish is a small town and news travels...

Mary's first visit to the welfare office revealed that she was only entitled to \$632.00 per month for everything. She felt like crawling under the floor tiles when she saw that the secretary/receptionist was her brother's neighbor. She knew that she would have to move immediately, (as if the kids needed more upset) because the worker told her that \$375.00 per month was all she would be getting for rent, heat & lights until her six-month waiting period was up and she could apply for Family Benefits. Of course, she was unable to find an apartment in Antigonish for less than \$450.00 per month without heat and lights included, so Mary did the only logical thing she could - she found an old house in the county for \$300.00. Unfortunately, she didn't realize that there was very little insulation in the place and the heat cost her about \$120.00 per month.

Mary had to turn to her mother for help with the heat bill, as well as rides into town for grocery shopping and laundry. Her mom's savings dwindled very quickly and her mom became less and less understanding about the whole situation. Mary had no phone so there was very little opportunity to talk to anyone about her problems. By the time the waiting period was up, Mary had gained 20 lbs. and she was quite depressed and yelled at the kids alot.

Now that her Family Benefits have come through, Mary is a bit better off. She moved into a trailer in town now, so at least she has some other people to talk to. The kids have adjusted to yet another move, but anything is better than how it was a few months ago. She gets enough for rent, heat and lights now, but once food and other expenses are paid for there is no money for shoes, boots, school clothes in September, or gifts for birthdays or Christmas.

She is looking for a part-time job, and someday she hopes to go to university and get a social work degree - God knows, she has learned enough about social problems in the last year. She has a boyfriend now too, and she knows her parents don't approve of it, but he sleeps at her place every now and then. She is afraid her welfare worker will find out through the neighbors and someone told her that if a man stays overnight, she'll lose her benefits. It's a nervous way to have a relationship, but it's better than being lonely. Maybe they'll get married someday if it works out.

Katherine Reed



The Mulroney government's new Goods and Services Tax (GST), which comes into effect in January 1991 unless stopped, will have an especially devastating impact on women.

Women to pay a greater proportion of tax: Women make, on average, 66% of what men do. With lower average incomes, women will pay a proportionally greater amount of their income in tax. Many low-income earners don't file income tax, and so will not receive the rebate. The rebate isn't enough to make up for all the sales tax you will pay in a year anyway.

A tax on mothers who work outside the home: Prepared food for take-out will be taxed. Government is again punishing women who must work outside the home to make ends meet, and who don't have the time to cook meals from scratch every day. Not only is the Conservative government renegging on child care, which places an added burden on mothers working outside the home, but now wants to tax them to death. Literally to death. The new tax will even apply to coffins and funeral services.

A special tax for women: Sanitary napkins and tampons will be taxed. Apparently the Tory government does not consider these a basic necessity.

Taxes on everything women buy: The GST will apply to hydro, heating oil, diaphragms, condoms, children's clothes, diapers, haircuts, telephone, stamps and postal services, plumbing and home repairs, boots and shoes, books, movie tickets, kids' meals at McDonald's, and much, much more.

Exemptions are not really exempt: There is no direct sales tax on child care or rent, but taxes on everything the child care centre and landlord buys, i.e. heating costs, light, plumbing, cleaning services, repairs, supplies. This means operational costs will increase, and so will your child care bill and rent.

Taxes on women and children, but not on corporations: The GST is a regressive tax, it taxes consumption rather than income. Everyone pays the same, no matter what their income. Brian Mulroney pays the same tax at the cash register as a single mother with three kids. Finance Minister Michael Wilson feels it is best to tax poor and middle-income Canadians than the thousands of large, profitable corporations in Canada that pay no taxes at all. Mike Wilson would rather tax diapers and children's clothes than corporate polluters that spill toxins into our rivers, lakes and oceans, that make land unsafe for our children to play on, and destroy the air we breathe.

Making an unfair tax system even more unfair: Fifty percent of women who file tax returns have incomes of \$10,000 or less, compared to only 23% of men. Many of these women live below the poverty line, yet pay income tax. Our tax system rewards high income earners with tax cuts and shelters. Women are already doubly penalized with lower wages and proportionally higher taxes.

Worse for women in economically depressed regions: The 9% federal tax is in addition to existing provincial taxes. This means Newfoundlanders will pay a 21% total tax on many goods.

Adding insult to injury: Michael Wilson is promising a lower grocery bill, just as government promised lower prices after free trade. The latter hasn't happened. The former won't happen either, because businesses aren't required to lower prices. Why would they lower prices and reduce their profits?

Taxes with no return: The new tax will not be used for social services. The government has abandoned child care, severely cut funding to women's groups providing valuable services to women in communities, decimated the unemployment insurance system, cut Established Programs Financing for health and education. The GST is a direct result of free trade. The removal of tariffs by the free trade agreement means the government is losing \$3 billion a year in income. It is making up for it by taxing poor and middle-income Canadians.

Bad tax has repercussions: Inflation will be driven up by this regressive tax. This is especially hard on people with limited incomes. The Mulroney government deindexed the Family Allowance. It does not keep up with high inflation. Four out of five women in the paid workforce are non-unionized workers, which is greater than the proportion of non-unionized men. They are in no position to bargain for wages that keep pace with inflation. A layoff of workers is also predicted, as people will be able to afford to buy less, and demand for products and services will slow down. Layoffs tend to affect women most, as they are the "last hired, first fired". Most part-time workers, who tend to have less job security, are female. Women will have a harder time re-entering the paid labour force after caring for children because of fewer employment prospects.

WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT THE TAX: Let the Tory government know that you won't stand for it. Organize or participate in rallies. Write to Finance Minister Michael Wilson postage-free at the House of Commons. Talk to your friends and family about the importance of defeating this tax. Organizations can present a brief to the House of Commons Finance Committee when it holds cross-country hearings. Women in Japan recently mounted a national campaign against a proposed 3% sales tax and ^{the same for 3.9% tax.} The women of Canada can

INNU WOMEN FIGHT FOR SELF-DETERMINATION

Elizabeth Penashue and Rose Gregoire brought the story of the struggle of the Innu to save their land and way of life to people in Antigonish last September. Since then many of us have written to the Ministers of Defence and Indian Affairs protesting the plan for the establishment of a Nato base at Goose Bay and the super sonic low-level flights over Innu land.

Betty Henderson wrote the following article for Common Ground after Elizabeth and Rose visited P.E.I.

By Betty Henderson

Thousands of years before the rise and fall of Eastern and African civilizations, before Greeks fought Trojans over Helen, before the Romans brought temporary civilization to England (they didn't make it to the Celtic fringes), or Europeans "discovered" - more properly "reached" - the American continent, the Innu people established themselves in Labrador.

There they developed a way of life harmonious among themselves - crime was almost unknown - and harmonious with nature, on which they totally depended. They were, and continued to be until the post-WWII era, self-supporting and in effect self-governing. When the early boat-people, explorers and fishermen, came, they were received as friends - not run out of town. As the continent filled up with aliens, the Innu kept apart cherishing their own language, culture and migratory way of life. Never did they treat with the incoming whites or sign away their ancestral heritage. They still assume, quite rationally in the light of natural justice, that their ancestral lands in Labrador are their own, not Canadian. A legal determination is pending, and the Innu will take their cause to the World Court, if necessary.

The rot set in at Goose Bay, developed as an Allied (essentially US) base during WWII. There were jobs, at minimal pay, for some Innu, which resulted in their becoming townsees instead of nomads, gradually converted them to a cash economy, introduced them to American goods and merchandising, to white diseases, and especially to alcohol.

It took very little time to erode the 9,000-year-old culture. Innu women, Elizabeth Penashue and Rose Gregoire, visiting Charlottetown in September, struggling with a deep sense of shame, told how white schooling had made the children ashamed of their own "pagan" ways and left them open to the incoming temptations of the Base - drink, gambling, prostitution. Drunken men came home and abused their wives and children, young women were raped and



prostituted, and inevitably a number of illegitimate, fatherless children arrived. These children, usually fair-haired among a dark-haired race, are very obvious in the population and suffer accordingly. Gradually, too, people who have been hunters have lost their skills, though efforts are made to retain them, and, when temporary employment is lacking, go on welfare.

This has been happening since WWII. Now a far worse future threatens. The Canadian Government already is sharing the air base with the US, Germany, Holland and Britain as a fine, empty space in which to practise military exercises, especially supersonic, low-level flying. The Germans are here because the German people would no longer put up with the devastating effects of the sonic booms. (It may be recalled that the Concorde supersonic planes have to cut back to subsonic speeds when nearing either Europe or the US.) The decibel level is well beyond acceptable health levels. Canada is anxious to develop the present operation into a full-scale NATO training base - our contribution to NATO - which would result in 40,000 (one every 10 minutes or so) overflights per annum. In addition there would be mock air-fights, bombing missions, and other reincarnations of WWII.

Already, Elizabeth and Rose told us, the social problems are escalating, with, as

well, drugs and AIDS on the horizon. Those Innu who try to maintain their old hunting patterns find the animals have been scared and damaged by overflights, the fish in the rivers and lakes diverted and killed by bombs. Pollution mounts. Fishermen can fall into the water and drown when startled by sonic booms. Children are terrified and permanently deafened. Pregnant women are seriously affected. Innu life and culture is crumbling around them. We have our own Beirut!

But the women are not giving up easily. They have organized sit-ins on the runways to prevent flights (and gain publicity) and they will carry on with this even if it means prison. They are also bringing their message to other parts of Canada - most recently the Maritimes, but earlier to Ottawa and Toronto. Time is short, as the Federal Government hopes to have the NATO agreement settled in November.

As Elizabeth and Rose pointed out, they are not just fighting for themselves but for all women concerned about peace - and, I may add, the ecosystem. Just as it is vital to maintain the rainforests for the sake of future generations, the ecosystem of Labrador will be important to us in an over-heating world, as will the knowledge of the Innu about living self-sustainingly in it. Before it is too late, let us write to the Prime Minister and the Ministers of Defence, Environment, Health and Welfare, Indian Affairs, etc., protesting this violent, destructive, arbitrary activity in territory over which we really have no legal rights.

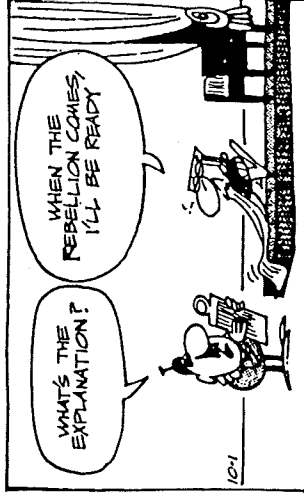
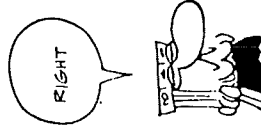
We already have the extinction of the Newfoundland Beothuk as part of our history. The Innu will not depart so quietly, and will shed a more than dubious light on our clamorous concerns for human rights in OTHER countries.

N.B. Anyone wishing to contribute financially may donate to "Innu Defence Fund", Assembly of First Nations, 3rd Floor - Atrium Building, 47 Clarence St., Ottawa, K1N 9K1. For more information call Project North, 892-1251.

Hon. Bill McKnight
Minister of National
Defence
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0K2



Hon. Pierre Cadieux
Minister of Indian Affairs
& Northern Development
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0H4



PEACE BRIGADES INTERNATIONAL

October 31st, Monique Beaudoin from Peace Brigades International (PBI) was in Antigonish to talk about Peace Brigades work in El Salvador and Guatemala.

PBI is a non-violent, non-partisan international organization that has been working in El Salvador since 1987. Committed to the principles of Ghandi, PBI volunteers offer international accompaniment to Salvadorans who have chosen to act non-violently to bring about social change in that war-torn country. PBI has also offered seminars in conflict resolution and peace education to various Salvadoran organizations.

An Emergency Response Network has been set up in Canada, Europe, Australia, and the U.S. to quickly respond via telex and letter to crises identified by PBI workers in El Salvador and Guatemala. This is an essential part of PBI's work. Through the Emergency Response Network, PBI has secured the release of numerous Salvadoran activists arrested, abducted and targeted for death. This is often accomplished through the thousands of telexes sent within 72 hours of an arrest/abduction to the president of El Salvador, Alfredo Cristiani. The Antigonish network recently participated in the successful effort to secure the release of the seven PBI workers arrested November 20th.

The Salvadoran government is presently intent upon deporting any foreign person supporting the Salvadoran people in their struggle for social change and a negotiated solution to the conflict in their country. The American government is supporting the repressive regime of President Alfredo Cristiani to the tune of \$1.5 million per day.

Anyone wishing to support the right of the Salvadoran people to freely determine their own lives, can write to Joe Clark, Minister of External Affairs, House of Commons, Ottawa, K1A 0A6 as well as President Alfredo Cristiani, Palacio Presidencia, San Salvador, El Salvador.

Anyone wishing to join the Antigonish PBI Emergency Response Network can do so by calling the Women's Centre at 863-6221.



WOMAN SONG

Are you interested in joining a women's singing group? We are meeting Fridays at noon at the Resource Centre. All material is women focused and you don't have to have a great voice. This is just for FUN!



MERRY CHRISTMAS



AWA CHRISTMAS PARTY



Don't forget our annual Christmas Party scheduled for Dec. 8, at 8 p.m. at the CAMR Workshop. Some problems that arose last year have been corrected, (promise), and this one will be a fun filled evening. Some of the plans for the event are a brief performace/sing along with the new singing group who's focus is rousing, woman-affirming popular music; the annual Feminist Christmas Stocking Draw; delicious pot-luck finger foods as usual; not to mention all those wonderful, wise, well-disposed, warm, worldly, (need I go on) women of the AWA.

As usual this is a pot-luck, BYOB event, and this year, in the interests of protecting Mother Earth, we will "Tug-a-Mug", and probably a few wine glasses, instead of using disposable products. Feel free to call me at the office or at home at 863-3444 if you have questions, suggestions, etc. See you there!



Katherine Reed

CHRISTMAS STOCKING

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN! Christmas is almost upon us and we are looking for donations for the FEMINIST CHRISTMAS STOCKING. The stocking will be given away at the AWA Christmas Party, Dec. 8, so please bring in DONATIONS to the Centre before Dec. 8 or bring them to the party.

This annual fundraising effort is for the SISTER MARY MACLEOD BURSARY which goes to a woman who is returning to school as a mature student. Last year's recipient was Denise Breen. Denise is now enrolled in St. Martha's School of Nursing.



AWA 1989-90 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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NEWS FROM THE CENTRE

After a lovely summer's break, the Resource Centre re-opened in September. Katherine and I were both looking forward to a quiet month to plan fall programs and establish our momentum. Not to be! We quickly realized we were working flat out almost from week one.

We've seen many new women come into the Centre this fall, some referred by other organizations, some coming with a friend, some finding us on their own. We've heard again and again the frustrating tales of inadequate housing and futile housing searches, the struggle to put food on the table with a social assistance income, telling the children there's no money for a ticket for the movies or to take dance lessons or play hockey, ex-husbands late with the support cheque again this month, the search for a job, any job, that pays more than minimum wage. We continue to see women beaten time and again by "the system". We have developed a deep respect for these unsung heroines - for their ability to survive, and not only to survive but to retain their fire, their tenacity, to keep fighting and even laughing, albeit cynically, at society's pretension of social justice.

When we think about all the woman energy that we have put into working for daycare, pay equity, decent wages, etc. only to see the government introducing the Goods and Services Tax, cutting funds to the Women's Program, shelving the promised daycare program, de-indexing the family allowance, introducing Free Trade - all areas that hurt women and children most, it is hard to understand why we put up with it. Why isn't there an all out women's strike? a political party with a feminist socialist agenda? a total refusal to participate in the system that is oppressing us? Why is it so difficult for us to act from our collective power when we feel in our guts the pain of our sisters and know that until we are all free, we are all in bondage?

Together we have the power, the ability, the numbers, the vision to change the world NOW into the life-affirming, nurturing, dynamic, colourful, textured and anarchic society our spirits long for. So what is it that keeps us attached to an oppressive, divisive, death-culture system? We all experience the frustration, anger and seeming futility of trying to change the world using the tired old methods of lobbying, pleading, battering our heads against the walls of patriarchy. Sonia Johnson talks about individuals creating non-patriarchal spaces of freedom around themselves. This needs to be discussed by all of us working for social change - discussed in a collective context where individual freedom is the basis of collective freedom brought to reality through the connection of our life-affirming values. It is time to revive Feminist Thinkers!

And so it is that life at the Centre carries on - often in a similar, seemingly disjointed fashion as the thoughts above, always attempting to fit individual crises into an overall sense of how to secure change.

Lucille Harper



INVITATION

The Resource Centre Library is full of interesting, informative, entertaining and some downright funny books. It is here for you to use, and Katherine and Lucille are here to help you to make the most of this resource. Some new arrivals are "Cat's Eye" by Margaret Atwood, celebrated Canadian feminist/author, "Avoiding Pregnancy" and "Talking About Periods" from the Vancouver Women's Health Collective, as well as several magazines produced by women's groups within the province and nationally on all areas of interest. Some examples of these publications are "MediaWatch", a bulletin which reports on the portrayal of women in print and broadcast media, and what legislative initiatives are going on; "Status of Women News", produced by the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on Women, which is an excellent update on immediate issues in the province; The Women's Action Coalition Newsletter; "Tightwire" a quarterly newsletter put out by the women of the Kingston Prison for Women, and many many more.

If anyone knows the whereabouts of the "Runes Book" and "The Dialectic of Sex" please give us a call.

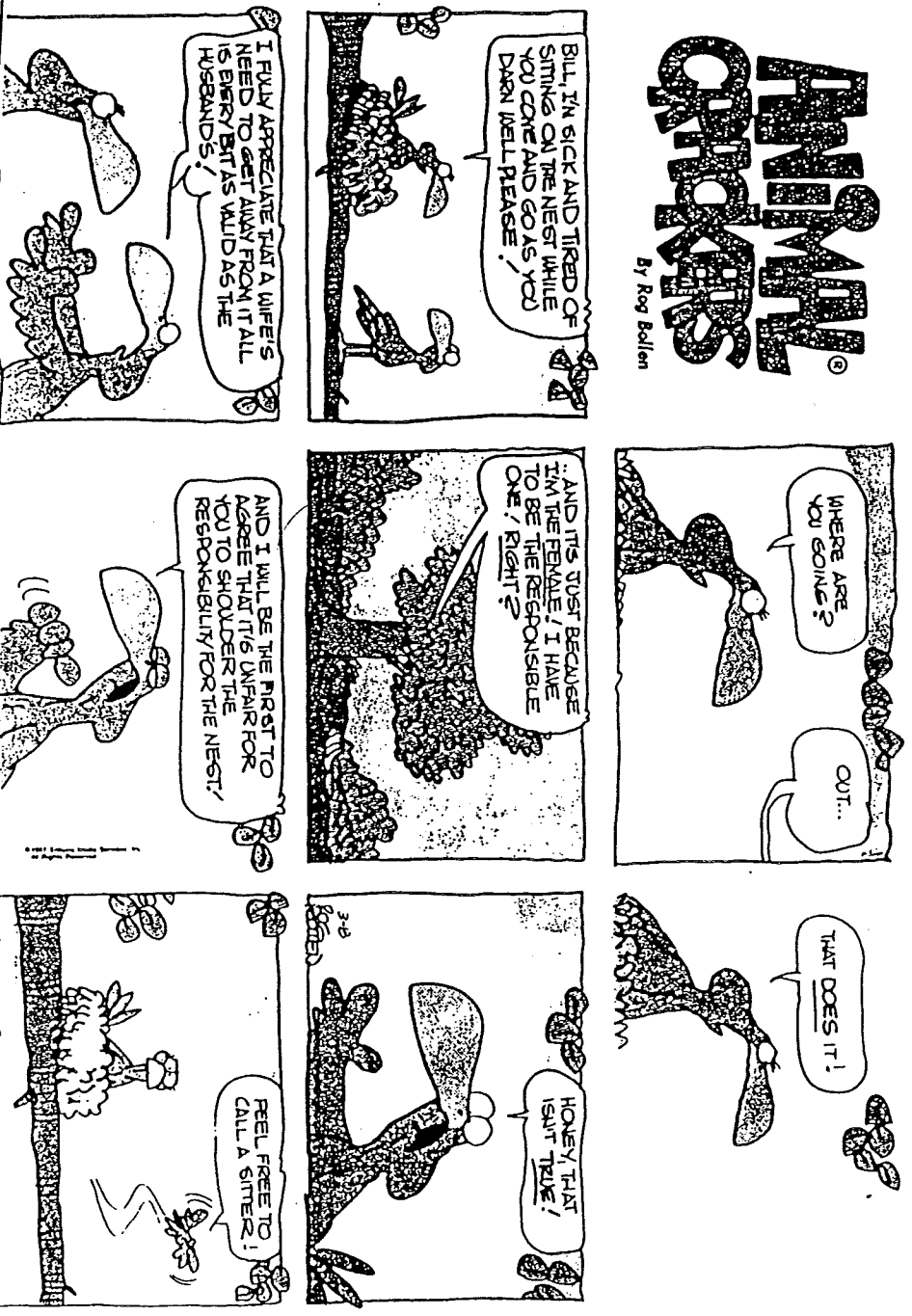


ANNOUNCEMENT

Katherine is currently applying for funding in order to set up a support group for single mothers. We all know that these mothers are some of the most over-taxed and undernourished people in our society today, (not to mention their children). The program will help the women to make connections with others, brainstorm for creative solutions, and occasionally, a resource person will come in to offer information on topics of concern. If you know anyone who would benefit from this initiative please tell her to call us. If you are a single mom, give us a call and register. We hope to get started in mid-Jan./90. We are optimistic about getting funding to cover the costs of babysitting and transportation for the mothers.

Amigos

By Rog Bollen

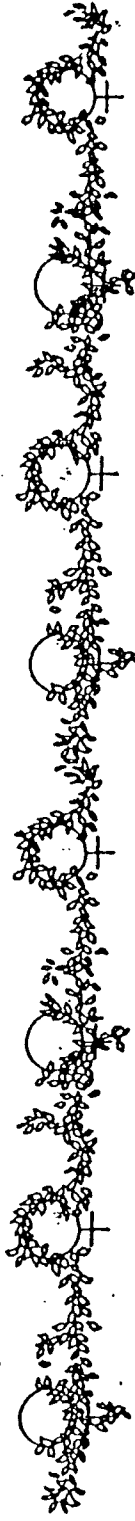


UP AND COMING

After talking about it for the past two years, we will revive Feminist Thinkers in January. Feminist Thinkers is an opportunity for women to meet bi-weekly, share and discuss readings from feminist texts, a chance to think with and bounce ideas off other feminists. It is this discussion and analysis, often lacking in our working and even personal lives and that often provides the fire needed to generate continued excitement about the possibilities of the women's movement. Anyone wishing to participate please call the Centre.

For those who haven't seen the video of Sonia Johnson's address to the P.E.I. Women's Festival last spring, it is available at the Centre. The video is two plus hours long and much more fun to see with a group of women for discussion afterwards. We will show it again in January and/or you are welcome to borrow it.

In honour of the winter solstice and the beginning of the sun's northward journey, we are inviting all our members to come to the Centre, December 20th for our Open House. We will have the Mother Peace Tarot and you are invited to ask a question and draw a card for the coming year. Cider, tea and sweets will be served. Hope to see you there. If not, we wish you a Joyous Holiday Season.



A PLEA FOR VOLUNTEERS

We are looking for women who have some volunteer time to help us organize our library and to fill in on days when both Katherine and I have to be out of the Centre. If you have some time, whether an hour a week or an occasional afternoon/morning, and would like to donate it to the Centre please call us. It will be much appreciated. The Centre can be kind of a crazy place to work - but it's never boring.



SOBEY'S TAPES

PLEASE SAVE YOUR SOBEY'S TAPES FOR US! In this time of financial cutbacks the money we get from them is even more important than ever. It is used for things like subsidizing this newsletter.



UP COMING CONFERENCES

PRINCIPLES OF PROGRAM PLANNING FOR COMMUNITY TREATMENT with Dr. Leona Bachrach, Thurs. November 30, 9-4:30pm, Lord Nelson Hotel, Halifax or Friday, Dec. 1st, 9-4:30pm, Hilton International St. John's.

WORKING WITH RESISTANT CLIENTS with Cassandra M. Clay, M.Ed, M.S.W., Wed., January 17, 9-4:30pm, Henson college, Halifax or Jan. 18, 9-4:30pm, The Fredericton Inn, Fredericton.

IMAGE AND COMMUNICATIONS: SKILLS FOR WOMEN, December 12, Halifax, to register call 1-800-258-7246.

1990 1ST WORLD SUMMIT, WOMEN AND THE MANY DIMENSIONS OF POWER, June 3-8, Palais des Congres de Montréal.

WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTRE

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

204B Kirk Place, 219 Main Street, Antigonish
call 863-6221

Open Mon. - Wed. 9-4; Thurs. and Fri. 9-5

Fri. December 1 WORLD AIDS DAY

Mon. December 4 AWA BOARD MEETING, all members welcome,
Resource Centre, 7pm

Wed. December 6 GODDESS REMEMBERED and ADAM'S WORLD,
two new releases from the National Film
Board, Women's Centre, 7:30pm

Wed. December 8 AWA CHRISTMAS PARTY, bring friends,
spirits, finger foods, singing voices,
CAMR, 8pm

Thurs. December 14 SCENES FROM A MARRIAGE, critic's Choice
Film Series, directed by Ingmar Bergman,
Sweden, 7:30pm

Wed. December 20 OPEN HOUSE AT THE CENTRE, drop in for
a cup of cider and a Tarot reading,
12-4pm, Women's Resource Centre

Thurs. December 21 RESOURCE CENTRE IS CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS.
- Wed. January 3 HAVE A JOYFUL HOLIDAY AND WE'LL SEE YOU
IN 1990!

MEMBERSHIPS ARE DUE IN SEPTEMBER

If you have forgotten to pay your membership, we would
appreciate your remembering us now. Your support will help
ensure the continuation of our women's centre.

NAME _____

FEES:

ADDRESS _____

LOW-INCOME: \$ 7.00

REGULAR: \$15.00

SUSTAINING: \$25.00

PHONE _____(H) _____(W)

If you can afford to pay a little extra towards membership,
please do. We will appreciate it. If you would like to become
a member and can't afford \$7.00 please feel welcome to pay
what you can afford.

We are always looking for suggestions, ideas, positive feedback
and kind criticism from the membership. Drop by for lunch
and let us know your news and views. We are always ready with
a hot cup of tea.