



AWARRE

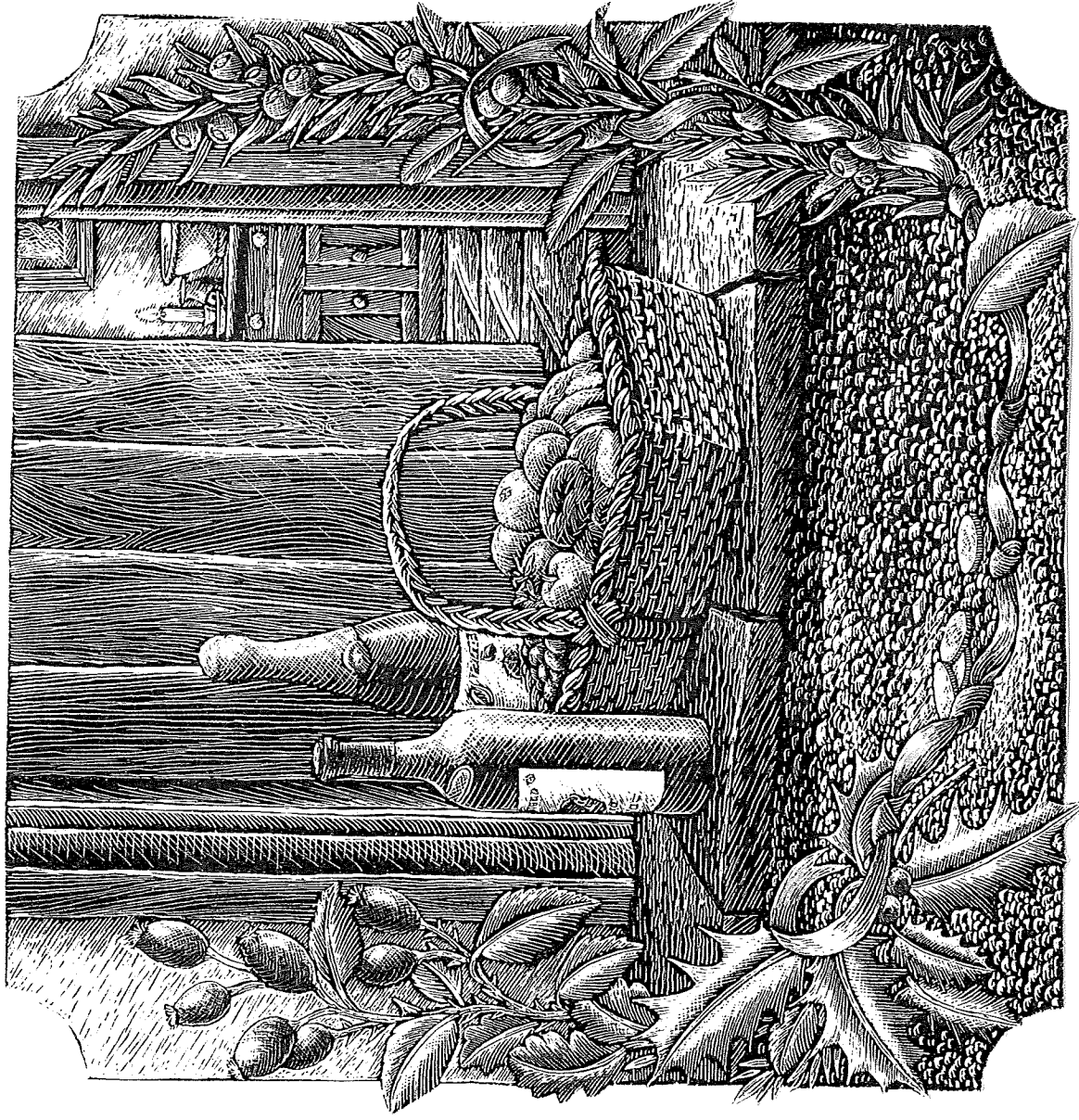


January, 1999

Winter Issue

*When we are
silent we are still
afraid
So it is better to
speak remembering
we were never
meant to survive*
-Audre Lord

January



“What does Christmas Mean to You?”

An informal survey conducted at the AWRRC three weeks before Christmas revealed the following insights:

Deforestation
Debt
Santa
Action figures & Lego
Depression
Missing my loved ones
Being with my loved ones
Being stuck with people who are not my loved ones
Trying to find the hiding places
Guilt
Crafts
Stress
A time to sleep
Fresh, crisp white snow
Yellow snow on the roof
Shortbread and fruitcake

Getting the cat off the tree
Watching “It’s a Wonderful Life” and realizing it’s not.
Midnight mass
Bad Christmas music in October
Ten pounds of flyers in October
A lot of work
Women do all the work, Santa gets the credit—apply it to the world.
The time I worked the hardest to pretend that I had the family you are supposed to have
Ten kids and toys (I never saw wrapping paper until I got married)
Cardboard donkeys
Travelling
Boxing day sales

December 6

*We need to remember the names
to etch them in stone
as we do other casualties of war;
we must say them
again and again to each other
lest we forget*

Genevieve Bergeron, 21
Helene Colgan, 23
Nathalie Croteau, 23
Barbara Daigneault, 22
Anne-Marie Edward, 21
Maud Haviernick, 29
Barbara Maria Klucznik, 31
Maryse Laganiere, 25
Maryse Leclair, 23
Anne-Marie Lemay, 27
Sonia Pelletier, 28
Michele Richard, 21
Annie St-Arneault, 23
Annie Turcotte, 21

The following is a letter which appeared in *La Presse* on December 10, 1989:

They died protesting that they were not feminists. He singled them out, took aim and killed them, because they were all feminists.

What tragic hatred! Faced with such demented violence, are we supposed to be content with expressing our helplessness? No, perhaps we should go beyond sharing the pain of so many unjustly wounded families. Should we therefore demand more laws, more control? Should we go into mourning with all flags at half-mast?

First, we must have the courage to name what has happened. Feminism has become an option one cannot admit to. The young twenty-year-olds think feminism is no longer necessary. They think it was good for their mothers, who

had to fight for their rights. And so it was.

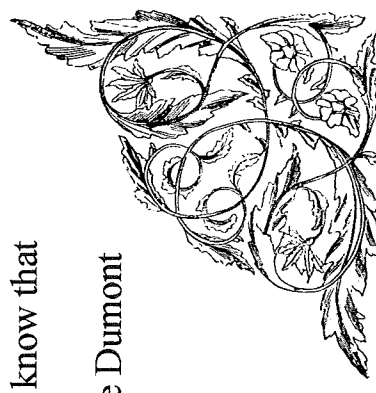
We must however ask ourselves why the epithet “feminist” has become an insult. It has become an insult because men have made it one and because women have given in, once again, to this subtle and enterprising domination.

Since the beginning of time, women have been caught in a programmed concept of “woman” and have been despised collectively as “women”.

A mere two decades ago, women undertook a political analysis of their subordination. Men immediately felt singled out as individuals. Their retort was prompt: “Feminists! All of them!” And so it was that this rallying call began to be used against those who initially proclaimed it. It was also used against those who asserted their independence, those who condemned violence, those who entered men’s territory, those who believed we’d achieved equality, those who naively believed that love wasn’t usually an act of domination.

Feminists all! We must never forget that it was this cry that gave direction to the murderous rage of the Polytechnique killer. We must never forget that these victims committed the unforgivable crime of choosing a male profession and a faculty where men are the majority—a faculty that, according to all the studies, women have difficulty entering. How many women are there at the Polytechnique? Five hundred? Six hundred? Seven hundred? It doesn’t matter. We now know that there are 14 less.

~ Micheline Dumont



Guns and Domestic Violence

Gun control is a small but important part of addressing the problem of violence against women.

Despite the emphasis on illegal handguns and the “criminal element”, we know that legally acquired rifles and shotguns are the weapons of choice in cases of domestic homicide. On average, 40% of women killed by their husbands are shot most (80%) of them with legally owned rifles and shotguns.

Most cases of domestic violence are unreported. On average, a woman is assaulted thirty times before a formal complaint is filed. Firearms increase the chance of an assault escalating into murder.

Guns are frequently part of the cycle of intimidation and violence that many victims face in their homes. For every woman who loses her life to the hand of a troubled spouse with a firearm, there are thousands more to are threatened or live in fear.

Although opposition to firearms control is more pronounced where there are more guns, it is these areas (rural Canada and the West) where firearms figure more prominently in violence.

A substantial proportion of men who kill their partners either have criminal records or a history of psychiatric treatment and in a substantial number of these homicides, other people (police, family members, social workers, clergy, etc.) know about threats and violence by these men against their partners.

There is a gender dimension to this issue, 86% of gun owners are men but more that 30% of gun victims are women.

Women across Canada support the new gun control legislation. Overall support for the new law is 78% and 83% among women. Overall support for registration is 82% compared to 89% for women.

A resolution from the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Commission explicitly recognized the problem of guns in domestic violence. At a recent meeting, the UN Commission on the Status of Women also addressed the issue, confirming that the use of firearms in violence against women is a global problem.



The New Law

Licensing of gun owners and registration of firearms, coupled with appropriate training and implementation are essential to removing firearms from situations where women are at risk.

Licensing of gun owners is essential in order to keep guns away from potentially abusive spouses or individuals with at history of violence. Under the current law where a Firearms Acquisition Certificate is needed to acquire guns only and not possess them, two thirds of gun owners do not have FACs. If we do not know who owns what guns, we cannot keep them away from individuals who pose a threat.

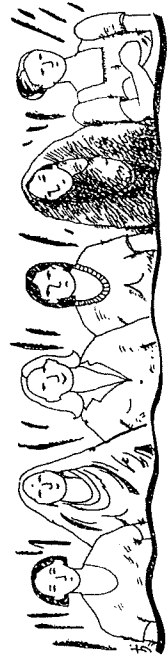
Under the new law, a license will be required to possess guns, and reports of domestic violence and other offences will automatically trigger a review of a gun owner's 'license.

Under the new law and its regulations, the spouse and previous spouses will

be notified of an individual's intention to acquire a firearm license.

Licensing of gun owners and registration of guns is also critical to removing guns from potentially violent domestic situations. As the Arlene May inquest showed, the current system does not provide easy access to information about who owns guns.

Licensing and registration are essential to enforcing the 17,000 prohibition orders in a typical year.



There are currently more than 63,552 on the books.

The Coroner's inquest into the Vernon massacre also confirmed the importance of registration as preventative measures.

The more recent inquest into the death of Arlene May once again affirmed the importance of firearm controls in preventing violence against women.

Gun control is not gun abolition and there is nothing in the new law that prevents pursuit of legitimate firearms use.

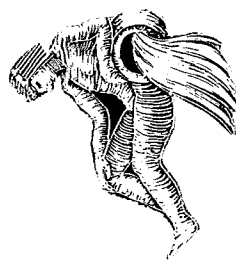
Magical Colors for Every Sign

Although colors affect us on very subtle levels, there influence is quite Potent. We are all born of a season, and that each astrological sign also corresponds with one of the four elements: Fire, Earth, Air and Water. The colours associated with each season and each element, then naturally work well for each sign. Here is a short description of colours for each sign.

Aries – Red is your colour. Red stones, red gems, red cloths. That's what you like best, and that's what makes you look and feel your best.

Taurus – The earthy colours suit you sensual disposition best. Green, of course, is quite empowering for you, too – it's the colour of spring, your season.

Gemini – Since you love having choices, it's no wonder you love each and every shade of the rainbow equally. Gemini is the sign of duality and diversity, born to wear coats of many colors, so your taste in clothing will show your love of variety.



Cancer – Your ruling planet is the moon, so the colors she wears are silver and white, blues and sea-greens will also go well with your water-sign disposition. Remember to stay away from heavy, drastic colours that will overwhelm you.

Leo – Red appeals to you most and suits your temperament. You'll probably also have a special fondness for yellow and gold, the colours of your planet, the Sun.

Virgo – Since you're an earth sign, the earth tones suit you the best, green, tan and amber in particular.

Libra – Libra is ruled by Venus, so your best colours are soft Venusian pastels. Pinks, Lavenders, and baby blues are best and match well with your accommodating disposition.

Scorpio – As far as colours go there's no question, you look best, and feel best in the two power colours – black, the colour of night, and red, the colour of passion.

Poetry

Phenomenal Woman

Pretty women wonder where my secret
lies

I'm not cute or built to suite a model's
fashion size

But when I start to tell them
They think I'm telling lies.

I say

It's in the reach of my arms

The span of my hips

The stride of my steps

The curl of my lips.

I'm a woman

Phenomenally

Phenomenal woman

That's me.

I walk into a room

Just as cool as you please

And to man

The fellows stand or

Fall down to their knees

Then they swarm around me

A hive of honey bees ...

I say

It's the fire in my eyes

And the flash of my teeth

The swing of my waist

And the joy in my feet.

I'm a woman

Phenomenal woman

That's me.

Men themselves have wondered

What they see in me

They try so much

But they can't touch

My inner mystery.

When I try to show them

They say they still can't see.

I say

It's in the arch of my back

The sun of my smile

The ride of my breasts

The grace of my style.

I'm a woman

Phenomenally

Phenomenal woman



That's me.

Now you understand

Just why my head's not bowed

I don't shout or jump about

Or have to talk real loud

When you see me passing

It ought to make you proud.

I say

It's in the click of my heels

The bend of my hair

The palm of my hand

The need for my care.

'Cause I'm a woman

Phenomenally

Phenomenal woman

That's me.

by Maya Angelou



Let Me Remember

Rest. Work. Serve. Learn. Teach.

Give. Receive.

Life is a wonderful place with many
things to do and many things to learn.

My worth is not attached to what I do.

There is a child in me who loves to play.

There is a growing being within me who
needs to rest.

Chords and discords create harmony in
the balance of life.

by Iyanla Vanzant

Dodi was lying on the floor, and Aunt Vera was crying over his body. I felt weak and fainted again.

The next day, I was in the Pluit Hospital. My mother and father were beside me. With all the pains on my body, I asked, "Mom, why Veny, Mom?" I felt a stinging pain as I said these words. I felt my cheek swollen. My mother instantly cried and couldn't say anything. My father, holding his tears, managed to smile. After four days in treatment, my condition started getting better. With a sad look, my father told me what had happened. After I fainted, seven men raped me. At that time my father couldn't see well after having been hit with the block. They raped me by rolling my body and hitting it against the wall. Then, my father said to me, "Veny is gone". I was confused and cried, "Why?" My father didn't answer. He told me to rest and he left the room. I

cried over and over again, feeling that my life was worthless now. A week ago, after I was home, I was told the rest of the story. When she was raped, Veny had kept fighting, so she was slapped repeatedly by her rapists. The last time she fought, Veny spat on one of the men. Offended, he grabbed a knife and stabbed her in the stomach. He did it over and over until Veny drew her last breath with blood all over her. After I heard the story, I was shocked. My father then said that Uncle Dodi had suffered the same fate, watched by Aunt Vera, who was also raped. God, why should all of this happen? Now Aunt Vera stays in her parents' house with her sister. She is still shocked. Her face is blank and she often refuses to eat. Almost every hour my mother and I cry over this tragedy. I can't ever forget it. The mob are an uncivilized people with no sense of humanity.



Canadian Government Funds Dumb Blond Joke Book

There is the beaver, Maple Leaf and Mountie. Now it seems as though these symbols of our national heritage have racier company – dumb blond jokes.

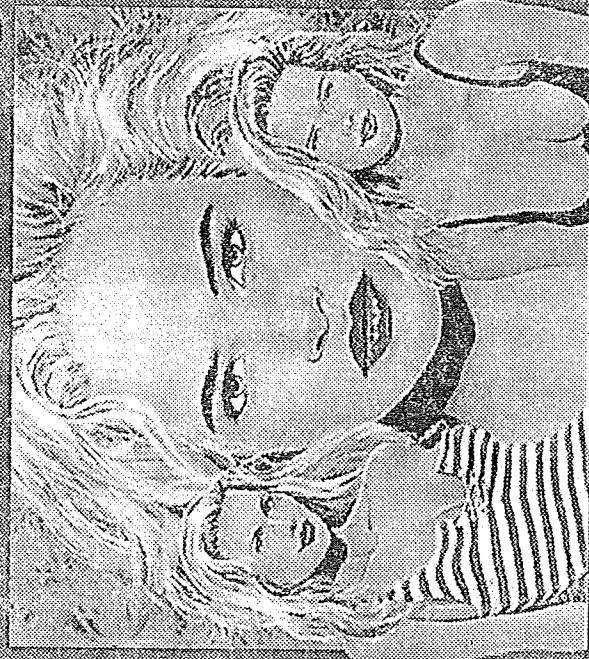
Excuse Me?

Thanks to a \$98,000 Canadian Heritage Grant, a Montreal firm has published a joke book on dumb blonds.

Women's groups were scratching their heads Friday, January 15th, trying to figure out why Ottawa would fund such a project.

"This is really a slap in the face," Joan Grant-Cummings, head of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women, said.

LES 500 MEILLEURS GAGS SUR BLONDES



«CUTES», OSÉES et SALEES

Women's groups are begging for \$6,000 here and \$30,000 there and this id from a government that is Liberal and is supposed to advance social equality.

Len Westerberg, a spokesman for Sheila Copps's Canadian Heritage department, said the \$98,000 went to Edimag and was not specifically earmarked for the joke book.

"We do not get involved in editorial content or control or censorship," Westerberg said from Ottawa.

"If you have one sour apple in the whole barrel it doesn't mean the whole barrel is spoiled."

Neither Fedy Fry, minister responsible for the Status of Women, nor Edimag owner Pierre Nadeau returned calls Friday, Copps was out of the country.



Magical Colors for Every Sign *continued ...*

Scorpio – As far as colours gom there's no question, you look best, and feel best in the two power colours – black, the colour of night, and red, the colour of passion.

Sagittarius – Loves purple, deep royal purple is the colour of wisdom, and Sagittarius wants to learn everything.

Capricorn – Ordinarily, the colours yu wear best are the earth tones – browns, deep greens and russets. Although your planet Saturn, is often associated with the colour gray, and you do look well in it, keep in mind that color affects mood.

Aquarius – Your colour, Aquarius, without a doubt, is electric blue. It's

The cover of the book, published in French and called 500 of the Best Dumb Blond Jokes, features bosomy blonds in revealing clothing.

Its knee-slapping humour features jewels like: A blond woman walking down St. Denis Street in Montreal with a pig under her arm. A passer-by asks: "Where did you get that?" And the pig answers, "I won it at the fair."

There are other more off-colour jokes as promised by the books subtitle – Cute, Daring and Racy.

The Canadian Heritage Department spent \$31.3 million on the book-publishing industry last year.

*by Jack Branswell
The Canadian Press - Montreal*

noticeable even in the darlest places, you see, and you certainly do love to stand out in a crowd.

Pisces – Neptune is your planet – and she wears nothing but wispy pastel gowns that swish when she walks. Those same pastels = yellows, pale blues and greens work equally well for you.



Social Action

Abuse, Torture of Chinese Women in Indonesia

Last May in Indonesia, many Chinese Indonesian citizens were abused, tortured and killed. Their houses and stores were looted and burned. The following article was posted on 06/12/98 in the Huaren Bulletin Board. It is a victim's account of rapes and murders, originally reported in Indonesian. Vivian (not her real name) is an 18 year old woman. She has a little sister and a brother. She lives in an apartment with her family. At 9:15 one morning, a huge crowd gathered around the apartment. They screamed, "Let's butcher the Chinese!", "Let's eat the pigs!", "Let's have a party!" :

We lived on the seventh floor, and we got a call from a family who lived on the third floor, telling us that the crowd had reached the second floor. They even chased some occupants upstairs. We were all very frightened. In our fright, we prayed and left everything in God's hands. Afterward, we left our room and went upstairs to the topmost floor, as it was impossible to go downstairs. We got to the 15th floor, and stayed there with one of our acquaintances. Not long afterward, we were surprised because some of the crowd were coming out of the elevator right before we entered the room. We hurried into the room and locked the door tight. At that time, we heard them knocking on the other doors very loudly, and there were screams from women and girls. The room was filled with fear. We realized that they would come to us, so we spread throughout the room and hid in the corners. We could hear girls, around the ages of 10 to 12 screaming "Mommy... Mommy", "Mom... Mom... it hurts..." At that time I did not know what was happening. After about half an hour, the noise diminished and we had the guts to go out and check. It was indescribable. A lot of girls- young girls- were lying on the floor. Seeing this, my little sister Veny screamed hysterically and hugged

her father. Tears started coming from my eyes. With our acquaintances, a newly-wed couple, we started going downstairs. Reaching the tenth floor, we heard a scream for help. The scream was very clear, and we decided to go down and see. But as we turned, we saw a lot of people. I saw a woman in her 20's being raped by four men. She tried to fight, but they held her tight. Realizing the danger, we ran with all our might. Unfortunately, the mob caught Veny. We tried to rescue her, but we had to give up. There were around 60 of them. They tied us- me, my father, my mother, Veny, Dony, Uncle Dodi, Aunt Vera- with ripped sheets. They led us to a room. Uncle Dodi asked what they wanted, but they didn't answer. They cast us an evil and savage look. One of them grabbed Veny rudely and dragged her to a sofa. I knew she was in danger. I screamed loudly, but one of the mob slapped me. My father also screamed and was hit with a wooden block and fainted. My mother fainted when Veny was dragged to the sofa. I could only pray and pray that the disaster would not befall us. Uncle Dodi kept trying to persuade them by offering money, but the effort was fruitless. In the end, they forcibly raped Veny.

Not able to stand all of this anymore, I cried and closed my eyes. There were about five men who raped Veny, and before beginning, each man always said " "Allahu akbar" (an Islamic phrase in Arabic meaning "God is the greatest") They were ferocious, brutal.

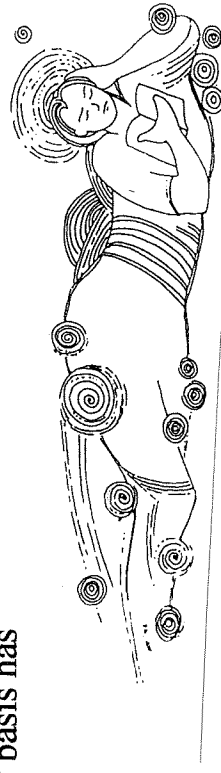
Not long afterward, about nine men came to the room and dragged me. I also saw them dragging Aunt Vera. I instantly fainted and everything was blank. I became conscious around five or six o'clock in the afternoon. My head was in pain, and I realized that I had no clothes on my body. I cried. I was very depressed. I realized that my family was still there. I saw my father hugging my mother and Dony. I also saw that Uncle



people together to look for ways we could act collaboratively to address the issues raised in this action research. Also, we continue to work with the Antigonish Coalition of Economic Justice on various educational and political action initiatives.

The lobby for funding for women's centers in Nova Scotia continues. Our request for funding adequate to operate the Center with a full-time staff who are able to meet the needs that are presented on a daily basis has

not been granted. Women need support, information, advocacy, referral, and educational and therapeutic programs. We also need a place we can call our own, where we can identify our issues, discuss our experiences, celebrate our achievements, and work for an improvement in the status of women in the Antigonish area. If you would like to get involved in any of these efforts or if you want more information, call us at the Center at 863-6221.



My Declaration of Self Esteem

I am me.

In all the world, there is no one else exactly like me. There are people who have some parts like me but no one adds up exactly like me.

Therefore, everything that comes out of me is authentically mine because I alone chose it.

I own everything about me- my body, including everything it does; my mind, including all my thoughts and ideas; my eyes, including the images of all they behold; my feelings, whatever they might be- anger, joy, frustration, love, disappointment, excitement; my mouth and all the words that come out of it – polite, sweet and rough, correct or incorrect; my voice, loud and soft; all my actions, dreams, my hopes, my fears. I own all my triumphs and successes, all my failures and mistakes.

Because I own all of me, I can become intimately acquainted with me in all my parts. I can love me and be friendly with me in all my parts. I can then make it possible for all of me to work in my best interests. I know there are aspects about myself that

puzzle me and other aspects that I do not know. But as long as I am friendly and loving to myself, I can courageously and hopefully look for the solutions to the puzzles and for ways to find out more about me.

However I look and sound, whatever I say and do, and whatever I think and feel at a given moment in time is me. This is authentic and represents where I am at that moment in time. When I review later how I looked and sounded, what I said and did, and how I thought and felt, some parts may turn out to be unfitting. I can discard that which is unfitting and keep that which proved fitting and invent something new for that which I discarded.

I can see, hear, feel, think, say and do. I have the tools to survive, to be close to others, to be productive, to make sense and order out of the world of people and things outside of me. I own me and therefore I can engineer me.

I am me and I am okay



News from the Center

There is so much going on around the women's center, it's a challenge to figure out what should go into the "News from the Center". Between September 1st and November 30th, we have recorded 2085 calls and visits to the center. The areas of concern where we have the most activity are as follows: health, sexual assault, poverty and social assistance. There was also a lot of activity with the Inter-agency Committee on Family Violence and networking among other women's centers (mostly within Nova Scotia).

A great deal of activity has been going on with young women. Lucille, Doris Gillis and Barbara Hayes have been working with high school students, health care professionals, and St. F.X students, providing training and resources on issues of self-esteem and body image, decision making, anger, assertiveness, violence and homophobia. We may well have "come a long way baby" in some areas, but women are experiencing the same violence, attacks on our self-esteem, barriers to achievement, and sex-role stereotyping that has threatened our well-being for as long as we can remember. When we work with young women we can help them avoid some of the negative experiences other women have had, or we can better equip them to deal with the experiences they may not have been spared from.

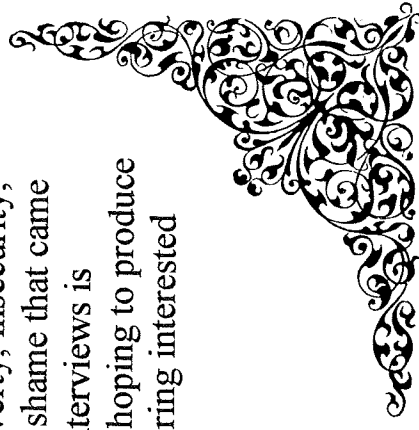
In our on-going attempt to raise the awareness and stimulate action on issues of racial inequality, we co-sponsored two presentations by African-Nova Scotian and First Nations women. The first presentation explored the health issues faced by women in visible

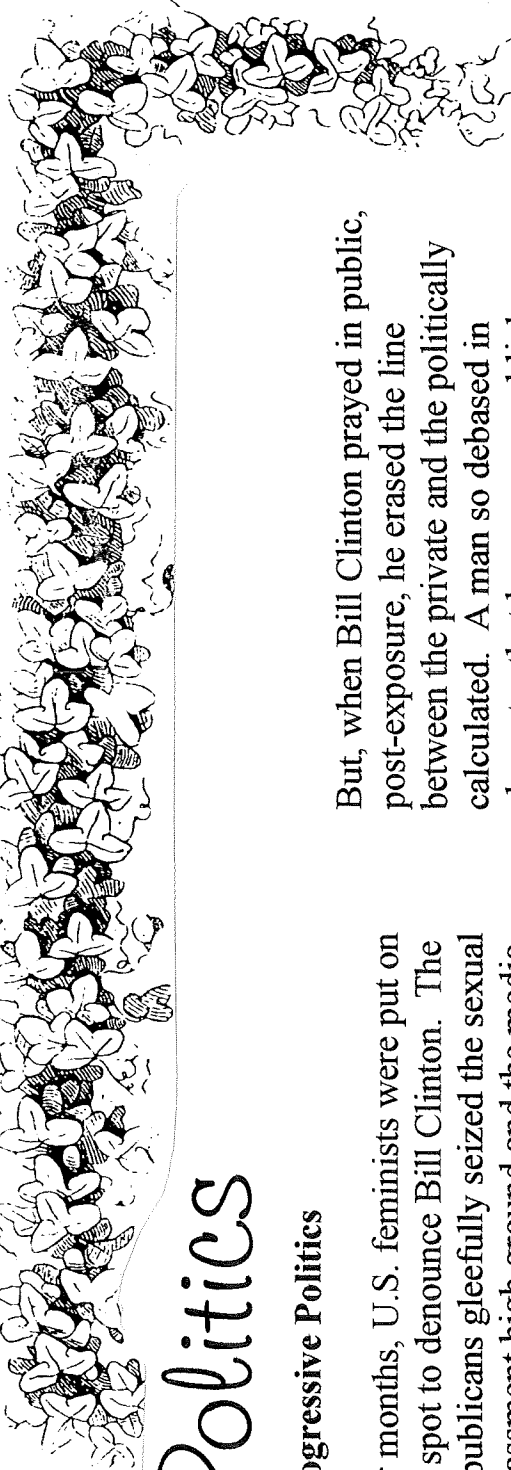
minority groups, and second featured Preston MLA, Yvonne Atwell. She voiced her perspectives on our current political system and the scarcity of women political leaders, and many other issues relating to race, class, and gender. They were all wonderful and inspiring women and we were delighted to part of this educational process.

Speaking of education, we are excited about a possible re-entry program for women which Kim Curry and Heather Carson are developing with Lucille. This would be a well-rounded program where women would work on computer skills, analytical thinking, and academic up-grading. They would work in a women-only, supportive environment. We hope, that is initiative could launch women on to pursuing career goals with a good foundation for solving problems, and accessing resources as they move forward.

We continue to run groups for sexual abuse survivors. If you need more information on this yourself or someone you know who has been subjected to this abuse, just give us a call at the Center and we'll do all we can to help. We have excellent library resources on this topic as well as information about services and programs for survivors.

Our economic justice work is ongoing. Katherine has just completed over 45 interviews with women who live on low incomes and people who provide services and supports to them. The severity of poverty, insecurity, victimization, and shame that came through in these interviews is shocking. We are hoping to produce a report and then bring interested





Politics

Progressive Politics

For months, U.S. feminists were put on the spot to denounce Bill Clinton. The Republicans gleefully seized the sexual harassment high ground and the media relished the thought of making feminists squirm as they were pushed to indict their own hero.

Infuriatingly for the media, feminists refused to oblige. Most insisted that Clinton's behavior, however distasteful, did not add up to harassment. Now, however, feminist opinion is splitting all over the map. Some long to see the president gone; while others are enraged by the Ken Starr Inquisition, calling it a "slow coup" funded by their own tax dollars

It is a tragedy – a Shakespearean one, brought on by Clinton's own dangerously cracked character. I've been wary about these so-called character issues for a long time. What honorable person of any substance and idealism would run for public office when the media are so prurient, so determined to paw over every irrelevant item of a politician's psychiatric treatment?

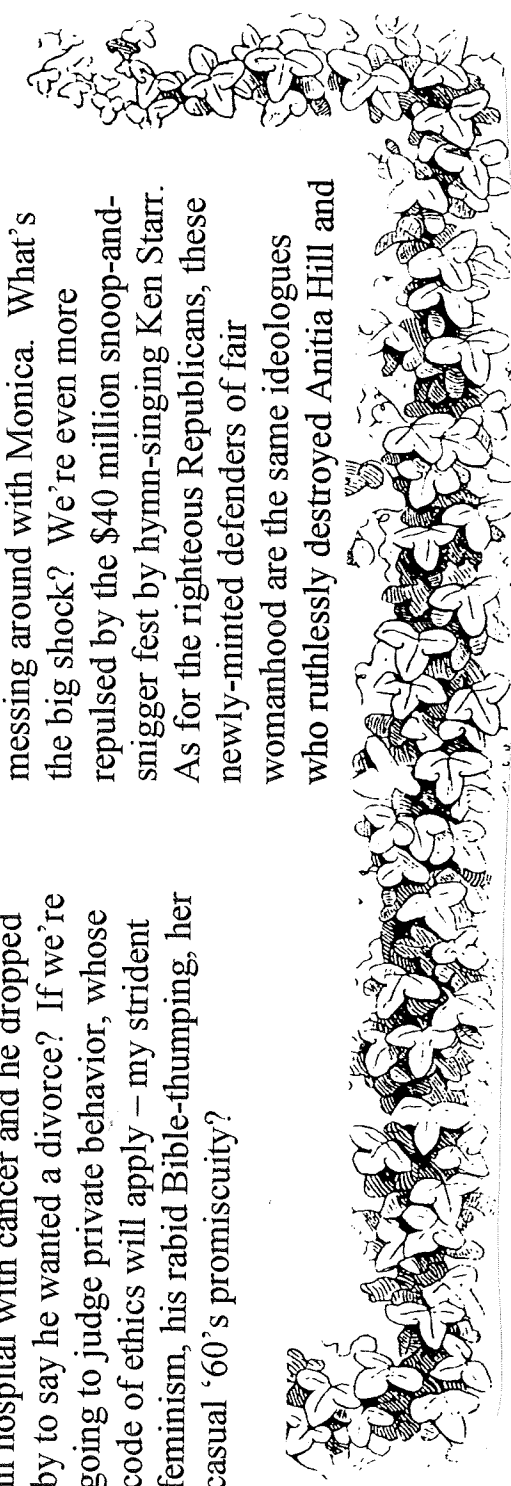
Yes, the personal is political – who cooks dinner and who earns better pay is determined more by patriarchal structures than by individual choice – but the political isn't necessarily personal. Ideally, we should be judging the elected by their political deeds. If Clinton's fling with Gennifer Flowers was to count against him, why not Newt Gingrich's behavior when his wife was in hospital with cancer and he dropped by to say he wanted a divorce? If we're going to judge private behavior, whose code of ethics will apply – my strident feminism, his rabid Bible-thumping, her casual '60's promiscuity?

But, when Bill Clinton prayed in public, post-exposure, he erased the line between the private and the politically calculated. A man so debased in character that he can pray publicly, tearfully (and with unctuous insincerity) only after he's been well and truly caught – well, that spells moral decrepitude in my books. A man who squeaks into office thanks to female voters and who then creates a "welfare reform" bill that harms millions of women and children – that man offends my own sense of morality.

A man who takes advantage of a power-worshipping 21 year old – summoning her over with a peremptory gesture to fondle him while he talks on the phone – that man is "pro-feminist" like I'm a super model. He's a user. He uses admirers the way he uses his party. It took years of hard work by countless Democratic loyalists to help Clinton reach the pinnacle of power – only to see him throw away their hopes, ideals and the promise of enlightened government so he could satisfy every twitch of his presidential penis.

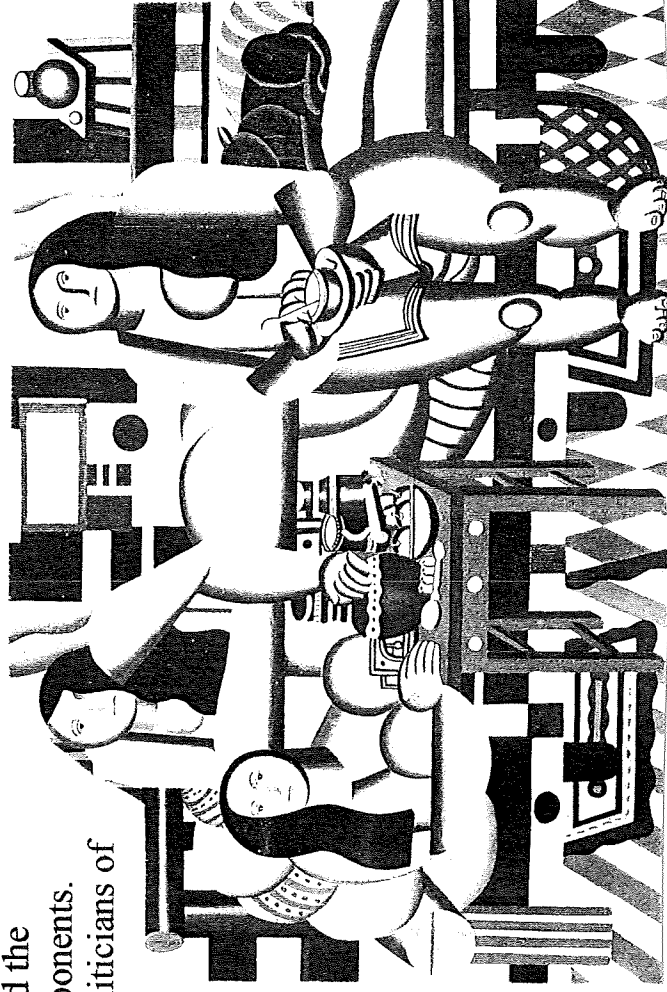
And what a lesson we can learn from the decline of Hillary Rodham Clinton: seek genuine power, don't try to bootleg it through marriage. Otherwise, you too can go from forceful, intelligent activist to the utterly traditional sacrificial wife; silent on issues, numbly loyal, Pat Nixonian.

It is interesting, though, that most women seem to be shrugging off Clinton's 1950's type "everything-but" messing around with Monica. What's the big shock? We're even more repulsed by the \$40 million snoop-and-snigger fest by hymn-singing Ken Starr. As for the righteous Republicans, these newly-minted defenders of fair womanhood are the same ideologues who ruthlessly destroyed Anita Hill and



exalted the weird Clarence Thomas to the U.S. Supreme Court. And Henry Hyde, Republican chair of the House judiciary committee, constantly touted by the media as "fair and gentlemanly". He's the religious extremist who engineered the Hyde Amendment, which for 20 years has gone on inflicting untold harm on the poorest of poor American women by denying them access to safe abortions.

The Clinton debacle is the wreck of progressive hopes on the shoals of the man's fatal recklessness and the religious zealotry of his opponents. Combined with the way politicians of

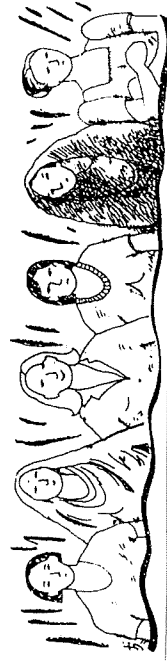


Brains and Bondage

While I was at the hair dressers waiting for my turn to get my annual hair cut, I started leafing through Time magazine. It was an old issue, and Clinton was the main focus.

There were many articles and viewpoints on the "Clinton Crisis", - *Is he Guilty? ... Should he be Impeached? ... Kiss but don't Tell ...* but there was one that caught my eye.

The article was entitled "*A Call for Lustiness: Just say no to the sex police*", and it was written by Camille Paglia, a professor of humanities at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia.



every stripe have abdicated power in favor of global "free markets", which are now unravelling the entire world's well-being, it feels like the end of politics as we know it. No wonder U.S. voters seem shruggingly apathetic about impeachment. One thing remains clear, however: if women now opt out of engagement in progressive politics, the disaster of a right-wing triumph will be far more damaging than an unzipped presidency.

by Michelle Landsberg
Toronto Star, 09/19/98

In the article, Camille states her personal opinion on "*the free expression of sexual thought vs. the hostile work environment*" issue. An issue that is still not clearly defined in our legal society.

Here is the article in its entirety. Read it and write us with your opinion on the issue.



A Call for Lustiness: *Just say no to the sex police*

Liberal Democrats, who supported Anita Hill against Clarence Thomas in 1991, are waking up to the police state that their rigid rules have created. Now, as allegations fly by about presidential sex, we can finally

distinguish between genuine sexual coercion and free expression of sexual thought.

As a college teacher, I've long held that no person in power should demand sexual favors in return for a high grade or promotion. Nor should subordinates sexually involved with teachers or managers enjoy an unfair advantage over their peers.

Those principles are a genuine contribution to feminist history. But the secondary "hostile environment" policy, which allows employees to file lawsuits on nebulous grounds of psychological distress, is grotesquely totalitarian. It offends free-speech rights and is predicated on a reactionary female archetype: the prudish Victorian lady who faints at a sexual innuendo. This isn't feminism; it's Puritanism.

The Anita Hill case, far from expanding women's rights, was a disaster for civil liberties. That Hill, an articulate graduate of the Yale Law School, could find no job-preserving way to communicate to her employer her discomfort with mild off-color banter strained credulity. That Thomas could be publicly grilled about trivial lunchtime conversations that occurred 10 years earlier was an outrage worthy of Stalinist Russia.

An antiseptically sex-free work place is impossible and unnatural. We want a sophisticated art of seduction. Feminist excesses have paralyzed and neutered white, upper-middle-class young men, as should be obvious to any visitor to the campuses of the elite schools. I want a society of lusty

men and lusty women whose physical and mental energies are in exuberant free flow. While men must behave honorably

(Governors and Presidents should not be dropping their pants in front of female employees or secretly preying on buxom young interns), women must also watch how they dress and behave. For every gross male harasser, there are 10 female sycophants who shamelessly use their sexual attractions to get ahead. We don't want a society of surveillance by old maids and snitches. The proper mission of feminism is to encourage women to take personal responsibility without running to parental authority figures for help.

The fanatic overprotection of women is fast making us an infertile nation. We need to treat sex with greater realism and imagination. Women should be taught not that they are passive wards of the state but that sex is a great human comedy where the joke is always on us.

by Camille Paglia

Time magazine, 03/23/98

Provocative??

Drop off your reactions at the Women's Center.

Congratulations!!!

The AWRCAWA is pleased to announce that Vangie Babin is now full time until the end of March!

We would like to take the time to congratulate Vangie and the AWRCAWA. Vangie is a great asset, and hopefully we will be able to keep her as full-time for the years to come!

F.I.T.s' Fables

Stories from Feminists in Training

At this year's Fall retreat for AWA/AWRC board members, a very special thing happened. Instead of the regular check-in that usually occurs, we were asked to introduce ourselves by answering the question "How did we come to feminism?"

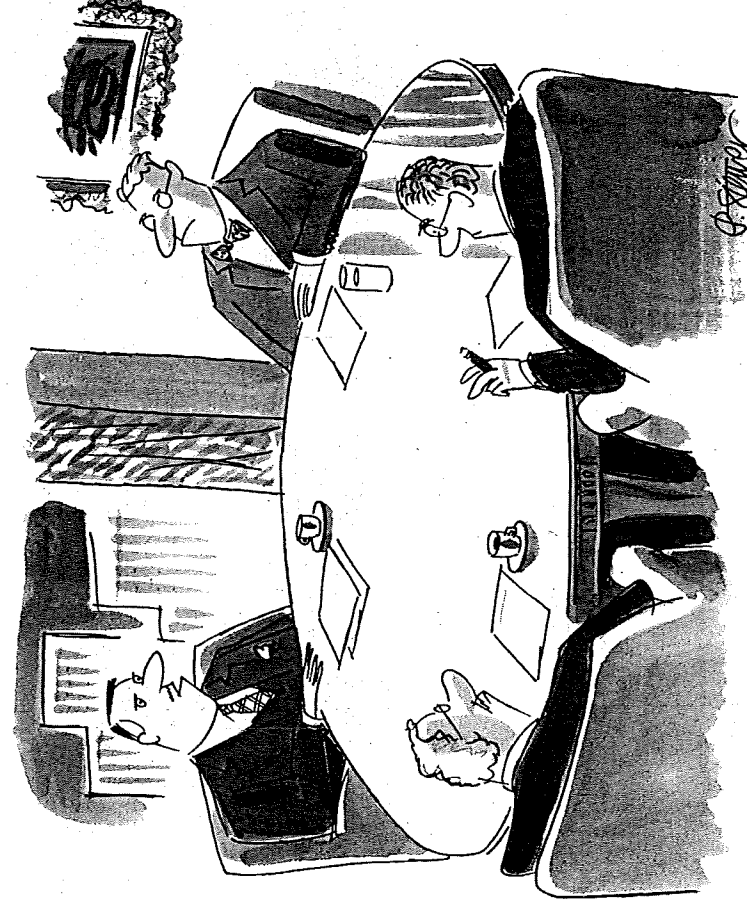
For me, it was definitely the highlight of the day. And it is very difficult to express the feelings that people's stories evoked. There was an intense silence that one attributes to listening not just with the ears but with soul, body and spirit. I know that I was deeply touched. At times it was difficult to determine where my story ended and where another's began. I felt so connected. Over the next few newsletters we hope to be able to share some of these stories.

My own story is not very spectacular. In fact for years, I resolutely resisted the label 'feminist' because I equated it with 'man-hating'. I would often make incredibly feminist statements and would validate my claims by adding "And I'm *not* a feminist" I experienced a sense of shame at being considered a feminist.

It started to change for me when I moved to another country for a couple

of years, where the misogyny was extremely blatant. It is often easier to identify flaws in a foreign culture. One would often hear ex-patriots say that if you weren't a feminist before living here, you were bound to become one. And so it was for me.

And once I returned to Canada, I soon realised that things were not exactly perfect for women here. (I believe I just won the "Understatement of the Year Award"). It has been a slow journey and I have a lot to learn. Too often, I find myself laughing at sexist jokes because I am afraid of appearing to be a stick in the mud. I often fail to see existing power imbalances in relationships between men and women. And I often lack a strong analysis of patriarchal structures. Nevertheless I often put myself in the company of women from whom I can learn lot. That's why I claim one of the other board member's phrase as my own. I'm a "F.I.T.", and I'm proud of it.



"Anyone here not a feminist?"



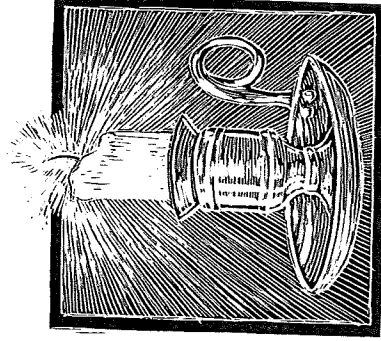
Thought You Should Know ...

Client Rights in Psychotherapy and Counselling

FACE (Feminist Advocates for Counselling Ethics) in conjunction with WCREC (Women's Counselling Referral and Education Center) and TRCC/MWAR (Toronto Rape Crisis Center/Multicultural Women Against Rape) have put together a handbook entitled: ***"Client Rights in Psychotherapy and Counselling"***.

The handbook talks about client rights; what constitutes violation of client rights; options for challenging a therapist; how to interview and evaluate a therapist; and a review of the signs of ethical therapy.

FACE describes itself as a client directed project for the prevention of client exploitation, which develops education on client rights in psychotherapy and counselling.



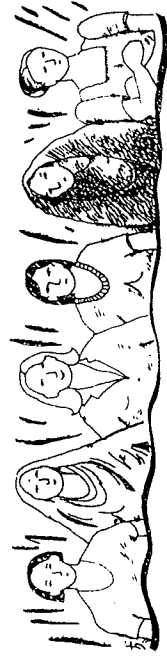
"Creating a culture of Human Rights: Fighting Global Capitalism" was the theme of the AGM for the National Action Committee on the Status of Women (NAC) held last June. International Guests included Maria Rodriguez, a Cuban Parliamentarian and Sandra Ramos, a human rights activist from Nicaragua.

One of the main topics for discussion was how to fight the new Federal funding guidelines of the Women's Program Fund. As many of you know, effective as of March 31 the Federal Government will no longer provide core funding to women's

WCREC is a feminist/anti-oppressive community based organization which provides assessment and referrals to screened therapists in private practice and counselling services with the overall goal to promote the mental and emotional well being of women. The TRCC/MWAR is a feminist, woman centered organization that provides counselling, support and advocacy to women and children who are survivors of sexual violence.

The handbook can be picked up for free at any of the three organizations. If you need copies sent elsewhere, FACE, WCREC and TRCC/MWAR are asking for a donation of \$2.00 per book to cover the cost of shipping and handling. Cheques may be made payable to:

Client Rights Project (WCREC),
525 Bloor Street West, 2nd Floor,
Toronto, Ontario, M5S



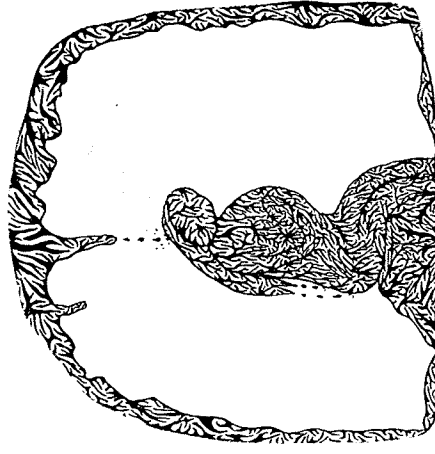
News from NAC

centres and programmes across Canada. NAC will continue unhindered in lobbying and advocating for the rights of women according to their feminist analysis.

This year's Women of Courage Award was awarded to two women: Salome Lukas, a long time feminist and activist who was instrumental in organising the NAC Women of Colour Caucus as well as in developing NAC's affirmative action policy; and the woman known as Jane Doe (from Jane Doe vs. the Toronto Police), whose victory was felt by many in the case that made police

accountable for the systemic discrimination of women who have been raped. Participants walked to Parliament Hill and met with representatives to share their concerns with representatives with all the political parties. They addressed their concerns about the funding cuts to women's programmes. Now they are looking for our support.

**NAC IS RELYING ON OUR
URGENT FINANCIAL SUPPORT
TO CONTINUE ITS FIGHT
WITH THE FEDERAL
GOVERNMENT TO RESTORE
CORE FUNDING TO WOMEN'S
ORGANISATIONS. CALL: 1-800-
665-5124**



NAC NEEDS YOUR HELP!

This letter was received at the AWRC on November 12th.

Dear Supporter of NAC:

We write this letter at a crucial moment in NAC's existence. In fact, we write this letter now because NAC's existence is in jeopardy.

As you already know, the federal government has been constantly cutting the budget of the federal Women's Program Fund, which helps ensure the survival of many women's organizations including NAC. In addition to the cuts, Status of Women Canada (SWC) also changed the guidelines for accessing the funds. These new guidelines are based on project-funding and simply undermine the day to day work of equality-seeking organizations such as NAC.

After having our first proposal for core funding turned down earlier this year, we re-applied to the Women's Program Fund through SWC proposing a project to study government economic policies on women and women's organizations last August and we were arbitrarily turned down. We then re-applied in October and SWC had given us assurances that they would give us a quick response. To date, eight months into our fiscal year, we have not received any funding from SWC, one of our main funders. The bottom line is that we are no longer able to pay our staff or meet our expenses and therefore, keep our doors open.

We appeal to you for your urgent financial support now! Your contribution at this time will help keep NAC's doors open while we wage this battle for funding and continue the struggle for women's equality.

NAC's survival and its critical work around women's equality rights are seriously threatened. We must avert this potential demise. The struggle is not over yet and you can help secure the future of NAC and equality-seeking organizations all over Canada.

If you wish to receive more information, please contact the National Office as soon as possible.

Thank you.

In Solidarity & Sisterhood,
NAC Executive Committee

203-234 Eglinton Avenue East, Toronto, ON M4P 1K5
tel: (416)932-1718 or (800)665-5124 fax: (416)932-0646



Laughter is the Best Medicine

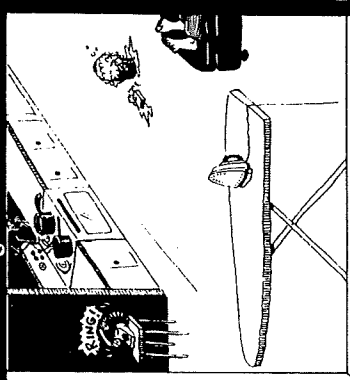
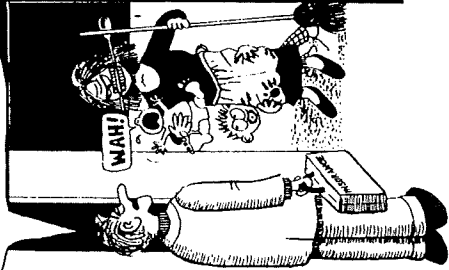
Prosperity Incense

- 1 teaspoon each cloves, nutmeg, lemon balm, poppy, and cedar
- 2 drops each honeysuckle and almond oil

Make sure cloves, nutmeg, lemon balm, poppy, and cedar are completely dry. Grind dry ingredients together. Add honeysuckle and almond oil and allow to dry. Burn on self-igniting charcoal.

Mr. Johnson was unable to figure out what was wrong with his approach to housewives, until he got to the Smith household, where Ms. Smith helped him understand with her broom.

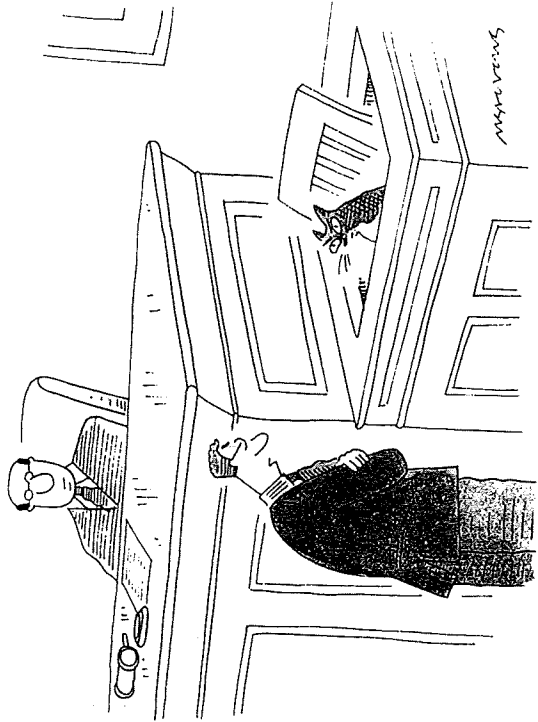
I wonder if I might speak with the working member of the household?



D. REUM

Dianne Reum

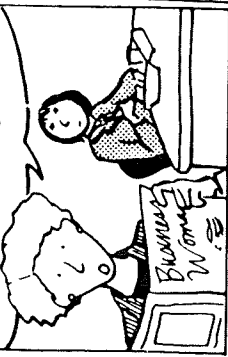
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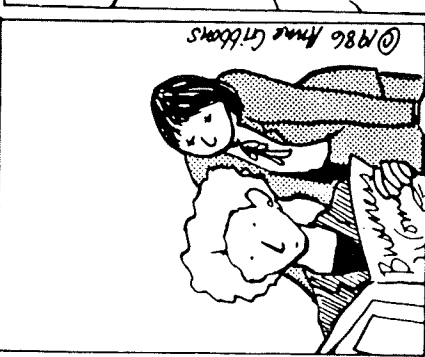
WASH!

"Isn't it true that you did not love the victim, as you claim, but, in point of fact, feigned affection for the sole purpose of obtaining tuna fish?"

Look at this couple, Eve!
High-powered careers,
two children, active in
their community...



triathlons, skiing,
gourmet cooking...



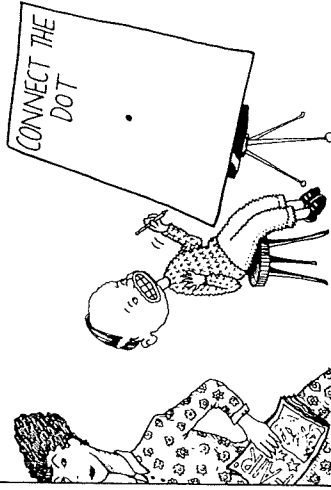
@1986 Anne Gibbons

There's a nanny in there
somewhere.

Anne Gibbons

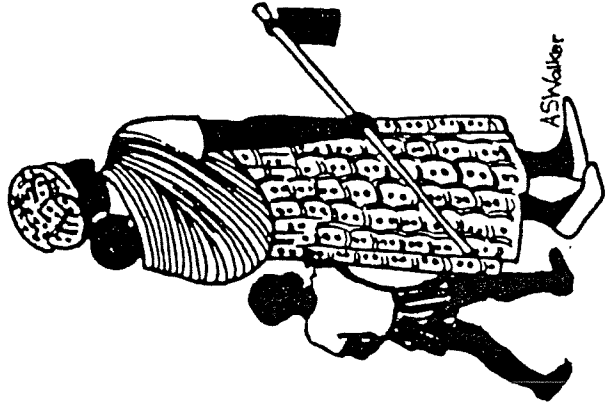
An English professor wrote the sentence "Woman without her man is nothing" on the blackboard and directed her students to correct it. The guys wrote "Woman, without her man, is nothing."
The girls wrote "Woman! Without her, man is nothing."

HOW TO KEEP CHILDREN QUIET FOR HOURS



R. Piccolo '71

Rina Piccolo



AS Walker

ANTIGONISH WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER
SUITE 204, KIRK PLACE
ANTIGONISH, NOVA SCOTIA
B2G 2C1

