



Newsletter, May 1983
ISSN 0227-6879

PORNOGRAPHY HURTS US ALL

Violent sexual intercourse, physical mutilation of girls and women and degrading, humiliating scenes are no longer hidden in plain brown wrappers. What effect does this have on societal attitudes toward women in general ways? How does it affect our view of ourselves? What can we do about it?

The OCSW, along with many groups and thousands of individuals, has spoken out against the commercial exploitation of women as sexual objects and the linking of sexual pleasure with violence against women.

Yet, what effect will restriction on publication and broadcast have on censorship and repression of healthy sexuality?

These are some of the aspects we will attempt to tackle on Thursday, May 5, 8:00 p.m. at the home of Lenore Davidson, 80 Coldstream Avenue, Toronto.

Guest speaker will be Marilou McPhedran, Health Advocate, City of Toronto. She is working with the Pepino Commission and will speak about the nature of pornography and current recommendations for improving the social situation.

By TTC: take the Northtown bus from Eglinton Station, get off at Glengrove and Avenue Road, walk west on Glengrove. Coldstream is the first street on the right.

Driving: if going north on Avenue Road, turn left (west) on Glengrove, Coldstream is first on the right. Lenore's phone number is 489-9701.

IN MEMORIAM

Joan Nankivell, a long-time member of the OCSW, died of cancer earlier this year. The OCSW has sent a contribution to Nellie's in her memory.

NAC ANNUAL MEETING

The National Action Committee (NAC) annual meeting was held in Ottawa, March 25-28. OCSW delegates were Lee Grills and Linda Pergantes; observers were Lenore Davidson, Anne Spencer, Brigid O'Reilly and Cathleen Morrison.

NAC, which now represents more than 225 women's groups across the country, reported a very busy year. Workshops focused on survival, pornography and prostitution, the income tax system as it relates to women, employment, government services and federal/provincial funding, and health.

Resolutions from the workshops should be available from the NAC office within the next month. Call NAC at 922-3246. Anyone interested in discussing them in regard to OCSW, feel free to call Lee Grills at 488-1486.

One of the conference speakers was Sheila Day, Saskatchewan Human Rights Commissioner, who gave a lively and practical talk on what women can do about the Charter of Rights.

After the banquet, light entertainment, which produced restorative

P.O. Box 188, Station Q, Toronto, Ontario M4T 2M1

laughter, was provided by the NAC executive. Wendy Lawrence's newscast (which some may remember from OCSW Follies) was a highlight of the evening.

NAC did its usual lobby of the three federal parties and the sessions were judged a success by all who participated.

Elected to the NAC executive were OCSW members Chaviva Hošek, Moira Armour, Jay Macpherson, and Louise Delude.

SUB-COMMITTEE PURSUES REFORM

Educating the public about women and pensions is one of the objectives of the OCSW Pension Sub-Committee, which leads to a variety of speaking engagements.

On March 14 Anne Spencer and Brigid O'Reilly spoke to the University Women's Club of Scarborough on pension reform and the OCSW response to the Green Paper on Pension Reform.

* * * * *

On March 23 Brigid O'Reilly was one of a panel, discussing the Drop-Out Provision to the Canada Pension Plan and its potential application for foster parents. The panel discussion, at the Toronto Board of Education Building, was organized by the Children's Aid Society, the YWCA of Metro Toronto and the OCSW. Chairing the panel was OCSW member Marie Corbett. Brigitte Kitchen, another OCSW member and a professor at the York University School of Social Work, was also on the panel. Audrey Orr, Anne Spencer, Sylvia Pivko and Judy Campbell were members of the organizing committee for the evening.

* * * * *

The Pension Sub-Committee notes that the Parliamentary Task Force on Pension Reform is looking for submissions on any of five issues covered in their

Green Paper:

- the method of inflation protection proposed for employer sponsored pension plans
- changes proposed in survivor benefits under the Canada Pension Plan and Quebec Pension Plan
- the issue of expanding mandatory pension arrangements
- the financing of the CPP
- proposals to overcome special problems facing women, including homemakers, under the present system.

The Pension Sub-Committee will be making a submission on behalf of the OCSW. Any individual or group interested in doing so too should send their material, or notice of submission, by June 30, to Audrey O'Brien, Clerk of the Parliamentary Task Force on Pension Reform, House of Commons, Ottawa, Ont. K1A 0G6 or call (613) 992-3150, ext. 231.

WOMEN AND WORDS/LES FEMMES ET LES MOTS

is a bilingual, country-wide conference that will take place in Vancouver, June 30 to July 3, on the UBC campus. It is meant to bring together women working with the written word: writers, editors, printers, publishers, booksellers, critics, translators, teachers and librarians.

Participants will include Linda McKnight, President, McClelland and Stewart; Judith Merrill, science fiction writer; novelists Marian Engel and Margaret Atwood; poets Nicole Brossard and Phyllis Webb; critic Barbara Goddard; and many more. Billeting in private homes is available as is low-cost accommodation. Child care will be provided; also, simultaneous translation. Registration fees, full conference, \$40 for members (of the West Coast Women and Words Society), \$45 for non-members; individual Society

membership is \$5. West Coast Women and Words Society, Box 65563, Station F, Vancouver, B.C. V5N 4B0.

ANTI-PORN GROUP SEEKS MEMBERS

The Canadian Coalition Against Media Pornography is offering OCSW members the chance to join this new organization.

The Coalition is made up of people who "recognize that pornography and sex-role stereotyping violate the dignity and right to self-determination of women. We define pornography as verbal or pictorial material representing sexual behaviour that is degrading or abusive to one or more of the participants in such a way as to endorse the degradation and believe it to be substantially different from erotica, which we consider to be mutually pleasurable sexual expression between people who have enough power to be there by positive choice." The Coalition aims to make the public more aware of the negative force of pornography and to lobby government in favour of controlling legislation.

To join or learn more about them: Canadian Coalition Against Media Pornography, P.O. Box 1065, Station B, Ottawa, Ont. K1P 5R1. Fee is \$15.

BOROWSKI VS. ABORTION LAWS

In December 1981 Joe Borowski was granted standing in the Supreme Court of Canada to challenge the Criminal Code provision that allows abortions under certain circumstances (when the health of life or a woman is endangered).

On January 25 this year CARAL's application to intervene (make representations as an interested third party) in the case was denied.

The onus now falls on the federal government to ensure that women do not lose their already limited access to abortion. CARAL and women's groups must now sit on the sidelines hoping the Federal government will mount a vigorous defence. The trial date is set for May 19.

WOMEN IN SPORT

The federal government has just released the Summary of the National Survey on Women in Sport Leadership, a compilation of data on the nature and extent of women's involvement in fitness and amateur sport. Since release of the survey several recommendations have been advanced for use by major organizations and institutions in the field.

The findings include

- the number of women holding top-level professional positions within national sport organizations is considerably lower than that of men (16-18%)
- only 14% of national coaches are women
- in the voluntary sector, although recognized as active committee members, women occupy only 18% of all Board posts (where the big decisions are made). Copies of the report are available from Senator Ray Perrault, Minister of State, Fitness and Amateur Sport, House of Commons, Ottawa, Ont. K1A 0G6.

YMCA OFFERS PRINT AND TAPE RESOURCES

The "Y" reminds us that they have directories, manuals and videos on a variety of topics for sale: On Your Own, directory for teenagers; Discovering Life Skills with Women, series of manuals; Rape: Once is Too Often, video; Women and Employment, background paper; Women's

Group List; Guides for Group Leaders, series of manuals and films; You the Volunteer, Resource Guide; Your YW Serves, a cookbook. For prices contact YWCA of Metropolitan Toronto, Resource Development Department, 80 Woodlawn Avenue East, Toronto M4T 1C1.

St., Ottawa, Ont. K1P 5H3. To date, CRIAW publications have included Sport, Sex Roles and Sex Identity, Canadian Women in Politics: An Overview; Women and Culture: Selected Papers from the Halifax Conference; and Recording Angels: The Private Chronicles of Women from the Maritime Provinces of Canada, 1750-1950. (Most available in French.)

CRIAW PAPERS NOW AVAILABLE

The Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women is offering the next five volumes of The CRIAW PAPERS for \$20, from 415 -151 Slater