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L'éditorial

Jeanne Maranda Anne Gravereaux

La violence est avec nous, elle est même en nous! On a peur de l'admettre mais en même temps, on sent le besoin de se le dire. Comment expliquer autrement cette avalanche de textes, de témoignages, tantôt douloureux, tantôt agressifs, tantôt ironiques, qui forment ce Cahier?

On y a identifié plusieurs formes de violences: certaines sont subtiles, d'autres sont évidentes, quelques-unes nous habitent si intimement qu'on a peine à les débusquer, encore moins à les critiquer. Toutes font partie de notre quotidien.

Serions-nous toutes coupables du "péché de soumission" (Marie Denis) qui nous victimise et nous empêche d'agir? Il est plus que temps de reconnaître les tactiques du pouvoir qui nous violentent ou nous infériorisent. L'échange, l'information nous aideront à "déjouer" le processus de victimisation, et conscientes et confiantes en nous-mêmes, nous pourrions exiger que soit reconnu notre droit de ne plus être violentées. Et puis, il y a l'action. . . . Vous pourrez lire dans les pages du Cahier l'énorme travail fait par les groupes engagés dans les luttes pour faire reconnaître nos droits. Tout reste à faire!

N.B. Pour faire suite aux recommandations faites lors des "rites printaniers" (voir Sports, été 1983), et grâce au soutien de Jackie Matte du ministère des Collèges et Universités de l'Ontario, Anne Gravereaux a été invitée à se joindre à l'équipe des Cahiers afin de relever le défi d'une participation francophone à 50 p. 100.

Vous remarquerez, vers la fin, du Cahier nos nouvelles chroniques: lire, art, cinéma, régions, et en plus, une rubrique toute spéciale pour vous qui avez tant à nous dire. On l'a appelée: "à propos. . ." Qu'en dites-vous?

Editorial

Johanna Stuckey

Power and its abuses are the subject of most of the articles in this issue of CWS/cf. In the past we feminists have only too often avoided discussing, let alone exploring in depth, the subject of power. All of us can, of course, quickly list many of the abuses of power — sexual abuse, wife-beating, rape, incest, sexual harassment, media ex-

NOTRE ERREUR. . . .

Dans le numéro consacré au Sport (Printemps 1983, vol. 4, n° 3), l'article intitulé "La danse aérobic. . . en faites-vous?" a été attribué par erreur à Diane Guay. Il s'agit en fait de Diane Gagné, étudiante en maîtrise à l'Université de Montréal. Nous nous excusons de cette erreur, et regrettons tout embarras qu'elle a pu causer.

OUR ERROR

The Editors of *CWS/cf* apologize to Erin Mouré for publishing her poem *Birth* in Volume 3, No. 4 of *CWS/cf*; the poem was reprinted from *This Magazine* without permission of that magazine or of Erin Mouré, who held the copyright. Unfortunately Erin Mouré had no intention of reprinting this poem. We regret the discomfort and embarrassment its appearance caused Erin Mouré.

plotation of women, pornography, unequal laws that are either unenforced or unenforceable. We know who (and what) have power and who (and what) abuse it.

We have, however, only recently begun systematically to address the subject of power directly. We must continue to discuss what power is; how, in its subtle and not-so-subtle forms, it operates; if we as feminists and women want or need power, and why; and finally, what, if any, are the viable alternatives to power structures and power relationships.

It *must* be the task of the Women's Movement and of feminism not only to speak out and act against violence *in all its forms* but also to develop a thorough analysis and theory of power, of which violence is one manifestation.

The women, young and old, and female children who appear in the articles in this issue — victims of the abuse of power — are, along with their myriad abused sisters, martyrs of the Women's Movement. If we do not build upon their experiences in our analyses, they will have suffered *only* for the perpetuation of that very male power we are opposing.

The violence against women endemic to our society is both a symptom and a result of entrenched male power structures. The truth is that we women are *all* at risk every day and every night of our lives. So we must continue our acute awareness of the possibility of violence in our world from day to day; we should perhaps now become active in fighting it. Above all, we feminists must deepen our analyses not only of our society's violence against women (though that must be our first concern) but of the violence that is rife in our society *and* especially of the male power structures that support and tacitly endorse it. On such analyses our lives — our world — may depend!

March, 1982

Dear Editor:

My friend was raped. So was I, more than once, but it was so long ago that I don't feel anything now. It's my friend I want to talk about; she was drunk and she was lying in the hallway of her apartment building that night. A man came to her help; he offered to take her to her apartment, where he had sex with her. Even if she had begged for him to have intercourse with her — which she didn't; she's a lesbian — he and all other men must realize that intercourse is not without consequences. Apart from the obvious lack of respect for women . . . men must take their responsibilities for the births that they help to produce. If they don't want to care about women, they must care about . . . the children's lives. My friend is now pregnant because of this irresponsible man's actions. Surely he realized that she was drunk. Why did he only think of taking the opportunity to have sex?

My friend must now go through the ordeal of an abortion, and she will have to live with the tremendous pain it will cause her for a long time. Society says she will be committing murder and, although she doesn't believe that, her mind has not yet erased all of the trash she's been given by this male society for so long. So she really does believe it and it hurts her.

How in hell do I get out of here? How and when will I and other women be able to rid ourselves of (male) impositions, (male) values and finally live freely and be human? I would like so much to have room to LIVE here.

Marie-Jeanne Musset