

years now; or in lesbian and gay erotica that gets stopped at the border by homophobic customs officials who think *Penthouse* is great, but the other stuff filthy. Ms. Brown is a strong conservative (large and small c) politician who sees herself as accountable to the system of male-dominated private property.

So we need to think more about violence, its sources in social and economic arrangements, and its function in cultural life before we advocate and reward any kind of prior censorship. We need to think more about how we can seriously treat the real violence all around us in our art without further brutalizing ourselves and banalizing

the brutality. We need to think very, very hard about the possibility of regulating the commercial exploitation of violence because it contributes so much to the individual and social violence of men against women at home, at work, and on the streets. Most of all, we need to integrate an anticapitalist as well as an antisexist dimension with our understanding of violence in the media and in life, to work toward its eradication.

Varda Burstyn is a Toronto critic, writer, and teacher, whose special expertise is studies in media, particularly film.

The fat woman confronts a diet

The fat woman went on a diet because that is what fat women are supposed to do. The diet sheet said: fat women never eat breakfast, so that is one meal which is not a problem; the fat woman stopped eating breakfast. Fat people, said the diet sheet, should use smaller plates and only eat half as much; the fat woman drank glasses of cold water to keep her stomach quiet and she used smaller plates. Fat people should not, said the sheet sternly, stuff their fat faces between meals; the fat woman was not a nibbler nor a drinker, so she considered taking up smoking. The fat woman now felt tired all the time but the diet sheet said serenely, that was psychological. She collapsed one day; the diet sheet was beside itself with joy, fine, it said, you're doing fine.

Christine Donald
Toronto, Ontario

From the collection *The Fat Woman Rides Out*

SCHOLARSHIP AND WOMEN'S LIVES

A symposium on "Scholarship and Women's History: Exploring Women's Lives" will be held at Smith College October 19 and 20, 1983, to celebrate the opening of Alumnae Gymnasium, the new home of the College Archives and The Sophia Smith Collection (Women's History Archive). Anne F. Scott will deliver the keynote address, "The Historian and Her Sources," on Wednesday evening, October 19. Panelists Thursday night, October 20, will be Ellen C. DuBois and Linda Gordon. For further information contact Virginia Christenson, The Sophia Smith Collection, Smith College, Northhampton, MA 01063.

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