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MONTANA WOMEN'S RESOURCE

Vol.2 No.1

TEA PARTY PROTESTS MPC RATE HIKES

The Montana Tea Party, an organization opposing the Montana Power Co.'s (MPC) increase in utility rates, is in the process of organizing a chapter in Missoula.

Formed about a month ago by Bozeman woman, Anita Saunders, the Tea Party asks that consumers protest the recent MPC rate increase by withholding at least 10 per cent of each month's utility bill.

The amount withheld

should be deposited by a noncashable check in a bank safekeeping account, the party suggests. A tea bag stapled to the consumer's utility bill notifies the power company of the protest.

Missoula's chapter organizer, housewife Carole Hutchin, says that although the Tea Party needs the support of all classes, it is primarily a middle-class protest, unlike past protests against

the power company's rate hikes.

Hutchin said that she is opposed to the state Supreme Court's decision in late December that directed the Public Service Commission to approve MPC's request for a rate increase.

The Public Service Commission, the official regulatory agency, earlier had granted only a portion of the requested increase. Hutchin said she "doubted" the "legality" of the high cont.p.7

WOMEN REFUSING 'RAPE SCHEDULE'

Pam was driving to town to get groceries and gas from a campsite where she was vacationing with friends two years ago. On the way a man with two small children flagged her down.

"I usually wouldn't pick up a hitchhiker," she said. "I'm more careful than that."

But because he was with the children she stopped to give him a ride to town. Later, the man pulled a knife on her and threatened to "cut her to pieces", she said.

After the man had raped Pam he told her this was how he "got to know women." And added, "You're not mad, are you?"

"I screamed all the way back to the camp," Pam said.

When Jennifer and her friend were walking home to their apartment one spring evening four years ago in San Antonio, Texas, three men forced them into their car at gunpoint. They drove them to the country, raped them, then released them near a freeway.

Jennifer and Pam reconstructed their rape experiences at a rape forum attended by about 250 people which was co-sponsored by the University of Montana Program Services and the U.M. Women's Resource Center.

Rape, one of the fastest growing and most difficult to prosecute crimes, increased 11 per cent in Montana and in the nation last year, Judy Smith, U.M. women's studies instructor and WRC worker, told the large audience of about an equal number of men and women.

Rape is increasing because women are challenging traditional male roles, Smith said. Men are reacting to the challenge with that "time-honored response" of rape, she said.

Men cannot imagine what it is like to have to watch every car that goes by when walking alone at night or to be frightened when a pedestrian follows too closely, Smith said.

cont. p. 8

Cancer Risk Increased By:

— B.C. Pills

A University of California study suggests that three groups of women who take birth-control pills have an increased risk of breast cancer: those who take the pill as long as two to four years, those who take the pill to delay having their first child until their late twenties or early thirties, and women with previous noncancerous breast disease who take the pill six years or longer.

A San Francisco Bay area study compared 452 women hospitalized for breast cancer with 872 women of the same age and socioeconomic background treated for other diseases. And three times as many of the women having breast cancer had been on the pill before having their first child as had the noncancerous controls.

In women having benign breast disease, the risk of breast cancer seemed to be increased only if the pill had been used for more than six years.

— Estrogen Replacement Therapy

A 5 to 14 times greater risk of getting uterine cancer may be the hazard of estrogen-replacement therapy, according to two East Coast studies.

The studies were published in the New England Journal of Medicine along with two editorials. One editorial said that estrogen

It was also reported in the study that pill users ages 30 to 39 had a combined rate of fatal and nonfatal heart attacks 2.75 times higher than among comparable nonusers.

(This article was summarized from an article entitled, "Pill and Breast Cancer," in the December, 1975, issue of Off Our Backs which also said the FDA is net warning the 30-to-39 age group of the risks of the pill on its package labels. It was also reported in the article that the FDA is minimizing new information that pill users run a risk of serious and fatal strokes 4.1 to 4.4 times greater than nonusers.

Because of a study reported in the British Medical Journal in May, 1975, which said the combined rate of fatal and nonfatal heart attacks for women ages 40 or over who use the pill was five times higher than among comparable nonusers, the FDA announced recently that women of that age group should be urged to seek other forms of contraception."

gen (given to relieve menopausal symptoms) should only be used with "extreme care" and to consider not using it at all in women with previous blood-vessel ills, migraine headaches, family cancer history, and excessive smoking. The other editorial said that present data cannot

tell doctors whether the pills are safe enough to use at all.

About 6 to 10 million women use estrogen, a treatment started about 30 years ago but which has skyrocketed in the last 15 years. (The most widely used estrogen pill is Premarin.)



The estrogen, which is not the same as that used in birth-control pills, has already been linked to increased risks of blood clots, heart disease, and strokes.

A University of Washington study found that those taking estrogen had a 4.5 per cent greater risk of uterine cancer which increased with the age of the patient.

A Kaiser study done in California found the risk of cancer was increased 7.6 times with estrogen replacement. The risk also varied with exposure: from 5.6 for women taking estrogen from one to seven years to about a 14 times greater risk when taking estrogen for seven years or more.

Uterine cancer has increased 35 to 50 per cent from 1969 to 1974 in the San Francisco area. (Article summarized from the December, 1975, issue of Off Our Backs)

— Flagyl

Although Flagyl, a drug used in the treatment of trichomonas vaginitis, may cause cancer and birth defects, the Food and Drug Administration of October 28, 1975, refused to ban the drug.

Flagyl, the brand name for metronidazole, is the drug most frequently prescribed for women with trichomonas, a recurring vaginal infection with symptoms of burning and itching of the vagina along with a discharge.

A 1972 study by the National Cancer Institute indicated that Flagyl caused cancer in mice.

The dosage of Flagyl given to the rats was very close to the daily human dose used in clinical practice the FDA reported in its first study. It also said that the "evidence of increased risk of development of mammary tumors as a result (of taking the drug) is overwhelming."

In 1974, FDA medical officer Adrian Gross testified before a Senate subcommittee hearing that G.D. Searle, the company that manufactures and makes over \$17 million a year on Flagyl, had falsified data on the occurrence of cancerous tumors in test animals that were given Flagyl. The case was referred to the Justice Dept. for possible criminal prosecution.

In November, 1974, Dr. Marvin Legator, head of genetic toxicology at Brown University, reported that people treated with Flagyl had a substance indicating gene mutations in their urine. Genetic mutation is one known cause of birth defects.

"Metronidazole is carcinogenic in rodents, mutagenic in bacteria and should be regarded as potentially dangerous in humans," is quoted from the June, 1975, Medical Letter, a nonprofit publication on drugs run by medical school doctors across the country.

Instead of treatment with Flagyl, the Letter suggested twice-daily tub baths or semi-weekly douches with one tablespoon of white vinegar in a quart of warm water. It also recommended that women avoid wearing panty hose and tight or nylon underwear.

Other groups have recommended the use of spermicidal jellies to inhibit the growth of trich, or the use of acid-based nonspermicidal jelly such as Aci-jel throughout the menstrual cycle.

The Health Research Group, a Washington-based public-interest group, quoted a gynecology textbook saying "the major threat" of trichomonas is "to comfort rather than to health." Therefore, they conclude that the medical profession "should not use a known carcinogen for a non life-threatening condition."

Flagyl is prescribed to over 2 million women a year. And in 1972, it was prescribed uselessly to about 700,000 women for diseases it cannot cure, such as nonspecific vaginitis, fungus infections and gonorrhea.

(Article summarized from the December, 1975, issue of Off Our Backs)

MONTANA WOMEN'S RESOURCE

The Montana Women's Resource is published by the Women's Resource Center, U.M., Missoula. The Resource comes out 4 times a year and is available to all interested persons. Write us if you have names for our mailing list. We are very interested in hearing about women's activities around the state. Let us know when things are happening. Staff: Barbara Tucker, Nancy Ritz, Judy Smith, Linda Smith

Rape: A Political Crime

Rape is an act of a power politics men use to keep women in a subservient position, according to Susan Brownmiller in her book, Against Our Will, Men Women and Rape.

Female fear of rape and not a "natural inclination toward monogamy, motherhood or love, was probably the single causative factor in the original subjugation of women by man..." However, protection is expensive. And in the process women have been reduced to chattel and a crime committed against a woman's body was a crime against the "male estate", as Brownmiller said.

Analyzing a male interpretation of rape, Brownmiller cites the Biblical story of Potiphar's wife, not identified by first name, who cast a lecherous eye on Joseph the Hebrew slave. When the two were in the house alone, she allegedly caught Joseph "by his garment," Joseph fled and Potiphar's wife cried rape. She told her husband and Joseph was thrown into prison (an example of what can happen to an "upstanding" fellow when a vengeful female lies and cries rape. By interpreting the Pharaoh's dreams Joseph was released. As Brownmiller said, this is the male side of the story.

Brownmiller points out that male writers early on incorporated

into law and literature the myth that women lie about rape.

Brownmiller also points out how rape during wartime has been overlooked and almost never reported in the media. One of the most powerful chapters in the book is one about wartime rape. As Brownmiller said: "War provides men with the perfect psychological backdrop to give vent to their contempt for women. The very maleness of the military, the brute power of weaponry exclusive to their hands, the spiritual bonding of men at arms, the manly discipline of orders given and orders obeyed, the simple logic of the hierarchical command confirms for men what they long suspect, that women are peripheral, irrelevant to the world that counts, passive spectators to the action in the center ring."

Brownmiller documents the widespread raping that occurred in "just" and "unjust" wars and points out how it was publicized to incite fighting while a war was in progress, but afterwards poohpooed as "propaganda", implying that reports had been grossly exaggerated, to discredit whoever happened to be the enemy.

The reason for mass raping that occurs during war is to prove to the conquered that they truly are conquered. The victorious army does this by committing

the ultimate assault to defeated males' manhood-- raping the men's women or property

(usually done in front of them).

In Bangladesh, for example, 200,000 to 400,000 Bengali women were raped by Pakistani soldiers during the nine month conflict, according to Bangladesh authorities. Bangladesh tradition prevents a Moslem husband from taking back a wife who has been touched by another man.

Gynecological infection and venereal disease were rampant among the rape victims of Bangladesh. In addition, according to Brownmiller's figures, 25,000 women became pregnant.

A myth that has long had credence is that rape decreases when men have access to prostitutes. As Brownmiller asserted, this myth was exploded by the Vietnam War. This was the first war of institutionalized prostitution. Brothels surrounded the camps. The unspoken military theory was that women's bodies were not only a "reward of war" but a "necessary provision" like "soda pop and ice cream to keep our boys healthy and happy", Brownmiller said.

One Vietnam gang rape recounted in the book exemplified how men who refused to participate in rapes were handled. Five men on a reconnaissance patrol in Cat Tuong in November, 1966, on a mission to search for Viet Cong took a young woman, Phan Thi Mao, along with them. Brownmiller said it was understood the

men would rape her and after that kill her.

Individual acts of cruelty were practiced on Mao by the men to determine a masculine pecking order, according to the account. But one of the men, Private First Class Sven Ericksson, did not participate in Mao's rape and murder. And when Ericksson refused to participate, the leader of the patrol, Sergeant Tony Meserve, derided him, calling him a queer and a chicken.

When Ericksson attempted to report the incident to his superiors, he met a wall of resistance. But he finally found a Mormon chaplain who helped him alert the Criminal Investigation Division and Mao's decomposing body was found. When a court martial was finally held, Ericksson's "manhood" was questioned by his superiors while Meserve was depicted as "one of the best combat soldiers I have known."

Another gang rape of a peasant woman at Quang Ngai Province was photographed step by step by one of the participants with his instamatic camera.

Ironically, the slaughter of women and children was eventually reported but the raping at My Lai was kept silent. However, one GI who kept the My Lai investigation alive by writing letters to Washington, reported seeing a body of a woman who was "spread-eagled, as if on display" with an "11th Brigade patch between her legs" as if it were "some type of ...badge of honor."

Prison rape is another area that has been ignored by people other than feminists in showing the similarity between the homosexual and heterosexual rape experience. Young, weaker, less violent males are the ones selected to become the "gal-boys" or "wives" of the most aggressive prisoners. According to an autobiographical account by a prisoner quoted in the book, rape was tolerated, even encouraged, by the prison authorities because "it helped them control the men." "Especially the tough ones they called devils. They believed that if a devil had a gal-boy, he would be quiet...a good worker and wouldn't kill guards and prisoners, settled like a married man."

A study of prison rapes Brownmiller quoted said the prison homosexual rapist does not consider himself a homosexual. She also correctly notes that the rapist is not motivated by sexual need, because that could have been fulfilled by masturbating. The motivation for prison rapes like heterosexual rapes is to conquer, degrade, or obtain dominance over another person.

In a section on police rape Brownmiller cites an example involving a New York City Police Detective, James Farley, who was suspended from the force in 1972 for raping a 15-year old girl. And in 1974, he was sentenced to 15 years for the "admitted rape at gunpoint" of two women on

the West Side of Manhattan. He had also committed three other rapes in other sections of New York--all while he was a member in good standing of the New York Police Department. (An example of the abuse of power committed by those whose job is to control such abuses.)

Nothing has been more pervasive and more destructive to women than the myth of the heroic rapist. For example, in a column dedicated to Jack the Ripper, the unknown man who mutilated and murdered five prostitutes in London, Charles McCabe of the San Francisco Chronicle characterized the Ripper as "that great hero of my youth, that skilled human butcher who did all his work on alcoholic whores."

Another example of immortalizing a murder/rapist occurs in the Rolling Stones song "Midnight Rambler", in which America's Boston Strangler, Albert DeSalvo, who strangled and stabbed eleven women and left their sexually mutilated bodies in garish positions with nylon stockings tied around their necks is memorialized.

Mick Jagger, using his trademark scarves, recreates on stage the rape/murder of 23 year old Beverly Samans, the most viciously mutilated of the Strangler's victims.

(Ironically, in October, 1974, Ms. Magazine ran an article entitled, "Can a Feminist Love the World's Greatest Rock and Roll Band?" by Karen

cont. on p. 10

Threats of Firings, Strike Plague Salary Negotiations

"Small gains" have been the result of three months of salary negotiations plagued with threats of firing by hospital administrative personnel and a strike by the nurses, Registered Nurse Linda Fredrickson, the nursing staff representative on the salary negotiations committee of Community Hospital in Missoula, Montana, said in a recent interview.

The nurses did not strike because their attorneys advised them they had no right to strike and they had a no-strike clause in their three-year contract made in 1975.

They settled for a starting hourly wage for R.N.s of \$4.40, an increase of 50 cents an hour, with no increases in fringe benefits. (The starting hourly wage in Helena is \$5.63; Billings is \$5.50 and scheduled to increase to \$6.00 in 1977.)

The nurses did, however, succeed in getting a seniority clause in the contract and the re-hiring of the nurses who had been laid off in December. But this resulted in subsequent layoffs of nurses with less seniority resulting in the hospital being shortstaffed, according to Fredrickson.

The problems the nurses have had with current negotiations resulted from a poor contract they signed in 1975, Fredrickson said. This contract allowed them to negotiate "economic" issues on a yearly basis. It, however, allowed negotiations about "non-economic" issues every three years.

Frank Occhuito, the current hospital administrator who assumed these duties in 1974, helped conclude the 1975 three-year contract. He used pressure tactics and rushed the nurses on

the committee to close the contract, Fredrickson said. And because the committee members knew nothing about their rights they succumbed to the pressure, she added.

In July of 1975 a director of nursing, Mary Larter, was hired who started a "float-pool" policy. This meant registered nurses and licensed practical nurses would help in the area of the hospital in which they were most needed.

Fourteen new nurses were hired to start the program. Simultaneously the number of patients dropped so all the nurses work hours were cut 20 per cent.

This reduction resulted in full-time people working only four days and being "on call" the other day. This meant being home by the phone for eight hours, Fredrickson said.

The nurses filed a grievance with the director of nursing about the policy but were unable to open negotiations because this was considered a "noneconomic" issue, Fredrickson said.

Occhuito said all fringe benefits such as holidays and sick leave were "noneconomic" issues, according to Fredrickson.

The nurses then sought legal advice from Duane Johnson, the Labor Relations Consultant, who confirmed that fringe benefits are an economic issue, she said. The nurses demands for salary increases were countered with choices of a small hourly wage increase or an increase in fringe benefits, but not both.

cont. p. 7



Nurses' Salary Negotiations cont. from p. 6

Fredrickson said hospital administration negotiators frequented their justifications of low salaries with comments like: "You live in Missoula, a community with beautiful mountains instead of a city where you chance being murdered or mugged."

She said, however, that the nurses salaries could supplement a working husband's but were not sufficient for a single woman to support a family. And many of the nurses are divorced and supporting children, she said.

She added that she is single, rents, drives an "old jalopy" and could not make it with a child to support.

During current negotiations, the nurses were told they could not attend meetings during the coffee and meal breaks, Fredrickson said. The nurses sought legal advice from Johnson who confirmed that they had a "right" to do what they wanted on breaks. The administration still however, remained ada-

mant in this policy until the nurses threatened to file a report with the National Labor Relations Board, Fredrickson said.

Then the administration agreed to allow the nurses to use their breaks how they wished although it enforced a rule requiring signing in and out to check the time length of breaks, she said. The administration said this policy was to keep track of overtime but hinted it was to "discourage" having meetings, Fredrickson said.

Registered Nurse Betty Murdock, Chairwoman of the Grievance Committee, attended a negotiations meeting during her shift and called the time spent at the meeting a supper break.

She was accused of leaving intensive care and endangering the health of a patient and was suspended for three days, Fredrickson said. Murdock also had a letter placed in her file discrediting her employment record, she said.

The Negotiating Com-

mittee subsequently demanded that the letter be removed from Murdock's file and that she be paid for the three days during which she was suspended, Fredrickson said. Throughout the period of negotiations the nurses filed eight unfair labor practices with the National Labor Relations Board

Seattle, Wash. The board investigated and decided the hospital was guilty of all eight, Fredrickson said.

One of the unfair labor practices filed referred to Murdock's case. However, the negotiations committee succeeded in getting the report removed from her file and in getting payment for her for the three-day suspension period, Fredrickson said.

The nurses have now agreed to drop the remaining seven charges if the hospital administration would write letters of apology to the nurses and post public notices in the hospital, Fredrickson said.

by Barbara Tucker

Tea Party cont.



court's decision and hoped through efforts of the Tea Party regulatory power would be restored to the PSC.

Hutchin said that she hopes to arrange a panel discussion with legislators, PSC representatives, and MPC

executives but has had difficulty finding a meeting hall. She said that groups were "intimidated" by Montana Power or "afraid" of being involved in controversy.

She also said that she had difficulty finding a bank which would agree to open an account for the Tea Party, although some of the bankers she knew on a "first-name basis."

(First Security Bank in Missoula has set up the account.)

Hutchin said that she was prepared to call grandmothers and other women she knows and have a sit-down strike in the lobby of MPC's office.

Hutchin is distributing bumper stickers for \$1 each which read:

Fight Utility Rate Hikes.
Join the Montana Tea Party.

Interested persons who would like to help financially or volunteer services contact Hutchin at 3824 Mount Ave. or call 549-7820. page 7

However, Smith noted that women are tired of being victimized by rape and living by a "rape schedule". They are organizing, demanding the right to go out alone at night, learning self-defense techniques and responding to the rapist by fighting back. Some women are advocating women carry guns to protect themselves, Smith continued.

Smith quoted clinical psychologist James Selkin, director of the Denver General Hospital's Violence Research Unit who said: "A potential rapist looks for a woman who is vulnerable to attack." When a rapist grabs a woman and says, "Don't scream," he is testing her. If she responds quickly and assertively, showing the man she will not be an easy victim, the rapist will usually back down and pick a less troublesome victim.

Images of rape and violence perpetrated against women as a form of entertainment are everywhere, Smith said. She cited a copy of an advertisement run in the Missoulian for a film showing at Studio One called "The Big Rape." Another said, "Homocidal maniacs escape from asylum...gullible love-starved women become their prey."

A series of detective magazines all picturing women as passive victims and combining a sexual image with rape were shown. Some of the headlines were: "At Large: Psycho with a

Secret List of Women to Kill or Rape"; "Welcome to Puberty, Pamela. I'm your Rapist-Killer"; "Cross-Country Rape and Slay Spree of the Frustrated Bondage Freak"; "Monster Rapist Kills by Penetration Alone!"

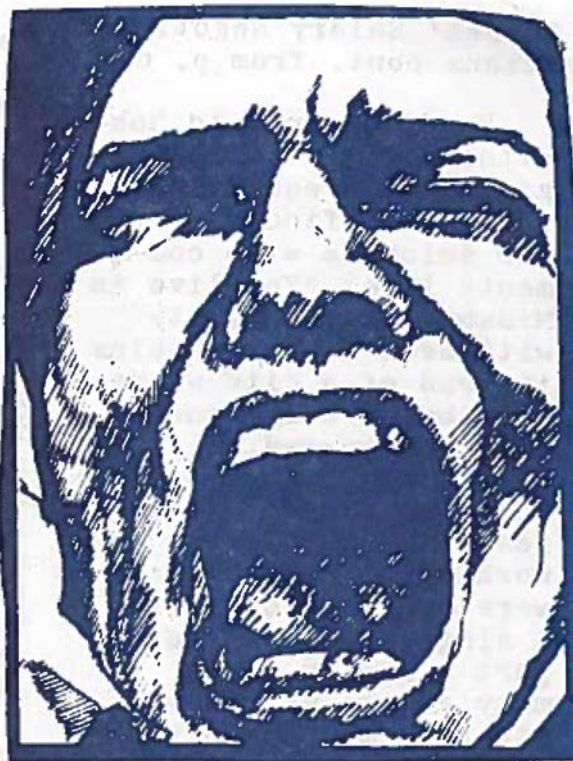
The panel included Smith, the two rape victims, Women's Place worker Anne Maclay, Missoula Deputy Sheriff Bruce Elwood and Missoula Deputy County Attorney Ed McLean.

Maclay, a member of Women's Place, a women's health collective whose members will act as a rape victim's advocate accompanying her to the hospital, the sheriff's office or the police station, said 36 Missoula rape victims had sought their aid in 1975.

The victims ranged in age from 14 to mid-40's Maclay said. A study of rape in the Washington, D.C. area showed that victims ranged in age from 15 months to 96 years, she said.

It's a "myth" that rapists are "easily distinguished" from the rest of society because of their "perverted behavior" or outside appearance, Maclay said. The Missoula victims attackers included family members, friends and strangers, she said.

Although juries, judges and law enforcement officials think women provoke rape by their dress or behavior, statistics show that rape has the lowest percentage of "precipitative behavior" of any violent crime (rape-4.4



per cent; unarmed robbery-6.1 per cent; armed robbery-10.7 per cent; assault-14.4 per cent; and homicide-22 per cent.), Maclay said.

And although a woman cannot resist being raped when threatened by men with weapons or if knocked unconscious, the attack is often not considered rape unless resistance can be proven Maclay said. Women are conditioned to act as victims, hesitate to react violently and are usually smaller than the rapist, she said.

Maclay said another myth is that if a woman is raped she might as well "enjoy it". She added that rape is an act to "degrade" another person and this myth refuses to acknowledge the crime.

Pam agreed, saying, rape was "not a sexual experience" and added: "I experienced it as a death."

Nor is rape a crime of uncontrollable lust, Maclay said, citing statistics showing that 71 per cent of all rapes are planned and that most rapists have other sexual outlets.

Rape is now called "sexual intercourse without consent by a person not the victim's spouse" and is punishable by 20 years in prison.

Another important change in the law (as of July, 1975) is that the victim's past sexual history is not longer admissible in a rape prosecution. However, two exceptions to the law exist: "(a) Evidence of the victim's past sexual contact with the offender; (b) Evidence of the specific instances of the vic-

tim's sexual activity to show origin of semen, pregnancy, or disease which is at issue in the prosecution under this section."

If the rape victim contracts a venereal disease from the rapist, it cannot be diagnosed until a few days later in the case of gonorrhea and weeks later in the case of syphilis.

However, information that the rape victim has venereal disease at the time of the rape can be used to discredit her case. Therefore, it is to the women's advantage to go to her own private doctor to determine whether she contracted venereal disease.

At Pam's trial, however, evidence that the rapist had raped a woman two days before the trial, in addition to beating his father, was

not admitted in the courtroom. But questions about her sexual history were allowed, even down to whether, "I wore a bra," she said.

The man who raped Pam was convicted. On the day of the trial the man who raped Jennifer pleaded guilty.

A woman who does not want to prosecute a rape case can file an anonymous third-party report through Women's Place.

Rape victims are required to submit to a physical examination to collect evidence for prosecution. Trauma of the flesh in the genital area, semen in the vagina and pubic hairs from the rapist all can be used as evidence during prosecution, Elwood said.

by Barbara Tucker

Goings On

MONTANA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

April 29, 30 and May 1 Women's Conference in Bozeman, Montana, featuring Betty Friedan, author of The Feminine Mystique, Jennifer James, speaking on sexuality and sexual violence, and Meg Christian, a feminist vocalist and musician. Workshops at the conference will include: Politics of Feminism, Assertiveness Training, Lesbian Politics, Women's Studies, Women Alone, Women and Health

Montana Women Offenders, Women in Electoral Politics, Women's Sexuality, Consciousness Raising, Women in the Arts, Sex-Role Stereotyping, Equal Employment and Title IX

March 9

--WRC Brown Bag discussion on anarchist-feminism by members of a feminist theory study group.

The topic for next quarter's Brown Bag Series will be "Women in Art and Literature."

Ongoing Programs

--Back to School Group for women who are returning or considering returning to school.
--Consciousness Raising for women who want to explore the changing roles of women and men in American society.
--Self-help Workshops
--Women's History Project
--Montana Women Offenders Divorce Survival
--Spring Conferences scheduled for Missoula: Women and Health
Politics of Feminism

BROWNMILLER REVIEW --
Durbin in which she said
that indeed, a feminist
can love the Rolling
Stones and calls "Mid-
night Rambler" a "fun"
song.)

Brownmiller also cites
some of the myths about
rape that pervade law
and literature such as:

--All women want to be
raped.

(Although "pleasura-
ble rapes" are common-
place in the media, wo-
men who had been raped,
when interviewed, said
they feared for their
lives and that the ex-
perience was terrifying
and certainly not plea-
surable.)

--No woman can be raped
against her will.

(The rapist has years
of aggressiveness condi-
tioning in his favor,
the element of surprise
and superior strength.
Women, however, are con-
ditioned to be nonaggres-
sive and passive. Fre-
quently, verbal threats
are all that is needed
to get the women to sub-
mit because she is so
fearful.)

--She was asking for it.

(This shifts the blame
on the woman for hitch-
hiking, being out late at
night or where she "wasn't
supposed to be." Fifty
per cent of all rapes,
however, occur in the vic-
tims residence. And the
National Commission on
the Causes and Prevention
of Violence came up with
these statistics on "pre-
cipitative" behavior:

Homocide	22.0%
Assault	14.4%
Rape	4.4%

Armed	
Robbery	10.7%
Unarmed	
Robbery	6.1%)

In Brownmiller's last
chapter, she cites re-
commendations to combat
rape. And although she
includes legal reforms,
some of which I will men-
tion later, her primary
goal is ending toleration
of pornography and prosti-
tution.

As she argued, it is
hypocritical and demean-
ing to women to be sub-
jected to a double stan-
dard maintained by liber-
als which allows the den-
igration of women in por-
nography as a so-called
valid extension of free
speech but seeks to ex-
punge "nigger" jokes or
racial slurs from society.

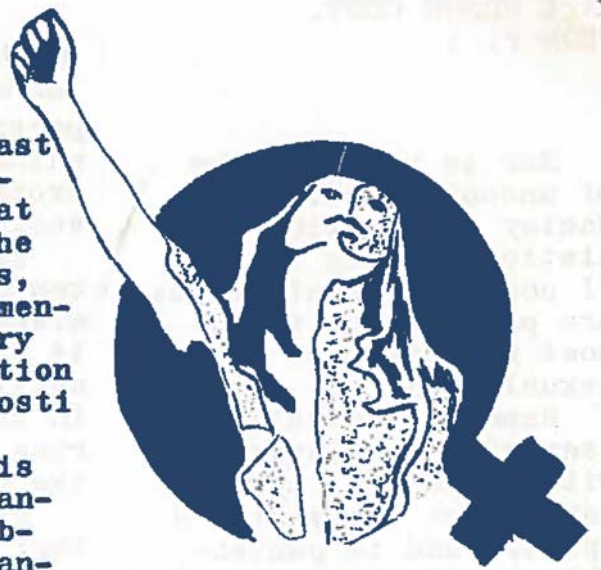
One of the legal re-
forms Brownmiller sug-
gested was to delete from
the law that a "spouse"
cannot be raped.

As she correctly as-
serted:

"In the cool judgment
of right-thinking women,
compulsory sexual inter-
course is not a husband's
right in marriage, for
such a 'right' gives the
lie to any concept of e-
quality and human dignity.
Consent is better arrived
at by husband and wife a-
fresh each time, for if
women are to be what we
believe we are--equal
partners--then intercourse
must be constructed as an
act of mutual desire and
not as a wifely 'duty'
enforced by the permissi-
ble threat of bodily harm
or of economic sanctions."

(This principle of law
is accepted in the crimi-
nal codes of Sweden, Den-
mark, U.S.S.R. and other
countries of the Commu-
nist bloc.)

From the preceding it
is obvious that Brownmil-
ler's book is important



because of the informa-
tion about rape she has
collated. But the weak-
nesses of the book occur
in her chapter on recom-
mendations to end rape.

With a premise that
rape is a political
crime men use to keep
women in a subservient
position or use whenever
women begin challenging
male privilege, I found
Brownmiller's solution
limited. (Her answer
is for women to assume
their 50 per cent of
the power structure.)

However, to end a
crime based on power or
that fits into a struc-
ture of one person ex-
erting dominance over a-
nother, the entire sys-
tem of power or hierar-
chy must be abolished.
To do this means chang-
ing our present politi-
cal and economic system.
An example of such a so-
ciety is a model Ursula
Leguin envisioned in her
novel, The Dispossessed,
where rape has essential-
ly become a nonentity be-
cause structures which
encourage dominance and
hierarchy have been done
away with: Sex roles
have been abolished and
men and women are equals.
Only in such a society
will rape end.

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