



by Deirdre McKay

Our view of nature has social origins. In Western patriarchal thought women are closer to nature than men, women being considered irrational, while nature is described as wild and disorderly.

Ecofeminists claim that this has been used as a pretext for male domination of women, identifying this form of domination as the prototype for all others, the source of an annihilation of female identity and creativity and the suppression of "feminine" qualities in men. Ecofeminist analysis of the development of Western civilization places this concept of nature at the heart of our current situation, one in which degradation of the environment threatens human life.

Under the ecofeminist equation of woman and nature, ravaging the environment becomes aggression against women. Conservation and ecology are claimed as caring, feminist concerns, the basis for utopian visions of harmonious,

diverse, decentralized communities. In capitalist economy of "managed scarcity", domination, both of nature and of people, remains an ideal for many members of society. If society continues to attach positive value domination, it is unlikely that the twin goals of equality and environmental sustainability will be reached.

Ecofeminism has its roots in the women's peace movement of the 1970s, where women connected domination of Western society by male values with the threat of ecological destruction through nuclear warfare and pollution. This situation arose from social development directed by male values, without any significant contributions from women's experience. Women thus have little interest in continuing environmental degradation, rather a special motivation for its elimination.

Peace activism is a particular focus for ecofeminists as they consider military technology to reflect a pervasive cultural situa-

tion, connect it with rape, genocide, imperialism, the destruction of nature and lives lived in fear. Starhawk, who spoke at the Casino Theatre on February 10, claims "the personal is political" and links her ecofeminist beliefs to her protest against the Gulf War, nuclear power, and support of human rights. She advocates an ecofeminist praxis which involves engaging in non violent civil disobedience to stop such threats to continued human existence.

Ecofeminists are concerned with human liberation and our relationship with nonhuman nature, believing that what we do about ecology - they way we tackle our environmental crisis - is dependent on our ideas of the man - woman - nature relationship. Beginning with a vocal critique of environmental management and technology to clarify the gender politics of ecology, ecofeminism addresses this problem by supporting diversity and opposing domination, homogeneity, and violence.

15 myths about rape

by Lara Morris

When she says NO, she really means YES right? WRONG. This is just one of the Fifteen Myths about rape.

NO MEANS NO.

Dalhousie Public Interest Research Group (DAL PIRG) is taking this message to students through a poster campaign about the myths surrounding homosexual and heterosexual rape.

THE FIFTEEN MYTHS ABOUT RAPE campaign is taking place around International Women's Day. Anna-Marie Larsen, Managing Director for DAL PIRG thinks this is an appropriate time to address this issue.

"International Women's Day is a celebration about women's power and strengths and that's the best time to do a campaign like this", said Larsen.

She feels that when women are feeling strong it's a good time to debunk the myths about rape. She also sees the need for reflection to accompany the celebration of International Women's Day.

The posters send a powerful message, but perhaps most powerful is the way in which they address both heterosexual AND homosexual rape.

"Members of the gay and lesbian community are blown away. They have never seen anything that addresses rape in their subculture. The discrimination gays and lesbians face is bad enough, but no one ever believes a gay man can get raped too", said Larsen.

DAL PIRG is happy to have received these posters from a colleague in Ontario. They have done the artwork and are hoping that, not only will the posters provide important information for students, but they will raise DAL PIRG's profile on campus. Larsen said there were just what they were looking for as a public campaign to raise awareness.

DAL PIRG is busy working on other projects in conjunction with the rape myths campaign.

Members are assisting Brenda Thompson with the publication of the second edition of her book Single Mother's Survival Guide. This addition will be updated and include province-wide information. DAL PIRG is also looking for people interested in helping to sponsor the publication, which is scheduled for April this year.

More projects are under way, but for now 'Pirgies' will take pride in their powerful rape myths campaign. As Larsen said, "These posters are hot. I've never seen anything like them before". Maybe you should take a look too!



Not homophobic?

To the Editors,

I will start by stating that I am not homophobic. I am not prejudiced against gays. However, the articles in the Gazette are disgusting me. I do not want to see pictures of homosexual OR heterosexual sex in the school paper. Nor do I want to read graphic descriptions of sex of any kind. We all understand the importance of safe sex and need to know what is safe and what is not - but frankly guys, you're turning us all off and we are losing respect for the Gazette and its' staff. I do not think that you are promoting understanding and acceptance of homosexuals in this way. I don't know if you care at all about my opinion or that of others like me, but I hope that in respect for freedom of opinion you will print this letter.

L. Vad



(which I found offensive) I feel, along with many others I have talked to in recent days, that Dalhousie student union money should not have been used to publish that article. If the gay and lesbian population at Dalhousie felt that this information should be made public, they should have funded the issuing of a pamphlet. This is not appropriate to free newspaper that anyone can pick up, including minors visiting the university. Freedom of speech and freedom of the press are important, but so is responsible reporting. I feel articles pertaining to campus problems (ie:rape) and others dealing with national news would be better use of university funds.

Simon J. Patterson

To the Editors,
When I picked up the latest issue of the Gazette I did not expect to find an article on "A gay men's guide to erotic safer sex." My problem is not with the article itself (or the one titled "Or get off the toilet") but with the fact that it was printed as a feature this week and not in last week's Gay and Lesbian supplement. In fact the article is not that much different, in providing factual information, from many pamphlets issued on heterosexual activities. It is, to say the least, a lot more graphic though (the photo was uncalled for). The point is that the original source of the article (so I am led to assume) was a pamphlet. Even with the header and the "warning"

