

"We want safe streets"

Analysis by Nina Miller

"The law does not protect women!" screamed a crowd of angry women after a police officer grabbed a marcher at the "Women Reclaim the Night March", on Saturday night.

The woman was handing out leaflets to the traffic on Whyte Avenue; when a policeman tried to stop her, she escaped into the crowd. Suddenly, out of nowhere came three other policemen pursuing the leafleter.

The police, however, looked intimidated when the hundred or so women on the march turned back and gathered around them.

They released her after taking down her name.

This unfortunate incident, however, served to demonstrate the point of already determined marchers.

Women were marching to show their anger at the system: the patriarchal society that lets rapists off free, that forces women to stay at home, which through sexual harassment, "keeps women in their place."

The cold weather couldn't keep these women at home. They

were marching to show their strength.

"We're not going to sit back passively and let men exploit us," said one marcher, "we're taking back the night for ourselves."

A Journal photographer asked if "you ladies" would pose for a picture. They responded, "We're not ladies we're women," and ignored his requests.

The spirit of the march was one of kinship and defiance. Some chants were "Women must control their fate - not the church and not the state" and "When we say no we mean no, however we dress, wherever we go."

The march passed by Tracy Starr's and Studio 82 to rally against pornography.

Women passed these chanting, "Pornography tells lies about women!" and putting stickers on the walls and windows.

This anti-pornography attitude is widely misunderstood. People group these women with fundamentalists and call them prudes.

This issue and prostitution were addressed extensively at the march.

Although there is no general stand on pornography within the women's movement, for most using government control to ban it is out of the question.

The male dominated capitalistic and racist society, which oppresses women and allows them to be used, is the root of the problem, according to many of the marchers.

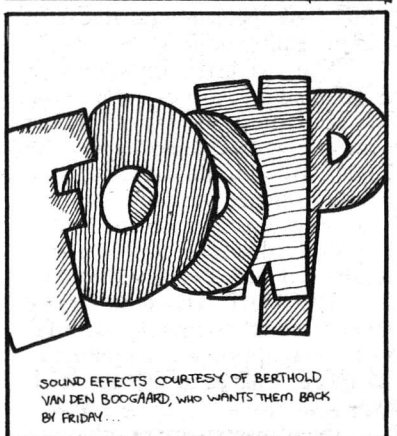
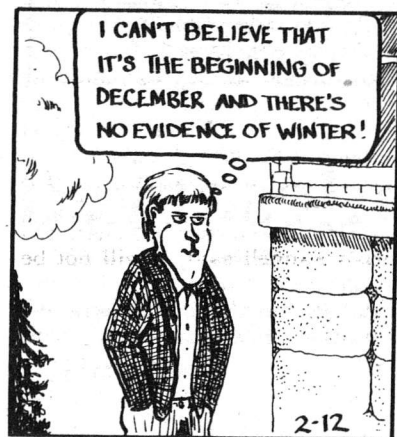
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Police grab and question a woman at the "Women Reclaim the Night March" Saturday. About 100 women turned out to show their discontent with the way women are shafted by the law and our society.

photo by Ray Giguere

Baz by Skeet



"With the right leader ..." Separatists are here to stay

by Jim McElgunn

"I'm bloody well mad and I'm bloody well scared about what's going on in this province."

Western separatists are "not just a loony group," according to Alberta NDP president Ray Martin, who spoke Friday to the Political Science Undergraduate Association.

The strength of Western separatism is growing. This is shown by the success of the recent "hate-in" sponsored by Doug Christie's Western Canada Concept and by opinion polls finding 14 percent of Albertans in support of Western separation. And for the first time, a large number of others are looking seriously at the options, he said.

"With the right leader...."

Mass movements begin suddenly and dramatically in Alberta, said Martin. He cited as an example of the birth of the Social Credit in the 1930's. With a charismatic leader in "Bible Bill" Aberhart and an extensive use of radio, Social Credit came from nowhere to sweep 56 of 63 seats in the 1935 election.

Should Peter Lougheed decide to lead a separatist movement, said Martin, it could happen again.

This does not mean Lougheed is planning to do so, he said, but the refusal Thursday of the provincial Conservatives even to vote on NDP leader Grant Notley's motion in the Legislature to reject Western separatism makes him very nervous, he said.

At the time of the motion, Martin said, the premier was "conveniently" away at a press conference. As well, most of the Cabinet and many backbenchers were absent.

One of the remaining Conservatives attacked the motion as

"provocative". Another stood and read out a poem he had written praising Alberta and Albertans. Former Conservative, now Independent, MLA Tom Sindlinger, finally got the Speaker's attention, after an hour's debate, but his motion to extend debate was hooted down in a chorus of no's from the government benches.

Martin said it is "irresponsible" of Lougheed not to reject separatism as a viable option.

"The premier of this province is at least as responsible as Trudeau for the climate of hate that is leading to a viable separatist movement today," he said.

"On the one hand you have a very cynical Liberal government led by Pierre Trudeau....which has no understanding of the West," said Martin. "On the other hand you have a paranoid — and I use the word carefully — government led by Peter Lougheed....which has no understanding of Canada."

Martin said the Western separatist movement is divided into two main groups.

The Western Canada Concept (WCC) group meeting at the Jubilee Auditorium was "the closest thing I've seen to a fascist meeting in Alberta," said Martin. "What I saw was faces distorted by hate and the leaders — Mr. Christie — played to that hate....I never thought I'd see that in Alberta and I've lived here all my life."

The WCC group is for very little except separation, according to Martin. It is against Pierre Trudeau and Liberals in general, against bilingualism, against Ontario, and "even against the poor people in the rest of the world."

The other main separatist group is West Fed, run by

Edmonton car dealer, Elmer Knutsen. Martin said the West Feds are "more dangerous because they're smarter."

He called them a "front for Calgary oil executives," in particular Carl Nickle. Martin said he has heard the West Fed group has already raised \$1 million. "That would fight five elections for us (the Alberta NDP)."

Martin said one of the reasons Lougheed is so reluctant

to denounce Western separatism is that most of its adherents are Conservatives, among them Knutsen and Nickle.

Although separatist sentiment is much weaker in B.C. and Saskatchewan and almost non-existent in Manitoba, Martin said too many people have already made an emotional commitment for it to fade away.

"I think the separatist movement is here to stay for a long time."

Squibs

by Bob Yetagaw

Strange but true quotations ...

Poetic exhortation to the Canadian masses by the Sub-ministry of Participation: *Street people are feet people. They're neat people who meet people. Why not join up? Take a walk.*

Local progress of universal peace, love and good vibes as reported in the *Edmonton Journal* November 15 by book reviewer Myrna Kostash:

The Palestinians do not hate Jews. Why should they? Antisemitism is a Western phenomenon.

Andrew Snaddon on the subject of Peter envy, from an editorial in the *Edmonton Journal* shortly after the airline freebie scandal:

In a forthcoming book on Premier Lougheed an unnamed reporter is said to have described my relationship with him as "obscene". The veiled, unspoken charge would be, I guess, that we are in each other's pockets, and that his is rather the bigger one.

Pronunciamento by Premier Lougheed to the assembled multitudes at the "Alberta North in the '80's" conference:

I sense we are into a different era in northern Alberta — a different era in time, in not competing for new opportunities, but in managing the opportunities we have as well. I sense also that as Albertans your test will be: Is it good for the people who are living here now?

No translation was provided.

Millennialist headline on the cover of *Popular Science*. *They're close to declining the FATE OF THE UNIVERSE.*

From the article itself: *Cosmologists caution that their science is hardly an exact one, that the conventional wisdom can easily be wrong — and that new discoveries can alter the picture entirely.*