



Male violence hurts economy

Canadian University Press

MONTREAL — Violence against women costs Quebec an estimated \$124 million a year, three women told the Canadian Committee on Women and Violence last month in Montreal.

Maria Peluso, Pamela Adamson and Phyllis Mosher made a submission to the committee on behalf of the Business and Professional Women's Club of Montreal.

They cited \$9.2 million in government funding for women's shelters, \$30 million spent on health care for battered women, and approximately \$67 million in personal and property losses sustained by victims. Peluso, who teaches political sci-

ence at Concordia University, said she has little faith in the committee, although she said it was necessary to appear before it.

"I'm not very optimistic," said Peluso. "I'm sceptical because we've been telling them (the government) what we want since 1962."

Last summer, a parliamentary subcommittee produced a report entitled "The War Against Women" but the federal government managed to avoid debating the report.

Adamson, a Montreal film maker, said they approached the problem from an economic angle because "it's the only thing that gets anybody's attention."

Adamson said she talked to the committee out of necessity.

"I'm cynical, sure," she said. "But I don't think it's an excuse not to do this. We have no choice. It's the only

avenue open to us."

The women also told the committee that "economic recognition of the work that women do" will help solve the problem of violence against women.

"The ultimate form of economic exchange is reproduction, not production," said Peluso. "We are challenging the male view of economics."

Peluso and Adamson said the census should include women's work in the home, since it is not measured.

"What is work?" Adamson said. "A widget factory gets every form of assistance from the government. Is making widgets more important than raising children?"

"Where are we in the figures?" asked Peluso, who plans to challenge Canada's census taking policies in court. "I want to obligate them to include us in the figures."

Women's art show rejects paintings

Canadian University Press

MONTREAL — The Concordia University women's centre has rejected two paintings submitted by students for an art show by the centre.

First-year student Natalie Kauffman's painting of a woman of colour carrying a basket of fruit on her head was rejected by the centre's art committee for its "Celebrating Women: Global Connections" show.

Kauffman said the committee rejected the painting, even though the centre advertised that the show was "non-juried."

The committee also rejected Concordia artist Lynne Robichaud's "Femme aux bananes" painting, which features a black woman carrying a bunch of bananas on her head.

A written statement issued by the committee stated that "the committee members reached a collective decision not to accept the works of the two women, on the basis of our readings of the images as reproducing derogatory, condescending stereotypes of women of colour, and of all women." Centre coordinator Margot Lacroix would not comment further.

Kauffman said she didn't like the way the call for submissions was made.

"(The Women's Centre) has this idea of what a feminist is and what they want them to be, so maybe they shouldn't put out flyers saying that they'll accept one submission per woman because it's very misleading," she said.

The theme of the painting explored sexuality, cultural diversity and spiri-

tuality, Kauffman said.

"It's a woman who is brown and lives in a tropical country. (The woman in the painting) is self-sufficient and independent."

Committee members said in the statement that they have a "responsibility to refuse to display images which can be read as reproducing...racist, sexist, homophobic and/or violent images and stereotypes."

The committee told Kauffman she could hand in another painting, but she refused.

"I don't want to be associated with the show anymore. The Women's Centre said we see these images of women all the time and that they're trying to show non-traditional views. But does that mean that my ideas of what is strength, openness and sexuality aren't valid?"

Sexual harassment complaints double

Canadian University Press

OTTAWA — Sexual harassment complaints at the University of Ottawa have doubled over the past five years.

Diane Roller, U of O sexual harassment officer, said there were 34 complaints during 1990/91, compared to 17 during the 1985/86 academic year.

The increase is due to heightened awareness about sexual harassment,

she said. It is also a result of "more people becoming aware that they have a place to go," she said.

There have been 27 incidents reported during the 1991/92 academic year.

Awareness programs have educated the university community, she said. "(But) a lot can still be done, especially when you consider date rape and sexual assault," she added.

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