

## Wimmin's Room

by Liz Lautard

Recently, I have been thinking of a woman's statement that women who choose to stay at home with their children are not true feminists. I was thinking how unfair this woman was to have said this. The fact that a woman chooses to stay at home with her children so as to be sure they receive all the love and care they deserve does not mean she is not a feminist. A woman does not have to be working outside the home in order to be considered a feminist.

Feminists are not exempt from preconceived ideas of what a feminist should or should not be. When it comes to certain issues, like spousal abuse, women would not disagree that this is a feminist concern. However, when it comes to other issues the waters become murky. In order to understand what a feminist is or is not (and hopefully clear those waters), let us remember what choice means.

Choice means that women are free to do whatever they feel is right for them. Whether she chooses to stay at home with her children or chooses not to support a certain issue, this woman is a feminist. By trying to fit all women into a certain mold of what a feminist is, you may be suffocating those women who choose to express their feminism in different ways. This is a form of oppression. Instead of debating with your roommate because she does not react the same way you do to pornography, listen to her.

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was sought and resolutions were made try harder, the solemnity and dread passed over into exciting pageantry and public celebration.

No doubt some partying will take place this weekend on campus. That's good, because joy and celebration is an important part of life, especially after a week of hard work. One wonders, though, how much of that joy and celebration will be related to forgiveness and reconciliation. How much of it will be related to the God of the universe? How much of it will be related to the God of one's own making

# Women's different choices

Celebrate the differences in opinion the two of you share in regards to feminism.

Feminists are a heterogeneous group. We may all share the same goal (freeing women from their oppression), but we share within our group many different ways of interpreting women's oppression. As well, we share different ways of explaining the cause of women's oppression and how to

## Forest Breeze

by Chris Lohr and  
Lori-Ann Dawson

As I sit here writing on paper, on a wooden table, smoking a cigarette wrapped in paper and from a cardboard package, taking my turn putting a ball in a pocket with a wooden pool cue, drinking a beer paid for with paper money, I become increasingly aware of our dependency on the forest industry.

There is something happening in British Columbia right now. The forest products company, MacMillan Bloedel, a.k.a. "Mac Blo", is harvesting the forest in Clayquot Sound, Vancouver Island. The public is outraged because this forest is one of the last remaining old growth forests on the island. Some of these trees are 500 years old and have witnessed the colonization of North America. This forest, the public fears, will be reduced to a wasteland - a clearcut.

And so the people of B.C. are walking the streets yelling: "Save Clayquot Sound! Save Clayquot Now!"

Here in New Brunswick, we don't really have the "old growth" issue. Only two or three tree species can live to such a ripe old age, and out of those species, only a few individuals can ever attain that age. But there is still a lesson to be learned.

Well, this is what I think:

I think that they should stop cutting on Clayquot Sound. But it isn't because I don't like clearcuts. In fact, I think that, under many circumstances, clearcuts are OK - clearcuts are just fine.

Many people think that when a forest is cut,

go about eradicating it (women's oppression). It is not easy sometimes to accept a point of view that you feel has no place in the feminist movement, but we (as women) have different agendas because we are all unique in our outlook on life. Differing points of view, if anything else, prevents boredom within the feminist movement. However, we must remember that solidarity among

all women is our greatest strength. Some people would welcome feminists fighting amongst themselves, because it would prevent us from accomplishing the task at hand. Do not give them that satisfaction! Women who do not share your concept of feminism are your friends and sisters, not your enemies.

## Clayquot should not be harvested

that it's gone forever. This is not the case. Most times, you'd be hard-pressed to stop the trees from growing back. Additionally, forest product companies that work on Crown Land, like Mac Blo, are required by the government to ensure there is regenerating vegetation on the land they harvested. If this obligation is not fulfilled, then they will lose their license to cut on Crown Land. Mac Blo has been in the tree-harvesting business for a while, so I think they are probably pretty competent at the tree-regeneration business too. But I still think Mac Blo should stop cutting.

An old growth forest represents a segment in time. Sometimes it seems that only the leaves rustling in the wind are moving. Everything else seems to be static and unchanging. Foresters and biologists still don't completely understand how forested ecosystems work. But they do recognize that trees, like all living things, are dynamic. The trees are living organisms; therefore by nature, they are changing.

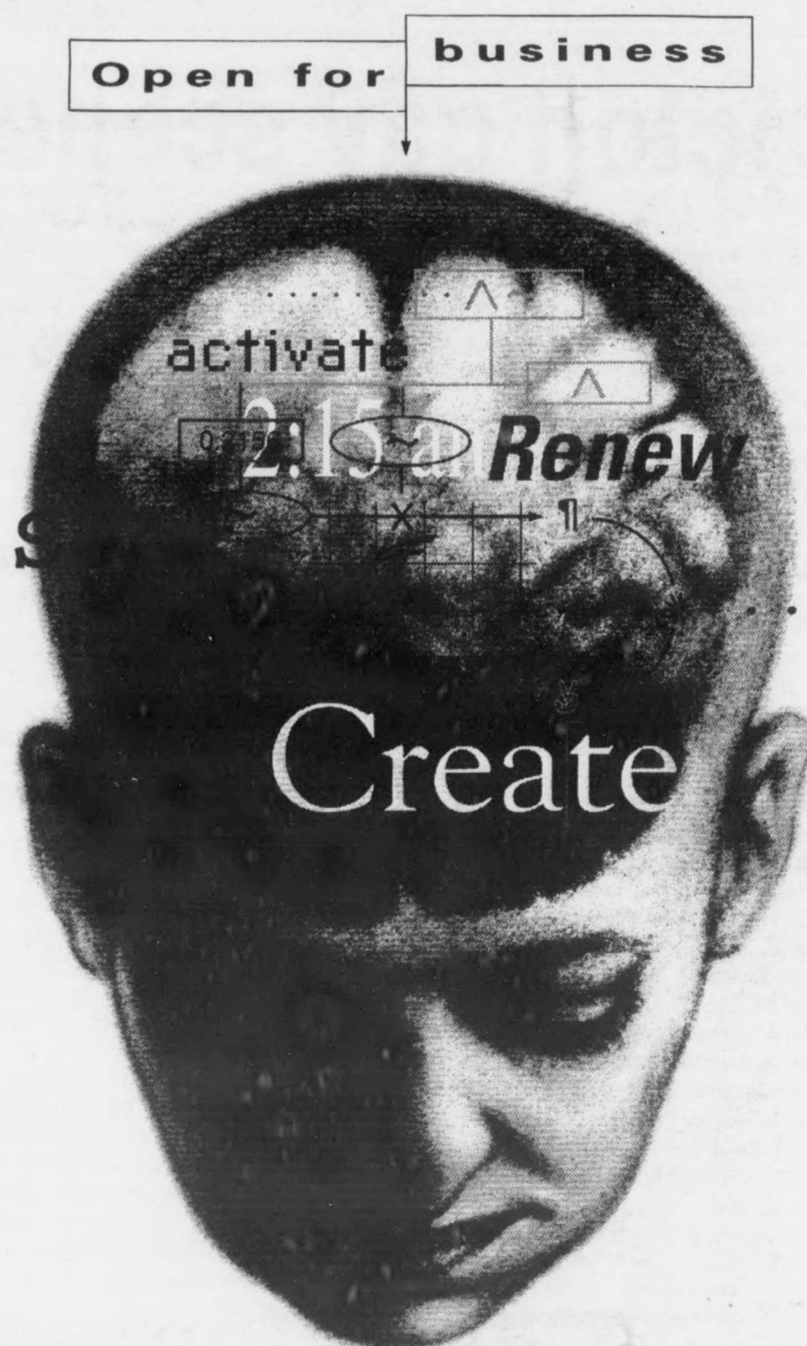
These old trees are not going to look the same forever. Nor are they going to live forever, although from a human perspective, they may appear to. The trees are using the light and air to grow. Some trees are fighting to survive against fungi, viruses, insects, etc. Some of the trees are dying. It may take a tree a long time to die, but it will happen. When these trees die, others will take their place. The regenerating trees that can resist disease and withstand the competition of other trees for growing space will survive. And they will dominate the

forest canopy as their ancestors did. But I still think that Mac Blo should stop.

Suppose all the trees on Clayquot Sound are 500 years old. This means that 500 years ago a disturbance occurred. Was it fire that consumed the forest before it? Was it a storm that pushed over the old veterans and exposed their clinging roots to the sky? Whatever it was, the trees that are there now started sometime. Is it so wrong that instead of fire, wind, insects or even volcano, it is humans that consume the forest? I feel that we have the right to utilize the land. But I also feel that we must protect the land, so that it will grow back. But Mac Blo should still stop.

Mac Blo should stop cutting because it is the only way that the public will feel that their voices are being heard. It is simply a matter of trust. If the large forest product companies want to justify their practices with their scientific knowledge of biology and forestry, then the public will not listen until they can proclaim their concerns about the planet. The environmentalist-scientist chasm cannot be bridged when one side proposes to "educate" the other. The two sides have to agree on common goals and listen to each other. Someone has to give in and take the first step.

So I think that Mac Blo should stop cutting. Because if they do not listen to public concerns, they will be cutting their own throats.



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