

# SPECTRUM

*The Wimmin's Room*

## Some musings on Taking Back the Night

**SAFETY!** For one evening last week some Fredericton streets were safe, but what about the other streets and the other evenings?

by Eleanor MacPherson

The eighth annual Fredericton Take Back the Night march happened on Friday, September 25. Having had a few days to mull it over, I'd like to present some thoughts on the event.

Fredericton has rarely seen such chanting! Whew! How many of you couldn't talk the next day? The

officer in the front of the march told one woman he was "offended" by the use of the word "shit" in one of the improvised chants. Oh come now!

Speaking of police, did anyone else notice the irony of chanting "Not the church! Not the state! Women must control their fate!" While being led by a man representing the state and carrying a gun?

Some of the streets of Fredericton

were safe for one night. What about the other streets, the other nights? We need to see women bonding together like this all year long.

How come we always talk about women "getting raped" as if it happens in a vacuum? When will society ask "Why do men rape?" Rape, after all, is a man's issue. Rape is a woman's issue only because we suffer again and again from what men do.

I, for one, am tired of living in

fear. I am tired of looking behind each shrub and parked car for a shadowy figure hunched in the dark. I am tired of arranging my schedule so I won't have to walk alone after dark. I am sick of imagining everything that could happen to the daughter who relies on me for protection. I am angry that I must always be on guard.

I think, "What if we took back every night?" What if I could rely on women and men to come to my

aid if I am attacked? What if women were not isolated from each other in individual homes and apartments? What if I could trust the justice system to treat me fairly? What if I could relax and enjoy the nighttime air without fear?

Ah...sweet fantasy. What we can do is what we did the other night. We can bond together. Together we are strong.

Women unite! Take back every night.

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*Metanoia*

**Quayle vs Murphy  
Brown**

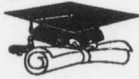
clearly been proven to create family havoc. That is ignored in favour of vague promises of economic returns. How much of those returns will actually benefit single parent families remains to be seen. But what we do clearly see now is an ever increasing gap between rich and poor. That puts increasing pressure on families, single parent or otherwise.

In the long run, however, real progress and human happiness has less to do with economics and more with something else. It has to do with advancing our lives "toward God, our neighbours and in our respect for the earth. ... Well being is when individuals, communities, social institutions and all relationships within and between them are flourishing in just and responsible ways." (Citizens for Public Justice).

While the ideal family — two parents with children — may indeed be the best defense against poverty, the ideal family has never been attainable nor is possible for all. Rather than insisting that all families have the same structure, perhaps we should encourage relationships with *existing* families to be characterized by love, commitment and nurture. That would go even further in eliminating poverty, be that economic, social, moral or spiritual.

*The Brunswickan staff meeting will be held this Friday at 12:30 pm in rm.35 in the Student Union Building. All current staff and those interested in contributing to the Brunswickan are urged to attend.*

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