



...more letters

Women's Centre needs housecleaning

The Friends of CJSR
present the toppest rockabilly beats of

Herald Nix Thursday, February 25 th. Admission: \$3.00

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The reappearance in Edmonton of an active women's movement in the last year has been at odds with previous feminist theory and practise. Unlike the consciousness raising/activist movements of the past ten years the current grouplets; Women Against Porn, Women Against Violence Against Women, Common Woman Books and the U of A Women's center are out and out reactionaries.

They have built their base of support upon *reaction to issues*, rather than positing a critique of those issues. They have reacted to: rape, violence against women, porn, sexism, films, books, ideas and Engineering Week.

Their practical solutions to chimeric problems like Engineering Week or the banning of magazines from bookstores are vile tactics reminiscent of the brown-shirts.

The women's movement hereabouts has decided that rape is caused by porn, avoiding the real issue which is that Alberta's population has increased 50% in ten years and that the majority of that increase has been single males who are looking for work, or working up north in isolated, sexually repressive work conditions.

For a supposedly radical movement, no analysis of the political economy of rape or its critique has been offered by the Womens center or other such groups.

Nor have they looked at housing and safety conditions in

the city. In the Oliver district we have 40,000 people (many single women) crammed into high rise complexes, surrounded by poorly lit streets with poor police patrols. The social conditions of this area leave it as one of the worst for rapes, but no one in the local womens movement has addressed this problem.

A great victory for the forces of 'progress, decency and anti-sexism' saw the removal of *Heavy Metal* and *National Lampoon* from Charing Cross Books in Hub Mall. Meanwhile, the Drugstore in HUB Mall still carries these mags as do most newstands in Edmonton.

When I asked one of the Women's Center members 'why' she said because it offended her. She also admitted to reading only one issue with her friends at the Center before they decided to get a petition to have these mags banned. Less than 0.1% of the campus signed that petition to have them withdrawn. This would be absurd if it wasn't frightening. Here we see a so called 'progressive' group acting like two-bit fascists.

By the logic implied in the Womens Center actions, any 10 to 20 people should be able to impose their will upon the individual and groups on campus. That means white racists could petition for Nazi literature to be carried at Charing Cross or 20 Engineers could find feminist literature *offensive* and demand it's withdrawal. Shades of the 1930's.

The Women's Center is not a womens center at all; it is a minority ideological indoctrination center, interested much more in El Salvador than in women. When it is interested in women it is only with those who agree with the local feminist ideology. Obviously raising funds for El Salvador means buying guns, guns kill people; that is violence, violence that the Women's Center is against. Even this contradiction

is not evident to these holier-than-thou types.

Like the porn issue, none of the Women's Center members have read *Heavy Metal* (or De Sade or Leopold Sacher-Masoch) or comics in general. They base their ideas on reading other feminists. If they had read *Heavy Metal* they would have seen comics in it by feminist-cartoonists like Trina Robbins, Lee Mars, Alison Goldberg.

If they read any literature besides that which is 'ideologically' correct they would find the world of literature and ideas full of 'offensive' material - offensive to those who hold dogmatic views and prudish morals, and are afraid to debate ideas.

The Women's Center is quite obviously afraid of a debate of ideas, afraid that in speaking to the non-converted they too might 'offend' someone. So instead they call for censorship like their Christian and Fascist counterparts of the rightwing. The feminists will pour the gas on 'offensive' material and the Max Solbrekkens of the world will light the match.

Bookstores, libraries, newspapers must carry a variety of ideas, opinions and concepts. Those who would ban ideas, have but one purpose: non-thinking cretinism. And like all cowards the members of the Women's Center attack from behind the safety of their ideological barricades with mewling appeals to the state to further repress our access to ideas and opinions.

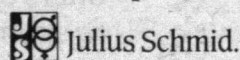
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