

Toronto Men's Clearinghouse Newsletter

May 1990 — issue 17

The shock of the massacre in Montréal last Dec. 6 initiated in many men and men's groups an examination of their feelings about being men, their relationships with women, and their support for feminism. Men at a Friday evening vigil stayed afterwards and started to organize a rally for the Sunday afternoon. They phoned the names on the *Toronto Men's Forum* list, made a flyer, "A Madman? . . . maybe not, 'sane' men do violence against women every day.", contacted the press, and made up signs to carry. Over 80 men attended. Speakers were Bob Wadden (the main organizer), Willy (distributing black armbands), Gord Cleveland (from *Men for Women's Choice*), Michael Kaufman (who had been interviewed on *The Journal*), David Lee, and David Abel (of *Metro Men Against Violence*), the latter leading the group in reading out loud "a man's pledge to work to end men's violence."

At the University of Toronto Bob Shantz and over a dozen other men started meeting bi-weekly and wrote an article "The constructive challenge of feminism" in the U. of T. Bulletin, Jan. 22. They expressed their concern that the term "feminist" has come to be used as insults hurled at people and their belief that men can benefit as much as women from the social changes promoted by feminism. They led men's discussion groups on the university's day of workshops on sexism and violence against women on March 8 (which was also during the U. of T.'s Gay and Lesbian Awareness Week).

During that same week men did childcare at the International Women's Day Fair and a "feminist-influenced men's support and action group" (Ben, Brian, John, and Lev) held a public workshop which resulted in two new groups meeting.

Another group sparked into existence by Montreal was *Break the Silence* which started meeting on January 25 and meets every Thursday in the Beach area.

Metro Men Against Violence meetings on the first Wednesday of the month had a doubling of attendance. One of their members made a report, "Aftermath of the Montreal tragedy: quotes in newspapers about feminism and men," which were sold at their table at the I.W.D. Fair.

There were also men's actions/workshops in St. John's, Halifax, Ottawa, Saskatoon, and Victoria as well as support for feminist in letters to the editor of newspapers and calls to phone-in shows. [And in April about 500 men in the Miramichi region of New Brunswick marched against violence against women!]

Many men are seriously listening to women's experiences and fears of violence. We can tell other men that our violence is not acceptable. We can donate money to and lobby for government funding of groups for women survivors. We can act to help women develop equality. We need to if we don't want to have any more massacres.

"...[W]e are not born belonging to one or the other of two sexes. We are born into a physiological continuum on which there is no discreet and definite point that you can call 'female.' If you look at all the variables in nature that are said to determine human 'sex,' you can't possibly find one that will unequivocally split the human species in two. Each of the so-called criteria of sexedness is itself a continuum — including chromosomal variables, genital and gonadal variations, reproductive capacities, endocrinological proportions, and any other criterion you could think off. Any or all of these different variables may vary independently of one another.

What does all this mean? It means, first of all, a logical dilemma: Either human 'male' and human 'female' actually exist in nature as fixed and discreet entities and you can credibly base an entire social and political system on those absolute natural categories, or else the variety of human sexedness is infinite.

...Penises and ejaculate and prostate glands occur in nature, but the notion that these anatomical traits comprise a sex — a discreet class, separate and distinct, metaphysically divisible from some other sex, *the 'other sex'* — is simply that: a notion, an idea. The penises exist; the male sex does not. The male sex is socially constructed. It is a political entity that flourishes only through acts of force and sexual terrorism. Apart from the global inferiorization and subordination of those who are defined as "nonmale," the idea of personal membership in the male sex class would have no recognizable meaning. It would make no sense. No one could be a member of it and no one would think they *should* be a member of it. There would be no male sex to belong to. That doesn't mean there wouldn't still be penises and ejaculate and prostate glands and such. It simply means that the centre of our

selfhood would not be required to reside inside an utterly fictitious category — a category that only seems real to the extent that those outside it are put down. ... People born with penises must strive to make the idea of male sexual identity personally real by doing certain deeds, actions that are valued and chosen because they produce the desired feelings of belonging to a sex that is male, i.e. not female."

from pages 28 — 31 of *Refusing to Be a Man* by John Stoltenberg (available at the Toronto Women's Bookstore, 73 Harbord).

"It is the phallus which creates the seemingly ineluctable bond between 'male sexuality' and power. Yet this symbol of the phallus as power, grasped by boy and girl child alike, cannot be equated with the lived experience of male sexual domination. Childhood sexuality, those who acknowledge its existence would agree, takes both active and passive forms, with multiple outlets and objects, most of them not congruent with the meanings attached to adult heterosexuality. (with the important exception of cases of child sexual abuse.) Psychoanalytic accounts have been used to argue that it is the physical visibility of men's genitals which creates men's swaggering commitment to putting them to use, from boyhood onwards, while women's apparently invisible equipment creates their greater sexual reticence. But, while the anthropological debate over cultural relativism is an intricate and vexed one, the literature overwhelmingly suggests that the meanings attached to anatomical difference are neither fixed nor universal. Even within Western culture, the meanings and significance given to male and female anatomy have shifted over the last hundred years. It seems more plausible to assume that the phallus as symbol condenses the

multiple significances of the whole configuration of male dominance, with its diverse social practices at once conferring power and authority on 'men', and giving most actual men some real power over the lives of others — at the very least within domestic life....Heterosexual performance may be viewed as the mainstay of masculine identity, but its enactment does not in itself give men power over women. (Even in violent situations, it is the use of muscular force or weapons which gives men the power to sexually abuse other men, women or children.) Most of the men who can talk honestly about their heterosexual experiences, admit to considerable confusion, often feeling it is the woman who has all the power....our culture has increasingly impressed upon men the importance of the female orgasm ... for many men it is precisely through sex that they experience their greatest uncertainties, dependence and deference in relation to women — in stark contrast, quite often, with their experience of authority and independence in the public world. And certainly for many men it is precisely through experiencing themselves as powerless and submissive that they experience the greatest sexual pleasure....male sexual dominance derives from the way in which the general social power of men sustains the symbolism of phallic power through encouraging or controlling how women and men may relate to their bodies.." from pages 209 - 216 of *Slow Motion: Changing Masculinities, Changing Men* by Lynne Segal, Virago London '90. Available at Another Story.

Another new book *Men Confront Pornography* edited by Michael S. Kimmel, Crown Press, New York is available at The World's Biggest Bookstore. Do you have any books that you recommend? Moving passages? Please send them in.

These two stories are attempts to explore the consciousness around the issue of child abuse and incest from the perspective of victim and perpetrator.

Part One Uncle Joe Scares Me

When the memory comes up, I become afraid and feel shivering cold inside. What scares me the most is remembering the helplessness as I am forced down on my hands and knees, covered by my Uncle Joe, who's really big and heavy. We are on the barn floor and my pants are down to my ankles. There's no one around and he's hurting me.

I am four years old last week and my uncle who always said he loved me is hurting me. I love my uncle. He's my father's best friend. I look up to him. I want to grow up to fish and hunt just like him.

Here he is moaning in my ear and bumping me so hard, I feel a fire in my bum and I can't move. I can't yell cause he'll hurt me. He said so.

I want to make the pain go stop. I let him bump me and pray he will finish soon or someone will come, but it goes on, and on, and I am going crazy.

The only way I can make it not crazy is believe I did something wrong. It must be my fault because I can't believe someone I love can hurt me so much unless I was really, really bad. It is the only way I can think to stay sane, but I can't take the fire much longer. Thinking about it makes me shake.

Something happens to my mind and the pain stops. I feel I am dreaming and in this dream I watch myself beneath my uncle. He's going back and forth over top of me really fast and then he's kissing me and slobbering on my cheek. I feel so ashamed I want to hide far away, where no one will ever find me.

The dream stops and the smell of mommy and daddy is on me and my uncle grabs me by the hand forcing me to lick him. I do it and almost gag. He gets up, puts his pants on and tells me not to say anything to anyone or he'll hurt me. I'm so ashamed of what I did I know I'll never tell.

Part Two Manjohn

All the lights have been turned off, I am alone. My wife and two little boys have gone to visit her family for the weekend, giving me a chance to be by myself, which I badly need.

Outside the rising white moon is beginning to fill, sending its rays throughout the black sky, through the large plant framed window, onto the mattress in the bedroom. My pale naked body huddles beneath the soft blue cotton sheets trying to forget the pain making my blood feel like frozen terror. First in my groin, spreading slowly, day after day, a constant reminder.

Intense images come with the pain. I see a skinny boy with blond hair and soft blue eyes. We are naked, sprawling on the wet grass surrounded by dark bushes. My wide eyes stare, drops of sweat on my creased forehead, hips are pumping angrily.

"Sweet Jesus Fuck!!", I scream.

I want the pain to go away, pump it away.

Underneath, bulging watery eyes whimper, "Don't hurt me, please don't hurt me."

Whose kid, I think?

My hips keep pumping. All sensation focuses in the head of my cock, connecting to the warm tingling in my balls. The friction draws my foreskin back and forth, over the head, thighs slapping against buttocks.

Release, give me release!

The smell of fear and fuck fills the air.

The warm waves of pleasure get stronger, move through my lower body, push the cold pain aside. My cock gets hotter and hotter, hips pump faster and faster. It has taken over, directs, calls for quicker thrusts. Feel the boy's fear, let it feed your power.

God, I need it bad. Please make it good for me. Please make the pain go away.

Breathing hard my lungs scream terror out my throat.

Bum is loose, need more friction. Cuff to keep his legs closed tight I pump away, crying tears of release.

Alive, so fucking alive!! Climaxing, I buck, buck and ram so hard my pubic bone hurts, so fucking high and again, no pain, no terror, just a feeling of euphoric aliveness connecting all cells in my body.

I feel human once more. Looking at the boy, I notice his tears and the image fades. Sperms fills the air with its musky odour and I feel its coolness running across my thighs.

Relaxed, thoughts of playing with my family drift into my mind.

Outside the full moon slips behind the clouds, having run its course.

- G. B. Child

The books *Abused boys: The Neglected Victims of Sexual Abuse*, *Victims No Longer*, and *Males at Risk: The Other Side of Sexual Abuse* are available from Parentbooks, 201 Harbord.

Send in your letters, true stories of change, poems, recommended books, upcoming event or ? to:

TMC Newsletter, c/o Greg Barsoski, 104 Spencer Ave., Tor. Ont., M6K 2J6

Money is helpful too, \$10, \$5 for low income, for 4 issues. Erik Malmsten, Benny Andersen, and Greg Barsoski worked on the production of this issue but the content represents only the views of the authors. Printed on recycled paper.

Who Gave My Brother A Gun?

Who gave my brother a gun, this man I've never met
Who let him by with all his anguish and pain unlet
Who said "go ahead and do your worst" without saying a word
Who allowed his creation of death in a life so absurd
Who gave no time, no notice, no care
To a man who used bullets to speak for thousands of years:
 of hate, fear and confusion in who and why we're here
Our sisters lie dead and bleeding, our brother joined with them by his gun
An answer made complete for years of nagging memories and our suspended
 beliefs:
That the love among the rubble is buried ever deep and so
 needs to be released
And what is called upon me now, what can I say or do
How do I deal with the jagged pain as it passes through:
 tearing at the seam of the underlying truth
Tears for them, tears for him, tears for all of us
His disease is my disease is yours and ours too
We've got to pay attention to the symptoms coming true
We've got to, got to, got to.
-a member of Metro Men Against Violence

In the Park

Drifting to sleep, my ears perk up
– Was that a scream from the park??
Between laboured breaths I strain to listen,
Past the rhythms of the crickets, wind, and rumble of distant traffic
There's no dramatic music and I'm no Batman
Usually it's just youth, a grab, a poke as teasing play
Or pushing away of a drooling, drunk boyfriend.

I remember living in a high-rise, hearing crying through the walls.
The woman pleads not to call the police:
He is the only person she knows in Canada.
I remember in the back of the taxi waiting for me was a woman
Crying, she had just came out of the alley next to where I was visiting.
I remember the teenager on the subway platform shouting:
Who do you think you are asking women you do not know for a blow-job.
I remember my friend being closely followed home until she ran the last block.
And some women don't live to tell their stories.
I hear no more human sounds from the park – is she dead?

I remember hearing a woman's boyfriend say:
All she needs is a good fuck (to solve her life's problems)
I remember being given a ride by a co-worker, who was in an angry mood,
And looking at a person on the sidewalk he said, "I would like to rape her."
Abandoned newspapers are usually left open to the Page 3 Sunshine Girl.
I remember not feeling safe to hug a male friend on the subway platform.
I can't block out the fear and violence in my community.
I cling to my warm sheets and my concentration fades
Hoping that everything is O.K. in the park tonight.
-Erik Malmsten, Aug. 18, '89

My fellows:

I stand strong in my convictions that we can help create a better world, a world with less greed, cruelty, violence and war. A world where men are brothers and skin colour only represents the many hues of creation's pallet. A world where all men can walk with dignity, respecting and honouring the earth, women's souls and to know the depth of that kinship. To know that we are members of one family. This is our destiny.

I know that we are just beginning to awake, to learn, to feel, to find our footing, and to choose a better way than what we have had and have inherited from our fathers and their father's fathers. A second chance to undo and remake the map for our journey.

I ache inside and am sad when the wake of leftover residue continues to block and inhibit that chance: How we in our learned clumsiness continue to wound one another as fathers, brothers, sons, and friends, and potential friends.

I share your concerns

My fears walk with yours

My history is a common report

My vision is your vision — though often hidden in the shadows of pain buried deeply within our created distortions of life's seasons.

Like you, behind my fears, images, confusion and pretence, I carry the capacity to know more about my true purpose and journey. Like you, I have learned to forfeit this for control and false power, thus losing trust, depth, clarity and wisdom — our real power — holding the god of reason as the high priest of male evolution, limiting greater potential for wholeness.

I feel the tightness and rigidity of our conditioned limitations. I carry the heavy weight of history's events. The chains crease and burn my flesh as they do yours.

We are now in preparation for the building of a new creation. Our task is great, as is everyone's, and we must learn our lessons well. There is no turning back. It is now time to meet, to walk, to talk, to listen, to nurture creation's action, and to heal humanity's mis-action.

To become gentle, but strong, for our own sake and the world's, as we begin to assist the emerging flame of future's sons and daughters to burn brightly. To them, we will pass on our hearts, minds, dreams, actions and legacies. They will choose how to pass these onto their children's children.

I wait but with stilled urgency

Life needs our support and alliance

To open our hearts,

To expand our greater mental capacities, our physical stamina

To change our limited and stifling beliefs

To meet and to face our mirrored fears

To reach for the courage lying dormant inside of us

To embrace our lost integrity

And, to release the hold of archaic emotions that have strangled us for far too long - freeing the sorrow of the collective soul

Hence, awakening the full power of the human creative spirit.

We have much work to do — step forward — let us each do our part...

I join you in the spirit of brotherhood!

A fellow traveller.

- Frank Cardelle, author of *Journey to Brotherhood: Awakening, Healing, and Connecting Men's Hearts*, Gardner Press, New York. If interested in having Dr. Cardelle give a workshop/lecture: Rainbow Bridge Programs Int., P.O. Box 2039, Winnipeg, MB., R3C 3R3

Current Issues

Ending Men's Violence

Men's violence against women, children, other men and our earth is a reality of our culture.

- > 1 of 8 women living with a man has been assaulted by him;
 - > 97% of assailants in child sexual abuse cases are men;
 - > 90% of homicide suspects and over two-thirds of victims are men.
- Men's violence is a learnt behaviour; we must learn alternatives to our violence. "Men's silence is the oxygen which fuels men's violence." We must end our silence and the violence.

Reproductive Choice

We want a world in which gender relations are based on equality, not on force, violence, ownership rights, or any law which gives men power over women's bodies. To deny a woman the right to obtain an abortion is potentially to compel her to bear a child she does not want, and is a violation of her most basic human rights. We fully support women's right to all reproductive choices.

Men and Children

We as men have a responsibility to enhance our nurturing and parenting of our children. Where there are conflicts in parenting arrangements, this responsibility will not be accomplished by legislation imposing mandatory access, mediation and joint custody. Although still necessary, we recognize the limitations of the existing sole custody system for everyone, and are striving to find alternative services and solutions that are just and support children, women and men.

**Men's Network
for Change**

**456 Bagot St.
Kingston, Ontario
K7K 3C3**

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Guelph, Ontario N1E 4R9
(519)837-1783

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Ray Cunningham, Box 484
Belleville, Ontario K8N 5B2
(613)967-1721

London: Paul Payson, 233 Platt's
Lane London, Ontario, N6H 2H5
(519)433-9113

Ottawa/Hull: Ottawa-Hull Men's
Forum, P.O. Box 4197, Station E,
Ottawa, Ontario K1S 5B2
(613)233-7376

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Bert Young, 25 Lamarche Rue
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H9X 2A9
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230 Silverbirch Ave.

Toronto, Ontario M4E 3L5
(416)392-0978 or 698-8669

MEN'S

NETWORK

FOR

CHANGE

**Men working to end
sexism and patriarchy**

Mission Statement

In a society dominated by men, a patriarchal society, men have disproportionate economic, political and social power over women. But the very things that give us power exact a price. We are not born patriarchs. The process that leads us to accept the current norms of masculinity and the domination of some men over others, leaves us all brutalized, limited, and angry. We usually do not acknowledge our isolation, fear, frustration and alienation. Women, children, the planet, and indeed ourselves, suffer the consequences.

We are men committed to working against sexism and patriarchy, in support of freedom of sexual orientation, and deeply opposed to the many forms of violence in our world. We support those social movements that challenge us to rethink our lives as men and re-evaluate our society: these include the feminist women's movement, the gay liberation movement, anti-racist struggles, native peoples, the peace, ecology, and trade union movements. We see our actions as part of a struggle against the many forces, institutions and structures that limit the potential of all human beings. The equality of women is a critical step in the creation of a society that embodies human liberation.

For us, political action touches all aspects of life: from our actions at home and in the streets, in school, at work, in relationships, and in the institutions of local and national decision-making. The changes we want in society as a whole are changes we strive to make in ourselves.

Our goal is to reach out to other men, to invite them to join us to create a society in which men no longer dominate women, in which all humans can reclaim their full potential, and in which men will celebrate our passion, our strength, and our capacity to nurture, to love and be loved. Our goal is to provide a public and collective voice of men in support of women's liberation. Our goal is to continue to support the many movements for progressive social change. Our goal is to contribute to changing the lives of men, women and children and the state of our planet.

*If you support the above mission statement and/or would like to receive our newsletter, the **Men's Network News**, please detach and sign the Application Form at the left of this page.*

Application Form

04/90

Membership in the Network is open to any man who is in solidarity with our Mission Statement and will strive to implement its objectives. ☐ Member (signature required): ☐ \$ 25 per annum ☐ \$ 10 (if you can't afford 25)

Signature _____

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Street _____

City _____ Province _____

Postal Code _____ Phone (____) _____

Anyone who is not a member of the Network can still be on the mailing list for the newsletter.

☐ Non-member (newsletter only): ☐ \$ 25 per annum ☐ \$ 10 (if you can't afford 25)

Make cheque payable to: **Men's Network For Change**, c/o Bob Kneebone, 456 Bagot St., Kingston, Ontario K7K 3C3

Men's Groups

Metro Men Against Violence was initiated by a men's workshop led by Michael Kaufman at Stopping Rape II conference on April 16, '88. They seek ways of challenging and developing alternatives to individual and social expressions of violence, primarily but not limited to men's violence against women. They meet the first Wed. of the month at George Brown College, 200 King St. E.. Bob Alexander, Dept. of Public Health, 2340 Dundas St. W., Tor. Ont., M6P 4A9 392-0985

Toronto's Men's Forum was started in October '86 and settled into meeting one Sunday a month for a few years at Roger Jones's, 101 Summerhill, but now no longer meets. Meetings started with a pot-luck, introduction to a subject, and broke into small discussion groups focused on the topic. Some of the topics were: Fathers & Sons, Living Alone, Men & Competitiveness/Men & Friendship, Homophobia, Anger, Fear, How Pornography and Prostitution affect Men's Sexuality, Folk Dancing, and Mask Workshop. Between 15 to 45 men attended each meeting and their mailing list grew to over 200 names. An ambitious, glossy magazine, **Integral**, was produced for 3 issues. **Grindstone Island** is a retreat centre north of Kingston for social change groups. Since '84 there has been a men's weekend which bring together around 60 men mainly from the Forums in Ottawa, Kingston, Toronto, and London. The co-op's Toronto office 968-9187. **Men's Conference in Kingston** has been held annually since Oct. 25, '85. There's been key-note speeches by Bruce Kidd & Michael Kaufman, Harvey Schacter, Ray Jones, Stuart Hill, and Grant Wedge. Volunteer's present dozens of workshops, and a men-only dance. There has been no conference fee and some billeting is made available. **Men's Network for Change** had it's founding weekend April 14-16 '89 to establish an inter-city network of men to work on social change. One goal is "to provide a public and collective voice of men in support of women's liberation." Their "Men working to end men's violence" rally last October received coverage on the CBC National. Membership (\$25/\$10). M.N.C., c/o Mac Gervan, 256 Mowat Ave., Kingston, Ont. K7M 1K9. **New Directions**, Ottawa, **Alternatives**, Kingston, and **Changing Ways**, London, are some of the fancy names for programs for batterers. In Toronto a group of therapists (John Stapleford, David Currie, ...) of batterers meet once a month. For info on programs for batterers call the Community Information Centre 863-0505.

Toronto Men's Clearinghouse was developed by therapist and other men (one, Bob Alexander, who was in a men's group started by the Women's Self-Help Collective in '78) to be an information centre and to set up men's support groups. They started a telephone line in Warren Robinson's office in the fall of '84, did press outreach, and Terry Burrows facilitated their first weekly support group on July 3, '85. The organization was handed over to men in the groups and a few new groups are formed each year. Their newsletter started in March '85, edited by Wally Brant, and still comes out periodically, edited mainly by Erik Malmsten, \$10/\$5 for 4 issues. "TMC Newsletter", c/o Greg Barsoski, 104 Spencer Ave., Tor. Ont., M6K 2J6 537-3528. Up to 230 people have been sent the newsletter, this and the TMF list are maintained by Benny Andersen 445-0769.

Toronto Men's Childcare Although no longer an active collective, men still get together at feminist events such as International Women's Day. Childcare in '89 was organized by Brian Emms and Lev Jaeger, this year by Bob Wadden.

Men's Auxiliary and Tea Party is an anarchist men's group who meet regularly, have lead discussion groups at the annual September wimmin's Take Back the Night march, and made flyers on what men can do about sexism and in support of wimmin's choice on abortion. P.O. Box 915, Postal Station 'F', Tor. Ont. M4Y 2N9

Break the Silence is a weekly men's group formed after the recent tragedy in Montreal, David Morley 691-3598, Rev. Bruce MacLeod 691-3951. **The U of T Men's Group** similarly formed and are working on challenging sexism at the University of Toronto, has written articles and held forums on "What Do Men Have to Fear from Feminism?" on Mar. 8. Bob Shantz, Chaplain's Office, Koffler Student Centre, 978-8100. Also as a result of Montreal, a "feminist-informed men's support and action group" held a workshop for forming new groups on Mar. 5, Ben 532-0322.

General Male was an activist anti-sexist men's group in the mid '80s which did fundraising for choice, protested government spending on a domed stadium, and stickered sexist newspapers and ads. Last address was c/o Fernwood Books Ltd., 67A Portland St., Toronto, Ont. M5V 2M9

Men challenging Men, handed out pamphlets to line-ups at war (Red Dawn) and porn films. And anti-sexist men collectives prepare flyers and organized meetings of men to follow International Women's Day in '83 and '84 (and earlier years?).

Re-Evaluation Counselling has a large men's group and one-on-one support and believes in eliminating male and all other forms of oppression. Gabriel Epstein, 14 Albermale Ave., Tor. Ont. M4 1H7 463-7786

changing Men/Hamilton 32 Woodbine Cres., Hamilton, Ont. L8R 1Y3

In Search of Justice, is not involved with any of the above groups. It is an anti-feminist men's group who actively lobby for the rights of divorced men, often accused of wife and child abuse, to have access to their children.

There are various men's **psychology/spirituality** workshops/retreat going on, bringing into town the jungians Robert Bly and Marion Woodman, James Hillman and Michael Meade at the Applewood Centre, Shepherd Bliss "Recovering the Deep Masculine", "Do Men Gather?" at AHP, Eugene Monick at C.G. Jung, Jean Shinoda Bolen's "Gods in Everyman", or Samuel Osherson on "Men and their Fathers: Unfinished Business" at the Five Oaks Centre. Some of the therapist involved in work with changing men have been Mario Bartoletti, Timothy Bentley, Spencer Brennan, Terry Burrows, David Cornfield, Peter Dawson, Joseph Goodman, Michael Irving, John Lindsay, Ron MacLean, Don Munro, Michael Owen, Donato "Pathmaker", Dale Perrin, John Plunkett, Mark Prazoff, Leonard Rebeck, Warren Robinson, Uli Schwammle, Hugh Smiley, Kelly Walker, Allan Wands, and Eric Weiner. "For Men" is a publication of the United Church of Canada, 85 St. Clair Ave. E., Tor. Ont., M4T 1M8; they have men's group and conferences across the country. Family Services Assn. has groups for divorced men. There has also been plays like "Boys will be..." (about wife assault) and "Mantalk".

There's many support groups within the **gay** community. Some are Gay Fathers of Toronto 975-1680, TAGL Coming Out Group 964-6600, "Surviving Sexual Abuse: Self-Help Group for Gay Men" Grant 962-9880, and a bisexual discussion group (for women and men) is one of the groups that meet at 519 Church St.. Toronto Counselling Centre for Lesbians and Gays 977-2153. **rites** magazine is a political forum for political and sexual liberation, P.O. Box 65, Stn. 'F', Tor. Ont. M4Y 2L4

Men for Women's Choice had an ad published in the Globe & Mail on Nov. 23 '89 financed by contributions from over 700 people from across Canada. 555 Bloor St. W., Tor. Ont. M5S 1Y6

Montreal Men Against Sexism fights against men's rights groups and men's psychology groups that support male self-interest. Martin Dufresne, 913 rue de Bienville, Montréal, Qué. H2J 1V2

A national listing of men's group published in June '88 was organized by Ken Fisher and is being revised by the Ottawa-Hull Men's Forum, P.O. Box 4197, Stn. 'E', Ottawa, Ont. K1S 5B2. For a list of Quebec groups Collectif sur la condition masculine, c/o Jean-Pierre Simoneau, 5648, St. Urbain, Montréal, PQ H2T 2X3

The National Organization for Men Against Sexism (formerly The National Organization for Changing Men) in the U.S. has task groups on child custody, ending male's violence, fathering, gay rights, homophobia, male-female relationships, men and aging, men and mental health, men and spirituality, men's culture, pornography, and reproductive rights. Their 15th annual conference "Ending Men's Violence: Pathways to a Gender-Justice World" will be in Atlanta May 31 - June 3 '90 following a conference of the Men's Studies Association. 794 Penn Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15221 (412) 371-8007

changing men magazine, 306 N. Brooks St., Madison, WI 53715

Activist Men's Journal, c/o Jon Cohen, 7474 Washington, St. Louis, MO 63130

MARC (men's anti-rape resource centre), c/o Rus Funk, P.O. Box 73559, Washington, D.C. 20056

The Ending Men's Violence National Referral Directory, RAVEN (Rape and Violence End Now), P.O. Box 24159, St. Louis, MO 63130

There has been **Achilles Heel** and **M.A.N.** (Men's Anti-sexist Newsletter) magazines and **MOVE** (Men overcoming violence) in England, and several active groups in Australia and New Zealand/Aotearoa.

This list was compiled by Erik Malmsten, 64 Lamb Ave., Tor. Ont., M4J 4M3 463-4681.

Dear editor,

Congratulations on a fantastic newsletter. The articles were very thoughtful, relevant, unpretentious and hard-hitting.

I would be very interested in publishing an article discussing men and the ecology. Something about the fact that men mostly run things and are trashing the Earth in the process. [Something along the lines of "Fathering the unthinkable: Masculinity, Scientists and the Nuclear Arms Race" by Brian Easlea, Pluto '83? -ed] If someone associated with your newsletter would be interested, I would be very pleased. The article should be about 600 words.

For the Earth,

Frank de Jong Oct. 7, '89

Ontario Green News

11- 238 Davenport Rd.,

Tor., Ont.

M5R 1J6

Dear Sir,

I am dismayed and angered by the examples of male-bashing appearing in the latest Newsletter. I am referring specifically to the articles by Dufresne and the poem by Clarke. It accomplishes nothing but rather increases hostilities between the genders to inflict this kind of verbal vomit on us.

There has been great pain and damage inflicted on women both by social structures and by individual men. Your two writers may need very much to vomit out this pain. But I am not willing to be the receptacle for their vomit. I am also not willing to bear the bulk of the blame for structures I didn't build and for acts I did not commit. Since both writings are worded as personal attacks it is necessary for me to personally defend myself. The authors can point to my reactions as what they expected. I hope that they are also aware it is not what they wanted since, while I am defending, it is hard for me to

listen and the message gets lost. In fact, I do not know what their messages were.

In the case of Dufresne, surely numbers of men do get unjustly treated by the courts in matters of custody and access. Though there are reasons for this, the outcome is still unjust. Although I struggle to find some other message in Dufresne's article, it still reads as if the unjustly treated are to be punished for the sins of men who have abused women.

In the case of Clarke, it is true I have, as a male in Canada, privilege. However, not only am I not to blame for that state of affairs, but I cannot give it up. I can only use it wisely and with caring. From amongst the vituperation, I cannot make out what Clarke wants at all. If I am just to be a dumping ground for Clarke's anger, I must refuse on the grounds it gains nobody anything and is bad for my health.

Incidentally, I am also actively pro-feminist. I could hardly be otherwise raising two teenage daughters whose future I care about in our present culture. But I will not waste my energies excoriating my fellow men, especially those who, by the very act of reading your Newsletter, already show themselves well disposed to the necessary changes.

Sincerely,

Ian D. Brown, Psychotherapist

Victoria Oct. 24, '89

A new weekly men's group has started on May 24 at 7:30 pm. No fee. Call Benny Andersen at 445-0769 for location.

Men for Women's Choice raised enough money to put their ad in *The Globe and Mail* last November 23 with over 600 names listed. They presented a brief to the legislative committee on Bill C-43 saying child rearing needs to urgently be made a more rewarding, less financially and socially burdensome activity, including measures that will encourage fathers to be more involved in raising children.

Upcoming Events

May 31 — June 3 Ending Men's Violence: Pathways to a Gender-Just World [and making connections between interlocking oppressions], the 15th Conference on Men and Masculinity of the National Organization for Men Against Sexism (NOMAS) (Formerly NOCM) hosted by Men Stopping Violence, 1020 DeKalb Ave. # 25, Atlanta, Georgia 30307. Keynote speakers: Bell Hooks, Kathleen Carlin, and John Stoltenberg. David Serada will perform at one of the concerts. Info: (404) 688-1376

June 14 — June 17 Nurturing and Caring: Ourselves, The Island, The Earth. The 7th annual men's gathering on Grindstone Island, north of Kingston. \$200 Grindstone Co-op, 427 Bloor St. W., #202, Tor. Ont. M5S 1X7 (416) 968-9187

Sunday June 24 annual Gay and Lesbian Pride Day theme: By all means necessary. Parade, entertainment, and info booths

T.M.C. Newsletter

c/o Greg Barsoski
104 Spencer Ave.,
Toronto, Ont.
M6K 2J6

around Church & Wellesley.

July 27 — July 30 Women and Men: The Political is Personal. Challenging gender issues in a safe, caring environment on Grindstone Island. \$200

July 13 — 22 Breaking Free! with Clark S. Reed (a Certified Transactional Analyst) at the Unity Retreat Centre, Hamilton. There will be time for large group experiences, private time, and small groups (Men's group, Women's Group, Life Script group, Couple Group, Spirituality Group). Reed Training Associates, 3319-A Yonge St., Tor., Ont. M4N 2L9 (416) 481-8345.

The Winnipeg Men's Forum had their first public meeting on Feb. 23. To receive their newsletter contact The Winnipeg Men's Network, 62 Home St., Winnipeg, MB., R3G 1W6