

restraints," can be misleading. One hit is an assault. More needs to be said about the establishment of a pattern.

Quotations from many survivors are used extensively with some of the speakers being identified by terms such as "Janine, a Latina," "Lisa is a Tlengit Indian," "May is a Chinese-American," and "Melissa, a white woman." As well, one speaker is identified as living in a black community. Other than the chapter for lesbians, these are the only references to cultural groups that provide a sense of inclusiveness for diverse populations. This is not adequate to make it truly inclusive. Missing is any reference to the complexity of class, ethnicity, colour, race and physically challenging factors affecting abused women. These issues are too important to have been overlooked. If the handbook is to be useful to all the abused women in this multicultural community, it must speak more directly to them of their particular life situations.

Many of the useful services and resources named are specific to the American reader. It would be extremely valuable to have an appendix that gives the names and phone numbers for similar services in Canada. However, many of the suggested organizations and steps to contacting them are easily translated into Canadian terms. Certainly this manual would be an excellent resource for women's neighbourhood drop-in centres, for the literacy programs now available to women, and wherever women gather together. It fulfills a very important purpose of providing knowledge and empowerment in a format and vocabulary truly accessible to abused women who have previously been excluded by many of the more complex texts available. It is a welcome addition to the resources for empowering women to make decisions about their lives, to ask for what they want, to appreciate themselves, and "to be free."

GUIDE D'ANIMATION POUR ATELIERS CONTRE LA VIOLENCE

Ina Motoi. Québec, Éditions Française Marois, 1991.

CONTAMINATION DE LA VIOLENCE

Lucienne Bushnell et Ina Motoi.
Toronto, Éditions Femmes Racines [à

paraître incessamment].

Par Sylvie Clamageran

Depuis sa fondation, en 1982, le Réseau des femmes du Sud de l'Ontario a mis en place de nombreux services et programmes pour les femmes. Cette année, le Réseau publie un guide d'animation et un programme d'atelier pour lutter contre la violence ; le premier vise les adultes, le second les enfants.

Écrit par Ina Motoi, le *Guide d'animation pour ateliers contre la violence* est un outil de travail pour conscientiser les gens à la violence qui nous entoure. L'ouvrage comporte trois volets. Le premier vise à faire prendre conscience de la présence de la violence dans les mentalités par l'analyse de la pornographie et des programmes de télévision. Le deuxième traite de deux manifestations de la violence dans la société : le harcèlement et l'agression sexuelle. Le dernier touche la violence dans la famille, à savoir la violence conjugale et les agressions sexuelles à l'égard des enfants.

L'ouvrage sera d'une grande utilité pour animer des ateliers. En effet, il présente un grand nombre de situations et de personnages types et comporte des grilles d'analyse, des feuilles de travail, des exercices et des questions pour des tables rondes. Il contient en outre une bibliographie ainsi qu'une liste de personnes-ressource et d'organismes.

Démasquant les tabous et les préjugés, le *Guide d'animation pour ateliers contre la violence* est un document-clé pour aider les femmes à trouver leur pleine dimension d'être humain, pour protéger les droits des enfants et pour aider les hommes à prendre leurs responsabilités dans la recherche de la non-violence.

L'autre publication du Réseau, *Contamination de la violence*, oeuvre de Lucienne Bushnell et d' Ina Motoi, propose un programme de sensibilisation à non-violence d'une semaine, destiné aux élèves des niveaux primaire et secondaire. Trois catégories d'âge sont visées : 6 à 9 ans, 10 à 13 ans et 14 à 17 ans.

Plutôt que de simplement dénoncer la violence, le programme propose une démarche active où l'élève apprend à faire face à la violence en cinq étapes d'une journée chacune : identification de la violence, résolution d'un conflit sans passer

par la violence, prise de conscience de la présence de la violence à la télévision et dans les images au moyen d'un visionnement critique, développement de l'estime de soi pour construire des relations saines, discussion de plans d'action individuelle et communautaire.

La démarche du livre est écologique en ce qu'elle prend en compte les différents éléments qui constituent l'environnement humain d'un individu et les possibilités d'action sur cet environnement. Le but est d'arriver à faire disparaître les rôles stéréotypés de victime et d'agresseur.

Les deux ouvrages sont disponibles à l'adresse suivante : Centre de recherches et de ressources pour femmes, Bureau 102, pavillon des Serres, Collège universitaire Glendon, 2275, avenue Bayview, Toronto (Ontario), M4N 3M6; téléphone: (416) 487-6794.

WOMAN ABUSE: Sociological Perspectives

Walter S. DeKeseredy and Ronald Hinch. Toronto: Thompson Educational Publishing, 1991.

By Patricia Bishop

It is unlikely that feminists will applaud the arrival of *Woman Abuse: Sociological Perspectives*. Academic feminists who teach undergraduate sociology may be pleased to have a text which gives an acceptable if rather dry and lifeless overview. However, grassroots feminists may be left wondering whether this book generates any positive change for women who have experienced abuse.

The book gets off to a rather unfortunate start, as the authors laud "advances in the social scientific study of this problem." This is exactly the epistemology which gives sociologists a bad name in the larger realm outside the discipline.

The language sets up both the questionable notion of objective truth and a male-model bias which elevates demographic and statistical data over the raw experiences, felt life, and intuitive observations of oppressed women. It gives power to the academics who conduct surveys and explain the reality of battering, rape, and other forms of woman abuse from the point of view of the researcher and his/her limited audience.

Compared with the writings of Diana Russell, Andrea Dworkin, and the work of Ottawa-based Linda MacLeod, for example, this book conveys little of the experiential world of women who are abused. They are reduced to subjects acted upon. What is crucially missing from this volume is the voice of real women, even in quotations and parenthetical information. Fire is missing, and outrage.

This is truly a topic for which anger, indignation, and outrage are appropriate. The authors' "abuse typology" presents a short but staggering list of offences and victims. The writers argue forcefully that "a research agenda that limits its focus to physical assaults in the marital home offers an inadequate understanding of the pain and suffering women endure in Western countries such as Canada, Britain and the U.S."

DeKeseredy and Hinch point out the weaknesses of discussions of woman abuse which ignore a sociological interpretation, such as those which place the perpetrator in the category of psychopathology, or those which do so with reference to the victim. These tend to be explanations which are based in biology or psychology and which look to individual problems or inherent biological tendencies, e.g., female dependence, male aggression and territoriality.

A panoply of jargon permeates this book. The authors state that woman abuse "is a specific result of capitalist economic conditions interacting with patriarchal social relations." That would seem to beg the question of woman abuse in preindustrial societies, but the authors do not even countenance debate. They like categories, and they divide feminist sociologists into "left idealists" and "left realists," the latter so named because they believe that positive change can be introduced before the advent of a socialist feminist utopia.

Short-term solutions are problematic because they legitimate the state which daily upholds patriarchal domination. They note that "[s]hort-term initiatives are repudiated by left idealists because they believe that social and criminal justice reforms...do not eliminate the inequalities of capitalism and patriarchy which are major sources of female victimization."

In rejecting gender neutral definitions of violence, the study points out that men seriously hurt women vastly more than

women hurt men. Quantitative self-reporting surveys like the Conflict Tactics Scale Survey (CTS) do not usually record psychological abuse and the abuse of economic control, two of the most detrimental and destructive forms of male social control. Most important of all, the CTS ignores sexual violence. The authors cogently describe the liabilities of such research tools.

The most interesting aspect of the book was the few pages devoted to the ideology of familial patriarchy, in which traditional husbands who value wifely obedience and economic dependency are shown to be statistically more likely to be perpetrators of male violence. Battering is clearly supported by the ideology of the nuclear family with its diseased concept of the exalted economic role and decision-making capacity of the husband.

One glaring weakness of this study is the absence of a discussion of the sexual abuse of power relationships, including sexual abuse by therapists, teachers and religious counsellors. In addition, the section on sexual harassment contributes very little to advance the topic. The chapter on corporate violence and workplace abuses promises more than it delivers and is disappointingly cursory.

In settling for a "middle range" of proposed policy solutions, the authors evade hard questions about how Canadian society can be transformed into a realm of equality for women. One would have to agree with Andrea Dworkin that polite and timid solutions have had predictably empty results.

DATING VIOLENCE: Young Women in Danger

Barrie Levy, ed. Seattle: The Seal Press, 1991.

By Sue Carter

Having established that the personal is political, we can now engage in a giant sidestep to the personal as necessary. In *Dating Violence: Young Women in Danger*, editor Barrie Levy devotes the first quarter of her book to intimate testimonies written by adolescent victims of dating violence (including one contribution by a mother whose daughter was stabbed to death by an over-zealous ex-boyfriend.

Levy immediately scores points for involving the experts — and for ascribing to the notion of writer's authority: the female survivors speak their proper truths, write their own stories. Dating violence needs to be explained in human terms; the personal-anecdotal orients the reader and is a necessary precursor to the empirical number-crunching of incredibly high incidence rates. That approximately one-third of young women are being beaten up physically, emotionally and sexually by their boyfriends has yet to be grounded in general consciousness. Levy's choice of structure is a serious attempt at enlightenment: the testimonies provide readers with real insight into the dynamics of dating violence.

Following the personal (but always in case reference) is a selection of essays contextualizing dating violence. Judith MacFarlane writes of the exacerbated incidence of battering of pregnant unmarried women. Foci for other essays in this section include young black women (as doubly discriminated against in power structures) and incarcerated teens (whose past sexual abuse histories shed light on their present jailed state). Only one essay in the collection is devoted entirely to date rape, and while this section is worthwhile, its minimalization in the broader scheme of dating violence counterbalances the tendency of many women's programs to over-emphasize acquaintance rape and underplay or ignore other forms of dating violence. The extreme nature and the humiliating effects of this violence are somehow still acceptable or excusable to many

