

# Relief Files

# Take Back the Night Agit. - Prop.



Women's Relief Files

- Each month for a...
- Place Women in Focus
- from 7:30 - 10:00 PM Women's Relief
- request of-site Please register.
- May 10 - Women Fight Back in 1984 (Multi-Su)
- June 14 - Rape Face to Face
- July 12 - P4W (then about Women)
- Aug. 9 - The Confrontation Latina's Fightback
- Sept. 13 - Night Without Fear (then about a post Take Back)
- Sept. 20 -

**NE LES FEMMES! BORTONS DANS LA RUE! REPRENONS LA NUIT!**

pour que cesse la peur d'être harcelé, agressé, violé pour qu'on puisse sortir seule sans escorte, sans protecteur pour qu'on affirme notre droit à la sécurité et à la paix

**CONTRE LA VIOLENCE FAITE AUX FEMMES**

**BORTONS EN GANG!**  
amassez vos robes, jupes, manteaux, casques, vêtements

**PROTESTONS EN GANG!**  
apportez vos parapluies, lanternes, percussions

**CÉLÉBRONS EN GANG!**  
apportez vos chandailles, feux de bengale, musique

**MARCHONS TOUTES ENSEMBLE LE 10 SEPTEMBRE**  
pour les femmes de Québec, du Canada, des États-Unis.

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**TAKE BACK THE NIGHT**  
meet at 7:30 at the Vancouver Art Gallery  
750 Hornby Street

Organ  
Vancouver Rape R.  
Women's Shelter 872

PLEASE PUT ME ON YOUR FRIDGE

**Agitation:** a specific call to action  
**Propaganda:** is a world view or a whole theory  
**Agit. - Prop.** calls people to act in accordance with your/their view of the world

Often the same people show up at rallies wearing red arm bands, carrying megaphones and lately, walkie-talkies. Judging from both their paraphernalia and their frequent huddles, they are V.I.P.'s here commonly referred to as marshalls. We are instructed by the organizers to listen to them, follow their instructions and depend on their judgements for our protection. They see to it that we walk in rows, in an orderly manner on the route predetermined but usually unknown to us. When they get scared they order us around without telling us the danger. When we ask for help, they assure us they will take care of it themselves. We have come here to celebrate, or to disrupt to defy, or to protest. This kind of marshalling only helps the other side.

Think of the job and do the job as safety, not marshalling when organizing a demonstration. That is, political behavior, not military. Concentrate on the safety of the women in the streets who are disrupting both traffic or business as usual at the porn shop or who are spray painting or sticking.

Let women know the route and the rationale for it ahead of time if possible. Check for experienced women among you and let them know that you are counting on their leadership to help keep women safe. Get agreement from women for both the role of the safety women and the way you are proposing to do the job. Hand around written sheets of suggestions for keeping each other safe while you protest. Use the megaphones to tell women the problem, for example, "the cops have driven a wedge of bikes into the middle of the march; or, the women at the end are having trouble keeping the pace; or, three men on the corner have isolated a woman from the rest of the march". Suggest a solution, for example, "let's slow down a little; or let's walk in place a while till the women at the end swing around the bikes and rejoin, or 6 of us can join the one woman to help her regroup safely, we'll sing out when we're with you." If women change the route spontaneously or stop to paint or go into a porn store go with them - trouble shoot in the same way there that helps keep women safe. Deal with your own fear of women disrupting the plan that you were part of in a way that does not interfere with the rebellion, but encourages it. Hard but necessary when the job is to keep from harm and not control.



- DON'T?**
- safety sheet
  - cut out pickets
  - banners made
  - buttons made
  - flashlights borrowed
  - bibs stencilled
  - dolls mounted
  - sound system
  - speech rehearsed
  - media invited
  - child care set up
  - evaluation planned
  - face paint ready
  - a zillion women phoned

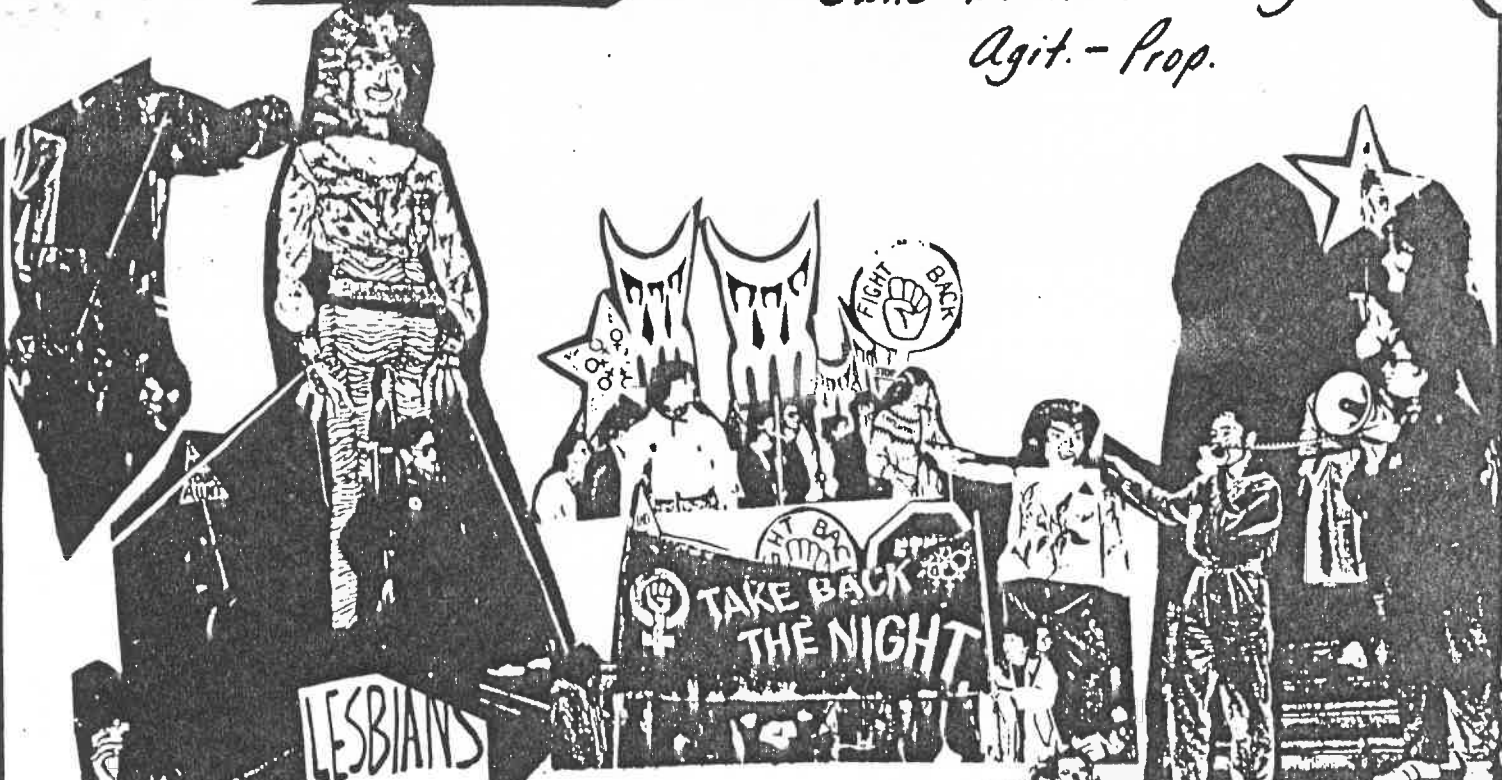
Some lesbians got clean away with leaving a dayglow stencil of a labyris and a large "LESBIANS FIGHT BACK" message on the mall in downtown Vancouver during the Take Back the Night March this fall. The march kept moving smoothly so no extra attention was drawn to the women stencilling. No one stumbled over them as they worked and all of the women involved folded back into the main body of the crowd without being divided from us. Good work, eh?

Because I was acting as a safety woman on the march that night I had a sharp eye on the movement in the crowd. I spotted a group of women walking with the rhythm of the march then suddenly form themselves into a circle, link arms and stop. Half the women in the circle quickly turned to face the oncoming march I could see them smiling broadly and speaking to approaching women. It was clear to those of us around them that they had a little activity planned! Their voices and their faces alerted women to their presence, prevented women from being startled and stumbling and encouraged women to veer slightly to the right and the left of them but to keep on the march. Several women were crouched on the pavement inside the circle and were stencilling furiously. They were protected from the view of the police and from the crowd stumbling over them by the women encircling them. As the end of the march came into view they seemed to all be standing, facing in the direction of the march and, completely in step with the pace of the moving crowd of women, fold back in among us.

It was obvious to me that these women had gone to considerable lengths to take everyone's safety into account. Job done without detection or injury or breaking ranks!

This march must be non-violent, it must not be a mimic of what we as women have experienced in our day to day lives, taking power by violence or violent threats. Treating people violently to teach them not to be violent does not work.

# Take Back the Night Agit. - Prop.



LESBIANS  
TAKE BACK  
THE NIGHT  
AND  
THE DAY  
FIGHT BACK

...And then there was the march itself..

In the end, this was one of the most fun events of the year. To get there, however, we had to fight a lot. When the A.G. passed an injunction banning prostitution from the West End of our town and cracking down on prostitutes (including naming 30 prostitutes publicly on lamp-posts and in welfare offices); we didn't know what to do. Our fear kept us from acting; we decided to do research instead and call it activity. Finally, some women in the collective blew our cover, and we knew we had to act. A march was proposed in the very area that was designated 'off limits' to prostitutes or persons engaged in prostitution-related activity, which the injunction had outlined as "swearing, littering, loitering, urinating or defecating" in said area.

Not many feminists committed themselves to coming and we didn't know if many prostitutes would risk defying the injunction, which for some meant to risk arrest. With participation of the Alliance for the Safety of Prostitutes (ASP) and ourselves, we went ahead.

We arrived at the designated meeting place and waited. Eventually, with barely fifty people present we were ready to get on with it. There were questions being raised everywhere about whether to take the streets or stay on the sidewalk. High density population, shopping, night clubs, the regular Friday night action of the street, and an irregular number of motorcycle cops was going to be tough competition. I wasn't about to make the decision myself so I asked the crowd, and the resounding response was "THE STREET". Prostitutes, male, female, and transvestite outnumbered the feminists and bystanders who had decided to start out with us.

We'd brought penny whistles, party horns, and other assorted noisemakers; which turned out to be a hit, and people joined the march in numbers. Chants were being made up, and led by lots of the people on the march, and the participation was loud. Teenagers joined us on skateboards, and roller skates. People waved and shouted from apartments and along the sidewalk. By the end we were 250 strong, we'd kept the street though police had tried to bully us off, we were all exhilarated, and not one of us was arrested.



VIOLENCE VIOLENCE  
AGAINST LESBIANS  
AGAINST ALL

SEXUAL  
CHOICE  
FOR  
WOMEN

FILL EGG SHELLS WITH PAINT

If you are cooking scrambled eggs or soufflé, blow the eggs out of their shells instead of breaking them. This is done by making a small hole at both ends of the shell with a pin, then blowing very hard at one end--the egg comes out the other end. If it doesn't work make the holes a little bigger. Seal one end of the empty shells with wax. Fill them with oil based paint using a hypodermic needle. Then seal the other ends with wax.



MAKE A STINK BOMB

Mix Drano and an egg white in a jar and let it stand two or three days. It's harmless, but very smelly.

**ORGANIZE NOW!**  
**Get Out into the Streets**

the third Friday of every September

Our hope is that all over the world, more and more women will come out of their homes and into the streets of their villages, neighbourhoods, and cities during the night of the third Friday of each September. We want women to stand together - united with our differences of race, language, class, culture, age, sexual orientation, to protest the violence we commonly experience. Take Back the Night is becoming an increasingly effective and visible sign of our determination and show of women's strength to end sexual violence.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18th, 1981: A SUCCESS!

Our first, co-ordinated North-American demonstration was a major success: - 6,000 women (reclaimed) took to the streets of more than 35 towns and cities in Quebec, Canada and the USA.

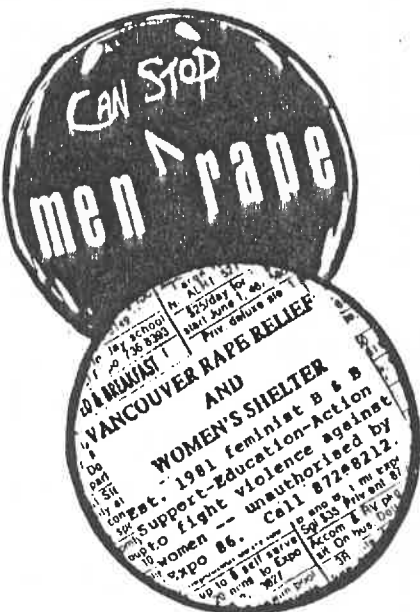
**This Year Spread the Word**

If you want to organize a march -

- (1) If you live in an area where there is a Rape Crisis Centre or a group of women working to end violence against women, contact them to get information, to exchange ideas and get support.
- (2) If there are no women's groups working against violence against women in your area, talk with your friends, co-workers, sisters, mothers, women in your neighbourhood. Get together and start your own group. One of your first actions can be a Take Back the Night Protest.

THESE ACTS OF VIOLENCE ARE TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE TO WOMEN!

More and more, women are organizing to support each other and to speak out against sexual assault. Since across Canada and Quebec, women together to work towards the prevention and ultimate eradication of the done to us.



Vancouver Rape Relief & Women's Shelter  
77 E. 20th Avenue,  
Vancouver, B.C., V5V 1L7  
872-8212

This year, Vancouver Rape Relief & Women's Shelter will be gathering women to Take Back the Night in Vancouver on Friday, Sept. 17. Please phone us at 872-8212 if you want to join us.

If you're from another part of B.C. + planning to Take Back the Night, we're really interested in hearing from you, and letting you know what other women are doing throughout the province.

We have pamphlets + buttons if you can use them. Last year B.C. women marched in Victoria, Vancouver + Quesnel. This year lets have a closer march!

*Risak*

Tonight we are marching for ourselves and each other and for women who cannot be with us because they fear repercussion from their abusers. As well we march for the women who died violent deaths at the hands of their abusers.



Although we are distanced from you in miles, in our hearts we are with you in solidarity in the fight to eradicate violence against women.

Sisters, lovers, friends, mothers, daughters, children, Take Back the Night.

The women of the Peterborough Rape Crisis Centre Collective



Tonight as we march through the streets of our cities, our individual voices become one, demanding our freedom from male violence.

By walking together we multiply our individual power and in solidarity we support one another in our personal struggle to determine our lives.

We refuse to be silent! We are fighting back!

In Sisterhood

Women of the Fredericton Rape Crisis Centre



We stretch our arms across this country, to join with you in declaring that the women of Canada want to live free from fear.



From our eastern-most province, to your western-most province, we send you our strength, as we absorb yours, in working toward ending the violence in our lives.

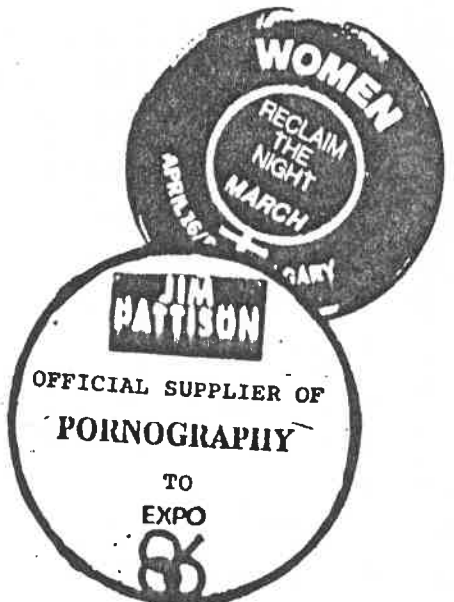
We march together tonight, and look to the day when there will be no need for marches.

St. John's Newfoundland Rape Crisis Centre



Salût vous toutes. Solidaires nous sommes avec vous dans nos luttes. Aujourd'hui dans 21 villes du Québec des femmes manifestent, font des actions et marquent la journée d'action contre la violence faite aux femmes. Force, unité et pouvoir: ensemble avec vous nous formons une communauté de femmes et d'espoir.

Le Regroupement Québécois de Centres D'aide et de Lutte Contre les Agressions à Caractère Sexuel





The Women's Liberation Movement has planned and organized Take Back the Night as a 'direct action' by which we mean doing what we are prevented and discouraged from doing:

Vancouver Rape Relief & Women's Shelter

77 E. 20th Avenue,  
Vancouver, B.C., V5V 1L7  
872-8212

- walking the streets at night as women safely without male protection from other males
- without male, or authority protection from police escorts
- wearing whatever we wish to wear that is comfortable and defiant and lively and protects us from the elements
- walking in great crowds of women without begging the city for a license to do so
- walking a route that we have chosen, a route where women have to walk or are not allowed to walk, and one that we have not announced to city authorities previously
- singing, shouting, spray-painting, respecting women's rights to our own bodies more than anyone's right to property
- all women invited so there's no cost childcare, extra care to women of color and women in chairs, and we advertize where other than 'us' will hear about it
- mutual aid is encouraged with buddies, rides home board
- education using leaflets, chants, displays, song sheets
- building a movement with endorsements, banners, telegrams and national coordination
- costuming material and face painting on site
- evaluate your event - keep a record of it. repeat your successes



not the church, not the state  
women must control our fate!

Bonnie



C'est pour toi que tu fais la revolution.\*  
-Daniel and Gabriel Cohn-Bendit



... at our best march yet....

Joan

... a cool misty kind of autumn night..  
September 20th, 1985  
... 40 beautiful, colorful placards  
... six - 8x10 foot women figures..  
constructed by the organisers and other women... their names... Fern, Betty, Denise, Alice, Emily, Carrie. They represented the women in the crowd.. young, old, native, black, white, pregnant.  
... 'Fight Back' songs playing on the ghetto blaster.  
... drummers, drumming while mingling in and out of the women gathered.  
... face painters painting 'Fight Back' on women's faces.  
... women in organised groups displaying their groups' banner.  
... many new women we had never seen.  
... 500 plus women - the largest women only demonstration in British Columbia's history.  
... children being transported from the rallying spot to the childcare space just

a few blocks away.  
... or children deciding to stay with their mothers and demonstrate.  
... a group of lesbian women very visible with many pink triangles saying slogans like  
I am your sister  
I am your mother  
I am your grandmother  
... media cameras everywhere  
reporters wanting details of the event.  
Feminist cameras everywhere...  
... a Rape Relief worker speaks... demanding that men change their hurtful behavior and saying that women will not stop fighting until they do.  
... telegrams read from 15 other violence against women groups across the country...  
... safety women mingling ready to direct us out onto the streets...  
... and then they do...  
500 plus women take the downtown streets of Vancouver protesting the

sex shops and pornography outlets...  
chanting slogans...  
Incest, Rape, Battered Women  
We Have Had Enough!

No More Profits Off Our Bodies!

...later a celebration dance organised by Vancouver Lesbian Connection...

Note: All of this was part of our response to the severe attack on the Women's Liberation Movement in Canada from 1983-85. Government cutbacks to women's groups (many have folded), attempts to discredit the violence against women statistics that feminists have uncovered, imprisoning women who refuse to testify against their attackers etc...

'1986' The Struggle Continues!