

BY SANDRA BUTLER

This issue of the *Canadian Woman Studies* takes the reader into the dense landscape of misogyny. These pages are an unsparing examination of personal, professional and institutionalized contempt, hatred and violence against women. There are many voices here, voices of survivors, of activists, of women with disabilities, women who are battered by husbands and again by the legal system, of women who are exploited by random strangers and trusted intimates.

Finding the interconnections of the myriad forms of violence against women requires we understand the ways we are held captive in the prisons that are men's castles, in the criminal justice system and mental health systems, in both the reserves and the suburbs. Held captive, not with barbed wire and locks but with economic and psychological dependencies that leave us compliant, accommodating, responsive, leaving us susceptible to men who prey on our socially constructed vulnerabilities.

It's all here, the personal and the political; the permutations of violence as experienced by children and women who are Aboriginal, Palestinian, Jewish, disabled, lesbian, black, held against their will in psychiatric wards and nu-

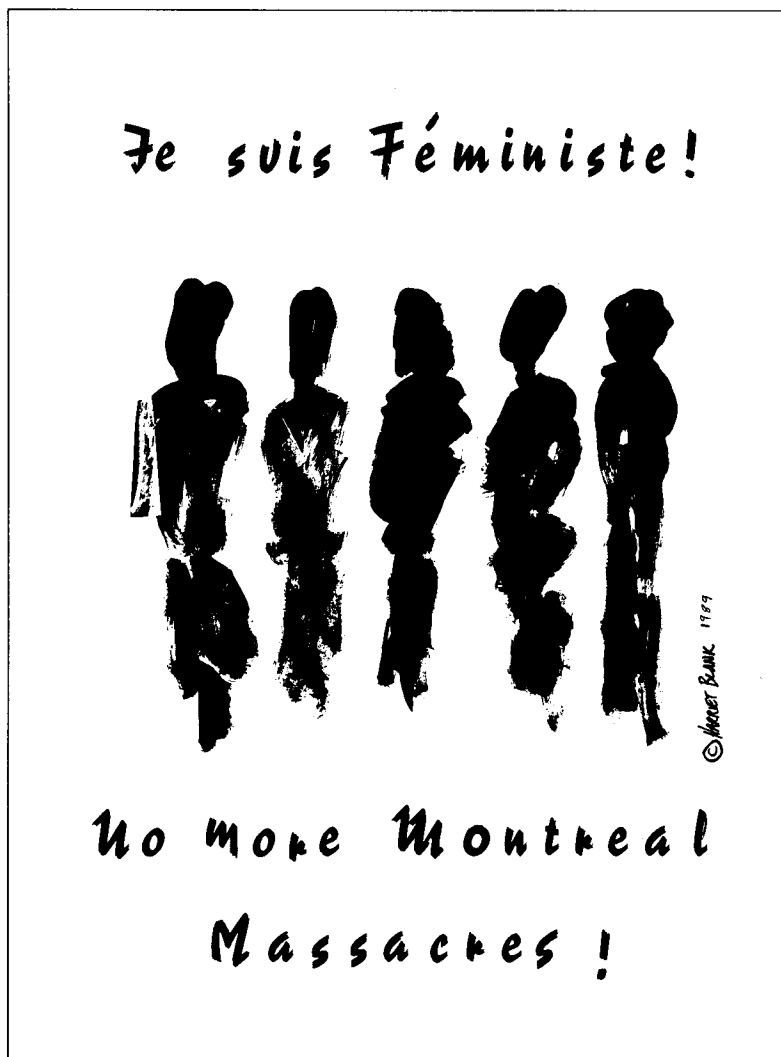
clear families, used in the brutalizing images of pornography, harassed on the street, at work, and invaded by men of science and men of god.

It is both chilling and sobering to see the implacable faces of dominance and violence. But it is also reassuring to have the words of these women thinking, speaking, writing, remembering, imagining.

This journal requires our attention, our involvement. Reading this collection demands a great deal of us. There are no illusions in these pages. These women have offered their words, testi-

mony, analysis, theory to us, the readers, to deepen our understanding as well as our feelings of outrage, to help us see how each form of woman-hating has an inevitable relation to all the others, to intensify our commitment and engagement with the task of ending violence against women and children and to the struggle for liberation to which we have enjoined our political lives.

*Sandra Butler, author of Conspiracy of Silence, is an internationally recognized authority on violence against women and children. Extending her efforts beyond traditional therapeutic settings, Sandra works with various communities to identify and reshape the institutional and social structures that diminish and victimize us.*



T-shirts with this image by Harriet Blank are available through Box 193, 48 Shattuck Square, Berkeley, CA 94704 USA.