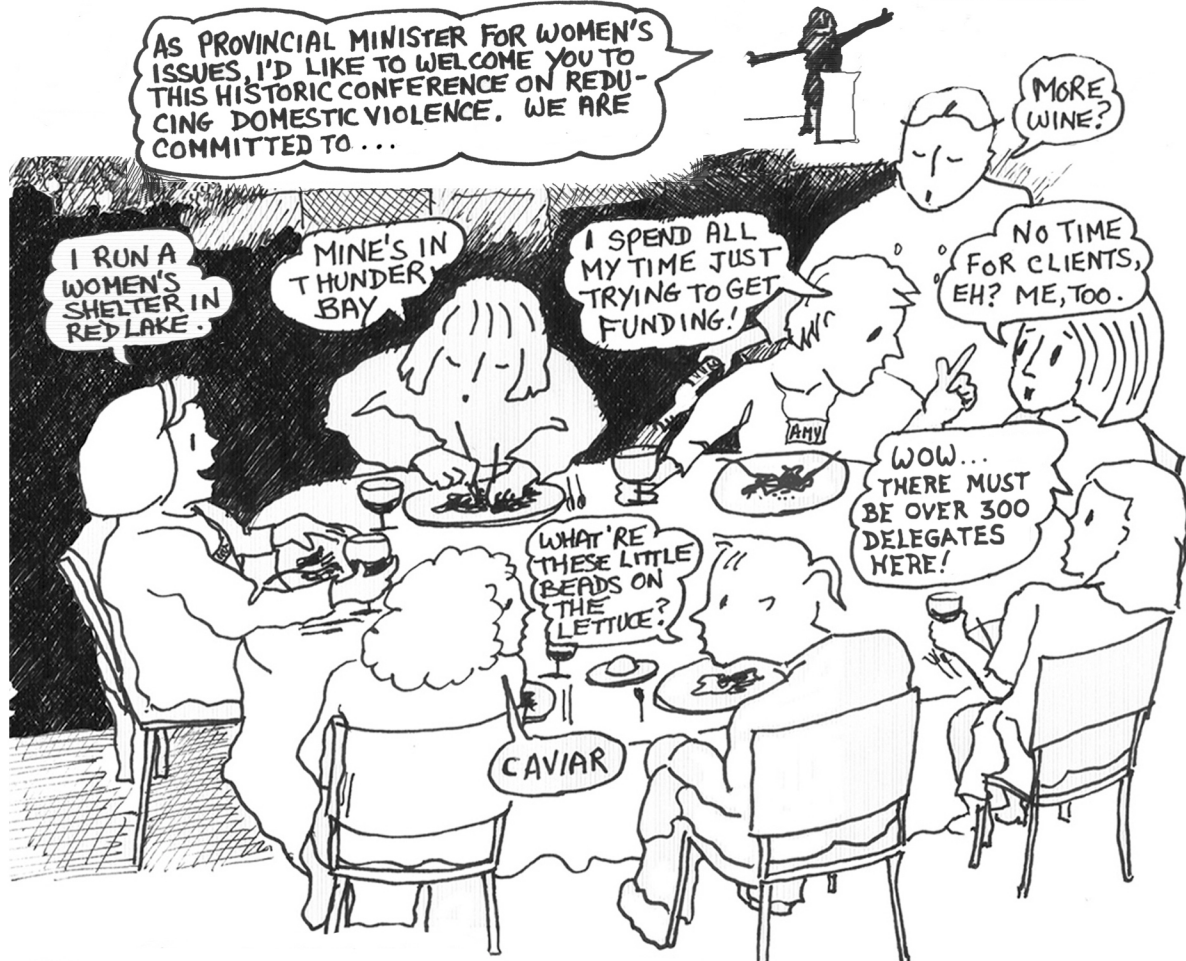


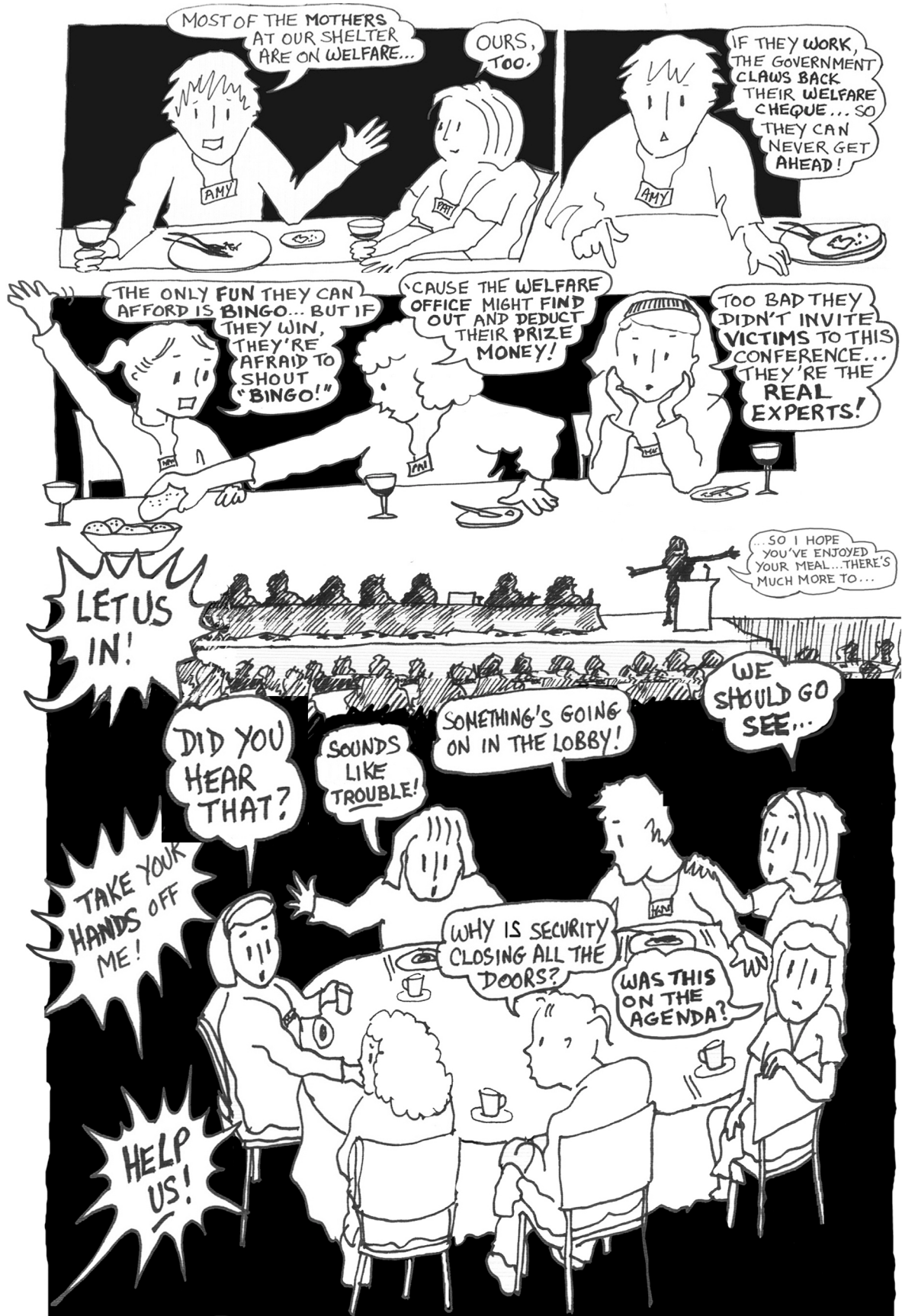
Conference Notes

In November 2005, the issue of poverty & violence was on everybody's minds. Paris was on fire ... Toronto was reeling from gun violence at a church funeral ... and Ontario was hosting a conference in Toronto on how to reduce domestic violence. Gloria Steinem was the keynote speaker!

Unfortunately, the conference didn't receive much press coverage because most journalists had rushed to Ottawa: the federal government was falling.

(I went, though, and I took my sketch pad!)







HOW CAN THE MINISTER GO ON TALKING AND IGNORE THE COMMOTION?

AND SO WE...

PSST! COME TO THE LOBBY - QUICK! ALL HELL'S BREAKING LOOSE... THEY'VE CALLED FOR POLICE BACK-UP.

HELP US!

WE WANT TO SEE THE MINISTER

PLEASE READ OUR FLYERS!

SHE REFUSES TO MEET WITH US!

HELP!

WHO ARE THEY? WHAT DO THEY WANT?

OCAP... WELFARE MOTHERS, PROTESTING CUTBACKS IN THEIR FOOD SUPPLEMENTS

WHY IS SECURITY MANHANDLING THEM LIKE THAT? THEY'RE NOT BEING VIOLENT OR ANYTHING...

I TRIED TO GIVE THEM SOME OF THE MUFFINS FROM THE BREAKFAST BUFFET, BUT SECURITY STOPPED ME AND SAID I COULDN'T!

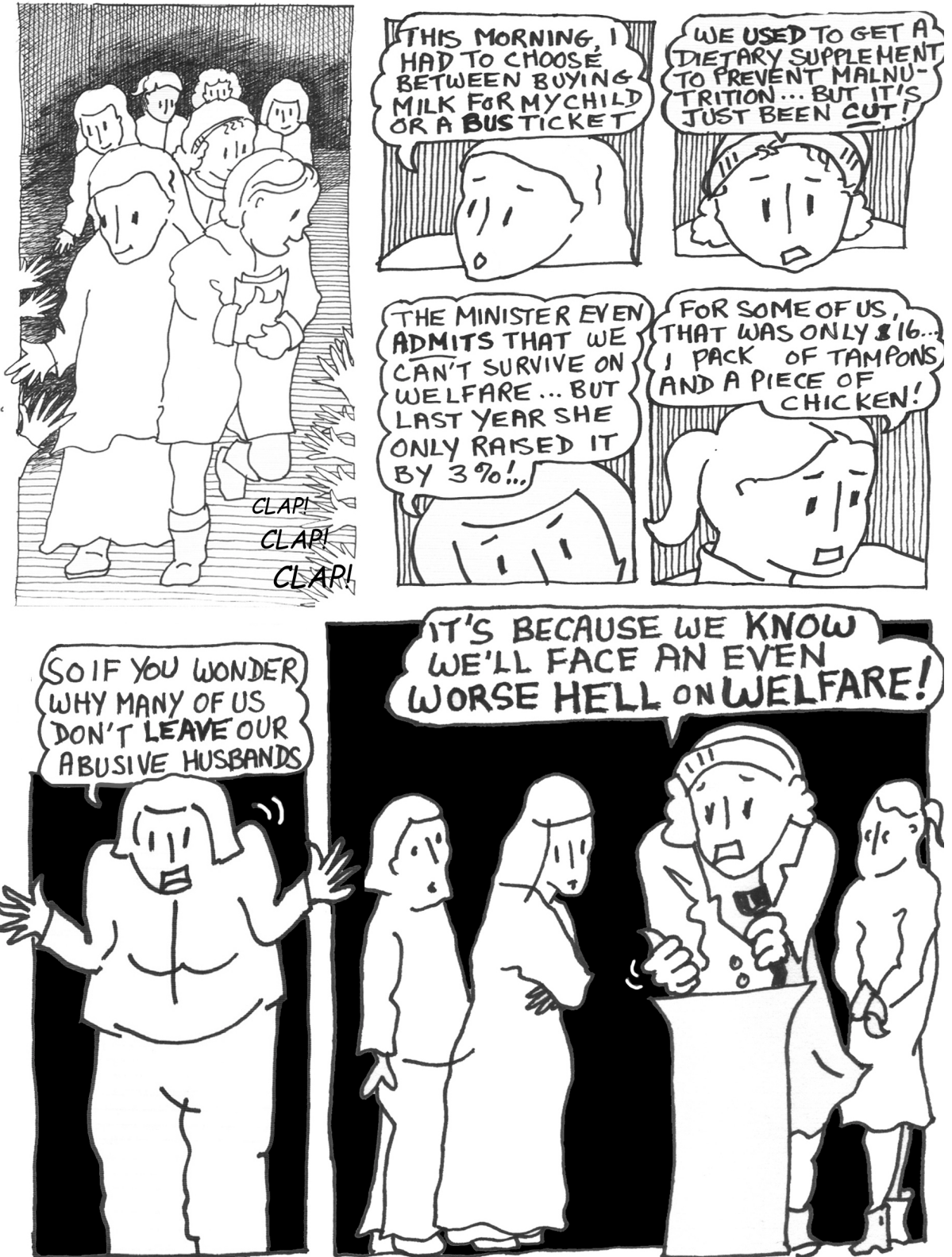




The place ERUPTED and 300 delegates started to RALLY!



Although the minister had already left through a side door, the moderator had no choice but to let the women in! So they marched in to a standing ovation, and one-by-one they told us their stories ...



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Published 2005 by Penguin Group (Canada). Visit www.dragonslippers.com

To be continued ...