

border region between Norway and Finland where Norwegian, Norwegian-Saame, Finnish, Finnish-Saame and also tourist men would go. At the busiest time there were two buses that fit 80 women, and also 300-400 litres of vodka and Russian champagne. Another trafficking route in the north of Finland takes place from Murmansk through Ivalo to further north and across the Norwegian border as well as south to Kemiriver region close to Rovaniemi in Finland.

<sup>3</sup>Then the proprietors were jailed and charged for procuring Russian prostitutes. The charges were dropped due to lack of evidence in 2003.

<sup>4</sup>In this case the woman has to stay three years in a relationship before she can obtain a residence permit. This is the same both in Finland and Norway. After that she can, in theory, leave and try and make her own life with her children. In many cases those three years are long and difficult for the women, not the least of which can be attributed to abusive spouses but also from the open resentment of the local communities.

<sup>5</sup>This is a direct quote of his words during the interview on June 1<sup>st</sup> 2001.

<sup>6</sup>A comment on the situation by a friend.

<sup>7</sup>She can only apply for one visa at time, meaning in practice that she can only cross the borders once a month, since it takes three weeks to process each application.

#### Errata

In the previous issue on "Women and Peace-Building" (Vol. 22.2), an error was pointed out in the article by Ruth Ojiambo Ochieng, "The Scars on Women's Minds and Bodies: Women's Roles in Post-Conflict Reconstruction in Uganda." The following sentence which appears on page 26 should read: "... the weapons that have destroyed Arica and its people are *not* being manufactured in Africa."

## MARIA PASSARELLI

### Wife Hunting?

sitting on his fine tail,  
smiling,  
he reads:

all Christian nations  
represented  
our process quality controlled  
smooth  
in finding girls craved

242 letters arrive  
a harvest of young and fresh  
delicate bodies  
at just such an angle

girls who lead uncomplicated  
lives  
humble and devoted  
worth every dollar

it doesn't take long to find  
the most eye-appealing  
and there is such gratitude  
because he sends her a simple  
card  
that she is now making lists of  
the meals  
she is going to cook for him

he writes:  
what you say about western  
women is true  
they are condemned to  
freedom  
not defined to a workable size

he adds:  
it's a miracle  
i prayed to find the right  
wife  
a Christian loyal wife  
who won't betray me  
because divorce is not an  
option  
for either of us

i have a heart  
full of loving-kindness  
to share with  
my princess  
after three failed marriages

on the other side  
at the immigration  
interview  
she thinks  
perhaps afterwards one  
can choose  
not simply accept  
not knowing that for her,  
simple curiosity is  
dangerous enough  
this last thought  
interrupted by...

"What is the child's  
name?"

*Maria Passarelli is a first generation immigrant living in Bolton, Ontario.*