

22 July 1996

R.R, # 1
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West Kootenay Women's Association Coordinating Collective

Dear Sisters:

I have a deep concern about the graphic being used to represent the Association for the West Kootenay Women's Festival. We continue to try to broaden our base and encourage the participation of a wider group of feminists: young women, women with children, working women, women who experience poverty. By using the explicitly naked drawing to represent the festival, I believe we are eliminating a large number of women who do not see themselves dancing around in the nude. It hardly gives the impression of the quality of workshops, discussion, camaraderie and sisterhood that we have all worked so hard to ensure are part of this festival.

I do not believe that I am a prude, and I sun and water bath naked all summer. I do not use the festival for this purpose. There is a strong policy of no nudity in view of the road at the Vallican Whole Community Centre. This poster gives a very mixed message in relation to that policy.

It is one thing to have this in the Women's Association newsletter. It will be a very different thing to have this up around the Kootenay's as the poster for the festival. The implications that this will have in the long run on the ongoing work of the Women's Centre and the Association need to be considered. This is not the way to build community, unless the community you are building is of a very limited nature.

That is not my vision of the women's movement. It is a graphic that may belong in the hearts and bedrooms of women who are finding their spirits and their freedom, not on the public places that will be being used to advertise the festival to welcome all women.

I hope this letter results in the rethinking of the use of this poster,

With regard,

Marcia Braundy