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## In your opinion

We are asking for opinion pieces of a longer length than the standard letter. All submissions are welcome, but please make them current and interesting. Names must be included, we reserve the right to edit for legal, space, or style purposes.

## Feminist power: Reclamation or declaration

By Karen McLenithan

A number of Island women are attempting to deal with their relationship with militarism and how it affects their everyday lives. For them, militarism is authority forcefully taken by one group or another. Militarism implies that free choice is being lost in our patriarchal society, and feminists must assert their individual power in order to defeat often violent militaristic greed.

Wentworth, Nova Scotia, on the weekend of January 6-8 was the setting for a conference on the topic "Women and Militarism". Three Island women attended this conference, and are committed to carry on what they discovered there.

Through intense sharing of knowledge and emotions, the group became a bonded community using the power of consensus, web chants, grounding, and keening to come to grips with the multitude of affects that militarism has on their lives.

For example, a woman

who is a seamstress uses a sewing machine made by a company which also has a huge weapon-producing contract. As well, a company which produces nuclear weapons parts simultaneously produces the microwave oven and plastic sandwich bags which are commonly used in households.

The military imposes on all of us its expectations of submission to its goals and the surrender of responsibility for our own actions. Society is conditioned to obey by submitting to dominance like sheep in a flock. Women in particular are now aware of this because of the feminist examination of male dominance, which causes women to live like outsiders in controlled non-existence.

As a result of this conference, these women are changing both their public and private lives. They are planning public action intended to question the value of the military bunker at Debert, Nova Scotia.

They are also examining their relationships with in their lives. Ironically, are now concerned that may be inheriting the of outsider beyond spiritual bonds that w refuse to drop.

Does a woman's strength affect her relationships with the men w she chooses to be close. The competitive instinc not meant to be a c blow to male individual. A woman's declaration self-ownership is simple statement that she too has power of independence.

Rather than taking p away from men, t feminists last weekend n a decision to define n source of power as th selves. If this were a r mation, I would agree men are the losers feminist gains.

However, as a declar of being, it gives wo the validity to live with violence of forced sonality or might, in situation of their choice.

## Point of View

By Mike J. Trainor

The question which is in the forefront of everyone's mind in 1984 is: "What will the world be like as we move through the next twelve months?"

This column will hopefully satisfy your interests by giving you some predictions — as I see it — for 1984.

The biggest question of 1984 will be, "When will Pierre (Peacemaker) Trudeau resign?"

Loof for a resignation in March, probably St. Patrick's Day. Mr. Trudeau's departure as Liberal leader will see Liberals from across Canada choosing Blue Eyes (John Turner) in mid-July.

The stage will be set in early November for a federal election between Blue Eyes and Jaws 4-D (Mulroney).

The Liberal party will come out victorious with a 20-seat majority in the House of Commons. The NDP will be wiped out in this election,

and watch for their total extinction by 1990.

Joe Clark, the hiccup of history, will step down from politics and continue to teach at York University in Toronto. Watch for his wife Maureen to get into politics so that she may do some of the things that her husband never had the chance to do.

In the U.S., Walter Mondale will win the Democratic nomination, but will be unsuccessful in unseating the Urban Cowboy in the White House. Ronald (Trigger Happy) Reagan will continue his domination in world politics, and will invade at least one of the Latin American countries.

In the Soviet Union, we will see a change in the leadership at the Kremlin as Yuri Andropov's health continues to deteriorate. However, the policy stances of the USSR will remain the same.

The Cold War between the U.S. and the Soviets will go

into a deep, deep freeze.

On the international scene the Royal Couple will forward to the birth of the second child, a girl. Pope's visit to Canada prove to be the successful visit by any w leader.

Pieree (Peacemaker) Trudeau will chair nuclear disarmament conference of the big five su powers at the United Nat in New York.

Here on PEI, we will much of the same as before. Electricity rates will remain the same, and Jim Lee call a provincial election personal reasons either fall or the spring the 1985.

On the university campus watch for the hockey ladies' basketball teams take their respective AU championship crowns. B teams will go to the national and fare quite well at championships.

And ... "that's my point of view."