

Dear Bronwyn:

Of course, after our good talk yesterday I found there were thoughts I wanted included. So can you somehow fasten onto the record the following.

Additional Brief Thoughts About the Second Wave

Naomi Black

August 10, 2008

1] One of our failings as historians of the women's movement in Canada has been the focus on Ontario and federal activists [often the same] and, even more, perspectives. This archival project, for all the excellent things it is doing, has the same problem and anyone using it should be aware of that.

2] Judy Rebick's \*10,000 Roses\* is an example of this and I meant also to tell you that I have major questions also about its accuracy. It has significant gaps in relation to both participants and issues. Also, it looks as if some at least of those interviewed did not check over the transcripts before publication [see my review in the \*Canadian Review of Books.\*]

3] There's widespread romanticism among feminists about women being kinder, more peaceful etc. Women are [somewhat] socialised to behave less aggressively, but I don't find them basically nicer than men. It's this belief that makes women disappointed with what we've achieved [a lot tho not nearly enough yet] and unhappy about their experience of working with women and women's groups. Perhaps I have been especially fortunate in my associates and collaborators of both sexes; I work mainly with women because of shared experience and interests.

4] You didn't ask me about 'backlash.' It's certainly there and among what I don't like about the current government. Sexism lives, heterosexism lives. But a lot won't be reversed. MPs won't ever again dare laugh about violence against women, for example.

5] So, as I said, I don't anymore like the transitory and reversible elements implied by the metaphor of 'waves' of feminism. I now prefer something something like the shifting of tectonic plates, what moved the continents apart - and for good.

Yours in sisterhood

[a sign-off that is no longer in favour - but let's recognise that sisters can be very different and not always friends but have, willy-nilly, a lot in common]-

Naomi

--

Naomi Black

[redacted]