
ACTION

MANITOBA ACTION COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN NEWSLETTER

October 1991

Volume 18 Number 8

Sonia Johnson

Persons' Day Revisited

Where do We Stand on David Milgaard?



Nellie McClung with Alberta feminists Alice Jamieson and Emily Murphy (Provincial Archives of Victoria)

About MACSW

The Manitoba Action Committee on the Status of Women is a voluntary, non-profit feminist organization working through political action, public education and personal growth in order to improve attitudes, raise issues and remove inequalities affecting women today.

MACSW was formed in 1971 by a group of women who presented a brief to the Royal Commission on the Status of Women in 1967. As well as a Winnipeg Branch, MACSW has branches in Brandon, Dauphin and Thompson.

About ACTION

ACTION is published 10 times a year by the Manitoba Action Committee on the Status of Women, with the assistance of the Secretary of State Women's Program. The purpose of *ACTION* is to inform MACSW members about MACSW initiatives, to encourage members to take action on a personal and political level, and to serve as a forum to discuss all issues affecting the changing status of women. Articles express the views of individual writers and do not necessarily reflect MACSW policy.

Submission Policy

News and feature-style articles, profiles, reviews, essays, letters to the editor, illustrations, cartoons and photographs are all welcome. Written submissions should be double spaced and typed (2 pages max.) Material may be edited. Sorry, submissions will not be returned unless accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope. The deadline for the November issue is October 15, 1991.

Send submissions to:
ACTION Newsletter
 MACSW
 16-222 Osborne St. S.
 Winnipeg, Manitoba R3L 1Z3
 Phone 453-3879

This issue brought to you by MACSW staff and Marion Foster, Pat Sadowy, Lynne Gibbons, Doreen Wuckert, Amanda Le Rougetel, Joanne Levasseur, Rumani Singh, Randa Stewart and Penni Mitchell. *ACTION* is available on audio-tape. Call MACSW 453-3879 (Voice/TDD).

This Issue

Editorial: Persons' Day Revisited	1
Letters to MACSW/ <i>ACTION</i>	2
Branch Reports	3
NAC Supports Self-Determination	7
Sonia Johnson: Clear Sailing or Ship of Fools?	8
David Milgaard: Where do we Stand?	11
AIDS Awareness for Immigrants/Refugees	10
Announcements/Events/Stuff to Do	12

New & Renewed Members!

New		Renewed	
Wanda Armstrong	Karen Prychitko	Gio Guzzi	Donna Everitt
Donna Rose	Leslie Wilson	Catherine Brockway	Joyce Murray
Terri Kaufman	Lydia Comty	Marian Yeo	Karen Tjaden
Jane Macklin	Lois Klassen		
Carol Collins			

EDITORIAL

Persons' Day Revisited

by Penni Mitchell

The recent Rape Shield decision by the Supreme Court of Canada is nothing if not consistent with its past pronouncements on women. Before the famous Persons' Case was finally resolved on October 18, 1929, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled in 1927 that "In the opinion of the Supreme Court of Canada, women are not persons."

Sound familiar? It's the same message being sent to women in the wake of accused rapists' insistence that giving women legal protection in the courts takes men's rights away from them.

It even strikes a hauntingly familiar chord to the British Common Law of Great Britain which first prompted the Persons' Case 75 years ago, which said: "Women are persons in matters of pains and penalties, but not in matters of rights and privileges."

Ain't it the truth.

When push comes to shove, men's rights take precedence. After all, it was a man who stood up to Emily Murphy in an Alberta court room on her first day as a police magistrate in 1916 — just after Manitoba women had been given the vote — and challenged her magisterial authority, saying women weren't qualified to hold public office because of the Common Law.

It's the same thing all over again in the Rape Shield case in 1991. The Supreme Court has told women: "If we give you legal rights too, then men might not have as much power over you."

Precisely.

Politicians in Ottawa had been throwing up the same muck in women's faces in the 1920s when they asked when the first women would be appointed to the Senate. The men in Ottawa whined: "But, if we appoint you to the Senate, men might not have as much power over you."

Persons' Day revisited. It's surprising the Supreme Court didn't quote the 1927 ruling that women are not persons in their Rape Shield ruling last August.

On this Persons' Day, we'll pay tribute to the Famous Five — Emily Murphy, Nellie McClung, Henrietta Edwards, Irene Parby and Louise McKinney and vow to have our personhood reinstated by fighting to keep our sexual histories out of the courtrooms.

Nellie wouldn't have stood for it, just as she didn't in 1927 when the Supreme Court told women — much to their surprise — that they weren't persons and therefore not eligible to sit in the Senate. At the time, the British North America Act provided that any five citizens could ask the government for an interpretation of constitutional law.

*"In the opinion
of the Supreme Court of Canada,
women are not persons."*

After the Supreme Court declared them non-persons, they were forced to appeal to the Privy Council in London, which ruled on October 18, 1929. Newspapers all over the British Empire carried black headlines "Privy Council declares That Women Are Persons!" Nellie recalled, with irony that "It came as a surprise to many women, in Canada at least, who had not known that they were *not* persons until they heard it stated that they *were*."

This battle, which was started to clarify a small technical barrier to women's involvement in public life, took 2 years of legal wrangling. Today, we've got Charter protection under Section 15 that says women are entitled to equal protection before and under the law and equal benefit of the law. Maybe the Supreme Court didn't read up to Section 15 when it was deliberating about rapists' rights.

The battle to establish some legal protection for rape victims isn't over, but one thing's for certain: women have been experiencing the "pains and penalties" part of our equality for long enough.

LETTERS

Dear Editor:

Marion Foster's review of *Thelma & Louise* (ACTION September 1991) misses a few critical points. This is not a feminist film. It is Hollywood's response to violence against women — another "buddy" movie where violence is used in response to violence. Surely feminism is about the elimination of violence and an end to male-dominated systems where women are powerless and controlled — not where they become powerful by using acts of violence against men.

Yes, the scenery is great, the acting is good and there are some worthwhile points about "jerky" men, but the film fails to demonstrate an alternative. I didn't want to "clap, cheer or whistle in unladylike fashion." I wanted to see the violence stop or see a man who offered something different come on to the screen, then I could really howl! *Thelma & Louise* failed to offer either.

(I also found it ironic that an article on gun control followed the review).

Cyndi Hanson
Brandon

Feminist training, consulting, research,
program evaluation and career counselling.

Twelve associates with diverse
educational/cultural backgrounds.

BEVERLY SUEK

(204)452-4925

TLS Creative Enterprises

235 Oakwood Ave., Winnipeg, Mb. R3L 1E5



**BOLD
PRINT INC**

THE WOMEN'S BOOKSTORE

478A River Avenue at Osborne Street
Winnipeg, Man. R3L 0C8
Ph: (204) 452-9682

BOOKS • MUSIC • PERIODICALS • CARDS
CALENDARS • GIFTS • MAIL ORDER
UNICEF • JEWELLRY • GIFT CERTIFICATES

Dear MACSW members:

We are in the process of indexing what will be the first Canadian lesbian periodicals index. We believe that the publication of this index will ensure the preservation of a large part of our Canadian lesbian herstory. Twenty publications will be indexed. Because half of these periodicals are no longer being published, it is difficult for us to get hold of them. We would therefore like to ask the lesbian community across Canada to help us in locating the following periodicals:

A Web of Crones, Vancouver, 1986

Diversity, Vancouver, 1988

Lesbians/lesbiennes, Toronto 1979-81

Lesbian Newsletter, Regina 1985

London Lesbian Collective Newsletter,
London, 1977-78

Flagrant, Vancouver, 1981-84

The Sisters' Lightship, Halifax, 1978

Three of Cups Newsletter, Toronto, 1976-78

Waves, Victoria, 1978-79

Womospace, Edmonton, 1984

If anyone has any of the above-mentioned periodicals, we would appreciate it greatly if you could get in touch with us as soon as possible. Arrangements can be made with you as to the cost of shipping the material to us and back to you. Thank you for your support. *We will accept collect calls at (204) 475-5489.*

Union donates to MACSW in honour of slain member in New Brunswick

The Union of Rail Canada Traffic Controllers recently made a donation to MACSW in memory of one of its members, Karen Marquis, who was murdered in her home near Moncton, New Brunswick.

In a letter accompanying the generous donation of \$100, the union said: "Since the Manitoba Action Committee on the Status of Women has shown itself to be highly involved in the issue of violence against women we felt that a donation to your committee would be of the most benefit in bringing awareness of this issue to society at large and to prevent other persons becoming victims of murder and other violence."

BRANCH REPORTS

Winnipeg Branch

by Andrea James

Administrative Coordinator



Are you all still reeling from the news about the overturning of the Rape Shield law the way I am? I think that unbelievable turn of events has overshadowed many other happenings of the past month. Please continue to voice your concerns (and outrage!) to the Minister of Justice, your MP, and Brian Mulroney. If you want to get more involved, give me a call (453-3879) and we'll try to organize an ad hoc committee for political action on this issue.

In addition to speaking out publicly about the Rape Shield law, MACSW spoke out on another event as well. Sports writer Ashley Prest and *The Winnipeg Free Press* have our support following their decision to suspend coverage of Manitoba Baseball Association events until apologies for verbal abuse have been received. A member of the MBA reportedly made comments to Ms. Prest which can only be described as sexual harassment. We commend *The Winnipeg Free Press* for taking immediate action.

I would like to appeal to those of you who

are interested in becoming more involved in the Winnipeg women's movement. There are many activities to participate in, and many tasks to be accomplished through MACSW. We have position papers that need updating, new briefs to be researched and written, committees to be formed or joined. Coalitions and committees out in the community ask for MACSW representatives. Schools and organizations ask for speakers on a variety of topics. The office needs help staying (or should I say becoming?) organized, and the library and resource area always need to be updated and straightened out. In short: there's a lot to do to keep the movement moving. If you would like to volunteer some time and energy, please feel free to drop in or call. Here is an opportunity to learn new skills, or meet new people, or help out. Don't be shy!

I'd also like to remind all of you to come to the office on **Saturday, October 19th for the MACSW GARAGE SALE**. Meet MACSW staff and volunteers, see the office, and pick up some wonderful finds at extremely reasonable prices! There will be clothes, books, furniture, jewelry, and coffee. And best of all, your money will be going to the organization so that we can continue to do good work for women. If you'd like to donate some goods (we'll take baking too!), **give me a call at 453-3879**. We'd like donations to be dropped off during the week before the 17th if possible. We hope to have access to a truck and can pick up larger things if need be.

Thank you in advance for your support.
Remember---you are the women's movement!

Take Note: The office hours for the
Winnipeg MACSW Branch are:

MONDAY	10:00 - 4 p.m.
TUESDAY	10:00 - 4 p.m.
WEDNESDAY	10:00 - 9 p.m.
THURSDAY	10:00 - 4 p.m.
FRIDAY	CLOSED

BRANCH REPORTS

Winnipeg Branch

by Jenny Robinson
Provincial Coordinator

Violence Against Women Panel

Last month I mentioned the Violence Against Women Panel and asked you to write to the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women Mary Collins, to recommend that the \$10 million-designated for the cross country panel be spent in a more worthwhile manner, even though the Panel was already under way. Well, this month Minister Collins has sent out the packages which describe the purpose of the Panel. We have all seen them before. You know the ones I am talking about, the four-colour glossy folder (non-recyclable) with 20 beautifully typeset bond pages. The following is an item-by-item estimated breakdown of what these packages would cost to produce:

Four Colour Presentation Folder	
\$1.25/ea. x 1000	= \$1,250.00
Copying	
\$1.00/ea. x 1000	= \$1,000.00
Postage	
\$1.80/ea. x 1000	= \$1,800.00
Labour	= \$1,000.00
G.S.T.	353.50
Total	\$5,403.50

I have thought before about how much this type of package must cost. I know I sound a little obsessed by the cost of the endeavour, but this time I am overwhelmed by the amount of money it will cost and how needed that money is elsewhere. Ten million dollars! Even the five thousand for this segment would feed and clothe many women in a shelter. It might buy those extra twenty beds (with bedding). Five thousand might keep the doors of a resource centre open. It might fund one more vital link in the end to violence. In short, it might save one woman's life! Just think what the whole 10 million could do!

So if you haven't sent Minister Collins a postcard or letter (you can call her too) please do.



Write to:
Mary Collins, Minister Responsible for the Status of Women
House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

For more information on the Panel you can call Janet Burns or Angela McLaughlin, Status of Women Canada, Ottawa, Ontario. (613) 995-7835.

Your 2 cents are worth a lot

The Citizens Inquiry is looking for Canada's thoughts on peace and security. The Inquiry is holding open forums across the country. If they are not coming to your community, you can send in letters and thoughts to:

555 Bloor Street West, Suite 5
Toronto, Ont., M5S 1Y6

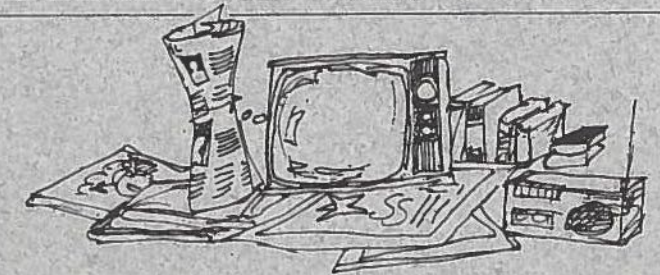
Remember: Just because security is traditionally linked to the military doesn't mean you have to talk about the military in your submission. For some Canadians, security has more to do with cleaning up lakes and ending wife battery than with protection from foreign armies. Each MACSW Branch has additional information for your use. *If you are interested in working on a committee to prepare a brief for MACSW please call me at the Winnipeg Branch.*

Rape Shield Update

Justice Minister Kim Campbell announced that she will introduce new legislation concerning the now defunct Rape Shield Law in early October. Don't celebrate yet. The lobby won't be over. The Supreme Court ruled that to prohibit rape survivors' sexual history as admissible evidence in court is an infringement of the rights of the accused. So any new legislation must uphold this ruling, or it will run counter to the Supreme Court ruling. In other words, we must begin *again* to lobby for the protection of women's rights in cases of rape. Keep your ears and eyes open for ongoing events. And most importantly, encourage everyone you know to do what they can.

Brandon Branch

by Kathy Prendergast
Administrative Co-ordinator



The Brandon office was busy, busy, busy this month organizing the Take Back the Night march and the AGM and Provincial Coordinating Committee (PCC) meeting, but we've had time for other interesting activities too.

Our long-range planning meeting on August 24 resulted in some good discussion about the direction the Brandon Branch of MACSW should be taking in the next year. It was unanimously agreed that more emphasis should be placed on networking with other organizations in the community, and making Branch activities as accessible as possible to members and potential members.

We also felt that it would be helpful to conduct a membership survey once a year to determine the needs and concerns of the members, and of course, that direct political action should remain a priority for the Branch.

One of the interesting points raised at the meeting was that Secretary of State (which provides MACSW with its operating grant) expects at least 50% of our work to be "reactive": that is, responding and reacting to events. We discussed whether enough staff time is left over for this kind of work due to an over-emphasis on planning and organizing "pro-active" events. It was agreed that it is a difficult balance to strike, but we must be aware of it.

Every member present contributed to the discussion and altogether it was a good opportunity to review the activities of this past year and to set goals and priorities for the upcoming year. The meeting wrapped up with a very "pro-active" barbeque at Sheila Doig's place - thanks to everyone who attended!

On the reactive side this month, we responded in the media to the Supreme Court ruling on the Rape Shield law. Around the same time, Sheila and I marched down to a popular downtown restaurant and asked that a joke about gang rape be removed from a chalkboard over the counter.

The manager agreed to do so, but said that he

might as well give up the idea of a "daily joke" altogether as he felt there was no joke that didn't offend somebody. We said that we didn't agree. He showed us some of the other jokes that were submitted - jokes attacking all kinds of minority groups. It was interesting that he had the good sense not to put these jokes on the board, but that it didn't occur to him that anyone would find a joke about gang rape offensive. We left a little skeptical about how much educating we were able to do.

We also sent several letters of support this past month to: the Citizens for Responsible Health Care in Dauphin; to our sisters of the Alberta Status of Women Action Committee in Calgary on the occasion of their 10th anniversary and Take Back the Night March; and to the Original Women's Network, whose members are struggling to maintain their radio program "Not Vanishing," following funding cuts. We set up a display/information table at the Manitoba Teachers' Society conference at Brandon University August 21 and had a table at Brandon University Volunteer Fair on September 25 and plan another for Crime Prevention Week in November.

Brandon Branch meetings will no longer be held on the third Thursday of every month: it was decided at the long-range planning meeting to have them on alternating days to make them more accessible to members. So please check the Calendar of Events for date and time of the Branch meetings. We are also going to try to have the meetings outside of the office more often, to have a discussion topic and/or speaker for each meeting and to spend the first hour on branch business and the second hour on the discussion.

The next Brandon Branch meeting will be on October 16 at 7:30. Call me at 725-2955 the week of the meeting for the location. We'll invite women from other community organizations to speak about their activities and to share their concerns with MACSW members.

BRANCH REPORTS

Brandon Branch

by Sheila Doig
Rural Coordinator

The cropped fields are golden in the setting sun. The road to Wawanesa yields the darkening shadows of the Turtle Mountains; the scattered farms present a rural image of serenity and bountifulness. Like the sparkling waters of acid-rain lakes, the scenes are a mirage for dark realities.

"Seven thousand farmers are expected to go under in Manitoba alone," read the headlines. When you see those figures as families, communities and regions in times of recession, global competition and the global agri-business complex, we are witnessing fundamental changes not only in Canada, but also in the political agendas of most Western governments.

Two dollars per bushel of wheat in today's purchasing dollar is the lowest grain price in history. There's no money in farming; there's crisis on the land and in the home. For many women, that means somehow being the one to be "the rock", to hold things together. But life doesn't always work that way, and for many, this is a time of emotional collapse, along with the financial collapse - for the violence, for the hidden times of desperate thought.

What can we as MACSW do? We can listen, learn, understand and offer support. If we cannot change events, we can reach out. The MACSW Rural Bulletin that has consumed my own time this past month and has been sent to over 200 women on farms and in communities throughout Westman, is a sharing of information and a celebration of rural women's creative writing, ideas and commentary. If you want a copy (this time all 20 pages) call the Brandon office at 725-2955.

Take Note: The Fall and Winter office hours for BRANDON MACSW Office:

MONDAY	12:00 - 5:00 p.m.
TUESDAY	9:00 - 12:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY	12:00 - 5:00 p.m.
THURSDAY	12:00 - 5:00 p.m.
FRIDAY	CLOSED

Parkland Branch

by Heather Dootoff
Administrative Coordinator

WOW! Parkland Status of Women members held their first meeting of the new season and what excitement and enthusiasm abounded. Fourteen women attended, half were new comers and it was great to have them out. One long-time member was heard to proclaim, "I thought I was in the wrong place, all these new faces — This is great!"

I am nearing writer's cramp as I rap off yet one more protest letter. Letters have been sent on behalf of the branch relating to all the lobbies mentioned in the last ACTION: Rape Shield, Gun Control, National Panel to study Violence Against Women (again) and the G.S.T. on feminine products. We will appeal to the community for support on the rape shield issue this month.

As a follow up to our Take Back the Night March and Vigil, we hope to have local speakers out to our next meeting to talk about violence against women in our local community.

Two vigils were held since the last report, for Rosemary Cameron and Sarah May Phillips.

We are pleased to be celebrating the 10th anniversary of our branch. Official recognition will take place on Persons' Day, October 18. Phone the office for details, 638-3599.

Thompson Report

by Leah Passler

September ... it's cold in Thompson and we're all very busy!

Our regular monthly meeting is planned as a potluck dinner. We have a few new interested women to welcome — after TACSU members had an opportunity to discuss the group at Thompson's Leisure Opportunity Weekend.

Our Personnel Committee will be interviewing for our new staff person this month - whoever gets the position will be very busy.

NAC supports self-determination

by Joanne Levasseur

I attended the Annual General Meeting of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women in Ottawa last summer on behalf of MACSW.

The most high-profile resolution — as well as the most passionately debated one — was the ground-breaking policy resolution on the Canadian constitution. NAC was in the national spotlight when we resolved to support a new political relationship between the First Nations, Quebec and the rest of Canada. This new relationship would be based on the principle of self-determination of each of the national communities and would be the result of a process where the First Nations, Quebec and the rest of Canada would develop their own proposals, followed by negotiation between the three groups. The resolution also called for the representation of oppressed groups in the form of equality delegations.

We also passed resolutions supporting a reformation of NAC along more egalitarian lines by adopting mandatory affirmative action principles. The four member-at-large positions as

well as one of the vice-president's positions must now be filled by women of colour, aboriginal women, immigrant women of colour or women with disabilities.

The highlight of the weekend, however, was the lobby at Parliament Hill. The good news was a promise from NDP Leader Audrey McLaughlin to restore Women's Program funding and rescind the Free Trade Agreement if her party wins the next federal election.

The bad news was the party in power did not want to hear the needs of millions of women across the country. As has been the case for the past three years, the federal Tories declined the invitation to attend the annual NAC lobby. Being the resourceful women we are, we stormed the Parliamentary Hearings on gun control and demanded that women's voices be heard. Next stop was Parliament; we banged on the door and vowed to the Mulroney government that we would not be silenced. After 20 minutes of chanting and singing, we all left feeling empowered yet a bit sad, not to mention angry. Mulroney has not seen or heard the last of us, mark my words.

MACSW WINNIPEG GARAGE SALE



Saturday, October 19th, 1991

MACSW Winnipeg Branch Office 16-220 Osborne St. South

(behind Pasquale's restaurant on Osborne St.)

We would be happy to receive donations:

- *Books
- *Clothes
- *Household Goods
- *Baking
- *Furniture
- *Baby Goods

We also need volunteers to price items and work at the sale. Please call us if you can help 453-3879.

Drop off your garage sale items to the MACSW office (please wait until October if you can. We're cramped in the office). If you can't drop them off, or your donations are too big for your car, call Andrea at the Winnipeg Office 453-3879 and we'll arrange pick up before the garage sale.

PLEASE COME AND BUY

SONIA JOHNSON

*Reconsiderations: Looking Again at What We Thought We Knew —
Some Thoughts from an Evening with Sonia Johnson*

by Pat Sadowy

Sonia Johnson has a vision of a better world, a world she lived in centuries before, a world she knows she shared with many of us before the invasions of patriarchy. In an energetic and inspired two-hour presentation, Sonia shared her concepts about patriarchal institutions, primarily one we have all come to know as "The Relationship," which is the focus of her latest book; like her speech, it is called, *The Ship that Sailed Into the Living Room: Sex and Intimacy Reconsidered*. (Wildfire Books, 1991) With the amusing but unforgettable metaphor of a sailing vessel represent-

ing the interactions between lovers, Sonia illustrated that our intimate interactions, whether homosexual or heterosexual, are patterned on the patriarchal institution of marriage. Herein, one person "owns" the other, and in particular, owns the right to tell the other what she may or may not do with her body.

Reminding us of the technique put forth by Mary Daly, Sonia challenged her audience of 160 to reconsider all the "truths" that we have "learned" throughout our lifetimes of being embedded in our culture, to take each "truth" and, seeing it for the lie it is, to redefine it by stating its negative form. Though patriarchy tells us, for example, that through war we can have peace, we must recognize that, in fact, through war we cannot possibly have peace. While some such global truths seem self-evident, the reversal process becomes a more powerful tool when applied to interpersonal situations.

Sonia's message helps us see that even those whom we call lovers may actually be controllers. In all our relationships we must listen to the lessons coming from the voice within us, what Sonia called our Wise Woman Voice.

It is often difficult to hear the Voice of the Wise Woman within us, for our culture has worked hard to quiet her.

She is nonetheless present, caring for us deeply, caring for us enough to teach us new visions of truth. We will achieve ideals only when each of us no longer needs to manipulate any other person but can instead accept others, and love others, unconditionally. As we reach out with our positive power, we can reclaim the world we once knew.

Sonia Johnson's presentation was sponsored by Bold Print.



SONIA JOHNSON

Relationship as Springboard: A response to Sonia Johnson

By Amanda Le Rougetel

I went to see Sonia Johnson when she was in Winnipeg recently. Wow - it was quite the show. I was thoroughly intrigued by the title of her most recent book: *The Ship that Sailed into the Living Room - Sex and Intimacy Reconsidered*, and was ready for an evening of radical feminist insights. Well, I got insights alright, but they were more about Sonia Johnson herself than about sex and intimacy in a universal or political sense.

Her theory is this: relationships (as she writes the word) are what women everywhere are conditioned to do by the Patriarchy as a way of keeping us so busy that we are unable to free ourselves from the patriarchal world. All relationships are marriage and marriage is bondage (whether it's a lesbian or a heterosexual relationship) based on sado-masochistic principles. The way out of this enslavement is to listen to the voice of our WiseWomon deep within us and to only do those things we want to do. Just love your life, Sonia says, and you won't be able to do those things you don't want to do anymore, like voting ("If it could change anything it would be illegal"), like relationships etc. The more women who defy the Patriarchy in this manner, the sooner we shall all live, once again, in Womon's World - a place where there is no linear thought, no political correctness and incorrectness, where touching and cuddling surpass genital sex and where we achieve intimacy with one another through moving beyond our bodies and into each other, in tune with the moon and the stars. Sonia says she knows that Womon's World is coming soon - she has felt a shift in the last six months.

This, you understand, is just a brief synopsis of Sonia Johnson's presentation: she spoke for more than two hours, without a break and without taking questions at the end. She spoke at a stand-up microphone, no notes, no props, no pause. Her voice rose and fell in a cadence that reminded me uncomfortably of that of an evangelical preacher - I wished I had

had the nerve to call out "hallelujah, sister!" during one of her more preacher-like moments. I wonder what would have happened.

I'm not hiding it well, am I? My cynical response to Sonia Johnson's theories and stories and performance. I'm cynical because I believe there are (at least) two fundamental flaws in her theories:

1. SHIP AS METAPHOR:

I don't believe that relationships come sailing into our lives — rather, people do, individual women and men come into our lives with whom we then work and play to establish a relationship. Things like power and control and trust and honesty and respect and integrity are all components which make up our relationships.

Furthermore, there is no space in my living room for a relationship to come sailing into — my living room is already full of women (and cats) with whom I am working and playing to establish rich and rewarding relationships.

2. FREEDOM THROUGH INDIVIDUAL WANTS:

Sonia exhorts us to listen to the WiseWomon within us and do only those things we want to do. This smacks of good ol' American liberalism to me: "Look out for Number One, sister and the world will be your oyster." I believe that what you may gain in a single/simple vision you lose in collective creation. And no matter how frustrating and annoying the collective process of living and learning and building can be, there is also no greater high than the coming together of women in pursuit of common purpose.

Relationship as Springboard: The relationships in my life are sources of joy and energy that enable me to bound from one day to the next, from one project to the next, secure in the knowledge that the collective sisterhood of my friends and community will be there to support me and rebound with me when I come back for more. Withdrawing into individuality is no less than a withdrawing into isolation. And isolation is what keeps women separate and apart from each other — the very antithesis of what feminism is all about.

AIDS Program for Immigrants and Refugees



by Rumani Singh

A new AIDS Education Project for Immigrants and Refugees has been launched by Planned Parenthood of Manitoba.

Trained community resource people from immigrant and refugee communities are working with Planned Parenthood to consult, design and implement the program and assist people within their communities to use existing AIDS education, counselling and treatment resources. The project also provides education and consultation to health professionals on culturally sensitive approaches to HIV/AIDS education and counsel-

ling.

Over 35 volunteers, representing 15 communities have received training and many are now serving as resource people in their communities. Communities include: Central and South American, Filipino, Iranian, Eritrean, Ethiopian, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Chinese, Ugandan, Caribbean and Nigerian. Resource people make presentations to English as a Second Language Classes, appear on community access television and use other means of outreach. They also work on a one-on-one basis, making referrals to existing services, providing education on condom use and doing outreach to single men via bars etc.

A program related to the AIDS Education Project is the AIDS Resource Development Project, which will see the development of accurate, sensitive and culturally appropriate information about AIDS. Brochures in eight languages are being produced: Vietnamese, Khmer (Cambodian), Chinese, Amharic (Ethiopian), Farsi (Iranian), Spanish, Tigrinya and Laotian. The materials, developed by the respective communities, address the issues involved in dealing with such sensitive topics as sexuality and drug use in a multicultural society. Materials will be distributed for use throughout Canada.

For more information on Planned Parenthood's programs and services, call 774-2501.

WOMEN: EMPOWERING OURSELVES

A two-day interactive workshop to share information about the realities that exist for women in general, and specifically, for women in the workplace. The workshop will seek to provide the knowledge and understanding of the external causes and will provide participants with the opportunity to address practical strategies to effect lasting change.

INSTRUCTOR: Patricia Hrabok, M.S.W.

**SATURDAY OCTOBER 26 and
NOVEMBER 2, 1991**

TIME: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

PLACE: 115 St. Joyn's College

COST: \$67. by Oct. 11 (\$77 after Oct. 11)

CALL: 474-8016.

2ND ANNUAL BROTHERPEACE DAY

Friday October 18

Evening Concert at the West End Cultural Centre 8 p.m. \$10. "It comes with the plumbing" an evening of songs about men with Geof Morgan.

Saturday October 19

Pancake Breakfast 9:00 a.m.
All Saints Church 175 Colony \$5
Followed by a march at 11:30 against male violence.

Men, Women and Children Welcome.
Sponsored by the Manitoba Men's Network.

The Milgaard Case: Where do we Stand?

by Andrea James

In 1970 David Milgaard was convicted of raping and murdering Gail Fisher in Saskatoon. Milgaard was sentenced to life imprisonment and is now the longest-serving Canadian prisoner. He has been eligible for parole on the condition that he confess his guilt and has steadfastly refused.

One December morning, Gail Miller left her apartment and walked to the bus stop to go to her job as a nursing assistant. Her body was found in a back alley close to her home. She had been sexually assaulted and stabbed. A broken paring knife was found beneath her.

David Milgaard had arrived in Saskatoon that morning to visit a friend who lived close to the scene of the crime. A man named Larry Fisher was living in the basement of the same friend's home. Three rapes had occurred that fall and police were on the lookout for a serial rapist. Fisher was later convicted of these three crimes. He also confessed to another rape following Milgaard's conviction. The majority of Fisher's victims were grabbed from behind while walking (often from a bus stop) and usually dragged into a back yard or alley close to their homes. Most were employed at or attended school at a medical institution.

There is a twist to the Larry Fisher story. In the case of Fisher's victims, at least three were never informed by the police of Fisher's arrest and subsequent confession; each of them has lived over 20 years wondering if the stranger who just looked at her might be the man who raped her. Fisher, a man convicted of six counts of rape including one attempted murder, and one indecent assault may be freed later this year on parole. The Milgaard family, their supporters, and Centurion Ministries, an American independent investigative organization, believe that Larry Fisher raped and murdered Gail Miller. They have been denied an appeal in Saskatchewan courts and at the Supreme Court level.

Earlier this year Justice Minister Kim Campbell denied that a "miscarriage of justice" had occurred in the trial and conviction of David Milgaard. Since then, the Milgaards, the Miller family, several of the women who survived Fisher's attacks, and Centurion Ministries have

suggested that, given the mounting evidence connecting Fisher to the Miller crime, it would only be just to re-examine the Milgaard case.

However, in my opinion, Milgaard is not the only issue here. If Larry Fisher is guilty of the Miller murder, then the wrong man is in jail and an incredibly dangerous man will soon be free.

In the last month or so, we were contacted by the media to comment on the Fisher situation. Our position is this:

1. It is deplorable that three survivors of brutal rapes were allowed to live in terror for 20 years, due to an "oversight" on the part of the justice system. Were these women sacrificed because they were low priority? Who becomes accountable for their lives?

2. Larry Fisher has not been classified a dangerous offender and is in a minimum-security prison in British Columbia. He is eligible for parole and will have served his "debt to society" by 1994. When will the threat to women's lives be taken seriously by the Canadian government?

The last time he was released on parole, he raped a woman twice, tied her up, and slashed her throat. The amazing fact that she lived to identify him is the only reason he is still in jail.

I would like to know when the women assaulted by Larry Fisher will get their lives back. I have been contacted by CBC Radio Saskatoon in an attempt to get the names of Fishers' victims. I have had conversations with the Milgaard Support Group regarding their interviews with these women. I have read the report Centurion Ministries completed after its investigator questioned the survivors and informed them of Fisher's convictions. I am concerned that the interviews were not conducted from any kind of feminist perspective, that wounds were re-opened and the women, having served their purpose, were discarded. I have questioned the reporter who fabricated a name for one survivor, but used another's real name. And I have pondered with interest the fact that we received calls of support from a public that believes that MACSW is supporting David Milgaard--but which is otherwise silent when we speak out against the many horrors experienced by women on a daily basis.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Help Shorten the Life of Brian: The Action Canada Network, in collaboration with CHOICES in Winnipeg, is sponsoring a cross-country protest of Tory policy on **OCTOBER 26, 1991.** The theme is 'Enough is Enough' and the protest will

feature testimonials, information booths. It will bring together women's groups, labour, seniors, farmers and everyone who has been harmed by Mulroney government policies. 12:30-2 p.m. The *tentative* location is The Forks. Watch for flyers and posters with more details. Call the M.F.L. at 947-1400.

DOES YOUR CHEQUEBOOK BALANCE?

The Coalition for Reproductive Choice needs a Treasurer to work as part of its board of directors. The volunteer position requires only about 10 hours of work per month and includes: paying bills, basic bookkeeping and attending monthly meetings. Be part of an active pro-choice organization that's making a difference for women. **JOIN US!** If you'd like to meet the board and find out more about the Coalition, call us at 453-7774.

GAINING GROUND MANITOBA FARM WOMEN'S CONFERENCE,

November 5, 6 & 7 in Brandon at the Victoria Inn. Registration \$60. Forms available from your Manitoba Agriculture Office. For more info call Wendy Tolton, Kenton, Mb. 838-2040; Doreen Stammen, Rorketon, Mb. 732-2376; Gloria Paziu, Ethlebert, Mb. 742-3391.

ENDOMETRIOSIS SUPPORT GROUP

Meets 2nd Tuesday of each month at Women's Health Clinic, 2nd Floor 419 Graham Avenue, Winnipeg. 7:00-9:00 pm. For info. call 947-1517.

PARENTING ADOLESCENTS - OCTOBER

21 7:00-9:30 P.M. A panel of three mothers will discuss the issues/problems and the positives from their experiences as a single parent, step-parent and parenting with a partner. Fort Garry Women's Resource Centre 1910 Pembina Highway, Winnipeg. Free. Call 269-2867.

DO YOU WANT TO BE IN A MOVIE? Do you like Country Music? No experience necessary! Dusty Boot Pictures is a local independent video and film production company. We are shooting a short film of country and western line dancing. We need dancers (we'll teach you one dance) and extras to sit and tap their toes for one day. Refreshments will be served. If you're interested, call Maureen at 287-2362 or Kris at 453-6479 for info.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN ALTERNATIVE STRESS MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES? Classes in Yoga, Tai Chi and Meditation as well as traditional Thai massage begin this fall in Brandon. Cost \$35.

YOGA WORKSHOP to be held **OCTOBER 26 and 27** (3 hours each day). Instructor: Heather Kosatsky from Winnipeg. **TRADITIONAL THAI MASSAGE WORKSHOP** will be held Wednesday evenings **October 9th - December 11,** (3 hours, 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.) For info, or if you have any teaching experience in Yoga, Meditation, Tai Chi, Massage, please call Roxanne Northcut at Universal Stress & Therapy Clinic 726-8851 (after 1:00 p.m.) or 726-9509 evenings.

WOMEN'S HEALTH CLINIC OFFERS FEMINIST COUNSELLING services for women. Individual counselling available for \$20 per session or free to women who cannot afford the fee. (Free services are limited so we ask you to consider finances carefully). **CALL 947-1517.**

CALL MANAGEMENT PUBLIC HEARINGS

The Public Utilities Board will hold hearings on the Manitoba Telephone System's proposed Call Management Service. MTS wants to run the system for a year in Brandon on a trial basis. **HEARING DATES: BRANDON -October 9th and 10th** at 1:15 p.m. and 7 p.m. **WINNIPEG -December 11** at 1:00 p.m. and 7 p.m. If you want to present a brief, notify the Secretary of the Public Utilities Board, 2nd Floor, 280 Smith Street, Winnipeg R3C 1K2.

The **KALI-SHIVA SOCIETY** (Caring for People with AIDS) needs volunteers for driving clients to appointments during the day. No time Commitment is too small! If you can help, please call 586-5222.

JUDITH VIORST, October 17, presenting "What's a Grown-Up", a talk combining serious and humorous look at what makes us full-fledged adults. 8:00 p.m. Pantages Theatre \$10. Tickets available at TicketMaster Outlets: 780-3333.



M.A.C.S.W. MEMBERSHIP FORM

Sign me up!

I want to add my voice to the hundreds of Manitoba women who belong to MACSW.

NEW MEMBERSHIP

RENEWAL

Name _____

Address _____ City/Town _____

Postal Code _____ Phone _____ (H) _____ (W) _____

INDIVIDUAL Regular \$25

(or what You Can Afford)

Sustaining \$40

ORGANIZATION - \$50

Your membership includes a subscription to the ACTION Newsletter, published 10 times a year.

Make cheques payable to MACSW and send this form to:

MACSW Winnipeg Branch
16-222 Osborne St. South
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 1Z3

I'm interested in: (please check)

ISSUES

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Childcare | <input type="checkbox"/> Midwifery | <input type="checkbox"/> Reproductive Health Issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Equal Pay/Workplace | <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal Issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Women of Color/Racism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Law | <input type="checkbox"/> Trades & Technology | <input type="checkbox"/> Violence Against Women |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Farm/Rural Issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Women & Poverty | <input type="checkbox"/> Parenting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pornography | <input type="checkbox"/> Women & Disability | <input type="checkbox"/> Media Monitoring |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pensions/Seniors | <input type="checkbox"/> Prostitution | <input type="checkbox"/> Young Women's Issues |

ACTIVITIES

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Political Action | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> International Women's Day |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Speaking | <input type="checkbox"/> Research | <input type="checkbox"/> Office Duties |

NEAREST MACSW BRANCH

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> WINNIPEG
16-222 Osborne St. S
Winnipeg,
R3L 1Z3
453-3879 (Voice/TDD) | <input type="checkbox"/> BRANDON
202-107-7th St
Brandon,
R7A 3S5
725-2955 | <input type="checkbox"/> PARKLAND STATUS OF WOMEN
118 Main St. S.
Mail: Box 23
Dauphin, R7N 2T9
638-3599 | <input type="checkbox"/> THOMPSON
Box 722
Thompson
Manitoba
R8N 1N5
778-8549 |
|--|--|---|--|

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(Grab a pen and mark these events on your calendar!)

October

"The Arpillera: Through the Eyes of a Woman" Exhibit of applied tapestries from Chile at the Museum of Man and Nature. —through to November 17

2 Coalition for Responsible Health Policy meets in Brandon at 7:30 p.m., 128-19th Street. For info call Brandon MACSW at 725-2955 or Shari Hirst 728-5332

2 Winnipeg Branch of MACSW meeting, 6:00 in the office. Come on down!

3 Training begins for Volunteers for the Mothers First Help Line at the Women's Health Clinic in Winnipeg. For info call Arlene at 947-1517 or 947-3472.

3 Outdoor Women's Network Constellation Evening 7:30. Bring binoculars (if you have them) and warm clothes! Call Monique 237-3318.

3-4 Elderly at Risk. A conference on Elder Abuse for professionals. Cost: \$15. - includes two lunches and coffee breaks. Call Manitoba Seniors' Directorate at 1-800-665-6565.

5 Ecofeminism: A Look at How We Relate Ecologically to the World. First in a series of workshops exploring feminist thought and experience. Brandon. St. Michael's Academy, 10 Victoria Ave. East at 1st St., \$30. per workshop or \$100 for 4. Call Susan Palmer at 386-2414 (Gladstone) or May Deller at 725-3846 (Brandon).

7 Winnipeg Women & Words meets at MACSW Winnipeg Branch Office at 7:30 p.m. New members welcome. For more information, call Pat at 488-0988.

7-11 Working with Victims of Domestic Assault, workshop on: working with children who have witnessed abuse and working with perpetrators of domestic abuse. Sponsored by EVOLVE. To be held at Klinik, 870 Portage Ave. 788-4402. \$80 for all 5 days.

8 Thompson Branch of MACSW (also known as TACSW) meets at 7:30.

9 Women Business Owners of Manitoba presentation meeting in Brandon, at 7:30 p.m. at the Royal Oak Inn. For info call Elaine Mathieson, Outreach Coordinator 489-2739.

10 Parkland Branch Meeting, 5:30 Presentation on Violence 7:00 p.m. For info call 638-3599.

15-17 Prairie Forum on Employment: Developing Business Opportunities for your Community. Victoria Inn. Cost \$150. For more info. call Joy Dornian, Westarc Group Inc. 729-3450.

16 Brandon MACSW Branch meeting 7:30 p.m. Call 725-2955 for location. Discussion topic: networking with women in other organizations.

18 Persons' Day Breakfast, 7:30 a.m. at the Radisson Suite Hotel, Winnipeg (near the Airport). Support the Manitoba LEAF Endowment Campaign. \$25.00. Child care available. 956-1310.

18 Celebration of 10th Anniversary of the Parkland Branch and Persons' Day. Phone 638-3599.

19 Garage Sale fundraiser for MACSW at the Winnipeg office. 10:00-3:00 p.m. . Your chance to purchase priceless goods, and support your local feminist organization at the same time!

19 Solidarity Walk-a-thon in Brandon for Tools for Peace and Helping Hands Centre Inc. Starts at Brandon City Hall; Registration 12:30 p.m. Walk at 1 p.m. For info and/or pledge forms call 726-8090 or 727-6540.

31 "The Burning Times", film, Theatre B, Brodie Bldg. Brandon University at 7:30 p.m. FREE!