

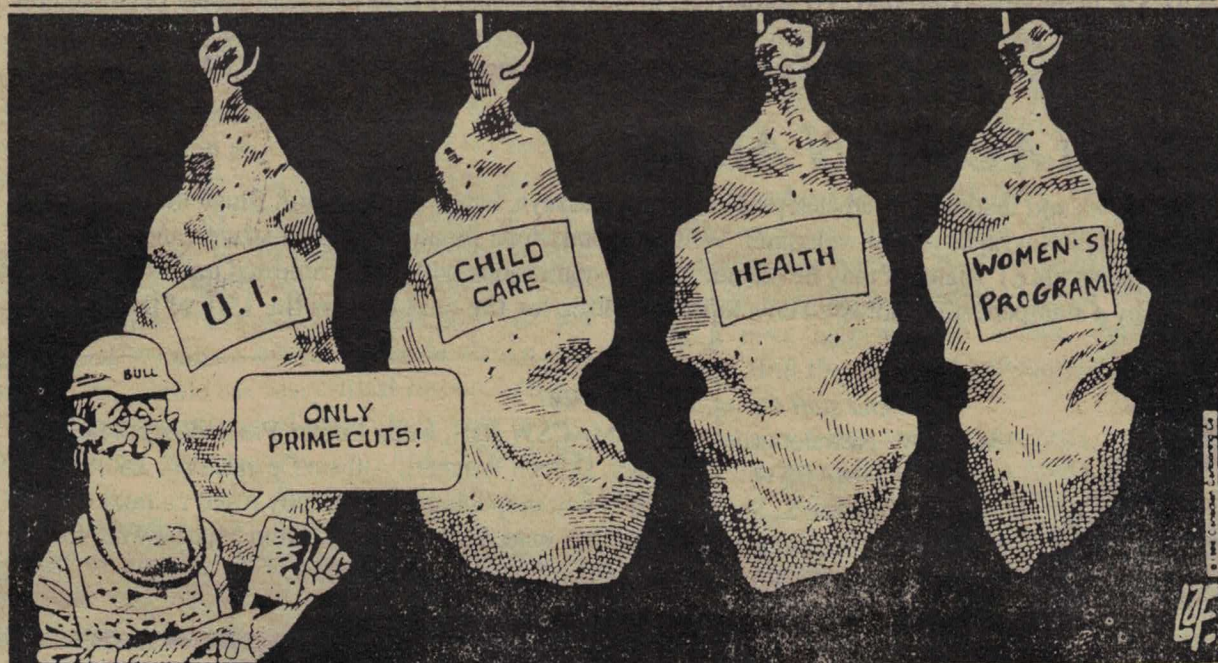
# ACTION

MANITOBA ACTION COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN NEWSLETTER

February 1993

Vol. 20 No. 1

## MULRONEY'S SACRED COWS



# RENEW NOW TO MACSW



before the CUTS make us COLD CUTS

**THIS  
ISSUE:**

Shawna Dempsey and Lorri Millan  
AUDRE LORDE: 1934-1992  
Welfare Women Win!

## About MACSW

The Manitoba Action Committee on the Status of Women is a volunteer-based, 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 federal Royal Commission on the Status of Women in 1967. MACSW has branches in Brandon, Dauphin, Thompson and Winnipeg.

## About ACTION

*ACTION* is published 9 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.

## About ACTION Articles

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. Deadline for the next issue is the 15th of the month.



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

### *This issue:*

MACSW staff, Kelly Logan, Pat Sadowy, Marion Foster, Doreen Wuckert, Allison Dewar, Pam Jakubec, Hari Dimitrakopoulou-Ashton, ruby reske-naurocki, Jilll Stead, tani miki, Esther Enns, Marion Muldrew & Newsletter Coordinator Fiona Muldrew.

## Thank You New & Renewed Members!

Joanna Sargent  
Anne Dunfield  
Judy McLean  
Louise Leask  
Suzanne Pellarin  
Laila Sharpe  
Sheila Goraluk  
Colleen Watters

Winona Pierce  
Linda Mlodzinski  
E. McFadden  
Gladys Worthington  
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Rae Tigg

Janine Cutler  
Bemita Kirkwood  
Barbara Bourassa  
Esther Enns  
Allison Dewar  
Kristine Barr  
Jen Peters  
Tammy Wiebe



**GLORIA STEINEM IS COMING!  
GLORIA STEINEM IS COMING!**

Now that I have your attention: The sky is falling! The sky is falling! Actually, the sky is falling for MACSW's finances. We are in a severe financial crisis! Government funding is driving us crazy and the projected 1993 federal cutbacks will make us truly loony. Send your loonies today to renew your membership, preferably \$25 or more. Whatever you can afford is needed urgently. MACSW has had no federal funding increase for five years despite inflation. We have been delaying making serious cutbacks because of the constant need for every cent we get. Unfortunately, consistent underfunding has led to a potential \$20,000 deficit for the 92/93 fiscal year. We have had to freeze two staff positions to help pay this deficit. In December, Sheila Doig, Rural Co-ordinator resigned to move to Victoria, and Jenny Robinson, Provincial Co-ordinator resigned to devote more time to the Welfare Starlets. We do not have the funds to hire new people for these essential positions so the Brandon and Winnipeg offices are understaffed and MACSW as a whole has lost critical resource people for lobbying, education and networking. Not paying two salaries for three months saves MACSW \$9,000 so we still have to raise the remaining \$11,000 by the end of March.

If all of our 400 members renew memberships before the end of March, we could raise up to \$10,000 but not every member can afford \$25 so please give generously for this year's membership. We usually only raise \$4-5,000 in membership fees. Please encourage friends to sign up. Extra numbers will help in our lobbying efforts to prevent further cuts and to speak out on numerous issues.

**MACSW is holding a FUNDRAISING PARTY on SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21 at 2 p.m. at Marian Yeo's house, 1167 Grosvenor Ave., with Entertainment, Food and a Chinese Auction, \$10/\$6 for low-income/Children-FREE.** If you can donate items for the Chinese Auction (books, artwork, music, services, etc.) please phone 453-3879. Invite friends and enemies if they have money.

Federal budget cuts to the Secretary of State Women's Program will likely be 20% over the next two years. This amount would be devastating for



MACSW - about \$13,000 per year, which is the equivalent of one staff person's salary per year. MACSW is already grossly underfunded and shortstaffed. As it stands, we only have five part-time staff in four branches plus a part-time treasurer on contract. With less staff, we are more dependant on volunteers to help with office duties, especially at the Brandon and Winnipeg offices. Please phone if you have some time to volunteer. The new Project Officer for the Secretary of State Women's Program, who is replacing Chris Dobbs, is Pierrette Hebert. Phone Ms. Hebert at 983-3254 if you have questions or concerns about the Women's Program.

To protest federal cutbacks to the Women's Program MACSW is supporting the National Action Committee on the Status of Women (NAC) in its call for a Valentine National Action to **Protest Heartless Cuts to the Women's Program. Come out in rowdy numbers on FEBRUARY 15 at 3:30 p.m. to fill the Secretary of State office with women and screaming babies, 201-303 MAIN ST.** Maybe we could dress up as "Ladies Against Women" and hold a bake sale for the federal deficit or the military. (Pill Box hats and helicopter cookies would be an asset).

Women were very interested, at a recent community forum called "Let's Make Canada Work for People," in Winnipeg, Jan. 22-24, in revitalizing MACSW's networking role to aid lobbying efforts and communication flow between NAC and women's groups in Manitoba. The forum focussed on NAFTA and featured Judy Rebick, President of NAC, speaking about the terrible effects of NAFTA and globalization on women around the world. Women from MACSW, various unions, and other women's groups expressed the need for a strong unified coalition of women's groups to oppose NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement) and the Tory agenda which is dismantling so many social programs.

Remember to **RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW** to MACSW so we can continue to lobby for women's issues, strengthen our networking with other women's groups, and keep you informed about current issues and activities. Donations and fundraising ideas will be greatly appreciated. P.S. Gloria Steinem really is coming to Winnipeg, March 11, 8 p.m., Walker Theatre, \$10, tickets available at McNally Robinson Bookstores.

## STAFF REPORTS

### Thompson Branch Report

Debra McVittie, Administrative Co-ordinator

Cold temperatures did not deter fifty women and men from coming out to the December 6th Vigil held at the YWCA. Following a prayer, the lighting of candles and a two minute silence, the crowd proceeded inside for coffee, conversation and entertainment by local musicians. Keith Moen from Development Education North in Manitoba and Liz Lychuck from the Crisis Centre were also on hand to speak on the issue of violence against women. Support for this occasion was at an all time high with many participating in the white ribbon campaign. Volunteer spokespersons readily accepted the task of approaching City Council and the media to bring attention to this very important event.

A traditional Aboriginal vigil was also held on January 8 for Emerine Spence and Marissa Duck, two women who recently died in domestic violence disputes. Special guest Barbara Daniels, an Aboriginal elder and counsellor from the Nelson House Medicine Lodge, spoke of the power women possess and the past and present problems in the lives of Aboriginal people in North America. Barbara ended the vigil with two songs on the drum, a two minute silence and a prayer. Thompson women were thanked by the Spence family who were also holding a vigil at the same time in York Landing, MB. Thanks to all the organizations and individuals who showed their support by attending.

The health education comic book, "The Big Break," has been circulated in Northern Manitoba. This brings to TACSW fundraising monies as well as new contact people. MACSW t-shirts and Women's Press Books (on sale) are still on hand for those who enjoy good reading.

International Women's Day and Women's History Month planning are well under way with many great ideas having been presented. Filling out applications for funding is a priority at the present time. We wait patiently!

Calls for information from various organizations and individuals are steadily increasing. It's good to know that more and more people are becoming aware of women's issues and are utilizing the resource library. TACSW business meetings occur every Tuesday at noon!

### ATTENTION ALL MACSW MEMBERS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING APRIL 24 AND 25, 1993 THOMPSON, MB PLAN TO COME!

Phone your branch to request billeting and transportation.

#### circle of life

-dedicated in memory of the women murdered in Montreal, Dec. 6/89

a circle of candles  
brave the cold night air  
casting shadows onto numb faces  
once helpless from despair  
three long years of sorrow and pain  
what has the world of this time gained?  
candles flicker in freezing winds  
fighting for a breath of life  
grows stronger burns brightly  
into a warm circle of light  
from the company of many  
more flames of men & women  
carries a glow a force felt  
at gatherings across the nation

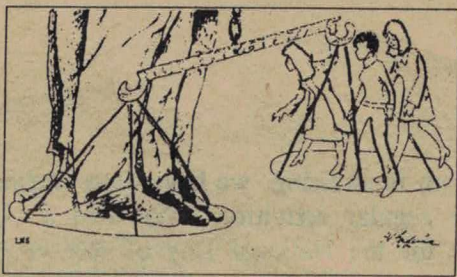
by tani miki

### Vigil for Terri-Lyn Babb

A circle of about 200 women and men attended a vigil for Terri-Lyn Babb at 12:15 p.m., January 25 at the Legislature. Terri-Lyn was shot by an acquaintance on January 21. Two women from the Vigil Committee spoke about her death and the circumstances that led up to it. There were feelings of anger, grief, hopelessness and sadness expressed by the group.

It was suggested that women should not work on the day of a vigil. Women have already spoken, cried and raged their feelings without impact. Some felt this is the next action that should be taken. Phone Klinik at 784-4090 for info about the Vigil Committee. Next meeting: Feb. 9, noon, Klinik Board Room, 870 Portage Ave. Everyone welcome.





## Brandon Branch Report

Jennifer Howard, Administrative Co-ordinator

January 2 marked my one year anniversary as a MACSW staffperson. Although I've learned a lot "on the job," I still encounter new challenges every day. The latest is how to be two people at once. With the freezing of the rural position and the absence of Sheila, I am coming to understand the phrase "You don't know what you've got 'til it's gone."

December 6 was marked in Brandon with a memorial vigil, the screening of NFB's "After the Montreal Massacre," and a sharing circle. It still amazes me how many abuse survivors there are in the world. I am beginning to wonder if most of our problems (environmental, racism, poverty, etc.) are due to this manifestation of the patriarchy - things that make you go "hmmmm." Thanks go out to Kara Dixon and Lesley Kretai from the Brandon University Students' Union for their help in organizing.

A number of us attended the Canadian Legal Education Association's Human Rights Day Conference on December 10 and took the opportunity to finally celebrate the hard work that went into achieving a NO in the October 26 Referendum. Paula Mallea and the Western Manitoba Coalition for Equality Rights in the Canadian Constitution were recognized with a Human Rights Achievement Award - some long overdue recognition for these very special women.

December also saw the formation of the Brandon DVERS Committee. DVERS stands for Domestic Violence Emergency Response System, a personal alarm system provided to women who are in immediate danger of violence from their male partners. The program is a partnership between local police, women's helping agencies, Manitoba Telephone System and ADT alarms, who provide the systems at no cost. We are currently formulating criteria and delivery plans. The program is in place in Winnipeg. Watch for future developments.

We responded to calls to action when the Provincial government tried to claw back the Child Tax Benefit Credit from families living on Social

Assistance. After unprecedented public pressure, the Province decided to forgo this plan, however eternal vigilance is necessary as the next provincial budget may include the same measure in a more subtle way. Congratulations to the Manitoba Anti-Poverty Organization and all the women who relentlessly called Harold Gilleshammer, Minister of Family Services. Sometimes, being a social activist can be wonderful!

A federal election is in the air! The week of January 18 saw visits by Premier Filmon and his caucus, the provincial NDP Caucus and Jean Chretien, federal Liberal leader to Brandon. I met with Becky Barrett, provincial NDP critic for the Status of Women, on January 19. We discussed provincial funding of MACSW (and lack thereof), hospital governance as it relates to abortion services in Brandon and Dauphin, the lack of health funding for adequate mammography services in Brandon, the Child Tax Benefit Credit and families on Social Assistance, the Canadian Labour Force Development Board and its Manitoba counterpart, and women living in poverty. It was a relaxed and (hopefully) productive meeting.

International Women's Day is fast approaching. We need womanpower to help with events. Please call the office (725-2955). Also in the "plea-for-volunteers" department is the Brandon Career Symposium, March 2,3,4. It involves sitting at a table and answering questions. Every year MACSW provides information to about 10,000 young people, most from rural areas. For many of them this is their first and only exposure to the women's movement. If anyone has a couple of hours to spare, please call.

Congratulations go out to Lorraine McKay, MACSW member who recently received the Excellence in Race relations Award, the country's highest honour in the field; and Brandon City Council who have decided to institute an employment equity policy to encourage hiring of women, Aboriginal people, visible minorities and differently-abled people. Given the fact that there's only one woman among the city's senior management staff, it's about time.

February is membership renewal month. With MACSW facing a possible 20% cut in the next two years, your membership is crucial. Not only do we need the revenue, but more importantly, we need YOUR VOICE! Please renew now & bring a friend.



### **Parkland Branch Report**

Heather Dootoff, Administrative Co-ordinator

Fundraising! Faced with the fearsome facts of failing finances, the fabulous females of the Parkland Status of Women are fired up!

The Herstory calendars were a great success once again. We've sold 43 calendars so far and have six left if anyone didn't get that calendar they were expecting for Christmas. They cost \$10.95 and we will pay the postage. Maureen Marsh from Brandon is still our top salesperson. Thanks, Maureen.

We've also been selling Bridgehead coffee, tea and Rainforest Crunch with a passion. Thanks to Liz Sarin for setting this up and for almost single handedly selling all the products!

Plans are underway for another dinner raffle - an expanded version. Virginia Jamieson has generously agreed to donate her time and talents to coordinate a dinner for six. Kathleen Baleja has donated a piece of her beautiful stained glass. Jacqui Alguire suggested a food basket as third prize with members kicking in homemade goodies. Tahra Elias offered to make a tray of Baklava for fourth prize. Yummy.

In addition, we are exploring other fundraising ideas, so we're on a roll! Hopefully, a bank roll!

Aside from fundraising, we have been carrying on with our regular activities. We held a vigil December 6 for the National Day of Action and Remembrance on Violence Against Women. Following the vigil we watched the film, "After the Montreal Massacre." An extensive package of materials related to the Dec. 6 Memorial Day and violence against women was sent to members of the local ministerial.

Also in December we ran the Angel Tree campaign for the sixth year. It was a tremendous success. The community was overwhelming in their support. In addition to gifts supplied to the Salvation Army, we were also able to provide some to the Friendship Centre and the Parkland Women's Shelter. One concern was the lack of community awareness of our involvement and community denial of our sponsorship of the project. Next year we will have to find ways to incorporate recognition for feminist participation in community events.

Two vigils were held in January, the first for Marissa Duck of Winnipeg, a sixteen year old who was murdered by her boyfriend on New Year's Eve and the second for Emerine Spence of York Landing who was killed by her husband in a murder-suicide.

Plans are underway for International Women's Day. NAC's newsletter arrived with news that the Annual General Meeting will be held in Saskatoon. What great news for prairie women! Hopefully this will enable many of us to attend who would not otherwise be able to afford the airfare.

### **Funds Needed for Custody Case**

Susan O'Soup is an Aboriginal woman fighting to regain custody of her 10 year old, Stephen, from her non-Aboriginal common-law husband. Susan has been a model parent with sole custody of Stephen since birth. Out of concern for herself and Stephen, Susan used most of her finances to move to B.C. Without Susan being present at the court hearing, the father obtained custody, even though Susan has been the primary caregiver. She was arrested for abduction and denied any access to Stephen. Now she needs funds to go to court to regain access and custody. To make a tax refundable donation make cheques out to Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre, Inc., 531 Notre Dame, 2nd floor, Wpg., MB, R3B 1S2. For more info ph. Leslie Spillett at 957-7930.



## Winnipeg Branch Report

Susan Banks, Administrative Co-ordinator

December was a busy month for the Winnipeg Branch. Fiona Muldrew and myself, along with three women from the University of Winnipeg Women's Centre, wrote a brief which we presented to the University Education Review Commission on December 4. The response from the panel (which included Duff Roblin and Kathleen Richardson) was positive. The panelists noted that a number of groups had talked about the issue of systemic discrimination, including the underrepresentation of women in administration and faculty positions, the lack of reflection of women's contributions in curriculum course material, and violence against women on campus. The panel stated that this issue of systemic discrimination would be a large part of their examination of the university system.

Other activities for December included showing/discussing the film "After the Montreal Massacre," participating in planning meetings for the Manitoba Child Care Association's child care convention, and attending the Community Legal Education Association's 4th Annual Human Rights Conference. As well, Jenny presented a brief to the government's NAFTA Hearings and CHOICES' alternative hearings (organized in protest of the government's process of the NAFTA Hearings).

Our January Branch Meeting was a success, full of positive energy, ideas and action. Thanks to everyone who came out and to those who volunteered for various activities. Upcoming events for the Winnipeg Branch include having a display table at the premiere of the NFB film "Toward Intimacy" (Self-Esteem, Sexuality and Love in the Lives of Women with Disabilities) on January 27, responding to the Canadian Advertising Foundation's request for public input into the revision of their "sex-role stereotyping guidelines," having Karen Hamilton speak about her experiences in El Salvador for International Development Week, and presenting a brief at the Church and Community Inquiry into Unemployment, February 21-26. Anyone who would like to

add ideas or help out with this brief can contact the MACSW office by Feb. 10, 1993.

We were sad to see Jenny leave her position as Provincial Coordinator for MACSW in January. Unfortunately, due to our funding freeze, we will not be able to refill the position. Already, we have a couple of volunteers who come in to help out with the extra workload in the office, but if anyone else is interested, just give me a call....and don't forget to renew your MACSW membership!

**Please Note:** Our monthly Branch meetings will now be held at the YM-YWCA, 301 Vaughan Street, Meeting Room C, 2nd floor. Wheelchair accessible.



### Consumers' Distributing

Five in the morning, bacon and eggs,  
Still so tired, can't find my legs.  
Mouth open wide, ready to eat,  
Still so tired, can't feel my feet.  
Nice house, two cars, the average Joe,  
Time to go shopping, go with the flow.  
Work nine to five, make thousands a year  
Drink Dom Perignon, or a light beer.  
Spending money - a consumer's world,  
From store to store we're being hurled.  
No time to look, but time to buy  
Everything changing at the bat of an eye.  
Here - do this, Now - don't do that,  
Getting caught in the race of the rat.  
Work harder, faster, and work long,  
Say nothing bad, and don't be wrong.  
Play some golf, be the boss's buddy,  
Dull the brain into something muddy.  
This is the life, the way we survive,  
But not really living, not being alive.

Jilll Stead, Winnipeg



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## DEDICATED TO THE WOMEN IN THE WAR ZONE

whenever i put my daughters to bed  
i think of you with your babies

i want to reach out to you  
and hold you  
while our children lie together  
tucked under the covers  
your tears are mine  
i hear you  
i hear your children cry  
afraid  
hurt  
helpless  
suffering  
my tears fall  
all i can do is not enough for you  
my letters  
my lobbying  
my protests  
my vigils  
my efforts  
my prayers



and yet i cannot be overcome  
to forfeit hope  
and resign myself to complacency  
would be a sin against you  
and the Great Spirit who made us  
so i pray for faith  
and continue to do what it is  
i was called to do  
but whenever i put my daughters to bed  
i think of you with your babies

ruby reske-naurocki, Beausejour

**To protest Canadian support for bombings in the Gulf phone collect or write:** The Honourable Barbara McDougall, MP, Minister of External Affairs, House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6, phone (613) 995-1851, fax (613) 994-0448. Assistant: Jim LeBlanc, Chief of Staff.

For Winnipeg actions against the bombings and info about the Gulf War contact **Project Peacemakers** at 775-8178 or Marianne Cerilli, MLA at 945-1567.



### Letter to ACTION:

I am a current member and have been a member of MACSW for seven years. Your ACTION articles keep getting better and better.

The Dec/Jan newsletter had an enjoyable "Journal" by Jennifer Howard. It could have been my journal or the journal of many of us. I have been meaning to write ACTION many times, but one of the entries in Jennifer's Journal galvanized my resolve to write into actually writing.

The "News Flash" reminded me that a wonderful person, Sheila Doig, deserves special recognition. She has worked courageously for women for many years. She has travelled to many places big and small and touched people with her knowledge and compassion. She has spoken to large groups and small groups on behalf of the rights of women.

I remember one particular meeting when the Western Manitoba Coalition for Equality Rights in the Meech Lake Accord was just a plan. Eight people came to the meeting, including one man whose angry denunciation of the Accord ended in a furious door-slamming exit. Sheila very calmly explained that the reason for our opposition to the Accord was not to take away some people's rights, but to protect the rights of women. She was right.

She has written briefs and articles and we have learned from her. She will be missed. Her skills and strengths will be ours to repeat each in our own way. She is leaving us with positive memories and a resolve to continue the freeing of women from subjection and oppression.

Cheers, Sheila! May your journeys be filled with peace and power.

Your friend, Helen Cristofferson, Portage la Prairie





### **From the Synaps of Rite Brane or Left Brane or What?**

Coalition for the Education and Training of Women  
Esther Enns

The "Focus on Women Directory of Employment Preparation Programs in Manitoba" is available at the MACSW Winnipeg office and is worth a review by any woman interested in gaining employment or advancing her education.

The first time I attended a MACSW meeting, I found myself really enjoying it, and before my Rite Brane realized what my mouth (controlled by my Left Brane) was doing, I had volunteered to attend the December meeting of the Coalition for the Education and Training of Women.

(Rite Brane says rather loudly, "What are you doing? Do you have any idea what you're getting yurself into?" "No," responds L.B., "But it does sound interesting." And while R.B. mumbles and grumbles, L.B. quietly waits for the day to arrive; and then calmly heads over to the Charterhouse Hotel for the 7:00 p.m. meeting.)

Only one word can be used to describe the women who gathered together to form the Coalition for the Education and Training of Women: "DYNAMIC."

Joan Dougherty reported on the committee for Gender-Inclusive Vision of Teaching & Learning. She stated that this committee has now completed its work and has submitted a final report to Secretary of State.

Cheryl Christjanson described her activities, Gender Inclusive Strategies in the Classroom, a five year project with Daniel MacIntyre School. This project appeared to be a very positive step toward building a healthier educational system.

Jackie Stalker reported on the Women in Post-Secondary Education committee. The national call for papers had received an overwhelming response from women in every part of Canada. These papers will provide the material to produce a publication on post-secondary policies and practices that either help or hinder women to access education. The Secretary of State is very interested in this project. Deadline for submissions is March 31, 1993.

The committee person, Linda Taylor, for Employment Equity, City of Winnipeg, reported that the new mayor, Susan Thompson, has indicated her support for payment equity, as well as support for a Women and Change conference.

Mary Scott reported on Programs Leading to Economic Independence. This committee was responsible for the preparation and publication of "Focus on Women" which has been distributed to resource centres, women's shelters, libraries, community colleges and income support offices.

(L.B. says "Every woman should have access to a copy of "Focus on Women").

The Labour Force Development Board committee person, Phyllis Broder, reported that the Federal Government requested a national organization be established to upgrade the education of the labour force. Each province is to have a small working group made up of representatives from each level of government. The working group's goal is to determine the need of the province. To date New Brunswick, B.C., and Ontario have established local labour force development boards to dispense training funds; Manitoba's board is still in the planning stage awaiting funding.

(R.B. says, "That's enough for now. You don't want to start sounding like a court reporter." "But, but, I haven't told them who the guest speaker was," laments L.B. "Oh, all right, but make it quik!" R.B. mutters.)

The guest speaker was the Minister of Education and Training, Rosemary Vodrey. She spoke most eloquently and at some length on her position of support for co-operation between the school system and community groups and she supports any social/cultural development that will provide a trained workforce.

("Are we going to go to the next meeting for the Coalition of the Education and Training of Women?" asks L.B. "Yea, I guess so." says R.B. "But don't volunteer for anything!!" Till nexttime...)

## AUDRE LORDE: 1934-1992

Audre Lorde defined herself as a Black lesbian feminist warrior poet mother. Her passionate writings speak of the empowerment of learning from differences, the uses of anger to deal with sexism and racism, the deep lifeforce among women, the joys and struggles of women of colour and lesbians and much more in 9 books of poetry and 5 of prose. She died of breast cancer on Nov. 17, 1992 in the Virgin Islands. The following quotes are from Sister Outsider: Essays & Speeches by Audre Lorde, (Crossing Press; Freedom, California, 1984):

For women, poetry is not a luxury. It is a vital necessity of our existence. It forms the quality of light within which we predicate our hopes and dreams toward survival and change, first made into language, then into idea, then into more tangible action. Poetry is the way we help give name to the nameless so it can be thought. The farthest horizons of our hopes and fears are cobbled by our poems, carved from the rock experiences of our daily lives.

As they become known to and accepted by us, our feelings and the honest exploration of them become sanctuaries and spawning grounds for the most radical and daring of ideas....We can train ourselves to respect our feelings and to transpose them into a language so they can be shared....For within living structures defined by profit, by linear power, by institutional dehumanization, our feelings were not meant to survive. Kept around as unavoidable adjuncts or pleasant pastimes, feelings were expected to kneel to thought as women were expected to kneel to men....If what we need to dream, to move our spirits most deeply and directly toward and through promise, is discounted as a luxury, then we give up the core - the fountain - of our power, our womanness; we give up the future of our worlds.

from "Poetry is Not a Luxury", pp. 36-39.

Women responding to racism means women responding to anger; the anger of exclusion, of unquestioned privilege, of racial distortions, of silence, ill-use, stereotyping, defensiveness, misnaming, betrayal, and co-optation... Every woman has a well-stocked arsenal of anger potentially useful against those oppressions, personal

and institutional, which brought that anger into being. Focused with precision it can become a powerful source of energy serving progress and change....

If I participate knowingly or otherwise in my sister's oppression and she calls me on it, to answer her anger with my own only blankets the substance of our exchange with reaction. It wastes energy. And yes, it is very difficult to stand still and to listen to another woman's voice delineate an agony I do not share, or one to which I myself have contributed....We cannot allow our fear of anger to deflect us nor seduce us into settling for anything less than the hard work of excavating honesty; we must be quite serious about the choice of this topic and the angers entwined within it because, rest assured, our opponents are quite serious about their hatred of us and of what we are trying to do here....I cannot hide my anger to spare you guilt, nor hurt feelings, nor answering anger; for to do so insults and trivializes all our efforts. Guilt is not a response to anger; it is a response to one's own actions or lack of action...it is another form of objectification...

For women raised to fear, too often anger threatens annihilation...if we accept our powerlessness, then of course any anger can destroy us. But the strength of women lies in recognizing differences between us as creative...

Anger has eaten clefts into my living only when it remained unspoken, useless to anyone. It has also served me in classrooms without light or learning, where the work and history of Black women was less than a vapor... Oppressed peoples are always being asked to stretch a little more, to bridge the gap between blindness and humanity... No woman is responsible for altering the psyche of her oppressor, even when that psyche is embodied in another woman...

It is not the anger of Black women which is dripping down over this globe like a diseased liquid...which corrodes into blind, dehumanizing power, bent upon the annihilation of us all unless we meet it with what we have, our power to examine and to redefine the terms upon which we will live and work; our power to envision and to reconstruct, anger by painful anger, stone upon heavy stone, a future of pollinating difference and the earth to support our choices.

from "The Uses of Anger: Women Responding to Racism", pp.124-133.



The very word *erotic* comes from the Greek word *eros*, the personification of love in all its aspects...personifying creative power and harmony. When I speak of the erotic, then, I speak of it as an assertion of the life force of women; of that creative energy empowered... The erotic is a resource within each of us that lies in a deeply female and spiritual plane, firmly rooted in the power of our unexpressed or unrecognized feeling. In order to perpetuate itself, every oppression must corrupt or distort those various sources of power within the culture of the oppressed that can provide energy for change. For women, this has meant a suppression of the erotic as a considered source of power and information within our lives... It is a short step from there to the false

belief that only by the suppression of the erotic within our lives and consciousness can women be truly strong. But that strength is illusory, for it is fashioned within the context of male models of power...

The erotic functions for me in several ways, and the first is in providing the power which comes from sharing deeply any pursuit with another person. The sharing of joy, whether physical, emotional, psychic, or intellectual, forms a bridge between the sharers which can be the basis for understanding much of what is not shared between them, and lessens the threat of their difference... Another important way in which the erotic connection functions is the open and fearless underlining of my capacity for joy... That self-connection shared is a measure of the joy which I know myself to be capable of feeling, a reminder of my capacity for feeling...

This is one reason why the erotic is so feared, and so often relegated to the bedroom alone, when it is recognized at all. For once we begin to feel deeply all the aspects of our lives, we begin to demand from ourselves and from our life-pursuits that they feel in accordance with that joy which we know ourselves to be capable of...

To share the power of each other's feelings is different from using another's feelings as we would use a kleenex. When we look the other way from our experience, erotic or otherwise, we use rather than share the feelings of those others who participate in the experience with us. And use without consent of the used is abuse... The need for sharing deep feeling is a human need. But within the European-American tradition, this need is satisfied by certain proscribed erotic comings-together. These occasions are almost always characterized by a simultaneous looking away, a pretense of calling them something else, whether a religion, a fit, mob violence, or even playing doctor. And this misnaming of the need and the deed give rise to that distortion which results in pornography and obscenity - the abuse of feeling...

When we look away from ourselves as we satisfy our erotic needs in concert with others, we use each other as objects of satisfaction rather than share our joy in the satisfying, rather than make connection with our similarities and our differences. (from "Uses of the Erotic: The Erotic as Power", pp. 53-59.)

**Medusa & Mermaid as Mentor:  
Shawna Dempsey and Lorri Millan  
talking metaphor with Fiona Muldrew**

FM: Why did you choose the Medusa and Mermaid mythologies for your plays?

LM: She likes the costumes.

SD: Yeah really, i just wanted to dress up.

LM: We were looking at these mythological figures and as icons they're telling us how the status quo expects women to behave.

SD: They've both endured as metaphors and myths.

LM: Most people have a reaction to them even tho' they're not really sure of the so-called original stories (H. Christian Anderson/Greek Medusa story.)

FM: Are you changing the image of Medusa?

SD: We change it but we use that icon to subvert the accepted meaning.

FM: In your video "Medusa Raw" are you trying to say that women are hated at whatever they do?

SD: The rules for women are so narrow that it's hard to conform to them - as soon as we step out of them we're hated, crazy or out of control.

LM: The rules are contradictory so it doesn't matter how good you are - you're always going to step across the line.

FM: What is the mermaid mythology?

SD: Mermaids started off as villainous warriors travelling in all-female packs. In the seventeenth century they were transformed into seductresses that would lure men to their grave. Later Hans Christian Anderson took away all their power and made them victims essentially.

LM: The mermaid and the medusa are both really old images of female power from matriarchal pagan times. They're visual metaphors which in the last 1000 years have become less-than-positive.

SD: Though the mermaid is still touted as a good role-model for girls like "The Little Mermaid".

LM: ..that manual for how to be a good doormat.

SD: Our "Mermaid in Love" is less safe. She's anti-romance because it teaches women to be passive and says that change happens magically and painlessly when in reality change rarely happens without force - insisting on our place in the world. She talks about the destruction of Nature as a metaphor for the colonization of Women.

FM: What's the original story for Medusa?

SD: In the Mediterranean area THE Goddess in



different cultures had snaky hair or dread locks.

LM: She had snakes on her clothes, or carried snakes - symbols of power. It doesn't take a genius to figure out that the Greek story told what happened to powerful women. Poseidon raped Medusa and his wife got mad and turned her into a snaky haired gorgon. Athena helped this nobody Perseus guy figure out how to kill Medusa. If you're a powerful woman you're either ugly, evil or you help the man destroy the goddess. The irony is that everyone remembers Medusa and nobody knows Perseus.

SD: It's a similar story with St. Patrick killing the snakes (Goddess) in Ireland and St. George killing the dragon (like a big snake) in England.

LM: There's incredible history behind the imagery but you don't need to know any of that.

SD: Lots of women are reclaiming that lost spirituality but our focus is much more political.

FM: What do you want to evoke in your audience?

SD: I want them to CHANGE the WORLD, definitely! - starting with Sexual Politics - it's the most basic of oppressions. It's cross-cultural, historically based and appalling! We're invaded, we're at war and no-one is acknowledging it so if there's ANY way we can shake people's thinking on inequality, that's what we want to do.

LM: There's the sexual politics of being a lesbian but it's not something we're as conscious of.

SD: It's not like I sit down to write a lesbian piece

but I always sit down to write a feminist piece.

LM: ..but we have done pieces that do address being a lesbian in this culture head on.

FM: How do people respond to Object/Subject Desire with obvious lesbian content?

SD: We always get a good response but if it's with a lesbian audience they'll crack up or go "yeah" (ho-hum), whereas with a straight audience they'll go "oh!" (heavy intake) or silence.

LM: It always amazes me how straight audiences will tune out the lesbian content.

SD: They think I'm talking about a man, it just drives me crazy.

LM: People hear what they want to hear. Up to the end we're playing with people's assumptions about heterosexuality and surprise! We're not - that's not what the whole world's about.

FM: Do teen-agers come to your shows?

SD: Teenagers have a hard time with our work.

LM: Sometimes they find "We're Talking Vulva" ("genital pride" with Shawna, the 5-foot Vulva) embarrassing. For age 12-15 it's just mortifying.

SD: Young girls come with their moms and like it.

LM: I'd love to do schools.

SD: We've thought of barn-storming recesses across Manitoba - getting a pick-up truck and me as the Vulva on the back and we'd pull up, do a quick performance and take off.

FM: So can you make a living?

LM: Well it depends what you call a living. We live on a single performer's salary and it's a pathetic wage for one person. Often groups won't want to pay for both of our labour because Shawna's the performer. They don't see the preparation work.

SD: We're always in debt.

LM: That's why we moved to Winnipeg - other than the fact that we like it here - it's cheap.

SD: Best arts funding in the country and it's centrally located for touring.

LM: Our bread and butter or tofu and rice is in touring - we're gone 7 months of the year.

SD: In Winnipeg all the artists are very supportive of each other - it's more stratified in Toronto.

FM: What else have you done?

SD: "The Golden Boy" -it's all about affirmative action - the invisibility of women in positions of power. The Golden Boy reveals that she's a lesbian and maybe women aren't invisible - they're just lesbians because y'know, lesbians are invisible.

SD: We built a costume for a new piece, it's an

arborite house-dress.

LM: It's built like a house - faced with pink arborite. It took us about 400 hours to make.

SD: It's about 30 pounds.

LM: a smallish dress, not a ball-gown unfortunately. SD: We also did the "Plaster Virgin" out at Our Lady of the Prairies Monastery near St. Norbert. The empty pedestal was there just begging for a play. She has a new prop now - she takes out her 2000 year old hymen - the source of her fame.

FM: The Immaculate Hymen?

SD: Yeah, completely unbreakable no matter how hard I try.

LM: We're working on a new costume for Mary, a three-dimensional standing stained-glass dress.

FM: How do you work together?

SD: We always start with the costume and out of the costume comes the text.

LM: The costume is a visual metaphor. We animate it or it animates itself. Often they mean a lot more than we realized.

SD: There's another process of revelation once you perform in front of an audience. People see things we haven't thought of yet.

LM: We'll start with an idea, Shawna will write something and I'll rip it apart or it might make me think of something to write. There's intense critical analysis where we sort out a lot of the ideas.

FM: Are you limited by where you perform?

SD: We're limited in that they're charging \$12 a ticket and largely our audience is other artists and the feminist and lesbian communities so it's people that are making 60 cents on the dollar or less. It's financially inaccessible but in terms of content, there's no limit. We use humour so it's easier for people to hear us. Once, I performed at a church conference, on a double bill with a harpist.

FM: What did you do and how did they respond?

SD: Well, it was the United Church, so they were very nice, interested and polite. I did "Talking Vulva" live and "Object/Subject Desire".

LM: People are often left pleasantly puzzled or they'll say "Well that wasn't a play" and they're right - it's a different sort of experience.

Experience Modern Mythology in the making. It's wild and wacky! "Mary Medusa" & "Mermaid in Love" play at PTE's Theatre With Bite, Feb. 18-28, 8:30 p.m. ph.942-7291 Don't miss the myths!

## Sensible Footwear: one size fits all

by Kelly Logan

*This article is reprinted with permission from The Uniter. Kelly Logan interviewed Alison Field from the British comedy troupe, Sensible Footwear, between their performances in Winnipeg, Jan. 6-10.*

KL- You've just recently moved to Canada. I was wondering if you could comment on the differences between here and Britain. Do the audiences here react differently to your work?

AF- I think people in Canada are very open-minded, very perceptive. In Britain people tended to pigeon-hole us--women's work, wordy, unfunny--some of which may be historical. We may have been more wordy and a bit more didactic in the past. It's hard to shake that off, even though I think we were always funny, we were always good.

KL- What about your inspirations and influences, do you think you've left them behind in Britain? Do you see your material changing now that you're here?

AF- No...we work off each other. I think that if we were one person coming over to Canada we might find it hard to keep any sort of essentially Englishness of what we do, but I don't think that that's a problem when we're three.

KL- Have you had to face any type of censorship?

AF- Yeah, if you do television in Britain you have to provide a script before you do it and are often told, "No, sorry, you can't use that word or mention those things." We used to go into schools and work and we'd be asked if we were going to mention any of the above, prohibited subjects.

We once used the F-word in a street show and an outraged, elderly woman went and got a police-man. Oh, it was the P-word, that's right. I've just been corrected by my colleague here. It was "penis" that we said. We have a penis envy song that we sang in the street. And (the policeman) decided that it would be alright if we sang "penis" on the street, but we couldn't say "cunt." Now whether we could say "vagina" I don't know.

KL- Are there any subjects that you won't touch? Anything that you consider taboo?

AF- There isn't anything that we consider is taboo or that we shouldn't touch. There are things where it is important to handle your subject much more

sensitively.

We used to do a show about male humour and about rape. About how it was quite acceptable to have jokes about women being raped. It was a sort of drawing the line show. When does something stop being harmless fun and when does it actually become dangerous and misogynistic? We thought that if we do something in that area we'd have to be very sensitive, because there would be people in the audience who had first hand experience and if you open that can of worms you had to make yourself available after the show for discussion. With every audience someone would come and say, "I've been raped," or "I've been sexually assaulted," and often they'd say they haven't felt able to tell people before. You did feel a certain responsibility to your audience not to just charge in, wreak havoc, and then go away without being there to answer or deal with the things that have been raised by that.

KL- You have this big popularity within the lesbian community. I just wondered if you'd like to comment on that.

AF- We think that anyone with a sense of humour can enjoy our material, whether they be young, old, male, female, straight, gay, able-bodied, disabled, whatever. We try to have a pretty much universal appeal. Obviously there are bits that would appeal to one group more than another. Ultimately, we're only answering to ourselves. As long as what we're doing suits us, we're happy.

We're really, really pleased that the lesbian community is interested in our work and supportive of it. It's one of those things where if you know that section of the population is enjoying your work, then obviously you want to make sure that you include material that's going to continue that popularity. Partly 'cause it's really nice when you got friends out there and you want it to be appropriate material for them. And equally, you want to include straight women, you want to include women with children, women without children, older women, younger women, any men out there.

We're actually quite popular with gay men as well. In Toronto we did a show recently where we were guesting with The Flirtations, this a cappella group from the United States, all men, all gay--dear friends of ours who we met at the Vancouver Folk Festival. It's really, really nice to see how their material is received by our audience and our material is received by their audience.



Women Are Organizing

It's really very positive if you can break down barriers. We would do International Women's Day gigs in London and we would find the audiences really factional. You'd have women going, "We don't like this, this is too middle class," or "this is only for lesbians," or "this is only for straight women." Those values don't exist as far as performers are concerned. It was supposed to be a celebration of all the things we had in common. To find people looking for differences, it was really depressing. We should just forget any differences, forget factionalism and say, "Look, we have so much in common," in the same way that probably us women have a lot in common with a lot of men and would like to see a better world for everybody. There are times to celebrate your differences and make a big feature of those differences, but there are a lot of times to break down barriers and work together.

### Germaine Greer's The Change Book Review by Marion Muldrew

As I have just joined the ranks of Senior Citizenry, I made a special effort to obtain the new book by Germaine Greer -- The Change. It's expanded title is "Women, Aging and the Menopause."

It is a medical, historical, anthropological and literary discussion of what women can expect in the aging process. Greer says, "the sum of our ignorance still far outweighs our knowledge." She challenges women to learn more about their own health and questions the wisdom of the popular estrogen replacement therapy.

Some of her provocative chapters are entitled: "No Rite of Passage", "The Lucky Ones", "The Unlucky Ones", "Medical Ignorance", "The Old Witch", and finally "Serenity and Power". It is a fairly hefty book at 387 pages with several pages of references and an index. On the last page she offers this insightful conclusion: "It is important not to explain, not to apologize. The climacteric marks the end of apologizing. The chrysalis of conditioning has once and for all to break, and the female woman finally to emerge."

I gained strength from reading this book and thank Germaine Greer for her positive outlook for post-menopausal women.

### NAC Holds Regional Meetings Hari Dimitrakopoulou-Ashton

On January 24, a NAC regional meeting took place at the Union Centre attended by 28 women representing a wide cross-section of women's groups and organizations from Winnipeg, Dauphin and Brandon. Hari Dimitrakopoulou-Ashton, Manitoba's rep on NAC's National Executive conducted the meeting with Judy Rebick, NAC's President.

Judy outlined NAC's direction. The campaign on Violence Against Women was restructured and three committees emerged dealing with judicial policies, violence affecting refugee women and policy development on violence. A committee on Childcare has been reorganized with the mandate to develop and advocate NAC's position prior to the next federal election. The Future of Women's Work campaign, which studies women's paid and unpaid work, made plans to exchange information on women and work issues with regional representatives. Judy also discussed NAC's profile and outreach across Canada after the Referendum.

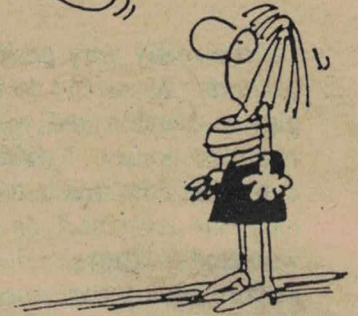
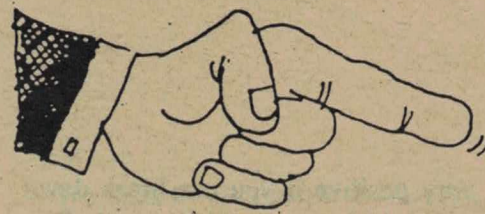
Hari talked about NAC's regionalization process that is taking place because of increased membership. NAC now includes 550 member groups from various sectors across Canada. Recent federal and provincial cutbacks to women's organizations and NAC indicate that governments will follow this course in the future. These developments further emphasized the need for a strong involvement at the membership level to ensure proper communication between membership and the NAC executive.

The women at the meeting formed a committee to strengthen Manitoba's links with NAC and each other. A meeting was set for January 28 at the Union Centre and MACSW women from Dauphin and Brandon plus TACSW and TCC in Thompson and NWRS in Flin Flon will be contacted.

To protest cutbacks, women at the meeting decided to take direct action and "visit" the Secretary of State office on Feb. 15 at 3:30 p.m. at 201-303 Main St. Please join the crowd.

A regional meeting with the Northern Manitoba NAC member groups was held on January 26 in Thompson, coinciding with Judy Rebick's visit in Thompson and The Pas. **For further info please contact Hari at 1-677-9748 in Thompson.**

**Welfare Women Win!**  
Fiona Muldrew



"It was a bunch of women on welfare who organized the protest - a real grassroots action" said Nancy Jakubic, spokesperson for the Manitoba Anti Poverty Organization (MAPO). She was speaking of women who stormed the Legislature on December 16, enraged by threatened cuts of the Child Tax Benefit amount from welfare payments. Of the 27,000 who receive Provincial social assistance about 50% are single mothers. The provincial Ministry of Family Services delayed for 7 months in responding to how they would administer the federal government's "Brighter Futures" initiative which combined the now defunct Family Allowance, and the Refundable and Non-Refundable Child Tax Credit programs into the Child Tax Benefit.

This new federal program is administered by the province who some feared would consider the Child Tax Benefit as income for welfare recipients and therefore reduce their welfare cheque by that amount. There is no new "Fun-in-the-sun" money for welfare recipients under "Brighter Futures" but the federal government stated that people on social assistance would not lose money with the changes. However, the province was still free to do as it pleased. Becky Barrett, NDP Critic on the Status of Women, believes the Filmon government was seriously considering reducing welfare payments in order to save \$20 million/year. She doesn't believe the Minister of Family Services, Harold Gilleshammer's excuse that they were still "in negotiation with the federal government about the implications of Brighter Futures" after 7 months of avoiding any commitment to maintain welfare rates.

When some women heard from welfare workers that their Child Tax Benefit might be deducted from their welfare cheques in 1993 they started a petition and organized a rally in a week. They asked MAPO for support and got people to call Harold Gilleshammer and complain. Ms. Jakubic said "MAPO got the credit for the rally but all we did was send out Public Service Announcements and ask people to call Harry (Gilleshammer)." They received 50 calls a day for a week about the potential cuts. Gilleshammer must have received the same plus many letters and hundreds of names on petitions. Susan Rose, one of the protest organizers, spent days collecting signatures and getting people to

call Gilleshammer or come to the protest. She called Gilleshammer enough to know that his secretary was getting more impatient with every call.

The morning of the protest, there was a cabinet meeting and the government decided not to make the cuts. More than a hundred people (90% women and children) showed up for the rally. Jakubic described the rally as "a very powerful thing" filling the lobby of the Legislature with women chanting and yelling. Gilleshammer made a speedy exit in a waiting get-away car avoiding the power-source entirely.

Ms. Barrett thought the success of the rally was the "breadth and depth of the response" from various parts of the city and province. Not just the regular activists called, wrote or came to the protest. She said phonecalls to Tory backbenchers from people in their riding really help to influence government about the public mood. She also said the timing and large numbers of supporters were crucial. The province also did not have federal backing to cut welfare payments.

Success is sweet but much too short when we realize that the government backlash keeps us busy trying to hang on to the little we have. Ms. Barrett expects much worse from the provincial budget in mid-March. We should protest expected cuts to Social Assistance, Education and Health plus government inaction on unemployment and the highest child poverty rate in Canada. Last year, the Conservatives passed Bill 70 which standardized welfare rates throughout the province. Since the City of Winnipeg had higher rates and 90% of provincial recipients, the city is short \$5.5 million for welfare which was usually payed by the province. Mayor Thompson's promise of no tax increase does not look good for welfare recipients and others threatened with job losses. Provincial cutbacks to Childcare, Education and Training programs for Social Assistance recipients and no job strategy paint a very bleak future for Manitobans looking for work. Have you phoned Harry today?





## EVENTS

Feb. 4, 9 p.m., **Lynnette (Dueck) D'anna**, author of **Sing Me No More**, invites you to a reading at the Main Spot Reading Series 1993, formerly the Blue Note, 220 Main St., \$2.50.

Feb. 12, **Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick**, Professor of English, Duke Univ., literary critic on lesbian & gay studies, will speak at the Wpg. Art Gallery, 8 p.m.

Feb. 19-21, **Unions & Communities: Working Together to Fight Racism**, Union Centre, Wpg. \$50/25, Friday evg. Free! Speakers: **Rajani Desai**, Political Economist, India; **Muriel Johnson**, University & Allied Workers Union, Jamaica; **Bob White**, Pres., Canadian Labour Congress; **Jim Bear**, Pres., Aboriginal Council of Wpg.; **Leslie Spillet**, Director, Anishnaabe Oway-Ishi, Wpg., **Louise Champagne**, Manager, Neechi Foods, Wpg.; **Priscilla Settee**, Aboriginal Community Activist & more. For info ph. 786-2030.

Feb. 21-26, **Church and Community Inquiry into Unemployment**, St. Andrew's Place, 425 Elgin Ave., Wpg. Call 453-3879 to help out with MACSW's brief or call 783-5703, before Feb. 10, to make an individual presentation.

### **Margaret Laurence Feminist Speakers Series:**

Feb. 22, **Doris Young**, "Aboriginal Governments, Women and Spirituality", 7 p.m., Centennial Library  
March 18, **Stephanie Kane**, "AIDS & the Discourse of Sexuality", 7 p.m., Centennial Library  
April 19, **bell hooks**, "Race, Gender and Representation", 7 p.m., University of Winnipeg  
Phone 474-6233 for tickets (free)

March 6 - The Welfare Starlets perform in Carman for a **LEAF fundraiser**

March 7 - **International Women's Day: Hearing Women's Voices**, March at Leg./ rally at the Uof W See insert for details. Meetings to plan IWD: Feb. 9, 23, & March 2, 7:30 p.m., International Centre, 406 Edmonton St., Wpg. ph. Val at 269-6836.

March 7, **Sue Medley** plays at the West End Cultural Centre, Wpg., ph. 783-6918.

March 11 - **Gloria Steinem** will speak about her new book "**Revolution from Within**" at the Walker Theatre, 8 p.m., \$10, tickets available at McNally Robinson Bookstores.

March 12 & 13 - **Women & Poverty**, UN End of Decade for Women Conference, Delta Inn, 288 Portage Ave., Wpg.

Fri., 6:30-9:30 p.m. - International speaker from UNIFEM, **Beti Astolfi**, political panel and entertainment: **The Welfare Starlets**.

Sat., 9 a.m.-4 p.m. - Hon. **Mary Collins**, Minister for the Status of Women, "Canadian Women and Poverty....from Nairobi to Beijing" plus workshops. Ph. 889-1197 for info.

March 12-14 - **Women's Music Festival**, West End Cultural Centre, Wpg., March 14: **Faith Nolan** and **Jennifer Berezan**, ph. 783-6918.

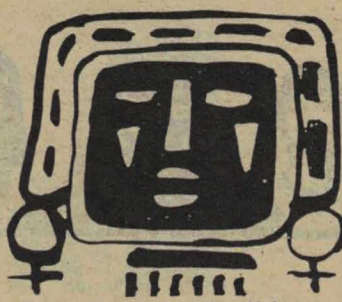
March 19, **Biblical Basis for Pluralism**, Dr. **Virginia Ramey Mollenkott**, feminist theologian will speak at the Univ. of Wpg., Rm. 3C01, 3rd fl., Centennial Hall, 12:30 p.m., ph. 786-8911 for info on above & workshop March 19 & 20.

**City of Winnipeg Community Committee Meetings** City Centre (Ft. Rouge, River Heights, & Daniel McIntyre wards): **Feb. 2 & 23, March 16.**

Lord Selkirk-West-Kildonan (Pt. Douglas, Old Kildonan, & Mynarski wards); East Kildonan-Transcona (North Kildonan, Elmwood, & Transcona wards); & Assiniboia (St. James, Charleswood-Ft. Garry, & St. Charles wards): **Feb. 16 & March 16.**  
Riel (St. Boniface, St. Vital & St. Norbert wards): **Feb. 17 & March 17.**

**All meetings are public & begin at 7 p.m. at City Hall.** Protest further cuts to social programs. Voice your concerns about Glen Murray not being included in the Safe City Committee, even though he's the most knowledgeable city councillor about violence issues. **John Prystanski**, who has virtually no experience on violence issues was chosen in his stead!

Ph. 986-2196 for info on meetings or current city hall debates.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Feb. 4, noon-1 p.m., Susan Gray from the Coalition of Provincial Organizations of the Handicapped will speak about a literacy project for **disabled women in Central America**, Centennial Library, Wpg., ph. 786-2106 for more info about International Development Week, Feb.1-7.

Feb. 4, **Open House** at the **IDEA Centre** for International Development Week, 60 Maryland St., Wpg., 4-8 p.m. New resources on display plus a video showing. Everyone welcome. Ph. 786-2032.

Feb. 5, Workshop: 'Weighing the Risks'- causes, consequences and management of **body image issues** and eating disorders in women and girls. Union Centre, Wpg, 9a.m.-4:30 p.m. Ph. 947-1517. (Feb. 1-6, **National Eating Disorders Awareness Week**)

Feb. 7, 1 p.m., **CUSO/Salvaide Benefit**: Entertainment for kids: Loonisee Theatre, Jamie Oliviero & Shawn Kettner (storytellers) & the Rainbow Bridge Band, \$2, Westminster Housing Cop, 145 Maryland St., Wpg., ph. 774-8489.

Feb. 8, **BodyMind Clearing**, a presentation by Terri Picard on hands-on healing techniques, 7:30 p.m., 1038 Portage Ave., 2nd fl., Wpg., ph. the Yoga Centre at 783-8040.

Feb. 9, **Vigil Committee Meeting - More Volunteers Needed to Plan Vigils!**, noon, Klinik Board Room, 870 Portage Ave., Wpg., ph. 783-4070 for info.

Feb. 10, 2-3 p.m., **Stop the Whitewash & the Waste: Women Taking Action on Sanitary Products & Diapers**, Women's Health Clinic, 419 Graham Ave., 2nd fl., ph. 947-1517.

Feb. 14, 8 p.m., **AIDS Shelter Coalition Social**, The Spectrum Cabaret, Wpg.

Feb. 15 - Deadline to apply for **Volunteer Training in Birth Control & Unplanned Pregnancy Counselling** at the Women's Health Clinic. Training begins end of February. ph. 947-1517.

Feb. 15-19, **Workshop on Domestic Violence Intervention** - for helpers/counsellors with experience in generalist counselling. Training on: intervention with victims of domestic violence, intervention with abusive men, and for children who have witnessed abuse, at Klinik, 870 Portage Ave., Wpg, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. daily. For more info call Leslie at Evolve, 784-4070. Register before Feb.5, \$55.

Feb. 16 - April 13, Thompson, **Self Defence Course for Women**, Tuesdays, 9-10:30 p.m., Deerwood Gym, limit: 20, age 16 & up. To register call the YWCA at 778-6341 ext. 105.

Feb. 18, **Frantic in February?** - Feeling frazzled because of autopac blues, winter blahs, valentine disappointments, budget cuts, cabin fever or exam cram? Come hear about **fight or flight responses** from someone uniquely able to help you deal with both. Carmen Nembhardt, M.S.W., a therapist in private practice & owner/manager of a travel agency will facilitate the meeting. Fort Garry Women's Resource Centre, Southwood Mall, 1910 Pembina Hwy., Wpg., 7-9 p.m.

Feb. 21, **Post-Mennonite Survivors** - feminist women healing from evangelical abuse, together for support and action, 2 p.m., ph. Lynnette at 783-1839 or Gloria at 783-1147.

Feb.22-Apr.26, **Beyond Body Image Women's Support Group**: how food controls our lives, body image, self esteem and weight preoccupation. Mon. evgs, 7-9 p.m. for 10 weeks. Ph. Ft. Garry Women's Resource Ctr, Wpg, at 269-6836.

Feb. 23, Thompson YWCA & Health & Family Services will hold an informal discussion on **Menopause**, 871 Thompson Dr. from 7-9 p.m. Phone Anne at 677-7209 or Marion at 677-7219.

Feb. 24, Deadline to register for the Elizabeth Fry Society's **Aboriginal Awareness Program** for community workers. Six sessions in March will develop further understanding of issues faced by Aboriginal people, particularly women in the criminal justice system. Fee \$15.00. For info call Matilda at 589-7335 in Wpg.



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**ORGANIZATIONS - \$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 getting involved with the following issues: (please check)

## ISSUES

- Childcare/Parenting
- Equal Pay/Workplace
- Family Law
- Farm/Rural Women
- Health
- International Women's Day

- Media Monitoring
- Midwifery
- Aboriginal Women
- Trades & Technology
- Pensions
- Pornography

- Prostitution
- Women of Color/Racism
- Reproductive Health Issues
- Senior Women
- Violence Against Women
- Women & Poverty
- Women/Disability
- Young Women's Group

## ACTIVITIES

- Newsletter
- Office Duties

- Political Action
- Public Education

- Lobbying

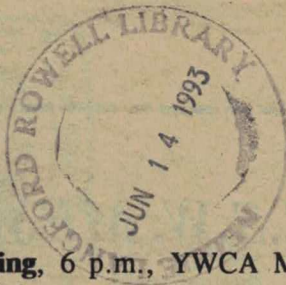
## NEAREST MACSW BRANCH

**WINNIPEG**  
16-222 Osborne St. S  
Winnipeg,  
R3L 1Z3  
453-3879  
453-4157

**BRANDON**  
202-107-7th St  
Brandon,  
R7A 3S5  
725-2955

**PARKLAND STATUS  
OF WOMEN**  
118 Main St. S.  
Mail: Box 23  
Dauphin, R7N 2T9  
638-3599

**THOMPSON**  
Box 722  
Thompson  
Manitoba  
R8N 1N5  
778-8549



**CALENDAR OF EVENTS - FEBRUARY**

- 3 **Winnipeg MACSW Branch Meeting**, 6 p.m., YWCA Meeting Room C (2nd floor), 301 Vaughan Street (wheelchair accessible).
- 5 **"No Place For a Lady: The Story of Canadian Women Pilots, 1928-1992."** A public lecture by Shirley Render, author and historian, 7:30 p.m., Lorne Watson Recital Hall, Queen Elizabeth II Music Bldg., Brandon Univ., FREE!
- 5 **Judy Radul & di brandt:** Readings at Ace Art Gallery, 8 p.m., Wpg., part of Festival de Voyeur, Queer Culture Canada.
- 8 **Women & Community Organizations in El Salvador:** Karen Hamilton, Salvaide President, speaks on her recent trip to El Salvador, MACSW office, 16-222 Osborne St. S., 7 p.m.
- 9,16,23 **TACSW Business Meetings**, noon, all members welcome, 3rd floor, YWCA, 39 Nickel Rd.
- 11 **Parkland Branch Meeting**, 5:30 p.m., 118 Main St. S., Dauphin. Bring your own meal.
- 14 **Pink Triangle Day Vigil**, commemorating homosexual victims of the Holocaust and gay-bashing, 6 p.m., South steps of the Legislature, Wpg., no media , Coffee House after at Ms. Purdy's, \$3.
- 15 National "Valentine" Action to **Protest Heartless Cuts to the Women's Program**, Secretary of State office, 201-303 Main St., Wpg., 3:30 p.m. Bring signs & loud voices to condemn federal cutbacks (20% anticipated over 2 years) to essential women's programs. Ph. 453-3879 for info.
- 16 **Women's Herstory Month Planning**, 2 p.m., 3rd fl., YWCA, 39 Nickel Rd., Thompson.
- 16 **Brandon Branch Meeting**, 7:30 p.m., Branch Office, 202-107 7th St. Theme: Women & Work.
- 18-28 **Mermaid in Love & Mary Medusa** - Shawna Dempsey & Lorri Millan's mythological satire, Prairie Theatre Exchange Theatre with Bite, Wpg., 8:30 p.m., \$12, ph. 942-7291.
- 19 **Forbidden Love: The Unashamed Stories of Lesbian Lives**, film-maker Lynne Fernie speaks after the film , 8 p.m. This NFB film runs from Feb. 12-28 at Cinema Main, Wpg.
- 20 **GLOBE (Gays & Lesbians of Brandon & Elsewhere) Social**, 9 p.m.. Call 727-GAYS, Fridays from 7-10 p.m. for info.
- 21 **MACSW Fundraising Party** at Marion Yeo's house, 1167 Grosvenor Ave., Wpg., 2 p.m., food & entertainment, \$10/\$6 low income, Free for children, ph. 453-3879 for info.



- MARCH 3** **MACSW Winnipeg Branch Meeting**, 6 p.m., YWCA Meeting Rm.C, 2nd fl., 301 Vaughan St., wheelchair accessible.
- 4 **Winnipeg Women & Words**, 7:30 p.m., 16-222 Osborne St. S. New members welcome. Ph. Pat, 488-0988.
- 7 **International Women's Day**, phone your branch for activities. See insert for Wpg. activities.