

ACTION

MANITOBA ACTION COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN NEWSLETTER

April 1993

Vol. 20 No. 3



Inside: Buffy Sainte Marie
"Forbidden Love" Review

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
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This issue: MACSW staff, Kelly Logan, Pat Sadowy, Leslie Jackson, Marion Foster, Doreen Wuckert, Allison Dewar, Pam Jakubec, Marjorie Turton, Kristine Barr, Judy Hughes, Suzanne McCloud, Nellie McClung Theatre, Sunera Thobani & Newsletter Coordinator Fiona Muldrew.

Thank you New & Renewed Members!

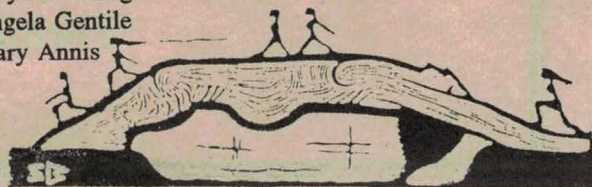
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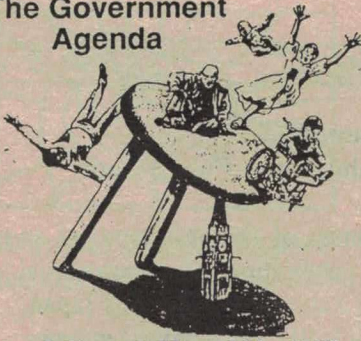
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Ruth Stewart
Babs Friesen
Michelle Woods



The Government Agenda



Bang! Bang! Harold's Gilles Hammer Comes Crunching Down!

Judy Hughes, Northern Representative

The Manitoba Provincial Government wields its axe:

"We didn't even get the courtesy of a phone call" said Crisis Centre Director, Karen Mendro. The **Flin Flon/Creighton Crisis Centre** had its budget cut by 100%...that's \$195,000.

"If they could have given us some lead time--but two weeks--what the hell do we do?" said Friendship Centre Director, Marcie Johnson. The **Flin Flon Friendship Centre** had its budget cut by 10%...that's \$80,000.

"They can't go to the Crisis Centre and they have nowhere to put their kids", said Debbie McLaughlan, owner of **Kiddie Corner Daycare** and the **Cranberry Portage Children's Development Centre**. Public daycares and some home daycares lost funding including subsidies, insurance, membership fees AND a 4% cut in operating grants.

"It's going to be difficult for us; it's been three years of bad news", said **Flin Flon Guidance Nursery** Chairperson, Wayne Fraser. (The Nursery's provincial funding was cut in half.)

The reality is self-evident. As Flin Flon prepares for a major down-sizing by Hudson Bay Mining & Smelting Company -- losing about 500 jobs, not counting closures of spin off businesses (primarily job losses to women in retail), population decline which will translate into less per capita payments and transfer payments to the City, streamlining or cutbacks in health and social service personnel, increasing stress and frustration over the unknown, and an escalation of crime, vandalism and violence -- we are now forced to prepare for another, equally disastrous down-sizing by the total elimination and/or removal of vital services in **Flin Flon** such as:

- 1) **no shelter, no counselling, no support for battered women and their children**--women and children in crisis are expected to get in a vehicle and drive 150 km. to The Pas.

- 2) **removal of mental health services**--health reform

is moving these services to The Pas

- 3) elimination of the **Speech Therapist** and **Psychologist** from the Flin Flon School Division

- 4) elimination of many **subsidized day care & nursery spaces**

- 5) elimination of **culturally sensitive programs and outreach**

- 6) **11 jobs lost for women in Flin Flon so far...**

Women are placed in an increasingly precarious and vulnerable situation. Specifically, these cuts rape women and children emotionally, financially, economically, politically and spiritually.

The Provincial Government claims savings of about \$3 million by cutting funding to 56 advocacy and lobby groups. What do you think the Government will spend to deal with the escalation of crime? vandalism? violence? physical, social and emotional health needs? social assistance? unemployment? family break-down? **Let's phone and ask!** I'm sure our inquiries will be welcomed.

Some groups cut by Mini-Minded "Pre-Budget":

Manitoba Child Care Association: \$45,000 (Child care costs will be increased \$1.40/day/child--more than 100% increase for subsidized parents, subsidized spaces will be capped at 9,600--a 4% reduction, operating grants for licensed day cares will be reduced by 4%--\$250,000).

Family Day Care Association of Manitoba: \$20,000

Manitoba Foster Family Association: \$300,000

Manitoba Anti-Poverty Organization: \$63,000

Committee on Unplanned Pregnancy

MB League of the Physically Handicapped: \$25,000

Association for Community Living: \$100,000

Independent Living Resource Centre: \$19,000

Indian & Metis Friendship Centres: \$1.2 million (33 staff will be laid off in Winnipeg, Brandon, Flin Flon, Dauphin, Lynn Lake and other towns)

Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs: \$325,000

Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak: \$78,000

Manitoba Environment Council: \$50,000

Girl Guides of Canada: \$4,500

Winnipeg International Children's Festival: \$2,500

Protest Provincial Cutbacks: Phone Finance

Minister Clayton Manness, **945-3952** or Family

Services Minister Harold Gilleshammer, **945-4173**.

Or write biting letters to your favourite MLA c/o

Manitoba Legislature, 450 Broadway, Wpg., MB,

R3C 0V8. Letters do require postage.

STAFF REPORTS

URGENT!! MACSW FUNDING CRISIS!!

MACSW is in desperate financial shape. We only have enough funds to last until late April. If we don't receive our Secretary of State funds by late April we may have to close all MACSW offices, lay off staff and stop publication of ACTION. Sometimes the Secretary of State cheque is two or three months late. Please take time to renew your membership or make a donation to MACSW as soon as possible. Buy a membership for a friend--two gifts in one, for your friend and for MACSW. If you haven't renewed your membership for 1993 this will be the last ACTION you will receive!

Thompson Branch Report

Debra McVittie, Administrative Co-ordinator

Once again a successful International Women's Day celebration was held in Thompson. About 60 women, men and children attended the potluck and awards evening. Certificate Awards were presented to women for their work and dedication following the potluck. Entertainment was provided by Margaret Dumas and James Ritchie (from the band North and South) and Cathy Kramer. A craft table was set up by the Immigrant Women's Association of Thompson. TACSW displayed information, books and t-shirts. Thanks to Marguerite for volunteering as M.C., to Katherine for presenting certificates and for her decorating abilities, and to the childcare workers.

TACSW member Louise Hodder has volunteered her time to update our resource library material in the early part of April. This is good news as TACSW is the main link for information on women's issues. We also welcome any other material members/non-members and Branches may have to share.

Although Women's History month is still a long way off we have formed a planning committee and are encouraging women to attend the monthly meetings. We are currently filling out grant applications and hope to bring up to Thompson the Nellie McClung Theatre group. If you would like to be involved please call the office or leave a message. The next planning meeting will be in mid-April.

Don't forget the MACSW AGM in Thompson, April 24 & 25. Contact your Branch for details.

Parkland Branch Report

Heather Dootoff, Administrative Co-ordinator

The wonderful women of Dauphin enjoyed an excellent evening in celebration of International Women's Day. Akiko Saito, a visitor from Japan, shared with us what life is like for Japanese women, what is changing and what is not. Akiko patiently answered all our questions, which sometimes came at her two or three at a time! Akiko hopes to stay an extra month or so and we hope she will too! Following Akiko's presentation we had a fantastic meal--an ethnic buffet. To wrap up the evening we watched "Company of Strangers"... pleased to be in the company of good friends! Thanks to Liz and Ranj for your hospitality.

At our regular meeting Andrea Bayne spoke to us about Amnesty International and the situation of women around the world. It was a challenging presentation -- very painful to hear of the abuse which is experienced by women and children and to such horrific degrees. . One member brought some shocking information about pornography. Having run across some startling examples of pornography readily accessible to children, she did some research and found that there is no law to restrict how pornography is displayed or who can purchase pornography (no age limit). We will be pursuing this further and would appreciate hearing from anyone who has more information on this issue. It was great to see a new face at our March meeting.

Plans are underway for an Earth Day celebration to be held May 1. We will be selling Bridgehead, Unicef and Greener products, so if anyone is able to volunteer their time let me know.

Just in case you don't know, Canada Post issued four new stamps in honour of International Women's Day. Check them out!

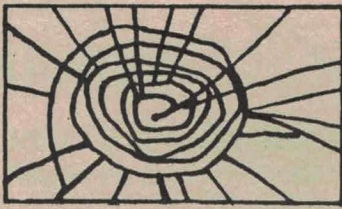


Marie-Josephine Gerin-Lajoie, a remarkable social reformer in Quebec.

Pitseolak Ashoona, Canada's best known Inuit graphic artist.

Adelaide Hoodless promoted women's education in Canada.

Helen Kinnear, Canada's first federally-appointed female judge.



Brandon Branch Report

Jennifer Howard, Administrative Co-ordinator

March was busy, busy, busy. A big feminist hug goes out to Maggie Greenshields, our placement worker from the COPE (Career Opportunities in Preparation for Employment) program, whose help kept me from crawling under my desk and crying.

Our International Women's Day celebrations were well-attended by both new and familiar faces. We enjoyed some fabulous desserts, interesting displays and the opportunity to learn about each other, celebrate our accomplishments and express our dreams for the future. We also collected about 25 empty purses for our campaign and lots of demands for the upcoming federal election. Our press conference on IWD garnered province-wide media, even though our local newspaper (the Brandon Sun) and the CBC Radio affiliate didn't show up.

MACSW had a table again this year at the Brandon Career Symposium. About 20,000 people passed through the three day event and we distributed over 1000 pamphlets on various topics. This is often our only opportunity to reach rural youth and without MACSW, there would be very little information on women at the Symposium.

Mary Annis and I attended the UN End of Decade Conference on Women and Poverty in Winnipeg. It was attended by a very diverse group of women and we really enjoyed seeing Jenny Robinson and the "Welfare Starlets" perform. Does the song "More with Less" have anything to do with the funding of the Women's Programme?!

Mary Collins, federal Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, spoke at the conference. She stressed the importance of education and retraining in solving the problem of poverty. When asked about the future of the Secretary of State's Women's Programme, she replied that it had been reviewed and would be made a permanent program: it may be moved to another ministry as the government is "restructured", but this wouldn't happen until after a federal election--it will be cut by 10% this year and an additional 10% next year, but that it had been a "very well-funded program that had steadily increased since its inception." Reality check time: federal

funding for the Women's Programme has DECREASED in actual dollars (1985 constant) from about \$8.5 million in 1984-85 to about \$6.1 million in 1993-94.

We had our first branch meeting on the future of MACSW in the light of our present funding crunch. We have received indications from the Secretary of State that our total grant will be \$122,400 for 1993-94, down by \$13,600. We will be continuing our discussions on this crucial issue on April 20 at 7:30 p.m. at Maureen Marsh's place, 130 Ross Avenue. To cheer ourselves up, we plan to watch "Wisecracks", a NFB docu-comedy on women comedians. Please be there.

We need Brandon Branch and Rural representatives to sit on the Provincial Coordinating Committee and to attend the Annual General Meeting, April 24-25 in Thompson. If interested, call the office so we can arrange transportation and billets. Remember, AGMs are fun!

The National Action Committee on the Status of Women (NAC) is also holding their Annual General Meeting, June 5-6 in Saskatoon, preceded by a one-day conference, on June 4, called "Taking our Political Place." If you're interested contact the office (725-2955). Registration is cheapest before April 19. Also, anyone in the province interested in car-pooling should call their closest Branch.

The Brandon University Status of Women Organization (BUSWO) met in March and decided to focus as a feminist study and discussion group while continuing to offer political support to the Women's Studies program at Brandon University. Some of our upcoming themes may include: "The Origins of Patriarchy" and "The Politics of Family". Call Mary Annis at 728-8496 or the office to get involved.

MACSW-Brandon Branch is part of the organizing committee for the Community Legal Education Association workshop on family violence. The workshop takes place on Friday, April 30 at the Royal Oak Inn. Call the MACSW office for details.

SPECIAL WOMEN: The IWD Committee and volunteers - Sheila, Donna, Inga, Cindy, Sharon and Lei Anne; Brandon Career Symposium volunteers - Maureen, Angie and Marion; Doreen Beaupre for her help with the IWD circle of sharing and celebration and Bonne Robson - our new volunteer "Volunteer Coordinator."





Members of the satirical 'Ladies Auxiliary Committee of the Chamber of Commerce' sell cookies to raise money to keep taxes down.

Mrs. Rich Freeloader, Mrs. Ernest Corruption, Mrs. Saul Idgreed & Mrs. Handy Sopkins, Chairman of LACCCS TAX, held a bake sale at Winnipeg City Hall. They support welfare cutbacks to keep taxes down. In keeping with business contributions to the city budget, they gave 7% of their profits to the city--\$0.15.

Winnipeg Branch Report

Susan Banks, Administrative Co-ordinator

Well it's been another four weeks of endless activity at the Winnipeg Branch. During March, we made several presentations to City Council Committees on proposed city cutbacks. On March 5, Rosemary Miguez and I presented to the Works and Operations Committee. I understood that we would be given the opportunity to express our concerns about the impact of the proposed cutbacks along with recommendations, but was amazed at some councillors' defensive and attacking response to us. Rather than ask questions related to our presentation, some councillors dumped the onus of responsibility onto MACSW, suggesting that we lobby the provincial government about off-loading of costs onto the city, and come up with a detailed budget describing where the money would come from to implement our recommendations. Isn't that why we have elected officials: to represent community concerns and come up with a plan that best addresses these concerns? I guess I was mistaken. Thanks to Rosemary Miguez, Kelly Logan, Jackie Sproule, Kristine Barr and Winnipeg Women in Business for their help with presentations to City Hall.

Prior to this year's provincial government's International Women's Day luncheon, we sent out a press release pointing out the hypocrisy of the

luncheon theme: Women and Education & Training-Expanding Choices, Creating Opportunities, considering the recent provincial government cut of 2.6% to funding for education. This \$60 million cut will mean a reduction in provincial grants to school divisions with a legislated cap on school tax increases and a cut by two percent to Manitoba universities next year with instructions to cap tuition fee increases at five percent. Although the provincial government has taken action on some issues (such as designing a set of posters to address gender stereotyping in elementary schools), there is obviously much more that needs to be done. With cutbacks to education it will be virtually impossible to provide funding for school programs designed to improve the status of girls and women.

On March 11, we attended the book-launch of "Take that Seat!" - a project of the Manitoba Women's Advisory Council and the Junior League of Winnipeg. It is designed to provide information for women on being appointed to municipal, provincial or federal government boards, agencies and commissions. A copy is available at each of the MACSW Branches. Additional copies are available at the Manitoba Women's Advisory Council.

Planning is underway for the March Against Violence which will be held on May 8, 1993 (the day before Mother's Day). Please call the Winnipeg Branch if you're interested in helping out.

1608 Manitobans Hear Gloria Steinem!

Review by Jennifer Howard

On March 11, 1608 feminists and their supporters gathered in Winnipeg's Walker Theatre for "An Evening with Gloria Steinem," feminist author, activist and founding editor of Ms. magazine.

The evening got off to a powerful start with a performance by The Wyrd Sisters, a Winnipeg feminist folk trio whose debut release came out in late March. Their rendition of "Warrior Woman" set the stage for an empowering evening.

After a short break, Penni Mitchell, Herizons editor and former Newsletter Coordinator for MACSW, introduced Gloria Steinem. A collective chill went up the audience's spine when Penni reminded us that not since 1914, when Nellie McClung and sister suffragettes performed "Votes for Men," had so many feminists been gathered in the Walker Theatre.

Gloria took the stage and announced her intention to turn the patriarchal structure of a lecture into a feminist organizing meeting, reminding us that we didn't need her to "lead" us.

Anyone familiar with Ms. Steinem's latest book, Revolution From Within, would have been familiar with the contents of her talk. She spoke about the importance of creating "revolutionary cells", in which the members not only engage in political action, but consciousness-raising and mutual support as well. Gloria reminded us of the feminist maxim "the personal is the political" and how crucial personal identity is to the women's movement.

Steinem also spoke about the effects of our childhoods on our self-esteem and adult development. She illustrated this by comparing former President Ronald Reagan and current President Bill Clinton's styles of governing. Both men were raised in a family with an alcoholic and abusive father. Reagan's response was to pretend that nothing was wrong. As a result he became the "King of Denial" who refused to admit to increasing homelessness and the futility of the arms race. Clinton, on the other hand, has gone back to his childhood and admitted that there was a problem, thereby beginning a healing process. The result is a President who consults with people and is straightforward about the problems facing the United States.

Steinem stressed that she was not a "childhood

determinist" or advocating that abusers be excused because they "had a bad childhood." She spoke about the power and possibility of healing and improving self-esteem and its political implications. She stressed that personal healing that was not accompanied by political action would not be effective in changing the conditions of our society that lead to eating disorders, addictions and abuse. It is in this way that Steinem goes beyond the current "recovery movement" that seems to advocate if we heal ourselves, the world will follow. "A co-dependent is just a well-socialized woman," Gloria reminded us.

The theme for the evening seemed to be a need to return to some of the early philosophies of the women's movement, such as small consciousness-raising groups and practicing "the personal is the political." The importance of caring for ourselves and each other has sometimes been lost as our organizations grew beyond basements and living rooms and our strategies became more "sophisticated" than "bra-burning" and "speak-outs." Sometimes this loss has led to burn-out and alienation. Gloria offered us this guideline to determine an organization's health: "If you have to go to a meeting and your first thought is "Ugh, not another meeting," there's something wrong with that meeting."

Gloria closed her talk by making a deal with us to commit one outrageous act in the next 24 hours and letting us in on her five basics of activism:

- 1) 10% of your salary to social justice groups
- 2) 5 letters a week, condemning or congratulating
- 3) 1 demonstration a month
- 4) 1 revolutionary cell meeting a week
- 5) 1 outrageous act a day.

After Steinem had finished, the organizing part of the evening began. Feminist after feminist, with and without microphone, announced upcoming demonstrations, meetings and campaigns. Women and men questioned and commented on what Gloria had said and many women thanked her for the influence she had had in their lives. One young woman who had just turned eighteen thanked Ms. Steinem for "helping my feminist mom to raise me."

Anyone who hasn't read Revolution From Within will be delighted to know it's now out in paperback (\$14.95+GST at most bookstores) with a new afterword on creating revolutionary cells.



Buffy Sainte Marie - She's a History Turner

Interview by Fiona Muldrew & Suzanne McCloud

Since Buffy is an artist striving for balance, she took a 16 year break from the music business to pursue many interests and raise her son Dakota. Her 1992 release, Coincidence & Likely Stories is stunning musically and lyrically, showing Buffy's love for the planet, Aboriginal spirituality and her concern for Aboriginal rights and justice worldwide. Buffy has released 13 albums in her 30 years of performing with hits such as "Universal Soldier", "Now that the Buffalo's Gone", "Until It's Time for You to Go" and "Soldier Blue". She recently won an Academy Award for writing the music for "Up Where We Belong" in An Officer and a Gentleman.

Buffy performed to a warm multi-generational crowd at the Walker Theatre on February 20 as part of the Festival du Voyageur. She sang classics such as "Piney Wood Hills" and "Sesame Street" (where she was part of the cast with her son for 5 years), as well as "Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee" and other songs from her new album. One song was dedicated to a much maligned minority--MEN. This song about her Dad was full of positive images of a gentle and caring father - so rarely heard in popular music. I had the honour of interviewing Buffy with Suzanne McCloud from the Original Women's Network radio program "Not Vanishing".

FM: What do you think are the major issues for Aboriginal women, today?

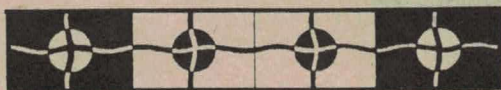
BSM: There are so many issues, but the environment is crucial for Aboriginal women. It used to be quaint that Native people spoke out about Mother Earth. Now people are becoming globally aware. This gives us more credibility when we say "You're dumping this stuff in our back yard and now it's polluting your water too." Aboriginal women have been sticking up for these issues for years. The environment unites everyone because that river is what nourishes us all.

Also something that wasn't so before colonial contact is child abuse and rape. In the European warlord tradition, which white people/colonial people have lived under, it was almost traditional that men at war rape women. This was not so in Aboriginal cultures - it was considered very low. I saw the head of Immigration Canada speaking about refugee women and problems of rape in war. We should be



proud of Canada for raising these important issues but Canada needs to be pushed forward with all the heart we have. This is a powerful time for women to give positive energy for the things that used to be handled by women.

Consider the Iroquois Confederacy which was a matriarchy--men could not declare war--the only ones who could declare war were women. Men were appointed by women to be the chiefs. There are 3 great ideas from the Iroquois Confederacy, that are used by the US Congress and the UN today. First, one diplomat speaks at a time - unheard of in Europe. Even today in the Canadian and British parliament, you see these guys going nyeah, nyeah, nyeah and shouting each other down like little boys in the school yard. Also there's the notion of sovereignty where nations come together without giving up their sovereignty and work together for the common good. Also the idea of impeachment--the women appoint these leaders and if they don't work out, if the women decide that they are not properly representing the people, they would literally be sent back to Mommy and the Clan mothers would appoint someone else. Also in the Confederacy children are still listened to in the council --not an idea that colonial warlord tradition has. So I've tried to say that there are great things to learn from Aboriginal cultures of the world. At the United Nations I got to announce that this is the



International Year of Indigenous Peoples.

FM: What's the relationship between the rape of the land and the rape of women? How do we change it?

BSM: Well, we do educate our sons--that's one way. And today we're networking, and we're going to communicate and it will have its repercussions. The rape of the land and the rape of women are two common threads of the warlord tradition where man primarily listens to himself and tries to one-up the next guy. That hierarchical, warlord system is not the only way to live. Most societies were not like that but that society got totally out of control, with each European country having their own warlord pirate like Sir Walter Raleigh and Francis Drake. When piracy became illegal on the high seas these same pirates were encouraged by the Crowns of various European countries to become corporations. So corporations came out of the piracy tradition, such as The Hudson Bay Co. and other great robber barons of the 18/1900s. History is evolving, and we raise our kids, we raise our hearts. We use our intelligence, our artistry and our connections. We make sure that the one little soul we have control of is intact. We put the right kind of fuel in. We try and get some sleep now and then.

FM: How have things improved in your life in terms of racism/sexism?

BSM: The music industry wanted to present me as Pocohontas and I said you're missing the whole thing and a lot of people didn't want to hear what I had to say, but a lot of people did. I've never done some of the things you're expected to do in show business--hang out with the right guys and do the right things to the right body. That's very prevalent in our world--it's just an extension of rape.

Men, even Native men now, have a certain education by movies and twists in what we see and hear. Native men get the same message as colonial men. Some men in the Indian movement have not wanted to hand the microphone to me and never wanted to give credit to women. Just look at the "stars" of the Indian Movement in the 60's--there were a lot of women feeding those guys, patching them up, being nurses and teachers and **telling them what to say**, because women, even oppressed women--we are very often the brains behind the whole thing. And we don't even need the credit--we're smart enough to take pleasure in what we do. But in not getting the credit sometimes our older and

younger sisters don't get the encouragement of having role models. Men, including Native men, have many more role models, even though we do the work. Now, we have the brains and the heart to appreciate sisters. I didn't grow up with a great appreciation of sisterhood but now there's much more of that.

As a Native person and as a woman I feel sorry for mainstream society and men. Men miss out on so much...probably the reverse is true but I think we get to see more of their lives than they get to see of ours. I feel sorry when I go to London--they have this "canned" education. They don't know about the peace that passeth all understanding of sitting on a reserve and watching somebody's grandma just be herself--it's a strong thing I take with me when I go to the city. It goes the other way too--I take some enthusiasm to the reserves to encourage the people for what they have going.

SM: How did taking time off from the music business affect your career?

BSM: I seldom think of my "career" which drives the business people crazy. Taking 16 years off to raise my son was like taking 16 years off to be an artist instead of being some sponge that you can polish the floors with. I was taking time off from show business and my "tada" career but at the same time I had a lot of "tada" successes such as my Academy Award, and my Ph.D. (in Oriental Philosophy). As an Aboriginal woman it's so hard to get a record made through the colonial male show business sieve. You come out feeling like a potato that's been riced--you're no longer intact. Now, I've got my own recording equipment I can control. You can get your message across intact - which is good for women & Native people and you can do it from the reserve with a Mac computer.

"Wolf Rider, she's a friend of yours

You've seen her opening doors

She's a history turner

She's a sweetgrass burner..."

from "Starwalker", Coincidence and Likely Stories

Buffy's recipe for keeping the soul intact: Our Grandmothers' Lives as told in their own words, ed. Freda Ahenakew, Fifth House Publishers, Sask., Susan Aglucard's music, Indigenous Woman magazine (available at Co-op Books in Wpg.) and Spare Rib magazine.



Northern Communities Race Relations Conference, Flin Flon, MB, May 11-13, 1993

In August, 1992, Flin Flon community members agreed they must work diligently toward the elimination of racism in Flin Flon and the surrounding area. With the town of Creighton they formed the Northern Communities Race Relations Committee which now includes the communities of Sandy Bay, Denare Beach, Snow Lake, Thompson, Pukatawagan, Sherridon and The Pas. A Northern Conference was planned to deal with the problems of racism and discrimination in the north. Workshops for the Conference will include: Social Services, Business/Economic Development, Levels of Government, Law Enforcement/Judiciary, School Division/Education and Healthcare Issues. Registration forms available from Judy Hughes, Conference Co-ordinator, Box 100, Flin Flon, MB, R8A 1M6, FAX 204-687-4456, phone 687-3810.

Vigil for Bosnian Rape Camp Victims

Kristine Barr

March 8 was International Women's Day--however, some women were unable to celebrate on this day--Muslim women are being systematically raped in Bosnia-Hercegovina. These women's bodies are being used as battlegrounds. In recognition of this atrocity, world-wide vigils were held from dusk to midnight. In Winnipeg, over 100 people gathered at the Legislative grounds at 11 p.m. on March 7 for a candlelight vigil. The media failed to arrive even though they were informed that this vigil was taking place.

Michelle Forrest spoke about her anger and frustration that women are being destroyed through military action. Jennifer Rahman, from the Muslim Students Association, asked everyone to join together to protest the UN's lack of action and to put more public pressure on those who have the "power" to change this horrendous situation. Ruby Reske-Naurocki read one of her poems about women and war. Many women and men found their voices to express their outrage and frustration. The overall feeling was one of sadness and sorrow, but there was also a lot of hope and power since people are ready to take action and become more involved working towards changing existing inequalities.



Susie, Get Your Scissors!

Nellie McClung Theatre members played the roles of Susan Thompson & Gary Filmon who competed for bigger budget cuts at a rally against Winnipeg budget cuts, Feb. 27. This version of "Anything You Can Do, I Can Do Better" was revised by Loa Henry & Margaret Titheridge.

Susan: I've got big business friends, they're in high places; I'm in their pocket, they bought me, it's true I'll keep my promise, protect them from taxes, I'll take from the poor, I learned how to from you.
Gary: My friends are bigger & my friends are richer I brought in the flat tax rate, I'm their boy--not you. I cut the budget for health and for child care, And now education will feel my knife too.

Susan: I can close libraries...

Gary: I can close down schools...

Susan: I can close the pools...

Gary: I can close the wards...

Susan: I can cut from welfare till they bleed.

Gary: I can bring the City to its knees.

Susan: So can I!

Gary: I think it's a tie!

Chorus: Anything you can do, I can do better; I can do anything better than you!

No, you can't! Yes, I can.

No, you can't! Yes, I can.

No, you can't, no, you can't, NO, you can't!!

Gary: I can freeze salaries to civil servants, Roll back workers' wages, give pink slips out, too. (Except for the management--they will get raises.)

The workers will protest. Who cares what they do?!

Susan: I can cut welfare rates here in the City, We're first for child poverty, that's nothing new.

I can take money (that is, workers' pensions)

Susie, the Scissorhands, knows what to do.

Gary: I like to contract out...

Susan: I love to do that, too...

Gary: I support the G.S.T...

Susan: I support that, too...

Gary: I love the inequality of all those user fees.

Susan/Gary: We can bring the City to its knees!

Gary: It's as easy as pie.

Susan: It's a tie.

Uncle Sam: Anything you can do, we can do better Just look at Chicago, Detroit and L.A.

If you pass this budget from Susan and Gary

You will have found THE AMERICAN WAY!!!"



The War is Declared

by Sunera Thobani, Vancouver

a war on women
they say
and claim
it is a war undeclared

women
know otherwise

fearing the night
.....the day
heads pounding
bodies broken
spirits weeping
taste of blood on tongues
and the claim
this war is undeclared

prisoners of war
within the confines
of our own
homes lives hearts
they tell us
it is undeclared

the war
has been declared
every day
with every kick bite punch slap
fuck shot stab
with every wound seen...and
unseen
the war is being declared

esteemed judge asks
did he mean to kill?
forcefully confining her...
violating her...
placing wire around her neck...
tightening it...
she can't breathe...
plastic bag over her head
beyond a doubt, judge cannot tell
if he really meant to kill

this war is declared
stripped and tied down
he shoves red hot pepper into
her...

eleven convictions already...
threatens to kill...
as soon as she lands...
Immigration Officers say she is
no refugee
this war is declared

her life is destroyed...
sexually abused by own father...
since age three...
for twelve long hard continuous
years...
no feelings in her...
she says it's as if she is dead
inside...
he gets four years...
a declaration of war

found dead on a highway...
face eaten away by animals...
nameless faceless in death...
it's her culture...
these bloody backward
immigrants...
what can the police do with these
people...
the community does not come
forward with killer's
name...
police drop the case...
it's a community affair...
this war is declared

blasts her open...
with a shotgun...
how dare she defy him...
honour demands her death...
murmurs about cultural sensitivity
warrant front pages...
striving to understand his
motives...
desiring to understand his
motives...
an entire community of women is
warned...

WE WILL UNDERSTAND his
motives...
this is no small war

to raise a storm in the desert...
fighter pilots arouse themselves...
watch pornographic films...
condemning women and children to
living hell...
far far away...
a tiny dot on the screen...
camera zooms in...
point of view of bomb...
quickly zooms out again
to catch surgical precision of
explosion
this war rains from the skies

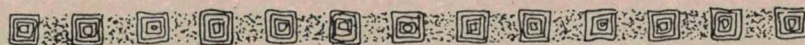
in every home street school office
inside outside
upside downside
supported by the forces of the land
this war is declared
at the pinnacle of power...
funds slashed for women run
centres shelters transition
homes...
ten million dollar people and
surveys appointed...
eleven white males write the law of
the land
admit yes, true we left out fifty two
percent of the people...

but it is our deal
and sell it we will
this war is declared

and women know
rising up in defiance
taking back the night

women know
taking back the land
taking back the night
so we can have our day

reprinted from *Diva: A Quarterly
Journal of South Asian Women*,
Jan/March, 1993, Toronto.



No Place Like Home: Building Sustainable Communities by Marcia Nozick
Book Review by Kelly Logan

Cutbacks, closures, job losses, recession, flexible work force, transference, survival wages, disenfranchisement...Does this sound a bit too familiar? Suffering from the neo-conservative-dominating-deficit blues? Remedy: Marcia Nozick's No Place Like Home is guaranteed to inspire. In this book the author confronts the interests of global corporations and the influence these groups have on our economy. But rather than being overwhelmed by the sense of despair that seems to loom over these times, Nozick has cut through the pessimism and instead offers hope and tangible alternatives to how we can develop our economies, our communities and our lives.

While Nozick starts off with a re-evaluation and critique of the aims and consequences of globalization, she quickly shifts over to presenting other economic visions, notably the ideas of E.F. Schumacher. From there Nozick begins to build upon her own theories of sustainable community development, expanding upon five main themes: working towards self-reliance, attaining community control, meeting individual needs, harmonizing with nature, and building a community culture. In sum, readers are shown an economy maintained at a local, grassroots level that has the ability and the intention to support many generations to follow.

No Place Like Home is far from a textbook discourse chock-full of cryptic theories. The book's strength is Nozick's down-to-earth writing. If the author could be faulted for anything, it's that economic concepts are oversimplified in order to create a much more readable text.

Throughout the book, Nozick gives working examples of sustainable community efforts such as the Winnipeg Native Family Economic Development Corp., Habitat for Humanity's Re-Store, Tall Grass Prairie Bread, Logan Community Development Corp., Shared Farming and CHO!CES. Nozick shows that her ideas are possible and presents a new perspective of Winnipeg. This is a book deserving of that overused cliché, "a must read." One which people will be better off for having read.

Marcia Nozick is a Winnipeg activist & editor of City magazine. Her book is available at Bold Print (publisher: Cdn. Council on Social Development).

Forbidden Love

Movie Review by Kelly Logan

Picture this: It's 1959. You're browsing through the paperback novels at some undistinguishable newsstand, when suddenly your attention is drawn to a particular book. The strange, knowing glare of the two women on the book's cover draws you to it. Opening the book you find the main characters, the same two on the cover, in a heated discussion in a bar --a run down, little hole in the wall, seemingly as unremarkable as this newsstand, except for one feature: there are only women in this bar!?!

Do you A) quickly shut the book and scurry out before anyone sees you, or B) turn the next page?

Now, for all of you who chose "B", Forbidden Love: The Unashamed Stories of Lesbian Lives is mandatory viewing. This NFB film, the creation of producer Margaret Pettigrew and directors Aerlyn Weissman and Lynne Fernie, focuses on the lesbian bar scene of the 1950s and '60s. It succeeds in offering its viewers a glimpse into this all-too-often denied and ignored piece of history through the candid interviews of nine women. As well, it manages to capture the common attitudes of this era with the dramatization of a typical plot from one of the popular lesbian pulp novels of that time.

The interviews are what makes this a memorable film. These women, from a variety of backgrounds and locations in Canada, speak eagerly and openly about their participation in this subculture. The issues they tackle range from butch/femme roles to racism to bar fights. The film attains a balance between the individual and collective views of this diverse group. On the one hand it shows their common voice on subjects such as police raids and homophobia, and yet these voices differ when discussing relationships, racism, or the role of the bars in their lives.

However, this range of topics also proves to be a bit of a distraction. This film attempts to cover too much ground in too little time. The '50s and '60s evidently involved much more for lesbians than just the bar scene. In trying to include all these aspects the film fails to achieve a clear summation about this era.

Nonetheless, this film is unquestionably a landmark in the recounting and recovery of lesbian history and it deserves to be seen.



FUTURE EVENTS to Dream of....

May 1, **May Day Parade**--traditional spring celebration & International Workers' Day, Meet at Winnipeg City Hall at 1 p.m. to protest your pet peeve & celebrate our survival. Join the parade! Music, dancing, drumming & street theatre. Dress in bright clothes. For info ph. Pauline at 783-7949.

May 1, **Earth Day Celebration**, Dauphin Arts Centre, 2-5 p.m., Displays, seedling planting, soap and paper making. MACSW will sell Unicef/Bridgehead/Greenearth products.

May 4, 7 p.m., **The Midwifery Model of Care**, Rm. 2M70, Manitoba Hall, Univ. of Wpg., ph. 775-3862.

May 5, **International Midwifery Day Celebration & Rally**, noon, Legislature. Join the MB Traditional Midwives Collective & MB Homebirth Network for speakers & fun...bring a picnic & kids, ph. 775-3862.

May 6, **Author Readings by Clarise Foster, Melody Goetz, Heidi Harms, Susan Rempel-Letkeman & Joan Thomas**, 7:30 p.m., Bold Print, 478 River Ave., Wpg., ph. 452-9682.

May 8, **March Against Violence**, Winnipeg, for information phone MACSW-Wpg. at 453-3879. We also need volunteers if you would like to help.

May 12, 14 & 16, **My Sister Next Door**; May 13 & 15, **Whom Do I Have the Honour of Addressing**, two plays by England's Anna Barry, Gas Station Theatre, Wpg., 8 p.m., 2:30 p.m. on Sunday. Ph. 284-5870.

May 13, **Joanne Arnott**, author of "My Grass Cradle" (poetry published by Press Gang) will read at Bold Print, 478 River Ave., Wpg., ph. 452-9682 (sponsored by Canada Council).

May 20, **Di Brandt**, author of Mother, Not Mother, Agnes in the Sky, and Questions I asked My Mother, will read at Bold Print, 478 River, Wpg., ph. 452-9682 (sponsored by Canada Council).

May 21, **Judy Small in Concert** - Australian Feminist/Songwriter, 8 p.m., West End Cultural Centre, Wpg., ph. 783-6918, \$14.

NAC's AGM in SASK! PACK yer BAGS!

Translation: The National Action Committee on the Status of Women's Annual General Meeting is in Saskatoon! NAC will move its AGM out of Ottawa for the first time to the University of Saskatchewan from **June 4-6, 1993**, including a one-day conference entitled "Taking our Political Place" on June 4. Phone your nearest Branch to join the feminist caravan. Rates before April 19: Low-income observers -- \$30/day, \$60 for 3 days (includes 3 lunches & AGM/conference material, doesn't include lodging). After April 19: \$50/day, \$80 for 3 days. It's the Thelma & Louise Reincarnated Road Trip of the Year. Don't worry--there's no canyons between here and Saskatoon.

Jill Town

Kathy Burke-Gaffney

HOUSEFITTERS
Carpentry

786-2231

BOLD PRINT Inc.

THE WOMEN'S BOOKSTORE

478 RIVER AVENUE • WINNIPEG R3L 0C8
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Are you the victim of a stalker? If so, you're not alone! A peer support group is beginning soon! If interested, phone the MACSW office at 453-3879 or write 16-222 Osborne St. S., Winnipeg, MB, R3L 1Z3. All letters and calls confidential.

Attention: Women who have been sexually assaulted by Dr. Starzecki and have not yet come forward -- if you would like to contact other victims to form a support group, ph. Susan at the MACSW-Wpg. Branch, 453-3879. Petitions criticizing Dr. Starzecki's short sentence are available at this office.

Bold Print Readings: April 7, Heather Spears, poet, sci-fi author, currently living in Denmark, author of Moonfall and Children of Atwar; April 22, Meira Cook's Book Launch of A Fine Grammar of Bones (prose/poetry), Turnstone Press. Both events at Bold Print, 7:30 p.m., 478 River, Wpg., ph. 452-9682.

Fort Garry Women's Resource Ctr., Craft Morning, April 13, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Join in craft making with other moms, limited registration, Southwood Mall, 1910 Pembina Hwy., Wpg., ph. 269-6836.

Fertility & Self-Awareness for Mothers & Daughters, Apr. 19 & 26, 7 p.m., Youville Clinic, 33 Marion St., ph. 233-0262.

Ethical Reflections on Environment & Development, April 17, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., 160 St. Mary's Road, Wpg., \$7 includes lunch, ph. Heather at 943-1522.

Not Vanishing's Third Anniversary Coffee House, April 22, 8-10 p.m., Old C.P. Station, Higgins & Main, \$5/Children free, ph. 942-2711. (Canada's Only Aboriginal Women's Radio Program)

Thompson YWCA spring registration, April 5-8, 39 Nickel Rd. Rm. 303, ph. 778-6341, ext. 105.

Wanted: Furnished Room to rent for a lesbian couple with cats moving from Montreal to Winnipeg. Kitchen privileges please. Two weeks - one month. Cats can be kept in room if necessary. Call and leave a message for Rhona on answering machine, 1-514-935-3056. Will call back.

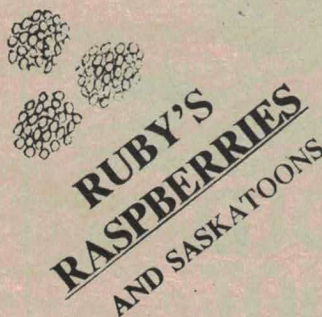
New Group for Unemployed: The Canadian Association of the Non-Employed (CANE) plans to be a mix of a support group and political action. If you are not working, not working as much as you would like, or interested in employment issues, ph. Joan at 775-7314 in Winnipeg.

Income Tax Services

Maureen Schwanke
Income Tax Services
(204) 562-3662

Box 23
Arrow River, Mb
R0M 2H0

URBAN & RURAL WOMEN MAKE THE SUMMER CONNECTION !



- ♀ Ruby Reske-Naurocki is a rural feminist hoping to link up with 4 urban feminists to work as a team on her U-Pick Raspberry farm.
- ♀ Pickers are needed to supply berries for Neechi Foods (Aboriginal co-op) in Winnipeg and other orders.
- ♀ Picking will last 5-6 weeks starting mid-July.
- ♀ 45 minutes from Winnipeg, near Beausejour.
- ♀ Proceeds from the farm go back to: Victims of Violence, the Women's Circle at Hope Clinic & the Jessie Saulteaux Resource Ctr.
- ♀ To make your rural connection this summer Ph. 1-268-3549 ♀



MACSW MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

Please indicate if you want to receive the MACSW newsletter in a plain envelope without the MACSW identifier. _____

NEW MEMBERSHIP

RENEWAL

Name _____

Address _____ City/Town _____

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

INDIVIDUALS Regular \$25

(or what you can afford)

Sustaining \$40 *(Please sign up, even if you can't afford a donation)*

ORGANIZATIONS - \$50

Your membership includes a subscription to the ACTION Newsletter, published 9 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

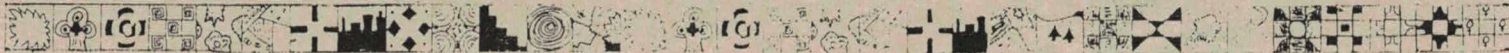
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Childcare/Parenting | <input type="checkbox"/> Media Monitoring | <input type="checkbox"/> Prostitution |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Equal Pay/Workplace | <input type="checkbox"/> Midwifery | <input type="checkbox"/> Women of Colour/Racism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Law | <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal Women | <input type="checkbox"/> Reproductive Health Issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Farm/Rural Women | <input type="checkbox"/> Trades & Technology | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Women |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health | <input type="checkbox"/> Pensions | <input type="checkbox"/> Violence Against Women |
| <input type="checkbox"/> International Women's Day | <input type="checkbox"/> Pornography | <input type="checkbox"/> Women & Poverty |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Lesbian Issues</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Education</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Women/Disability |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Young Women's Group |

ACTIVITIES

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Political Action | <input type="checkbox"/> Lobbying |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Office Duties | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Fundraising</i> |

NEAREST MACSW BRANCH

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> WINNIPEG
16-222 Osborne St. S
Winnipeg,
R3L 1Z3
453-3879
453-4157 | <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
R8N 1N5
778-8549 |
|---|---|---|---|



Calendar of Events - APRIL

- 6,13,20,27 **TACSW Business Meetings & AGM Planning**, 3rd floor YWCA, 39 Nickel Rd, Thompson, noon
- 7 **Protest Provincial & Municipal Cutbacks**, 4:30 p.m., Wpg. Convention Centre, march to Legislature.
- 7 **MACSW-Wpg. Branch Meeting**, 6 p.m., YWCA Mtg Rm.C, 2nd fl., 301 Vaughan St.
- 8 **Parkland Branch Meeting**, 5:30 p.m., 118 Main St. S., bring your own supper.
- 8 **Winnipeg Women & Words**, 7:30 p.m., 16-222 Osborne St.S., ph. Pat, 488-0988.
- 14 **NAFTA's effects on Women**, with Susan White, International Development advocate, noon, University of Winnipeg, ph. 453-3879 for location.
- 17 **Fundraising Social for Woman Healing for Change**, 8 p.m., Robert Steen Community Centre, Ruby & Palmerston, Wpg., Music: The Welfare Starlets, \$10/\$8. Proceeds for Conference, May/94. For info ph. Myra Laramee at 783-2450 or Gela Stach-Gaber at 786-3292. Tickets at Bold Print.
- 17 **Gays & Lesbians of Brandon & Elsewhere (GLOBE) Social**, 9 p.m. Ph. 727-GAYS, Fridays, 7-10 p.m.
- 19 **Margaret Laurence Feminist Speakers Series: Makeda Silvera**, editor of Pieces of my Heart: a Lesbian of Colour Anthology, speaking on race issues, 7 p.m., Riddell Cafeteria, University of Winnipeg, ph. 474-6233 to reserve free tickets.
- 19-21 **"Breaking Ground..Breaking Barriers"**, Manitoba Women's Institute 1993 Conference, Victoria Inn, Brandon, June Callwood, journalist & feminist activist, will be speaking on April 20, 10:30 a.m., \$20 to hear June & eat lunch. ph. 945-5605 or toll-free: 1-800-282-8069 (ask for Women's Institute).
- 20 **Brandon Branch Meeting**, 7:30 p.m., 130 Ross Ave. The Future of MACSW Part II and feminist funnies. Ph. 725-2955. It is very important that members attend!
- 22 **Canada Pension Plan Benefit Splitting for Separated & Divorced Women** presentation & information session, 7 p.m., Rm. 1-50, Brodie Science Bldg., Brandon Univ., wheelchair accessible, ph. 725-2955.
- 22-23 **Partners for Child Care Conference: The hand that rocks the cradle needs to rock the boat**, Delta Inn, 288 Portage, Wpg., ph. 489-2739. (See pamphlet enclosed)
- 24/25 **MACSW AGM**, Thompson, phone nearest Branch for transportation & billeting.
- 25 **Earth Day**, activities at the Forks in Wpg., for info ph. Melanie at 957-1660.
- 27 **Herstory of Midwifery**, 7 p.m., Rm. 2M70, Manitoba Hall, University of Winnipeg, ph. 775-3862, presented by MB Traditional Midwives Collective & MB Homebirth Network.
- 28-May 1 **Sorrow & Strength: The Process** - 3rd annual conference on childhood sexual abuse, with Sandra Butler & Louise Wischild, International Inn, Wpg., ph. 786-1971, programs at MACSW-Wpg. office.
- 30 **CLEA Workshop on Family Violence**, Royal Oak Inn, Brandon, ph. 725-2955 for details. FREE!
- 