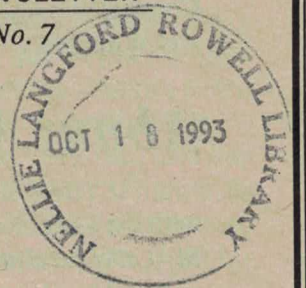


# ACTION

MANITOBA ACTION COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN NEWSLETTER

October 1993

Vol. 20 No. 7



*October: Women's Herstory Month*

Celebrate Our Herstory



*On October 25, Don't Let Our Sisters Down!*

## 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 Winnipeg Branch  
702- 70 Arthur St.  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
R3B 1G7  
Phone 946-5049

### ***This issue:***

MACSW staff, Kelly Logan, Pat Sadowy, Leslie Jackson, Marion Foster, Doreen Wuckert, Allison Dewar, Pam Jakubec, Marjorie Turton, Lori Noble, Tanja Hutter, Christie Harris, Ann McConkey, Ceridwen Collins-West, the Public Service Alliance of Canada & Newsletter Coordinator Fiona Muldrew. Cover artwork: The Gaia Collective

## ***Thank you New & Renewed Members!***

Debra McVittie  
Marion Mossman  
Cindy Charette  
Judith Kullberg  
University of Manitoba Womyn's Centre

C. Thacker  
Terry Milford  
Ruth Jantz  
Betty Penner

Gela Stach-Gaber  
Leslie Jackson  
Women's Health Clinic  
Laurel Ridd

## ***Advertise in ACTION!***

*New advertising rates as of Sept., 1993:*

1/4 page ad \$30/\$25 for non-profit groups or MACSW members.  
1/8 page ad (business card) \$20/\$15 for non-profit groups or MACSW members.  
For info ph. 946-5049

## Brandon Branch Report

Jennifer Howard, Administrative Coordinator

The leaves are turning, the air is colder and across the land the sound of jobs fleeing south can be heard. Yes, it is the season of NAFTA...

But, it's also the season of a Federal Election. Somewhere amidst talk of Kim's prime ministerial body parts, Jean and Preston's denim shirt war, and media pronouncements that the New Democrats are in the throes of political death, women are demanding action and answers on poverty, child care, unemployment, violence and our other "special interests." Here, on E-day 40, I am contemplating starting a 12-step program for political junkies...as soon as the election is over.

But, seriously, we are very busy trying to make women's voices heard over the electoral din. The Women for Equality Rural Tour continues. We had a very empowering and entertaining session in Dauphin and even received a visit from a soon-to-be well known politician (this will make sense after the PCC--Provincial Coordinating Committee Meeting).

Women for Equality has also been meeting with individual candidates and questioning them on their party's stands on various issues. These results as well as a summary of the Rural Tour will be released some time in October.

The candidates in Brandon-Souris are:

**Ed Agnew**, Reform 726-9130  
**Larry Maguire**, Progressive Conservative 729-0531

**Ross Martin**, New Democrats 729-8919

**Glen McKinnon**, Liberal 729-8654

**Eldon Olbach**, National 725 Princess Avenue  
Call them and ask how they'll represent your concerns in Ottawa.

A virtual cornucopia of candidates' forums will be happening. It is crucial that women are there to ask the questions that matter. Call the office (725-2955) for locations and times or for any information on the issues and candidates. Call to purchase a NAC Voter's Guide or to get your Shocking Pink Paper (a free pamphlet with handy questions for candidates on women's issues) or to pick up an info-pack on NAFTA, Agriculture, Child Care, Violence Against



Women, Poverty or Employment. Call to get involved...

If you have moved since October, 1992 you must go down to the Returning Office (the old ICG Building, 938 18th Street, beside Dairy Queen) before October 20, to get on the Revised Voters' List. You can also get information there about advance polls and other special voting.

Enough about the election. We had another successful "Take Back the Night". Thanks to everyone who helped out, marched and spoke. I live for the day when we take back the night for good.

I continue to consult with the City of Brandon as they develop their Employment Equity policy and processes. It is exciting and challenging to be involved in this fundamental process of change. If anyone would like more information, please contact me.

Brandon University Extension is offering two courses of specific interest to women, "Women's Ways of Knowing" and "Goddesses in Every Woman". They are both one day seminars (October 23 and November 20) with Joan McLaren. The cost for each is \$80.00 and you can get more information by calling 727-9668.

We will be planning the International Women's Day Gender and Development Conference for March 4 & 5, 1994. This undertaking requires a great deal of work so please, if you can, volunteer to help out.

Speaking of volunteers, we need some. The following opportunities are open:

- fundraising
- events planning
- finances
- personnel committee
- resource centre
- research
- administrative
- public education



Call me and tell me what you're interested in.

Sixty-four years ago this month Canadian women won the right to be considered persons, at least on paper. Since then we have been fighting to translate this right into reality. October 25, Election Day, is part of that fight. Let's not let Nellie down.



## Winnipeg Branch Report

Susan Banks, Administrative Coordinator

October should prove to be an eventful month. With the election in sight, a number of activities are being planned to educate and get women's concerns on the election agenda. CHOICES, in cooperation with MACSW, is holding a conference entitled "Is the Sky Really Falling: Debating the Debt and the Deficit". On October 2, Sunera Thobani, President of NAC, will give the luncheon address on NAC's election strategy. She'll also speak about the erosion of social programs in a workshop with Greg Selinger. For more info or copies of Sunera's speeches phone MACSW at 946-5049.

Using the NAC Voters' Guide, we are planning 5 workshops across Winnipeg to discuss what women want in the federal election. (Oct. 12-14, see back page for details). We are planning a candidates forum on women's issues where women can pin politicians with pertinent questions. (Tentative date & location: week of Oct. 18-21, UofW) Volunteers needed! For more info or to volunteer call the new Public Education Coordinator, Chris at 946-5049.

During the last month we have been spending a fair amount of time organizing our new office. A MACSW Open House will be held on Saturday, October 9, from noon to 5 p.m., with a simultaneous sale at Ragpickers, noon to 6 p.m. (part of the proceeds will go to MACSW). We are planning some afternoon entertainment in the Underground Cafe from 5-8 p.m., so come and check out our new office and drop by Ragpickers and the Cafe in the same building! We're also looking for artists who would like to paint a mural on an archway in our new office. Please phone 946-5049 if you're interested.

On September 13 we held a long-term planning meeting for the Winnipeg Branch. About ten women attended to discuss the direction and priorities they would like to see MACSW take. Consensus was reached in a number of areas including continuing the position of Fundraiser for MACSW, recognizing the importance and contribution of the ACTION newsletter, making political action a priority and establishing a sub-committee to deal more

effectively with political action, and continuing our work in responding to the media. If you're interested in being part of a political action committee phone 946-5049.

For Women's Herstory Month and World Food Day we will be showing two videos on our sisters from Southern countries: the majority of women in the world (see Oct. 22 on back page). You can call the MACSW office for details or to help out. Our Fundraising Dinner is set for Saturday, October 16. We need help selling tickets and poster. See p. 6.

We welcome new staff: Chris Kolba - Public Education Coordinator and Kristin MacMorran - Network Coordinator. They were hired on U.I. Section 25 grants to replace Rosemary Miguez and Betty Penner who both got permanent jobs. Congratulations! They will be in the Winnipeg office till mid-February.

## Apologies from ACTION

In last month's ACTION, I forgot to credit Charlene Ball for her photo of the Original Women's Network at the Walk for Peace. I also forgot to acknowledge Christie Harris and Lori Noble for their help with ACTION last month. Sorry and thanks! Fiona Muldrew, Newsletter Coordinator

## Thompson Branch Report

Hari Dimitrakopoulou, Administrative Coordinator

Welcome all and welcome back! Fall is here and a year full of feminist activism lies ahead!

I would like to introduce myself as the new Administrative Coordinator for the Thompson Branch. My thanks to the Thompson Branch and in particular to the previous Coordinator, Debra McVittie, for their help to make the transition easier. TACSW is a stronger organization than ever before. I am looking forward to working with women in the Thompson area and across Manitoba promoting feminist issues, ideas and actions. I would also like to welcome Darlene Merasty as my co-worker with whom I am going to share office, work and ideas until April.

We started the fall by participating at the Thompson Health & Leisure Mart. Thanks to Debra, Margy, Leah and others who organized

and staffed the TACSW booth. We got a good response and a lot of interest in our work.

The "Take Back the Night" protest was September's highlight for women in Thompson and surrounding areas. It was organized by TACSW along with the Thompson Crisis Centre and the Thompson YWCA. Unfortunately, we were still mourning another victim of violence in the North. We walked the Eastwood area where a lot of the incidents have taken place and highlighted the march with noisemakers. After the walk we gathered at the YWCA to hear speakers and entertainment. MACSW donated a t-shirt and book for a draw. The Federal Report from the Panel on Violence took centre stage in our protest. It was unanimous that Northern women are tired of the talk and want to see more services to women and children who are victims of violence as well as a real commitment to the eradication of violence. In keeping with this goal, we have asked the federal candidates in the Churchill riding for their views and party policies on the issue and on the Federal Report itself and how far they are committed to go to eradicate violence. We also made our position known to them. Stay tuned for a press release with their responses. Thanks to all who braved the weather in order to make the event successful and noisy enough.

TACSW also participated in the march and forum on Sept. 15th protesting government cuts in health care, particularly at the local hospital. It was organized by the Coalition on Health Care. It is an issue of employment for women in the north and it jeopardizes the future of the graduates of the Northern Nursing Program in Thompson. Another serious concern is the downgrading of health care services in our area. We still believe we have a fighting chance to reinstate the 22 nursing jobs and the services that are on the chopping block.

For the federal election, we have been busy contacting and inviting the local candidates to talk about their views on issues of concern to women and their families. We also made the point to let them know our positions. A report on this should be in the next issue.

As you can see, a lot of positive feminist energy is flowing in the north; we hope it's catching and changing things for the better.

## Parkland Branch Report

Heather Dootoff, Administrative Coordinator

Parkland Status of Women (PSW) got the fall off to a great start with a presentation from Women for Equality on September 9. The workshop, Political Empowerment: What Women Want, was just as it suggests, politically empowering. A special visit from Egbert Boombacker of the BIG party reassured us that politicians are not to be taken too seriously and in fact, politics can be a lot of fun.

We had a chance to practice empowerment at the Dauphin General Hospital AGM on Sept. 16. We'll have lots more practice in the federal election. The meeting attracted 350 people who elected all 3 candidates supported by PSW. The 2 pro-life candidates were defeated.

Our Take Back the Night was a success for the third year in a row, with 35 people attending. The presentation by Adults Molested as Children was educational and challenging. We appreciate their taking the time to participate with us.

The Provincial Coordinating Committee met in Dauphin the weekend of September 25 and 26. Thanks to all the billets, volunteers who helped in numerous ways and members who drove from all over. More on the PCC meeting next month.

The next Parkland meeting will be October 14 at 5:30 p.m. at the PSW office. In attendance will be Linda Hudy from the Women's and Senior's Directorate. Person's Day and Women's Herstory Month will be the focus. We are planning to switch to a potluck format--your phoner will advise you if it is your month to bring a dish. Try to remember plates and cutlery.



**Shop at Parkland Status of Women & Support MACSW at the same time!**

Products available for sale:

**Bridgehead Coffee, Tea & Rainforest Crunch  
Unicef Cards, Writing Paper, Children's Toys,  
Green Earth Shampoo, Conditioner &  
Cleaning Products**

Ph. 638-3599 for more info.

## Ten Things You Can Do This Election

by Rural Women in Manitoba

1. Vote
2. Ask a question at a forum
3. Write a letter to the Editor
4. Educate yourself
5. Educate your community
6. Work on a campaign
7. Be a candidate
8. Join MACSW
9. Start a Women's Group
10. Call a candidate



Isis International

**Dorothy Dobbie on Feminism:** *"I am not in any way, shape, or form a feminist. My first job was in a battery factory where I was paid less than the man next to me, operating the same machine. I quit--but it didn't sour me or turn me into a radical feminist. I simply learned that God helps those who help themselves."* (Dorothy is running in Charleswood for the Progressive Conservatives--Right Wing, Wrong Planet!)

### Volunteer Update!

Charlene Ball, Volunteer Coordinator

MACSW Volunteers have been busy over the summer. Three new sub-committees have formed: Media Monitoring, Pornography, and Workplace Harassment/Emotional Abuse. Thank you to everyone who helped so enthusiastically with packing and unpacking!

Unfortunately, my position is only funded until December, 1993!!! I am currently updating the interests and availability of our members to promote positive change for Manitoban women in a more active, effective way.

You can contribute to these efforts in a number of ways:

1. Complete the enclosed forms and return them to us by mid-October.
2. Encourage friends, colleagues, etc. to purchase a membership (to receive our newsletter) and/or become involved in some of our activities.
3. Sign up for the Volunteer Coordinating Sub-Committee, crucial for ongoing effective coordination of our volunteers.

4. Volunteer! Some opportunities are:

- Resource Centre coordinating
- Cataloguing library resources
- Coordinating newsletter exchanges with other organizations
- Collating membership surveys
- Provincial Treasurer desperately needed (for Provincial Coordinating Committee of MACSW), with helpful advice from our bookkeeper & auditor
- Updating newspaper clipping files
- Coordinating archives
- Help out at upcoming events such as: MACSW Open House, (Sat., Oct. 9), MACSW "Celebrating our Herstory" Fundraising Dinner (Sat., Oct. 16)
- Suggested activities?????

We will be having a MACSW Orientation Evening for new and/or prospective members/volunteers on Tues., Oct. 26, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at our new office, 702-70 Arthur St. Please join us for coffee/juice/snacks and: - find out what MACSW does!

- learn about our many Volunteer Opportunities!
- learn how to begin your own group/sub-committee with MACSW's help.
- meet new, dynamic, enthusiastic women friends!!!

For further info on the Volunteer Program or to volunteer please call Charlene at 946-5049.



Debra Doerksen, B.P.E.

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MTAM Member  
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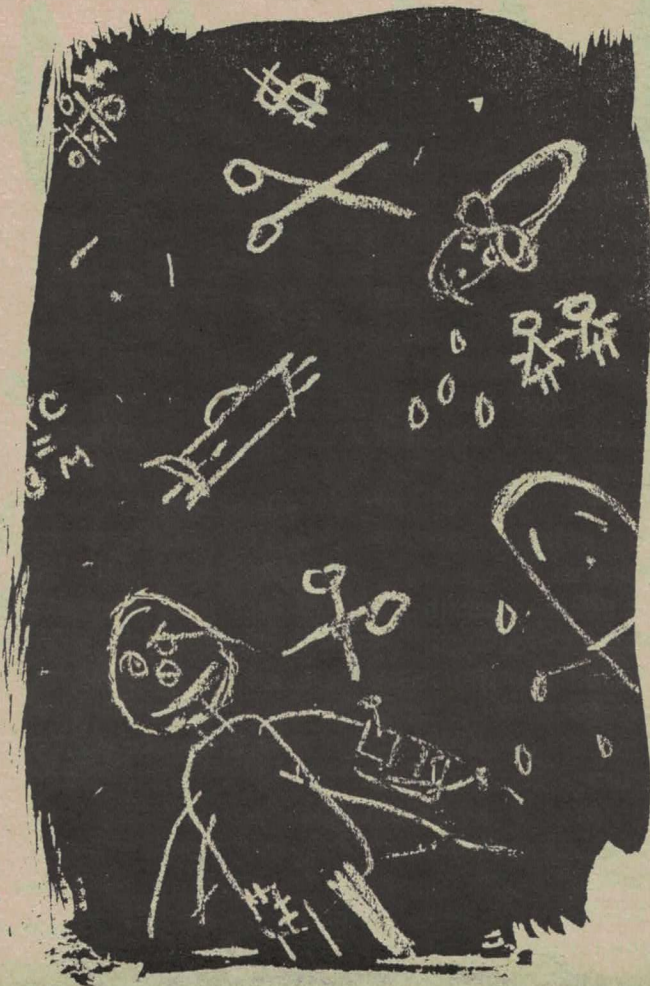
"We have found these publications to be of great help to many of our clients."

Healing from  
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&  
**CHILDHOOD**  
**SEXUAL ABUSE**



Booklets for survivors,  
families, partners  
and professionals

For information contact:  
The Victoria Women's Sexual Assault Centre  
306 - 620 View Street Victoria BC V8W 1J6  
Tel: (604)383-5370 Fax: (604)383-6112



**Making History the Conservative Way**  
by the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC)

The Mulroney government has decided to celebrate women's role in shaping Canadian history during the month of October. How nice! What they won't be mentioning is the history of their maltreatment of women since coming to power in 1984. Here are some noteworthy historical events, courtesy of the Tories:

1985 - **Attack on Old Age Pensions** - partial de-indexation of old age pensions and family benefits hurting mostly poor elderly women.

1986 - **Federal Transfer Payments drastically cut** for health, welfare and post-secondary education, Bill C-96.

1987 - **Phoney pre-election promise:** Tories announced plans for a national child care system. In 1992, Minister Bouchard proudly announces "I have the privilege...to be the killer" of the national day care program.

1988 - **Child Care Crisis:** the Canada Assistance Plan spending payments, which help provide child care, are capped. The new formula will ultimately eliminate federal transfer payments

by the year 2004. In 1989, government tax assistance for child care favoured upper income groups and there was no funding to create new child care spaces.

1989 - **Funding for women's centres** across Canada cut by \$1.6 million. The government spent more money bronzing the statues of dead men than on funding centres for living women.

1990 - **Pay Equity Fraud:** female-dominated groups in PSAC are seriously underpaid. The government's refusal to pay the required compensation encouraged other employers such as Canada Post to follow their lead.

1991 - **Wage Freeze & Wage Controls** for PSAC members in the federal public service. Hardest hit are women clustered in the lower paying occupations.

1992 - **No Action on Violence against Women:** Instead of accepting the recommendations for action on violence in the report "The War Against Women", the Tories set up another panel to study the problem. 100 studies have already been conducted on the issue, yet no further money was provided for shelters.

1992 - **New Immigration Act Hurts Domestic Workers** limiting options for many women.

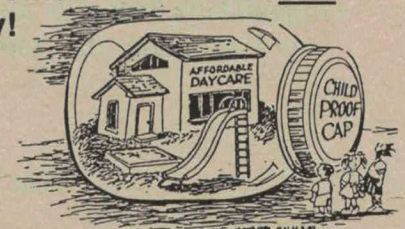
1992 - **Discrimination Against Lesbians & Gays:** the Mulroney government has still not fulfilled their promise to prevent discrimination against lesbians and gays in the Canadian Human Rights Act. The government has consistently challenged in the courts any gains won by lesbians and gays.

1992 - **Aboriginal Women Ignored** and denied the right to sit at the constitutional table. After successfully fighting for this right in the courts, their voices are still ignored.

1992 - **Gun Control Falls Women:** Tories pass gun control legislation but it doesn't ban the type of semi-automatic weapon used by Marc Lepine to kill 14 women at Montreal's L'ecole Polytechnique.

1992 - **Court Challenges Program Eliminated.** The Tories stop funding to help women and members of other disadvantaged groups fight for the enforcement of their equality rights.

**On October 25, Women will make this government history!**



**It's Rosemary's Baby Now...**

Here's how it can be delivered  
(An open letter to Rosemary Vodrey)

We note the fact that you are the new Provincial Minister Responsible for the Status of Women. You will forgive us if we show a lack of enthusiasm over your appointment. Perhaps it is just coincidence that the shuffle took place ten days before five byelections. Surely it is not a political cosmetic makeover.

We also are a little apprehensive after the cuts you administered in the Department of Education, many of which affected women. Women don't have much to begin with, so surely we won't be the targets of more cutbacks.

We're also a little concerned about your government's hostility towards advocacy groups. Apparently, the few groups that agree with you are advisory, those that don't do advocacy.

As we watch your federal counterparts launch their own attacks on advocacy groups, we are at times led to make no apology for advocating for greater equality for women. Does that make us a special interest? I think not.

Perhaps some feel we should apologize for representing all women, whether they be rich or poor, Aboriginal women, women of colour, immigrant women, women with disabilities and others. Once again this may shock you but we are all part of the same struggle.

You will have to forgive us too if we speak out like we did when your government cut the Crisis Centre in Flin Flon. The previous Minister said not a word but we felt someone should speak out on behalf of Northern women.

Perhaps you will be different, Rosemary. Perhaps you will stop the sexism in our so-called justice system. Perhaps you will do something to fight violence against women. Perhaps you will speak out for gender equality through expanded affirmative action and pay equity. Perhaps you will even speak out if your male dominated government ignores women again.

It's up to you Rosemary. Perhaps as a grassroots feminist I should do the polite thing and wish you good luck but, quite frankly, what we need isn't luck - it's action!

In Sisterhood, Hari Dimitrakopoulou

invites you to a

**FUNDRAISING DINNER**  
"Celebrating Our Herstory"

Date.....Saturday, October 16, 1993

Where..... *Merk's Restaurant*  
2517 Portage Ave.  
(wheelchair accessible)

Dinner..... 6 pm *Deluxe Smorgasbord*  
(50 item salad bar etc.)

Entertainment... 8 pm *Featuring:*  
*Nellie McClung Theatre &*  
*Deborah Romeyn &*  
*Rachel Wall &*  
*Taped Music and Dancing*

Cost..... \$25 for Adults  
\$6 for Children under 12 years  
\$10 Entertainment Only (come at 8 p.m.)

Tickets..... MACSW 946-5049, Doreen 837-9613 or Linda 896-3770



THE MANITOBA ACTION COMMITTEE  
ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN



**MACSW**

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**OPEN HOUSE**

SATURDAY OCT. 9<sup>TH</sup> NOON - 5 p.m.

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A PORTION OF THE PROCEEDS GOES TO MACSW

**THEN**

GO DOWNSTAIRS FOR AN EVENING OF WOMEN'S ENTERTAINMENT  
5-8 p.m. IN

THE **UNDERGROUND** CAFE SUGGESTED DONATION

\$2.



## Why Spend More Money on Prisons?

a report by Doreen Wuckert

Violence Against Women Sub-Committee

The office of the Solicitor General of Canada invited Winnipeg groups to attend a consultation session on September 9, regarding the Federal "Legislative Proposal on High-Risk Offenders". Groups in attendance were MACSW, the Elizabeth Fry Society, the John Howard Society and the St. Norbert Foundation.

The main concerns from invited groups were:

- Why is society spending so much money to keep offenders in prison?
- Why aren't community-based programs getting more funding to help potential offenders get treatment before it's too late?
- Is there an on-going process to examine weaknesses in the justice system?
- Is this legislative proposal putting more power in the hands of a few top bureaucrats?
- What criteria are accurate and reliable enough to say whether an offender will re-offend?
- Are there enough supports or community programs for dangerous high-risk offenders upon release?

The answers to these questions seemed vague and frustrating to the invited groups who expressed a desire for more community-based solutions rather than "lock'em up, throw away the key" responses.

The federal government is proposing legislation aimed at protecting society from high-risk violent offenders who, after their sentences have expired, represent a "substantial threat" to society of "reoffending in a violent manner." The court could make the following orders:

- 1) custody for an indefinite period of time;
- 2) custody for a definite period of time;
- 3) supervised release in the community for a period of ten years.

Dangerous offenders targeted would be those who cause death or serious harm, especially sex offences against children.

Under the proposed legislation, the National Parole Board would have the power to deny parole if the Board feels there is "reasonable grounds to believe that the offender is likely to commit a further... offense." The National Parole

Board would refer the offender to the Attorney General. The final decision for release would rest with a provincial judge. The federal corrections system could keep high-risk offenders in prison indefinitely. However, the offender's case could be reviewed once a year. This process intends to put more responsibility on the offender to seek out therapy.

Other recommendations include:

- creation of a National Coordinator position for sex offenders in federal corrections.
- creation of a National Action Committee on Corrections and Mental Health for joint federal-provincial improvements in the handling and treatment of sex offenders.
- expansion of sex offender treatment programs, including community-based programs.
- improvements to the Canadian Police information format on offenders to give Canadian Police services access to more information on high-risk offenders.
- a series of new administrative policies for the Corrections Service and the National Parole Board to tighten up the handling of high-risk offenders.

Richard Zubrycki, Director of Corrections Policy, stated that many sex offenders cannot be cured in a medical sense, but, they can be maintained safely in prisons or communities for long periods of time, with proper supervision and treatment. It seems that it would take nothing short of a total reconstruction of the corrections system to satisfy most of the groups present.

Clearly, this new legislative proposal was created as a response to public pressure. Unfortunately, this public pressure was reactive rather than proactive. Publicity and letters on this issue have come mainly from a public who wants to see dangerous offenders locked up and removed from society indefinitely. In order for the government to respond more proactively, concerned constituents must persist in lobbying government to develop more treatment centres and community-based programs.

Governments take action based on the pressures they get from society. If you have ideas or concerns on this issue, write to **Mr. Doug Lewis, Solicitor General of Canada, Ottawa, K1A 0P8.**



**Male Privilege**  
Ann McConkey

*"How many times can a man turn his head/ And pretend that he just doesn't see?"--Bob Dylan*

**A Day In the Life...**

John wakes to a DJ<sup>1</sup> announcing the day's newsmakers: President Clinton, Premier Filmon<sup>2</sup>, and lawyer Harvey Pollock.<sup>3</sup> His condo<sup>4</sup> is a mess but when his girlfriend comes over she usually cleans it up.<sup>5</sup> He's been worried about their relationship lately but hasn't been able to talk to her about it.<sup>6</sup>

He drives<sup>7</sup> to U of M<sup>8</sup> to attend his history class.<sup>9</sup> After class, drinking coffee in a styrofoam cup,<sup>10</sup> he shares his views with some female students. They resume their conversation when he leaves.<sup>11</sup>

John heads downtown to a job interview. He passes some workmen<sup>12</sup> in the lobby before stepping into the elevator with another man.<sup>13</sup> John feels confident he'll get the job<sup>14</sup> since the company president<sup>15</sup> is his Dad's golf partner.<sup>16</sup>

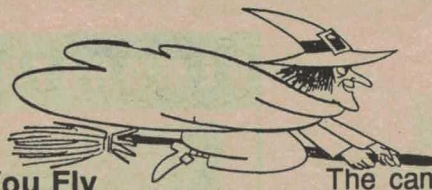
Later, he drops by his parents' home to pick up some laundry his Mom has done for him.<sup>17</sup> He stays for supper and after second helpings and dessert<sup>18</sup> he goes to his evening class.

He drops in at the local pub for a drink after class.<sup>19</sup> Then he drives<sup>20</sup> home and goes for a short walk<sup>21</sup> before turning in.

**A closer Look at Male Privilege--Men are:**

- <sup>1</sup> over-represented in the media;
- <sup>2</sup> over-represented in politics--until 1991, all Canadian premiers & P.M.'s were male;
- <sup>3</sup> over-represented in the legal system;
- <sup>4</sup> owners of 90% of the world's land;
- <sup>5,17</sup> socialized to look to women to do their housework;
- <sup>6</sup> often unable to discuss intimate feelings;
- <sup>7,14</sup> able to earn more than women;
- <sup>8</sup> more likely to hold tenured university posts;
- <sup>9</sup> seen as makers of history which primarily relates wars and conquering;
- <sup>10</sup> socialized to value a system which prioritizes profit over conservation;
- <sup>11</sup> accustomed to being listened to;
- <sup>12</sup> able to walk by workmen without fear of harassment;
- <sup>13</sup> able to encounter strangers without fear;
- <sup>15</sup> more likely to hold top management positions;
- <sup>16</sup> supported by an "Old Boys" network;
- <sup>18</sup> able to eat without fear of gaining weight;
- <sup>19</sup> able to go alone for a drink without fear of harassment;
- <sup>20</sup> able to get into their cars without checking the back seat;
- <sup>21</sup> able to walk at night without fear.

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## Life's a Witch and Then You Fly

Fiona Muldrew

That was a bumper sticker I saw on my summer vacation at "Witch Camp" with Starhawk and the Reclaiming Collective in Michigan. Well, actually, it was a drum-case sticker and it wasn't really a vacation. It was billed as a "7-day Intensive" on Goddess Spirituality but that was an understatement. It was more than intense--it was magic in action. It was 140 people from the States, Canada, England and Australia living in community, learning to respect our diversity, doing a lot of personal soul-searching and learning skills to honour the sacredness in ourselves, each other and the Earth. It was wild, challenging, painful, inspiring and fun.

The Reclaiming Collective is a feminist group based in San Francisco that is reclaiming Goddess Spirituality. They lead camps every summer in Michigan and Vancouver teaching the ancient practices of many cultures that honoured the Goddess for many centuries before more male-dominated religions wiped out almost every remnant of this earth-based spirituality. The Reclaiming Collective, along with other feminists, works to reclaim words that were once powerful roles for women but have been warped and altered over time-- words such as witch, hag, crone and midwife. Witch comes from the word "wicca" meaning to bend or shape energy to heal and transform. Witches were and are healers, midwives, crones, wise women, spiritual leaders and hags revered for their knowledge of energy, herbs and plants.

The camp had three tracks: the Elements Track, exploring the four sacred elements--Earth, Air, Fire and Water; the Inner Track, involving trance work and self-exploration; and the Outer Track, focussing on group dynamics and bringing spirituality into our community work. I chose the Outer Track where we learned different ways to transform energy: warming up, grounding, casting a protective circle, honouring the four directions using dance and drumming, and specific skills that could be used to build self-confidence and deal with criticism or excessive praise. We also got practice in leading a Spiral Dance and planning a ritual.

The camp was inspiring by showing how a society could live with a healthy respect for diversity in a collective, supportive way. Every day, we met with an affinity group--6-8 people who acted as a support group to process what we were learning and how we were feeling. This group was essential to deal with all the intense emotions we were going through. It made me think of the problems caused by a society based on individualism and alienation. Not very many of us have an affinity group to talk to about how we're feeling or even time in our busy lives to think about what we're learning.

There was also time during the week for groups to network at meal times, ex. Jewish pagans, lesbians, and men. There were also discussions on how to respect Native Spirituality, intentional community and political rituals. It was fascinating to hear Starhawk speak about rituals in which she participated: reclaiming land from nuclear power plants, Greenham Common protests, and a Spiral Dance she led at the Clayoquot Sound Blockade. Another woman participated in a ritual to protest a company in Vermont that made tanks for the Gulf War. She was arrested with other women for trespassing (sticking daisies in the tanks). A jury found them guilty but, the judge was so moved by their re-enactment of the ritual during their trial showing their commitment to ending war, that he dropped the fine. He suggested they collect \$5 from anyone who thought war wasn't a good way to solve conflict and donate the money to a charity of their choice. They raised \$5,000.

The camp was hopeful in many ways. It was encouraging to see people of all ages and many backgrounds concerned about the Earth and a cooperative way of living. It was great to see straight and gay men talking about homophobia and learning to express their affection openly. It was a relief to see irreverant spiritual leaders that laughed at themselves and were continually removing themselves from the pedestal we're trained to put them on. A story was told about a Goddess who was falsely blamed for eating her child and portrayed as a bloody hag we must embrace/reclaim. A teacher joked "the only difference between us and the Christians is we embrace a bloody hag and they've got some guy hanging on a cross".



### On the Hallowed Eve Ceridwen Collins-West

On the hallowed eve Samhain's alight  
With fires of red and gold  
And women circle, weaving magical dance  
While the October moon crouches low

The night reveals spaces of long ago  
Wherein ancestors walked,  
They of memory's tale, to come again  
Through the veils to the circle's edge

Bringing with them smiles and gifts  
The songs ring  
And the words of Wise pass from one to all  
Stories are told of times before

And loves that have never grown cold  
We hear; the tales  
Of women whose medicine healed in  
Troubled lands, we hear the voices of tree

And bird, and the stag beyond the fold  
The weaving persists  
Along the threads the Spider's call  
Threads never broken between then and now

Threads that entwine between one and all  
Threads that bind  
The message of Wyrd contained in the Sirens'  
song  
The dramas revealed beneath the October Moon

As fire crackles the wolf howls low wooing  
The wild as the  
Silver'd spider looks on, knowing all  
The Wheel has turned, season'd full

Merry sing the songs again of faery forest  
And glen, all souls  
Abound in merry ring as the Mother turns to  
Sleep, Ys wraps Her in wintry snow

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## Announcements/Workshops

Oct. 1-2, **Is the Sky Really Falling: Debating the Debt and the Deficit**, a CHOICES conference. Presentations by **Sunera Thobani** on **NAC's Election Strategy** and **The Erosion of Social Programs**. 447 Webb Place, Wpg. For more info ph. 944-9408.

Oct. 2, **Abuse, Addiction, & Disordered Eating**, workshop with Lucille Meisner, 9:30 - 4:30, Union Centre, Wpg., ph. Learning Networks, 786-1971.

**Bold Print Events**, 478 River Ave., Wpg.:

Oct. 3, **Patricia Young**, 2 p.m. reading, author of More Watery Still, House of Anansi Press & 3 other books of poetry.

Oct. 21, **Sarah Klassen**, 7:30 p.m. reading, author of Violence & Mercy and Journey to Yalta.

Oct. 29, **Betsy Warland**, 7:30 p.m. reading.

Oct. 30, **Creative Writing Workshop**, 9:30-4:30, register through Bold Print.

**Bold Print is For Sale.** If you're interested in maintaining the only **Women's Bookstore** in Winnipeg, ph. Joan Turner at 452-9682.

Oct. 4, **Women Affecting Politics**, 7:30 p.m., Michelle Forrest & Fiona Muldrew; "the personal is political", Ft. Garry Women's Resource Centre, Southwood Mall, 1910 Pembina Hwy., Wpg.

Oct. 4-5, **Program Evaluation in the Public Sector** - a workshop on program and organizational evaluation. Sponsored by the Alcoholism Foundation of Manitoba. \$65, 1031 Portage Ave., Wpg. Call 944-6281 for more info.

Oct. 7, **Healthy Thompson Community Kitchen**, 12-1, Health & Family Services Bldg., 871 Thompson Dr., Thompson.

Oct. 7, **Winnipeg Women & Words**, sharing women's writing, new members welcome, 7 p.m., location TBA, ph. Pat, 488-0988.

Starts Oct. 8, **Kahnesatake: 270 Years of Resistance**, Director: Alanis Obamsawin, Cinema Main, 245 Main St., Wpg.



### Fort Garry Women's Resource Centre Series on Violence Against Women:

Oct. 7, 7-9 p.m., **Partner Abuse**, speaker: Terry Durham, Evolve: cycles of violence, legal issues.

Oct. 14, 7-9 p.m., **Sexual Harassment**, Gloria Enns, Clinic: what it is, legal protection.

Oct. 21, 7-9 p.m., **Violence in Advertising**, Astrid Zimmer: media stereotypes, human rights.

Oct. 28, 7-9 p.m., **Pornography**, Sharon Hunter, FGWRC, The film "Not a Love Story" will be shown, followed by discussion.

All events are free, Southwood Mall, **1910 Pembina Hwy.**, ph. 269-6836 (TDD). Childcare provided, limited registration, women only, register for sign language interpretation.

Oct. 8, **Incest Survivors Therapist Network**, 2:30 p.m., Clinic, Wpg., ph. Mary Jo, 784-4090.

### Outdoor Women's Network Events:

Oct. 9-11, spend Thanksgiving weekend in Spruce Woods Park **hiking Spirit Sands**, call Laurie, 772-3931.

Oct. 24, a **Fowl Supper** in Manitoba is an institution! Join the Network for great dining followed by a **planning meeting**. Bring ideas for winter activities, ph. Gerry, 772-3931.

Oct. 12, **Jobs, Deficits & Foreign Aid: Trade & the Global Economy**, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m., Rm. 231, Isbister Bldg., UofM, Wpg., ph. 786-2106.

Oct. 14, **Community Coalition for Fair Trade Meeting**, 5:30-6:30 p.m., U of Wpg., Rm. 2C16. Stop NAFTA. Ph. Kristine, 786-9788.

Oct. 14, **Candidates' Forum**, 7 p.m., Boissevain High School, **Boissevain**.

Oct. 14, 7 p.m., IDEA Centre AGM, 8 p.m., **Dialogue on Foreign Policy** with David Walker, Liberal M.P./Social Policy Critic; Maureen Hemphill, NDP Candidate/former MLA; Gene Domine, National Party Candidate. Everyone welcome, 60 Maryland St., Wpg., ph. 786-2032.

## Even More Announcements and Fun Stuff

### Oct. 14, 16 & 17, **The Asherah Project: Reclaiming Women's Wisdom & Spirituality:**

Oct. 14, 7:30 p.m., **Women's Voices**-dance, readings and performance work by women, West End Cultural Centre, Wpg., \$5/\$3 fixed income, ph. Michelle at 775-2785.

Oct. 16, 7:30 p.m., **Women's Voices**-films, readings, gallery viewing of work presented by women, UofW, \$5/\$3.50 fixed income;

10 p.m., **Re-Claiming Ritual** incorporating different spiritual traditions: Asherah, Eve and Lilith, manifestations of the female divine, will be evoked in the ritual. Bring a scarf, rattles and drums, UofW, no charge, ph. Tammy, 474-5999.  
11:30 p.m., **The Feast** - celebrating our lives. Please bring a dish to feed four people and a list of ingredients, your own plate, cup, etc.

Oct. 17, 1 p.m., **The Wisdom School:** 17 workshops on Knowledge from Within, Health & Healing, and Sharing Wisdom & Craft (no cost), and **The Market**, also beginning at 1 p.m., UofW. Women artisans will sell and display their wares. Tables cost \$10. Ph. Diana at 269-3971 to register for workshops or book a table.

Oct. 16, **World Food Day.** If you're interested in building food security & community-based initiatives, ph. Marny Fife, Prov'l Coordinator for the World Food Day Assoc'n, 786-2106.

Oct. 16, **Welfare Starlets** at Letkemann Theatre, R.D. Parker Collegiate, Thompson, ph. 778-8549.

Oct. 16-17, Womyn's Counselling Services presents a 2-day workshop in Winnipeg:

Day One: **Towards Recognizing and Understanding Violence in Lesbian Relationships.** Facilitator: Sally Papso  
Day Two: **Creating Lesbian Lives: Beyond Violence.** Facilitator: Keith Louise Fulton  
8:45a.m.-4:30p.m., 73 Arlington St., \$50/both days or \$30/one day. Ph. Sally, 772-2504.

Oct. 23, **Nellie McClung Theatre Group**, R.D. Parker Collegiate, Letkemann Theatre, Thompson, 7 p.m., Adults/Students-\$5, Senior Citizens/Children-\$2.50, tickets at Byron's Travel.

Oct. 23, **Women's Ways of Knowing**, with Joan McLaren, 9-4, Brandon U., \$80, ph. 727-9668.

Oct. 28, **Poverty Awareness Group**, 5 p.m., Social Planning Council, 412 McDermot Ave., preparing for Poverty Awareness Week, Jan. 17-21, Everyone Welcome, ph. Fiona, 946-5049.

Oct. 28, **Dec. 6 Women's Memorial Benefit Concert**, with Shawna Dempsey, Lorri Millan, Marilyn Lerner, & Deborah Romeyn, 8 p.m., West End Cultural Centre, Wpg., \$20, (some reduced tickets at the door). Accessible, Sign Language Interpretation, ph. 772-2504.

Oct. 31, **Welfare Starlets Halloween Party**, West End Cultural Centre, Wpg., ph. 786-6918.

Nov. 5-7, **Focusing, Health & Healing**, Mary Armstrong, recognizing the body's "felt sense". For therapists, survivors and counsellors. Fri., 7-10 p.m., Sat. & Sun., 9:30-4:30, Union Centre, Wpg., \$165, ph. **Learning Networks**, 786-1971.

**BRIDGES to Equity** - a training program that helps women move from traditional jobs into trades and technology work in their own organizations. The **BRIDGES Manual** (\$55.00) and **Participant's Workbook** (\$45.00) are excellent resources for all organizations and trainers concerned with promoting an equal opportunity workplace. Also available: **Retention: Support Strategies for Women in Trades, Technology, and Operations Work** - \$5.00. Contact: Resource & Publication Centre, City Clerks Dept., Main Floor, East Tower, City Hall, Toronto, ON, M5H 2N2, fax (416) 392-7999. For more info and brochures, call Eleanor Ross (416) 392-1166.

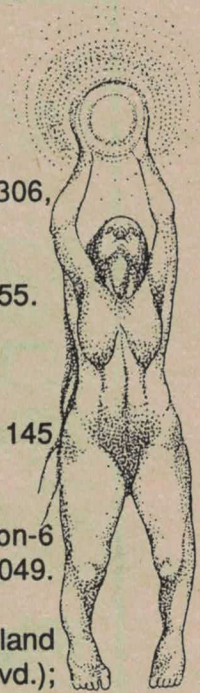
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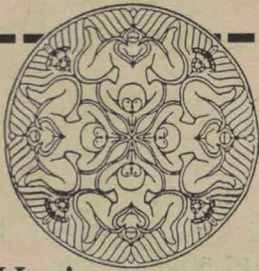
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## Calendar of Events - OCTOBER

- 6-7 **Norman Andrushuk's Trial** re stabbing of Kimberly Flett, 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Rm.306, Law Courts Bldg., Kennedy at York, Wpg., ph. MACSW at 946-5049 for info.
- 6 **Women for Equality Tour**, 1:30 p.m., Clearwater, 7:30 p.m., Killarney, Call 725-2955.
- 6 **TACSW Monthly Meeting**, 7 p.m., YWCA, 3rd fl., Thompson, ph. 778-8549.
- 7 **MACSW Winnipeg Branch Meeting**, 6 p.m. at the Westminster Housing Co-op, 145 Maryland Street, Wpg., to register for childcare ph. 946-5049.
- 9 **MACSW Winnipeg Open House** at our new office, noon-5 p.m., Ragpickers Sale, noon-6 p.m., & entertainment at the Underground Cafe, 5-8 p.m. 702-70 Arthur St., ph. 946-5049.
- 12-14 **Women & the Election: MACSW Wpg. Forums** 7-9 p.m., Oct. 12: Turtle Island Community Ctr.(510 King St.); Oct. 13: UofW, Rm. 2C13 & Westdale C.C.(550 Dale Blvd.); Oct. 14: Kelvin C.C.(281 Henderson Hwy.), St. Vital date TBA, register for childcare/ sign language, ph. 946-5049 for info or to volunteer! Candidates Forum to follow, see p.2.
- 13 **Candidates' Forum**, 7 p.m., Sokol Hall, 33 11th St. N., Brandon, sponsored by PSAC.
- 14 **PSW Regular Meeting**, 5:30 p.m., 8 Memorial Boulevard, Dauphin, Potluck (half membership will bring meal each month, phoners will notify).
- 14 **Anti-Pornography Committee Field Trip**, 6 p.m., UofW Women's Centre, 786-9788.
- 14 **MACSW Wheelchair Committee--** first meeting to write grant proposals, help make our new office accessible, 7:30 p.m., Artspace, 100 Arthur St., Wpg., ph. 946-5049.
- 16 **MACSW Fundraising Dinner** with Entertainment & Silent Auction, 6 p.m., Wpg. For tickets call MACSW, 946-5049 or Doreen, 837-9613, see p. 6 for details.
- 19 **Person's Day Luncheon**, Thompson, ph. TACSW at 778-8549 for details.
- 19-21 **Women's History Week Film Festival**, Heritage North Museum, Thompson, 7 p.m., ph. 677-9529 or 677-2216, speakers & refreshments.
- 22 **Women's Herstory Month Video Night: "Filipina Portraits"**, & "The Hand that Feeds the World...Women's Roles in Global Food Security", UofWpg., 7 p.m., ph. 946-5049.
- 25 **ELECTION DAY. VOTE!**
- 26 **MACSW Wpg. Orientation**, for new/potential volunteers, 6:30 p.m., new office, see p.4.
- 26 **Brandon Branch Meeting**, 7:30 p.m. at the office (202-107 7th St.), ph. 725-2955 for info.
- 31 **Samhain** (the original Halloween)--the day the ancient pagans celebrated the New Year and remembered those who have passed.





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- Health
- International Women's Day
- Lesbian Issues

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

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

## ACTIVITIES

- Newsletter
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