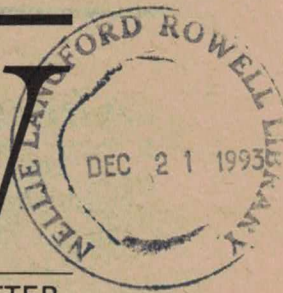

ACTION



MANITOBA ACTION COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN NEWSLETTER

December 1993
January 1994

Vol.20 No.9

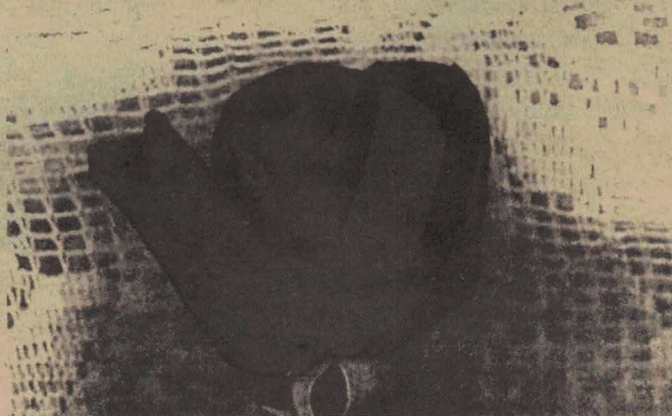
How many more of us?

On December 6, 1989, one man murdered 14 women in Montreal.

This was not an isolated act. Men who abuse and murder women are brought up to have power and control in a culture that devalues women.

Violence is a *chosen* response. Men must take responsibility for their actions. Every community and every institution must work to build a culture of safety, equality and justice for women.

We must never forget the women murdered on December 6, 1989 and all women who suffer from male violence. We must transform our outrage and our tears into action, now.



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.

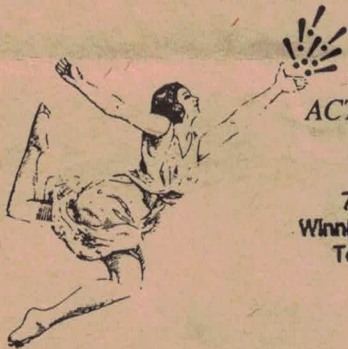
MACSW was formed in 1971 by a group of women who presented a brief to the federal Royal Commission on the Status of Women in 1967. MACSW has branches in Brandon, Dauphin, Thompson and Winnipeg.

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 Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 1G7
Telephone: 948-5049

This issue: MACSW staff, Pat Sadowy, Marion Foster, Susan McKenzie, Allison Dewar, Pam Jakubec, Marjorie Turton, Christie Harris, Clare Thomas, Suzy Waldman, Alex Sokal, Louise Dupuis, Rosalie Favell, Ceridwen Collins-West, Pam Jackson, Carol Popiel, Tracey Lavis, Katherine Martens, Stacey Crooks & Newsletter Coordinator Fiona Muldrew. Cover art by YWCA Canada.

Thank you New & Renewed Members!

Ruby Reske-Naurocki
Shamdai Sukhan
Univ. du Quebec a Mtl.
Greenpeace-MB
Mary Malainey
Thelma Hanson
Pamela Jackson
Dana Kripp
Ms. Charlie Peters

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Advertise in ACTION!

New advertising rates as of Sept., 1993: 1/4 page ad--\$30/\$25 for non-profit groups / MACSW members.
1/8 page ad (business card)--\$20/\$15 for non-profit groups / MACSW members. For info ph. 946-5049.



Remember December 6, First Mourn then Work for Change

The following letter by Pam Jackson addresses concerns about the implementation of Manitoba's Zero Tolerance Policy on domestic violence.

November 9, 1993

Letter to the Editor of the Free Press:

I have been reading with much apprehension and confusion the articles in the Winnipeg Free Press regarding judges and lawyers, including Crown attorneys, stating that the Zero Tolerance Policy is not working. I think that we need to remember what the point of the Zero Tolerance Policy was in the first place. Zero Tolerance was not introduced to make the court system run more smoothly or efficiently. Zero Tolerance was not introduced to make people's jobs easier. Zero Tolerance was introduced to try to save the lives of women and children. Zero Tolerance was introduced to try to stem the epidemic of partners and ex-partners stalking and killing women. Is it working? It just might be. In 1989, 12 women were killed at the hands of partners or ex-partners. In 1990, 13 women were killed by partners or ex-partners. In 1991, another 13 women were killed by partners or ex-partners. Zero Tolerance was introduced at the end of 1991. In 1992, 7 women were murdered, 5 of them by their partners or ex-partners. So far, in 1993, 7 women have been murdered, 3 of them by partners or ex-partners. This is clearly a decrease. It is not good enough yet as, in the past 2 years 14 women have been murdered, 8 of them by their partners or ex-partners, but it is a good start. Has this decrease in the number of women being murdered been the result of Zero Tolerance? It is doubtful that we will ever know for sure but it certainly would appear so. Nothing else in the system changed in 1991 that would account for such a drastic decline in the number of women murdered. One can only wonder why well over a 50% reduction of women who are murdered by partners and ex-partners is not seen as evidence that this policy is working.

Clearly, it sounds like the justice system is getting backed up, which flies in the face of what the Family

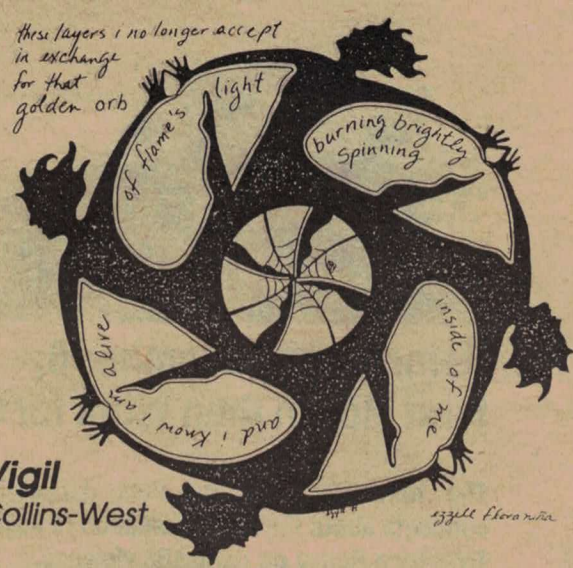
Violence Court was intended to do. Certainly, this situation needs to be rectified immediately. The solution though, is not to change the policy as the policy is clearly keeping some women alive. It is no surprise that the Family Violence Court is seeing such high numbers. For years, women's organizations have been talking about the epidemic of partner abuse. What is surprising is that the Justice System decided to "get tough" on women abuse and introduced mandatory charging and are then shocked when the system becomes inundated with perpetrators. What did they expect? Certainly there is a crisis in the court system that needs to be addressed, but let's not move backwards. The Justice system needs to find some way to increase the amount of court time available as well as to increase the numbers of judges and crown attorneys available to the Family Violence Court. One can predict that when perpetrators realize that the policy will not be relaxed, we might start seeing a continued decline in women abuse. This is what happened with the drunk driving policy. There was an initial glut in the court system but after a period of time drunk drivers realized it was only a matter of time until they got caught, and they started making better decisions. The numbers of drunk drivers going through the court system has now stabilized. We can anticipate that the same could happen for men who choose to abuse women if they realize that the policy will not be relaxed. We are currently experiencing the initial inundating of the system. Over time this will probably decrease.

One of the "solutions" that is being suggested is to divert the "non-serious" or "minor" cases of wife abuse so as to clear the court docket for the serious cases. This seems like a very dangerous decision. What is "minor" abuse? How much abuse is acceptable? Who will be making the decision on which case is a serious case of abuse? What will the criteria be? Even if there were easy answers to these questions there are a few things that are being forgotten. Statistics show that a woman is assaulted an average of 35 times before calling the police for the first time. Thirty-five assaults is not a "minor" situation even if this situation has just come to the justice system's attention. As well, there have been cases where a husband had "just" pushed his partner in his angry outbursts, and one push eventually led to a murder because she had hit her head and died.

The second argument that judges and lawyers are using for changing the policy is that too many of the cases collapse in court, usually because the victim will not testify. Anyone who has worked in the field of wife abuse will tell you that the primary reason that women don't want to testify is because of the repercussions she will have to face from

deep inside buried under the many layers
 meant to confuse me, delude me,
 keep me from my truth. the circular orb burns
 bright

these layers i no longer accept
 in exchange
 for that
 golden orb



the perpetrator. We have to stop re-victimizing the victim by putting the onus of the whole case on her shoulders. She will have to pay the price and she knows it. If the government is stating that they are getting tough on abusers then it should follow that they have the responsibility to build the case against the perpetrator. This should not be the victim's responsibility. Police and Crown should be implementing the recommendations from the Pedlar Review and the new police policy that suggest that police and crown investigate and follow up all cases of alleged abuse and seek evidence to substantiate the charge, as opposed to limiting the evidence to the victim's testimony. This is not a new idea, as British Columbia instituted this policy a few years ago. I realize that this means more work on the part of the police and crown and there are some cases where there is no other evidence. However, there are numerous cases where neighbours have witnessed or heard the assault, there is physical evidence of an assault, and there is evidence in the home or apartment. Police and crown have to begin to build their cases and not throw up their hands simply because the person who is most at risk of further abuse won't testify. One might also anticipate that building a case of assault is more palatable than building a case of murder. In the latter situation, there is still no victim to testify.

If the Justice System is serious about the intent of Zero Tolerance, if they are seriously wanting to do their part in trying to stop violence against women and children, then this is no time to buckle under the weight of that which they initiated. Zero Tolerance is working. More than a 50% reduction in the number of women being murdered testifies to that. It's not working for the perpetrators of violence. It's also not working in the court system right now. But it is starting to work for some women. We have a long way to go yet, and the problem won't be solved until the murder of women at the hands of their partners is a nightmare from the past. But Zero Tolerance is a start and should not be given up or watered down because the system finds it to be too much work or too expensive to solve some of the current problems. The statistics show that there are some women who are alive today who might not have been, if Zero Tolerance never came to be. Wasn't that the point?

Respectfully submitted,
 Pam Jackson

Please write Stu Whitley, QC, Assistant Deputy Attorney General, 5th floor, 405 Broadway Ave., Wpg., MB, R3C 3L6, ph. 945-2852 &/or Rosemary Vodrey, Minister of Justice, Rm. 104-450 Broadway Ave., Legislative Bldg., Wpg., MB, ph. 945-3728, if you have similar concerns about the Zero Tolerance Policy.

Holding Vigil
 Ceridwen Collins-West

*The wind scrapes past, icy cold
 A Woman's voice bitter with tears
 Anger bears a lone crusade*

*I look down and see the candle flutter out
 Words rise in my throat
 Poetic words for an unpoetic death*

*She died alone
 As we all do, when we go
 But this journey forced
 A circle of women she never knew
 Hold vigil for her in the storm*

*They say there's a special Valkyrie
 Who comes for these women
 Death in battle, in a war
 No one remembers; ages been
 And she only one of the names*

*The wind rattles ancient bones
 Buried beneath the land
 She walks home...
 Taking the candlelight with her*

Women's voices send her off in song...

I look down; a part of me gone

Pam Jackson

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Telephone 6-222 Osborne St.
 284-7525 Wpg. Man. R3L 1Z3

Parkland Branch Report

Heather Dootoff, Administrative Coordinator

The search for justice continues...Last month, I reported that the Government of Manitoba had decided they could not afford to bring a key witness from Australia to testify in the criminal proceedings of a sexual abuse case. As a result of media attention and/or public outcry, this decision was reversed within the week. The court case did not proceed as scheduled, however. Following the reversal of the decision, a hearing was held and a judge ruled that the Crown was in a conflict-of-interest position prosecuting this case because the complainant, Ann Justice, is also lodging a civil suit against her father and the Government of Manitoba. It has come to light that the judge was a previous resident of this community, a previous partner in the firm which currently represents the accused, and a lawyer for Child and Family Services when Ms. Justice originally made the complaint to that department as a youth. Some questions come to mind... Is the judge not also an employee of the Government of MB? If so, and in light of the other facts, is the judge not in a conflict of interest? How does the court cope with other conflict of interest situations, for example, cases involving Child and Family Services, the Public Trustee, Legal Aid, etc. Personally, I've decided the Justice Department should change its name...it's a little too optimistic and misrepresentative.

Having recovered from Post Election Trauma Syndrome (PETS) it is time to move on to activities at the Status of Women. In early November we had a one day kick-off for the Angel Tree (Christmas project), with products from Bridgehead and Unicef available for early bird Xmas shoppers. The Angel Tree display will hit the mall December 9th and remain until December 19th or until all the angels have been removed.

A vigil was held for Victoria Hornbrook, a woman murdered in Winnipeg at the end of October. Plans are underway for a vigil and film for the December 6th Memorial Day.

There was a good turnout for the November Parkland meeting, which I could not be at. I did manage an exciting meeting of my own, when I came face to face with a man in a ski mask outside of a confectionery store in Prince Albert, Sask. He was just getting out of his car and from what I could see--bare legs and bare shoulders--my guess is the only part of his body which was covered was his face! I exited before I could see more. What was this, P.A.'s version of the Naked Gun!



I had a disturbing conversation last month with a woman who was very excited about the wonderful False Memory Syndrome movement. FMS has also reared its ugly head in Ann Justice's case, thanks to the defence attorney. Why is there not a false memory syndrome movement directed at offenders? Now this would make sense! The myths continue about women and sexual abuse, first we fantasized about it, then we asked for it, next we lied about it and now we are mistaken about it. #@#%&*@*!!

Thompson Branch Report

Hari Dimitrakopoulou, Administrative Coordinator

Congratulations to Leah Passler on taking the responsibility as Thompson Branch Representative and to Margy Monahan and Debra McVittie as members-at-large on the Provincial Coordinating Committee. Leah has been our Branch Rep. before. All three women are enthusiastic about future plans with the TACSW.

Our activities for November focussed on preparations for the December 6 commemoration of the Montreal massacre and for events in the new year.

TACSW, along with the Thompson Crisis Centre, the Northern Women's Resource Service, and the Thompson YWCA, have formed the December 6th Committee in Thompson. Our plans include setting up a table at one of the malls the week before December 6th to inform the public about December 6th and to sell December 6th buttons. A candlelight vigil will take place downtown, between 12 and 12:30 p.m. During the evening a women's circle at the YWCA will give all of us the chance to share information, feelings and thoughts on violence against women. We have also contacted the local high school about our plans, to raise awareness among young people.

As part of the discussion on December 6th we hope to include information on the new law on stalking. Recent events in Northern Manitoba have made several women aware of this particular form of violence. We hope to monitor these kind of situations on an ongoing basis.

Plans for the upcoming year include a TACSW subcommittee, which has continued to work enthusiastically towards putting together the workshops on Gender and Development, based on the book "The Partnership Way." Thanks to Joanna Sargent, it seems dreams can become reality.

The Northern Women's Development Network, of which TACSW is part, has been busy informing governments, economic organizations and individuals about the findings from its study as well as developing further research and implementation plans. Our study has received national and international recognition, including interest expressed by the United Nations.

The Community Kitchen Project seems closer to being put in place. Thanks to all women involved, especially Darlene Merasty, who took a leadership role in the project.

In November the Thompson Branch, on behalf of MACSW, sent letters to all federal Manitoba MPs as well as Sheila Finestone, Secretary of State Responsible for the Status of Women, in regards to the funding of the Women's Program and of MACSW in particular. We hope to hear from them soon.

It was great for Leah, Margy and myself to join with women across Manitoba for the PCC meeting in Brandon. Thanks to the Brandon women who offered us hospitality and a great opportunity to share the feminist process.

As this year comes to an end the Thompson Branch extends our wishes for peace and equality to women across Manitoba and around the world. We would also like to thank all members and friends who helped TACSW to have another successful year and to bring us closer to our goals.

**Adventure, New Friends, New Faces,
Empowerment, Social Events, Excitement,
Challenges, Travel!!
Want this and More?**

**VOLUNTEER TODAY
WITH MACSW!!**

**We'll Take You On The
Adventure of a Lifetime**

**Become involved in:
Political Action/Lobbying
Media Monitoring
Anti-Pornography
Public Education
ACTION Newsletter
Publicity/Promotions
Special Events
Administrative Support**

Coordinating the Volunteer Program

Please call Charlene at the MACSW Winnipeg office (946-5049) for further information on how to become involved in social action for Women!!

Lobby for the Women's Program!

If you want women's groups like MACSW to survive please send in the following post card to your M.P. &/or Lloyd Axworthy, Minister of Human Resources.

Now that the Conservative agenda has been thoroughly rejected by Canadians, we are awaiting the announcement that the Liberal government will reinstate funding to women's groups across Canada. The draconian Tory cuts, to the meagre funds of the Secretary of State Women's Program, must be reversed immediately to ensure that women's equality issues are addressed. Adequate core funding is needed for groups currently underfunded in the Women's Program. Will the Liberal government restore funding that was cut by the Tories and reject plans for further cuts to the Women's Program? Will the present government also make a strong federal contribution to the equality-seeking work of women's shelters, rape crisis centres, transition homes, and women's centres.

No Postage
Required

_____, M.P.
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

Signed, _____
Name _____
Address _____

Brandon Branch Report

Jennifer Howard, Administrative Coordinator

Much of this last month has been spent in recovery from the federal election--cleaning up the office, closing files and dealing with the administrative details that piled up during the forty-seven days of frenzy. Now that it's all over and we've had our taste of democracy for the next five years, it is hard to say what a new government will bring. Perhaps a hopeful sign is the reinstatement of the Court Challenges Program announced by Justice Minister Allan Rock.

However, in looking at the new Parliament, I am reminded of Tommy Douglas' "Mouseland" story. A nation of mice held elections every four or five years; sometimes they would elect black cats and sometimes they would elect white cats, but they never elected mice.

One thing this election made painfully obvious was the emergence of the Canadian Far Right under the guise of the Reform Party. Just days after the election, renegade Reformers were in the news again with the statement that visible minorities and women were "parasites on society." Of course Preston was quick to distance himself and the Party from such comments, but I believe the "parasite" mode of thinking is much more illustrative of the Reform ideology than their pretenses of tolerance.

Those of us who tried to shift the agenda from deficit-reduction-at-all-costs to economic, political and social equality for all, should be proud of our efforts. The media may not have always picked up on us and the politicians may not have paid as much attention to us as they paid to the Chamber of Commerce, but we were there, in the parties, social movements, unions and coalitions. At times like this, I remember the words of Berthold Brecht: "If all I have done is to make the rulers sleep less soundly in their beds, it has been enough."

Life does continue after election campaigns, and so does the work of MACSW. In Brandon, planning for the Gender and Development Conference, to be held March 4 and 5, 1994, is continuing. We are working with other community groups and the weekend promises to be informative as well as empowering.

There will be a workshop on creating sacred space, rituals and creation myths, on January 29 & 30 at Park Community Centre. Call Kathie Lobel at 725-2477 to register (\$65) or for more information.

Brandon City Council will be forming a committee to study poverty in Brandon. There are few details beyond that, but if you would like more information or want to participate, call your city councillor (their numbers are in the

middle of the phone book) or City Hall at 729-2186.

To celebrate the festive season, several local businesses have commissioned paintings of scantily clad female "Santa's helpers" to decorate their windows. What half-naked women have to do with "the birth of Christ" is beyond me. If you have similar questions about the connection, you could phone the "artist", Gordie Vincent at 476-3908, talk to the owners of these businesses, and write a letter to the Brandon Sun.

December 6 is once again upon us. This year marks the 4th anniversary of the Montreal Massacre. Part of me would like to ignore the day. I'm tired of talking and hearing about violence against women and the backlash against feminism. However, the recent remarks by a University of New Brunswick Math Professor on date rape that appeared in the student newspaper, remind me that misogyny and violence are alive and well on Canadian campuses.

MACSW and the Brandon University Students' Union are sponsoring remembrance activities in the Mingling Area of the Knowles-Douglas Students' Union Centre, Brandon University, at noon on Monday, December 6.

NEW in the OFFICE: The National Film Board's production "Forbidden Love: The Unashamed Stories of Lesbian Lives" is available for borrowing.

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WOMEN'S NEWS & FEMINIST VIEWS

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Subscription Order Form

Yes! I've enclosed \$22.50 for each subscription.
Please send a \$5 donation to MACSW.

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MAIL TO: HERIZONS Box 128, Winnipeg, MB R3C 2G1



Winnipeg Branch Report

Susan Banks, Administrative Coordinator

Since the federal election MACSW has attended post-election strategy meetings hosted by the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg (SPC). On November 2 the SPC held a press conference to present a "Social Report Card" on the current status of Canada's social programs, including the Liberals' election promises. The Council plans to monitor the Liberal government and issue another "Social Report Card" in six months. With the help of community organizations and individuals, including MACSW, this report card will include: women's issues, employment and training, economic security, poverty, community economic renewal, health care, Aboriginal peoples, education, housing, safety and justice.

Our new Political Action Sub-committee is underway! One of our members has expressed an interest in working on the issue of establishing guidelines for therapists and counsellors. At the moment there do not seem to be any guidelines to which a counsellor is held accountable, allowing the abuse of clients to exist without a way of addressing complaints. If you are interested in helping with research, lobbying and/or public education around this topic, please call me at 946-5049. You can also call the same number to find out when the next Sub-committee meeting will be held. Other issues for Political Action include Violence Against Women, Poverty, Child Care, Funding Cuts and Non-sexist education.

On November 4 we held a press conference for Mary Ann Strowbridge to raise concerns about the failure of the Director of Prosecutions to arrest Mary Ann's abusive ex-partner for breaching his probation order. We said that the "justice" system was not working for Mary Ann and other women. She is still awaiting word on whether Ambrose Strowbridge will be arrested. As a result of our press conference, Stu Whitley, Assistant Deputy Attorney General, has asked for a meeting with us to discuss our concerns about the Zero Tolerance Policy on domestic violence. On December 1st, in conjunction with other women's groups, we will be bringing our concerns to him, about the inconsistent enforcement and potential watering down of the Zero Tolerance Policy.

*Please note that the Winnipeg Branch meetings will be held on the 2nd Thursday of the month at the University of Winnipeg, Room 2C16. Everyone is welcome to attend - it is a good opportunity to find out what issues we are working on and how you can get involved. For those who are unable to attend daytime meetings for the Political Action Sub-committee, we will be devoting the first part of our Branch meetings to Political Action.

Thanks to everyone who volunteered in the office during November: Carol Popiel, Elaine Typliski, Gini Griffith and Nancy Naismith. Thanks to Ceridwen Collins-West, who is a founding member of the Volunteer Coordinating Program.

MACSW Media Monitoring Sub-Committee

Stacey Crooks

Have you ever wondered why more women aren't interviewed as experts on news shows? Have you ever got angry about a newspaper editorial that portrayed women in a narrow, unrealistic way? Everyday? Then the MACSW Media Monitoring Sub-Committee is for you. We've begun to monitor and respond to the portrayal of women and women's issues in the local media.

Come on out to our meetings on the second Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m. The next meeting is on December 7 at 6 p.m. at the Winnipeg Branch Office. Bring your comments about the media with you. If you have ideas for workshops, movie nights, or media education events, please share them.

Concerns about specific media items can be called or mailed into the Winnipeg Office if you can't attend our sub-committee meetings. Be as specific as possible in your comments. Leave your name and number so we can let you know what we decided. We would also be interested if you know of any positive portrayals of women in the local mainstream media or of any alternative media sources worth checking out.

Write letters when you see something in the media that you believe is sexist. If you're not sure who to write to, or you need some advice on how to write a media protest letter, we have information available. If you send a letter to an organization, be sure to send us a copy. These letters are discussed at our monthly meetings where we decide on further action on them. We'll keep letters on file and will contact you to find out what happened. Read ACTION to keep up to date on media monitoring activities and future meetings.

What do you think of "This Hour Has 22 Minutes", a CBC TV show on Monday nights at 11:00 pm? Recently MACSW received a complaint from a woman who described the show as "sexist" and "racist".

If you have any questions about Media Monitoring please phone Stacey, 284-7684.

Fundraising 101

Carol deHedervary, Provincial Fundraiser

Okay, so here are the basics that I've found since July (I'm here 'til January)! There are two kinds of grants, commonly known as "core funding" (for running the organization) and "project funding" (for a specific project with a beginning and an end, usually very short-term).

We have been receiving core funding from Secretary of State which has been cut back. Core funding is extremely hard to come by: most sources prefer to fund projects with a limited commitment. Project funding is unrealistic because if we don't have any office space or paid staff, we can't do any projects!

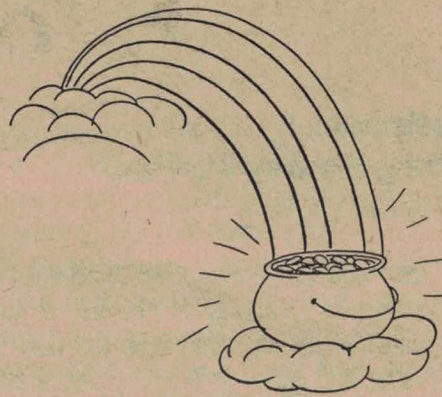
Another stumbling block is our charitable status. In 1978, Revenue Canada issued a policy that any non-profit groups that do political advocacy are not eligible for charitable status. This policy has been challenged unsuccessfully in the courts, resulting in even tighter restrictions! So, because MACSW does "advocacy," we are not eligible. We did try to establish an "Educational Fund" in 1991, similar to NAC's, to obtain a tax number, but were turned down.

All foundations I approached require charitable numbers and would not consider us; neither would the United Way, who said that we not only need a charitable number, but we must have "direct service" as our first activity (i.e. counseling/assisting clients in some way) and not advocacy.

I looked into "affinity cards"--credit cards where a portion of money spent goes to charity--but in order to have a card assigned a group must drum up 10,000 cardholders!

My letter soliciting funds from unions was a little more successful. We received \$700 and some nice words of support from labour organizations. At the September PCC, a decision was made that I would not try to raise any money until after the November meeting, when a fundraising policy (establishing who we will accept money from) would be decided on; so my fundraising efforts have ground to a halt. Alternative sources of funding for MACSW seem scarce, and we have no resources to keep a fundraiser position on staff.

The good news is this: it's not impossible. Four years ago, NAC was 100% dependent on Sec/State funding: now they fundraise about 75% of their budget without a charitable number. Statistics from 1982 show that only 8% (in dollars) of donated money came from foundations, 12% from corporations, and 80% from individuals. So we don't have to rely on foundations and corporations that require a charitable number. Which brings us around to...



In this issue you will find a form for Automatic Donations, also called PAC (Pre-Authorized Chequing). Please consider filling one out and supporting MACSW year-round. How it works is that a specified amount is transferred from your account monthly. It's not much per month, but over a whole year it adds up, and makes a big difference to us. Return your form, along with a voided cheque, to the Winnipeg office, and we'll send you out a BIG THANK-YOU letter...but no tax receipt!

Survey Results from Sept. ACTION:

- 35 received
- 30 checked off Yes (support all fundraising efforts, as close as possible to our principles)
- 5 qualified their answers and checked off a few boxes.

Some excellent suggestions were made including running a business, and starting a support group for women and addictions. All the surveys received were appreciated and the feedback will be helpful at the November PCC. Thanks for filling them out!

Comments from the survey:

"We need MACSW to survive, even more so now. Where else will the alternative voices come from?"

"I was one of those who used to scream "tainted money", especially gambling money. Your letter actually changed my mind. Go for it!"

"To apply to the Lotteries Foundation is to encourage the activities that support (it). You will no doubt agree that MACSW ought to be funded out of general tax revenues. If MACSW and all the other organizations in the province that are in a similar position accept lottery funding, this will ensure that the government will continue to refuse its responsibility to provide the proper funding. And it will also...act to silence groups and individuals in their criticism of gambling and the gambling mentality. People tend to tread very cautiously when it comes to criticizing that which sustains them."

"I look at this list and can't make the hard decisions myself. In my work with other organizations I have faced this dilemma. I trust (the PCC) to weigh the costs of compromise and make a just decision for the times. Money isn't ever "clean" (part of capitalism!)"

Lee Maracle: Decolonizing the Way We Think

an interview by Fiona Muldrew

Lee Maracle was in Winnipeg on November 6, for Dream Quest: Festival of Aboriginal Art, held at the new Aboriginal Centre, where she read from her new novels Ravensong (1993) and Sundogs (1992). She is also the author of I Am Woman (1988), Bobbi Lee: Indian Rebel (1990), Sojourner Truth (1991), and co-editor of Telling It: Women and Language Across Cultures (1990). The following interview highlights some of her thoughts on decolonization, current Aboriginal struggles, and the feminist movement.

What are you doing these days?

LM: I'm teaching a course called "Indigenous Feminist Sociology" at the University of Toronto (a joint course between Women's Studies and Sociology). It's about how the role of Native women was disrupted by colonization and about reclaiming that lost legacy. In that sense it's a feminist course--about empowering women to recognize their authority and reclaim their former power as keepers of social relations and peace in communities and keepers of family and extended family. I'm also working in Southern Ontario teaching people to use writing as a form of expression to power yourself up and not let anyone power out on you. I get students to say what their expectations are for my class. For most this is really difficult because they've never been asked that. One woman was brought to tears. If you've been oppressed all your life you're discouraged from having any expectations. Part of being powerful is knowing what you want and knowing your perspective on the world. I get students to think about their spiritual discipline by writing up their own medicine wheel where they describe what is important to them in their world view and they judge what they read by their own values, not what they guess is important to some professor or academic.

Do you see a big change among Aboriginal women?

LM: Not enough educational work has been done among Native women so that they see themselves as sensuous, passionate, lovable women. The history of rape, plunder and violence against Aboriginal women has affected our ability to take our place. But when we regain ourselves our men seem relieved.

Do you suffer from a backlash when you assert your place?

LM: I haven't experienced a personal backlash when asserting my power. I'm seen as aggressive sometimes but



Photo: Rosalie Favell

there are more rewards than a backlash. White men have lots more to lose than Native men with the fall of patriarchy. Native men gain a lot more nurturing when Native women gain power.

A description of your book Ravensong says it's about a woman struggling with the gulf between cultures. Do you think there's a similar gulf between men and women?

LM: My editor wrote that about Ravensong. I don't think it's powerful to compare two cultures--comparing implies judgement--it's more important to look inside. In Ravensong, a woman searches to find what her world looks like, so she can go to the other culture with a full plate. When you look at someone else's culture you have to know where you're coming from.

What's Telling It: Women & Language Across Cultures about?

LM: It's speeches from a conference I worked on with Daphne Marlatt, Sky Lee and Betsy Warland. It was an attempt for women writers to bridge culture in a fair way, that didn't quite succeed. Language is very hierarchical. Women don't have a language yet. White women are

fighting a longer history of oppression where white male thinking dominates. If you haven't come to grips with your own oppression you can't understand someone else's. Many women haven't dealt with their own womanhood--their wholeness, who they are, what they're for, what to take to the world. If you don't know what you're for, you end up angry, defensive, just against the patriarchy, which is not a positive, powerful position.

What do you think has changed in the decolonization process lately?

LM: In the 60's and 70's there was a big reclaiming of Aboriginal culture but the decolonization process won't be over for decades. We're unlocking the debate about what is culture, unlocking the patriarchy, unlocking doors to being ourselves. We're resisting any further encroachment on our territorial integrity. Since the Oka crisis, we're holding the system at bay. We're looking at our losses and deciding how to get them back. We're realizing that structures that have been imposed on us based on race, class and gender superiority aren't working. These structures taught us to doubt or forget our own traditional structures but we're regaining trust in ourselves. The residential schools caused a huge dysfunction and paralysis in Aboriginal communities. Native people have the skills to heal ourselves and the church has the capacity to fund that resolution. We have to pressure the church to clean up the effects of the Residential School Syndrome. Part of decolonization is having more Native writers like Jeanette Armstrong so we don't have others speaking on our behalf. There have been many conferences dealing with the international movement for decolonization and the right of Indigenous peoples to sovereignty. White people aren't doing much decolonization though--I don't see white people writing about it.

How do you think spirituality could become more valued in white society?

LM: Spirituality is where I come from and go to. I don't seek to change spirituality in white society. Their very religion is oppressive--it describes women as evil, men are defined as lords, the earth is plundered. In Exodus people are instructed to kill other people. This patriarchal spirituality disciplines white people to be dis-spirited. The question "What's my purpose on this earth?" hasn't been resolved. My stories arise from my spirituality but it's up to the people who read them to decide what they do with the stories.

In Sojourner's Truth you talk about Aboriginal legends not having a clear moral like most European folk tales. Why is that?

LM: Legends are for thinking people coming to grips with life. They are not insulting to children--they unlock the

imagination and give just enough information to direct children and trust that they will make a good decision. A legend often leaves a dilemma for the listener to figure out.

How has your family influenced you?

LM: The old lady in my book Sundogs is based on my mother. She's a Metis woman who didn't attend residential school. Metis people's struggle to hold onto their land was even harder than for Status Indians. Many Native women and their children were forced to move away from their non-Native partners. The Metis culture produced a die-hard self-reliance and a prairie bull-dozing attitude. My mother had a strong belief in herself. Her flat-earth philosophy meant that everyone was equal and everyone had a right to belong and we owe our allegiance to the whole of creation. My father had incredible patience--if not today then tomorrow; the struggle's never over till we're all gone. That patience has taught me about the treaties--we won't sign a treaty until it's a good one--we'll wait. Mike Meyers said, "We may not have solved the problem but we've laid the foundations so our grandchildren can solve the problem."

What's your next project?

LM: I'm writing a non-fiction book called Decolonization in the Feminine, about decolonizing ourselves as Aboriginal women with a chapter for white women. It's on the same path as writing by Audre Lorde and Paula Gunn Allen.

What do you think of the current women's movement in Canada?

LM: When I went to the Feminist Book Fair in 1988 I saw the women's movement struggling with decolonization but not fast enough or deep enough for some women. There's still a lot of assumptions that the women's movement is white. However, the women's movement alone is struggling with our colonial heritage--men aren't doing that work. The environmental movement is doing some decolonizing work but it's because eco-feminists have pushed that. I see an effort by white women to come together with other women.

Jill Town

Kathy Burke-Gaffney

Renovation

Additions

Barrier Free Design & Construction

HOUSEFITTERS
Carpentry

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Photo: Rosalie Favell

Red Roots Theatre: Susan McKenzie, Monica Marx, Dawn Roach, Louis Ogemah, Bruce Hobson & Bob Hoek. Missing: Pauline Riley, Helga Boss & Bossy Ducharme

Red Roots: Raging Theatre

Fiona Muldrew

Red Roots Theatre, formerly the Black Wolf Society, has collectively written and performed some beautiful, sarcastic and hard-hitting plays in Winnipeg such as Dream Warrior and What Ever Happened to the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry? The following interview is with four women from Red Roots Theatre: Dawn Roach, Monica Marx, Pauline Riley and Susan McKenzie.

Why did you get involved with Red Roots Theatre?

DR: There's a lack of community theatre. Red Roots is the only Native theatre group in Winnipeg, so I jumped at the opportunity.

MM: I have a social work background but it wasn't effective or creative. I got a job as a popular theatre worker and found it was a good way for young people, who don't normally have a voice, to say what they have to say. I'm in Red Roots because it's a really committed group.

PR: There's a really big gap in accessibility to theatre. Red Roots is filling that gap. I'm involved in theatre

because we share our experiences and put them in a creative form. I like working with young people because they're the future.

SM: Theatre is a way for me to express myself when I get frustrated with things around me. I got involved with Nellie McClung Theatre and then I found Red Roots. It reflects my background and my experiences.

What message do you want to give in your plays?

MM: I want to give something back to the Aboriginal community.

DR: I hope that people will see how issues affect us and know that they're not alone.

PR: People see themselves in the plays. They're a blend of traditional values in modern times.

SM: The plays are empowering--they show you how to express anger in a positive way.

What do you add as women to Red Roots?

PR: We add everything. Ha Ha!

MM: The women are really strong in this group. We add balance. In Dream Warrior there was a domestic violence scene and the women would call the male actor an asshole

after the scene. The men weren't expecting it.

PR: The men in the group have become more aware that the way men have been trained isn't acceptable.

SM: We add our life experiences of surviving. We're the movers, the groovers and the shakers.

How do you work collectively?

DR: We talk and act out an image of, say, what justice is to us. We work from everyone's knowledge.

MM: If gaps are there we do research and talk to other people.

How do you deal with really heavy topics like the stabbing of Helen Betty Osborne?

MM: That's the hardest scene to do. One guy couldn't do it. You have to look back at your own life. We have a sharing circle to open and close rehearsals, where we talk about issues.

DR: Acting lets go of some stuff. Laughter helps to deal with the sadness.

SM: The fear is always with me but acting makes me feel connected with others.

How does your audience react?

MM: They say it's powerful. Women are empowered. People want to join Red Roots.

SM: Some white St. John's Ambulance guys said that "it's really white people that experience racism", then they said that "the Aboriginal girls sure were pretty."

DR: People relate and see themselves. My mom is speaking to me about her experiences that the play brought up. Some friends don't talk to me any more for being political, but you make more friends who are more important.

SM: Some people criticize us for rocking the boat but they're afraid to look at themselves. I won't keep quiet anymore. I need to share my life--there's no turning back.

MM: It's a responsibility--once you find out something, you can't shut the door on it.

PR: You'd go nuts. Some people would rather keep their eyes closed. Red Roots has their eyes open.

What women's issues bother you the most?

DR: There's not enough women speaking out, doing things. Even protests are male-dominated--women get too shy.

MM: If women can't get a sitter they miss out on something and can't participate. It's hard to balance the needs of the kids with rehearsals for Red Roots. People often forget the strength of women but who's taking care of the children? Who makes time available for men to get involved in political events?

SM: The violence really bothers me. I see so much of it in this neighbourhood.

DR: Also, women in advertising--they're all white. There's

one ad for a "Savage Tan" that says "Make drums beat!"

What do you think is at the root of sexism?

SM: The hierarchy--white, male dominance.

PR: Conditioning--we need different ways to work with each other and better communication.

DR: Corporate executive men who have power and control--white men.

MM: It used to be different--in the longhouses the clan mothers had decision-making power.

How do you think the women's movement could improve?

SM: They could open up, educate themselves. When I first started theatre, a woman who called herself a feminist, asked me if I'd ever heard of birth control just because I had two kids. She also said "What's the big deal about Christopher Columbus? That happened 500 years ago." But still, I've met a lot of feminists who have made a huge impact on my life and helped me survive.

PR: The most vocal people in the feminist movement have been white and middle class--it's not balanced and it doesn't reflect our society.

DR: I felt used as a token when I went to a conference put on by the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women. They asked me to smudge the women who were there but I didn't feel included in the conference.

MM: The women's movement is constrained sometimes by outside forces like funding cuts.

What did you think of Sunera Thobani, when you heard her in Winnipeg?

MM: I liked what she said about culture being used as an excuse for the oppression of women. If you're being abused, you're being abused--it's not part of your culture. And if it is, the culture should move on.

PR: I think it's good that she's President of NAC, but it's still the same hierarchical structure, and the majority of women involved are still white middle class.

What are your future plans?

MM: We're looking for rehearsal space (about 2-3,000 square feet). We're also trying to raise money to do a play on Native women and the effects of racism.

SM: We're going to do something beautiful. We'll walk on fire.

PR: I want to help get a Native Theatre School started in Manitoba.

DR: I'm going to start a Rap Band and get rich. Ha Ha!
Red Roots has been working on a volunteer basis since August of 1993. If you know of a free/cheap practice space or can donate some money to help them with childcare costs and other expenses please phone Monica at 957-0648 or Susan at 589-0304.



Rebel With a Clayoquot Cause

Carol Popiel

When I first read that the NDP government under Mike Harcourt had invested \$30,000,000 in MacMillan Bloedel before settling the Native land claims, and 3 months before they gave clear cut rights in Clayoquot Sound, I was appalled. I had to do something.

I had a dream that I was chained to a tree with a blue chain. The next day I heard about a train coming across our country picking up people to show the Friends of Clayoquot Sound support in their 15-year-old struggle to stop clear cutting. Money magically appeared, a babysitter was found, I put my life on hold and I jumped on that train of glory to represent Manitoba.

It was wonderful. There were 70 like-minded greenies (babies to grandmothers) breathing the same air of solidarity, breathing the same air of caring, breathing the same air of rebellion. We talked and laughed and sang. We told the stories of the horrors we'd witnessed: the fishers from Newfoundland told us of the incredible abundance of the oceans--raped and pillaged for 20 years until there are NO MORE FISH; cultural genocide; an

electrician from Edmonton told us of 5 new mills built so massive they need 485 truck loads of 70 tons each of trees per day to feed them. Canada is being skinned alive!

We heard awful stories of mutilation and corporate greed but we also held workshops on sustainable development. We learned of the humble hemp plant that can be used to make paper and cloth. We learned how to live more simply--how to make clothes and tools last; gardening techniques, composting and recycling. But mostly we learned that united, one by one, we will make a difference.

On and on we clickety-clacked across this land. We collected food and warmth and well-wishes at every stop. The people were incredible. We sang for freedom and our journey to defend those forests. Finally, arriving in Vancouver, travel-weary and dirty, we unpacked the train carrying food, signs, banners, cameras, clothes and babies. We had a rally with Native representatives at an autumn-coloured park. Off to our billets, a quick shower, then to "The Great Clayoquot Writers' Reading & Literary Auction", hosted by a beer-guzzling Pierre Burton. A dozen Canadian authors read and told stories. The auction raised over \$12,000 to help with fines and lawyers' fees of over 800 heroes who got arrested. Funds raised will also implement a "Who is the Real Criminal?" media campaign.

The next day we went on to Tofino by bus and ferry. We stopped at a prison holding our protestors and serenaded them for about an hour. Then to a 5-hour instruction session on the Direct Action Code of Peaceful Civil Disobedience. A man named John must be commended for cautioning the men that any aggressive action towards the loggers would make it worse, as it has always made it worse, for the women and children in the group.

We spent the afternoon touring the area. We went to the clear-cuts first. It was horrible, ugly, unbelievable--no green, no animals, no insects--huge stumps screaming in disbelief. No one could take it in. It was too brutal. Only Val, a long-time Friends of Clayoquot Sound activist, knew very well what she was seeing. She gently cried as she explained how only 6 of the 91 watersheds (salmon streams) are remaining on Vancouver Island. We just couldn't take it in.

We hiked a nature trail that wound carefully through a "working forest." Again we were silent. It was beautiful, breath-taking, wonderous--thousands of different trees, plants, ivys, mosses, lichens, birds and bugs, all depending on each other. It felt to me that the forest was waiting--the forest was afraid. I felt it. Artemis, Demeter, Athena, help us! We must protect this magnificence.

The blockade! 4:00 a.m.--dark and cold. 287 people gathered to stop MacBlo with their bodies--peaceful resistance against the multi-nationals, the new feudal lords. Elizabeth May, Director of the Sierra Club of Canada, placed MacMillan Bloedel and the B.C. government on notice that the environmental devastation in Clayoquot Sound was being documented by the International Centre for the Documentation of Crimes Against the Biosphere. Then the arrests began: 17 women, children and men were carried away by the police, accompanied by catcalls and put-downs from the loggers. But we love you--the arrested ones are our heroes. It was so emotional--we were all crying and hugging each other. Once the road was cleared, the mammoth trucks rolled by. We wept with shame.

And then? Nothing. Anti-climax. With the sun coming up, we were exhausted. We exchanged addresses and promised to never forget. Back to our lives, forever changed, never able to be complacent again. We'll get a little rest and...keep on fighting.

Carol Popiel is a MACSW Rebel who went on the Clayoquot Express, Nov. 5-12. To protest clearcutting on the west coast of Vancouver Island, write Premier Harcourt, Legislative Buildings, Victoria, B.C., V8V 1X4 or phone 1-800-663-7867.

STOP the MONEY JUNKIES, DON'T LET NAFTA SHAFTYA!!

Please write, phone or fax Prime Minister Jean Chretien and the following M.P.'s to ask them NOT to proclaim NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement). It is urgent that they receive this message as soon as possible.

| Priority List | Tel. | Fax |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| Prime Minister Jean Chretien | 613 992-4211 | 613 941-6900 |
| Sheila Copps, Minister of the Environment | 819 997-1441 | 819 953-3457 |
| Anne McClellan Minister of Natural Resources | 613 996-2007 | 613 996-4516 |
| Roy MacLaren Minister of Trade | 613 992-7332 | 613 996-8924 |

Your local M.P.

Postage is not required for letters sent to the House of Commons, Ottawa, ON, K1A 0A6.

Here is a sample letter from the Action Canada Network, of which NAC is a member:

We urge you NOT to enact NAFTA until you have successfully renegotiated an agreement which receives widespread public support. In the Liberal Plan you pledge to close the "wide gap between Canada's international rhetoric on sustainable development and its actual domestic policies," and to pursue "balanced policies for jobs and growth."

You have pledged to renegotiate the FTA and NAFTA to obtain:

- a subsidies code;
- an anti-dumping code;
- a more effective dispute resolution mechanism;
- the same energy protection as Mexico; and
- a review of the labour and environmental side agreements (which we feel are inadequate in addressing concerns of workers and the environment).

We also call on you to:

- renegotiate the intellectual property provisions which outlaw compulsory licensing of pharmaceuticals;
- obtain agreement that any instrument used by Canadian governments to prohibit the export of water be exempt from FTA and NAFTA provisions;
- obtain agreement that NAFTA will not nullify, impair or take precedence over any Aboriginal rights, treaties or special development initiatives needed by Aboriginal peoples in all three countries; and
- guarantee protection of all Canada's non-renewable energy resources by maintaining the right to enforce export quotas and taxes.

Signed: _____
Name: _____
Address: _____

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House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6



MY NIAGARA

Re*VISIONS film My Niagara by Helen Lee

Re*VISIONS, Women's Film & Video Festival: Seeing Ourselves on Screen

Tracey Lavis

On October 29, internationally acclaimed director Anne Wheeler opened re*VISIONS, The Winnipeg Women's Film and Video Festival. She then delivered an inspiring message to the next generation of women filmmakers, and extended her praise and encouragement to the women who have enhanced the world of film and video through their creative talents and determination. Wheeler's uplifting speech undoubtedly set the mood for the festival, which received glowing reviews.

The ten-day festival included 94 films and videos, a panel of media representatives, producers, and filmmakers discussing the issue of self-censorship, and workshops conducted by renowned director and sound recordist Aerlyn Weissman. Laura Michalchyshyn (festival coordinator),

the planning committee, and volunteers worked strenuously and devotedly for months (often with fingers crossed) to bring this ambitious first-time undertaking to the screen at Cinematheque in the Artspace Building.

Specific evenings were devoted to works by women from Video Pool, the Winnipeg Film Group, and Aboriginal groups. There were two retrospective screenings -- one devoted to works by Manitoba women and the other to Aerlyn Weissman. Opening night featured Canadian premieres, and the festival finale was Sally Potter's visually stunning film adaptation of Virginia Woolf's novel *Orlando*.

Re*VISIONS films and videos reflected a diverse range of experiences and cultural backgrounds as well as a vast array of styles and techniques incorporating drama, documentary, and animation. The following were a few of the highlights:

Lisa Graves' video *Unfolding Posture*, shot completely under water and accompanied by the sound of rhythmic breathing, explored the

movement and expression of the female body.

Valerie Bulhagiar's first film effort, *The Passion of Rita Camilleri*, examined death and mourning through the eyes of a child, a comical turn on a child's observations of adult behaviour.

For Angela, directed by Nancy Trites Botkins and Dan Proudly, was an emotionally compelling true story about an Aboriginal woman's struggle, for herself and her daughter, to combat bigotry and stereotypes.

Other films, such as Bonnie Dickie's *A Web Not A Ladder* and Janis Cole and Holly Dale's *Calling the Shots*, looked at women's tenacity and competency in business and in the male-dominated industry of filmmaking. The women featured in these films battled against sexism, racism, and financial constraints to make their marks in their respective fields.

Most of the screenings hosted sell-out crowds, and turnout to the Aboriginal Night was so great that a repeat matinee screening was necessary.

The panel discussion, *Self Censorship: Why Does It Happen?*, brought together filmmakers, producers, journalists, and members of the general public for a lively and informative debate about a contentious issue that is influential in women's choices of creative expression.

Two workshops conducted by Aerlyn Weissman (co-director, *A Winter Tan* and *Forbidden Love*) gave filmmakers and non-filmmakers alike a unique opportunity to meet with an established director and share her insight and experiences as a filmmaker over two decades.

If you were unable to attend the festival, don't worry -- the response from the public, arts groups, sponsors, and the media was so overwhelming that re*VISIONS will likely become an annual event.

Review of The Bat Had Blue Eyes by Betsy Warland

Katherine Martens

Visceral anger that comes out in body symptoms, physical and emotional reactions is traced to its source in this new collection of poetry read by Betsy Warland recently at Bold Print. Words are all we have yet they can not bridge the gap between the child's experience, often remembered only in images, smells, and sounds, and the adults' attempt to communicate that experience. They are "words to remember what we had no words for."

As I listened to Betsy reading I thought I was listening to prose. It was only after I opened the book and saw the shape of poetry on the page that I realized I had agreed to review a book of poetry! The ear does not see what the eye sees. While I am taking about the senses, the soft, smooth matte finish of the cover of **The Bat Had Blue Eyes**, illustrated by Yolanda Dyck, invites my hand to slide across it again and again.

The description of the girl's successful attempt to kill the spider in her bed evokes the revulsion of a child's first encounter with death by her own hand. The little cries of the bat that was stunned but that is still alive form a metaphor for the cries of other life forms buried before their time. The square poetry photo of the young girl in solidarity with her grandmother is a welcome relief after these scenes of revulsion.

One of the many small deaths of family living is described by the spare lines telling how the ring she inherited from her grandmother, but which was confiscated and worn by her mother, was lost:

o luminous ring o disk o halo
down the drain
 after supper
my mother cleaning up
food scraps
running water
flick of the switch ---
i can still hear that sound
 metal mashing metal

Warland discovers the paradoxical truth from Buddhist writing that our enemy can become "an excellent spiritual guide." Is Christ's admonition to love your enemies, in the sense that we learn best from those who sorely try us, the same idea? What we least want to see is what our enemy forces us to face, until we learn the lesson.

I am fortunate to have heard Betsy Warland read. To hear the voice of a survivor, one who has survived by excavating herself out of a grave to return to life, using words to describe the process, is to feel hope. One of the fascinating ways in which the survivor's memory is triggered is her mother's ongoing paranoia. The poet's leap of imagination makes the connection between the loss of innocence of the child and the perception that strangers are stealing her precious possessions from her in the present.

Though Warland questions words which can "mean different things in different mouths / amenable to anyone who calls their name / willingly at the service of truth or lies", she dares to write about "memories many of us have fiercely repressed" with passion and integrity.

The Bat Had Blue Eyes, by Betsy Warland, Women's Press, 1993, is available from Bold Print Bookstore in Wpg., ph. 452-9682.

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Announcements

Dec. 1-4, **Sensible Footwear**, Comedic Feminist Terrorists, Gas Station Theatre, 8 p.m., \$12.75/\$10.75, ph. 284-2757.

Dec. 1-5, **Man on the Moon, Woman on the Pill**, a one woman show written & performed by Christine Taylor, \$9.99, Theatre with Bite, Prairie Theatre Exchange, 3rd fl., Portage Place, Wpg., ph. 942-5483.

Dec. 4, 1 p.m., **The Aboriginal Health & Wellness Centre** invites you to a **Community Gathering on Managing Our Health**, Aboriginal Centre, 181 Higgins Ave., Wpg., Sharing sessions on holistic health solutions: mental, emotional, spiritual & physical; 5 p.m.: feast, 7 p.m.: pow-wow, FREE, ph. Sandy or Josie at 957-5353.

Dec. 5, 6-10 p.m., **Immigrant Women's Association of Manitoba (Thompson Chapter)** hosts "A Holiday Celebration", Rotary Place, Thompson.

Dec. 7, 8 p.m., **Lori Freedman, Bass Clarinetist** performs Peter Hannan's new work **Earth** along with music by Xennakis, Vaughan Williams, Francaix & more, Westminster Church, Wpg., \$21/\$19/\$12/\$8 for students, ph. 780-3333 (Ticketmaster) Presented by Manitoba Chamber Orchestra.

Dec. 10, **Aboriginal Peoples: The Untapped Workforce Conference**, sponsored by CLEA, Norwood Hotel, 112 Marion St., Wpg., \$32.10, Ph. 943-2382.

Dec. 12, 5 p.m. **Pre-Christmas/Solstice Party for Networking For Womyn**, a Winnipeg Lesbian Womyn's Group. Make something small to place under the tree. Ms. Santa will give gifts to children (phone ahead so she brings enough gifts) Hot chocolate, photos with Santa, womyn friends of NFW are welcome. Fort Garry Women's Resource Centre, 1910 Pembina Hwy., Southwood Mall, Wpg., ph. 452-8844.

Dec. 12, 6 p.m., **Vegetarian Supper** hosted by the **Manitoba Animal Rights Coalition**, 234 Parkview St. (St. James United Church), Wpg., \$10 (at door or ph. 477-6203)

Dec. 13, 7:30 p.m., **Huron Carol Benefit Concert**, in aid of the Winnipeg Harvest Food Bank, Winnipeg Centennial Concert Hall, Host: Graham Greene, Performers: Tom Jackson, The Wyrd Sisters, Bramwell Tovey, Jennifer Hanson & Larry Roy, \$12, ph. 780-3333 to charge by

phone. Bring a dry goods donation.

Dec. 16, **Bold Print's Annual Midnight Madness Sale** - up to 50% off, 5-12 p.m., 478 River Ave., Wpg.

Dec. 17, **Northern Women's Development Network Mtg.**, 4 p.m., TACSW office, Thompson, ph.778-8549.

Dec. 23, **Brandon Folk Music & Art Festival Christmas Cheer Social**, 9 p.m., Park Community Centre, 15th St. & Louise Ave., bring non-perishable food items for Christmas Cheer.

Jan. 3, 4 p.m., **Northern Women's Development Network Mtg.**, TACSW office, Thompson, ph. 778-8549.

Jan. 23, 3 p.m., **Lesbian Content Movie Matinee** (title TBA at a later date), brought to you by Networking For Womyn, held at Fort Garry Women's Resource Centre, 1910 Pembina Hwy., Southwood Mall, for info ph. 452-8844.

Jan. 25-27, tentative dates for **Community Meetings on the Alternative Civic Budget**, Broadway Community Centre, Elmwood Community Centre & the Aboriginal Centre (one evening at each centre), ph. CHOICES to give your input for a fairer city budget, 944-9408.

Jan. 29, **Ani DiFranco in concert**, West End Cultural Centre, Wpg., ph. 783-6918.

Herizons is now available for sale at the MACSW Winnipeg office (\$5.35 each, \$2.00 goes towards MACSW).

Yoga class wanted! Phone Clare at 774-2363.

Wanted: **Community/cooperative household**-phone Suzy at 775-5795.

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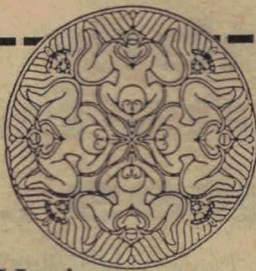
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Make cheques payable to MACSW and send this form to:

MACSW Winnipeg Branch
702-70 Aruthur St.
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 1G7

I'm interested in getting involved with the following issues: (please check)

ISSUES

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <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 type="checkbox"/> Lesbian Issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <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 | |

NEAREST MACSW BRANCH

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> WINNIPEG 702-70 Arthur St. Winnipeg, MB R3B 1G7 946-5049 946-5051 | <input type="checkbox"/> BRANDON 202-107-7th St. Brandon, MB R7A 3S5 725-2955 | <input type="checkbox"/> PARKLAND STATUS OF WOMEN 8 Memorial Blvd. Mail: Box 23 Dauphin, MB R7N 2T9 638-3599 | <input type="checkbox"/> THOMPSON Box 722 Thompson, R8N 1N5 778-8549 |
|---|---|---|--|



Calendar of Events - December/January

December 6th Happens Every 6 Minutes...

"In Canada, an act of male violence against women occurs every six minutes."
KURT LUCAS, "Blow the Whistle on Violence"
MAGAZINE, JULY 30, 1990, p. 34

- December 5 Book Launch of DI Brandt's "Wild Mother Dancing: Maternal Narrative in Canadian Literature", a collection of motherstories previously ignored or silenced, Bold Print, 478 River Ave., Wpg., 2 p.m.
- 6 Remembrance of the Montreal Massacre, noon, Knowles-Douglas Students' Union Centre, Brandon Univ.
- 6 Thompson Vigil, noon, Plaza Parking (facing Professional Bldg.), bring a friend and a candle. Women's Circle, 6:30 p.m., YWCA Dining Room.
- 6 Dauphin Memorial Vigil, 5:30 p.m., meet at Courthouse, return to office for film, bring bag lunch.
- 6 Winnipeg Vigil, 7 p.m., Legislature, bring candles, there will be short announcements and a procession to the Dec. 6th Memorial site.
- 7 Media Monitoring Committee, 6 p.m., MACSW Winnipeg office, 702-70 Arthur St.
- 7 International Women's Day planning meeting, 7 p.m., Downtown YM-YWCA, Mtg. Rm. C, Wpg.
- 8 Discussion on New Reproductive Technologies with film "On the Eighth Day: Making Perfect Bables". Speakers: Sari Tudiver & Madeline Bosco from the Women's Health Clinic, 7 p.m., UofW, Rm. 2M77 ph. 946-5053. Register by Dec. 7 for childcare & sign language interpretation. Focus will be on need for public hearings and making the Royal Commission's report accessible to women's groups.
- 9 Angel Tree begins at Dauphin Marketplace Mall. PSW Regular Meeting, 5:30 p.m. at PSW office. Carri's list brings food. Everyone remember plates & cutlery.
- 9 MACSW Winnipeg Branch Meeting, 6 p.m. at the University of Winnipeg, Rm. 2C16, phone 946-5049 to pre-register for child care.
- 10 Human Rights Day Vigil & Walk, 6 p.m., Brandon City Hall, 410-9th St., bring garbage bags to wear in remembrance of the disappeared, sponsored by Amnesty International.
- 13 Feminism & Goddess Spirituality, a presentation by Jennifer Howard, 7:30 p.m., Arts Faculty Lounge, Original Bldg., Brandon U., sponsored by Brandon U. Women's Organization.
- January 5 TACSW Monthly Mtg., 7 p.m., TACSW office.
- 12 Thompson Community Kitchen Committee Mtg., ph. Darlene at 778-8549.
- 13 PSW Regular Meeting, 5:30 p.m., PSW office, Carri's phone list brings food.
- 13 MACSW Winnipeg Branch Meeting, 6 p.m., University of Winnipeg, Rm. 2C16, phone 946-5049 to pre-register for child care.
- 19 TACSW Business Mtg., noon, ph. 778-8549.
- 21 I Survived Xmas Party, time & location TBA at Dec. 9 PSW Meeting, Dauphin.

