

Remember the Women

ACTION

MANITOBA ACTION COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN NEWSLETTER

November 1991

Volume 18 Number 9

Third killing caps deadly week

baseball bat early Saturday was on a court-ordered prohibition from carrying weapons for a previous assault charge. He was charged with Hamm's second-degree murder early Saturday.

Hamm, a married mother of two, was found dead with severe injuries to the head in the basement of the accused man's Portage home early Saturday morning.

Police said the two had been lovers.

On Thursday, 30-year-old Clara Jane Harper was stabbed to death in Winnipeg. Her common-law husband has been charged with second-degree murder.

The body of 19-year-old Marilyn Jensen was found on the banks of the Red River near Lockport early last Sunday after she was dragged from a Winnipeg hamburger restaurant by a man wielding a machete. Her former common-law husband has been charged with first-degree murder.

...a book on gender equality in the...
...should be increased while the grounds...
...should become more strict...
...well, she said Crown attorneys and judges...
...that it is not trivialized in the courtroom...
...Meanwhile, Portage la Prairie RCMP Staff...
...Sgt. Howard Kearley said the man accused of...
...killing 43-year-old Diana Marie Hamm with a

Slain mom's baby beacon in darkness

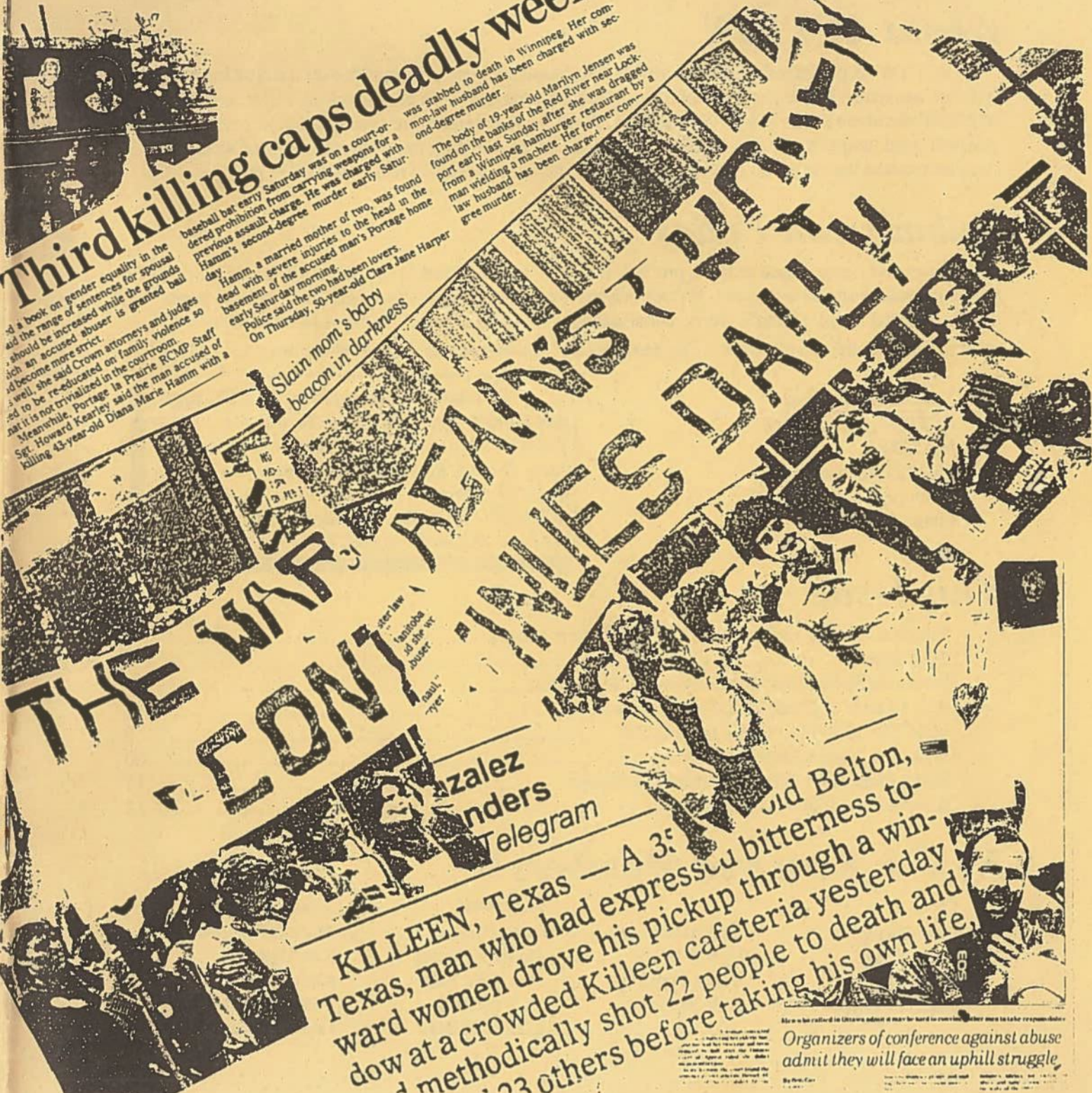
THE WIFE REMAINS THE ONLY WIVES DAILY

Belton's killers

Telegram

KILLEEN, Texas — A 35-year-old Belton, Texas, man who had expressed bitterness toward women drove his pickup through a window at a crowded Killeen cafeteria yesterday and methodically shot 22 people to death and 23 others before taking his own life.

Organizers of conference against abuse admit they will face an uphill struggle



About MACSW

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

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

About ACTION

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

Submission Policy

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

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

This issue brought to you by MACSW staff and Marion Foster, Marjorie Turton, Pat Sadowy, Doreen Wuckert, Amanda Le Rougetel, Jacie Skelton, Randa Stewart, Diane McGifford and Newsletter Co-ordinator Penni Mitchell. *ACTION* is available on audiotape. Call MACSW 453-3879 (Voice/TDD).

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New & Renewed Members!

New		Renewed	
Jettie Zwiep	Debra Doerksen	Leah Passler	Randa Stewart
Adele Kupp	Louise Leask	Debra Rosteski	Marion Robinsong
M. Nichol	Susan Cameron	Paddy St. Loe	Rae Tigg
Valerie Cottrill	Didi Stepanek	D. Vanstone	Kathi Callen
		Cheryl Farmer	Tesia Brooks
			Lottie Culham

EDITORIAL

How Global Economics is Starving Farmers

by Jacie Skelton

About 10,000 farmers brought the farm crisis to Portage & Main in Winnipeg last month. Jacie Skelton is a farmer and MACSW member who has been active in the National Farmers' Union.

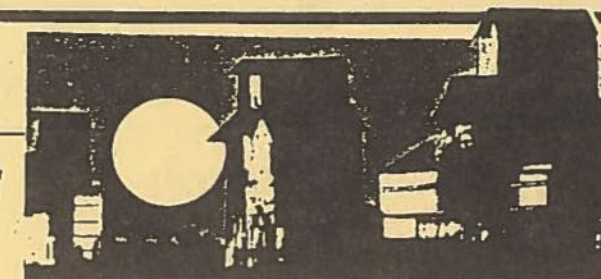
Farming is no longer a way of life or a way to earn a living. It has become a physical endurance test of gritting one's teeth long enough to go through the motions of getting the work done.

For many farm women, the necessity of an off-farm income means that they must find work in their community, often at minimum wage. This guarantees that food will be on the table and clothes will be on the children's backs. The other spouse, or the spouses jointly must take out an operating loan to finance yet another year's operations. Four, three, even two years ago, the operating loans were paid back (in the "good old days") and there was enough money left over for living expenses.

Now farm families borrow operating credit to put the crop in the ground. They find that this activates the normal workload with no "wage" return. They also face the distinct possibility of increasing their outstanding indebtedness (because low prices mean they don't have enough revenue to pay back all the money borrowed).

The farming crisis has become the rural community crisis. Rural areas are becoming more depopulated and are losing services and facilities. At the same time, small farms have been replaced by larger farming "units". Small communities have been amalgamated into larger farm "service centres" that are more distanced from their users. Small schools and hospitals have been amalgamated into larger schools and hospitals.

The farming crisis is more serious than just "hard times". These trends are actively being promoted by the big business mindset that is being written into our government's agriculture policy. If allowed to continue, this policy will continue to



wipe out the small business sector, including most Manitoba farms because we can't compete when the deck is stacked against us to begin with.

Government policies have dragged farmers into a dependency on the price setting of the world marketplace. Here's how it works: Canadian farmers sell grain into the export market, where there has been a grain price war going on for the last few years. The U.S. government and the European Economic Community have used their economic resources to promote export enhancement programs, which means that they have subsidized the corporate grain trade (Cargill, etc.) to move grain at cut rate prices into markets traditionally supplied by Canadian producers.

In order to keep its traditional markets, the Canadian Wheat Board has been forced to lower the price at which it sells our grain. Canadian farmers have had to endure the lower grain prices because the Canadian Government has been unwilling to ensure that producers are subsidized for their costs of production. In contrast, the American and EEC farmers are still being subsidized against the lower prices.

If you can imagine what it would be like to make your mortgage payments on the wage you made 16 years ago, you have an inkling of what is happening within each farm family today.

The initial price for wheat has been set by the Canadian Wheat Board at approximately \$2.00 per bushel for 1991. U.S. farmers get \$4.60. In dollar value the Canadian price is equivalent to the price 16 years ago, but as far as comparing purchasing power per bushel price, this is the lowest price that has ever been set on wheat in this country.

Women, who are usually the ones responsible for feeding their families, must tell their government that "bigger is destruction" and that Canadian farming can only be sustained when there is integrity and dignity for farm families. Participation in one's country, community or family farm is only enjoyable when people can see some future in their daily activities.

BRANCH REPORTS

Winnipeg Branch

by Andrea James
Administrative Coordinator

Well, it's a month of giving thanks! We were very busy in late September getting ready for the Annual General Meeting and the PCC meeting---preparing reports and budgets and whatnot. Jenny and I staffed a booth at the University of Winnipeg during Volunteer Recruitment Days, organized by the Volunteer Centre. We distributed brochures, sold some fundraising cards, talked to potential members, and networked with other groups.

In September, I attended the Take Back the Night March in Winnipeg, along with about 500 other women and their children who came out to reclaim the night and the streets.

Poonsap, a woman from the Appropriate Technology Association in Thailand came to the MACSW office to talk to us about women silk weavers and their efforts to maintain a viable way of life in their villages without having to support

LETTERS

Dear Editors:

Re: Take Back the Night - I object to the antagonism expressed to men taking part in the march. The men who have the courage to participate, walk *among* the women. If their intent was "escorts," they would be along the outer fringes providing a barrier between marching women and on-lookers.

It is patently unfair to automatically condemn all men for the stupidity of some. Such attitudes put us in the same category as men who hurt women.

Sincerely,
J.H. Kaminsky
Winnipeg



themselves through the sex trade. Our thanks to Barbara Johnson from CUSO for arranging the meeting. We also got together (on Thanksgiving Day) with Judy Rebick, the President of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women who was in town to speak at the national CUPE convention. We spent a very informative couple of hours discussing the new federal constitutional proposals (see Jenny's report on page 5 for more details), the overturning of the Rape Shield Law, violence against women, and NAC's new "52% Solution: The Women's Charter". Thanks, Judy, for coming to Manitoba early enough to see women's groups, and thank you, Sandra Delaronde (NAC Representative for Manitoba) for making arrangements.

The biggest THANK YOU must go to all those who contributed to the MACSW Winnipeg Branch Garage Sale, and to all who attended. We raised \$250!

I am attending an excellent series of workshops sponsored by the Professional Development Training Committee, called "Training for Success: A series of workshops designed for Non-Profit Organizations in the 1990's". The sessions are free, the facilitators are dynamic, and the information is highly useful. I commend the Co-ordinator, Maria Pacella, for providing a high-quality series at a price that non-profits can actually afford!

Finally, I'd like to extend a personal invitation to the November 13th get together organized by Doreen Wuckert for MACSW members and non-members who'd like to meet each other and find out more about Winnipeg events and issues. It should be a good evening, so bring a friend to the Winnipeg MACSW office and enjoy yourself! See you there.

FOR RENT OFFICE/RESIDENCE

586 Broadway Avenue, Winnipeg. 1,200 sq. ft. on the Main Floor of a 3-storey house, 7 parking stalls Rent \$700/mo. plus \$150/mo. Prop Tax. Call Kilborn Real Estate, 947-2452.



BRANCH REPORTS

Brandon

by Kathy Prendergast
Administrative Co-ordinator

An active month is up ahead, including Crime Prevention Week, Brandon Addictions Awareness Week, a public meeting on Women, Poverty and Organizing and a conference on Global Agricultural Issues which I plan to attend and set up a display/information table. Our Branch meeting will be on Tuesday, November 19th at 7:30 p.m. Please call me at the office (725-2955) for location and discussion topic. Check the Calendar of Events for information on the other events.

Thanks and kudos to all the women who helped to plan and organize the Take Back the Night March: Marion Robinsong, Carol McPhail, Debbie Kelman, Karen Lewthwaite, Maureen Marsh, Jan Chaboyer, Candice Bergstrom, Cyndi Hanson, Lei Ann Sharratt, Sharon Southam, Janet Smith, Janet Brady, Nancy McLennan, Mary Annis, Sheila Doig et al.

It was a wonderful event, as always. Approximately 80 people participated and the local media covered the event fairly well. Five women spoke at the rally and we succeeded in our goal of raising awareness and empowering that many more of our sisters to continue the struggle against violence, harassment and abuse. For those of you who missed it, we have a 20-minute video of the rally and march that was made by Access 12. The tape is available in the office.

We put in the required amount of energy and good humour to host the Annual General Meeting on September 28th and the Provincial Coordinating Committee Meeting on September 29th. The AGM was well attended (quorum was reached!). Thanks to all the members from Brandon and elsewhere who took the time to attend.

The meeting was followed with a fantastic "unwinder" at Sheila Doig's place, the unofficial MACSW party headquarters. Thanks to Sheila, Gwen Trip and Nancy McLellan for providing the musical entertainment. We all enjoyed the opportunity to meet with women from other parts of the

province, and to finally put some faces to those voices on the phone! Special thanks also to Cyndi Hanson and Joyce Farrough, who provided the delicious food at both meetings---an essential part of any productive meeting.

We are continuing to sit on the Coalition for Responsible Health Policy, the group formed to prevent the takeover of the Brandon General Hospital Board by anti-abortion groups. The hospital board decided at its September meeting not to accept the recommendation by anti-abortion members that it ban abortions at the hospital.

The Coalition is now looking at the long-term goal of having the hospital's status changed from private to public, so that it will be incorporated under the Manitoba Health Care Act (rather than the Corporations Act). Brandon General and the Dauphin General Hospital are the only publicly funded hospitals in Manitoba that are not accountable to the taxpayers who fund them; obviously this has to change. However, it could take two years or more to achieve this goal. In the meantime, the struggle to prevent a board takeover will unfortunately remain a "numbers game." Women (and men) who support a woman's right to choose abortion must take out hospital memberships (\$30 for a lifetime membership) in time to vote at the next hospital AGM in June 1992. The Coalition will be meeting again in January to plan strategies for a membership drive. Call me at the office (725-2955) if you want to get involved.



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BRANCH REPORTS

Parkland

by Heather Dootoff
Administrative Coordinator

Once again I sit down to write the Parkland Report because I forgot to ask for volunteers at the last meeting. Parkland members, I know you're reading this—please remind me next time, OK?

The Take Back the Night March and Vigil was a great success. Forty people attended. This was the first Take Back the Night march to be held in Dauphin but it won't be the last. As a follow up to the March we had four guest speakers following our regular meeting on October 10th. The presentation focused on "Violence Against Women - Nationally, Provincially, Locally." Presenters were Cathy Sherman and Therese Koturbash, Legal Aid; Dr. Karen Juce, and Francis Spence, Parkland Crisis Centre. The information covered a variety of issues and perspectives. This excellent presentation was appreciated by all present. It acknowledged the gains made, yet left us very aware of the changes still to be made. Once again we had a good turnout for our monthly meeting (12 members) with some additional people for the presentation.

Vigils were held last month for Carla and James Caldwell, two children murdered in Winnipeg, as well as Marilyn Jensen, Diana Hamm and Clara Harper, whose ex-common law husbands have been charged in connection with their murders.

The play "Everybody's Business" will be seen at the Dauphin Regional Comprehensive Secondary School on November 12th. The audience will be a combination of grade 10 students from the Dauphin school and students from other schools and programs in the region. About 300 people are expected for the show.

Parkland Status of Women are undertaking a fundraising campaign. If you are interested in a copy of Herstory 1992: The Canadian Women's Calendar, please send us a cheque for \$9.95 plus \$.70 G.S.T. to Parkland Status of Women, Box 23 Dauphin, Manitoba R7N 2T9. We will accept orders by mail until November 15.

Thompson

by Leah Passler (with help from Jean Snow and Debra McVittie)

Snow for Thanksgiving! Contrary to what you may have heard, Thompson is not perfect!

The Thompson Branch now has a new staff person!!! Debra McVittie is now taking care of business in Thompson. Debra is bringing a number of fresh new ideas to the group so keep your eyes open for new things ... I can see the Thompson Action Committee's visibility is going to be on an upswing this winter.

The Thompson office will now be open: Monday to Friday, 1-5 p.m. Call Debra during those hours if you need anything or just want to hear our new voice. I'm sure Debra would welcome visitors so she can see the faces that belong to the members... drop by the office to introduce yourself.

The women of Thompson rallied together to Take Back The Night on Friday, September 20. Jean Snow acted as the emcee with speakers Mary Armstrong from the Thompson Crisis Centre and Joanne Lundie from the Northern Nursing Program. The women in attendance were given information about the Rape Shield decision and were encouraged to write letters to Ottawa to voice their protest. About 25 women and children hit the streets --- marching through Thompson, chanting and singing to protest violence against women the ongoing crisis in our world.

Our members will be meeting for another video night this month --- a chance for us to meet on a regular basis to discuss something other than business!

Finally, I'm sad to note that we're about to lose a very active and vibrant member. Jean Snow will be moving to Winnipeg with her family and we are going to miss her. We recently said good-bye to Rhonda Barr and both of these women were extremely active within our branch. We will miss them as volunteers and those of us who worked closely with them are also having to say good-bye to good friends ...as I said, for a few reasons, Thompson isn't always perfect.



CO-ORDINATORS' REPORTS

Provincial Coordinator

by Jenny Robinson

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the new staff person in Thompson, Debra McVittie.

The Constitution

Brush off your briefs. It's time for another round of country-wide constitutional discussions. On October 14, 1991 the Winnipeg Branch of MACSW hosted a meeting with Judy Rebick, the President of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women. Much of the discussion focused on the constitutional reform package released by the Mulroney government. We had time to discuss a few of the reforms:

Property Rights

What will it mean to have property rights entrenched in the constitution? According to Judy Rebick it may mean the eventual erosion of human rights. If a property owner has the constitutional right to do anything on or to the land owned, there could be essentially no protection for those who work or live on that property. This could affect everything from pay equity to Native land claims. It is a constitutional reform for those that *have*. Rebick called it "the constitutionalization of the Mulroney political agenda".

Council of the Federations

This will be a body of provincial appointments which will essentially have the power to approve or reject any new social program introduced to the House of Commons. In essence it will have power that the Senate now holds --sober second thought---except it will be made up of individuals appointed by the premiers of each province. It would change the process of decision-making in this country.

What does this mean for MACSW? It means we have our work cut out for us. The most recent rumour has the constitutional committee in Manitoba as early as the first week in November. We need to attend these hearings and speak up. If you don't have time to prepare a brief, then write a letter, a one paragraph statement, or just be there!

Rural Coordinator

by Sheila Doig

Shaping Canada's Future Together

"You can re-negotiate agreements, but a constitution is forever." Gwen Trip, a member of MACSW and the Westman Coalition for Equality Rights, says it best, and perhaps that is the basis for the Coalition coming together again to address the new Constitutional proposals.

Paula Mallea (have I ever been away?) has written an initial overview of the impact on equality rights---a good read---and available through the MACSW Brandon office. Mary Annis, Kady Denton, Paula and I were interviewed for CBC "24 Hours" and Paula's response to the document made the front page of the *Brandon Sun*.

The high point of our regular meetings had to be the *Sand Lake Accord*. Yes, 13 women in.



The Manitoba Action Committee on the Status of Women

BRANDON BRANCH

is looking for an
ADMINISTRATIVE CO-ORDINATOR

Qualifications: Strong administrative, communication, organizational and writing skills; understanding of and familiarity with the media; understanding of issues affecting women; understanding of political process and commitment to feminism. Previous experience with volunteer organizations would be an asset, but is not essential.

20 HOURS PER WEEK

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STARTING DATE: January 2, 1992

Please submit resume with cover letter to: Personal Committee, MACSW #202-107-7th St. Brandon, Manitoba R7A 3S5. For info call 725-2955.

COORDINATORS' REPORTS



seclusion, behind closed doors, at Paula's hide-away on Thanksgiving Sunday deciding the issues the Coalition will address. Judy Rebeck, President of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women (NAC) and Sandra De-laronde, Vice-President of NAC, joined us for an afternoon of women learning, sharing and finding our common ground. Our appreciation for their coming will be out-distanced only by our memories.

Equality rights, property rights and "opting out" of future universal federal programs will be the issues. Paula and I went to the symposium *Conversations Among Friends: Women and Constitutional Reform* at the University of Alberta on October 25th & 26th. (See next ACTION for details). As we prepare for forthcoming hearings, we are reminded that Manitoba women were a national voice and rural women connected from one boundary to another on the Meech Lake Accord. We did it before and we will do it again.

You're Invited!

to come to a
**Manitoba Action
Committee on
the Status of Women
WINNIPEG BRANCH
Orientation Meeting**

**Wednesday, November 13, 1991
7:30 p.m. at the MACSW Office,
16-222 Osborne Street South,
(Behind Pasquale's Restaurant).**

The meeting is for new members, old members, or non-members who want more information about MACSW, want to meet other members or want to get more involved in feminist issues.

Refreshments will be served.

Interested in coming? Call Andrea James at the Winnipeg office at 453-3879 or call Doreen Wuckert evenings at 837-9613.

BOLD PRINT BOOK PARTY

Why not? Can you think of a better way to enjoy the explosion of women's writing and thought, enjoy each other's company and do some shopping, particularly with Christmas around the corner? Joan Turner, owner and manager of Bold Print women's bookstore in Winnipeg, made it happen. Helen Christofferson of Portage and a member of Equality in Education (EIE) had this book feast on October 23rd. Marg Whetter, Harney, and Lori Boyko of Birtle and friends had their book feasts on October 28th and 29th. If you weren't there, drop into her store sometime and you'll have an idea of possibilities for a party in your area.

Fall agendas soon jam up. This year, the *Manitoba Farm Women's Conference* is in Brandon November 5-7th and much time is spent working the MACSW display. Last year, 1,760 pamphlets were picked up by approximately 330 participants --- quite a recognition of MACSW Brandon's range of information available at our Westman Women's Resource Centre.

Other events I attended in October included: *Elderly at Risk* -conference in Winnipeg; *Ecofeminsm: A Look at How We Relate Ecologically to the World*; *Women Business Owners of Manitoba*, Brandon Branch was launched at a meeting on October 9th at the Royal Oak Inn. Contact Tanis Orzynski of Computan Secretarial Services in Brandon 726-0833 if you want to join.

Catholic Women's League at base Shilo asked me to come out October 6th to speak to them about MACSW, our activities and what was happening around the women's movement and how they could participate. They shared the isolation of army life and it was sobering and revealing, but as always, we found ways to connect.

I also attended the *Prairie Forum on Self-Employment* workshop given by Dr. Donald Littrell, Associate Professor of Community Development at the University of Missouri on leadership skills and group motivation techniques. It was excellent --- my professional development for this year.

Millie Lamb Honored at Evening Gala

by Penni Mitchell

Saturday, September 28, 1991 saw about 300 leftists, feminists, and friends and family of Millie Lamb packed into the Ukrainian Labour Temple in North End Winnipeg to pay tribute to a woman whose influence has been felt in almost every social movement in Winnipeg over the past 40 years.

Millie Lamb, one of the founding members of MACSW, founder of the Nellie McClung Theatre, long-time political activist and communist, is 77 years old. She was also a co-founder of the Voice of Women and has more recently been involved in the issue of elder abuse.

Tribute organizer Loa Henry said she and others had been talking for a long time about doing a tribute to Millie. Finally, she said, "We just decided to do it.

"We were hoping for a feeling of community and we got more than that. It gave everybody an uplifting feeling," she said.

Highlights of the three-hour tribute included a presentation by long-time friend and poet Dorothy Livesay and a rousing rendition by former Communist Party of Manitoba leader Paula



Fletcher of "Ain't I a Woman!". Most of the entertainment featured performers and singers performing material written by Millie over the years that reflected her concerns about peace, women's rights and Central American issues.

Millie moved to Winnipeg with her husband as a young married woman and had two children, Laura and Peter. Millie's response to the tribute? Says Loa: "She was absolutely overwhelmed."

Westman Shelter Develops Anti-abuse curriculum for Junior High Schools

The Westman Women's Shelter has developed a pilot educational program on family violence for Manitoba schools, with a grant from the Department of Education. "Relationship Violence Curriculum" has now been field-tested in three junior high schools in the Westman area. Feedback from pilot teachers has been very positive and revisions are currently being made. Women working at the shelter hopes that the program will be widely used in the school system in Manitoba within the next few years.

The Westman Shelter, which provides shelter and counselling services to women in the Westman area is experiencing an increase in the

number of clients accessing their non-residential services, an indication that women are reaching out for help before they are in a crisis state. This is a good sign, according to the shelter staff, because women are in a better position to make informed choices about their future with less disruption to the family. As well, the individual and group counselling programs empower women to begin the healing process that leads to improved self-worth and to the development of confidence needed to make healthy choices for themselves and their children.

Donations of goods, services and money are greatly appreciated. Call the shelter at 727-3644.

AGM leads to Clear Vision on Constitution

by Penni Mitchell

After a lengthy debate over constitutional reform members at the MACSW AGM (continued) in Brandon, defeated an amendment which would have seen branch autonomy entrenched in MACSW's constitution.

Instead, it was agreed by the 35 members at the September 28th meeting that the constitution should be a framework only and not be too specific. While MACSW branches operate somewhat independently now, the Provincial Co-ordinating Committee (the overall decision-making body for the organization) will be maintained as a strong provincial body. The proposed constitutional amendments were developed by previous Provincial Co-ordinating Committee members who felt that since the PCC was unable to meet often, it should prioritize administrative matters, and leave political action up to each branch. While it was recognized that this happens informally

now, it was not believed to be a good idea to entrench a decentralized organization into the constitution.

Delegates voted to ensure the representation of at least two northern and two rural representatives on the Provincial Co-ordinating Committee in addition to 2 delegates from each branch, staff and representatives from PCC subcommittees. All Provincial Co-ordinating Committee members will still be elected at the annual meeting.

Although the number of required Provincial Co-ordinating Committee meetings was reduced from four to two times per year, it is hoped that a reduced Committee will be able to meet more often.

Other amendments that were defeated included: a recommendation that the Provincial Co-ordinator be given authority within the constitution to resolve disputes; and a recommendation to delete the requirement that members of standing committees be selected from and by the entire Provincial Coordinating Committee at its first meeting.

After an hour and a half long debate about MACSW's current and proposed structure, all remaining motions were decided unanimously. Most members felt that a strong yet flexible framework (the constitution) had been improved upon.

Members of the new Provincial Coordinating Committee for 1991/92 include the six part-time MACSW staff and:

Mary Annis (Brandon);
Kathi Callan (Dauphin);
Val DeGelder (Brandon);
Judy Hughes (Flin Flon);
Cathy Kramer (Thompson);
Joanne Levasseur (Winnipeg);
Twillia MacDonald (Winnipeg);
Maureen Marsh (Brandon);
Leah Passler (Thompson);
Joanna Sargent (Thompson);
Jean Snow (Thompson);
Sharon Whitehurst-Garlinski (Dauphin);
Karen Prychitko -Treasurer (Winnipeg) and
Marion Pringle (Selkirk).

MACSW 101: Your Guide

by Andrea James

I've been a member of MACSW for several years and, you know, the longer I work here the more I realize how much I don't know.

I think it's time to recap the way MACSW works for those of you who are new members or who, like me, never quite got a feel for these things by reading the newsletter.

MACSW is first and foremost a non-hierarchical organization, which attempts to employ feminist process as its method of operation. There is no Board of Governors, no Executive Director, and no President/Chair/Grand Poobah.

Our governing body is the Provincial Co-ordinating Committee (PCC) which is composed of all staff members, all Branch representatives, a minimum of two members from the North, at least two from rural areas, and at least one more member from each branch area. In other words we strive to maintain our provincial focus.

Decisions which are made at the PCC level include financial, personnel, membership, and newsletter matters. In order to meet requirements of our funders, the Secretary of State's Women's Program, we vote on all financial matters. However, in keeping with our goal of operating

***There is no Board of
Governors, no Executive
Director, and no President/
Chair/Grand Poobah.***

through feminist process, we try to use the consensus model of conflict resolution in all other areas. This is often a lengthy process, but if consensus is reached it means that all PCC members are able to live with the decision (whether in absolute agreement or not). It is definitely a radical and alternative method of decision making, and one that we feel empowers everyone.

Provincially, there are six permanent MACSW employees; an Administrative Co-ordinator for each branch, a Rural Co-ordinator (based out of Brandon), and a Provincial Co-ordinator (based out of Winnipeg). We all work approximately half-time, hence the reason many



of you get answering machines when you call. We all do our best to run the offices, answer media and public requests for information, coordinate events, provide women with referrals and advocacy, and beg members to volunteer more of their valuable time. Ultimately, this is *your* organization. Branch meetings are held monthly (generally) with the idea that members can gather to organize around issues, make decisions about a direction they want their branch to take, socialize with other feminists, and share tasks. There is a never-ending amount of work to be done and the support of other women always helps the spirit.

I hope this refresher course helps, and I would like to encourage you to call your nearest branch if there are other questions or concerns you have about MACSW.

NOVEMBER 1, 1991

has been declared
Fearless Friday

as part of Eating Disorder Awareness Week in Canada --- to draw attention to the relationship between body image dissatisfaction, dieting, and eating disorders. Dieters are encouraged to eat what they want without feeling guilty or fearing weight gain! For info. call Women's Health Clinic, 947-1517.

**The Manitoba Warehouse
Theatre presents:**

Good Night Desdemona
(*Good morning Juliet*)

NOVEMBER 6TH TO 23RD

A feminist play by Ann-Marie
MacDonald, from Shakespeare's Romeo
& Juliet and Othello

TICKETS: \$12 Students
Regular: \$17-20
Group rates available

For information call the Box Office at 942-6537

PUBLIC MEETING IN BRANDON

"Women, Poverty and Organizing"

Tuesday, November 12, 1991,
7:30 p.m.

Film: *No Way! Not Me*, an NFB film about the feminization of poverty in Canada.

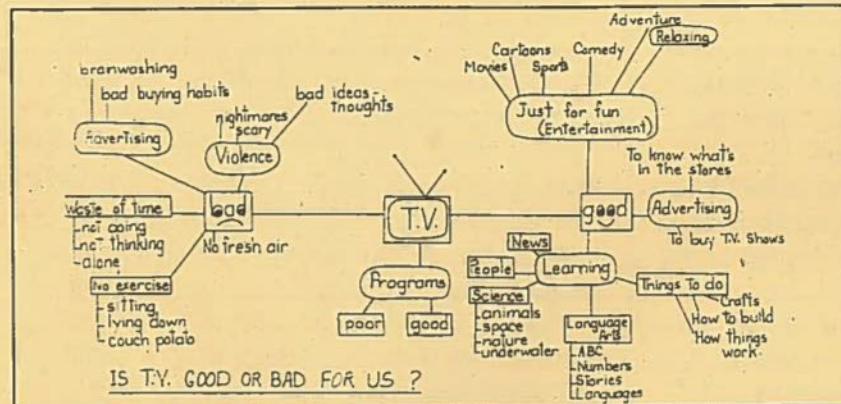
Speaker: Vilma Castillo, a journalist / social worker/activist involved with women's groups and community development in Nicaragua.

Location: Helping Hands Centre,
Lorne & 9th

All welcome: please bring a food donation for Helping Hands Centre.
Co-sponsored by MACSW Brandon Branch, CUSO, the Marquis Project and People to People. For more information, call 725-2955.

What are Your Kids Watching?

Critical TV Viewing Skills for Children



The following information is excerpted from a workshop given by Doreen Wuckert, a teacher at Royal Elementary School in Winnipeg, to the 1991 Manitoba S.A.G. Teachers' Conference. While it has been developed for teachers, the model can be modified so that parents can use it at home.

by Doreen Wuckert

Television often exposes children to images and behaviors that they do not have the maturity or information to cope with. In order to help children to be less vulnerable to poor TV programs and commercialism, parents and teachers can help them become critical, thoughtful and active TV viewers.

The aims of my workshop are to help kids:

- i) develop their own criteria and sense for quality programs;
- ii) develop a healthy skepticism when watching television;
- iii) recognize and eliminate sex-role stereotyping.

1. I begin by encouraging students to begin by discussing the good and bad things about TV and I write down their responses for them to see. Often they will find more positive than negative things (see example above) and I don't discourage this. Students may conclude that TV can be good if we can avoid some of the negative things.

2. Students then look at the weekly TV Guide and rate shows for children using criteria they created themselves as a group. I write these down too. The more "good" criteria a show has, the higher its rating. I play the role of interpreter or facilitator in order not to judge or influence children's opinions. This helps students develop their own sense of criteria.

3. I then get students to discuss what is "real" and what is "not real" on TV. This gives them more information and develops a critical analysis of programming.

COMMERCIALS

You can watch taped commercials to pick out influences that commercials use to sell products. For example:

1. Commercials use repetitive words like "good", "yummy", "better" and "new" while repeating the product name. Ask students to discuss.
2. Commercials expect boys and

girls to buy different toys. Discuss how cars, trucks, computer games or fighting games are targeted to boys. Observe language too. Are words like "power" and "control" used in commercials targeted to boys? Watch for words like "cute" or "cuddly" used in commercials targeting girls. Discuss the impact of segregating toys, activities, and values based on sex.

3. Discuss how commercials exaggerate. Experiment with products like cereals, kleenex and toilet tissues that claim their products are better, stronger, new and improved. We found no significant differences when comparing products.

4. Observe subtleties used by commercials to trick viewers. One student said a commercial claimed a cereal was a "good nutritious breakfast." The students knew the cereal was full of sugar, so we rewound the tape and listened again. It said the cereal was "part of a good nutritious breakfast."

By the end of the program, students: begin to notice more words and phrases that are exaggerations; elaborate more on why they like or dislike programs; become aware of how some TV programs and commercials encourage stereotyped roles; and become more skeptical of programs and commercials' claims.

Doreen Wuckert is available to do workshops for parents', women's or teachers' groups. Interested? Call her evenings at 837-9613.

Seeds Planted for Women's Memorial Garden

by Diane McGifford

Following the murders of 14 women at L'Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal two years ago, a group of Winnipeg women established the December 6th Women's Memorial Committee. We first came together in shock and grief, and stayed together to work for change. As our work progressed, we began to understand December 6th as a painful landmark in the history of Canadian women. We understood, as well, that the murders were blatant manifestations of male violence that is most often directed against women. As we considered the massacre of December 6th, we moved from Montreal, full circle, back to Manitoba where the reality of violence against women continues.

We decided to create a memorial garden in Manitoba in a place of remembrance and dignity. Memorial Park was the obvious choice. The provincial government has approved the north-west section Memorial Park as the site of the Manitoba Women's Memorial Grove.

By setting aside a place in Memorial Park

where women are honoured, Manitobans will publicly acknowledge that they value women's lives and rights and that they are committed to a fair and just society---one that is non-violent.

The estimated cost of the Manitoba Women's Memorial Grove will be approximately \$65,000, 10% of which will be reserved to cover maintenance and vandalism. We have obtained a charitable tax donation number and will send receipts to everyone making a contribution.

We are asking all Manitobans to support our Memorial Garden and we are asking those who can to make financial contributions. We have recently embarked on a corporate fundraising plan to raise money for the garden. Now we're looking for volunteers to work on the phones, stuff envelopes and help organize activities.

If you have time or energy to contribute, contact Diane McGifford at 477-4498. Donations should be made payable to: The December 6th Women's Memorial Committee, Sherbrook-Westminster P.O. Box 26033, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 2B0.

Bold Print Bestsellers' List

September 1991

Non-fiction

1. *The Ship That Sailed Into the Livingroom*, Sonia Johnson
2. *The New Our Bodies, Ourselves* Boston women's Health Collective
3. *Sexual Democracy* Ann Ferguson
4. *Don't: A Woman's Word* Elly Danica
5. *Understanding Wife Assault* Deborah Sinclair
6. *Ghosts In the Bedroom* Ken Graber
7. *Allies In Healing* Laura Davis
8. *The Courage to Heal Workbook* Laura Davis
9. *The Beauty Myth* Naomi Wolf
10. *Feminism and the Power of Law* Carol Smart

Fiction

1. *In Search of April Raintree* Beatrice Culleton
2. *Joy Luck Club* Amy Tan
3. *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit* Jeanette Winterson
4. *The Education of Harriet Hatfield* May Sarton
5. *Among Sisters* Susan Cahill, ed.
6. *Tales From the Planet Sylvia* Nicole Hollander
7. *Firebrand* Marion Zimmer Bradley
8. *A Hot-Eyed Moderate* Jane Rule
9. *Nobody* Meguido Zola and Angerla Dereume
10. *Light* Eva Figes

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EQUALITY: A Conference on Rights, Responsibilities and Remedies, Community Legal Education Association's 3rd Annual Human Rights Conference, **Tuesday December 10, 1991**, Union Centre 275 Broadway in Winnipeg. Total Cost \$48.15 (including you-know-what). Includes sessions on aboriginal issues, women, people with disabilities and visible minority concerns. Call 943-2382.



The operation of this day care centre is financially impaired by the Province of Manitoba

BOGUS SIGNS You've read about CHOICES signs. Now you can own one or a complete set. Cost is \$5.00 for one or get a complete collectors' set for \$15.00. Sticky-backed and ready to be affixed on your favourite agency suffering from the provincial Tory axe. Call 957-7010 to place your orders!

CALL FOR PAPERS Sororal Publishing is seeking essays for a proposed women's studies/psychology text book, *Groundwork II*, to be edited by Chris Kolba, Box 2041, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 3R3. The book will focus on women's experiences in university: i.e. the denial of women's reality, women's experience and the under-representation of women in professional contributions to academe. Contributors will try to determine how women cope with this experience. **DEADLINE December 31, 1991.**

ACRE is a non-profit corporation of the Manitoba Government whose mandate is to improve the disposal of pesticide containers in the province. The funds from the \$1 per container disposal fee that's collected is used to hire contractors to remove containers from storage sites. For more information, contact ACRE at 945-5177 or call toll free (1-800-282-8069) and ask for ACRE.

WOMEN IN THE MEDIA National conference, Vancouver, **Friday November 8 and Saturday November 9, 1991.** Featuring Rosemary Brown, Judy Rebick, Kathleen Shannon. Fee \$100. Sponsored by the Canadian Association of Journalists. To register call real soon, (613) 788-7424.

"NELLIE McCLUNG" a one-woman show presented by Professor Randi Warne of St. Stephen's College, Edmonton. **Friday, November 15, 1991. 7:30-9:30 p.m.** Carman Collegiate, Carman, Manitoba. Admission \$5.00.



"COMING OUT!", Winnipeg's gay and lesbian television program, has a new airtime: **Fridays at 9:00 p.m.** Catch Channel 11 every week for news, interviews, and features from gays and lesbians in Manitoba and around the world!

HERSTORY Women's Calendars are being sold by Fort Garry Women's Resource Centre as a fundraiser. Weekly Calendar pages, phases of the moon, "year-at-a-glance" page markers important dates in Women's history and biographies of Canadian women. Call Glenda at 269-6836 or drop by at 1910 Pembina Hwy (Southwood Mall).

NON-VIOLENT CRISIS INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION A two-day workshop with Graham Vardy, **November 7-8th, 1991**, Winnipeg at the Union Centre, 275 Broadway, 9:00 - 3:30. To assist helping professionals respond to people in crisis. Participants will focus on personal awareness, effective verbal and non-verbal interventions and active disengaging skills; how to defuse levels of arousal, help the person regain rational control and work together in a problem-solving format. \$145. To register (416) 967-1773.

MANITOBA ACTION COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (that's right, MACSW!) is looking for volunteers. Is it time for you to become actively involved with a supportive group of women working to create positive change? MACSW needs volunteers to organize special events, provide public education and write briefs or start up a new subcommittee. What interests you? Call Andrea James at MACSW, 453-3879 or come to the new members' night on Wednesday, November 13, 1991.

1992 I.W.D. VIDEO FESTIVAL CALL FOR TAPES The 8th Annual International Women's Day Video Festival in Cambridge invites women to submit videotapes that explore the theme: Women and Discovery. The Festival will take place on March 8, 1992 as a 5-hour cablecast in the Boston area. **Deadline is January 1, 1992.** Contact I.W.D. Video Festival, P.O. Box 390438, Cambridge, MA. 02239. U.S.A.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

November

- 1** **Crime Prevention Month Conference** at the Marlborough Inn, Winnipeg. Theme "Crime Prevention - An integrated Approach." 9:30 - 4:30 \$75 includes breakfast, lunch and all seminar activities. Topics feature Family Violence (child, wife and elder abuse), Gun Control legislation. Call 945-7318 to Register.
- 4-9** **Crime Prevention Week** in Brandon. MACSW info table. November 7, 8 & 9 Brandon Shopper's Mall.
- 5** **Winnipeg Women and Words Meets** at the MACSW Office in Winnipeg at 7:30 p.m.
- 5-7** **Gaining Ground Manitoba Farm Women's Conference** in Brandon Victoria Inn. Registration \$60. Forms available from your Manitoba Agriculture office. Call 838-2040 or 732-2376 for info.
- 6** **Winnipeg Branch Meeting** All Winnipeg MACSW members are invited to come out and make decisions about the activities and direction of the Branch. 6:00. 16-222 Osborne Street South (behind Pasquale's).
- 7** **Diana Brebner Poetry Reading** from *Radiant Life Forms*, 7:30 Bold Print Bookstore, 478 River Avenue.
- 9** **Honouring Creation Workshop** on the teachings of Indigenous peoples, facilitated by Doreen Beaupre. Second in a series exploring feminist thought and experience, sponsored by the University of Winnipeg, Faculty of Theology. St. Michael's Academy, 10 Victoria Avenue East, Brandon, 9-4:00. \$30. Call Susan Palmer at 386-2414 (Gladstone) or May Deller 725-3846 (Brandon).
- 12** **"Women, Poverty and Organizing"** Meeting co-sponsored by Brandon MACSW, CUSO, the Marquis Project and People to People Speaker Vilma Castillo, and the Film No Way! Not Me, 7:30 p.m. Helping Hands Centre, 9th and Lorne, Brandon, For info call 725-2955.
- 13** **MACSW Orientation Meeting** Winnipeg Branch for members interested in finding out more about MACSW. 7:30 p.m. For info call Andrea James days, 453-3879 or Doreen Wuckert, 837-9613 (evenings).
- 14** **Parkland MACSW Branch Meeting** Dauphin 5:30 p.m. 118 Main St. South. Call Heather at 638-3599.
- 14** **Adults Molested as Children (AMAC)**. Dramatic presentation based on life experiences. 7:30. Bold Print 478 River Ave. Info: 452-9682.
- 15** **Loreena McKennitt concert** in Brandon. 8 p.m. at the Centennial Auditorium. Tickets: \$15 in advance; \$17 at the door. Contact: The Brandon Folk Music and Art society at 727-3928.
- 18** **AIDS-What women and children need to know.** Presentation by Village Health Clinic. 7:00-9:30 Fort Garry Women's Resource Centre, Southwood Mall 1910 Pembina Hwy. Info: 269-2867.
- 19** **Brandon Branch Meeting** 7:30 p.m. Call 725-2955 or 728-6233 for location and discussion topic.
- 19** **Turnaround: A Story of Recovery.** NFB documentary about a treatment centre for women. Bring your own lunch to the New Careers and Training Centre 153-8th St., Brandon. Noon.
- 21** **Circle Square**, Immigrant Women's Association. Author readings. 7:00. Bold Print, 478 River.
- 22-3** **Survivors of Sexual Abuse Workshop** St. Benedict's Educational Centre, 225 Masters Ave., RR1B, Winnipeg 339-1705. Women's survivors' circle which explores areas such as: memories, feelings, family of origin, intimacy and spirituality as well as "letting go and taking charge." Registration \$70-100.
- 23** **"Paying the Farm Bill"** Global Agriculture Issues Conference in Brandon, 9-4:30 organized by the Marquis Project. Agricultural Extension Centre. Topics include women in rural economic development, farming and the environment and farm family in crisis. To register call Zack Gross 727-5675.
- 25** **Daphne Marlatt Reading** from new release *Salvage*. 7:30. Bold Print, 478 River Ave. Call 452-9682.





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

NEW MEMBERSHIP

RENEWAL

Name _____

Address _____ City/Town _____

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

INDIVIDUAL Regular \$25
(or what You Can Afford)
Sustaining \$40

ORGANIZATION - \$50

Your membership includes a subscription to the ACTION Newsletter, published 10 times a year.
Make cheques payable to MACSW and send this form to:
MACSW Winnipeg Branch
16-222 Osborne St. South
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 1Z3

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

ISSUES

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

ACTIVITIES

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

NEAREST MACSW BRANCH

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

popular
theatre
alliance of manitoba

"Some of My Best Friends Are..."

An anti-racism play. By The Krayolas.

Date: Wednesday, November 27

Place: Freighthouse, Door No. 5,
200 Isabel

Time: 8:00 p.m.

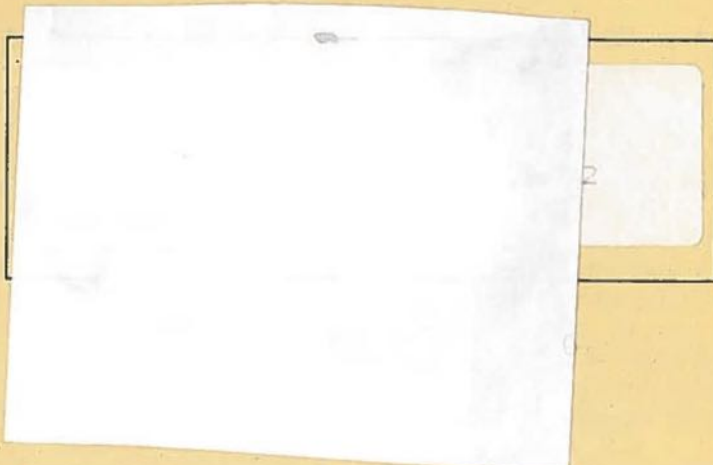
Sponsor: Popular Theatre Alliance
of Manitoba

Cost: Free!

This play can also be booked for your
conference, organization, advocacy
group. Call Tanya: 589-8408.



Manitoba Action Committee
on the Status of Women
Winnipeg Branch
16-222 Osborne Street South
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3L 1Z3



Hi Fiona!
It would be nice to see you
at WWI Nov 5th! P.S.