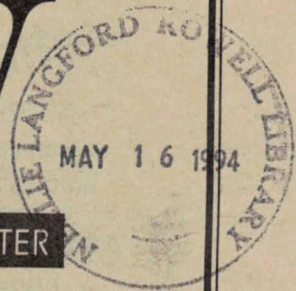


ACTION

MANITOBA ACTION COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN NEWSLETTER

May, 1994

Vol. 21, No. 4



Womensnews

Ten Reasons Why I Would Want to Falsely Remember Incest or Ritual Abuse*

1. I needed a new reason to stay in therapy.
2. I wanted to suddenly start having tremendous difficulty relating to my partner, lose all my trust and alienate her/him to the point where we would begin fighting and then have to break up.
3. I decided, for a change of pace, I would begin to experience bouts of intense suicidality.
4. I thought it would be a good idea to experience, first hand, what a mental institution or prison was like.
5. I wanted to get back at my parents for all the loving, supporting, caring things they had done to me as a child.
6. I wanted to be disbelieved and called a liar by every "respected" newspaper, talk show and radio interviewer, scholar, lawyer, friend and family member.
7. I felt left out and wanted desperately to belong somewhere.
8. I got worried that my self-esteem was too healthy and thought I'd rectify the situation.
9. I wanted to be different, special and get lots of attention by breaking down and becoming unable to support or take care of myself.
10. I wanted to wake up in the middle of the night screaming in terror, unable to breathe, re-experiencing over and over again the times I was raped as a child.

by Jezanna Rainforest

*loosely re-created from a flyer done by FIST (Fabulous Incest Survivor's Tirade) during the San Francisco Examiner's False Memory Syndrome Foundation series. Reprinted in Body Memories.

About MACSW

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

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

About ACTION

ACTION is published 9 times a year by the Manitoba Action Committee on the Status of Women, with the assistance of the Secretary of State Women's Program. The purpose of *ACTION* is to inform MACSW members about MACSW initiatives, to encourage members to take action on a personal and political level, and to serve as a forum to discuss all issues affecting the changing status of women. Articles express the views of individual writers and do not necessarily reflect MACSW policy.

About ACTION Articles

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



Send stuff to:
ACTION Newsletter
MACSW Winnipeg Branch
702- 70 Arthur St.
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3B 1G7
Phone 946-5049

This issue: MACSW staff, Pat Sadowy, Marion Foster, Allison Dewar, Pam Jakubec, Marjorie Turton, Kelly Logan, Christie Harris, Suzy Waldman, Shannon McKenty, Willow Aster, Karen Johnson, Kristin MacMorran, Susan Prentice, Monique Raimbault, Jezanna Rainforest, FIST & Newsletter Coordinator Fiona Muldrew.

Thank you New & Renewed Members!

Michelle Van Hove
Judy Henuset
Yvonne Naismith
Nancy Naismith
Ana Rodriguez
Val Rach
Mary Martin
Eleanor Cooper

Hari Dimitrakopoulou
Housefitters Carpentry
Sybil Shack
Kristine Barr
Sachitha Attawar
Esther Fyk
Lei Anne Sharratt
Frances Stewart

Priscilla Settee
Joanna Sargent
Lou Erickson
Fred Saunders
Carol Boyce
Yolanda Efshen
E.Kim Tyson
Margaret Treble
Planned Parenthood
Cindy Kelly
Carolyn Krebs
S.M. Palmer
Wendy Lavallee
A.B.C. Caldwell

MaryAnn Edwards
Van Muijen
Audrey Snodgrass
Virginia Jamieson
Tena Alguire
Liz Sarin

Advertise in ACTION!

New advertising rates:

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

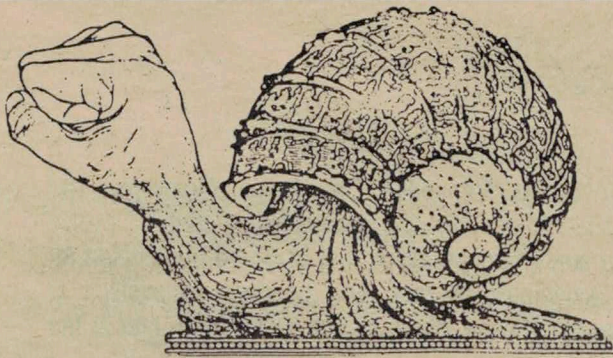
For info ph. 946-5049.



Every day, 4000 babies die because they are not breast-fed, says UNICEF.

But companies like Nestlé know that if they don't get babies on the bottle, they don't do business.

So they promote their baby milk aggressively, breaking a WHO Code of Marketing.



Winnipeg Branch Report

Susan Banks, Administrative Coordinator

On April 17, the Volunteer Coordinating Sub-committee organized a Volunteer Appreciation Party for MACSW volunteers who have helped out this past year. About 15 women gathered to share conversation and decadent desserts. Thanks to Barb Abramchuk, Nancy Naismith and Ceridwen Collins-West for hosting and organizing the event!

Volunteer opportunities that arose from our last Political Action Meeting and Branch Meeting include working on an insert for a pamphlet on estrogen replacement therapy called PMU (pregnant mare urine), which has a number of problems associated with it including the dumping of urine into the Assiniboine River and the abusive treatment of horses. The insert would focus on how menopause is viewed and often treated as a disease, and would discuss herbal alternatives for menopause.

As well, the Walk for Peace Planning Committee is looking for more volunteers to get involved with the organizing of the Peace march. This year's theme is "Celebrating the Diversity of Community". Call Project Peacemakers, 775-8178 or the MACSW office to find out the next meeting date.

Work continues on the Women's Task Force on Violence which is in the midst of being renamed the Coalition of Women Against Violence or the Coalition on Violence Against Women. We have now developed a statement of purpose and goals which will be discussed at the next meeting, along with ideas for holding a workshop which has been set for May 27 and 28 at the UofW. Thoughts for the workshop presently include examining the Domestic Violence Review into the Administration of Justice in Manitoba (Pedlar Report) in order to clarify which recommendations have and have not been implemented as well as developing a strategy for a united lobbying force on violence issues. There is also interest in continuing work on concerns around the zero-tolerance policy on violence. In general, our last meeting indicated that the group's preference is to focus on action and lobbying.

Other upcoming MACSW projects include holding a Feminist Activist Training workshop ("F.A.T. can be fun!") to teach strategies such as lobbying, organizing a protest, and holding a press conference. We have also discussed

holding an all-party forum once the upcoming provincial election is called and campaigning begins. If you are interested in getting involved in any of the activities described above, just call the MACSW office.

Thanks go to Erin Keedian, Kristin MacMorran and Fiona Muldrew for staffing MACSW display tables at the Red River Community College Women's Festival and the Sorrow and Strength conference.

Organizing for the MACSW AGM and Revisioning Workshop is well underway. If you would like to volunteer to billet an out-of-town MACSW member or can help with food preparation, minute-taking, etc. please call me. Hope to see you there!



Marion H. Foster

MASSAGE THERAPY

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

775-0625
284-8338

AGE & OPPORTUNITY

RETIREMENT PLANNING SERVICES & RESOURCES

Age & Opportunity is a community-based non-profit agency serving Winnipeg's older citizens since 1957.

We offer a range of PRE-RETIREMENT SERVICES AND MATERIALS.

Two locally produced Videos are available: "Retire? Who Me?" (24 minutes) deals with important lifestyles issues in preparing for retirement. "The Second Half of Life" (39 minutes) is a dialogue about women and aging. A 16 page booklet identifies major concerns in preparing for retirement.

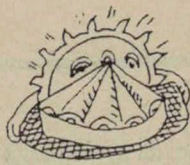
Workshops for groups, confidential counselling, information and referral services are also available.

For further information, to arrange an appointment, or to purchase the above materials:

Call (204) 947-1276

or

Write: Age & Opportunity, Retirement Planning Services
304-323 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 2C1



Thompson Branch Report

Hari Dimitrakopoulou, Administrative Coordinator

The Thompson Action Committee on the Status of Women started its activities in April by holding a discussion of the Renewal Process of MACSW at its monthly meeting. A lot of enthusiasm and ideas were expressed at the meeting, a good indication of commitment on behalf of the Northern feminists to keeping MACSW working in the North.

As part of our video series, the NFB video "When Women Kill" was also shown at the April meeting and it was followed by discussion on the issue of women as victims of abuse and society's view of them.

When it comes to video communication, TACSW members are heavily involved as part of the Northern Women's Development Network's activities preparing the video on Northern Women in Manitoba. As it was mentioned before, we hope that it can be shown at the National Conference on "Women and Sustainable Development - Canadian Perspectives" in Vancouver and at the International Circumpolar conference on "Northern Women, Northern Lives" in Alaska.

The Northern Women's Development Network has also been involved in discussions with the YWCA Thompson, the Business and Professional Women's Club and the Northern Women's Resource Services as to the planning of a fall conference on economic and social justice for Northern women. TACSW has also been supportive of initiatives undertaken by other women's groups that would improve Northern women's social and economic conditions.

TACSW is proud to have supported the establishment of the Thompson Community Kitchen which has started cooking this past month. On the issue of food security, TACSW is planning to work towards the establishment of Community Gardens in our city. If you would like to participate or have any questions on the Community Kitchens or Community Gardens please call us at the office at 778-8549.

Members from TACSW and the NWDN have also participated in the consultation meeting with the Minister of Family Services regarding initiatives on single parents by the federal and provincial governments. Thanks to M.J. and Marguerite for volunteering on such short notice.

The Race and Gender Dialogue Group which was initiated by TACSW has held another meeting this past month. We would like to express our appreciation to the United Mennonite Church for providing the space and resources for the meeting. At this point the group has scheduled another meeting on Sunday, May 15, at 2 p.m.,

at the United Mennonite Church on Greenway and Thompson Drive. The topic for the next meeting will evolve around steps towards action that could be undertaken for the improvement of race and gender relationships in Thompson. Please join in or call us for more info at the office.

In planning our activities for May, the TACSW May monthly meeting will be held on May 5 at 7 pm at the TACSW office and will be discussing the issue of spirituality and women. We hope to have resource women at the meeting and the NFB video "Full Circle" will be shown.

Income Tax Services

Maureen Schwanke
Income Tax Services
(204) 562-3662

Box 23
Arrow River, Mb
R0M 2H0

DEMONSTRATE YOUR SUPPORT



Subscribe Now to

HERIZONS
WOMEN'S NEWS & FEMINIST VIEWS

and we'll donate \$5 of your
subscription to MACSW!

You'll get a year's subscription to HERIZONS - a national magazine full of women's news and feminist views from across the country - feature articles, regular columns, reviews, satire and more! And MACSW will get money too!

Sign up today and support 2 feminist organizations!

Subscription Order Form

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Town: _____

Postal Code: _____

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



Brandon Branch Report

Jennifer Howard, Administrative Coordinator

It has been relatively quiet around the Brandon Office, giving me some time to catch up on administrative tasks and take a few days off. It has also provided an opportunity to develop new ideas. Among these ideas is completing a Safety Audit of Brandon in partnership with other concerned community groups, such as seniors and people with disabilities. A Safety Audit would provide the opportunity for people in various neighbourhoods to survey their physical environments in terms of lighting, accessibility and general safeness. This project requires volunteers to undertake and complete audits of their neighbourhoods over a few warm, summer evenings. If you can get involved, please call the office at 725-2955.

Solstice is coming up! Several women have expressed interest in having some sort of celebration, perhaps at Riding Mountain National Park, with women from Parkland Status of Women. We will be having a planning meeting on May 10 at 7 p.m. (see back page).

The Manitoba Association of Urban Municipalities (MAUM) met in Brandon last month. One of the motions they passed was a recommendation to the provincial government to declare December 6th a Day of Remembrance for Violence Against Women. This motion was brought forward by Brandon City Council, who passed a similar motion last December. Thanks are due to the members of Council, particularly Drew Caldwell, and sympathy is due to the residents of Dauphin who have to put up with at least one particularly difficult Councillor...

National Access Awareness Week runs from May 30 to June 4. The object of the week is to raise awareness of the concerns and issues of people with disabilities. As part of the week's activities we are showing "Towards Intimacy", a documentary about women with disabilities and sexuality, on June 2 (see back page). For more information on the week's activities, contact Sheila Somers at 727-2669.

DESPERATELY NEEDED: People with trucks, time, garages, excess stuff, patience and good humour to help out with our Annual Garage Sale. If you have one, some, or any of the above, call me at 725-2955.

SPECIAL THANKS: Monday morning saw the return of the pigeons to the MACSW office. Two lovely birds made a home amongst the clutter of the office until Dave Gamey, intrepid Marquis Project staffer, sent them back through the window. Thanks also to Larissa Gross who helped with the post-pigeon clean-up and provided me with much courage and support.

Parkland Branch Report

Heather Dootoff, Administrative Coordinator

News update on Ann Justice case - A hearing was held April 7 in Winnipeg to appeal the decision made by Judge Oliphant in October in Dauphin which suggested that the Crown was in a conflict of interest, staying the charges against Ann's step-father and implying that this inevitably meant an acquittal. The appeal hearing reversed this decision so the case will proceed in Dauphin as soon as it can be scheduled. Ann is charging her step-father with sexual abuse and is suing her step-father and the provincial government. The defense in the Criminal Case will be attempting to use the false memory syndrome to attack Ann's credibility. Thanks to Fiona for attending the hearing!

Government Round Table - Once again the community round table has been kick started and several meetings have been held. Objectives were prioritized and of course economic objectives hit the top of the list and quality of life hit the lower part of the list! Parkland Status of Women will continue to represent the concerns of women and disadvantaged groups at these meetings.

Reproductive Choice - I was pleased to be invited to join the Coalition for Reproductive Choice in a meeting with Jim McCrae, Health Minister. In addition to raising some concerns about the ongoing lack of access to abortion and birth control in the Parkland region, I also discussed Health Reform and how it would impact on the delivery of public health programs such as STD and AIDS education. If our experience with rural hospital boards can teach us anything, single issue groups taking over boards and influencing policy could endanger the health reform process.

Earth Day - Earth Day was held in Dauphin on April 17 in conjunction with the Kinsmen Trade Fair. While this did not generate the high traffic we had hoped for, volunteers and visitors to the displays did have an enjoyable time. Thanks to Liz, Virginia, Kathleen, Judy, Judy and Ranjit for your time, energy and enthusiasm.

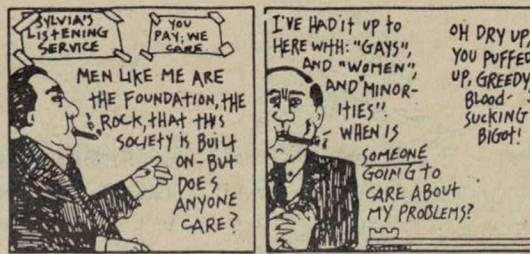
SHEILA RAINONEN, M.S.W., R.S.W.
FEMINIST THERAPIST

WOMEN'S ISSUES

(204) 774-8138

The False Memory Backlash

Fiona Muldrew

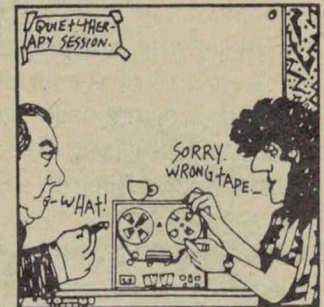


Why are women popping up in TV talkshows and articles all over the place recanting their former beliefs that they were sexually abused as children? Why are Roseanne Arnold's parents on TV almost as much as Roseanne? Why is it now common practice to disbelieve children and women when they say they were sexually abused? Why aren't there tons of stories in the media about the millions of survivors of incest (community surveys say one out of four girls and one out of six boys are sexually abused before the age of 18).¹ Why don't we hear about what's desperately wrong with our society that causes so many men to rape children?

These are some questions that Elly Danica raised at the 4th annual Sorrow and Strength conference in Winnipeg with her presentation on April 13 entitled "Memory, Sexual Abuse and the Backlash." Elly Danica is the author of Don't - A Woman's Word, an autobiography of a survivor of incest. Danica noted that 6 years after the release of her book, the mainstream media are more sceptical of her story. She sees the media being more interested in discrediting survivors because of the current backlash against women and the gains of the survivor movement.

One driving force behind the backlash is control over money. Over the past few years legislation has changed to allow repressed memories to be used as evidence in court for child sex abuse cases. Survivors have taken their abusers to court and have started to win cases. Some have sued their family's home insurance because of abuse that happened in the family home. A U.S. handbook on legal issues is entitled: Shifting the Burden of Truth: Suing Child Sexual Abusers, A Legal Guide for Survivors and Their Supporters (Joseph E. and Kimberly A. Crnich, Recollex Publishing, 1992). Since many court cases bring financial losses and tarnished reputations to upstanding parents, there has been more impetus to discredit women's memories of sexual abuse and discredit the advocates for children and women's rights.²

A perfect example of the backlash is the False Memory Syndrome Foundation (FMSF) named after a "syndrome" invented by parents and others who claim that they have been falsely accused of incest. This U.S. based group represents roughly 2,846 families (about 120 in Canada, 10 in Manitoba). The FMSF claims that therapists (including many feminist therapists--Surprise!Surprise!!) encourage their clients to remember repressed memories of sexual abuse, which the FMSF believes are false memories. The



FMSF has recruited an advisory board of doctors, psychologists and psychiatrists who ridicule research that shows memories of traumatic childhood experiences can be repressed for years. Some FMSF board members attack feminist therapy for survivors as unscientific, "quackery" and "a new miracle cure" (perhaps too unconventional for the establishment). A prominent Canadian FMSF supporter, Richard Gairdner, author of Sexual Abuse Hysteria, says the concern about child sexual abuse is a "plot to misinterpret the loving attention of fathers." He has also written The War Against the Family which blames the feminist movement for many of society's ills. Although the FMSF attempts to have a scientific image there is no scientific basis to the "false memory syndrome" and they have been unable to substantiate their criticism of repressed memory theory.³

A study done by Linda Meyer Williams from the University of New Hampshire Family Research Laboratory found that out of 100 women who reported sexual abuse as children in the 70's to a hospital emergency room, over one third did not remember the abuse when interviewed in 1990-91.⁴ Another study by John Briere, from the University of Southern California School of Medicine, interviewed 450 women who had reported sexual abuse before the age of 16 and 59.3% did not remember the abuse for a period of their life before age 18. This research and many other studies show that many women repress childhood traumatic memories as a coping mechanism to appear normal and to survive the betrayal of a parent, "care-giver" or relative.⁵

Two FMSF board members, Ralph Underwager and Holida Wakefield (Minnesota psychologists) have been investigated by the New England Commissioners of Child Welfare Agencies for their questionable research and testimony at child sexual abuse cases. In 1988, Dr. Underwager had already appeared in over 200 cases of child sexual abuse in the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, always appearing for the defense. In every case

POWER MUST BE SHARED

he stated that the child was "the victim of leading and suggestive questioning." Some defense lawyers have used information from Underwager's book Accusations of Child Sexual Abuse. The New England investigation found that there were serious errors in Underwager's research saying that children are easily convinced to make sexual abuse charges with leading or suggestive questioning. Out of 500 references located from his book, there were over 100 errors in the bibliography alone and many distortions of other research or quotes taken out of context.⁶ Despite this condemning investigation, Dr. Underwager is still used as expert testimony in many child sexual abuse cases, receiving \$20,000 for his testimony. He recently spoke and discredited the testimony of children in the investigation of child sexual abuse in Martensville, Saskatchewan. The Saskatchewan government paid his \$20,000 fee!!!

In early 1994, a founding member of the FMSF, Dr. Howard Lief, was invited to speak at McGill University as part of a symposium on the "False Memory Syndrome". About two dozen protesters heckled and jeered for an hour and a half so he was unable to make his public presentation. However he did speak to the symposium aimed at the legal, medical and psychiatric professions (registration was \$100). Lief's theories on signs of false accusations of child abuse include: memories dating from age 3 or earlier, allegations involving parents and grandparents, allegations that abuse took place over a period of years or that it has continued during adolescence, and allegations where there are a lack of witnesses. In effect, Lief's theories describe 90% of child sexual abuse cases as potentially false.⁷

The reality of child sexual abuse is painful and overwhelming to comprehend so it is no wonder that the public searches for and believes other explanations such as the "false memory syndrome." Danica pointed out that our society feels it's easier to discredit women and children than promote the massive structural changes needed in our society to address violence and build healthy communities. She said "If we don't have a future of healthy children we have nothing." Services for children and women are inadequate and grossly underfunded. Programs focus on teaching children to say NO rather than teaching men not to abuse. Danica stated that the real culprit in child sexual abuse is our culture of male dominance that still treats women and children as property. Women and children are still "put in their place" with abuse--the foundation of the patriarchy. Males are still socialized to humiliate and objectify women through pornography and other lessons in sexism that desensitize men to violence against women.

Danica criticized the mainstream media for blaming,

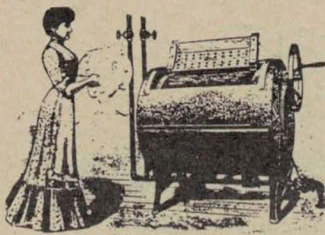
discrediting or sensationalizing the victims of violence instead of blaming our society for producing violence. Victims are seen as having more "entertainment value" than abusers. The media fails to challenge the status quo--especially when abusers have power, prestige and they look like the manager of our neighbourhood bank. When Danica released her book she was rarely referred to as an author or survivor but more often portrayed as a powerless victim. Rarely do we hear empowering stories of healing that celebrate the ingenuity, strength and courage of survivors. If survivors were believed, respected and presented in the media in proportion to their huge numbers in our society then, as Danica stated, "the patriarchal version of the nuclear family would not survive." It is already crumbling, but powerful fundamentalist forces with big bucks are funding the backlash against groups trying to change the patriarchal power system. Gloria Steinem said "The way you know you have a movement is when there are people who make a living selling it out."⁸ Danica reminded us never to forget that "caring people working at the community level can make big changes. Stay tuned for big changes (hopefully) on the Ann Justice case where she is suing her abusive step-father and the province of Manitoba for negligence in protecting her from child sexual abuse.

References

1. Linda Meyer Williams, "Adult Memories of Childhood Abuse: Preliminary Findings from a Longitudinal Study" in The Advisor, American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children, Vol. 5 (3), 1992.
2. Suzanne, article in Body Memories: Radical Perspectives on Childhood Sexual Abuse, Issue #5/6, Spring/Summer 1993. Edited by Elliot for Labyrinth: The Philadelphia Women's Paper. Reprinted in off our backs, Feb. 1994, Vol. 24, Number 2.
3. *ibid*
4. Williams
5. Suzanne
6. Anna C. Salter, Ph.D., "Accuracy of Expert Testimony in Child Sexual Abuse Cases: A Case Study of Ralph Underwager & Hilda Wakefield, 1988 (report available from Toni Dixon, c/o American Prosecutors Research Institute, 99 Canal Center Plaza, Suite 510, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, (703) 549-4253.)
7. Karl Small, "False Memory in Montreal", in Canadian Dimension, March-April, 1994.
8. Gloria Steinem, Jan. 5, 1993, Arsenio Hall show.

All this information and more available at the MACSW-Wpg. office.





Saves
Time
Trouble
and Money
Easy to operate. Write
for Circular
"C."

Restructuring Machine



Restructuring Ideas for MACSW!!!

Brandon Ideas

These are some observations on renewal as per the PCC decision to solicit input at the Branch level and consult via conference calls with other branches.

These ideas were solicited informally from members at meetings and in casual conversation. Some come out of planning sessions held in the last year.

We agreed that defining our mandate (womandate?) was essential to the renewal process. Currently we do work in three areas: 1. **Community Organizing**; eg. Take Back the Night, media work, film nights, involvement in various committees.

2. **Political Lobbying**, eg. election work, meetings with local representatives, letter writing campaigns.

3. **Resource Service**, eg. Resource Centre, public speaking, workshops, displays.

It is clear that with the present level of resources we can not continue to work effectively in all these areas. Given the possibility of diminished funding, it becomes even more urgent that we streamline our goals. The criteria for this process should be need and effectiveness. We need to ask ourselves the following questions:

What are we good at?

What is the greatest need in the community (what is no one else doing?)

While we recognize the need for offices in terms of community visibility and feminist space (especially in rural and northern areas), a decision may have to be made between offices and staff. In this case we would choose to maintain staff.

We would suggest one centralized office in Winnipeg. This office would be staffed by an Administrative Coordinator (AC) and a Provincial Coordinator (PC). The AC would be solely responsible for administrative and internal work, such as distributing mail and information, organizing PCC meetings, maintaining the archives, budget and bookkeeping. The PC would be responsible for the Winnipeg Area, relations with funders and coordinating provincial action.

There would also be a Rural Coordinator (RC) and a Northern Coordinator (NC) who would work out of their homes or some shared/donated office space, and travel

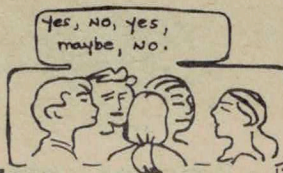
extensively in their areas. They would be provided with a computer and other office equipment, but would not be responsible for administering an office. Their primary responsibilities would be community organizing and political lobbying. This responsibility would lie in the area of facilitation and resource, in the hope that membership will take on more of the actual work. All positions would be linked by a computer network.

The Newsletter would be reduced to quarterly issues and responsibility would fall on a Volunteer Collective. We would use other sources to publicize events or perhaps publish a one or two page monthly newsletter and calendar of events that would be region-specific and produced by the local Coordinators.

These suggestions are offered in sisterhood with the full knowledge that there really are no areas where cuts can be made without consequences. We may not be able to be everything we want to be (feminist publishers, resource centres, service organizations, political activist, educators, etc.) but this is not for lack of commitment, but lack of funding. We must find a common vision that is pro-active and pragmatic, so that we can remain a vital, effective and nurturing organization.

Parkland Restructuring Notes:

1. MACSW should maintain an urban, rural & northern identity.
2. Restore the Provincial Coordinator position.
3. Return the publication of Action newsletter to a volunteer collective, responsible to the Provincial Coordinator.
4. Publish the newsletter bi-monthly or quarterly.
5. Eliminate branch fundraising from the budget. Funds raised by the branch could be used at the branch level or split 50/50 with the Provincial budget. Do not rely on the money raised as part of the budget.
6. Distribute Secretary of State payments to the branches as payments arrive and when a branch's expenditures exceed their budget then they must raise the money to cover the over expenditure.
7. If more cuts are required let each individual branch assess where it is most appropriate for a branch to cut money. For example, each branch needs to delete \$2500 from their budget, two close their offices and move to homes or shared space, and two reduce their staff time. Each community is different so each community might have different solutions.



Thompson Restructuring Ideas

MACSW is faced with the task of re-evaluating and refocussing its activities with a view to improving service to its members in all regions and the Manitoba women's community as a whole. MACSW is also faced with the need to restructure its budget and organization due to government budget cuts.

Discussion

MACSW is faced with two basic options. One is to cut particular regions' staff and funding altogether in order to maintain other aspects of MACSW's operation. The other is to seek to maintain all branches and a wide range of activities through innovative budgeting and greater focus on priority activities.

Recommendations

TACSW recommends that MACSW adopt the latter approach and maintain a province-wide presence.

The following are our recommendations involving branch locations, staffing and activities.

1. Focus

Branch level: Promote feminism through community organizing, political lobbying (locally) and networking. Resource centre services are seen as shared with other women's organizations and not crucial to our operation.

Provincial level: The same focus through the work of a provincial coordinator.

2. Proposed Activities

Branch level: Community organizing through organizing annual conferences, involvement in issues of health (hospital monitoring), working towards community projects that improve women's lives. Political lobbying will be directed towards local, federal, provincial and municipal politicians on local or regional issues. Networking with other local and regional women's groups that share common goals and perspectives. Provincial networking would be part of the branches responsibilities through computer/fax link with the provincial coordinator.

Provincial level: The responsibility for political lobbying and networking would be that of the provincial coordinator. Community organizing at the provincial level would be carried by the branches' network with the assistance of the provincial coordinator.

3. Staff

Branch level: With budget limitations priority should be given to staff maintenance in order to carry out programs and the branch's operations. Staff hours could be adjusted to budgets and needs. Staff should be available to all branches.

Provincial level: If branches' staff hours are reduced,

limiting their activities to local and regional levels, a provincial coordinator's position at a part time level would be of crucial importance to carry out provincial tasks.

4. Location

Branch level: TACSW recommends existing branch locations remain in place in Brandon, Dauphin, Thompson and Winnipeg. Office space could be shared with other women's or like-minded mixed gender organizations if funding becomes limited. Administration tasks could also be carried out through the staff's homes, resource material could be housed with other women's organizations, and meetings could take place in community space if necessary. Another option would be the co-sharing of staff and location with another organization if that does not involve losing the integrity of the organization.

Provincial level: Provincial staff could be housed with the Winnipeg branch.

5. Newsletter

The Action newsletter could be reduced to bimonthly publication with volunteer staff using alternative printing facilities. Local branches could produce their own newsletter similar to Thompson's "Our Own" in alternate months.

Summary: TACSW believes that MACSW can maintain most existing activities and its province wide focus by adopting a flexible, and in some cases, refocused approach to provincial and branch services and activities.

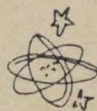
Winnipeg Branch Restructuring Ideas

Long-term Plan:

Pursue (once again) obtaining charitable status for MACSW to increase our opportunities to receive funding from organizations that fund only those with charitable status. Some members of the Winnipeg branch are working on this. Suggestions included: (a) keeping Secretary of State funding for non-charitable activities (advocacy); (b) carrying out political action as a separate part of MACSW; (c) keeping more accurate records on how many people we serve (including information requests/referral) for grant applications. Concerns were expressed regarding the possibility of having to "water down" our political action if we obtain charitable status.

Short-term Plan:

Drop the Newsletter Coordinator position and have the newsletter done by a provincial coordinator. Reduce costs for the newsletter if necessary by producing the newsletter less often or in a smaller form. Hire a Provincial Coordinator.



Restructuring Option - "Feminism 101"

Monique Raimbault - Winnipeg member

Background: MACSW's present mission statement was conceived in the early 70's and it may be time to evaluate whether it is still a priority. MACSW's mandate is so broad it undertakes political action on any issue, as opposed to specific organizations such as Women's Health Clinic, Coalition for Reproductive Choice, etc. In its beginnings, MACSW acted as a "springboard" where women learned about general women's issues and political action. They then organized on more specific issues, received funding and started an organization of their own. I propose MACSW continue this springboard action by having public education on women's issues and feminism be its primary mandate. Political action would still be undertaken, but by members themselves as opposed to staff.

Mandate: That MACSW undertake public education activities to promote women's issues and feminism in Manitoba.

Program Activities: This would entail offering 6 week public education workshops on feminism. Topics to be covered could include: various forms of feminism (liberal, conservative, socialist, radical, separatist, etc.); feminist theory; specific women's issues; challenges to the feminist movement, i.e. racism, disability, classism; various strategies for political action. These could be offered on an ongoing basis.

This course could be offered to schools, community organizations, through Continuing Education, the Leisure Guide, senior groups, etc.

Staff Involvement: Staff's primary duties would entail promoting, organizing and offering the courses. Those who take the course would be taught how to undertake political action. The group could then carry on meeting without staff involvement, thereby obtaining a forum for support and a place to organize concrete action.

Budgetary Considerations: Resource materials, number of staff, promotion costs, political action follow up.

Winnipeg Brainstorm

Susan Prentice



Background: At a meeting on Feb. 21, 1994 at a cafe in Wpg., Fiona Muldrew, Jenny Robinson and Susan Prentice met to discuss and review some of the provincial history of MACSW. Susan had also read what some of the other branches and MACSW members had written about restructuring.

Susan took this discussion and tried to draw out some of the implications of the history of differences within MACSW over priorities. It seems that MACSW must decide which are its **top** priorities from among a long list of important priorities. It is my hunch that as an organization we have very different opinions about what is the most important thing MACSW does/can do. And based on our different senses of top priorities, we would make different restructuring recommendations.

I tried to spell out what I think are the most common differences between alternative versions of "top priorities." This document is an attempt to make those implicit values behind the different positions clear, as well as to speculate on the organizational implications behind these different visions. My idea is that if we know what we really want, then it will be easier to decide on a course of action for restructuring.

I recommend that we have a very fundamental discussion of our real objectives for MACSW. We should reconsider if and why a provincial women's organization is still needed. This does seem to be something that most women's groups outside of Winnipeg make a priority; and it poses a problem for women within the city, who do not seem to make MACSW their first priority for time/energy.

Assuming that we decide to maintain some form of provincial organization, here are some possible choices:

VISION ONE: Nurturing Feminists is Key

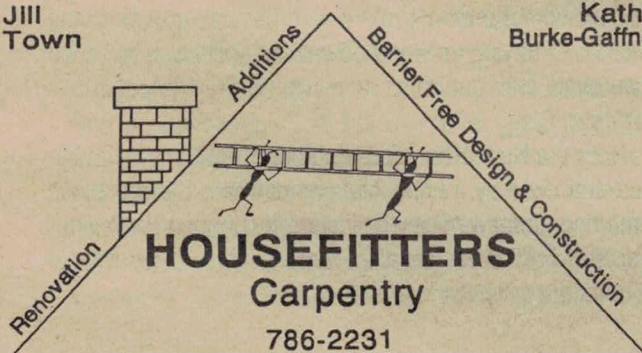
If this were the primary goal, then questions of political effectiveness or efficiency would be a lesser consideration. IF feminist nurturance is the key, then the MACSW focus could be general feminist education and the development of consciousness-raising to nurture new feminists.

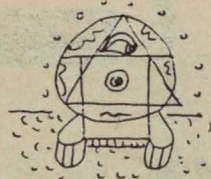
The key organizational tasks would be developing the volunteer base and doing outreach and education. Staff would be needed primarily to help facilitate/coordinate the grassroots organizing of the volunteer base.

The organizational structure best suited to this model might be a consensus circle or other anti-hierarchical structure which was centred on the maximum involvement

Jill
Town

Kathy
Burke-Gaffney





of the maximum number of members.

ACTION, the newsletter, might emerge as the most important work of the group, since it would be a vehicle for feminist education.

Budget implications: main expense might be the newsletter and a few staff, regionally distributed. Branches definitely maintained.

VISION TWO: Immediate Political Effectiveness is Key

If political effectiveness were the key goal, then responding to the media, participating in various social change efforts, and making a demonstrable difference would be the key criteria.

The key organizational tasks would be speedy decision-making and quick action. Staff would play a crucial role.

The organizational structure best suited to this model might be a Winnipeg-centred organization, with an Executive Director or full-time President/Chair who was empowered to act on behalf of the organization with only minimal consultation. In this model the involvement of the membership is low: perhaps only an annual AGM. The PCC would then be reformulated to be more like an advisory Council to the CEO. Branches would not be necessary to this model and might in fact be detrimental if consultation impaired efficient decision-making.

Budget implications: full-time office in Winnipeg, operating budget for political action. Staff & resources concentrated in Winnipeg. Branches probably not maintained.

VISION THREE: Social Change Coalitions Is Key

If making/participating in social change coalitions were the key goal, then MACSW's involvement in a variety of social justice groups (around race, Aboriginal rights, environment, economy, health, the city, rural issues, etc.) would be key. Importance would be placed on working with allies in various communities. MACSW would not take action as an independent group, per se, but would work as feminists within coalitions with other groups.

The key organizational tasks would be linking with other social justice groups. Probably this would involve a combination of committees. Instead of seeing activity as organized through branches (as geographic entities), action would be more likely organized through committees: eg; Aboriginal justice, environment & labour committees working in coalition with Aboriginal groups, environmentalists and trade unionist.

The organizational structure best suited to this vision might be decentralized local action and committees which focused on different tasks.

Budget implications: Branches unlikely to be maintained in current form. Role of staff is unclear in this model, but

certainly membership participation would be the key.

This model bears some strong similarities to model #1 in terms of budget implications.

VISION FOUR: Separating MACSW's functions

Perhaps a provincial organization is no longer necessary. It seems that the needs of rural/northern and Winnipeg branches are very different from each other. Perhaps the branches outside of Winnipeg need to focus on feminist education and development while the Winnipeg women distribute themselves amongst various social justice/political action groups.

If we followed this model, then we'd have to have a different discussion altogether.

We might discover that Winnipeg women choose something like Version #3, while other branches choose something very different.

Budget implications?

If we were to proceed with reconsidering the existence of MACSW as a provincial organization we would open up a huge discussion about what to do with MACSW resources. This model involves the most work in terms of rethinking, since it would require something quite new, whereas at least models 1 & 2 maintain MACSW in relatively recognizable form.

How to Proceed:

In any case, before we can think about restructuring, we need to consider these questions:

1. What are our top priorities?

I think this is important because even though all of us value all aspects of MACSW's work, we need to figure out where/why we differ on what is the most crucial. I think we shouldn't be afraid to have differences of opinion.

Often, women's organizations are afraid of internal disagreement and conflict, and so there is often a tendency to deny that there are significant disagreements within an organization. I think this denial/suppression of differences is unhealthy. I encourage us as MACSW to have a full discussion, and to try to draw out, rather than to minimize our differing priorities. We need to be able to explain to ourselves and each other what we think is the key purpose behind our organization.

2. What way of organizing best fits our organizational priorities?

Once we are clearer on what our priorities are, we can be clearer about how we should proceed with organizational restructuring. Instead of assuming we must keep the basic elements of MACSW's current structure, we can get more creative about our organizational options.



Announcement of Manitoba Women's Guide

Kristin MacMorran

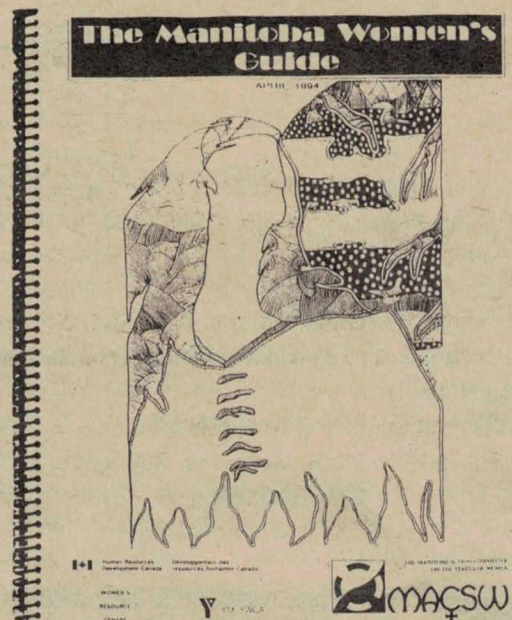
Newly arrived at your local MACSW branch: The Manitoba Women's Guide!

Seven months and 440 phone calls ago, a project was born at MACSW's Winnipeg office. The goal of this project was to publish a comprehensive listing of the resources for women in Manitoba. It was hoped that such a publication could be used for a variety of purposes: to refer women to services and groups within their region, to help existing women's organizations share information and network with each other, and to remind us all that "Yes! Manitoba does have a *thriving and active women's movement!*"

With the invaluable help of eleven volunteers (eight working at the Winnipeg office and three at the YWCA Women's Resource Centre) over 400 groups, services and organizations were contacted. By its completion, the guide listed 378 "resources for women," covering an impressive array of services. A great thanks is owed to Cindy Chung, Debbie Cook, Lisa Draho, Marion Foster, Babs Friesen, Megan Glassco, Carole Johannson, Erin Keedian, Ruishi Tang, Nancy Tovell, and Flo Wiens, without whom this project could not have enjoyed completion. Many hundreds of volunteer hours were logged during the past seven months through researching rural services, organizing resources, and (the best part) inputting all data on computer disks.

MACSW commissioned Winnipeg artist Lita Fontaine-Janzen to create the cover artwork for the guide. Her powerful profile sketch of a solitary female figure, entitled "Full Moon Woman," added the finishing touch to the guide. The original of her ink and watercolour painting will be framed and offered as a raffle prize at MACSW's June 21st "Summer Solstice Party" (tickets are still available at our branches)! I would encourage MACSW members to drop by their local branch and check out the publication, if for no other reason than to preview this fabulous painting. Copies are also available from the Manitoba Women's Advisory Council.

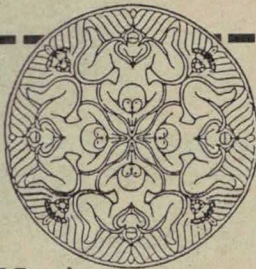
Of course, there are many other reasons (personal, professional and political) to take the time to browse through the guide. However - and pardon me for this - if I seem at all uninspired to discuss them here, I do have my reasons. My mind is already consumed by another project! During the research for the Women's Guide, I had the great pleasure of gathering women's



stories from across the province. One of the many things that I discovered was that the herstory of the Manitoba women's movement is not only vast and inspiring, but also unique to our prairie experience. As I learned about the emergence (and the recent decline) of rural family violence committees, I became fascinated by the stories I encountered. I was amazed at the individual women and men who have run their community's only crisis services from their own homes, in some cases for over ten years. I heard stories of struggle within small and isolated communities, as well as accomplishments in lobbying for properly funded crisis services. I was hooked!

Before long, I was digging through MACSW's archives and reading whatever I could find on such things as the Women's Building - a project begun about fifteen years ago which had the monumental goal to house a variety of women's groups and services within its walls (my kind of building)! I wanted to know exactly which groups presented to the 1967 Federal Task Force on the Status of Women. Moreover, I wondered if their presentations spawned the very movement to which we are all devoted today. To make a growing story short, I was trying to find the herstory of our province's women's movement in the past 25 years. I soon discovered that it had not yet been written.

As I pause to re-read the above paragraphs, I realize that I am becoming possessed by this project. In any case, I hope to feed my obsession for this herstory during the next year. I plan to do some research into the activities and stories within the last 25 years of our women's movement. Should anybody else feel similarly inspired, you are heartily encouraged to contact me (through the Winnipeg branch). However, I'll warn you in advance, this project may take a bit more than seven months. (to be continued)



MACSW MEMBERSHIP FORM

Yes! I want to add my voice to the hundreds of Manitoba women who belong to MACSW.
Please indicate if you want to receive the MACSW newsletter in a plain envelope without the MACSW identifier. _____

NEW MEMBERSHIP

RENEWAL

Name _____

Address _____ City/Town _____

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

INDIVIDUALS Regular \$25
(or what you can afford)
Sustaining \$40

ORGANIZATIONS - \$50

Please sign up, even if you can't afford the membership fee. Your membership includes a subscription to the ACTION Newsletter, published 9 times a year.

Make cheques payable to MACSW and send this form to:

MACSW Winnipeg Branch
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 |
|--|--|---|---|

What to Do, Where to Go???



May 1-6 (& possibly after May 6), **Out: Stories of Lesbian & Gay Youth**. This NFB film looks at the struggles & victories of gay & lesbian youth in Canada, Cinema Main, 243 Main St., Wpg., 8 p.m., \$4, ph. 983-7655.

May 4, **Reclaiming Indigenous Culture in Brazil** with Estevao Carlos Taukane, 8 p.m. at Regents Park United Church, 613 St. Mary's Road. Sponsored by the Canadian Ecumenical Forum and The Manitoba Aboriginal Rights Coalition. Ph. 287-8583 for more info.

May 6 & 7, **Alternative Fair Trade Conference**, sponsored by CUSO Grassroutes. Discussion on socially responsible goods & services, fair trade with Third World producers, promotion & marketing of products from local indigenous producers. Fri. 7-9 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Broadway Community Centre, 185 Young St., Wpg., \$15 (incl. refreshments & Sat. lunch), ph. 774-8489.

May 6-8, **Development and Education in Northern Manitoba (DENIM) Annual General Meeting** at Simon House, Thompson, ph. Joanna at 778-5583(H)/677-6394(W), Twinning Communities - El Salvador, Democracy & Development, & Slide Presentation on Sudan.

May 7, **5th Annual Graduation Traditional Pow-Wow, UofM**, Bison East Gym, open to public, free admission, pipe ceremony 11 a.m., grand entry 1 p.m., 7 p.m., feast 5 p.m. For craft sale info ph. 774-6310. For general info ph. Florence Bruyere 474-8850.

Outdoor Women's Network Events:

May 7, **Saturday Hike along Grand Beach trails**, ph. Nelle, 453-3637 by May 5.

May 8, **Paddle down the LaSalle River**, ph. Laurie, 783-0640 by May 6.

May 21-23, **Spend the weekend in a YURT**, hiking, biking &/or paddling near Minaki, ON, ph. Monique, 284-2596 by May 13.

May 25, **Evening cycle in Winnipeg**, ph. Gerry, 786-7522.

May 29, **Sunday Cycle or drive along Lake Winnipeg**, from Matlock to Gimli, 50-60 km., ph. Monique or Maureen at 284-2596.

May 9, **Gender & Development Network**, CUSO board room, 60 Maryland, Wpg., 7:30 p.m., ph. Gerry, 786-7522 or Fiona at 946-5049.

May 7-11, **The Winnipeg Jewish Film Festival**, Wpg. Convention Centre, \$4.50 at the door, \$40 for passes, ph. 784-3750. Includes "Half the Kingdom", May 8, 5:30 p.m., a film about 6 women from Israel, Canada & the U.S. who take on the Jewish religious establishment; and "Speak Up! It's So Dark", May 10, 8:30 p.m., a Swedish film about the rebirth of fascism in which a Jewish doctor nurses the wounds of a young Neo-Nazi; and many other films.

May 11, **Miguel Mejia and Simon Amaya from CRIPDES**, an organization that works with displaced people in **El Salvador**, will be speaking about political, economic and social issues in El Salvador at 7 p.m. in Classroom C of the Agricultural Extension Centre, 1129 Queens Ave., Brandon.

May 12, **Judy Fjell** sings at the West End Cultural Centre, Ellice at Sherbrook St., Wpg., \$7, ph. 783-6918.

May 13, **The Welfare Starlets "Wreaking Havoc"** at the WinnipegArtGallery, 8 p.m. Special Space-ial Guests: Shawna Dempsey, Tony DesMarteaux, Eli Herscovitch, Glen Matthews, & Cathy Nosaty. Tickets: \$10/8, available at Bold Print, Homemade Music, Into the Music, Ticket Master and WinnipegArtGallery. A Space-Anne Production.

May 14, **Reclaiming the Spirit of Community**, sponsored by Healthy Communities Winnipeg Initiative & Manitoba Eco-Network, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., Crossways in Common, 670 Broadway Ave., Wpg. Keynote: Marcia Nozick - developing sustainable communities; Workshops on community economic development, community development alternatives, urban village, environment/green city, health & safety, food systems, and community culture building. For info ph. Amanda Brabant, 284-1761. Cost: \$20/5 (underemployed).

May 16-20, **Trial for Norman Andrushuk** for attempted murder in the stabbing of Kimberly Flett, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.?, check court docket for room number at the Law Courts Bldg., York at Kennedy St., Wpg. Please attend to show women's concern for this brutal stabbing. For more info ph. MACSW at 946-5049.

May 16, **Author Reading**: Linda Spalding, author of The Paper Wife, 7:30 p.m., Bold Print, 478 River Ave., Wpg.

May 20-23, **Tools for Healing: a retreat for male survivors of childhood abuse** with Eugene Porter, Jessie Saulteaux Centre, Beausejour, \$390, ph. Learning Networks, 786-1971.



Endless List of "Neat" Things to Do:

May 3, **Camp Getaway** - open meeting for low-income single mothers interested in an independent camp holiday for single mothers and their children. Two camps are planned outside of Winnipeg plus all-day outings to Assiniboine Park or Kildonan Park. The Sunshine Fund covers some of the costs. Registration on a first-come-first-served basis. Meeting time: 6:30 p.m., Crossways, Broadway at Furby St., Wpg., childcare provided. For info ph. Margaret, 831-8870 or Charlene, 224-3910.

May 28, **Immigrant Women's Association of Manitoba 11th Annual General Meeting**, ph. 989-5800.

June 1, **Poetry Reading**--Tanya Lester's Advanced Creative Writing Class from the UofW plus special guest Melinda McCracken, Blue Moon Cafe, Wpg., 8 p.m., doors open at 6 p.m. No cover charge.

June 17, **Feminist Therapy, A Global Perspective**, Miriam Greenspan, for therapists and others concerned about the state of the world in which we live, sponsored by Interfaith Marriage and Family Institute, ph. 786-9251, \$70, location: Bethel Mennonite Church, Wpg.

"Let's talk about sex baby, let's talk about you and me..." Two lesbian video makers are producing a video about lesbian sex and sexuality. Do you want to talk? We are looking for lesbians to get involved. Documentary style but feel free to get wild and creative. You can be identifiable or anonymous. You can discuss it anyway you want, theoretically, personally, politically. For more info ph. Maureen Smith, 284-2596 or Kris Anderson, 786-2433.



Lesbian Avengers - a Manitoba chapter is forming. This direct-action group started in '92 and has 17 US chapters. One chapter is in motion in Ontario. The idea is to use playful/humorous approaches to combat lesbophobia. Critical role: to teach lesbians how to organize, how to think politically, and to have the confidence to move ahead with political expediency. All ages, ethnic backgrounds and classes welcome. Call the Gay Lesbian Resource Centre at 284-5208, leaving your name and phone number and a contact from the group will call you.

Motherwork - a new magazine with alternative info on pregnancy, childbirth, health and nutrition; quarterly for \$12, for more info, to subscribe, or to advertise, ph. 475-3743.



International Perspectives: Women & Global Solidarity, National Action Committee on the Status of Women Conference & Annual General Meeting, June 10-13, Ottawa. International Perspectives is a conference to develop new understandings of how women's struggles in Canada fit into the global picture and how women in Canada can work in solidarity with women around the world. Workshops on: global democratization, women's health, global violence against women, Aboriginal women, ecofeminism, global economic restructuring, religious fundamentalism, preparing for Beijing - Fourth World Conference on Women. For more info ph. your nearest Branch or (905) 984-8777.

Where's All the Wealth?? Income tax time again. Everyone is paying their taxes except for profitable corporations. 93,000 corporations paid no tax at all in 1992. If Imperial Oil (Esso) paid their 1992 back-taxes of \$1.577 billion, it could create 600,000 child care spaces, build 54,000 co-op housing units, or fund a national dental program for children. (Info from Action Canada Network pamphlet, ph. MACSW at 946-5049 for pamphlet)

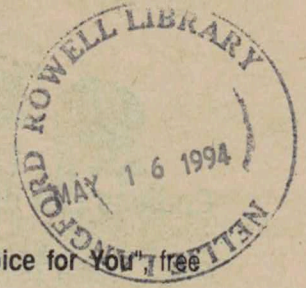
Fort Garry Women's Resource Centre Suffers Cutbacks: Due to cutbacks, the centre located at 1910 Pembina Hwy. will no longer be open to the public on Fridays. Office hours will be Mon. - Thurs., 9 - noon and 1 - 4:30 p.m. Appointments outside these times will continue to be available. The Centre is a meeting place where women can obtain information, receive referrals, express issues and share concerns. The Centre provides individual counselling, self-help and support groups, access to community services, outreach services, public education events, and volunteer opportunities and training.

Stalking Support Group for women experiencing the harassment of stalkers, ph. MACSW at 946-5049 for info.

Bold Print is looking for Used Books. Would you exchange your feminist books for more recent titles? Cash in your old books for credit notes towards purchases from Bold Print. Check at counter with Sue for details -- 478 River Ave., Wpg., ph. 452-9682.



Calendar of Events - MAY



- 5 **International Midwifery Day**, celebrate at noon at the Legislature, plus "Midwives: A Choice for You" free information evening, 6-10 p.m., Crossways, 670 Broadway Ave., Wpg.
- 5 **TACSW Branch Meeting**, 7 p.m., TACSW office, topics: A. Women & Spirituality, viewing NFB video "Full Circle" B. Fundraising, Thompson, ph. 778-8549.
- 6 **Immigrant Women's Association of Manitoba (Thompson Chapter) Annual General Meeting**, ph. 778-8549.
- 10 **Solstice Planning Meeting**, all interested women are invited to help plan this year's Summer Solstice Celebration, 7 p.m., BUSU Boardroom, Knowles Douglas Bldg., Brandon Univ., ph. 725-2955 for info.
- 11 **"Emotional Abuse in the Workplace"**, Fort Garry Women's Resource Centre, 1910 Pembina Highway, 7:30 p.m.
- 12 **Parkland Status of Women Branch Meeting**, discussion on feminist process, 5:30 p.m., Tena's list brings food.
- 12 **MACSW Winnipeg Branch Meeting**, 6 p.m., University of Winnipeg, Room 1C10, ph. 946-5049 for child care.
- 12 **Women's Legal Defense Social** with Propagandhi & Painted Thin, 8 p.m., West End Cult. Ctr., \$6, ph. 786-9788.
- 13-15 **MACSW AGM and Revisioning Workshop**, University of Winnipeg, Rm. 1L04, Revisioning: Fri. 4-9 p.m. & Sat. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., AGM: Sun. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., ph. 946-5049 if you wish to attend, childcare provided. Potluck on Sat.
- 14 **Manitoba Women in Trades and Technology Garage Sale**, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., 580 Ingersoll St. Buy tickets for a Job Raffle and win a job valued at \$50 (eg. yard cleaning, exterior window cleaning, etc.). Winners will be announced at the Garage Sale at 4 p.m.
- 15 **Race & Gender Dialogue Group Meeting** at the United Mennonite Church on Greenway and Thompson Dr., Thompson, 2 p.m., Everyone welcome.
- 19 **Thompson Community Kitchen Cooking Session**, Pentecostal Church, Goldeye Cres., 5 p.m., ph. 778-8549.
- 20 **MACSW Pornography Committee** meets to view "Boxing Helena" and discuss action on this film, 7:30 p.m., Kristine's house, 15 Maevista, The Maples, ph. 694-8552/786-9788.
- 25 **Women with Disabilities: Challenging the Myths**, sponsored by MACSW & the UofW Women's Ctr. Viewing of "Towards Intimacy" an NFB video about women with disabilities and sexuality. Discussion to follow led by Amethya Weaver, a white, lesbian feminist & survivor who is oral/deaf. 7 p.m., UofW (room TBA), wheelchair accessible, please register by May 20 for childcare or sign language services, ph. 946-5049.
- 26 **"Alanon Tells it like it is"**: an evening of sharing experiences concerning addictions with Marie Roy of A.F.M., Fort Garry Women's Resource Centre, 7:30-9:30 p.m.
- 26,27 **Coalition on Violence Against Women (COVAW) Workshop "Mobilizing for Change"**, developing a strategy for lobbying against violence, UofW, ph. MACSW at 946-5049 for info.
- June 2 **"Towards Intimacy"** a NFB documentary about women with disabilities and sexuality, 7 p.m., Little Theatre, Education Bldg., Brandon Univ., discussion to follow, ph. 725-2955.

