



ALBERTA STATUS OF WOMEN ACTION COMMITTEE

Vol. 6, No. 1



L-R. Ellen Ticoll, Abortion By Choice, Edmonton

Dr. Henry Morgentaler,

Judy Rebick, Ontario Coalition for Choice,

January 17, 1985 in Edmonton.

NEW OFFICE MANAGER SETTLING IN WELL!

Hello! This is the new office manager speaking - I have been working for just over two weeks now and am really beginning to feel at home in the office. The work is challenging and stimulating and it is so very nice to be able to spend my whole day doing work I both enjoy and believe in.

My year on the Stoard was most useful in terms of orienting myself to ASWAC and the work done in the office. We are in the middle of putting together the Newsletter and I find it really exciting to see the entire process unfold before my very eyes!

I look forward to getting to know many of you - by way of the telephone or in person - and hope you will not hesitate to contact me through the office if there is anything I can help you with.

In sisterhood,

Amanda Le Rougetel



Eighteen Hours . . .

Membership Discussion

Membership discussion continued from the informal discussion of Friday night. We have initiated informal Friday evening discussions before the board meetings. Our discussion this time was about membership. We also continued the discussion Saturday morning. As usual lot of questions, not many answers. The questions included: Why is it important to know who are our members? Of our members, who is with us? Who is not? Do issues bring in members? Do these members stay? We want/need more members but a big push for lots of new members is not a high priority of our organization. Ideas/brainstorming on other ways to reach out to women. This will, of course, be a continuous discussion throughout the year.

Lethbridge Office

Flor Langesley came from Lethbridge for a discussion around opening an ASWAC contact office in Lethbridge. Women have been meeting in Lethbridge to work out a general philosophy. After much discussion, the board gave the go ahead for the women to bring about an ASWAC Action Line and a resource centre. Flor became a member of the board. The tentative GRAND OPENING will be MARCH 8 in Lethbridge. Call us for further details.

ASWAC Budgeting

This piece of work took about 5-6 hours. Discussion began from the basis of our dreams about what we see ASWAC could/should be doing during the year. The mosaic that emerged carried a theme of a move toward a restructuring of our personnel, perhaps through job-sharing or more regional outreach/support workers. Our major points of agreement were around outreach and visibility. Julie Anne Le Gras came and helped facilitate a clear process that helped us to clarify long and short term goals. This issue is discussed under various points in this newsletter. A group will meet later to brainstorm funding as many projects as possible.

ASWAC BOARD MEMBERS

Brigitte Baradoy	1203 Lismer Green NW, Cal. T3B 2V7	282-9843
Janet Beebe	Box 1566, Camrose, T4V 1X4	679-0268
Lorna Gilchrist	Box 292, Airdrie, TOM OBO	948-6685
Marilyn Guile	Box 1941, Whitecourt, TOE 2L0	778-3669
Amanda Le Rougetel	9625-76 Ave, Edm. T6C 0K4	433-8615
Judy Moynihan	190 Highland Close, Ft. McMurray T9H3T5	791-4395
Suzn Morgan	6423 Laurentian Way SW, Cal. T3E 5N2	246-8755
Mair Smith	11227-93 St, Edm. T5B 1B9	479-0623
Julie Walker	2205-2nd Ave, Cal.	283-0488
Lisa Walter	9759-66 Ave, Edm. T5K 2M5	435-8848
Marlene WhiteSun	box 418, Hythe, TOH 0C0	356-3797
Sally Wisden	8819-102 Ave, Edm. T5H 0E1	429-4487
Flor Langeslag	1606 25 Ave N, Lethbridge, T1H 4N9	328-9922

DONATIONS

Since the last Newsletter we have received \$127.00 in donations. We extend a warm THANK YOU to following donators:
 Florence Ellis, Winnie Tomm, Mair Smith, Chuck MacDonald, Marilyn Guille, Penny Young, Evelyn Vermette, Nancy More, Janice Yuzwenko and Janina Vanderpost.

MEETING DATE

The next Stoard meeting will be in Calgary on Feb. 23/24. It will be held at the American Women's Club: 1010 14 St. If you are interested in being at the meeting please call one of the Calgary Stoard members to let them know.

... At A Glance

Relax Inn:
Pornography
Removed

Marilyn Guille told us how she had talked to the manager of her favorite Relax Inn on Stony Plain Road, Edmonton about the pornography that was being sold in the Inn's bookstore. Her words obviously sunk in for the next time she went to stay there all the porn. had been removed! It is good to see that simply discussing an issue with someone will result in such positive action.

Taping the
Newsletter
for the CNIB

A woman working with the Canadian Nat'l Institute for the Blind requested that we find someone to tape the Newsletter for the use of visually impaired women. see announcement p.15 Transcribing Webspinner is also a possibility if the volunteer-power is there.

Morgentaler

The discussion around the Morgentaler speak in Edmonton and the CARAL newsletter was extensive. As this is a very emotional and potentially divisive issue we decided to give it 3 hours at our next Stoard meeting. Interested members are welcome to come and caringly take part in this discussion/exploration of abortion and feminism.

N.A.C.

The Nat'l Action C'ttee on the Status of Women, Alberta Rep., Trudy Richardson, came to talk with us about what has been happening and will be happening with NAC. She spoke of the West obtaining a higher profile and voice among the delegates to the annual conference in May. Also their Secretary of State funding may be in jeopardy partly due to the number of letters he receives per day from 'REAL Women' (Realistic, Effective, Active, for Life) who say they are not represented by NAC and wish its finding to be stopped!!

Practicum
Reports

Suzn gave an evaluation of last year's Social Work practicum project and introduced Kim Service of Airdrie, our new UofC practicum student. She will be researching misogynist judgements in the Alberta courts. Kim will be offering her findings to women's groups in the form of 'speaks' until April 6th. ASWAC and other interested women's groups will be using the information on future projects.

Women's Work
collective

'Women's Work' Collective is a feminist collective working towards creating resources for women-positive jobs for women. 'Women's Work' is sponsoring "Our Lives - Our Work", a photo-journalistic tour documenting women's lives in Alberta's feminist community.

ASWAC ACTION LINE
NOW OPEN IN
LETHBRIDGE
328-2692



COMMON GROUND

Women's Centre Conference

At it's last meeting, the Stoard considered a proposal for a conference of Alberta's Women's Centres and women's action groups. We find that when we visit with women involved in new Women's Centres that everyone experiences very similar joys and sorrows and that every group feels that it is alone with its problems. We would like to attempt to bring groups together for a weekend later this year and we need to know if you are interested!

We are aware of Women's Centres and women's action groups in the following places: Edmonton, Calgary, Whitecourt, Bonnyville, Blairmore, Canmore, Westlock; also an Immigrant Women's Centre in Edmonton and in Calgary. (Also - in Golden B.C. which we really believe is in Alberta!)

Women's action groups which we are aware of are alive and well in Calgary, Red Deer, Lethbridge, Fort McMurray, Grande Prairie, Peace River, Slave Lake.

We wanted to include both centres and action groups because we know that often action groups have discussed opening a Women's Centre of some kind, and could learn from/ share their experiences with women from groups who already have opened a centre.

DID WE MISS YOU?
TELL US ABOUT YOUR CENTRE/ACTION
GROUP . . .

so that you'll be included in the
planning for this event.

MACSW LOVES ASWAC!

Tanya Lester of the Manitoba Action C'ttee on the Status of Women attended our AGM in Calgary. She wrote an article about the weekend for the MACSW newsletter. It is a very positive article in which she emphasizes the process aspect of our work; I feel compelled to reprint here her final sentence which simply gave me goose-bumps:

"We had a really good time. Let me tell you, those Alberta women sure have got it together!"

ASWAC'S GOALS

At our last Stoard meeting we spent some time thinking about what we see as being our goals - both our short-term goals and our long-term goals. They are listed below and we, the Stoard, would be very interested in hearing feed-back from you, the members, on how our ideas about our objectives coincide (or do not coincide) with yours!

Long-term organizational objectives:

- *empowering women
- *maintaining a high, positive profile
- *public education
- *networking
- *political/educational lobbying
- *developing a feminist analysis
- *working towards women's autonomy

Short-term objectives:

- *increased contact with individual women (on farms, in rural and isolated areas, in urban areas)
- *an improved profile in rural Alberta
- *focus on relevant issues which will be high profile
- *increasing the availability of feminist resources and information
- *working towards economic independence for ASWAC
- *complete the 'process assessment' by Secretary of State
- *to take care of ourselves while we do our work
- *to hold Stoard meetings throughout the year and to organize the Annual Assembly

The short-term objectives can be translated as being the work the Stoard members have laid out for ourselves - we're going to be busy!!!

ASWAC is considering a move to a new office space. The main reason for wanting to move is that we would like to be sharing space with other women's groups, and right now there are several groups with the same goal in mind. Right now, too, there is a lot of interesting office space for lease Edmonton at attractive prices, so it's really good time to be looking.

Whether we move or whether we stay in good old, cheap, cold-in-the-winter-hot-in-the-summer, noisy radiators King's College some of us are beginning to think that it's very important that we ensure enough money to rent office space independent of government funding. It's clear that government funding sources may dwindle or dry up as a result of the political climate, and we believe we must act now to ensure the essential elements from which to work.

Our rent at present is \$210.00/month. \$300.00/month would put us in a better position to bargain with prospective landlords. \$300.00/month translates into 30 of you, who believe that an ASWAC office is important to you and to other women, pledging \$10.00/month, and writing a bunch of post-dated cheques to that effect. Already 3 women are doing this - will you join us??

It is important to me that ASWAC maintain an office in Edmonton.

To ensure this, I pledge \$ _____/month for the next _____ months.

Enclosed are _____ post-dated cheques to this effect.

I would _____ like this to be acknowledged in the next _____ newsletter.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

ASWAC'S KITS PROJECT

You know the issues!

By Sheila MacDonald

Oof! These kits are really turning into some job!

Being at the ASWAC office and working closely with the women there for the past two months has not only been a wonderful experience that each of us should have, it has also been "enlightening". At least that's the only word that comes to mind.

When I first began to put the kits together it seemed pretty cut and dried. Compile the best information available, put it into folders that would separate the issues and voila--we'd have it--resources at our fingertips to be available to whoever wanted it.

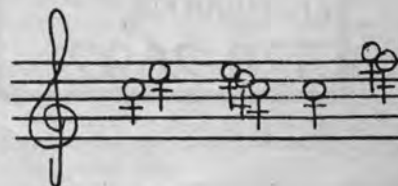
I could collect all the facts and figures I wanted. I could fill each kit with this so-called legitimate proof about our "status" until they were overflowing. The information is scattered everywhere, from the stuffed file folders in our closets to the resource libraries of any institution that is remotely interested in women.

Studies, Stats, Articles...

There's so much of it out there. So much that it makes me sick. The information that I so earnestly set out to pull together has been out there for a long time. It hasn't done what it should be doing. If I did gather it all and put it together--then what? The information instead of not doing what it should from a scattered place, would simply not do what it should from tidy folders in one spot.

And where are we in all this?

Of course, we're in the stats. We're percentages, we're numbers. The only thing that changes when reports, kits and papers are made is the numbers. More abortions, more rapes, more shelters, more pornography, more opposition. It's 1985 and we're still not even making the same amount of money as men!



ABORTION

We examine our most divisive issue

Dr. Henry Morgentaler has come and gone from Alberta, but the energy he helped to generate and the controversy which surrounds the issue of abortion remains vividly present in our lives.

We have devoted a fair amount of space in this issue of the Newsletter to a discussion about abortion. We have included a book review and some personal stories - women speaking about abortion in a way that is productive and meaningful to them.

For me, abortion remains one of the most fundamental issues of concern to women. Until we have control over our bodies and our reproductive functions we cannot call ourselves liberated.

I went to the Morgentaler speak in Edmonton and was deeply impressed by the man's commitment to a woman's right to choose. The ever-rising New Right is organizing most effectively to curtail this hard-won and barely maintained right. The Pro-Choice movement has its work cut out for it!

But beyond the basic concept of a woman's right to choose there remain a number of questions which are beginning to be raised in relation to abortion within the feminist community. (See Meaghan Dean's article.) Not only must we continue the fight for accessible and safe abortions for those women who see that

as their only option, but we must begin to explore the less tangible aspects of this whole issue.

By devoting some of this Newsletter to the topic of abortion we hope to encourage thought and debate among women on this complex and often painful issue.

I plan to do a lot of work for the Pro-Choice movement in Edmonton and would welcome any and all feedback you are willing to give me on how you feel that ASWAC should participate in the work.

Amanda Le Rougetel



As a candidate... this man would be against capital punishment, for social reforms, opposed to the arms race, in favor of the ERA, and therefore unacceptable to the MORAL MAJORITY.

KITS CON'T.

I want to try another tactic. I want to talk about the issues the way they are for us and I want to begin by scrapping the word "issue" (who ever came up with that anyway?) and replace it with the word "experience". Our experiences are our reality and maybe that's what will make it finally hit home. Maybe that's what is needed for people to begin to empathize. We aren't working for a "cause"--we're working for our lives.

I'm collecting poems, drawings, cartoons, pictures, stories, our articles. I want examples of your experiences to fill the kits on feminism, health, violence, work, education, sexuality, religion... Wait a minute...

I don't have to tell you the topics of experience. After all, who knows better!

Send them to: Sheila
ASWAC Office
Box 1573
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 2N7

ASWAC'S PRESENT ABORTION POSITION

The following statement was endorsed by the membership of ASWAC at the 4th Annual Conference held in Edmonton, Oct. 19-21, '80:

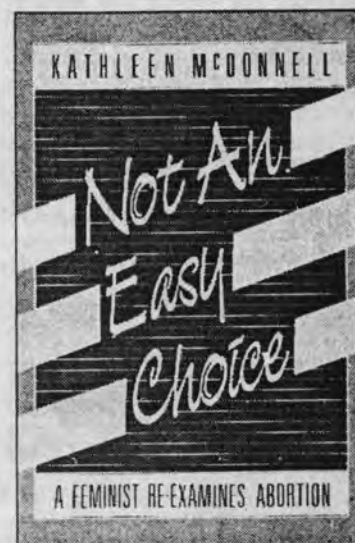
WE BELIEVE it should be a basic human right to decide, freely and responsibly, whether or not to have children as well as to determine their number and spacing. Abortion should be a matter of individual conscience. A woman should have the ultimate right to choose whether or not to continue an unwanted pregnancy.

Morgentaler Video Available

The Dept. of Radio and T.V., University of Alberta videotaped both of the forums that Dr. Henry Morgentaler presented on his visit to the University of Alberta, Jan 16 and 17, 1985.

Copies of these videos are available by calling Ken Pappes at 432-4962. They are available at a cost and can be copied onto VHS, Beta or U-Matic cassettes. Three days notice (at least) must be given.

BOOK REVIEW



By Meaghan Dean

Not An Easy Choice: A Feminist Re-Examines Abortion
By Kathleen McDonnell
Published by The Women's Press
\$8.95 157 pages.

For any feminist who has found herself taking a closer look at abortion lately, this book is a must. Though short and readable, *Not An Easy Choice* is packed with the information and insights gleaned from one feminist's re-examination of abortion.

Continued on p 6

McDonnell Review Continues

McDonnell is refreshingly candid and direct about why she felt the need to re-examine her position on abortion and what she had to face as she made this journey. "I felt a bit like a feminist heretic, attending pro-choice rallies and marches while secretly harboring thoughts and feelings that seemed to clash with what I saw as the official "line" on abortion. Gradually I found myself coming back to a basic feminist truth: that our "politics" cannot afford to be divorced from our authentic feelings, no matter how vague or contradictory they may seem. Our real task is to search out and find ways to reconcile the two."

Her re-examination brought her "renewed clarity" and left her "more committed than ever to a woman's right to control her own body". Yet the issue for her is not closed. She insists the only way we are going to avoid getting stuck at impasses around abortion is if we explore the "thorny questions" and create new ways of thinking and talking about abortion. The purpose of her book is to be part of stimulating this discussion.

What made her book such a delight to me was that it not only raised the "thorny questions" but in so doing drove away some of the isolation I have felt in recent years as I've gone through my own questioning process. Some of the questions she raises include:

Why has the feminist perspective on abortion not gained hold more strongly with the mainstream compared to other issues?

Why is the feminist commitment to the absolute right of women to choose abortion still seen as "too radical" by most people?

Can we find new ways of talking about the abortion issue which, instead of watering it down or clouding it, adds new dimensions and makes it more accessible to many women and men we've not yet reached?

Why is it that feminist theory in so many other areas (violence, patriarchy, the family) greatly expanded, developed and matured, while with abortion we are still using the same slogans and general position we had in the early Seventies?

Is this because a re-evaluation of the feminist position on abortion is not really needed or because we are afraid that if we "open up the agenda on abortion" we may split the women's movement and give ammunition to our enemies?



McDonnell says it is no longer a question of whether feminists will open up the abortion issue, but that we already are. One by one some feminists are casting off the cloak of isolation and privacy that has surrounded their questioning and are talking and writing about it more openly. Larger developments in society are also directly affecting the abortion issue and if we ignore them we run the risk of becoming even more rigid, stagnant and eventually, irrelevant.

Some of these "larger developments" she elaborates on include:

Women's experience of abortion is not being addressed and integrated into the way we talk politically about the issue. For instance, it is still largely considered inappropriate or politically incorrect for a feminist who's had an abortion to show any grief she might have. Also, we have been somewhat less than honest publicly about the fact that an abortion is not the straightforward, strictly clinical exercise we describe in our leaflets.

We are not reaching the great middle ground of people who have moral qualms about abortion. For a variety of reasons, feminists have avoided grappling with morality at all, thus leaving a vacuum that anti-choicers are filling--however dangerously and simplistically.

Developments in medical technology are radically changing the nature of the abortion debate.

Men are beginning to take on a greater role in every aspect of reproduction and parenting. Some of this involvement is highly questionable, while some of it needs to be acknowledged and encouraged.

Some feminists are sensing a dissonance between their stand on abortion and our stand in other areas, especially around non-violence.

And these are some of the thoughts raised just in the first chapter alone!

The book goes on to touch on women's experience of abortion, developing a feminist morality, men and abortion, the anti-abortion movement, a look at what choice means, controlling reproduction and reclaiming abortion.

As McDonnell says, the book is not really a departure from feminist thought for it contains "nothing...for which the seeds have not already been planted in the feminist view of abortion." However, the book does rank among the growing number of feminist attempts to break our silence around re-examining abortion.

"The truth is," she says, "that there has been a need among women for this kind of re-examination, but it has been largely fear that has kept us from carrying it out--fear of where it will lead us, fear of creating divisions among ourselves, fear of our opponents using it against us. It may be a difficult and painful exercise at times, but we have to trust ourselves and our ability to come through it. We have to trust that our re-examination of abortion is really a coming full circle ..."

If you can possibly get your hands on this book, it is well worth a read. If after you have read it, you would like to get together with some other feminists and talk about it, then join the discussion group I am forming (see article this issue).



Support Group

Over the last while it has become painfully clear to me that womyn who have chosen to have an abortion, for whatever reason, receive very little emotional support from other womyn for that choice. Without doubt, there is much political support with pro-choice people upholding a womyn's rights to her own body. It seems politically incorrect to have, let alone try to talk about, feelings of guilt, sadness, sorrow over the terminated pregnancy.

In short, it is difficult to grieve properly for what might have been under different circumstances.

All around us we are bombarded with "the joy of childbirth" and often sheltered from viewing the ugliness of the life of an unwanted child. Terminating a pregnancy, abortion, is a horrible alternative to a horrible situation and I don't think it is a choice womyn make lightly.

I want to say that it's o.k. to feel guilt, sadness, sorrow or other emotions around a decision to abort and that these feelings have validity in the individual's experience.

I would like very much to get womyn together to talk about this issue and to express and hopefully resolve/accept feelings which may previously have been repressed. I believe in Choice for womyn but feel that expressing/denying feelings because of personal politics is unempowering for us all.

If you are interested in discussing this together, please contact me, Sally Wisden, at 429-4487 evenings or 986-9932 days.

by Sally Wisden.



The Need for More Analysis

By Meaghan Dean

I am a radical feminist.

For years I worked unequivocally on the "pro-choice side" of the abortion issue. I marched, I stood up and was counted, I wore my choice T-shirt and adorned my Volkswagen with a pro-choice bumper sticker.

During these years the abortion issue seemed quite simple to me. One was pro-choice or anti-choice. The "right side" was pro-choice and the "wrong side" was anti-choice. Oh yes, I would say things like "there of course is more to the abortion issue--it is indeed highly complex". However, I never let this strictly intellectual concession interfere with my day-to-day work around the abortion issue--I feared (quite justifiably perhaps) that exploring these complexities would just give ammunition to the "other side".

Then slowly, inexorably--over a couple of years--the issue became less simple for me. Where once I was so sure about this issue, I wasn't anymore. The "right side/wrong side" way we worked, talked and strategized just didn't fit anymore. A deep and growing uneasiness chewed away at the edges of my heretofore unquestioned convictions.

I started being too busy or too tired to go on marches or join pro-choice groups; I peeled the bumper sticker off while washing the car one day and my T-shirt is now an all-purpose duster. I've come to dread the questions, "what is your stand on abortion?" or "what do you think about the Morgentaler case?" I have so much to say in response that 25-word-or-less expectations frustrate me to the point of verbal paralysis.

Neither the pro-choice nor anti-choice labels describe adequately where I'm going around abortion--even others' seemingly great need to label me at all is causing me increasing pain and isolation. At the very least, I need to know more about just what being "pro-choice" means--not only to my intellect and politics but to my feelings and the real experiences in my life.

I have become a feminist who is just not so sure about abortion anymore. I don't know exactly



what this means or where it will lead, but I do know it has left me feeling scared and guilty and terribly alone (and silenced). However, I am sure about several other things--that I am ready to break my silence, that I care about women, that it is important to take back our power and to honor one another's choices whatever they may be.

I am sure that I need to re-examine abortion from a feminist perspective. I am sure that I am ready to start sharing with other feminists the contradictions, the questions and the new (and often ambivalent) feelings swirling around for me on the subject of abortion. I am sure I want to be part of broadening the boundaries and deepening the analysis and growth around abortion. I am sure I do not want to do this in isolation.

Discussion Group

So, I am starting a discussion group. For the time being we could call ourselves "Feminists Re-examining Abortion". The first meeting will be Saturday, March 9 at 2 p.m. (bring your own refreshments).

The reason for the lengthy lead time is to give all women interested in joining the group time to read the book, Not An Easy Choice: A Feminist Re-Examines Abortion by Kathleen McDonnell. (See review this issue). It is available at Common Woman Books (also try Audrey's Books). Price \$8.95. I think it might be easier to start if we use the first session to discuss our thoughts and feelings about this book. Even if you don't come to the discussion group, I would strongly recommend reading it.

For more details about the discussion group (ie. location, etc.) call me, Meaghan Dean, at 479-0623 (evenings and weekends). I look forward to meeting with you, so please let me know if you are interested.

IDEAS IDEAS IDEAS IDEAS

Carol McKenzie took up the challenge, issued by Lisa Walter in the last Newsletter, to write an article for the Ideas page.

Who next - YOU??

Feedback on this and other articles in the Newsletter would be welcome, too.

To Be or Not to He

The structure of the English language is inherently sexist. But given that education was, until relatively recently, a male prerogative, sexism within written and spoken language is not astonishing. Indeed, because intellectual disciplines were established by male persons, the adoption of words like man, mankind and humanity seem logical. I doubt, however, that such words were ever intended to refer to both sexes, given that women were excluded from intellectual pursuits, and also given that women were not even considered persons according to the law until the 20th century. Traditionally, then, women and girls have remained invisible within the lexical and vernacular milieu, except, perhaps, when referred to as being burned at the stake, heralded as martyrs and virgins, branded with scarlet letters, porned, or ridiculed as hysterical, perplexing and insignificant creatures.

What is astonishing, and aggravating, is the perpetuation of the sexism, particularly within current publications. Many people argue that female persons are implied in male-gendered terms; but this is merely a bogus attempt to justify the continued use of such sexist terms, for to remain just an implication hardly elevates the female person's status significantly. Would men, for instance, accept such a rationale if suddenly the situation were reversed, making male persons linguistic implications?

Actually, an argument can be made here in favour of using female-gendered words to indicate both sexes. Semantically, female-gendered words, like womankind, woman, she and her, incorporate the male gender within the very words themselves.

Therefore, to use female-gendered words when both sexes are being discussed is logical, since "man" and "he" constitute part of the words woman, womankind, she and her. As well, "human" and "humanity" could be changed to "huwoman" and "huwomanity"; or

perhaps the "a" in "human" could be replaced with a "u" or "i". The word "person" presents no problem; simply replace the "o" with a "u" to avoid gender association. By implementing such changes, either both sexes are excluded or neither is. Reducing just one sex to an implied status is thereby avoided. Incidentally, a biological argument for using woman, womankind, she and her to mean both sexes can be presented as well. It is, after all, within women that people begin their lives; and those who are learned in the act of reproduction understand clearly the dynamics of who is within whom. Therefore, female-gendered words to indicate all people are not only semantically logical, but anatomically accurate.

However, to legislate such terms would be difficult, for people have been socialized to accept that "man" and "humanity" and even "he" refer to men and women, but that "woman" and "women" refer only to women. (More recently, the trend has been to use the vulgar, male-gendered word "guys" to mean either male persons or male and female persons; "gals", however, refers strictly to female persons.) A semantic shift from male to female-gendered words would likely produce massive mental anguish and confusion, exemplified, of course, by the realization that men would lose, while women would gain, vernacular and

lexical superiority--sexism in reverse, albeit less gender-exclusive than the present situation. But sexism of any degree or style is undesirable.

A more viable alternative would be to use both male and female-gendered words together. For example, when using the singular words "everyone" or "each" to refer to either sex, one could employ both the female and male possessive, as in this construction: "everyone has his/her preference," or, "everyone has her/his preference". If the author or speaker finds this cumbersome, she/he could choose the plural construction, using "people" or "human beings" with the possessive "their": "people have their individual preferences". Another solution is to use the male and female-gendered words alternately; that is, to use the female words for a few paragraphs, then the male words for a few paragraphs. "Woman" could be used in conjunction with "man", and "womankind" along with "mankind", when referring to both sexes. Words like "guys" and "gals" should, of course, be reserved for their particular sexes. Little can be done with "humanity" except in the dictionary definitions, which still define "humanity" as "mankind"; naturally to reduce the sexist implications "humanity" should be defined as "mankind and womankind".

Such modifications are simple to implement, particularly with the advent of computer software which automatically edits sexist language. That female persons be as accepted and included linguistically as male persons are cannot be underestimated, for it is largely through language that people know and define themselves and others. It is language which sets us above the animal kingdom/queendom (animal world!) and gives us our humanness. Sexist language denies women and girls their humanity, for it demands that they remain implications on paper and off.

Carol McKenzie.



Solidarity??

Standing together as women, we have learned that we are not all alike. We are as different as our lifestyles, bodies, friends, and experiences. Yet, these differences are what link us. We all understand how hard it is to live in a world that rides on the back of misogyny.

As we go about doing our work our numbers grow. Men as well as women join with us to strive for a world that is safe, comfortable, and just. A world in which all children are wanted, where we can live, eat, and dream and it wouldn't matter whether babies grew up to be men or women. People would just care and that would be enough because they wouldn't just say it-they'd mean it. This future will be for both men and women.

The present reality is that men are still hurting us.

Recently I learned of a horrible act of violence towards a woman that was not committed by a stranger. This time, the offender has a name, a face, a personality. He's a man who I have worked with in the past and had come to trust over the last two years. He is striving for the same future as I am.

Politically, I am angry. No-- I am enraged.

Emotionally, my sense of loss is astounding. The sadness I feel because a trust has been broken and the grieving process I must go through at the loss of a friend makes the situation seem intolerable. I know though, that I'm not the first woman to have to deal with this. Like other healing processes, this is one that we don't have to struggle through alone.

Let's start by talking more openly about it. Let's not protect these men, instead let's find out what we can do when it happens.

Sheila MacDonald



The Alberta Human Rights Commission has proposed a number of amendments to the Individual Rights Protection Act. Among them is the recommendation to include sexual orientation as prohibited grounds for discrimination in employment. The response of the Minister of Labour, Les Young, is saddening and disappointing. Letters from Mr. Young indicate he has not yet recognized the need for implementation of the recommendation. His reasoning for not supporting the recommendation contains some glaring flaws which beg to be addressed.

His letters repeatedly refer to sexual orientation and sexual practice as if they were one and the same. They are not. The issue before us is sexual orientation - a state of being not unlike gender, race or age. To be deprived of employment simply for "being" is grossly unjust. To equate orientation with practice is inaccurate and serves only to create confusion.

The term sexual practice obviously covers a very broad spectrum of behaviours and to use it without clarification or definition can conjure up all kinds of possibilities. It is agreed that sexual practice which harms or infringes on the rights of others (eg. rape or harassment) must not be allowed. These issues, however, are not to be confused with sexual orientation. Legislation exists to address offensive sexual practice. The laws should apply

equally to all persons, regardless of orientation.

Mr. Young's letters further state "It is understood of course, that sexual orientation and sexual practice are personal matters and should remain so" and "should not be conducted publicly". He is saying that in a social setting people should not display signs of affection or mutual caring - should not call one another by names of endearment or hold the hand of a loved one in the presence of others.

I doubt, however, that this is what he means. Such conduct is perfectly natural and healthy - and acceptable for heterosexuals. It is felt to be unacceptable for homosexuals only as a result of prejudices based on ignorance. There is a double standard revealed here which is clearly and unfairly discriminatory. To expect a homosexual to refrain from acknowledging a loving relationship in her/his life is as absurd as expecting the same of a heterosexual.

Homosexuals, 10% of the population, ask only for the same rights that heterosexuals enjoy - no more, no less.

Let the Minister of Labour know you support the Commission's recommendation and urge him to reassess his position on the matter. The inclusion of sexual orientation in the Individual Rights Protection Act is an important and necessary step in dispelling the myths that exist about homosexuality.

Marlene WhiteSun

MAINTENANCE ACTION UPDATE

On Dec. 5th the Maintenance Action Group met with Attorney Neil Crawford to discuss the future of maintenance enforcement in Alberta. The meeting was requested by ASWAC on behalf of a coalition of individuals and groups from around the province.

The objective was to receive a concrete commitment from the government for a new system of maintenance enforcement in Alberta. The current system in which 75% of court-ordered maintenance payments are not made results in suffering and hardship for thousands of Alberta women and children and is clearly unacceptable.

Generally, the meeting was favorable. Mr. Crawford said the Alberta government has long been dissatisfied with the existing system and "can commit to a new system within a year."

The new system will take the form of a publicly-funded agency responsible for monitoring and enforcing maintenance orders and would include a central computerized registry.

We applaud the direction in which the government is moving and will be anxiously watching for the necessary legislation changes to be introduced in the spring session.

We were left with some concerns. The need for automatic registration of court orders, rather the recipient spouse being responsible for registration, has not been fully recognized. It would be inaccurate and discriminating to assume that all women would possess a knowledge of the system and how to access it. Also, automatic registration by the court would remove the spousal conflict which often develops

when the woman must initiate payment.

Another concern is the reluctance on the part of the judiciary to use the penalties that do exist. This must be changed. Being able to monitor maintenance payments and detecting defaults quickly is not enough. Unfortunately many defaulters must face real consequences (eg. garnishing his wages, fines, imprisonment) before they will fulfill their legal obligations. As long as they are able to get away with not paying, they will. Enforcement mechanisms have to be applied if a new system is to be effective.

We encourage public input to the Attorney General's Dept. during this formative stage of the new system. Let him know what the women of Alberta want!

Marlene WhiteSun

'STUDENT FINANCE' does it again!

Dear Alberta Women:

I am enclosing a copy of part of a student loans enquiry sheet any person desiring a student loan must fill out. In fairness males also must respond and are likely just as appalled and angry over such insensate questions.

Being somewhat excited over the prospects of becoming a student this fall, I sat down to look at the student loans brochure. As I read I became angry, then hostile; so felt compelled to phone ASWAC. Here, then, is part of my personal anger.

A divorced parent who "put hubby through" University, law school and articling, I was left holding the babies literally and figuratively. It was, and in some ways still is, a wounding experience. My dream must be put on hold. He could walk away while I have the day to day responsibility of feeding, clothing and sheltering them. Child support, you say? In Alberta? Isn't that cute!!

This would seem to be a familiar story to most separated or divorced women. However, here we have a government agency asking questions no longer allowed on

employment applications. Personal and degrading is the way I see it. Who the hell cares how you arrived at motherhood or parenthood as long as you are the legal guardian and need government loans to support those children while you better yourself? They are "loans" not gifts.

A marriage certificate for divorced or separated people? I might understand them asking for papers confirming guardianship.

However that would also be apparent on ones income tax forms which they are allowed to ask for.

I personally resent such invasion of privacy as this form shows. I am no longer a spouse nor do I wish to rehash what is past. Perhaps others would care to comment also.

In Peace
Juliette Trudeau.

SECTION 11 - FAMILY INFORMATION (To be filled out by the applicant or spouse)

1. Spouse's Name _____ Spouse's Maiden Name _____
 2. Spouse's Social Insurance No. [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []
 3. Date of Marriage Common Law Relationship: Mo. Yr. _____ Date of Separation or Divorce (if Applicable): Mo. Yr. _____
 4. My spouse was born in Alberta () Other () _____ (Province)
 5. My spouse has continuously resided in Alberta from _____ Mo. Yr. _____
 6. My spouse has had post secondary training at _____ Institution _____ Year of Completion _____
 7. List your children, their ages, and if they are residing with you:

Name	Age	Does he/she reside with you?	Name	Age	Does he/she reside with you?
A _____	_____	_____	D _____	_____	_____
B _____	_____	_____	E _____	_____	_____
C _____	_____	_____	F _____	_____	_____

 8. For the period I am applying for financial assistance, MY SPOUSE:
 A. Will reside with me: Yes () No () If no, where? _____
 B. Will be a non student () part time student () full-time student () Educational institution _____
 C. Has applied for financial assistance to: Alberta (application attached) () Other ()
 9. I and/or my spouse own Real Estate: Yes () If yes, complete below: No ()

Date of Purchase	Address	Market Value
\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Amount of First Mortgage	Monthly Payment	Amount of Second Mortgage
\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____

 10. My spouse is presently employed () Part-time () Full-time () Not Employed - Explain _____
 Gross Monthly Earnings \$ _____ Income Tax Deducted Monthly \$ _____
 11. Name and Address of Spouse's Employer _____

WOMEN IN TRADES

When it comes to support, we're on our own.

A printer by trade, I found it very difficult to break out of secretarial work and into a trade. I felt battered by the barriers thrown up against me along the way, and because of that I helped to found the Vancouver Women in Trades Association.

The trades system in place today was developed by government, trade schools, unions and employers in the name of a status quo that worked well for them (men) in the past and continues to do so today. And because that system attempts to exclude women, Vancouver Women in Trades has found much of its time and energy engaged in lobbying to change discriminatory practices, in addition to showing women how to unravel the maze of obstacles they face.

Fighting the system can be draining, and it's times like these that push me to envision a more positive, creative, encouraging approach - that of doing for ourselves.

I believe in women working together, and an association (formal or informal) can be a valuable tool for women interested in acquiring trade skills and trade jobs. Ideally, an association provides practical information, emotional support, job referrals and constructive problem-solving for women in the throes of entering the trades.

Why not help start a group by sponsoring a series of meetings to help women interested in - or already in - the trades make contact? And by that, I mean gatherings that do not involve "officials", but simply women who are out to do what they can for themselves.

For instance, why can't women form study groups to teach themselves specific trade skills? This could easily be done at the "pre-appren-

tice" level, where the idea is to gain basic concepts, terminology and familiarity with tools, or at any level where enough women have similar needs. Correspondence courses could also be an important tool, because exposure and access to knowledge are major issues for women entering trades.

As well, imagine women doing a lecture series (sharing their own knowledge, or going to outside tradespeople for it); visiting trade fairs; "apprenticing" on a short-term, informal, probably unpaid basis to a tradesperson to gain exposure; practising together on simple "hands-on" projects to upgrade or acquire that all-important aptitude; sharing tutorial fees to get over tough spots in their learning; hiring out in pairs on simple jobs to gain experience and confidence; and researching local job opportunities for themselves.

All these are ways in which women can create their own learning situations, bringing them in due course to qualify for trade jobs. For if breaking into a trade is going to take two or three years, as it did for me, at least let it be time spent constructively - moving ahead, taking initiative, gaining skills and confidence - rather than passively waiting for tradesmen and government counsellors to open the doors for us (as we are left, in our ignorance, to do).

Now, you may say that any young man is also expected to move ahead, take initiative, prove his interest and his worth - but I contend that women are consistently discouraged from helping themselves. We are discouraged by messages that we can't do it anyway, that we won't fit, that we don't have the aptitude, or the "build". . .

Once in a trade job, there is still much a woman has to do. For the most part, women in trades

do not have legitimate status, choice jobs, power (as men see it), or acceptance - yet. A woman new to the trades must learn the specific problems women in her trade face and what can be done about them, continue to upgrade her skills, again confront the "old-boys' network" (this time from within), hopefully share her skills and experience with other women, and stays in contact with other tradeswomen so as not to isolate herself. She may or may not have friendly assistance with this, but as with her initial struggle to gain a foothold, in the end she must be committed to doing so for herself.

It is clear to me that most tradesmen do not see it in their interest to encourage and nurture tradeswomen. They persist in holding up biological differences and the historic division of labour as reasons for their exclusion of women, yet both are red herrings, diverting attention from women's simple human capacity to do work - any work.

The most useful thing we can do for women wanting to enter the trades is to help them help themselves. Women have as much right as men to the skills, knowledge and power with which our everyday existence is created. And what women can do, women should do.

This is where I'm at after five years of trades work, much thought, many tears of frustration and finally, satisfaction and a growing confidence in myself. I have not always been sure I wanted to encourage any woman to go into a trade. But now, it is something I heartily encourage women to do - not for the difficulties they will encounter along the way, but for the skills, the rewards of the work, and the personal strength they will derive from doing it. That's what is in it for us at this time.

Janet Beebe

Sheila MacDonald



EATON'S BOY/GIRL COTT

Eaton's has given some its employees a 7% wage increase - their first in 2 1/2 years!

Eaton's wants to take away benefits that their employees have had for years - benefits like pensions, sick leave, vacations and meal breaks.

Eaton's says that what you look like and what your "customer profile" is like are what makes the difference in promotions and layoffs. That's favouritism - when what people deserve is recognition for their service.

Eaton's says that it has the right to make people work irregular and unpredictable hours, no matter what the cost to health or family life.

The solution is for Eaton's employees to win decent wages and working conditions. And win the right to negotiate, as self-respecting adults, how they're treated and how they're paid.

You can hit Eaton's where it hurts the most - in the wallet!

Don't shop at Eaton's. That will tell them that you, the customer, don't like the way Eaton's does business with its own employees.

DON'T GIVE EATON'S YOUR BUSINESS UNTIL EATON'S GIVES ITS EMPLOYEES A FAIR SOLUTION.

(taken from the pamphlet put out by Calgary Working Women's Org. and Calgary's Int'l Women's Day Coalition)

Eaton's employees in Bromley, Ontario, in Toronto and in Vancouver are on strike. 80% of the striking workers are women, **WHY?? BECAUSE...**

CALGARY S.W.A.C.

SWAC memberships are available free of charge for those who cannot afford the annual fee of \$5.00 or who are curious and would like a sample membership.

Some younger women (- 25yrs.) will be meeting throughout the following months to work on a project for the International Year of the Youth. They will be applying for funding for a summer time project with 4 - 6 employees plus volunteers (of course!). If you are interested please call Ravidia at 262-1873 and leave a message.

D.E.S. ACTION ALBERTA

New reports of more health problems for people exposed to DES (Diethylstilbestrol) make the search for DES mothers and DES daughters more urgent.

Recent articles have stated that DES mothers have a risk for breast cancer that is nearly 50% higher than for non-exposed women. A study has also shown that DES daughters are twice as likely to have dysplasia as are young women not exposed to the drug.

DES, the synthetic estrogen, was given to 4 million women in the US and approx. 400,000 women in Canada during the years between 1938 - 1971, in the mistaken belief that it helped prevent miscarriage and other pregnancy problems. Studies have already shown that DES daughters are at risk for a number of fertility-related problems.

You need to know if you are a DES mother or daughter. Ask your mother, ask your physician - and then call or write DES Action/Alberta for information on how to cope: (include a s.a.e. with stamp): 7216-33 Ave, Edmonton Alberta T6K 1K3 tel: 463-7300.

There will be a meeting to discuss the latest findings on Wed. Feb. 13, at 7:30pm at the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce, 600 Sun Life Place, 10123-99 St. The guest speaker will be Carolyn Nickles from the Canadian Cancer Society and a film on Breast Self examination will be shown. For further info. call the telephone number listed above.

Media Watch representative needed

Are you: Tired of sexist images of women in the media?

Do you: Wish you could play an active, effective role in improving this situation?

Have you: A fair degree of comfort working with groups, motivating volunteers and dealing with media calls?

Will you: Consider being the Alberta representative for MediaWatch, the national women's organization dedicated to improving the portrayal of girls and women in the media.

This is a commitment not to be undertaken lightly! However, if you have the time, the skills and the willingness, this Media Watch position will give you the satisfaction of being actively involved in an effective nationwide organization. It's a volunteer position, but there is money available to cover expenses.

If you're interested, please contact MediaWatch
209 636 West Broadway
Vancouver BC V5Z 1G2
(604) 873 8511.



Sheila MacDonald

Women's Alternative s For Negotiating Peace

This is the title of an international conference being organized by the Canadian Coalition of Women's Groups. It will be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia between June 5-9, 1985

If we value our own lives, and the lives of our children and all children everywhere, if we honour both the past and the future, then we must do everything in our power to work non-violently for Peace.

Margaret Laurence, writer

For more info. write:
Women's International Peace conf.
Canadian Coalition of Women's Groups
Mount St. Vincent University
166 Bedford Highway
Rm. 9, Seton Annex
HALIFAX, N.S.
B3M 2J6

TWO IMPORTANT FILM FESTIVALS

Common Woman Books
and the
Edmonton Women's Health Collective

proudly announce their
FILM FESTIVAL:

WOMEN: Reflections on Ourselves

Sunday Feb. 17 --
theme: Violence Against Women
films: Loved, Honoured and
Bruised - 1pm
Hookers on Davies - 2:15pm
Night without Fear - 7:30pm

Sunday March 10 --
theme: Women relating to Women
films: Daughter Rite - 11am
Lost Love - 1pm
Chris and Bernie - 2pm
In the best interests of
the Children - 3pm
On Guard - 7pm

Sunday April 14 --
theme: Experimental Art films
films: Thriller - 2pm
Kate and Anna McGarrigle
- 2:45pm
Portrait of Parasheva,
artist - 3:30pm
Gold Diggers - 7pm

All showings will be screened
at: the National Film Board
Theatre
10031-103 Avenue
EDMONTON

Admission donations would be
greatly appreciated.
Childcare is available.
For further information call:
Common Woman Books
432-9344

Good Music!

Feminist and union activist
Arlene Mantle will be performing
a concert in Edmonton on
Saturday, March 2 at 8 p.m. in
the Edmonton Public Library
Theatre.

Tickets are available from
Feminist Media Services (Meaghan)
at 479-0623, or at the ASWAC
office. Tickets are \$5. each.

Arlene also wants to get
together with some Edmonton
women while she is here to do
a collective songwriting
workshop. If you are interested
in this give Meaghan a call at
the above number or at 423-4102
during the day.

THE EDMONTON LEARNER CENTRE
ANNOUNCES . . .

the 5th Annual Third World
Film Festival

Feb 8, 9, 10th 1985
in the Tory Lecture Theatres
on the UofA campus

This year's festival theme is
"Women Around the World"; some
of the films to be shown include
Abortion: Stories from North and
South, Double Day, Women of El
Planete and As Women See It -
Selbe-One Among Many.

for more info please call:
424-4371

**EDMONTON WORKING
WOMEN'S
NEW HOTLINE:
432-1259
CALL IF ALBERTA'S
LABOUR LAWS
AREN'T WORKING
FOR YOU**

Raising kids is Hard -

when you're Alone it's Harder

This is the title of a slide show
which is aimed at the young, preg-
nant teenaged girl who is faced
with the decision whether or not
to keep her baby.

It has been produced for the
International Year of the Youth
and combats the romantic ideas
teens tend to have about babies.

It has been useful for social
workers, junior high classes and
senior high classes. It stimu-
lates great thought and dis-
cussion.

It has been created by Mufty
Mathewson in cooperation with
Terra and it is available

NDP mailing list

Interested in women's issues?
Send your name and address to be
included on the NDP Official
Opposition Women's Issues mailing
list.

Mailouts will include relevant
portions of Hansard, recent devel-
opments in NDP policy with regard
to women's issues and other
pertinent information as it be-
comes available.

Please write or phone:
Holly Slavic
10635-125 Street
EDMONTON, Alberta
T5N 1T7 tel: 488-6810

LEGAL STRUCTURES ... choices for women's groups

Kris Farkas of the Summer School
Collective spent last summer
putting together a booklet detail-
ing the various legal structures:
available to women's groups.

It contains lots of good infor-
mation and advice on how you can
structure your group, where to go
to do it and what the pros and cons
of each structure are.

Copies are available free of charge
through the ASWAC office - but
PLEASE enclose a stamped, self-
addressed envelope. (64¢ stamp
for one booklet)



through: Fayre Photography
10322-132 St.
EDMONTON, T5N 1Z1
tel: 452-6224

The cost of this slide show
is \$110.00

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOBS

Every Woman's Place, Edmonton, has funding for 3 1-year long positions: a Project Manager and 2 Outreach Workers.

Applicants must be registered with a Canada Employment-Centre. The Project Manager needs strong organizational skills, training or experience in supervision and the ability to motivate. Bookkeeping and/or social work background would be an asset.

The Outreach Workers need training or experience in community outreach, initiative and flexibility. Experience in group facilitation or counselling and a social-work background would be assets.

SEND resumes to:
Sheila Smith
Room 390
10665 Jasper Ave.
EDMONTON
--by FEB. 15th.
PLEASE DO NOT CALL OR DROP
BY IN PERSON.

RED DEER

If you are interested in becoming involved in Red Deer S.W.A. please call 347-2480 for further information.

U of A WOMENS CENTRE IN A TIGHT SPOT

HELP!

In the summer of 1984 the UofA Women's Centre received a Canada Works Project grant to establish a Resource Centre and produce a Resource Directory. The grant covered wages and operating costs. The project was responsible for raising the majority of funds to cover printing.

We received funds from the President of the university, the Students' Union External Affairs Board, Canada Works Summer Works and a promise of a personal donation. The sum of these promised monies allowed us to order 7500 copies of "The University of Alberta Women's Centre Resource Directory".

It has now become evident that

I.W.D.

. . . in Calgary
There will be two events - a concert with Arlene Mantle, a singer-songwriter from Toronto, on Wed. March 6 at 7:30pm at 120 17 Ave SW; tickets: \$5.00
Childcare is available - please call 262-1873 at least 3 days prior to the event to arrange it.

. . . and also there will be a March and Celebrations on Friday, March 8 at 7:00pm: meet at CUPE Hall, 120 13 Ave SE -from here we will march to the Family of Man statues where a re-naming will take place with some street theatre. A social event will follow with a keynote speak by Dionne Brand, a poet (this is to be confirmed). Childcare arrangements can be made through the above phone number.

. . . in Edmonton
The IWD committee has been meeting for a while now and although the details have yet to be worked out the general layout of the day looks like this:
a street march on Sat. March 9, followed by display tables, workshops and a women-only social in the evening.
For further information or to volunteer your help and services please call Lynne Weeds at 433-3559.

Everyone else? Well, we don't have accurate, up-to-date info. Please send details of your plans so they can be included in the next newsletter.

\$750 (the personal donation) in expected funding is not going to materialise. As a result, we are currently seeking donations to cover our printing bill which is overdue. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated.

In short - we need your help!

Copies of the directory are available to all. Phone us at 432-2057.

In the meantime anyone interested in making a donation can send it to:

Women's Centre Project
c/o of UofA Women's Centre
University of Alberta
S.U.B. - Box 41
EDMONTON, Alberta, T6G 2J7

THANK YOU!!

Conference

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN and the LAW

presents: WHO'S IN CONTROL?, a conference on the Legal Implications of Reproduction and Technology

Feb. 21 - 24, 1985
at the
Skyline Hotel, Ottawa

For further information write
NAWL Biennial Conference
c/o Camylle Enterprises
39 Goulburn Avenue
OTTAWA, Ontario
K1N 8C7
tel: (613) 594-8004

speakers include:
Lewis Klar
Maureen McTeer
Mary O'Brien

LIFE, DEATH & TRANSITION

an evening with
Dr. Elisabeth Kubler-Ross

Thursday March 7th
7:30pm
Kinsmen Sport Centre,
Edmonton.

tickets:
general admin.: \$10.00
students/seniors: \$8.00
-available at Bass outlets

sponsored by the
Bereavement Support Society of
Alberta
PO Box 1352
Edmonton, T5J 2N2

Feminist Visions Weekend

Come and share your feminist visions with your sisters on the weekend of March 23/24.

We'll be gathering at Barbara Hill's place in Vermillion.

For more information, please call:
Barbara 853-2180(Vermillion)
Mair 479-0623(Edmonton)
Suzn 246-8755(Calgary)

WOMEN'S STUDIES CHAIR

Mount St. Vincent University has been awarded the first endowed Chair of Women's Studies in Canada.

The chair, awarded by the Secretary of State, will enable scholars committed to Women's studies to come to the Mount for a period of two or three years to participate in the women's studies program and to carry out research in affiliation with the Institute for the Study of Women.

Mount St. Vincent is currently inviting nominations and applications for appointment to the Chair in Women's Studies.

Address all correspondence to:
Dr. Susan Clark
Women's Studies Chair Committee
Mount St. Vincent University
HALIFAX, Nova Scotia
B3M 2J6

Record the Newsletter!

We have received a number of requests from visually impaired individuals to have the Newsletter read onto tape.

If you are interested in donating some time to do the recording please contact the ASWAC office in Edmonton.
tel: 424-3073

Sexual Assault Centre

The Sexual Assault Centre of Edmonton (SAC) is soon going to be selling memberships and putting out an expanded regular newsletter.

If you would be interested in working on the newsletter or in helping to type up the proposed membership mailing list, please contact Meaghan Dean at 423-4102.

Of course, if you or someone you know would like to become a member of SAC, let Meaghan know and they'll be put on the mailing list right away and will receive a copy of the new newsletter.

The new newsletter will be coming out during the first week of March. Deadline for articles is Feb. 13. Production and layout will be happening from Feb. 13-19, so give Meaghan a call at the above number if you would like to help out.

Feds Discriminate Against Singles

The federal government has announced it hopes to extend the Spouse's Allowance (one element of the old-age security program) to single people in need between the ages of 60-64.

Sounds good, eh?

But . . .

. . . the only people eligible for the extended program are widows and widowers. This constitutes discrimination against the 80,000 Canadians in this age bracket who are single, separated or divorced. Of these 80,000 a great majority are women.

This is yet another example of our federal government ignoring the realities of individuals while trying to "do good" by perpetuating age-old stereotypes.

We do not all get married and we are not all widowed once we turn 60.

It is vital that the government recognize the needs of all citizens of this country and not simply focus on those individuals who fall into traditional, convenient pigeon-holes.

Let your federally elected official know that this proposal is NOT GOOD ENOUGH.

LIVELINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER

25 February 1985



Updates on some of our favourite women

KAREN SCHWARZ

Karen has left her position with Secretary of State's Women's Program in Edmonton to take up a new position with Sec State in Calgary in the Multiculturalism Program.

All the best, Karen!

FRANCES ADAMS

We received a post-card from our travelling ex-office manager the other day. She seems very happy travelling around Greece and sends everyone her love.

LOIS SWEET

Lois used to be a faithful, feminist reporter for the Edmonton Journal; now she is a faithful, feminist reporter in Toronto. The readers there like and support her as much as we all did here. Edmonton's loss is certainly Toronto's gain.

NO, THAT ISN'T A GOLD STAR ON YOUR LABEL!

ASWAC's membership year runs from conference to conference, with a grace period starting from September 1st for new memberships.

This means that if you bought or renewed your membership before September 1, 1983, you are on our records as needing to ~~renew your~~ membership and you will see a star on your ~~membership~~ label following the annual assembly in November 1984. Members who received a star on their label

We continue to send newsletters to members who are only one year in arrears. We do this generous act because we know that many people find it very hard to remember to renew and we don't want to lose contact with old friends. But it would be a great help to the office staff if you would either renew or let us know if you no longer wish to receive a newsletter.

We suggest \$10 per year for a membership but will, of course, accept less from those who cannot afford the fee. Donations are greatly welcomed and needed as well.



SUPPORTIVE MEMBERSHIP/DONATION*

Name

Membership

Address

Donation

Apt. No.

Street

City

Postal Code

Phone

Home

Office

Make cheque payable to Alberta Status of Women Action Committee, P.O. Box 1573, Edmonton, T5J 2N7 Telephone 424-3073

* We suggest \$10.00 membership per year.

ALBERTA STATUS OF WOMEN ACTION COMMITTEE