

ALBERTA STATUS OF WOMEN ACTION COMMITTEE Vol. 6, No. 3

CHARTER OF RIGHTS

Equality Rights
April 17, 1985

15 (1) EVERY INDIVIDUAL IS EQUAL BEFORE AND UNDER THE LAW AND HAS THE RIGHT TO THE EQUAL PROTECTION AND EQUAL BENEFIT OF THE LAW WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION AND, IN PARTICULAR, WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION BASED ON RACE, NATIONAL OR ETHNIC ORIGIN, COLOUR, RELIGION, SEX, AGE OR MENTAL OR PHYSICAL DISABILITY.

(2) SUBSECTION (1) DOES NOT PRECLUDE ANY LAW, PROGRAM OR ACTIVITY THAT HAS AS ITS OBJECT THE AMELIORATION OF CONDITIONS OF DISADVANTAGED INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS INCLUDING THOSE THAT ARE DISADVANTAGED BECAUSE OF RACE, NATIONAL OR ETHNIC ORIGIN, COLOUR, RELIGION, SEX, AGE OR MENTAL OR PHYSICAL DISABILITY.

28 NOTWITHSTANDING ANYTHING IN THIS CHARTER, THE RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS REFERRED TO IN IT ARE GUARANTEED EQUALLY TO MALE AND FEMALE PERSONS.

Eighteen Hours

OPENING: (this is the time we set aside to talk about one thing that requires more original thinking than a normal agenda item)

SEXUAL PREFERENCE was the topic and we talked about stress in the movement around some of these issues, about our own preference/choices and labelling a fuller presentation of this discussion's highlights will be printed in next month's newsletter.

ASWAC \$\$\$\$\$: Because of our bookkeeper's resignation we did not have a financial statement to review. Members were expressing desire to get year end status report.

BOOKKEEPER: We agreed to give the bookkeeper lots of hours in April and May to get the year end statement ready. A review of hiring criteria (Stoard communication, bookkeeping, budget, etc.) was done. The hiring committee meets Tuesday at 5:30.

LESBIAN CONFERENCE: Secretary of State approved funding originally but the backed out leaving the conference deeply in debt. We decided on a \$100.00 donation, and support the appeal of the Sec. State decision, and write Marc Arnal.

BOARD/MAIR'S THINK TANK: Mair was invited to Banff, went and had asked for \$120 for travel. That was agreed on. The report Mair provided us was fabulous and now resides in the office.

GRANTS BOOK: There's a new guide of granting agencies available for \$100 from STM Ltd. We decided to put a blurb in the newsletter announcing it and checking out on/encouraging libraries to purchase it.

ALBERTA WOMEN'S SECRETARIATE: They will submit an application for End of the Decade cash for our kits, \$1000.00.

ASWAC BOARD MEMBER MONEY: Board members will arrive at the next Board Meeting with a budget for the \$30.00 asked for in the Sec. State grant. The discussion revolved around who spends \$ on what, why? When? How?

PERFORMANCE EVALUATION: This item was brought back from the last meeting. The form and process was discussed with Mutuality, Self-Evaluation and the Importance of Being Clear and Trustworthy. We agreed to prepare a "Why and How ASWAC does Performance Appraisal" to attach.

STAFF: "MAIR'S" position; two points were made. The first is that work can be contracted out to Board members etc. rather than hiring one or 2 or 3 "full-time" workers. The second is that we need someone else regularly in the office.

NEWSLETTER ADS: \$20 for a one-shot advertisement and \$15 for 6 or more issues was decided. The policy is that the ads are subject to Board approval and the guidelines will be worked out.

SAC Ad/Newsletter: \$75 per half page was decided. ASWAC would like to congratulate the SAC on 10 years of service to the community.

BRIDGING THE GAP: This is a new International Solidarity with WOMEN group in Edmonton who is bringing AMIS (Women's national organization in El Salvador) to Alberta. They've asked for financial support to help bring in speakers from Winnipeg. We decided on \$50. Amanda and Sheila are involved and will keep us posted.

KITS: Board members were asked to provide Sheila with their views and input. Janet will loan us her typewriter for 2 months for the cost of servicing. Many thanks Janet. See also the item about cash for the KITS (7 items back).

NAC Conference, Pre-Caucus and Post Event: Delegate: Suzn's going as the WebSpinner Delegate and would like us to sponsor her for \$100. Agreed. We estimate it will cost us \$350 after travel pool and have decided to send Lisa. ASWAC nominated Trudy Richardson to a second term as provincial representative.

Pre-Conference: on native women; Trudy is organizing a pre-NAC conference meeting of native women's groups and ASWAC will send some representatives. We need to deal with Trudy and let the Board members know.

Post-Conference Conference: We will co-ordinate a meeting of any delegates or others who could not go to Ottawa after the NAC Conference. The purpose would be to undertake the NAC campaign in the province. Again, co-ordination with Trudy is important.

Resolutions: The deadline for submissions has passed but emergency resolutions will be accepted. Alberta resolutions that might be submitted include Maintenance Support (since Alberta legislation is to be tabled at April end).

FEMINIST ORGANIZING MANUAL: This Secretary of State publication has been revised and is very good. It's available from Sec. State. Another manual we recommend is Nuts and Bolts.

SPACE: The negotiations with other women's groups and landlords has taken a brave step. We've made an offer of \$1200/mo. on the St. John's Building at Jasper and 110th St. We expect a response by mid-April and in the meantime, we are negotiating together about renting and common areas of responsibility.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD: In Calgary, Planned Parenthood is having funding discussions with United Way and a conflict similar to the controversial Edmonton decisions of last fall are expected.

CONFERENCE/ASSEMBLY: We decided that the date would be Nov. 22-24, the theme "Unity with Diversity" and the length, from Fri. night to Sunday afternoon. Some funding (travel pool, childcare subsidy and facilities) to be sought from the Government of Alberta, Minister responsible for the Status of Women. We didn't decide on location but are checking out Edmonton and Calgary. A promotions strategy will be devised for the next meeting.

STAFF REPORTS: Subscriptions- we cancelled our subscription to Resources for Feminist Research, took ads in HERIZONS for a year at \$180, joined the National Anti-Poverty Organization at \$10, the position paper on Maintenance Enforcement was presented and the day care brief was noted.

COUNCIL ON WOMEN'S AFFAIRS: We heard from two Board members who had met with council representatives. They are again requesting our support and signature on their "oath of support". We talked about the rather difficult history of our associating, our views about the "principle of establishing a council" and what the government would do with it, the request for support of this groups work and other issues. We came to no consensus. We agreed to read the materials we've produced in the past on this and consult with the members. We will extend our invitation to use our newsletter, and let them know our concerns. We will also invite them to our next meeting.

EDMONTON WOMEN'S HEALTH COLLECTIVE: We will insert their "RATE YOUR DOCTOR" questionnaire in the Edmonton newsletters. They will compile the returned forms for user referral.

at a Glance

PRACTICUM: If Kim Service is prepared to serve as media contact, we will release this brief to the press. Copies will also be sent to the Sexual Assault Centres and Shelters in the Province. A summary in non-legalise will be prepared for our newsletter and for distribution.

LESBIAN VISIBILITY: We will put a summary of our discussion of Fri. night in the newsletter for the next issue. We will keep it in mind when asking groups to do workshops and Assembly to integrate lesbian activists among the presenters.

THE RIGHT-WING WOMEN: For Mother's Day, a day claimed falsely as their day, ASWAC will submit a letter to all the daily and weekly papers reminding women about the history of the day and the struggles for mothering rights. We will also write a letter to "Right Wing Women's Groups" reminding them who fought these struggles currently before us. This second letter will be provided to Board members for distribution to local groups. We are also interested in gathering some comprehensive data on women's groups of all political stripes.

LETHBRIDGE SWAC: We received a letter from Flor saying thanks for the start-up finances and confirming the association of our groups. The Calgary members will attend the next meeting in Lethbridge and we will write wishing them good luck.

WELLSPRING: Marilyn told us all about the Whitecourt center and the rural women's centers genesis and life. The centre housed our meeting well and the women's group which operates it is fascinating. Many thanks to Wellspring and Marilyn and continued luck in the struggles!

RETREAT: This is scheduled for June 21-23 at Julie's parents cabin in Windermere. We decided no guests and only nominal/need based travel budget.

WIDOW'S PENSIONS: Amanda is organizing a coalition to campaign around the exclusion of divorced, separated or otherwise non-married.

GALA: Will respond to the government's response to GALA's lobby. We are angry!!! We will write to both the organizing coalition and to the government.

Submitted in Sisterhood.

Real Women Funding . . . Correction

In the last issue of the Newsletter we incorrectly reported that REAL Women, the national "pro-life" women's org., had received funding from the Sec. of State. Well, apparently this has not yet happened. Walter McLean, Secretary of State, has not committed any funds to this group and is standing firm on his decision to fund only those women's groups which work to improve the status of women in the country. According to information from the Department of Sec. State, the objectives of REAL Women do not coincide with those of the Women's Program, Sec State.

However, for every two REAL Women support telegrams that Sec State receives they only get one telegram in support of feminist women's groups . . .

. . .so keep those telegrams in support of funding to NAC etc. flowing in!

New Dates for Board Meetings^{IGS}

May 25/26 -- Edmonton
June 21-24 -- Board retreat
July 27/28 -- Camrose?
Sep 7/8 -- Fort McMurray?
Oct. 12/13 -- Edmonton
Nov 1/2 -- Calgary
Nov 23-25 -- Assembly
Location TBA

Next Board Meeting

The next Board meeting will take place on the weekend of May 25/26. Location is not yet known; if you are interested in attending, please call the office to let us know.

Donations

Since the last Newsletter we have received \$440.00 (!!!) in donations. A heartfelt thanks to the following generous women:

Susan Jackel, Barbara Cameron, Janet Beebe, Diana Chown, Mary Ross, Jean McBean, Pat Moskal, Mildred Flanagan, Madeline McVey, Tracy McClosky, Jennifer Wolfe, Patty White, Cathy Bray, Jean Reynolds, Agnes Wiley.

"The quality of a group's Talking Self can be judged by the quality of the language members use. Language that works in groups is the same language that works magic; it is simple, strong, concrete, direct, evocative of images and sensations. We cannot come into our power unless we speak with passion. The clearer we are in our language, the clearer we are about our feelings."

STARHAWK

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 Guille	Box 1941, Whitecourt, TOE 2L0	778-3669
Amanda LeRougetel	9625-76 Ave, Edmonton, T6C 0K4	433-8615
Judy Moynihan	190 Highland Close, Ft. McMurray, T9H 3T5	791-4395
Suzn Morgan	6423 Laurentian Way SW, Cal. T3E 5N2	246-8755
Julie Walker	2205 2nd Ave NW, Cal. T2N 0H1	283-0488
Lisa Walter	9759-66 Ave, Edmonton, T5K 2M5	435-8848
Marlene WhiteSun	Box 418, Hythe, TOH 2C0	356-3797
Sally Wisden	8819-102 Ave, Edmonton, T5H 0E1	429-4487

ASWAC Response to Government Decisions

In response to the GALA Civil Rights Campaign "WRITE FOR RIGHTS" the Alberta Government announced that it will not include sexual orientation in the Individual Rights Protection Act as prohibited grounds for discrimination.

The following letter was sent to Les Young, Minister of Labour following this announcement.

Dear Sir;

We are angered at the response of the provincial government to the recommendation of the Alberta Human Rights Commission regarding legislative protection for gays and lesbians. The logic in your answer is circular and, as such, makes no sense at all. Your "double speak" on this issue serves not only to trap those men and women whose lives as a "minority group" are subject to threats and discrimination, but to discredit their experience as well.

To suggest that expression of sexuality is exclusively "private" and no "public protection" is required, is to doubly abuse those who have lost jobs and homes to this discrimination. The contradicting examples are too numerous to list; a Muslim worships in private but we acknowledge his/her need for protection, a second generation Ukrainian Canadian cannot be dismissed for her private nationality.

The whole notion and practice of Human Rights legislation reflects our understanding that private differences are not grounds for discrimination in the public sphere. It is appalling that this basic understanding of Human Rights is missing in your rationale.

Perhaps you do not realize that those GALA members who lobbied you on this issue are merely a few members of the large gay and lesbian community in the province. Members of your government received letters from many more, and still others signed petitions that were filed. The recommendation forwarded to you by the Commission represented the view of those experts in Human Rights in the province. And polls show increasing support from a majority of Canadians.

Given that your position on this issue demonstrates a marked lack of reason, and since it has no general base of support among the experts or public, we can only conclude that it stems from the very same prejudice we asked you to protect us from in this province.

Ignorance and bigotry are not pleasant in anyone, but in those we trust with governing they are shameful and ugly. Your decision will be communicated to the public for its adjudication and your constituents will be reminded.

You will hear from us again.

A.S.W.A.C. Board

The following letter was written in response to the withdrawal of funding for the Conference in Calgary, April 27-28. It is addressed to Marc Arnal, Secretary of State, Edmonton office.

Dear Marc,

The Alberta Status of Women Action Committee strongly protests the refusal of funding, at the Federal level, for the Calgary Lesbian Mother's Defence Fund Conference, to be held April 27-18, 1985.

It is my understanding that the reason given for withholding funding, is that the group sponsoring the conference is a "single issue" group. We find this reason hard to believe as there are many single issue groups, namely sexual assault centers and women's shelters which receive federal government funding.

We think that the Calgary-Lesbian Mother's Defence Fund may have been refused funds because of homophobia at the Federal level. If this is so, we find it totally unacceptable.

As a provincial organization, ASWAC networks and works with many women's groups around the province. We know the L.M.D.F. to be a well established educational and support group which provides child support information and referrals and works to educate the general public on discrimination and problems faced by lesbian mothers.

The L.M.D.F. has received funding in the past and in our opinion, deserves it now. We strongly support a reversal of this decision. Could you please investigate this matter and respond to us before April 26th..

Thank you for the assistance you may provide.

Sincerely,

A.S.W.A.C. Board

ASWAC ADVOCACY?

ASWAC has recently been putting some time and energy into lobbying the government on what are called 'lesbian issues' or 'gay rights'.

ASWAC sent a representative to a recent news conference organized by the GALA Civil Rights c'ttee with regards to the proposed amendments to the Individual Rights Protection Act; we have sent messages of sisterhood to organizers of a Womanspace (the lesbian organization in Edmonton) rally and we have responded to government decisions related to 'lesbian issues' with letters like the two on this page.

The Board has spent time discussing the connection between feminism and lesbianism - we believe the link to be a clear one. How do you feel? Are lesbian issues auto-

matically feminist issues? How can feminist organizations like ASWAC best work with specifically lesbian groups? Are these questions relevant, do they even need to be asked?

We would be pleased to hear from you, the members and readers of the Newsletter, on this topic. In order for ASWAC to truly represent the women of this province, the Board needs feedback on the action it undertakes. Whether you support the networking we have been doing on gay rights or whether you think there should be no connection, please let us know.

ASWAC,
Box 1573, EDMONTON
Alta T5J 2N7
tel: 424-3073



End of Decade Conference

The conference to be held in Nairobi, Kenya July 15-16 will mark the end of the United Nations Decade for Women.

It will also be the third of the major international UN conferences for women held since the decade began with International Women's Year in 1975. The first was in Mexico City. The second was in 1980 in Copenhagen.

Actually, these major focal points have always been made up of two conferences running concurrently. One being the "official" conference for U.N. and government representatives and the other the "unofficial" forum for non-governmental representatives. This unofficial one has come to be known as the NGO Forum and will be a feature of the Nairobi conference as well.

From the beginning there has been a plan of action aimed at stimulating national and international action to solve the

problems of underdevelopment and the socio-economic structures that keep women in an inferior position.

Since 1980 the focus has been on Equality, Development and Peace to ensure women's increased participation in achieving the objectives of the plan of action.

The Nairobi conference will review and appraise the achievements of the Decade for Women, analyse obstacles to further progress and develop forward looking strategies to the year 2000.

As with the other two world conferences, Alberta women are expected to be at Nairobi. However, because accommodation in Nairobi is limited, only people who can show they have confirmed accommodation will be granted a visa to enter the country. This is expected to cut down on the number of Alberta participants attending the conference this time.

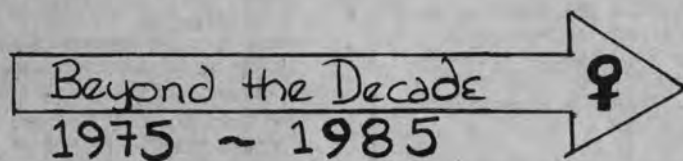
Nairobi Alberta

Nairobi Alberta 85 is - you-guessed it, for all of us who wish we could get to Nairobi for the End of Decade conference in July, but who find the cost and the restrictions due to lack of accommodation prohibitive. A couple of us are starting to plan an event to coincide with the UN conference. We envision a gathering of women in a rural setting, in a place where we can camp together and spend a weekend together, talking about the last ten years of our lives; 10 years which has also been designated by the United Nations as the Decade for Women. It will be an opportunity to explore the changes we have all experienced in our lives in the past ten years, and the changes we ourselves have made in the world around us. We can celebrate our collective experience, skills and strengths, and can plan how we are going to use these to continue our women's work beyond the decade for the rest of our lives.

The organizers hope that it will be possible to collect our stories of the decade, add to them those of women not able to be at the weekend gathering, and publish them. If any of this excites you, too, please contact us and share your energy, ideas and willingness to help.

Meaghan Dean and Mair Smith

Nairobi Alberta 85
11227 93 Street
Edmonton AB T5G 1B9
479-0623



Unity Through Diversity

ANNUAL ASSEMBLY '85

UNITY THROUGH DIVERSITY!

ASWAC's annual conference is held in November and planning for this year has already begun. The second to last weekend (Nov. 22-24) will see a conference offering something for everyone.

The conference will see many workshops in four areas of our work in the movement. The "issue" workshops (likely 5-8) will profile new and old problems and the background information needed to organize for changes (and I mean might, see underlined below). For example, reproductive technology, native women's rights or sexual harrassment may be included.

The "organizing" workshops (again 5-8) will present successful strategies in launching issue campaigns, service operations or operating women's centres in rural communities.

The "ideas" workshops will deal with the thinking, or rethinking that forms the analytic basis of our work. Questions examined here might reflect feminist theorists on heterosexism in and in relation to the women's movement; women's reproductive role and implications of that; or anything else.

The fourth stream will be devoted to women's culture as Alberta women are creating it. We hope to have art-work, music, theatre, perhaps dance and who knows what else.

Workshops will be prepared and facilitated by women who we know work on those issues/ launched new services/ participate in a reading-thinking group/ produce images OR BY WOMEN WHO VOLUNTEER! So if your group or circle has something you can share with others in a format you think would work at the assembly, please get in touch.

We hope that women will also take time to relax and enjoy themselves, to meet and talk with women whose work and lives run parallel, and to organize ad-hoc sessions on things that no workshops addressees.

Although we won't pick our location until the next meeting, we hope to keep it central (between Edmonton and Clagary) and are considering a winterized camp type facility. A conference logo, that conjures up "Unity with Diversity" in reproducible form is needed. If you're artistically inclined, there is an honorarium available (\$100 or ten memberships for your friends) to the submission we like best! We need it by mid-June so dig up the crayons!

Information about the conference will come over the next six months so stay tuned. In the meantime, we'd appreciate your suggestions for workshops, facilitators, location or anything.

WIDOW'S PENSION — NOT A CLASS ACT!

I am writing to protest the discriminatory nature of the Alberta WIDOW'S PENSION ACT.

Under this act there are various benefits available if you are a "widow". More specifically, you can apply under the 1984 Home Owners Tax Reduction Program if you are a widow or widower between the ages of 55-64 and are in receipt of the Alberta Widow/Widower's Pension. Essentially what this amounts to is that the provincial government (that funds this program) in most cases pays the entire amount of your property taxes. An additional benefit if you are in receipt of the Alberta Widow/Widower's Pension is that your Alberta Health Care premiums are waived.

However, if you are not a widow or a widower, if you are SINGLE or DIVORCED, and you are a property owner, then even though you meet all the other requirements under this particular legislation, there is no assistance of this nature available to you.

As far as I am concerned, and I speak from personal experience, divorced women in this age bracket in particular have a much more difficult time than a person who is widowed. In a great many cases a widow is left with a clear title home. A divorced woman, on the other hand, in the greater number of cases has worked and supported herself and her child(ren) for many years and usually on a limited income. She may have been awarded child support by the courts but, as is often the case, was unable to enforce the award because the ex-husband had left the province or because he simply refused to make the payments as ordered.

When the divorced or single woman reaches the age of 55 and finds it hard to get employment or suffers from poor health, she is not eligible for the kinds of assistance offered to widows. The level of hardship suffered by women between the ages of 55-64 can be extreme and to discriminate against them on the basis of marital status is unjust.

Therefore, I submit that the benefits available to widows under the WIDOW'S PENSION ACT should also be available to divorced and single people if they meet the other requirements of the Act. And those requirements should certainly not include marital status.

Gwen G. Rendle
Edmonton

The above letter was published in the Edmonton Journal with respect to the discriminatory nature of this act. Also, attached is an extract from the Act describing eligibility requirements. Copies of the Act are available from the Queen's Printer at 11510 Kingsway Avenue.

While we recognize the importance of the Widow's Pension Act, it does not take into consideration the needs of single or divorced people in the province between the ages of 55 and 64.

We are a group of people looking for support in our goal of either changing this very discriminatory piece of legislation, or abolishing the Act in favour of one which covers all people between the ages of 55 and 64 regardless of marital status. We feel this act should not be based on marital status but only on financial need, realizing of course that the Act stipulates a means test in order to qualify.

In addition to Gwen Rendle, who wrote the letter to the Edmonton Journal, our group includes representatives from:

The Edmonton Social Planning Council
The Society for the Retired and Semi-Retired
The Alberta Council on Aging
The Alberta Status of Women Action Committee

Anyone interested in further information or participating in the campaign, please contact Amanda LeRougetel, A.S.W.A.C. (424-3073); Lois Taylor (452-0389); or Gwen Rendle (454-8240)

ASWAC SPEAKS TO SOCIOLOGY CLASS.

In January, Dr. Salomon of the Dept. of Sociology at the University of Alberta contacted the ASWAC office. She was looking for a real live feminist to make a presentation to her two undergraduate Sociology of Sex Roles classes. She was particularly interested in how women were affected/lived their lives according to the sex roles established for public life. I was contacted and agreed to present some of my own research, ideas and thoughts about women working.

The sources I chose to prepare the presentations were a) my own literature review on women and work, b) the Hecate's Players script Never Done: Women's Work and c) the experiences of working women (myself and those around me).

The lectures to 250 students took place in three sessions in March. The general format was simply a presentation followed by discussion. The most lively discussions were concerned with:

- my personal definition of feminism
- if women really wanted to be an engineer, a prime minister etc, they could just work as hard as any man and they'd get there - right?
- ... the systematic problems for women in the professions
- work must be both paid and unpaid labour
- wages in Alberta
- parental leave patterns (maternity and paternity leave)
- maintenance enforcement
- single mothers as university students
- sexual harassment on the job.

It was a gratifying experience for me to watch as the "lights came on" in some of those minds. Some of the men have a measure of consciousness that I find refreshing. Others just sat back and dared me to say anything remotely interesting to them. The women were not nearly as conservative as I had initially feared they would be. Perhaps the highlight of the experience was watching students get into heated discussions among themselves. After all, I must have touched a number of nerves along the way!

ASWAC certainly can get substantial mileage out of this kind of contact with the academic community.

Thank you for asking me to do the presentation.

Sandi Kirby



ECONOMIC SUMMIT

The National Action Committee on the Status of Women is holding their annual conference in Ottawa May 10 - 13. The theme of the conference is the Federal Budget and how it affects women. This has been a large part of NACs focus in the past year and the conference promises to be full of information and analysis around issues ranging from daycare to job creation, health and hospitals to affirmative action.

As in past years Monday is scheduled for lobbying on Parliament Hill. MPs will have the opportunity to hear from women from across the country without leaving their building. Delegates are also encouraged to meet with their local MP while in Ottawa.

A good number of Alberta groups are sending women to the conference. We may have the largest Alberta caucus ever. ASWAC will host a post-conference meeting to bring the information back to groups unable to send a representative to the conference, and to begin the work the conference is sure to inspire. If you or your group is interested please call the office and let us know.

Elections are also a part of the agenda. ASWAC is proud to nominate Trudy Richardson from Edmonton for a second term as provincial representative to the national executive. Trudy brought a lot of groups to NAC this year, and in many ways brought NAC out to us in Alberta.

NAC is the national, multi-issue, feminist organisation in this country. As such, its members are diverse in politics, purposes and perspectives. Its past record on national issues is pretty strong - over the years it has created 'feminist policy' for virtually every issue, and consistently presented these to decisionmakers. (Their recent feat- the Leaders debate in the last federal election - was the kind of visable work that distinguishes us clearly from 'REAL WOMEN' and other non-feminist groups that claim to represent women.) Lobbying and researching legislative issues may seem far from the work we do directly, and locally on issues. But this kind of work and organisation is essential to the whole movement. NAC deserves our support.

WHY?

WHY A WOMEN'S ECONOMIC SUMMIT?

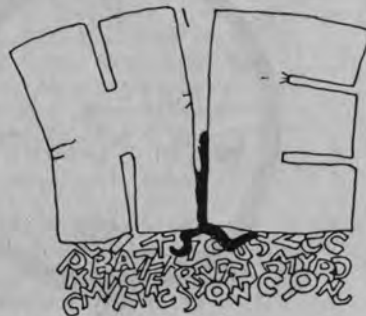
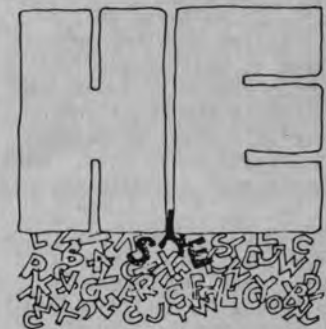
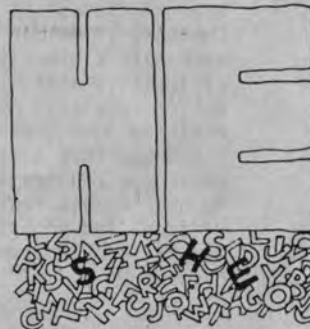
Because we are the only people who can hold an economic summit which adequately addresses women's issues. Many of us suspect that the state talks of cut-backs, our hard-won and still inadequate services and rights will be eroded. We must strategize to hold on to what we have...but also to advance.

By focusing on current economic issues facing Canadian women, N.A.C. is playing its traditional role of highlighting in a public forum those subjects central to all women in Canada. We welcome the participation of women from all over our country.

WHO?

Two women from Alberta have been nominated for the position of Alberta/N.W.T rep to the NAC executive. Trudy Richardson, from Edmonton, has been our rep for the past year and has been nominated by ASWAC for a second term. Elly Silverman, from Calgary, has also been nominated.

Those women attending the NAC conference should be prepared to vote for one of the nominees. Trudy can be reached at 482-2766, Elly can be reached at 288-1032.



Jean Meyer

WOMEN: ACT NOW FOR EQUALITY!

by Susan Jackel

The headline of a Globe and Mail article early in April read: "Women's Equality: What is it?" And the answer at this stage is that we're not sure. However, after April 17th, when Section 15 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms goes into effect, legislatures and courts of law will begin the process of redefinition and judicial interpretation that, over time, will establish the meaning of equality for citizens of Canada. One thing is sure, though: having equality between the sexes as well as explicit protection from discrimination entrenched in the Constitution, has revolutionary implications for our traditional, hierarchical, non-egalitarian Canadian society.

Section 15 of the new Charter has two very important clauses that guarantee equality before and under the law for all disadvantaged groups and individuals, while explicitly recognizing the right to introduce affirmative action to correct long-standing injustices. Women, of course, are not the only group covered by Section 15. Furthermore, there is some question about possible conflict between the affirmative action clause of Section 15, and Section 28, which guarantees the application of the Charter equally to male and female persons. But women are the largest single group in society covered by these new guarantees of equality, and so women's groups such as the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF) are collecting money, and developing the legal strategies, that will bring challenges to discriminatory laws successfully through the courts.

The laws and practices of different provinces are often very similar, and successful challenges originating elsewhere may well benefit Alberta women. Or, the willingness of individual provincial governments to legislate progressively on given issues may provide leverage for reforms in more conservative provinces. The situation in Ontario, for example, is very interesting. There, a Conservative Attorney-General, Robert Welch,

has gone on record as saying that Ontario laws "should conform to both the spirit and the letter of the Charter", or be redrafted. "No barrier, hidden or overt, should bar any member of society from advancing on his or her own merit," Mr. Welch is quoted as saying in the April 12 Globe and Mail.

The federal government, too, is showing signs that it intends to take a reasonably broad and liberal view of the spirit of the new Charter, if we can judge by Flora MacDonald's plans to intensify affirmative action in the federal public service. Federal Justice Minister John Crosbie has also announced that a task force will cross the country in May and June to hear briefs from interested citizens and groups on how to interpret and implement the equality clauses.



In Alberta, there is less encouraging news. At a public meeting on April 13, Alberta's Attorney-General, Neil Crawford, repeated what he had told the Charting Our Rights Conference last October -- that Alberta will be taking a "go slow" approach to redrafting its provincial statutes. When asked whether Alberta would follow the federal government's lead and hold public hearings, based on a discussion paper, Crawford replied that as far as he was concerned, Alberta citizens knew how to contact their MLAs with matters that

concerned them, and public hearings would just delay things. He also brushed aside suggestions that the province set up a legal challenge fund, to help those who are disadvantaged economically to challenge the discriminatory practices that keep them poor.

As for affirmative action, Crawford said that he was "very proud of everything this province does in the way of affirmative action for disadvantaged groups", citing programs for native education. But he was very critical of affirmative action in the workplace, and said that talk of quotas or enforcement programs was "sick".

Marilou McPhedran, who was important in getting equality rights into the Constitution three years ago, has said that over the next little while, "Governments will be trying to get a feeling for the amounts of political pressure which can be mounted against them." During the suffrage campaign, Alberta women showed that they knew how to mount political pressure; and they showed a lot of legal savvy in their conduct of the Persons Case in the late 1920s. Once again, political pressure and legal knowledge are going to be important.

If you can afford the money, support the Alberta LEAF fund; if you can afford the time, lobby your MLA to have a provincial task force on equality set up, and also to get provincial funding for challenges by people or groups who could otherwise not afford the costs of a legal battle. But the next few years will be crucial, because decisions made in the courts will set the framework for Canadian society for generations to come.

Alberta Women Must Be Active In Seeing That Those Decisions Mean Real Equality For Women!

Women Fighting For Rights

Women Workers

As the struggle by EATON's workers enters its fourth month, another fight for women's rights is taking place. Passenger agents at AIR CANADA, 66% of whom are women, voted 85% in favour of striking to protect the gains women have made.

The employer, using arguments of a 'new reality' (the need to be competitive in a deregulated environment) is demanding major concessions.

The intent of the employer to create yet another part-time job ghetto cannot be divorced from AIR CANADA's plans to introduce major technological changes in the next few years.

Specifically AIR CANADA is demanding the following:

- the layoff of full-time workers BEFORE part-time workers
- the employment of unlimited numbers of part-time workers (currently part-time workers are limited to 20% of the full-time work force)
- the implementation of a new, lower starting rate of \$5.75/hour.

Through collective bargaining since 1947, the passenger agent's union, the Canadian Airline Employees Association (CALEA) has achieved major gains toward equality.

Wages, currently at just over \$13.00/hour, are above the average earned by women in the workplace in Canada and thus are a step toward closing the wage gap between men and women. Currently part-time workers earn the same hourly wage as full-time workers.

The union is demanding pensions and dental coverage for part-time workers - management is not giving serious consideration to these proposals. Instead, they are adamant on ensuring that full-time work will rapidly be replaced by part-time work at \$5.75/hour. This means that poverty during their working life will lead women into poverty during their old age as well.

AIR CANADA does not consider married women to be "primary wage earners" according to a document obtained by the union. This indicates that AIR CANADA regards women as working for 'pin money', a commonly-held yet statistically disproven belief.

AIR CANADA seems intent on setting an example for rolling back gains toward equality that women have made.

The Nat'l Action C'ttee on the Status of Women (NAC) is supporting the union in its fight to maintain the rights gained by its workers.

Native Women

The Nat'l Action C'ttee on the Status of Women needs your help in sending an urgent message concerning Indian women, to government ministers, M.P.s or senators.

"A Government Bill, aimed at removing discrimination against Indian women who lost Indian status through marriage to a non-Indian, is being processed through Cabinet thence to be sent to the House of Commons and the Senate. We are concerned that this bill should reinstate these Indian women into their equality rights as human beings. We therefore urge you to take a stand for repeal of the discriminatory section 12(1)(b) of the Indian Act and for reinstatement, retroactively, of these women and their children to active membership in their band."

Letters of federal members of Parliament do not need a stamp. The general House of Commons address is:

House of Commons
OTTAWA, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Women and Children

The Maintenance Enforcement Action Committee has completed the first phase of its campaign in lobbying the government for improved legislation with regards to a monitoring system for court-ordered support payments.

After having initiated a letter writing campaign aimed at Neil Crawford, the provincial Attorney General, and much media work, the committee put together a position paper on Maintenance Enforcement. This paper was presented to the Health and Social Services Caucus of the government on Monday April 1st. The meeting was generally a positive one with both Neil Webber, Minister of Social Services, and Les Young, Minister of Labour, present for our presentation.

The members of the Caucus had a number of questions of the committee and our paper which indicated that they had at least taken the time to read what we had prepared for them. The meeting lasted over an hour.

We have no doubt that Mr. Crawford will introduce new legislation soon. Our main concern lies in the fact that he has not made any details of the new legislation public. So when this legislation is finally introduced we will be ready to respond to the contents of the new system.

It will not be enough for a new system to simply exist - the new system must address and redress the problems of the current system. Court ordered support payments must be paid to the spouse who had them awarded and the Maintenance Enforcement Action Committee will not be satisfied until a computerized, centrally monitored system THAT ACTUALLY WORKS is put into effect.

For further information on this issue or the Action Committee please contact either Monica McKenzie at 483-0209 or Patricia Tucker at 428-2893 or the ASWAC office at 424-3073.

Books in Review

Abortion: A Political Issue

ABORTION AND THE POLITICS OF MOTHERHOOD

by Kristin Luker

published by University of California Press, 1984

reviewed by Janet Beebe.

This is one of the most informative and readable books on abortion I have encountered.

The central theme of *Abortion and the Politics of Motherhood* is that the abortion debate is not about facts but about values (that is, how facts are interpreted and weighed.)

Luker argues that the number of abortions being performed today is really no greater than at any other time in history. What is different is the public attitudes to abortion. She attributes the current widespread belief that abortion is murder to the success of a campaign by a group of 19th century physicians to legitimize their professional status, at the same time throwing other types of healers into disrepute. Abortion was the issue they used to achieve this end.

By claiming to have new and "scientific" knowledge of fetal development (and imputing "personhood" from the moment of conception), they not only changed public opinion but lobbied for and gained legislation across the U.S. outlawing abortion except where necessary to save the mother's life. Abortions could be performed, of course, only by "qualified" physicians. In this way, a relatively small group of physicians gained both a near monopoly on medical practice and a legal monopoly on abortion.

The transformation of abortion from an individual moral decision to a medically controlled one took the issue out of lay (read "women's") hands for the better part of a century. It was only in the late 1950s and early 1960s that it became clear to people outside the medical profession that doctors themselves were split over the issue of strict vs. broad interpretation of abortion laws. Abortion was, after all, a moral issue.

Women who became involved at this time began to organize support for women's right to abortion, the first time abortion had been presented from this standpoint. (Fem-

inists later incorporated this viewpoint, and the call for repeal of all abortion laws, into their analysis of women's oppression.)

There was, of course, opposition to this view of abortion, initially from the Catholic and professional sectors. However, the 1973 "Roe vs. Wade" U.S. Supreme Court decision (which struck down all state abortion laws as unconstitutional) triggered widespread response from another sector -- women engaged in a traditional role within the home. Like feminists, these women have a vested interest in the outcome of the abortion debate, for the new views on abortion, motherhood, and women's work threaten to devalue their traditional livelihood within the home.

The author sees this underlying debate on the "place and meaning of motherhood" as the reason that the abortion debate is so passionate and hard-fought. The values of activists on each side of the debate are tied not just to the status of the fetus, but to views about sexual behaviour, childcare, and family life.

Ms. Luker concludes that there is little room for resolution of the issue, in that the world views of "pro-choice" and "pro-life" activists are so divergent and based on such deeply held values. In her opinion, "both 'pro-life' and 'pro-choice' world views founder on the same rock, that of assuming others do (or must or should) share the same values."

Beyond this, the author does not speculate on the outcome of the abortion debate. However, near the end of the book, she presents an interesting account of each side's organizing methods. It becomes clear why in the last decade anti-abortion activists have gained ground so out of proportion to actual popular support.

Kristin Luker interviewed more than 200 activists on both sides of the abortion debate while researching this volume, and many of their comments are incorporated into the book. I appreciated her ability to show what each side is working for. She avoids pitting the two sides against one another in the book, but carefully examines the implications of their statements and

beliefs. Activists are presented simply as people working to support their strongly-held views.

I found this book in the public library, and recommend it to anyone who would like some background information on the abortion issue.



Alberta's Indian Culture

TELL ME GRANDMOTHER

by Lyn Hancock
and Marion W. Dowler

published by McClelland & Stewart, Toronto -- listed in their spring catalogue, April, 1985.

The book is a story of a Metis woman, Jane (Howse) Livingston, who became the wife of the first white settler in Calgary.

The story is set in Alberta, especially Victoria Settlement near Smoky Lake; Morleyville; and Calgary.

Grandmother Jane tells her grandson, Dennis Dowler, how she lived and raised her family as she moved from a Metis settlement in the Red River (now Winnipeg) to a White settlement in Calgary.

Grandmother Jane's life spanned the transition of Alberta from its Native Indian culture to a Western Canadian lifestyle.

More Books

Stepping Out of Line

STEPPING OUT OF LINE: A Workbook on Lesbianism and Feminism by Nym Hughes, Yvonne Johnson and Yvette Perreault

published by Press Gang Publishers, Vancouver, 1984

Society has called lesbians everything from deviants to biological freaks. The reasons for these lies are not hard to find. By living outside of a traditional female role, lesbians seriously challenge existing social structures. In portraying lesbianism as a sickness any woman who is independent or assertive can be kept in line by the fear of being labelled a lesbian.

STEPPING OUT OF LINE takes lesbianism out of the realm of fear and misinformation. One of the book's central features is a guided script for a workshop that brings women together to investigate the emotional and

political links between lesbianism and feminism. There is detailed information on facilitating workshops and adapting the script to various groups: students, unions, professional associations etc.

The remainder of the book is a rich combination of personal stories, analysis and practical strategies for change. Just a few of the topics covered are Lovers and Sexuality, The Law, Psychiatry, Families, Working in Political Movements, Building a Lesbian Movement. Each chapter gives straightforward advice to both lesbian and non-lesbian readers on how to do personal and political problem-solving and where to find additional resources.

The book sells at \$12.95 and should be available at your local feminist book-store.



On Being a Turncoat

I've been doing some thinking lately about the emerging trend in the feminist movement towards re-evaluation and examination of formerly unquestioned premises, principles and beliefs.

A woman I know told me about the reaction she has received from other feminists when she verbalized her present exploration of the abortion issue (is it really a matter of "choice"? are we killing something? are women traumatized by abortions? do we listen to their pain? are they safe to express their doubts?) She had been labelled and lectured on the party line. Why, she was asked, was she taking a "simple" issue -- "choice vs. no choice" -- and fueling our enemy's arguments by muddying the waters and blurring the lines?

My feeling is this: until we, individually and collectively, can acknowledge and look at the complexity of the "issues" (sexual abuse, power, sexuality, abortion, *ad infinitum*), the issues cannot be simple. We take too much of our own bullshit into the arena--conditioning, confusion, misery, anger and dishonesty. Many women are moving away from the rhetoric (that served us well, I know) towards a more circular, holistic and loving approach. An approach that means listening to the meaning behind women and men's words; that means self-awareness of our biases, dependencies, ignorance, fears and defences. An approach that means we don't lead with our heads, rationalizing our urge to tear down "structure" and question everything "male", and judge, condemn and break down the traditional conservative. Everything evolves and changes in its time -- battering rams only destroy in a gross, unconscious and unfeeling manner. In order for structures, organi-

zations, societies and relationships to grow, I believe we need to come from clarity, heart and personal awareness (not childhood trauma, anger and negativity) as we give our energetic input.

Jeni Ellman

Salute to Courage

Cheers to Meaghan Dean for having the courage to re-open the thinking on a subject -- abortion -- which needs to be seen from many sides -- not the least of which is the backlash which has fallen hard upon those who have fought long and hard to work on the conditions and services which could diminish the number of unplanned pregnancies.

- Patty White

Pornography hurts who profits

"Pornography is just not a subject I can discuss reasonably. It's like a Jew trying to discuss Mein Kampf reasonably, or a Black trying to discuss the Ku Klux Klan reasonably."

Phyllis Chesler, M.D.

CBC Establishes Guidelines

For its hit show, CBC's Video Hits, the highest rated show in Canada with 53% of available teens tuning in, Executive Producer Sandra Faire, has established guidelines. "I'm very particular about the videos we run. We will not run videos that feature violence toward women, that are sexist or exploitative." Believing that she has responsibility to the young people watching, Sandra Faire has turned down Frankie Goes to Hollywood's Two Tribes, Hello by The Cars and Alfie Zappacosta's We Should Be Lovers, which shows women in leather bras and garters wrestling in jello. A big thanks to CBC for this!

Elizabeth MASSIAH, M.S.W.
FEMINIST THERAPIST



Edmonton

(res.) 481-5973

Calgary Coalition Against Porn

The Calgary Coalition Against Pornography have an excellent education kit with information on the issue of pornography, legal facts, statistics, what you can do, speaking tips and visuals. It is available for rent (\$15) or purchase (\$75) from:

Calgary Coalition Against Porn.
320 - 5th Ave. SE
CALGARY, Alta
T2G 0E5

Historic Case; Sex Not Obscene

In a historic case, an Alberta Court has said that sexual degradation and dehumanization are obscene, but that sex alone is not. In convicting a Calgary video dealer, Judge Mel Shannon, concluded that the message conveyed by a film - not the particular sex act or degree of explicitness - defines its acceptability. ... Judge Shannon said that in 7 out of only 8 films that he saw "women are deprived of unique human character or identity and are depicted as sexual playthings, hysterically and instantly responsive to male sexual needs." Because no one was abused or degraded in it he did not find Greenhorns, a gay male film, obscene.

The following films were found to be obscene: The Senator's Daughter, Orgees Nightly, Barbara Broadcast, Taboo II, American Desire, Amanda By Night, and Candy Stripper.

CBC Poll Shows Canadians Concern on Issue

A CBC TV poll conducted by James Check of York University following a Man Alive program on pornography has found strong public sentiment against pornography. Believed to be the most comprehensive of its kind ever conducted in Canada, the survey found that 9 in 10 people believe scenes of rape, torture, and other forms of bondage are unacceptable. They said not only that they would not view them, but that they should not be shown on television. Three in four differentiated between erotic and pornographic material, and most people polled were strongly in favour of uniform standards to regulate "anti-social" pornography in theatres and on home videos. Jim Check said that this survey demonstrates that Canadians are concerned about pornography, not sex.

Rich is In

An analysis of the 1984 television season done by the American Nat'l Commission on Working Women, cites some improvement in the portrayal of women on t.v. in the last year. Women's roles have become more diverse, older women and minority group women are featured more often, and not every family on the screen is traditional. However, the authors cite many continued portrayals of women as sex objects and noted the move towards greater victimization of women - the eroticization of the rape fantasy. They also noted, with criticism, the growth in programs about wealth. "To be rich is in," they remark. Perhaps, they say, this obsession with money "reflects the narrow perspective of television which excludes more important human values."

Theatre Parminou

Le Théâtre Parminou has created a play which examines the issue of pornography. It is entitled Ça crève les yeux, ça crève le coeur, is 45mins in length and should be followed by a discussion period. The Company would be pleased to perform in your community. For more info., write:
C.P.158
VICTORIAVILLE, Québec
G9P 6S8
or call,
(819) 758-0577.
The production is available in French only.

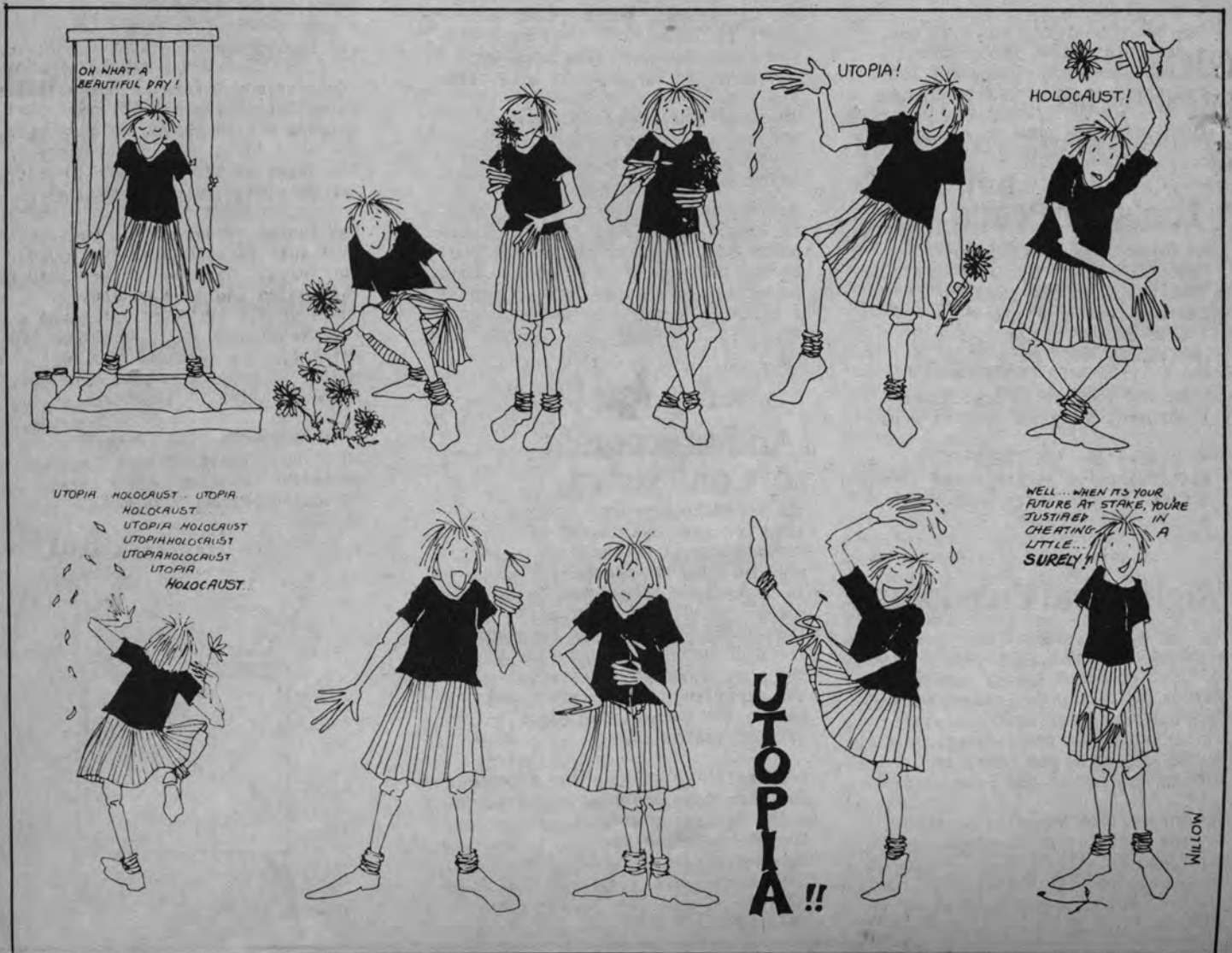
Mother's Day: A Day For Peace



Mother's Day originated as a day for peace. Julia Ward Howe initiated the idea of a Mother's Day for peace. After her experience tending the wounded in the American Civil War, she started a two year crusade to institute a Mother's Day. This is her statement, issued in 1870:

"Arise all women who have hearts ... Say firmly: We women of one country will be too tender of those of another country to allow our sons to injure theirs. In the name of womanhood and humanity I earnestly ask that a general Congress of Women, without limit of nationality, promote the alliance of the different nationalities, the amicable settlement of international questions, the great and general interests of peace."

Have a Peaceful Mother's Day.



Announcements

Women's Studies

Secretary of State, Walter McLean, announced March 8th that the award of the Chair of Women's Studies for the Prairie Region has been given to the Universities of Winnipeg and Manitoba.

The Endowment of Chairs of Women's Studies Program, which promotes scholarly research on women's issues, allows for the creation of one chair per year for five consecutive years. The program is administered under the authority of the Secretary of State of Canada who is Minister Responsible for the Status of Women. The first three chairs were awarded last year to Mount St. Vincent University, Simon Fraser University and jointly to the University of Ottawa and Carleton University. A Quebec chair will be announced later this year.

Feminism and Ecology

The SOCIAL ECOLOGY SUMMER PROGRAM in Waitsfield, Vermont, USA is offering a course entitled: Feminism and Ecology.

The course will explore questions in philosophy, anthropology, women's health and politics.

The dates of the course are June 21 - July 21, '85.

For further info, please call 428-1796.

Media Watch

MediaWatch, the nat'l organization which acts as watchdog on the media, is looking for a regional representative in Alberta.

If this sounds like your kind of thing, please contact JulieAnne LeGras at the following telephone number: 482-2766.



Alberta Com'tte On Children

The Alberta Committee on Children and Youth is pleased to announce its Annual General Meeting on SATURDAY, April 27th, 1985 at 1:00 - 4:00pm in Room 2-135, Education North at the UofA.

The agenda will include the election of a new Board of Directors. The guest speaker will be J. Michael Farris, Executive Director, Youth Emergency Shelter, who will make a presentation on the problems of youth and the effects of the Badgely Report.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

Tools for Peace

An organizing meeting for TOOLS FOR PEACE '85 will take place in the Edmonton Learner Centre cafeteria (10765-98 Street), at 7:30pm on TUESDAY MAY 7th.

Come and join us in organizing a shipment of goods to Nicaragua.

Help make the '85 TOOLS FOR PEACE campaign even more of a show of solidarity with the people of Nicaragua.

Rights and Freedoms

On January 31, 1985 the Honourable John C. Crosbie, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada presented Parliament with the Government's first proposals for bringing federal statutes into conformity with the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

An information paper is available on the Statute Law Amendment Bill and Equality Issues in Federal Law from the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada.

Separate but Equal

On May 2, Dr. Helen Lenskyj of Toronto has been invited to chair a public discussion addressing the issues of

"SEPARATE BUT EQUAL"

or

"INTEGRATED"

sports for boys and girls, women and men. Dr. Lenskyj, a well-known feminist, is an executive member of the Canadian Association for the Advancement of Women and Sport (C.A.A.W.+S.). Her recently completed paper on the issue was presented to C.A.A.W.+S. nationally and now, provincial feedback from those of you who participate or assist in sport and recreation (or have an interest in the issue) is being sought.

Would you join us, May 2 at 7:30 in Room E-120 of the Physical Education Bldg (next to the Butterdome) at the University of Alberta? We'd be more than pleased to hear from A.S.W.A.C. members on a most pressing issue in sport.

Sandi Kirby and
Cathy Bray

Announcement of Conference

The Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women's annual conference will be held November 8-10, '85 in Saskatoon. The theme is Women: Social and Physical Isolation. Three major sessions are planned - the phenomenon of isolation, the experience of isolation and making the connections (to alleviate) isolation.

Proposals are still being accepted and should be sent to:

Betty Pepper
Conference Organizer
842 University
SASKATOON, Sask.
S7N 0J7
tel: (306)242-0081

Announcements Continued

Building Bridges

MAKING CONNECTIONS --
BUILDING BRIDGES

MAY 10-12, 1985
Education Building,
University of Saskatchewan,
SASKATOON, Sask.

... a conference to
overcome nuclear despair by
exploring how women can build
peace.

registration fee: \$35.00

--for info about the workshops
planned, please call the
ASWAC office.

Paddy Tutty Sings

MAY 22nd, 1985
8:00pm
Chinook Theatre, Edmonton
10329-83 Avenue

Paddy Tutty, a traditionalist
singer will appear in concert.
She sings songs of struggle,
women's music and songs
'from the tradition'.
Tickets cost \$7.00 and will
be available at the door.

"Woman Strength"

Celebration of Women in the Arts
is planning a second "Woman-
strength" Celebration in June,
1985. The format of two evening
performances is intended to show-
case the work of women writers,
performers, musicians and visual
artists. At this time we would
like to solicit literary sub-
missions.

The general topic is woman's
struggles, i.e. her stamina,
sense of humor, history, etc. The
form need not be dramatic; poetry,
prose, scenes, or essays are wel-
come. Selection of works will be
determined by the degree to which
they provide overall balance and
variety to the evening. The time
frame of the evening is two hours.
Please bear this in mind when de-
termining the length of your work.

We invite submissions from women
writers as soon as possible, as
the deadline is May 8, 1985.
Please drop off or mail submissions
to Laurie Blakeman, c/o Celebration
of Women in the Arts, #919, 10136 -
100 Street, Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 0P1. Those interested in more
information can call Laurie at
433-3464

Depressive Illnesses Society

The Depressive Illnesses Society is
a non-profit organization which
recognizes that, while the causes
of depressive illnesses are various
and not yet fully understood, a
disturbance in brain chemistry
does exist. Therefore, the Society
seeks improvement in research,
education, diagnosis and treatment
of depressive illnesses based on
this premise.

The purposes of the Society are:
-to promote awareness and accep-
tance of depressive illnesses as
wide-spread illnesses with emotional
physical and behavioural manifes-
tations,
-to provide education to layper-
sons and health and helping pro-
fessionals,
-to offer support and encourage-
ment to sufferers and their
families and friends,
-to co-operate with members of
the health and helping profess-
ions in their attempts to en-
sure effective treatment, and
-to advocate on behalf of
sufferers, families and friends
when this is necessary.

For more info on the Depressive
Illnesses Society, please write:
#207-8631-109 Street
EDMONTON, Alta
T6G 1E8



Helpful Handbook

Handbook of Grants and Subsidies,
published by STM Research and
Publication
980 St. Paul Street West,
MONTREAL, Quebec
H3C 1M9
tel: (514)861-5487

ASWAC will not be purchasing
this book, however it might
prove useful for other groups
out there. The cost of the
book is \$99.00 with an
additional charge for regular
updates to the info.

ASWAC Library

Our newest acquisition is a very
useful document, 1984 Canadian
Women and Job Related Laws. The
update of the 1981 document now
contains a number of amendments
to the Canadian Labour Code which
affect women (eg: maternity leave
laws nationally and then each of
the more specific provincial laws).
The book is an excellent and accur-
ate resource for identifying exact-
ly what the law in your province
says about your rights as a woman
working.

Another book that has been received
is STEPPING OUT OF LINE, a workshop
on Lesbianism and Feminism. The
book traces the growth of a small
caucus of Vancouver women into a
politically strong group that is
part of the feminist movement to
end discrimination against all
women. The book is a resource
meant to be used. It has notes
for running workshops, stories,
analyses and resources collected
from many women on many topics
and is full of pictures of women.

Of course, there is also Mair's
wonderful report from Banff. It
is a consciousness raising package
of quite a unique sort and well
worth taking a look at.

The A.S.W.A.C. office is open for
anyone to come and use the material.
We'd welcome a visit.

Women's Health Collective

The Edmonton Women's Health Col-
lective is planning workshops on
four key issues of women's health,
to take place in June of this year.
There will be two series of work-
shops, one in Millwoods and the
other in the Boyle Street area. The
issues chosen as a focus are:
Breast Health, Menopause, Pre-
menstrual Syndrome and Weight
Control.

We would like to reach out to
many women in the two desig-
nated areas. We need your help
with this! If you live, work
or know people in those places,
you may well know women to whom
these workshops will be relevant.
You may also be aware of good
networking tools within those
areas - a well-used newsletter,
for instance, or an active kin-
dergarten parents group. If you
have any such information, or if
you are interested in hearing
more about or helping with the
workshops, please call Mair Smith
at 479-0623.

For information about the Edmon-
ton Women's Health Collective and
its other projects, please con-
tact the Collective at;
P.O. Box 4134, Edmonton. T6E 4T2

STAR ON YOUR LABEL? READ ON!

ASWAC's membership year runs from conference to conference, November to November.

This means that if you bought your membership BEFORE November of 1984, it is now out of date and you need to renew for the 1984/85 year (the current membership year). The 1984/85 membership year will then "run out" at our next conference in November of 1985 (this November) at which time it will be necessary for all members to renew for the 1985/86 membership year.

We continue to send the Newsletter to members who are only one year behind in their membership dues because we know how difficult it is for some people to keep track of their many and varied memberships and the renewal dates for each and every one. Besides, we don't want to lost track of old and valued friends simply because of an oversight!

So . . . if you have a star on your label, please take a minute to send in your renewal to the office or, if you no longer wish to receive the Newsletter, simply forward a note to the office to that effect.

We suggest \$10.00 per year for a membership but will, of course, accept less from those who cannot afford the fee. (Donations are received with yelps of joy!!)



Alberta Status of Women Action Committee Supportive Membership/Donation

NAME: _____

MEMBERSHIP

ADDRESS: _____

DONATION

PHONE: _____ (office)

_____ (home)

*We suggest \$10.00/year membership fee.

Please make the cheque payable to:
Alberta Status of Women Action C'ttee.
PO Box 1573, EDMONTON, Alta
T5J 2N7
our telephone number is: 424-3073