



ALBERTA STATUS OF WOMEN ACTION COMMITTEE

October 1985

Vol. 6 No. 86



Take Back the Night September 20, 1985

PHOTO BY SHERYL ACKERMAN

Eighteen Hours at a Glance

Eighteen Hours At A Glance is our version of traditional 'minutes' of the Board Meetings. Board members take turns over the year keeping track of what happens at the meeting, what is discussed, who agrees to do what and so on.

Present: Brigitte Baradoy, Janet Beebe, Amanda Le Rougetel, Suzn Morgan, Judy Moynihan, and Marty WhiteSun. The meeting was held in Fort McMurray on September 7-8.

Kits

The educational kits are ready for photocopying and binding. Janet volunteered to help Sheila get the kits ready for the October board meeting. They will be on display at the Assembly.

Women's Building

The 1985 tax waiver on the Women's Building, of which ASWAC is a tenant, is still pending review by a provincial board. Further negotiations will occur between St. John's (the owner) and the Building Collective.

Research Project

Rene Gadacz, a UofA graduate student, has included ASWAC in a research project focussing on the social and political processes involved in the emergence of rights-claiming and rights-promoting groups. He will be invited to report on his work to date at the next board meeting.

ASWAC Assembly

We are now deep in Assembly planning. Most of the workshop facilitators have been confirmed. Keynote speakers for both the Saturday and Sunday lunches are unavailable, so we've cancelled these. Representatives from the Saskatchewan and Manitoba SWACs will receive formal invitations to the Assembly. A sound system and/or DJ will be provided for the Saturday night concert and dance. Members are welcome to bring displays to the Assembly. There will be both literature tables and a separate area for craft sales. We expect to have a selection of pertinent videos available for continuous viewing. The conference brochure will be included in the October Newsletter, with a November 1 registration deadline. Stories of a Year, our annual report, will form part of the October newsletter.

Evaluation

As far as we know absolutely nothing is happening on the Secretary of State/ASWAC evaluation. Secretary of State is supposed to be making the next move.

Hiring New Staff

A hiring committee will interview applicants for the ASWAC project coordinator position on September 13. The person selected will start shortly thereafter. A detailed job description for the position was drawn up at our meeting.

Structure

We outlined board member responsibilities, as well as ASWAC's responsibility to board members, and talked about the idea of regional reps. Janet has compiled a membership survey by regions and will update it before Assembly. We will have the regions concept on display at the Assembly and will be looking for feedback on the idea. Brigitte has suggested we do a "members' needs assessment" before ASWAC's 10th anniversary next year.

Staff Report

Office: Meaghan filled in while Amanda was on vacation in August. The Building Collective is taking a fair amount of time.

Sexual Harassment Case: The media has focussed on a case involving a UofA Dept. of Educational Psychology professor and a student. ASWAC will write a letter to the Edmonton Journal commenting on the issue of sexual harassment and women's right to a safe working environment.

Edmonton Women's Shelters Ltd.: We will take a membership in this umbrella organization, including a letter explaining our concern with its exclusive nature (ie. no women without children accepted).

ASWAC Committees: Julie Ann LeGras has suggested reviving the use of committees within ASWAC. She will be invited to come to the October board meeting in Edmonton to discuss it.

Telephone Line: A second telephone line has been ordered for the ASWAC office in anticipation of a second staff member.

Abortion by Choice: The board is sending a letter of support and endorsement to Abortion by Choice, an Edmonton-based group. Their new brochure will be ready October 2.

Finances: Our \$30,000 term deposit with the Canadian Commercial Bank is safe and sound, despite the collapse of the bank. We recommend the orientation of new board members include financial information.

Information
Items

Replies to the Widows Pension Act letter lobby show that the provincial government has no intention of making changes to the current Act.

Anne McGrath, representing ASWAC and Edmonton Working Women, is on a steering committee with representatives from labour groups, churches, solidarity and peace groups to plan an "alternate convention" to the Tory leadership convention October 12. The four themes are unemployment, social disparity, farm crisis, and trade union rights. Check with the office for further details.

Edmonton's telephone Yellow Pages are second only to Toronto's in the number of pages devoted to escort service ads.

Newsletter

Janet and Meaghan will meet this month to look at improving the newsletter's design.

Frances Returns

Here I am back living in Edmonton and working for ASWAC after having bid both adieu only nine months ago. Both pieces of news continue to surprise old friends that I keep running into. I had lived in Edmonton for three and a half years, worked as ASWAC Office Manager for two years, and was ready for the BIG CHANGE. So, I went to Greece for six months (more on that another time) with the intention of living in Ontario when I returned (setting up a souvlaki and ouzo stand on the Danforth or something!).

So, what happened to bring me back to Alberta? The summer in Ontario was useful in that I at last finished my B.A. in Political Studies and spent some good time with my family but I missed my friends and the women's community here and felt that, at least for now, my life was in Alberta.

I arrived in Edmonton at the end of August and, within hours, was told about the new ASWAC position and encouraged to apply. I mullied it

cont'd on page 12



Next Board Meeting

The next Board Meeting will be held in Edmonton at the new Women's Building on the weekend of October 18 - 20th, 1985.

If you are interested in attending this meeting - the last meeting of the current ASWAC Board - please feel free to call the office for further information.

Donations

Since the last issue of the Newsletter we have received \$105.00 in donations. Heartfelt thanks go out to the following generous women:

Diana Chown, Linda Long, Margaret Lambert, Katherine Hunt, Danielle Subranni.

ASWAC Board Members

Frances Adams	c/o ASWAC office	424-3073
Brigitte Baradoy	1203 Lismer Green NW, Calgary T3B 2V7	282-9843
Janet Beebe	Box 1566, Camrose T4V 1X4	679-0268
Amanda LeRougetel	c/o ASWAC office	424-3073
Sheila MacDonald	8819-102 Ave, Edmonton T5H 0E1	429-4487
Suzn Morgan	6423 Laurentian Way SW, Calgary T3E 5N2	246-8755
Judy Moynihan	190 Highland Close, Ft. McMurray T9H 3T5	791-4395
Julie Walker	2205 2nd Ave NW, Calgary	283-0488
Lisa Walter	9525-77 Ave, Edmonton T6C 0M3	431-0296
Marlene WhiteSun	Box 418, Hythe T0H 0H1	356-3797

Letters to ASWAC

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to your April '85 request for feedback regarding ASWAC's involvement with lesbian issues, as well in retort to the letter of Lois Tomlinson (August '85).

I feel very strongly that ASWAC should be heartily commended for their support of lesbian rights! They have supported GALA (Gay and Lesbian Awareness) in their lobbying for inclusion on anti-discrimination clauses in employment and tenancy in the Individual Rights Protection Act (IRPA), as well as in its delineation in Section 15 of the Charter of Rights and Freedom.

Getting down to basics, I perceive ASWAC as striving to raise the consciousness of the general public in regards to the status of women. If, in fact, ASWAC lobbies for the inherent rights of women with respect to issues such as sexism, agism, racism, etcetera, does it not follow that they should also support homosexual rights and dignity too?

Gays and lesbians are an oppressed minority, and need legal and social support. The status of lesbians, of women loving women, is indeed a "women's" issue, Ms. Tomlinson. Lesbianism and feminism are not mutually exclusive; they are sisters.

I feel ASWAC is helping the gay community educate the oftentimes conservative mentality held by many Albertans and Canadians. It saddens me to read that Ms. Tomlinson refuses to become an active ASWAC member for fear of being "personally embarrassed"... "because of ASWAC's involvement in lesbianism."

With ASWAC's continued support, attitudes such as these will be eradicated, and women can strive together as one, regardless of sexual orientation.

Yours in Sisterhood,
Jane Ellenor,
Lesbian Information Line
Co-Director/GALA SOUTH Co-ordinator/Lesbian/Feminist/Woman (not necessarily in this order)
Calgary

Greetings!

I am writing to reconfirm my support of ASWAC's work. I would also like to address points made by Lois Tomlinson in the last Newsletter. Much comes to mind, but very simply: lesbians are women and therefore their issues are women's issues. For the most part, I see all our issues as people's issues and women's groups have a long history of being active in such areas as the Peace Movement, rights of children, environmental concerns, racial discrimination, to name a few.

We would never be where we're at today if women avoided unpopular issues and worried about our image. The term 'radical' seems to have negative connotations, probably because it signals the beginning of changes, a threat to the status quo. Also, 'radical' changes with the changes. Remember, the Suffragettes were radicals of their time.

It seems many people deny their fear and other strong feelings about lesbianism, but take strong actions. Exploration of these feelings and developing an understanding was and obviously still is part of their individual work around the issue and I think this process can be helped by ASWAC's work with lesbian issues.

Patricia Truman



Dear ASWAC,

Sorry if I am late for my renewal of my membership. Always something that I want to get done because I do appreciate the newsletter and felt terrible every time I saw the star on the label. I appreciate the patience you show. I will also add a small donation because I feel it important to me to do so and because I want to be more involved in different ways on women's issues.

Thank you for not letting me down!

Danielle Subranni

WE LOVE TO GET LETTERS FROM YOU!! We welcome your submissions - in any form, on any topic. We see the Newsletter as an important link in the woman-chain of communication around the province. Put your thoughts on paper, send them in and share your ideas with your sisters around Alberta!

Dear Sisters:

I feel compelled to respond to Lois Tomlinson's letter in the August newsletter.

Ms. Tomlinson considers lesbian issues to be a "people's" issue rather than a "women's" issue. Are not all "women's" issues "people's" issues? Does she expect only parents to work towards decent day care, only senior citizens to work towards pension reform, only those employed outside the home to work for equal pay for work of equal value, only victims of rape to work for reforms in the area of sexual assault?

Ms. Tomlinson states that the idea of lesbianism is radical to many people. True. She adds that this will negatively affect issues that are truly women's. Who do you think lesbians are, Ms. T.?

In conclusion, she states that she would feel personally embarrassed to be associated with ASWAC's public image because of their (our) involvement with lesbianism. I feel personally embarrassed that a woman who feels so strongly, considers herself a feminist, yet displays such intolerance.

Let's work together towards a more tolerant, loving, gentle world. A big plus for feminism, in my books, is that it is something to be embraced by any woman - of any age, class, background, religion...and sexual persuasion.

The only way to erase homophobia is through awareness. The best tool for increasing awareness is the media.

I believe it would be a great cop-out for ASWAC to remove itself from lesbian issues. Some things need to be said, and some things need to be done.

Yours, in Sisterhood,
Peggy Chalmers
Golden, B.C.

Three Conferences

Sexuality

Calgary SWAC is holding a conference on Women's Sexuality on Nov. 1st and 2nd, 1985.

The Conference has been organized to maximize the input of participants regardless of age, race or ethnic background, sexual orientation, size and shape or physical ability. Women will be encouraged to broach difficult topics, to feel free to talk openly about their own sexuality, and to be vulnerable without fear of repercussion.

The conference, over one evening and one day, will be opened on the Friday evening by a panel of keynote speakers:

- Linda Lee Tracy (Not A Love Story)
- Persimmon Blackridge (Vancouver Erotic Artist)
- Makeda Silvera (feminist active in work with domestic workers)

Saturday will be devoted to a number of wide-ranging workshops including: Sexual Double Standards, Erotic Art, Power and Sexuality, Recovering Sexually from Sexual Abuse, Ritual Spirituality and Sexuality.

Saturday evening will feature a coffee house with performances and readings centered around the themes of sexuality and erotica. Ongoing throughout the conference will be an exhibit of erotic artwork. It sounds like a dynamite conference and the organizers should be commended for tackling the all-to-often taboo subject of women's sexuality.

For detailed information regarding registration procedures and fees, please call or write

The Calgary SWAC Office
#124, 320-5 Ave, S.E.
Calgary, Alberta
T2G 0E5
(tel: 262-1873)

Travel and childcare subsidies are available.

CALGARY WOMEN ORGANIZE SEXUALITY CONFERENCE

Rights

The Red Deer Status of Women is holding a one day conference entitled WOMEN...KNOW YOUR RIGHTS on October 19th at the Great West Inn. The Conference looks at marriage, marriage breakdown and workplace rights and features Marilyn Robin from the Human Rights Commission, Pat Blockson a Calgary divorce lawyer and Pat

Cooper who is the southern Alberta representative to CACSW.

Registration is \$10 and the deadline is October 14. Call 347-2480 in the mornings between Monday and Friday, 343-3232 other times.

Isolation

The Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women is holding its annual conference, WOMEN: SOCIAL AND PHYSICAL ISOLATION, in Saskatoon on the November 8-10 weekend.

The obstacles presented by isola-

tion as well as the potential for the development of women-centered relationships and some uniquely female means of enduring or overcoming isolation will be explored in this conference. The presentations, workshops and discussions are organized in terms of three themes: the phenomenon and experience of isolation; making the connections to end isolation; and celebrating community.

For further information please contact Marilyn Assheton-Smith, the Alberta rep to CRIAW at 433-9938.

WIDOW'S PENSION

The SINGLE AND DIVORCED SPEAK OUT group are presently lobbying the government to have the discrimination removed from the "Widows' Pension Act". Under this Alberta Legislation widows and widowers in the 55 - 64 age group are entitled to a pension and many benefits which the single and divorced of the same age group are deprived. Many single and divorced people are in a worse financial situation than the former group.

We feel that all people in this age group, regardless of marital status, should be eligible for the pension and benefits if they meet the requirements of the means test. In any case, we feel that all people in this age group should be treated in the same way regardless of marital status.

Our group, the SINGLE AND DIVORCED SPEAK OUT, are planning to meet in mid-November with the Hon. Dick Johnston, Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, to discuss this matter. We are looking for your support so that we can present your letters and petitions to him from the people of Alberta protesting this legislation. If you feel that our cause is just, please spend 34¢ for a stamp and five minutes of your time and write a letter to the Alberta Status of Women Action Committee stating that you wish this Act amended to include the single and divorced. We will then take these letters with us to the meeting with Mr. Johnston.

The SINGLE AND DIVORCED SPEAK OUT will be pleased to mail their complete Information Package on request.

ALTERNATIVE VOICES

While the Tory leadership hopefully focus on ways to get delegates to vote for them, the issues facing Alberta Women remain unaddressed by the Tory party. Indeed, the majority of Alberta's population are being neglected in the campaign for successor to the throne.

Interest groups representing the ignored majority have come together to organize a convention of ALTERNATIVE VOICES.

Labour groups, church groups, women's groups, social services groups, student groups, farm groups etc. are organizing the

ALTERNATIVE VOICES convention to coincide with the Tory leadership convention.

Our convention will focus on full

employment, saving the family farm, full union rights and an end to social disparity. This convention is addressing the real issues.

The convention begins at 12 noon on Saturday, October 12th at Sir Winston Churchill Square. We will march to the Legislature for a hot meal and entertainment after the convention. The activities will end at approximately 2 pm. Everyone is welcome to come and speak to these issues. The convention will happen rain (snow) or shine.

If you would like more information, contact Anne McGrath at 424-4757 or Dave Durning at 489-0128.

Porn Up-dates

... the following information items are taken from the September issue of the Canadian Co-alition Against Media Pornography (CCAMP) Newsletter ...

TASK FORCE ON BROADCASTING POLICY: CCAMP made a presentation to the Task Force in August at its first hearing in Ottawa. The presentation highlighted the amount of sexual violence, among other concerns, that occupies so much of American t.v. programming. The Coalition pointed out that by the age of 12, the average Canadian child has seen 12,000 hours of t.v. - 10,000 hours of it American. Violence is growing at an accelerated pace on American t.v.; in 10 years, an

average viewer will see 7,000 screen deaths. The Task Force is accepting written submissions; they should be sent to: Task Force on Broadcasting Policy Dept. of Communications 300 Slater Street OTTAWA, Ont. K1A 0C8
Copies of the CCAMP brief submitted to the Task Force are available from: CCAMP PO Box 1075, Stn. B OTTAWA, Ont. K1P 5R1



VARDA BURSTYN, OF TORONTO, who edited the anti-censorship book, *Women Against Censorship*, gave an in-depth interview to the Sep. issue of *Penthouse Forum*, published by Bob Guccione. This interview, in which she speaks out against any form of control over pornographic material is in a magazine in which there is a story called *Confessions of a Voyeur*, and ads for female blow-up dolls, pocket-pussy, and a cock o' 9-tails "just to remind her to be nice". Also in this issue is an ad sponsored by *Penthouse Magazine* against censorship which states, in part, "Today, a few so-called 'decency' groups are trying to make censorship work in America. These people feel that if you aren't allowed to watch 'dangerous' t.v. programs like 'MASH' and 'The Day After', or read 'immoral' magazines like *Ms.* and *Penthouse* or books like *Ulysses* and *Huckleberry Finn*, our nation will be a better place." (!!!!!)

THE SUPREME COURT OF CANADA refused in early August, to hear an appeal by Red Hot Video Ltd. (Vancouver chain that markets X-rated videos across Canada) on its previous conviction on 3 counts of possessing obscene videotapes for the purpose of selling them. The company had challenged the rule under the Charter of Rights, citing the Criminal Code provisions as being too vague to be valid. However, the Supreme Court clearly concurred with the B.C. Court of Appeal ruling which had stated: "Judges are not so insulated from observing community standards that they have failed to notice the growing concern expressed by the Canadian community at large that they undue exploitation of women and children depicted in certain publications and films can, in certain circumstances, lead to object and servile victimization."



A MAJOR STUDY DONE BY Dr. James Check for the Dept. of Justice, Canada relates non-violent porn. to rape. The results of the study of 400 men show, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN CANADA, that non-violent, dehumanizing porn. is just as harmful in its effects on men, as violent material. "We know the effects of violent porn., but this study shows . . . that porn. which is verbally abusive of women is just as harmful," said Dr. Check, noting that most pornography available in video stores falls into the category of non-violent but dehumanizing to women.

A RECENT GALLUP POLL found that most Canadians favour limits on the sale of pornography. The poll, conducted in May, found that 57% favour the suggestions to limit violent pornography and material using children, but favour access to explicit but non-degrading material.

There was a large gender gap on the issue, and it is difficult to explain the difference because the question was so broad. It appears that many women are not comfortable with the distribution of sexually explicit material, and it may be that women would consider much of this material to be exploitative in a subtle way.

THE WOMEN'S INTER-CHURCH COUNCIL of Canada has put out an excellent resource book and kit to lead groups in an exploration of the issue of pornography. Complete with articles, quotes, statistics and information, it provides workshop leaders with program outlines for workshops of varying lengths. The one for teenagers is particularly good. The kit is available from the Council at: 77 Charles St. West TORONTO, Ont. M5S 1K5



We define pornography as verbal or pictorial material representing sexual behaviour that is degrading or abusive to one or more of the participants in such a way as to endorse that degradation.

Canadian Co-alition Against Media Pornography

The Night Was Ours!



PHOTO BY SHERYL ACKERMAN

Edmonton

Edmonton's 4th "Take Back The Night" Walk, held on September 20 was very successful. Radiating a feeling of strength, purpose and community, 150 of us walked down Jasper Avenue, through a subway unit, to the Legislature and back to the new Women's Collective Building. With many of us carrying candles we sang and chanted: "Yes means yes, no means no, stop rape now!"; "Women unite, take back the night". We were cheered on a few occasions by apartment residents and, we later learned, by a prostitute we passed on 100 Avenue.

Following the walk, women gathered again at the Women's Building for coffee and munchies. Despite the fact that the weather did not co-operate, the walk was deemed a success by organizers, who were pleased and relieved by the turn-out.

Calgary

Over two hundred women took part in the Calgary march held the same evening. Abundant enthusiasm and many new faces were evident. A fundraising dance for Calgary's Alliance for the Safety of Prostitutes followed the march.

TAKING BACK THE NIGHT (a tribute to us)

My screaming sadness was lost
In the tumultuous roar of our chanting,
In waves of recurring delight
as moontides drew us together,
wading along streets
while lone men looked on, threatened,
as we were until tonight.

Arm in arm, we are rescuers
of a culture fragmented
by sharp edges of power.

A renewed self seeps into our wombs,
healing our scars etched by moonlight
at burning stakes,
at homes under veil
where we were dragged away, menacing,
because a mother preferred us;
In desolate ruins
where we shouldn't have been walking alone anyway...

We link up -
the shackled transforming chains.
We will continue to walk,
alone and together,
fusing the elements
that once were humanity.

by Linda Stein
taken from THE SECOND WAVE

IDEAS ...
ISSUES ...
ORGANIZING ...

Unity
with
Diversity

ARTS &
CULTURE ...
And More!!!



Westridge Lodge,
Devon, Alberta

ASWAC Assembly

Weekend Line-up

FRIDAY NOV. 22

6 pm Registration
Networking and visiting

8 pm Keynote speakers
Topic: End Of The Decade Conferences
With: Sheila Wynn, Alberta Women's Secretariat
Ravida Din, Calgary SWAC
Sheryl Ackerman and Pauline Belanger, Positive
Images: Women By Women

SATURDAY Nov. 23

Workshops

9 am to 10:20 am

Issue.....The Charter and Alberta Women
Idea.....Work-for-Wages, Love and the Cause
Organizing.....Launching a New Service
Art and Culture..Living Non-violently

10:40 am to 12 noon

Issue.....Health Concerns
Idea.....Reproductive Technology in Women's Lives
Organizing.....Getting the Message into Mainstream Media
Art and Culture..Why Feminist Theatre is Important

1:30 pm to 2:50 pm

Issue.....Older Women's Issues
Idea.....Building Bridges
Organizing.....Organizing Smaller Communities
Art and Culture..Poster Art

3:10 pm to 4:30 pm

Issue.....Legislated Poverty
Idea.....Lesbian Feminism: Fighting for Visibility
Organizing.....Funding for That Project
Art and Culture..Songwriting/ Jam Session

SATURDAY EVENING Nov. 23

4:30 pm to 6:30 pm

Free or Caucus or Jogging/Recreation Time

6:30 pm to 7:00 pm

Pre-dinner Mingling Time

7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

Supper, followed by entertainment in the form of an
open stage for participants and a dance.

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SUNDAY Nov. 24

9:00 am to 10:00 am

Opportunity will be provided for morning worship
Free or Caucus Time
Ad Hoc Workshop Time

10:00 am to 11:45 am

Annual General Business Meeting
Report from the Board
Report on financial status of ASWAC
Mandate from members on ASWAC work for 1985-86

12:45 pm to 2:30 pm

Board Selection Procedure

2:30 pm to 3:00 pm

Close-off of the Annual Assembly

3:00 pm to 3:30 pm

Brief Meeting of the New ASWAC Board.

Important Information

FOOD: Meals are provided on site, the cost is included in the basic \$25.00 registration fee.

MARKET AREA: Bring your leaflets, pamphlets, and other informational items to display and share; bring your feminist books to sell or trade; bring your jewelry and other crafts to sell; bring your money to buy books from the booktables of Common Woman Books, Edmonton and A Woman's Place, Calgary. A market area will be set up in which you will be invited to sell, trade or give away pertinent items and objects of interest to Assembly participants. Please phone the office with details of your requirements in the market area (table, chair, etc.) and we will try to accommodate your needs.

ACCOMODATION: If you want to reduce the cost of the weekend, consider sharing a room at Westridge Lodge with 5 other women (see registration brochure for details). If this idea appeals to you, bring your own sleeping bag, foamy pillow and towel.

IMAGINATION AND CREATIVITY: Bring lots to use! We hope the Assembly will be a time for us to share not only information on issues and actions but also a time in which to have some fun and share our special talents. So, bring along your musical instruments, your tarot cards, your poetry and anything else you would like to share with your sisters.

We look forward to seeing you there. The lodge is cozy and comfortable. It should be good cross-country skiing weather so you might consider bringing the skies and maybe even, your jogging suit with you if you are the kind of person who gets a little house bound after two days. The meals are generous and of superb quality too. So, do bring along your appetites. The only money you might want to bring would be for the marketplace and the bar. The ASWAC Assembly could be your last big feminist event this year.

Board Selection

Selection of a new board for ASWAC is one of the most important parts of each year's Assembly.

Serving on the board involved week-end-long attendance at board meetings held approximately every six weeks. There are eight board meetings a year in various locations throughout the province. All travel expenses are re-imbursed.

The selection process, which occurs on the last day of the Assembly, involves self-nomination by members, followed by discussion in plenary, then final selection. Our aim is to achieve as broad provincial representation is possible on a volunteer basis. We especially encourage non-urban members to volunteer.

What are the qualifications? A commitment to regular meeting attendance and willingness to take on board work as necessary are important ones. As well, you should have some previous experience in feminist activities and a basic knowledge of ASWAC and of your local community.

Please consider what you might have to offer ASWAC this year. There will be an information session late Saturday afternoon at the Assembly for those members interested in being on the board. Or feel free to call the ASWAC office for further details. The work, needless to say, is both challenging and rewarding.

A Must-Read Book

Does Khaki Become You?

The Militarization of Women's Lives

by Cynthia Enloe (South End Press, 1983)

Reviewed by Janet Beebe

Once in a while, I come across a really excellent book--readable, timely, well-researched. Does Khaki Become You? is one of those books.

In it, the author examines the increasing militarization of women's lives in both the U.S. and Britain (and on their many bases around the world), including women soldiers and military nurses, prostitutes, military wives and defense industry workers.

She begins with an historical overview showing how women from early 'camp followers' onward have been marginalized so that the ideology of militarism as an exalted and essentially masculine experience could be perpetuated. However, rather than arguing for an equal opportunity approach in which women would be integrated into the military, she shows how breaking militarism's grip on our social order may be one more important struggle on the way to women's liberation.

Enloe's chapter on the militarization of prostitution reveals just how cynically military commanders manipulate the availability of women on and around bases for the purpose of prostitution, at the same time denying their own involvement.

Wives of soldiers come in for equally cynical measures. Wives are expected to provide (for free, of course) any and all support services needed to maintain the troops in a constant state of 'readiness' for war. Women who speak up for their own need for support services are rebuffed. Issues such as wife-battering or child abuse become visible only as they affect war-readiness and personnel attrition.

The role of nurses in the military over the years parallels the history of women healers in general. In the beginning, women nursed soldiers

as part of their camp follower function, and were quite independent of military control. Eventually, however, medical care for wounded soldiers became an object of military strategy. The critical problem then facing military commanders was how to bring women into the military order to perform this work, without appearing to have done so. They accomplished this early on by making nursing a desirable 'vocation' for middle and upper-class white women, who could be counted on not to object to their rather fuzzy and subservient status.

Later on, as women nurses were propelled close to the front lines (as in the Vietnam War), military heads relied on the image of nurses as 'helpmates' to disguise the growing contradictions between nurses' romanticized supporting role and their actual vital role within the military machine. Finally, in today's nuclear era, even civilian health care workers are being drawn into the military's net to assist with increasingly widespread civil de-

With equal depth, the author goes on to look at women soldiers in both conventional and liberation armies, as well as women working in defense industries. The chapter on women in defense industries was, for me, a highlight in an already outstanding book.

Enloe finishes with a chapter drawing the connections between the military and the patriarchy, and outlining ways in which women can draw on their own experiences to expose and defuse the military machine. As she does throughout the book, she tries here to place the discussion in a global perspective.

There is simply a wealth of information and fine analysis in Does Khaki Become You?, and it's a book I rate as a 'must-read'. I bought my copy at the Edmonton Learner Centre (10765-98 St.). You could check with your nearest feminist bookstore as well.

Women's Building Opening

Launched and Toasted

Now, September 17, 1985, there are about 70 women gathered to celebrate the opening of the Women's Building where A.S.W.A.C. is housed. It is strange to be typing while the conversations go on in the next room, but somehow, this moment needs preserving. I thought perhaps I could recount the context of the speech that Amanda made to signify the moment.

It goes something like the following:

Welcome everyone. This is our building. It is ours to share and we all hope that you will help us use it. We all know what it means to have a room of our own. So now that we have a building of our own, we can applaud our efforts and those of our sisters who began this process. Mair Smith was involved in the beginning and most certainly kept the fire lit underneath us when we searched each successive building. Finally we found the one we wanted.

What started as an idea, a dream, is now a reality. We invite you to use the building, claim it as our own. Let us raise our glasses to the building. A TOAST.

And, what Amanda might have added if she was inclined, is that she has been instrumental in pulling a huge empty building into a visible reality. There are parking spaces outside that are rented, clean bathrooms and carpets, a kitchen with coffee...in short, all of the amenities of a cozy place to work. Also, the timeless efforts of Jude Major both in her work with cloth and her concerns for the building fabric; Pat Eglinski for her determined effort to encourage all women to use the space and Anne McGrath for her support and encouragement throughout.

We thank you all for making our space a reality.

Sandi

Flo's Employment Equity

In July Flora MacDonald, Minister of Employment and Immigration, announced new legislation that addresses equal pay for work of equal value. The legislation calls for "employment equity" for women, disabled workers, natives and other visible minorities. As a first step, it requires firms to report on the hiring, promotion and wages paid to these target groups.

Unfortunately, only employees who work for governments, or firms with operations in more than one province (or other federally incorporated companies), are covered by the legislation.

Additionally, the legislation only requires that companies report on their personnel practices, it does not provide penalties or quotas that would be required.

The purpose of the reporting is to give this information to government and the public, where we can suppose more direct action will result. It also will provide this information to the Canadian Human Rights Commission so that prosecution under this legislation will be easier.

Lobby efforts from the National Action Committee on the Status of Women (N.A.C.) and other umbrella groups have generally demanded that the government establish quotas and penalties for firms that do not meet the requirements. This is the model for legislation that was implemented in many of the states in the U.S.A. There, the quota system produced results in reasonably short order, which

is a flaw with voluntary programs like the one proposed here.

Generally, the kind of review of personnel practices and results that would shed light on the equal pay issue is viewed as cumbersome and arbitrary. In this province that attitude was expressed by Marlene Antonio and Les Young's comments on the topic earlier this summer. However, these "leaders" fail to acknowledge that the existing method of assigning wages to work is equally arbitrary and based on sexist notions about "women's work" being less valuable than "men's work".

Legislation like that proposed by Flora MacDonald does not begin to address these larger questions about the wage packet women bring home. The Abella report that the federal government commissioned in 1984 gave plenty of information about how under-represented women are in higher levels of staffing. What's needed now is not more information gathering, but some commitment to actually lead companies in changing their discriminatory practices.

The legislation requires that each of the affected firms also establish affirmative action plans by the year 1986, and these may actually help women working in these companies.

The legislation has only been introduced to date. It has not received serious consideration in the House of Commons. You may wish to express your concern about the lack of teeth in the bill to your M.P. soon.



Abortion Tribunal

As women seeking control over our own bodies, we are often put on trial. Women who want abortions are made to explain and justify their life decisions. They are judged and a verdict is made.

Now is the time for US to reach a verdict. We will put Section 251 of the criminal code on trial for discrimination against women. A series of tribunals will be held across the country over the next few months and women will testify. We will give our experience a voice.

Our right to reproductive choice is under attack and we can respond by exposing the anti-woman nature of the present abortion legislation. A collection of women's groups will be organizing the abortion tribunal for Edmonton in mid-March. If you would like to get involved or you need more information, contact Amanda at 424-3073 or Anne at 424-4757.

Budget Blues

On May 23, 1985 the Mulroney Government announced in its budget several cuts in the family benefits package. By resorting to the partial de-indexation of the family allowance and child tax credit, the government has taken approximately \$15 million in 1985-85 and \$40 million in 1986-87 away from 3.5 million families with children in Canada.

By and large it is women who are responsible for making ends meet in the family, and it is women who are going to suffer most from these cuts.

The Mulroney Government is asking

families to make sacrifices while at the same time it can find \$1 billion to save Canadian Commercial Bank depositors of \$60,000 and more. The Government says it is bankrupt. We say that the government is morally bankrupt.

Ask any woman trying to survive on welfare and she will say that it is her family allowance cheque that feeds her children the last ten days of the month. By attacking these benefits the Tories will be causing these women and children to go hungry.

The middle class will also be hard hit by the budget. Not only was the child tax credit part-

ially de-indexed, the turnover point where benefits begin to diminish has been lowered from \$26,330 to \$23,500. This means that a family with an income of \$26,000 which is now eligible for the maximum benefit will see their child tax credit lowered by \$125 beginning in 1986. The middle class may be prepared to make some sacrifices to help the poor, but should it accept sacrifice to help the rich?

At the ASWAC office there is a copy of a petition protesting the cuts to family benefits. If you would like to sign or would like a copy contact ASWAC at 424-3073.

Researcher Studies ASWAC

Research on Equality Rights:
Symbols and ideologies in
competition.

Last June a research proposal I submitted to ASWAC's board was approved. The purpose was to ask if members of ASWAC wanted to participate in the formation of rights-claiming and rights-promoting groups and their ideologies. What I consider is a departure from traditional research which supports and doesn't question dominant models of rights and politics, my research shifts attention away from the dominant institutional structures to the group's (and the individuals within the group) -- in this case ASWAC's -- perceptions of the structural contexts in which social/political interaction takes place, and to the values reflected in that interaction. From the perspective of ASWAC, or better yet, from the perspective of feminism, this means a dismantling of what is perceived as a typically "patriarchal" political structure, and a reconstruction of that structure and a model of rights (or social justice). This means, for example, a creative re-interpretation of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and a critical assessment of Section 15 -- the equality rights section. That section is probably more important (notorious) for what has been left out of it than for what has been included in it. The implications have to be mapped out.

Because of financial and time constraints (this is my dissertation research), I am unable to talk with members who do not live in the immediate Edmonton area. However, I

welcome the chance to talk with women who are interested in having a dialogue on the subject. I find, for example, that even basic terms of "power" and "structure" have to be redefined to get away from an inherent male bias that is present in conventional definitions -- a bias that permeates all if not most social science research itself. My research will last well into the Fall and likely into the New Year as well. Hopefully, dialogue will continue a lot longer than that. So far I have not been disappointed. I welcome your input and constructive criticisms. The original research proposal is still on file at ASWAC. Please call me at home (433-3685) or you can leave a message for me at the Department of Anthropology, U of A, at 432-3879.

Rene Gadacz



And the Project Continues

Six hours of interviews have been conducted with two ASWAC members, which were devoted to organizational and structural issues. To begin to establish the contexts of socio-political action, a brief historical overview of ASWAC, styles of organizations and leadership, goal-setting and links with other women/feminist organizations (including NAC) were among the issues discussed. Following what was set out in the original research proposal (submitted to ASWAC on June 18, 1985), we also began to talk about action-oriented groups, like ASWAC, as problem-solving and image-creating devices. Here, we tried to describe the very close relationship between

internal organization, consensus, and projected public images. Finally, a link-up was attempted between these three variables and feminist politics / the feminist movement. These three variables are considered the raw materials with which the movement--any movement--is reproduced and thereby maintained. The long-term goal of the movement is to promote change in the actual structure of social interaction as a whole. A critique of equality rights in future interviews will be situated in this context.

And the fun has just begun!

Rene Gadacz

Elizabeth MASSIAH, M.S.W.
FEMINIST THERAPIST



Edmonton

(res.) 481-5973

FRANCES cont'd

over for a couple of weeks to ascertain whether returning to work here would be a positive experience both for me and the organization. I decided that the negative aspects were very definitely outweighed by the positives, submitted my application, and, wow, here I am!

The project co-ordinator position is a new one for me so I have some thinking, planning and consulting to do before I take on any major projects. Much is familiar but having been away since last December, living in a very different world, I feel somewhat of a newcomer. With lots of will and energy, however, I expect to get back in the swing very soon.

The warm welcomes have sure felt good. Thank you and I hope to be working with many of you in the next months. Yeia xapa (health and joy!)

Frances Adams

Library Additions



WOMEN AND WORK HAZARDS CONFERENCE

a) Sexual Harassment at Work: two documents produced by the Public Service Alliance of Canada includes special references to the Public Service Alliance policy on personal sexual harassment. Details on the way complaints are dealt with and case studies are included.

b) Fact Sheets: Occupational Health and Safety. This is a nicely bound document prepared specially for the conference on Women Confronting Work Hazards, July, 1985. Included are sections on Occupation Specific Hazards, General Hazards, and Taking Action. Excellent resource!

c) Participate For Change: Proceedings from the PSAC Health and Safety Conference in Ottawa, 1983.

d) Equality Resource List: This is a brief but EXTREMELY USEFUL document detailing what documents have been produced by CUPE on affirmative action, child care, equal pay, parental leave, part-time employment, pensions, technological change, salary increments, volunteers, films and articles included. Also, other publications of general interest, on women in employment, women's rights studies, equal pay, technology, affirmative action, harassment, pornography, child care and older women are included. BRIEF: USEFUL.

e) CUPE'S THE FACTS: The special women's issue, May-June, 1985.

f) Healthsharing: The Canadian Women's Health Quarterly, Summer, 1985. This has the article on Saskia Post in it...detailed in the Conference report.

g) numerous pamphlets on sexual harassment, health and safety, reproductive health hazards etc.

h) THE NEWSMAGAZINE for Alberta Women: the first edition of the new women's monthly magazine.

WOMEN, DEVELOPMENT AND DISABILITY - a kit/information package on women, development and disability pulled together with the aid of COPOH, the Coalition of Provincial Organizations of the Handicapped.

COPOH
926 - 294 Portage Avenue
WINNIPEG, Manitoba
R3C 0B9
tel: (204) 947-0303

WOMEN IN CANADA: A Statistical Report

This report documents the evolution of the status of women since the early 1970's. It

focuses on the changes in the major aspects of women's lives - their family status, education, health, labour force participation, income and criminal victimization.

This valuable reference contains 114 tables and 30 charts.

To order a copy send \$25.00 to:
Publication Sales and Services
Statistics Canada
OTTAWA, Ontario
K1A 0T6

PLEASE NOTE:

This publication is also available at your nearest Statistics Canada Regional Office.

graphic by Colette French



Handbook for Advocates and Counsellors of Battered Women, The London Battered Women's Advocacy Clinic, Inc., London, Ontario, 1985.

-and-

London Battered Women's Advocacy Clinic, Inc. - Final Report, London, Ontario, 1985.

The Final Report contains the opinions and conclusions of the Advocacy Clinic staff with particular reference to the innovative new services in the area of health and welfare of battered women. The Handbook is the companion volume which contains the facts about battered women, the development of an effective response to wife abuse, the provision of emotional support counselling, advocacy in community and social services, advocacy in the criminal justice system, advocacy under the family law

reform act, and advocacy for civil remedies.

To give a better picture, a quote from the forward of the Handbook can be used. "This word advocacy was deliberately chosen because it describes the Clinic's chief function of speaking out in favor of and interceding on behalf of battered women. Part of our advocacy role involves us speaking out against the barriers and injustices which battered women experience...(and)...part of our role is to work with the battered woman, helping her to recognize her options and advocating changes for her life".

The Final Report and the Handbook combine to offer a wealth of information about battered women and the services provided for them. Copies can be borrowed from ASWAC or ordered from 81 Ridout Street South, London, Ontario, N6C 3X2.

Send for:

We have received the SUMMARY of the REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PORNOGRAPHY AND PROSTITUTION (the Fraser report). The complete report is two volumes long and costs \$28.00 - this summary came to us free from the Dept. of Justice, federal government.

For copies, write to:
Communications and Public Affairs
Dept. of Justice Canada
OTTAWA, Ontario
K1A 0H8
tel: 613-995-2569

Announcements

Human Rights Commission

You are invited by the Alberta Human Rights Commission to make presentations to the Commission on any aspect of discrimination in Alberta.

In this province it is illegal to discriminate against anyone in employment, tenancy, public services or accommodation because of race, colour, religious beliefs, sex, physical disability, ancestry or place of origin. Marital status and age are also prohibited grounds in the area of employment. If you are interested in making a presentation contact:

Alberta Human Rights Commission
902, 10808-99 Ave. Edmonton
T5K 0G5
or phone 427-3116

Call for Volunteers

The Blood Donor Recruitment division of the Canadian Red Cross Society requires thirty volunteers per day to support our program which consists of telephone room volunteers and clinic volunteers.

May we respectfully request your assistance to advise members of your organization of our immediate need for help?

Interested persons are urged to call our Volunteer Services Office at 431-0202 extension 207 for details.



Women for Sobriety

Women for Sobriety is for women with alcohol or cross-addicted drug problems. The program is a self-help and a viable component for women in recovery as it deals specifically with their special needs through sharing with others.

The Thirteen Statements of Acceptance for this program is based on positive thinking, meditation, metaphysics, group dynamics, and health through nutrition.

The philosophy is a parallel one to A.A., but places emphasis on affirming the women's value as a person, enjoying the present, setting constructive goals and cultivating an awareness of life's spiritual dimensions.

for information for Edmonton meetings contact Irene 420-3855 or Joanne 478-2533

in Lethbridge contact AADAC, and ask for Gwen Bibby



"Looking Forward, Reaching Back" Women's Archives In Canada Project

The Canadian Women's Movement Archives has been collecting material on the women's movement in Canada since 1977. The bulk of archival material, though is being saved by individuals and women's groups across the country.

During the next year, the CWMA will be researching and compiling a directory of Women's Archival Collections in Canada. A collective member will be travelling across the country to meet with individuals and women's groups,

If you or your organization have any material on the women's movement in Canada, please contact the CWMA. Help ensure that our history is saved.

Canadian Women's Movement Archives
P.O. Box 928, Stn P, Toronto, Ont. M4T 2P1 (416) 597-8865

Positive Images

WE WANT TO PHOTOGRAPH WOMEN AT WORK - You may know POSITIVE IMAGES: WOMEN BY WOMEN by now. If you don't, I'll briefly explain our purpose. We take and exhibit photos of women in all our diversity to attempt to counter-act the narrow, sexist and pornographic images which surround us.

We now have a project brewing. We want to develop a theme around women and work. We want to show the full range of women's work, and to celebrate our strength, commitment, skills and diversity.

WE NEED YOU!!

If you are willing to be photographed at work, please contact us. These photos are potentially for inclusion in our travelling exhibition.

Hope to hear from you . . .

Sheryl Ackerman
for

POSITIVE IMAGES: WOMEN BY
WOMEN

Contacts:

Linda Lee Nichols 451-2424
Jennie Turner 439-4478
Mair Smith 479-0623
Meaghan Dean 479-0623
Sheryl Ackerman 424-6889
Pauline Belanger 424-6889

Lesbian In-put Requested

The Newsmagazine collective is aware there is little lesbian content in the Newsmagazine for Alberta Women to date. There is much to be written on lesbian issues that are both interesting and valuable to our community; therefore, we are looking for lesbian writers to submit material on lesbian topics and issues.

As yet we have no material on lesbian politics, analysis or the lesbian/feminism debate. Such articles would be thought provoking and generate dialogue. Too often lesbianism and lesbian issues are hidden away or marginalised under the broad umbrella of "women's issues" and hence rendered invisible. We as lesbians know that our history and oppression is not the same as heterosexual women's. Articles discussing these and other ideas are needed in the Newsmagazine.

We would also be interested in receiving reviews on lesbian books, both new releases and golden oldies, non-fiction and fiction. Reviews on lesbian magazines, films, plays, restaurants, entertainers, etc., are also important. Personal accounts as lesbian parents, mothers or daughters of lesbians, coming out to family, friends and employers as well as health concerns, sexuality, etc., are solicited by the Newsmagazine.

All material should be typed if possible and double-spaced. We are presently not in a position to pay contributors, but hope to do so in the future. Material will be credited with the writer's name or, if anonymity is preferred, we will withhold the name upon request. Material should be sent to:
the Newsmagazine
Suite 213, 8204 - 104 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T6E 4E6

Survivors:

The Sexual Assault Centre of Edmonton will be starting a group for incest/rape survivors, run by and for lesbians only.

If you are interested in joining the group or seeing someone individually, please contact Jean or Tracy at the Sexual Assault Centre.

telephone: 423-4102, business line
423-4121, crisis line

Every Woman's Place Events

Mondays 2pm-4pm Self Esteem Group
(Except Oct. 14)

8pm Gay women's A.A.
(closed to non-members)

Tuesdays 12:10pm-12:50pm Talking About... Working Women
Oct. 16 The Double Day
Oct. 23 Workplace Rights
Oct. 30 Technology in the Workplace

7:30pm Film Night
Oct. 2 Speaking our Peace
Oct. 9 A Change of Heart
Oct. 16 The Formula Factor
Oct. 23 The Sexes: Roles
Oct. 30 Japanese Women

Thursdays 11am-1pm Low Income Support Group

Special Events

October 3, Thursday
7:30 pm P.M.S. support group

October 4, Friday
7:30 pm Annual General Meeting

October 18, Friday
7 pm Astrology night



Jobs, Jobs, Jobs?

The Public Service Commission is the recruiting arm for the federal public service and as such maintains an inventory as a source of qualified candidates for consideration for vacant positions as they occur. The following is a brief statement on this responsibility of the Public Service Commission and gives some indication of the range of career opportunities available.

The Public Service Commission recruits for officer level positions in the Scientific and Professional, Administrative and Foreign Service and Technical job categories. These categories comprise such jobs as Tax Collection Officers; Auditors, Structural, Electronic, Electrical or Mechanical Engineers, Program Analysts, Draftspersons, Park Wardens, Park Interpreters, Technicians (Plant Animal or Soil Sciences; Chemical or Microbiological; Electronic; Meteorological; Wildlife).

If you are seeking a challenging career or interested in a change in career, we would like to hear from you. Send resume or call:

Barbara de Jong
Coordinator of Programs
Public Service Commission of Canada
Alberta and NWT Region
2nd Floor, Capital Place
9707-110 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2L9
Phone: 420-3144

Protest Apartheid

Edmonton-based 'Citizens Against Racism and Apartheid' (CARA), in conjunction with numerous church groups, will be holding a Candlelight Procession on October 11 at 7:30 p.m. to mark the UN Day of Solidarity with Political Prisoners in South Africa. ASWAC has added her endorsement to the event that starts at Jasper Avenue and 102 Street and proceeds to the Presbyterian Church at 105 Street where displays and speakers will address the situation in South Africa and the action that is being taken by CARA and other anti-racist groups. Please bring your own candles. Call Maureen Werlin at 434-3904 for further information.

Message to Kim Service

Where are you?
You have my Woman Studies 335 testbook. Please contact me at 282-9843 (home) or 220-4082 (bus.)

Brigitte



STAR ON YOUR LABEL? READ ON!

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

This means that NOW is the time to renew your ASWAC membership.

Those of you who send in renewals will be members for the year 1985/86.

If you have a star on your label it means that your current membership is for the year 1984/85 and you are late in renewing! 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 lose 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 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)

Please make the cheque payable to:
Alberta Status of Women
Action C'ttee.

PO Box 1573, EDMONTON, Alta
T5J 2N7

telephone: 424-3073

*We suggest \$10.00/year membership fee.