

ASWAC

Alberta Status of Women Action Committee

MAY NEWSLETTER 1990
Volume 10, Number 7



WOMAN TO WOMAN
(a bystander acknowledges Edmonton IWD marcher)



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ASWAC's mailing address is: Box 1573, Edmonton, T5J 2N7. The Edmonton office is located at 9930 - 106 Street, on the lower floor with the rest of the Edmonton Women's Building. Phone 421-0306. Office hours are Monday to Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ASWAC Lethbridge is located in the Women's Resource Centre on top of Woolworths at 202, 325 - 6 Street South, T1J 2C7. Phone 329-8338.

The Calgary ASWAC office is located in the Old Y Centre for Community Organizations at 303, 223 - 12 Avenue S.W., T2R 0G9. Phone 233-0731.

Between January 31 and May 1, 1990 ASWAC has gratefully received donations from the following people: Stella Savage, Jill Konkin, Natalia Dobrolige, Marilyn Assheton-Smith, Ann Hall, Janice Lacapra, Patricia Browne, Jean Pettifor, Diana Chown, Deborah Payne, Elizabeth Lefsrud, Janet Walter, Victoria Foley, Judith Barefoot, Bernice Healy, Kathleen Davies, Shawn Choi, Pauline Hoskin and Mary Moore.



Graphic from Northern Woman Journal

HUG THESE WOMEN!

For their time and efforts spent for ASWAC, HUG THESE WOMEN:

Lois Martin
 Ann Chinnery
 Dorothy Mandy
 Mary Hickmore
 Jane Haslett
 Helen Greaves

The ASWAC Newsletter is produced in Edmonton by the Newsletter Collective, with contributions from across the province. Feedback, input and suggestions in the form of ideas for articles, graphics and especially notice of events in your area are very much appreciated. Here is a schedule for upcoming newsletters:

August 15 Newsletter

Deadline will be August 1

October 1 Newsletter

Deadline will be September 15

Thanks to all contributors, to the *Newsmagazine by Alberta Women* collective and Nola Erhardt for typesetting and layout, and to Central Web for printing.

All International Women's Day photos on cover and inside pages by Dennis Storey, Edmonton

Art Exhibition Is Hall's Personal Memorial

by Eisert Hall

The deaths of 14 young women in Montreal in December of 1989 has deeply touched many of us across Canada. Personally I sense a heightened awareness to the imagery, language and actions that flow outward as definition of women. I believe there will be an increased sense of responsibility to immedi-

ately stop abuse at any level in our personal and corporate transactions with others.

It is not a myth that violence has existed against women. Examination of Western and other cultures reveals the truth. In my research on power and its use in a negative way, the greatest oppression will reveal itself at a time when

increased advancement is being made by a victimized group. I found it very interesting that Audrey McLaughlan had won her victory just days before the shooting in Montreal.

Like many across Canada, I sense a deep urge to do something in a concrete way – to celebrate the advancement of women, at the same time remembering those who were sacrificed in the historical struggle toward freedom.

The idea of a memorial award, to be used to celebrate the achievement of young women at the graduate level, seems fitting. This kind of award is symbolic of a number of things. It recognizes our history lest we should become lax in our sensitivity and awareness. It includes the concept of interrelationship, people helping one another. It will serve as well to encourage young women, and offer recognition that historically has been long overdue.

My exhibition at Positive Action Against Sexual Stereotyping and Pornography is a response to do something. I am offering it as a personal memorial to the women who died in Montreal. A percentage of the proceeds will be retained for donation toward an award for women. The exhibition opening was April 19. The exhibit will run for approximately four months. The works are a continuation of two large triptychs, Pascal and the Wilderness with the Tree of Life and the Tree of Death, which will be exhibited in The Works Festival in June and July of this year. Similar works will be shown in the University of Alberta's Fine Arts Department of Extension exhibit during The Works Festival.

These are all mixed medium artworks which I have been using since the '70s to explore issues related to the human condition. I have received a number of Canada Council Awards for my work and have exhibited in Canada.

LEAF To Support Calgary Professor In Struggle To Prove Discrimination

The Legal Education Action Fund (LEAF) has agreed to support a Calgary engineering professor in her appeal of an Alberta Court of Queen's Bench judgment which upheld an Alberta Human Rights Board of Inquiry ruling that the University of Calgary did not discriminate on the basis of sex when it rejected her application for a position as a full professor in the engineering department.

Although Dr. Aleksandra Vinogradov had taught for many years as an adjunct professor and as a sessional instructor, and had received substantial funding over the

years for research, the Board of Inquiry rejected her claim that she was passed over for the appointment because of discrimination in university hiring practices.

Mary Eberts and Bryan Mahoney will act as co-counsel for Vinogradov before the Alberta Court of Appeal. They will make a sex equality argument that focuses on the existence of systemic discrimination at the University of Calgary and in particular in the engineering faculty.

Reprinted from LEAF Lines, February, 1990

"Hungercount" Released

One In Twenty Rely On Food Banks

Based on a survey of 65 food banks across Canada, the Canadian Association of Food Banks announced that 1.4 million Canadians relied on food banks in 1989, that is one in 20.

At a meeting of member food banks, the association released its Hungercount, showing that two out of every five food bank users are children. Almost nine in ten households receiving emergency food rely on social assistance, unemployment insurance, old age pensions or disability pensions for their income.

Following its national conference, the association released a challenge.

"We...recognize the urgent need for dealing with the root causes of poverty and hunger in our society...We challenge all Canadians to work with Canadian food banks and recipients of food assistance toward finding practical solutions to the urgent issues of poverty and its effect."

Reprinted from NAPO News, Winter 1990

Women's Creativity Celebrated in Calgary

Three days of events titled "Celebrating Women's Creativity" involved hundreds of Calgary women during this year's International Women's Day (IWD) activities. Planning for events started well in advance and resulted in a diverse, exciting, educational and entertaining program.

March 8 began with an Alberta Federation of Labour (AFL) luncheon honoring Jean Ross as the AFL's Woman of the Year. Ross, a trade unionist, feminist and long-time activist was recognized for her outstanding contributions to the labor movement and the community. The luncheon was attended by numerous representatives of Calgary's feminist community, and served to remind us of the wonder-

Social Was Great!

The ASWAC Edmonton International Women's Day Social held March 8 went very well. The evening wine and cheese social at the ASWAC office was attended by a wide variety of women from the Edmonton community. We also saw some faces we haen't seen for a long time. It was great!

New Group Forms

A new group, Women Against Violence, has formed in Edmonton and their focus is action and education around violence against women.

This group of women came together around mutual concern over such incidents of violence against women as the police officer who received one day in jail for sexual assault, the judge who called a three-year-old sexually aggressive and the murder of 14 women in Montreal last December.

The group meets on a regular basis at the Women's Building, 9930 - 106 Street. Anyone interested can call Mary at 429-3370.

ful work women in the labor movement are doing.

Later, more than 200 people gathered for a rally in Central Park and a march that weaved through Calgary rush hour traffic. Participants then enjoyed dinner catered by International Gourmet Catering Group and an evening concert featuring Jennifer Berezan, a former Calgarian. Her powerful and passionate performance left the standing-room-only crowd on their feet and cheering for more. It was an extremely successful day that left us all in a celebratory mood.

The next evening an Alberta premiere of the National Film Board documentary *In Her Chosen Field* was screened at the public library. Barbara Evans, the director of this film about the economic crisis of women in rural Canada, enlightened the audience on the issues facing farm women, and the process involved in producing the film. A slideshow of previous IWDs and positive images of women by Julie Walker were also shown.

The next morning women

arrived at the YWCA facing the difficult task of deciding which of the 15 offered workshops they could attend. All the workshops were well attended and appreciated, especially *Discovering Erotica*, which was booked solid before registration even began.

ASWAC and the National Action Committee on the Status of Women co-sponsored a workshop called *Strip Joints or Women's Groups — Who Should the Government Fund?* Other workshops dealt with issues like *Safe Sex for Women*; *Exploitation of Women's Labor: A Global Analysis*; *War and Gender-Biased Toys*; *The Struggle of Women in Latin America*; *Midwifery*; *The Legal Implications of Abortion*; and many more.

The day ended with a musical wrap-up performed by feminist singer/songwriter Peggy Ward.

All the events ran smoothly and credit must go to the International Women's Day Coalition, and in particular, Shari Clough, IWD coordinator, for a well-run and entertaining series of events.



Photo courtesy D. Storey

IWD March Has Room For All The Issues
(especially response to a proposed new abortion law)



Photo courtesy D. Storey

This Is Our Day
(high energy abounds at Edmonton IWD march)



Photo courtesy D. Storey

Remembering Woman Murdered In Edmonton Subway
(a pause during Edmonton march to lay a rose for Carol Grieves)

Many Visit Display Fair For Edmonton IWD

At least 100 women marched through downtown Edmonton during International Women's Day (IWD) celebrations in Edmonton March 9 and 10. Many, many more turned out for the displays, entertainment, workshops and refreshments featured at Canada Place.

About 40 different organizations were represented at the IWD display fair, including ASWAC.

The marchers made their way down Jasper Avenue, garnering waves, cheers and encouragement from bystanders as they

passed. There was a brief stop at one of the subways stations for a rose-laying ceremony in memory of Carol Grieves, who was murdered by a man in that station last year. (This man was charged with manslaughter, but did receive a sentence of 23 years in prison.)

Volunteers, Staff Needed For Film Festival

Dates have been set for the third annual Insight Women's Film and Video Festival in Edmonton. The event will begin this year on Friday, October 19 and continue through Sunday, October 21.

The focus of the festival will be Canadian women filmmakers. In

addition, the festival will feature works of Australian women filmmakers.

The Insight Steering Committee is inviting volunteers to help organize the 1990 festival, and if you are interested you can give Pat Leginsky a call at 492-3093. Help is

needed in a variety of areas.

As well, the committee has funds to hire three staff people for the project. These will be job creation positions, so applicants must qualify for unemployment insurance. Again, call Pat for more information.

Was Families Conference Worth The Cost?

by Janet Walter

In her opening remarks at a Celebrating Alberta's Families Conference held in February, Helen Hunley, Lieutenant-Governor of Alberta, reflected on the changing dynamics of family structures—that 70 per cent of women with children under 16 years of age work outside the home and that there is a need for deeper understanding of both the commonality and diversity of Alberta families. She also mentioned her commitment to a diversity among participants at this conference, organized under her sponsorship.

The first keynote speaker, futurist Reuben Nelson, challenged his listeners to consider that along with the rest of the globe, Albertans have a future only as part of a post-industrial society and the imperative of learning how to be present with others in an harmonious way and to individuate, i.e. regard people as individual persons rather than objective others.

Dr. James Garbarino centred his remarks on children in families. Rejection of children acts like a psychological malignancy. Children need parental affirmation, outside acceptance and generational bridges. He gave graphic examples of how poverty affects children.

Garbarino was explicit regarding the need for male attitudes to change because women's attitudes already have, and children are affected by the gap left by women no longer overtly living lives of servitude.

Joyce Irvine, from her years of working with families, pointed out how important it is that people in families be empowered to grow as individuals and be valued for themselves.

Sharon Wood, in her account of climbing Mount Everest, demonstrated how mental will can command extraordinary energies.

Resource people at this symposium presented details of the rapidly changing milieu of Alberta families. Many cited the pervasive negative effect of poverty. Of the one in five families living in poverty in Alberta, less than ten per cent are two parent families and more than 40 per cent have lone female parents. Farm families who lose their farms are likely to become urban poor.

It wasn't a low budget gathering. Two floors of the Convention Centre in Edmonton were used for this three-day event. Six separate entertainment performances, breakfasts, luncheons, a buffet reception and a formal banquet were

all at public expense. In addition to the keynote and guest speakers, there were 27 workshop presenters from across Canada and 20 group facilitators.

Of the 20 hours that the several hundred people attending spent together, only three hours were allotted to direct participation in study groups... "to provide an opportunity for discussion among conference participants leading to development in the form of an agenda for action, for the Premier's Council in Support of Alberta Families."

A list of organizations invited to send in names of people they wished to have represent them at this symposium was not available to the public, before the event. A number of organizations which deal with reproductive rights, the status of women and children and poverty, were initially excluded. Some of these who requested late registration were accommodated for the whole conference and others for the second day.

It was difficult to celebrate Alberta's families knowing the deprivation that is part of the daily round for so many.

As a participant I wonder if those who live in families — this includes virtually every Albertan, will benefit by the public dollars spent on this conference.

Did participants leave with a broader view of families that are very different from their own? Did social service professionals, volunteer board members, organization representatives and elected officials come away resolved to tackle the reality that: home is often where the hurt is; the rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer and this doesn't even out; and money, (and of even greater importance, self-worth) doesn't trickle down? Justice standards for Alberta families are not being met.

Taking Control: An Action Handbook on Women and Tobacco Se prendre en charge: Guide d'action sur les femmes et le tabac

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COPIE(S) À 5,00\$ CHACUN

POSTAGE AND HANDLING INCLUDED/PORT ET MANUTENTION COMPRIS

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PLEASE SEND ORDER FORM ALONG WITH YOUR CHEQUE PAYABLE TO:
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Canadian Council on Smoking and Health
Conseil canadien sur le tabagisme et la santé
400-1565 ave. Carling Ave.
Ottawa, Ontario K1Z 8R1



Women's Rights Ignored In Government Act

by Sheila Pattison

The Canadian government should be held responsible for not informing women before, during or after they marry a man who is employed by the Crown that they as wives will not have any rights. Instead they tell these wives they will take care of them.

The *Superannuation Act* is a federal government pension which includes members of the Canadian Armed Forces (including those not involved in the World Wars and Korea), the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the diplomatic service.

This law does not consider any aspect of the marriage. The act actually states that if a divorce decree has been issued the wife is no longer considered a spouse and cannot claim any benefits, no matter how many years she was married. If her ex-husband should remarry, his new wife would become beneficiary to the pension and she would receive one-half of the pension should he die. Even then, she would lose the pension if she remarries.

This pension continues to be a low priority because the government refuses to acknowledge these women as equals. The government is successful in keeping this pension secret — they continue to stall with answers, put up barriers and ignore requests for access to the laws and amendments governing the pension. In 1989 amendments were made but they are only available on microfiche, making them inaccessible to most women. These women devoted their lives to their husbands, children and country only to be treated as slaves and with disdain should they ever try to "make waves".

Against my wishes, I remain married to an ex-serviceman even though we have lived apart for nine years. I was married to him 23 of the 25 years he served in the military. During these years I gave up a good

paying job with a beneficial future and an excellent pension because my husband was transferred. If I divorce my husband, I will lose all my future income. I am unable to build a good pension for myself at this late date. I, like most of the other women who married men in these services, cannot afford the overwhelming cost to fight this biased act in the courts. Besides, even many lawyers are unaware that this pension is not divisible. The *Canadian Human Rights Act* specifically exempts the *Superannuation Act* (page 30, section 62i).

I wrote a letter to my member of Parliament, Murray Dorin (PC), on July 15, 1989 stating my

concerns and objections with the *Superannuation Act*. As yet I have not been honored to receive even a form letter. Our government is elected by us, with women making up one half of the voters. Therefore, our elected representatives are obligated to answer us. We must demand recognition as totally equal members of our society and bring this and all other issues concerning our equality to a top priority status.

(Sheila is a wealth of information and experience around the Superannuation Act. Anyone who is facing similar problems as she or who is interested in more information is welcome to contact her at 488-2493, Edmonton.)

Cuts Indicative Of Backlash, Says NAC

This year's federal government cuts to the Secretary of State Women's Program are devastating. The program was cut by \$1.6 million. Of this, approximately \$1.4 million has been cut from women's centres. As far as we can tell, ALL WOMEN'S CENTRES HAVE RECEIVED MAJOR OR 100 PER CENT CUTS TO THEIR FUNDING. One quarter of these cuts have been in Quebec, where 40 centres have lost funding.

The Minister also made deep cuts in the Women's Program support to women's periodicals and research. *Healthsharing*, *Canadian Woman Studies* and *Resources for Feminist Research* were cut by 100 per cent. The Canadian Association for the Advancement of Women and Sport was cut by 100 per cent. Canadian Congress for Learning Opportunities for Women, Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women, Nouveau Départ and the Women's Research Centre were cut by 20 per cent.

The cuts to centres are an attack on the heart of the women's

movement. Centres provide support, counselling, education, hot lines and organizing networks for women across the country. Slashing our periodicals is an attack on our ability to communicate with each other, and to do pro-active, badly needed education. The cuts to research jeopardize our capacity to know the actual, current conditions of Canadian women's lives.

More than ever we must organize to fight the anti-feminist backlash and for the survival of our movement!

How Can Your Voice Be Heard?

*Talk with friends, neighbors and people you work with about your concerns.

*Become involved in and actively support feminist organizations.

*Voice your concerns about how your tax dollars are used.

*Write to Brian Mulroney, Prime Minister of Canada, House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6.

*Visit your member of Parliament in her or his constituency office.

from National Action Committee on the Status of Women pamphlet



				<p>10 Lesbian Drop-in 9930 -106 St. (Edm) 7-9 p.m.</p>	<p>11 Motherhood Conference U of A (Edm) 492-3093</p> <p>Anti-Apartheid Meeting SAWDEP (Cal) 228-5765 Carolyn</p> <p>"Gathering Together" NFB Studio D (Edm) 5 p.m., 9 p.m.</p> <p>Women of Distinction Dinner YWCA (Cal) 263-1550</p>	<p>12 Motherhood Conference see May 11</p> <p>Anti-Apartheid Meeting see May 11</p> <p>Fun & Magic Day with Alix Dobkin Victoria Park Community Centre (Cal) \$25 246-8106</p> <p>Pro-Choice Picnic Princess Island Park (Cal) 1-4 p.m.</p>
	<p>14 Public Panel "Native Education" Plains Indian Cultural Survival School (Cal) 282-6845, 269-3755</p>		<p>16 "Battered Wives" CBCA Cinema CBCA Library (Cal) 12:15 p.m.</p>		<p>18 "Texts and Contexts" NFB Studio D (Edm) 5 p.m, 8 p.m.</p> <p>T4P Coffeehouse 9328 Jasper Ave. (Edm) 421-1495</p>	
<p>20 Feminist Feast A631-42 St. SW (Cal) 246-7189 Nancy Marcy</p>		<p>MAY</p>			<p>25 CWA Festival '90 (Edm) 424-0287</p>	



2
LIL Dance
Old Y Bldg (Cal)
8 p.m.
265-9458

10K El Salvador
Walkathon
Mill Creek Ravine
Park (Edm)
469-8041

4
Calgary Birth
Control
Association AGM
Old Y Bldg (Cal)
7 p.m.



8
Privatization
Conference
sponsored by
Edmonton
Working Women
(Cal)
429-3370

Sexuality
Conference
sponsored by
Women Looking
Forward (Cal)
269-1144

9
Privatization
Conference
see June 8

Women's Dance
Riverdale
Community Hall
(Edm)
8:30 p.m., \$7
Non-alcoholic
beverages

16
Commemorate
Soweto Day (Cal)
282-6845

18
Lesbian and Gay
Pride Rally and
Reception
Memorial Park
(Cal)
7:30 p.m.

JUNE

Determining Budget Was A Creative Process

by Meg Dean

Coming up with the 1990-91 ASWAC budget has been a particularly interesting and creative process.

To begin with, the ASWAC budget committee and the board decided to come at the whole exercise from a different angle this year. Instead of coming up with a budget based on the question: "What will the funding agencies give us?", we've created one based on the question, "What does ASWAC really need in the way of people and money to do its work?"

As a result, key themes of the budget are long-range planning, a commitment to continue carrying out ASWAC's vital issue action, advocacy and networking activities and implementing a clear and specific plan for self-sufficiency.

The 1990-91 ASWAC budget proposal is the first year of a three-year plan. The major focuses of this three-year plan are a Women in Action Project and a Self-Sufficiency Project. The intent is to embark on a major transition process that will greatly diversify ASWAC's funding base (self-sufficiency) while continuing to do the essential work ASWAC was created to do — help make this world a more sane and safe place for women.

Women In Action

The purpose of this project is to basically carry out all the issue action, education and outreach/advocacy work ASWAC is already doing and to ensure this vital work does not get lost in the shuffle of increasing activity around fundraising.

It is ASWAC's contention that if our realities for the time being include having to do our important work AND fundraise to assure our very existence, then the two must go on simultaneously in a realistic manner. In order to do this effectively and successfully there must

be realistic application of the resources we truly need to accomplish this objective. This means, among other things, ASWAC must move away from its long-held practice of operating on an underfunded and understaffed basis.

The focus of Women in Action will be to continue:

- 1) *facilitating and initiating organization, action, networking and education around issues of immediate concern to women as they arise;*
- 2) *facilitating and initiating organization, networking and coalition-building around ongoing issues of concern to women;*
- 3) *making available to ad hoc issue groups the use of ASWAC office resources;*
- 4) *responding to requests for information, consultation, support and action made to ASWAC by individuals and groups.*

Actual activities to continue with this project will include: helping with the formation of new women's groups; operating the ASWAC phone line; making available ASWAC's considerable resource files and library; networking with women and women's groups; publishing the Women Against Poverty (WAP) information from the hearings, then holding workshops and speaking engagements to discuss the publication and encourage its use as an organizational tool; keeping offices open in Edmonton, Calgary and Lethbridge; co-sponsoring events; seeing to ongoing ASWAC business such as board meetings, book-keeping and getting women involved in their areas of action and interest; supporting regional representatives in their work. There is much more.

And of course, there is the annual assembly, which this year will be in Edmonton on October 27 and 28. In the interests of simplicity and economy, ASWAC has chosen

a simpler format. This year accommodation will be provided through billeting and information will be provided for affordable accommodation for those who choose not to billet. Instead of using a hotel or convention centre locale, we will be renting a community hall for the event.

For Year One (1990-91) this project will have as staff two full-time women and one part-time woman, assisted by various temporary full-time women, hired through such agencies as STEP and PEP.

Self-Sufficiency

The purpose of this project is to carry out short and long-term fundraising planning and implementation. One full-time person is to be hired in Year One to co-ordinate planning and fundraising. The focus will be on fundraising and project planning, membership development, volunteer co-ordination and newsletter production and distribution. The object of Year One is to work toward greater self-sufficiency in Year Two (e.g. fundraising efforts from Year One will enable this person to be hired in Year Two.)

Specific activities will include: membership drives, assisting with the regional representatives' direct membership donation project; sale of the WAP report; an art raffle (already underway), smaller fundraising projects such as garage sales; raffles and T-shirt sales; production and distribution of the ASWAC newsletter (including sale of advertising in the newsletter); benefit concerts and dances.

What does all this look like in terms of dollar figures at the moment? The preliminary budget projection for Year One (1990-91) shows ASWAC needs \$187,876 to continue to carry out the Women in Action work and to implement our Self-Sufficiency Project.

Last year ASWAC received \$97,750 from the Women's Program,

Secretary of State. This year the federal government cut back funding to Secretary of State by 15 per cent. Exactly what this is going to mean in terms of money available to ASWAC is still unconfirmed. However, rumor has it that countrywide protests by women over the cutbacks are resulting in possible re-examination in federal government circles. As a result some reconsideration may be underway around helping women's groups deal with the consequences of the cutback decisions.

What's Next for ASWAC

While the proposed 1990-91 budget figures are higher than what's been usually put forth in the past, it is important to keep in mind that this year's figures are based on a fairly conservative estimate of what we need, not what we think we can get. In other words, if ASWAC had been merely adequately funded for the work it is already doing, the dollar figures would look roughly like this year's figures.

For quite some time ASWAC has been carrying out at least \$150,000 worth (at least double that if you include the value of volunteer labor) of work each year for the bargain basement price of \$75,000 to \$115,000 (with the amounts decreasing each year).

The ASWAC budget figures will probably change as we complete the budget process. However, while the numbers may change and as a result some adjustments may be made in the details of the overall budget plan, the intent is to stick with the commitment to:

- 1) *plan on a longer range, three to five-year basis;*
- 2) *work steadily in the direction of diversifying and strengthening ASWAC's funding base;*
- 3) *continuing to do the work that needs to be done — no matter what.*

There is a Women's Spirituality Discussion Group in Calgary; call Rosemary at 270-2187.

Variety Of Activities Undertaken By Calgary And Edmonton Staff

Meg and Noreen of the Edmonton ASWAC office have been working with Annette and Heather on the budget. The Budget Committee met for 16.5 hours over four weeks pulling together figures and a framework for a preliminary 1990 budget that went to the ASWAC Board at its April 7 and 8 meeting in Edmonton. The board poured a full day's worth of energy into the process at this point. It was expected to have the application for the Women's Program, Secretary of State portion of the budget in by the end of April.

In addition to budget, Meg finds the ASWAC phone line continues to be its usual busy self.

The Newsletter Collective met March 22 and did most of the planning for the May issue. There was a good response to the membership renewal reminder in the last newsletter, with 49 renewals and three new memberships received in addition to 19 donations.

ASWAC Edmonton, along with Edmonton Working Women, were midwives to the formation of a new group called Voices Against Violence. Another new group will also be using ASWAC's meeting space to address the issue of inequality.

Nancy, in the Calgary ASWAC office, was very involved in the organizing of International Women's Day this year. She also during that time co-facilitated a workshop with Anne McGrath on Secretary of State funding cuts.

Nancy lunched with the Canadian Labour Congress sponsoring the Woman of the Year Award. She has been active in the anti-Goods and Services Tax movement, and did a workshop on Bias in Children's Television through the Calgary Learner Centre.

Along with 60 other partici-

pants, Nancy attended the Women Looking Forward Board Meeting and Round Table Tea. The major question was, "Where is the women's movement going and how will it get there?" Very timely.

Nancy is also working with the Calgary Status of Women Action Committee on the annual general meeting, featuring Faith Nolan. This event is co-sponsored with the Women of Colour Collective.

Noreen has been working with: the Northern Alberta Women's Archive Project; the Motherhood: Challenge and Change in the 90s conference coming up in May, 1990; the Pro-Choice Campus group; and the Women's Research Centre Planning Committee for the September, 1990 Feminist Research Forum.

On March 6 she presented before the Senate Committee on Social Affairs in Ottawa on the subject of Women, Children and Poverty. This was a result of the Women Against Poverty campaign, as was the presentation in Ann Hall's Feminist Research and Methodology class at the University of Alberta. The proceedings from the Senate Committee are available at the ASWAC office, Edmonton.

Diabetes Foundation Looking For Donors

The Juvenile Diabetes Foundation (Edmonton) is looking for donors to sponsor advertising spots on local radio.

The brief spots feature an appeal by television personality Mary Tyler Moore and a promotion for the local chapter of the foundation.

"Juvenile" refers to anyone who is insulin dependent. For more information on how you can help out with this campaign, contact 428-0343.

Compromise Could Be Cause Of Tragedies

Please note: In order to share the following letters with you we have edited them for length. If you wish to read these items in their complete form you may do so at the ASWAC office.

Letter to Ms Sheilagh Edington
From Murray Dorin, MP

Re: Bill C-43

"Admittedly, the legislation is not exactly what most people had hoped for. However, it attempts to represent a reasonable solution by trying to balance the rights and interests of women and society's interest in the protection of the foetus...

"...it may represent about the best we can get if there is to be any legislative guideline at all — and I do believe that the majority of Cana-

dians want some legislative guidelines when dealing with abortion."

Letter to Murray Dorin, MP
From Sheilagh Edington

"I do not believe, and the public opinion polls support my view, that the majority of Canadians do require legislation...on how to deal with termination of unwanted pregnancies.

"The opposition to access of medical assistance to terminate unwanted pregnancies safely, comes from...persons (who) claim to have a "moral right" to deny the

right of choice to the majority of the population.

"I would therefore request you to reconsider your present position...to one of "free choice".

"Also, I would ask you to address those problems that are causing a considerable number of pregnancies to be terminated...

"One hopes... your proposed compromise will not result in mothers being forced to deliver unwanted children or tragically as a (result) of attempted illegal abortions, the delivery of mentally and physically handicapped children."

Copy to:

ASWAC

William Roberts, MLA, Edmonton
Centre

Wilson Urged To Move On Unfair Tax Law

Honourable Michael Wilson
Minister of Finance

Re: Child Support Deductions

Dear Mr. Wilson,

I am writing to point out and request an immediate response to what is a basic inequity in our income tax law regarding dependent children. (It is my opinion that such a law could only have come from the minds of wealthy, middle-aged men.)

My situation simplified is this:

-In 1989 I received \$300 per month in maintenance for my four daughters from my ex-husband; a total of \$3,600.

-It costs me (on average) \$400 per month for each daughter, or \$1,600 per month; a total of \$19,200.

-My share of the support for my children is \$15,600. I am allowed to deduct each of the girls as dependents. This deduction amounts to 17 per cent of the dependent child amounts which, in this case is a total of \$399.84.

-My ex-husband's share of the support for the children is \$3,600. He is allowed to deduct \$3,600.

-I must declare 100 per cent of this \$3,600 in addition to my usual income. I earn roughly \$30,000 per year. The additional \$3,600 means that I must pay an additional \$1,500 in income tax.

I don't have \$1,500 to pay this tax with. I spend every penny I have trying to maintain this family. I have no money put aside for anything. Monthly installments to

pay this tax would be very small because I have to instruct my employer to deduct even more tax from my pay in order to prepare for the same situation next year. You may have just as much trouble getting this tax out of me as most women have getting any maintenance out of their ex-husbands.

Please don't patronize me with a nice letter on expensive stationery. I want some action.

Andrea Carter
Edmonton

Rally Planned Regarding Bill C-43

In the upcoming weeks, the outcome of *Bill C-43, An Act Respecting Abortion*, will be decided by the federal government. After extensive lobbying, Calgary Pro-Choice is ready and waiting. If we hear of the Bill being defeated, or passed, prior to 3 p.m. any given day, there will be a rally outside the Harry Hays Federal Building,

220 - 4 Avenue S.E. at 5 p.m. If the news reaches us after 3 p.m., the demonstration will occur the following day at the same time and place. Participants are welcome to adjourn to the YWCA for celebration, or to seek solace. If the bill is defeated, we encourage you to bring a beverage and join us in celebration at the YWCA.

Performance Was A "Fun" Act of Violence

Administration
Boardwalk Market
Edmonton, Alberta

To Whom It May Concern:

This note refers to a performance staged at The Boardwalk, Incredible Magic by Howard Getty, Saturday 24, 1990 in Edmonton.

In my opinion the above show is a relic of what shamefully has been yesterdays' attitudes about women. Hopefully, this kind of performance will be a thing of the past soon.

We have taken a lot for granted in the name of fun. This show is not fun. It is teaching a lesson that is sexist and cruel to an audience of adults and children.

I see through the eyes of one who increasingly has seen violence in our society against women. In this show I see how it has been instilled and taught as a thing of fun. This is not a new performance but an old one that has had a historical continuum. For the most part, I doubt anyone has really questioned what it is about.

The master of the act conducts the show on a basis of illusion versus reality. The visual construct is associated with violence. Boxes have holes and slits. There are ropes for other purposes. Swords are present. As a young woman steps into a box the master of the show says, "Now we are going to cut Janet into pieces." At another point he asks, "Is she still alive and bleeding?" as he thrusts another sword into a hole of the box in which she is concealed. The children respond and are encouraged to respond.

In another act the master of the show says, "We are going to choke Janet to death!" He encourages children from the audience to help him. Two children, a boy and a girl (and the rest of us) will be participants in choking Janet to death. We are all encouraged to participate

in the "fun". A real rope is used. The children actually pull at either end to "choke Janet to death". Janet is set free in this "fun", which plays a game of reality versus illusion.

This show is too close to reality in its "fun" making. It reflects an attitude that violence in society against women is okay. We can even make it a fun thing in a side show like this one.

We learn in subtle ways to direct our hate. (There is nothing subtle here.) This show is a "fun" act of violence against women. On

the other end of acts like this there is the gun. Surely the death of 14 women in Montreal in December of 1989 is marked upon our hearts even yet. That violence is symbolic of an anger that exists within our social fabric against women.

The above show by Mr. Getty is outdated. Your level of programming has been excellent. Incredible Magic is not worthy of your generally good taste in entertainment.

A Concerned Citizen
(and ASWAC member)

Lubicon Lake Women Need Support In Struggle For A Just Land Claim

by Rosemary Brown

I am writing to ask you to express your solidarity with Lubicon Lake Cree women as they, along with Lubicon Lake Cree men, continue their long and drawn out struggle for a just land claim.

Lubicon women struggle on a daily basis to keep their families and community intact in the face of enormous social problems which have emerged as a result of the destruction of their traditional way of life.

Some of the demands in the band's negotiating package are:

- *land and roots for themselves and their children;*
- *jobs, for women as well as men;*
- *running water, a laundromat and housing;*
- * a childcare centre and nursing home for elders.*

We ask you to write directly to Prime Minister Brian Mulroney demanding he respond directly without hiding behind his Minister of Indian Affairs. Let him know what you think of his use of tax money to try to deceive taxpayers about this long-standing and increasingly well-known Canadian disgrace.

Let him know that enough is enough and send noted copies to the leaders of the opposition parties, your local member of Parliament, the opposition parties' Indian Affairs critics, the Assembly of First Nations President Georges Erasmus and to the editors of your local newspapers.

For more information or to offer support write to:

Aboriginal Rights Support Group
Committee Against Racism
P.O. Box 3085, Station B
Calgary, AB, T2M 4L6

CBCA Offers Group For Women To Talk About Abortion

The Calgary Birth Control Association (CBCA) is offering an eight-week support/discussion group for women who would like to share their experiences with abortion. For more information, call Nanci at CBCA, 262-9821.

CBCA also requires a full-time counselling co-ordinator. Call Deborah Bartlett at the same number for more information.

Unionism, Budget Discussed At Meeting

The ASWAC Board met February 24 and 25 in Calgary.

Saturday, February 24

1) EVALUATION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS - The meeting was held in the Old Y in downtown Calgary and began with recommendations from the Evaluation Committee presented by Nancy Miller. This presentation was followed by a lengthy discussion around such topics as volunteers/volunteerism, coalition building, cultivating potential board members, use of the ASWAC newsletter and involving more women in ASWAC. The decision to hire a new permanent administrative co-ordinator was deferred until May 31, 1990. Meaghan Dean will fill the position until that time, when a decision will be made.

2) GENERAL DISCUSSION - An animated and sometimes heated discussion followed, touching on unionism, ASWAC's collective agreement, collectivism, time and energy management, coping with shifting priorities in mid-stream, and coping with individual communication styles. It was generally felt that many of the points and perspectives arising from this discussion definitely warrant more ongoing board discussion.

3) OTHER ITEMS - Other points covered during the day were: fundraising, the ASWAC Assembly, parking for Calgary paid staff, signing authority, the newsletter, letters of support for the Insight Women's Film and Video Festival and the Calgary Lesbian and Gay Political Action Guild, National Action Committee on the Status Women membership, International Women's Day and the Women's Building Collective in Edmonton.

Sunday, February 25

4) BUDGET - On Sunday the meeting began with discussion around ASWAC's budget based on indications from Secretary of State that a 15 per cent cut in funding was probable. In order for ASWAC to keep her doors open until July 31, 1990 there will have to be a \$3,000 reduction in operating costs per month. A major discussion on ASWAC's funding needs and a continuing focus on these needs followed. All ASWAC's budget proposals were to be in March 15 so the Budget Committee could begin the nitty gritty phase of preparing the 1990-91 budget. The dental plan arose in the discussion with a decision to include it in the budget preparation.

5) WOMEN AGAINST POVERTY (WAP) - The WAP publication was next on the agenda. Some clear guidelines were presented to ensure a June publication date. The purpose of the publication will be to validate the work of the presenters and provide information and resources for women, rather than being solely a lobby

tool. Heather Moss will begin work immediately preparing camera-ready copy for printing.

6) EVALUATION FORM - The draft of the ASWAC project co-ordinator's evaluation form prepared by Jane Haslett and Helen Greaves was presented to the board and passed on to the Personnel Committee for further consideration.

Budget Discussed Again At April Board Meeting

In attendance: Annette Aarbo, Noreen Bell, Meg Dean, Alison Cameron, Nancy Miller, Elaine Peters, Jacqueline Preyde

The ASWAC Board met April 7 and 8 in Edmonton.

Saturday, April 7

1) BUDGET - The ASWAC Budget Committee (Annette, Noreen, Meg and Heather Moss) presented the preliminary 1990 ASWAC budget for review, input and approval of the board. Unlike previous years, the 1990-91 budget represents the first year of a three-year plan, which aims to have ASWAC on a more financially self-sufficient (diversified) basis in three to five years. Also, this year's budget was created from the basis of what ASWAC really needs in the way of people and money to do the work, instead of according to how much money is available from Secretary of State.

A lengthy discussion followed about the importance and feasibility of pay equity among all ASWAC workers, including temporary staff. Consensus was reached that women working with ASWAC through STEP and PEP funding have the basic \$4.50 per hour rate topped up to \$9 per hour by ASWAC. Consensus was reached that full-time staff receive a three per cent increase this year and next and four per cent in the third. This will not preclude other increases if funds are available.

2) BUILDING COLLECTIVE - Kathleen Davies, ASWAC's building collective representative, updated the board and answered questions about collective business.

3) MORE BUDGET - Detailed and lengthy review of the proposed budget continued. An outline of the 1990 ASWAC Assembly, to be held in Edmonton, was presented. The aim this year is to have a low-budget and highly celebratory assembly and annual general meeting. Consensus was reached on the proposed assembly plans and projections.

Consensus was reached that board meetings be reduced to five per year from six. Consensus was reached that the proposed budget is reasonable and realistic and

the Budget Committee will meet with Secretary of State about the ASWAC budget.

Sunday, April 8

4) **LETTER OF SUPPORT** - A letter of support will be FAXed to 20 women and two men arrested in Newfoundland after occupying the St. John's Secretary of State office in protest to cutbacks to the Women's Program.

5) **CHARITABLE NUMBER** - Preparation of ASWAC's application for a charitable (tax-free) number is in process.

6) **BYLAWS** - Work on minor changes to ASWAC's new bylaws at request of Consumer and Corporate Affairs is underway.

7) **TRAVELLING ART SHOW** - The art show planned for this fall was moved to 1991 (i.e. Year Two of the three-year plan). The Fundraising Committee will come up with a draft proposal for the 1991 event.

8) **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE** - The north and south committee members will meet separately after the budget work is done. The whole committee will meet after the May board meeting to continue work on the personnel policy and collective agreement.

9) **WOMEN AND POVERTY (WAP) PUBLICATION** - The 1991 ASWAC budget included a \$13,652 allocation for completing the transcription, writing, editing and paste-up of the WAP hearings proceedings. A salary is also included. All the WAP information has been given to Heather so she can begin work on the effort.

10) **MOTHERHOOD CONFERENCE** - ASWAC will have a display table at the Motherhood: Challenge and Change in the '90s conference to be held in Edmonton in May.

11) **VOLUNTEERISM CONFERENCE** - ASWAC staffer Noreen Bell and hopefully one ASWAC volunteer will attend the Wild Rose Foundation volunteerism conference in Red Deer. ASWAC will pay the volunteer's expenses and Noreen will attend at her own expense.

12) **MINUTES IN NEWSLETTER** - An abbreviated version of the ASWAC Board minutes will be in the regular ASWAC Newsletters and the full version of the minutes will be made available upon request at the Edmonton ASWAC office. Mid-August and late September newsletters are planned (deadlines August 1 and September 21, respectively).

13) **NATIONAL ACTION COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (NAC) CONFERENCE** - Noreen will attend the conference in Hull in May. She will pay her own accommodation as a donation to ASWAC. Anne McGrath is running for vice president of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women.

14) **REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES** - Valda Roberts updated the board on a recent regional repre-

sentatives meeting and various activities the regional reps are planning.

NOTE: In the interests of saving space, the newsletter board minutes are an abbreviated version. Anyone wishing to read the full minutes can contact the Edmonton ASWAC office at 421-0306.

AROUND THE PROVINCE 3

Women Working Against Violence

Edmonton

The Victorian Order of Nurses in Edmonton is preparing a manual for the use of nurses, which will include guidelines for identification of "at risk" families and appropriate nursing interventions.

Calgary

Three agencies are developing materials and strategies for working with children and adolescents to help them recognize abusive behavior and learn how to interact positively.

The Junior League of Calgary is training volunteers to work with adolescents.

The Pineridge Community Project Society will use a variety of resources to work directly with teens in a particular neighborhood in Calgary.

The Bow Valley Women's Resource Centre in Canmore is producing a video.

Northeast

Dr. Margaret Savage Crisis Centre of Grande Centre, which recently moved to new quarters, is developing a series of education modules to use in their public education presentations.

Nancy Mereska of Two Hills is developing two brochures: one for teens about potentially abusive relationships and one on the effects of child sexual abuse.

Northwest

The Grande Prairie Women's Residence Association is developing pamphlets on dating and family violence for children and teens. They are also working with schools to prepare a play for presentation in schools and on community television.

A women's Group on the Assumption Reserve near High Level is using its funds to increase understanding of the dynamics of family violence and what might be done about it.

Central

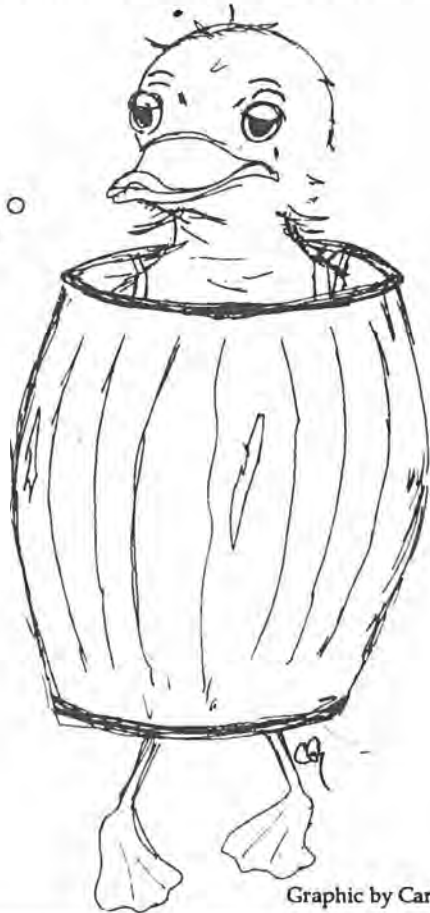
The Central Alberta Women's Emergency Shelter is developing two videos to be used in schools and children's support groups to teach and encourage non-abusive behavior.

Reprinted from Focus, Winter 1990

The Alberta Status
Action Committee
Box 1573
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 2N7

PUT A LITTLE (OR A LOT) DOWN ON AS-KWAC!

I'm a Plucky Ducky
NOT a plucked chicken!



Graphic by Carolyn Geekie

STARS ON YOUR MAILING
LABEL? IT'S TIME TO RENEW
YOUR ASWAC MEMBERSHIP...

STILL 1988 ON YOUR LABEL? YOU
1988S HAVE UNTIL JUNE 30 TO RE-
NEW! PLEASE—DON'T DUCK OUT
ON US NOW!

It is past time to renew for 1990. Please remember that your membership fees and donations are an important part of ASWAC's income.

Name: _____ Membership: \$ _____
New
Address: _____ Renewal
Donation: \$ _____
Postal Code: _____ *Suggested membership fee is \$20,
but we will accept whatever you
Phone: _____ (home) _____ (work) can afford.

Please make cheques payable to: ASWAC, Box 1573, Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 2N7