

ASWAC

Alberta Status of Women Action Committee

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Volume 10, Number 8

ASWAC Annual Assembly



"WOMEN IN ACTION"



OCTOBER 27-28

Edmonton





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Meaghan Dean - Edmonton
Nancy Miller - c/o Calgary office
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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, #303, 223 - 12 Avenue S.W., T2R 0G9. Phone 233-0731.

Between May 2 and August 22, 1990 ASWAC has gratefully received donations from the following people: Marilyn Assheton-Smith, Mufty Mathewson, Ida Horn, Dayna Daniels, Jennifer Penny, Gloria Chamblers, Lori Crocker, Barbara Prescott, Amanda Bailey, Gerry Bailey, Cathy Bray, Judy Moynihan, Mary Potrebenko, Ceilwen Cumming, Lynda Costello and Patricia White.

HUG THESE WOMEN!

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

Ann Chinnery, Jan Dionne, Valda Roberts, Gerry Bailey, Chris Martin, Helen Greaves. Also, ASWAC board members: Annette Aarbo, Terri Ann Marco, Jacqueline Preyde, Allison Cameron.

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 notices of events happening in your area are very much appreciated.

The next issue of the ASWAC Newsletter will appear after the ASWAC Annual Assembly Oct. 27-28. This means the deadline for the next issue will be Nov. 1. The publication schedule for 1991 will be announced at that time.

We regret that we misspelled the name of Cathy Greeves in an article in the May issue of the Newsletter. We apologize for any inconvenience our error has caused.

Thanks to all contributors, and to *the Newsmagazine by Alberta Women* collective and Monica Walker for typesetting, and to Central Web for printing.

THREE ALTA. WOMEN OFF TO MANILA

At least three Alberta women will be attending the sixth International Women and Health Meeting in the Philippines Nov. 3 to 9. Gerry Bailey of Westeros, Valda Roberts of Edmonton and Lori Crocker of Innisfail will be going to the Manila meeting entitled, "In Search of Balanced Perspectives and Global Solidarity for Women's Health and Reproductive Rights".

There are ten objectives of the 1990 IWHM, too lengthy to list here, but they are divided into three themes:

- 1) Reproductive Rights;
- 2) Women's Health - Impact of the Global Crisis and Foreign Intervention; and
- 3) Consciousness Raising and Organizing of Women's Empowerment.

The Philippine Organizing Committee is made up of seven Filipino feminist groups, one of which is Gabriela, well known to Gerry, as a national organization dedicated to the advancement of women. To quote Gerry, "They are an umbrella group which helps organize rural, factory and urban poor women to fight for better living conditions, i.e. food and housing for their families."

The feminists of Asia are par with ASWAC women - dedicated, warm, caring and subject to burn-out. They are facing horrendous problems in the Philippines, such as rape by organized government forces, starvation, no reproductive rights and many others that our women faced fifty years ago.

The Canadian delegation has been asked to bring videos on health and related topics that fit into the three themes. This audio-visual component of the conference is being organized by Gerry Bailey and Valda Roberts, who are collaborating efforts and attending as ASWAC Regional Reps.



GERRY GIVEN PERSON'S AWARD

And now for some really nice news...Gerry Bailey of Westeros is one of six women to receive the 1990 Canadian Governor General Person's Award.

Our own vintage feminist and one of ASWAC's current regional reps, Gerry was chosen for her "important role in promoting the full equality of women" and described as an "inspiration to the women of Alberta and across the country".

The other five recipients of the Person's Awards this year are from Quebec, Saskatoon, Chilliwack (B.C.), Winnipeg and New Brunswick. Gerry will be presented with her award at a special ceremony Oct. 6 in Ottawa.



Despite the well-deserved honour, Gerry is giving little indication that she plans to do any leaning back on her laurels. Upon returning from the presentation in Ottawa, she will be in Edmonton for the ASWAC assem-

bly, then three days later on a plane to the Philippines to attend the International Women and Health Meeting in Manila. If you can catch her as she flies past -- GIVE THAT WOMAN A HUG!

REGISTER NOW

FOR

ASSEMBLY '90



FESTIVAL OF FILMS BY WOMEN

-- FOR EVERYONE

Quick, name a well-known woman film director. Tough, right? If you live in Alberta, you might know about Ahne Wheeler (Bye Bye Blues), but if you think of film in the Hollywood tradition, you'd be hard-pressed to come up with a name.

Recent headlines and studies show that in the film business, as in any other business, women get short shrift. In a speech she gave to the Screen Actors Guild, Meryl Streep raised our consciousness to the fact that there are fewer leading roles for women than men and that women earn less money for the roles they do get. A Canadian study found that women occupy few positions of power in commercial filmmaking and are instead relegated to the gender jobs of "continuity girl" (now script supervisor) and production secretary.

Flying in the face of these statistics is a three-year old film festival dedicated exclusively to works directed, written or produced by women. In-Sight '90 will take place in Edmonton on Oct. 19-21. During November, the In-Sight Tour will visit Calgary, Red Deer, Lethbridge and possibly Fort McMurray and Cold Lake-Bonneville.

In-Sight '90 may feature films by women, but it is aimed at everyone. The program contains a kaleidoscope of film and video about how women see the world and the issues

they care about. There are dramas, documentaries, animation, experimental works and even music videos -- films that challenge the status quo and films that simply entertain. Viewing the world through women's eyes will be an exciting and thought-provoking experience for men and women.

A few of the highlights: Burning Times, which will premiere at the festival, chronicles the history of witches. Fifteen women filmmakers were given money to produce a five-minute segment about an issue facing women. Five Feminist Minutes is a collection of 15 five-minute videos, each directed by a different filmmaker and expressing her idea of feminism. The contributions range from political to hilarious to rap. IkaJurti - The Helper is a video produced by Inuit women who are reviving the tradition of midwifery in the Arctic.

As well as a strong Canadian component, In-Sight '90 will also showcase the work of such Australian filmmakers as Gillian Armstrong (High Tide), Tracy Moffatt (Nice Coloured Girls) and Jane Campion (Sweetie).

Workshops with guest filmmakers are another aspect of In-Sight. There will be two workshops this year, one on the representation of native women in film and another on screen roles for women.

In-Sight '90 takes place in Edmonton Oct. 19-21, at the National Film Board Theatre (Canada Place) and the Citadel. Tickets (\$20 for an advance weekend pass, \$30 after Oct. 1; low income \$10, \$15) are available at BASS, Common Woman Books and The Bagel Tree. For more information, call 424-0724.



WHY WOMEN STAY IN ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIPS:

THE ECONOMIC FACTOR

On Saturday, September 15, 1990, the Calgary Status of Women Action Committee presents a public session on Why Women Stay in Abusive Relationships: The Economic Factor, from 1 to 3 p.m. In the Old Y Common Room, 223-12 Avenue S.W.

This session will look at the strong links between violence

against women in the home and women's disadvantaged economic position. Women are often forced, out of economic necessity, to stay in an abusive relationship. This economic necessity stems from the fact that women are underpaid and overworked in their work outside the home, and they must take on the bulk of the work in the home, for which

they are paid nothing. Carol Oliver, past executive director of the Calgary Emergency Women's Shelter will be speaking on this subject.

Refreshments will be served from 3 to 4 p.m. To register for on-site childcare please call Mutriba Din at 262-1873 or 283-3724. Wheelchair accessible; admission is free; everyone is welcome!

AROUND THE PROVINCE: WOMEN WORKING AGAINST VIOLENCE

Here is just a sampling of some of the many efforts and activities going on around Alta. these days aimed at turning the tide of violence away from women. By the way, if you are aware of any activities or incidents -- no matter how seemingly small -- that you know are going to make a difference, we would like to hear about them. Just phone or write the ASWAC Edmonton office.

EDMONTON

*Elizabeth Fry Societies across Canada -- including Edmonton's -- are initiating a letter writing campaign to Solicitor General Pierre Cadieux, urging him to close the Kingston Prison for Women and to act on recommendations of a recent Task Force on Federally Sentenced Women. People are invited to call or write the Solicitor General urging that the prison be closed and the recommendations implemented. The address is: Rm. 307, Confederation Bldg., House of Commons, Ottawa, Ont. K1A 0A6. No postage is required.

*The Income Security Action Committee (ISAC) plans to challenge the provincial gov't's practice of discriminating between "employables" and "unemployables" receiving public assistance. The court case will be under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The committee is now looking for "employables" on public assistance. If you are an interested "employable", call Mary at 433-9274.

*An Edmonton woman did some no-frills, to-the-point public education while riding a City of Edmonton Transit bus recently. Three young people of the apparently punk/heavy metal persuasion boarded the bus, sat at the front and proceeded to verbally assault an elderly woman sitting across from them. A woman witnessing this got

up from her seat at the back of the crowded bus, walked up to one of the young men (who out-sized and out-weighted her by a good foot and 50 pounds) and told him to knock it off, while holding her rolled up morning newspaper in perilous proximity to his nostrils. The surprised threesome attempted a few face-saving mutterings, but basically seemed to decide that the next stop was theirs and quickly got off the bus. The woman walked back to her seat - to the resounding applause of the rest of the passengers on the bus.

CALGARY

*The Calgary Lesbian and Gay Political Action Guild (CLAGPAG) has held several meetings with the provincial gov't to discuss the inclusion of sexual preference as a prohibited ground of discrimination to be included in the Individual Rights Protection Act. Also, CLAGPAG has compiled a booklet to educate, inform and help dispel the old myths about homosexuals. In an effort to educate the segment of the population most in need, copies were sent to all provincial MLAs. Several federal MPs have received similar packages.

*The Junior League of Calgary will be building on the work they began with their educational grant. Their trained volunteers will teach school children the skills they need in order to have violence-free relationships.

*Wood's Home will produce a video which will examine violence in families through interviews with individuals who have taken steps to stop the violence in their lives.

*The Calgary Coalition on Family Violence has developed a manual for persons interested in assisting abused women. It is called Let's Work Together to Stop Family Violence and it's by Sarah Bhola and

Toni Nelson. It is available from the Coalition at 802-14 Ave. S.W., Calgary, T2R 0N6 for \$15 plus \$5 postage.

*The Battered Women's Support Centre and the Junior League of Calgary, with funding from the Alta. Law Foundation, have developed a manual for volunteers offering court support to abused women. Law and the Abused Woman is a comprehensive overview of the legal system and its role in cases of wife assault. A brochure with essential information of interest to abused women has also been prepared and is available from the Office for the Prevention of Family Violence at 10030-107 St., Edmonton, T5J 3E4. The manual is also available from the Junior League at 511-22 Ave. N.W., Calgary, T2S 0H5.

LETHBRIDGE

*The Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect and Harbour House, a women's shelter operated by the YWCA, will jointly conduct groups for children of family violence and develop material that other facilitators can use to conduct similar group experiences for children.

MEDICINE HAT

*Interact Theatre Association will develop and perform an interactive social drama that will focus on wife abuse, its effects and how to cope with and prevent it.

BONNYVILLE

*The Bonnyville and District Family and Community Support Services will develop social dramas that demonstrate the differences between healthy and unhealthy relationships. The dramas will be performed by local high school students in parks and campgrounds in the Bonnyville area. (continued next p.)

(continued)
VEGREVILLE

*The Crisis Association of Vegreville will operate a crisis line in conjunction with the Dr. Margaret Savage Crisis Centre in Grande Centre. This project will try to determine the effectiveness in terms of usage, quality of service and cost of the model being piloted as compared with other models of rural crisis lines.

GRANDE PRAIRIE

*Providing Assistance, Counselling and Education for People in Distress (PACE) will develop training material, give workshops and organize a conference about child sexual abuse prevention in the region. **Wabasca, Sturgeon Lake, Horse Lake, Fox Creek, Fairview and Valleyview** are some of the communities that will be receiving the training.

RED DEER

*Jim Freeman Group Psychotherapists Ltd. will conduct a program designed to help reconstitute families in which the husband/father has completed a minimum of four months in a batterers' group treatment program. The aim of the program is to prevent abuse from recurring.

*The Central Alta. Women's Outreach Society will develop a program to provide assistance to women who are trying to make changes in their relationships and lifestyles after leaving abusive relationships.

WETASKIWIN

*The Society for the Prevention of Family Violence will conduct group programs for mothers who have histories of abuse as children and/or adults and for their children. The women's program will provide opportunities to resolve issues that are causing difficulties with child rearing. The children's program will focus on helping the children develop non-abusive conflict resolution strategies and other social skills.

PLENTY OF ACTION IN CALGARY

By Nancy Miller, ASWAC Project Coordinator, Calgary

VOICES AGAINST VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Our primary function now is to organize this year's Take Back The Night march. We will be holding our march on Sat., Sept. 15 to accommodate Jewish women who may want to participate and our keynote speaker, Judy Rebick, president of NAC. I have also been coordinating Judy's visit to Calgary, media work and her other speaking engagements. (For more details see p. 3 of this newsletter.)

WOMEN LOOKING FORWARD (WLF)

In June we had our annual conference, called Women, Body Image and Sexuality. It was a huge success, with over 120 women in attendance. I did a workshop on Images of Women in the Media attended by about 40 women. There was also an ASWAC information table.

I was elected for my second term as a WLF Board Member. We've had the first meeting of the new board, and I'm very pleased to be working with the wonderful women on this board. This year we will be focussing on Employment Equity; we've already had one workshop for member groups on this topic. Judy Rebick will be speaking on this issue for us while she is in Calgary on Sept. 14.

I have also been involved in planning a Grassroots Course in Feminism. We have just finished the Alta. Women's Secretariat proposal and already received two enquiries about this series of workshops. We are targeting existing women's groups and hope to start running it in the late fall. (By existing groups I mean church or community groups that women regularly attend.) I will likely be facilitating at least one of the workshops.

CALGARY STATUS OF WOMEN ACTION COMMITTEE (SWAC)

I have continued to attend these bi-weekly meetings and work on the plans for next year. SWAC will focus on Women in the Sex Trade and Fashion Industry from an economic perspective (eg: textile industry workers, the cost of "looking beautiful", strippers, etc.).

I am nominating Rosemary Brown (the Calgary version) for an Alta. Human Rights award and have asked other people to nominate activists including Anne McGrath, CLAGPAG's founding mother, Dr. Ruth Simkin and SWAC's Mutriba Din. Other people should consider nominating their local human rights activists so someone other than a university professor wins this award (or, at the very least, they become aware of all the work done at the grassroots level).

And, as usual, I've answered letters, phone enquiries and made many referrals to the appropriate agencies. In particular, I've had lots of calls from members unknown to me and been able to help them out. That often takes a lot of time, but it makes me feel good that we can be of assistance.

REGISTER NOW
FOR ASSEMBLY '90



ANDREA DWORKIN:

The following are excerpts of a speech by feminist activist Andrea Dworkin to the Upper Midwest Men's Conference held in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

I have thought a great deal how a feminist, like myself, addresses an audience primarily of political men who say that they are anti-sexist. And I thought a lot about whether there should be a qualitative difference in the kind of speech I address to you. And then I found myself incapable of pretending that I really believe that a qualitative difference exists. I have watched the men's movement for many years. I am close with some of the people who participate in it. I can't come here as a friend even though I might very much want to.

What I would like to do is scream: and in that scream I would have the screams of the raped and the sobs of the battered; and even worse, in the centre of that scream I would have the deafening sound of women's silence, that silence into which we are born because we are women and in which most of us die.

And if there would be a plea or a question or a human address in that scream, it would be this: why are you so slow? Why are you so slow to understand the simplest things; not the complicated ideological things. You understand those. The simple things. The clichés. Simply that women are human to precisely the degree and quality that you are.

And also: that we do not have time. We women. We don't have forever. Some of us don't have another week or another day to take time for you to discuss whatever it is that will enable you to go out into those streets and do something. We are very close to rape and we are very close to beating. And we are inside a system of humiliation from which there is no escape for us. We use statistics, not to try to quantify the injuries, but to convince the world that those injuries even exist.

Those statistics are not abstractions....

....And [rape] is happening for a simple reason. There is nothing complex and difficult about the reason. Men are doing it because of the kind of power that men have over women. That power is real, concrete, exercised from one body to another body, exercised by someone who feels he has a right to exercise it, exercised in public and exercised in private. It is the sum and substance of women's oppression.

... "You have the time to feel guilty. We don't have the time for you to feel guilty. Your guilt is a form of acquiescence in what continues to occur. Your guilt helps keep things the way they are."

The power exercised by men day to day in life is power that is institutionalized. It is protected by law. It is protected by religion and religious practice. It is protected by universities, which are strongholds of male supremacy. It is protected by a police force. It is protected by those whom Shelley called "the unacknowledged legislators of the world": the poets, the artists. Against that power we have silence....

....Now, the men's movement suggests that men don't want the kind of power I have just described. I've actually heard explicit whole sentences to that effect. And yet, everything is a reason not to do something about changing the fact that you do have that power.

Hiding behind the guilt, that's my favourite. I love that one. "Oh, it's horrible, yes, and I'm so sorry." You have the time to feel guilty. We don't have the time for

you to feel guilty. Your guilt is a form of acquiescence in what continues to occur. Your guilt helps keep things the way they are....

....But mostly your guilt, your suffering, reduces to "gee, we really feel so bad". Everything makes men feel so bad: what you do, what you don't do, what you want to do, what you don't want to do but are going to do anyway. And I'm sorry that you feel so bad -- feel so uselessly and stupidly bad -- because there is a way in which this really is your tragedy. And I don't mean because you can't cry. And I don't mean because there is no real intimacy in your lives. And I don't mean because the armour that you have to live with as men is stultifying -- and I don't doubt that it is. But I don't mean any of that.

I mean that there is a relationship between the way that women are raped and your socialization to rape and the war machine that grinds you up and spits you out: just like that woman went through Larry Flynt's meat grinder on the cover of *Hustler*. You damn well better believe that you're involved in this tragedy and that it's your tragedy too. Because you're turned into little soldier boys from the day that you are born and everything that you learn about how to avoid the humanity of women becomes part of the militarism of the country in which you live and the world in which you live. It is also part of the economy that you frequently claim to protest.

And the problem is that you think it's out there; and it's not out there. It's in you. The pimps and the warmongers speak for you. Rape and war are not so different. And what the pimps and the warmongers do is that they make you so proud of being men who can get it up and give it hard. And they take that acculturated sexuality and they put you in little uniforms and they send you out to kill and to die. Now, I am not

WOMEN DON'T NEED MEN'S GUILT

going to suggest to you that I think that's more important than what you do to women, because I don't.

But I think that if you want to look at what this system does to you, then that is where you should start looking: the sexual politics of aggression, the sexual politics of militarism. I think that men are very afraid of other men. That is something that you sometimes try to address in your small groups, as though if you changed your attitudes towards each other, you wouldn't be afraid of each other.

But as long as your sexuality has to do with aggression and your sense of entitlement to humanity has to do with being superior to other people and there is so much contempt and hostility in your attitude towards women and children, how could you not be afraid of each other? I think you rightly perceive -- without being willing to face it politically -- that men are very dangerous: because you are....

....What's involved in doing something about all of this? The men's movement seems to stay stuck on two points. The first is that men don't really feel very good about themselves. How could you? The second is that men come to me or to other feminists and say, "What you're saying about men isn't true. It isn't true of me. I don't feel that way. I'm opposed to all of this."

And I say: don't tell me. Tell the pornographers. Tell the pimps. Tell the warmakers. Tell the rape apologists and the rape celebrationists and the pro-rape ideologues. Tell the novelists who think that rape is wonderful. Tell Larry Flynt. Tell Hugh Hefner. There's no point in telling me.

....Then there is the private world of misogyny: what you know about each other; what you say in private life; the exploitation that you see in the private sphere; the relationships called love, based on exploita-

tion. It's not enough to find some travelling feminist on the road and go up to her and say: "Gee, I hate it."

Say it to your friends who are doing it. And there are streets out there on which you can say these things loud and clear, so as to affect the actual institutions that maintain these abuses. You don't like pornography? I wish I could believe it's true. I will believe it when I see you on the streets. I will believe it when I see an organized political opposition. I will believe it when pimps go out of business because there are no more male consumers....

....I want to see this men's movement make a commitment to ending rape because that is the only meaningful commitment to equality. It is astonishing that in all our world of feminism and anti-sexism we never talk seriously about ending rape. Ending it. Stopping it. No more. No more rape....

..."If we sat around and only talked about how much rape hurt us, do you think there would have been one of the changes that you have seen in this country in the last fifteen years?"

....I came here today because I don't believe that rape is inevitable or natural. If I did, I would have no reason to be here. If I did, my political practice would be different than it is. Have you ever wondered why we are not just in armed combat against you? It's not because there's a shortage of kitchen knives in this country. It is because we believe in your humanity, against all the evidence....

.... We do not want to do the work of helping you to believe in your humanity. We cannot do it anymore. We have always tried. We have been repaid with systematic exploitation

and systematic abuse. You are going to have to do this yourselves from now on and you know it.

The shame of men in front of women is, I think, an appropriate response both to what men do and to what men do not do. But what you do with that shame is to use it as an excuse to keep doing what you want and to keep not doing anything else; and you've got to stop. Your psychology doesn't matter. How much you hurt doesn't matter in the end any more than how much we hurt matters. If we sat around and only talked about how much rape hurt us, do you think there would have been one of the changes that you have seen in this country in the last fifteen years? There wouldn't have been.

It is true that we had to talk to each other. How else, after all, were we supposed to find out that each of us was not the only woman in the world not asking for it to whom rape or battery had ever happened? We couldn't read in the newspapers, not then. But you do know and now the question is what you are going to do; and so your shame and your guilt are very much beside the point. They don't matter to us at all, in any way. They are not good enough. They don't do anything.

And I want one day of respite, one day off, one day in which no new bodies are piled up, one day in which no new agony is added to the old, and I am asking you to give it to me. And how could I ask you for less -- it is so little. And how could you offer me less: it is so little. Even in wars there are days of truce. Stop your side for one day. I want a twenty-four-hour truce during which there is no rape.

I dare you to try it. I demand that you try it. I don't mind begging that you try it. What else could you possibly be here to do? What else could this movement possibly mean?

(continued next page)

(continued)

What else could matter so much?

And on that day, that day of truce, that day when not one woman is raped, we will begin the real practice of equality because we can't begin it before that day. Before that day it means nothing because it is nothing. It is not real. It is not true. But on that day it becomes real. And then, instead of rape we will for the first time in our lives -- both men and women -- begin to experience freedom.

If you have a conception of freedom that includes the existence of rape, you are wrong. You cannot change what you say you want to change. For myself, I want to experience just one day of real freedom before I die. I leave you here to do that for me and for the women whom you say you love.

NAC JOB AVAILABLE

The Nat'l Action Committee on the Status of Women is currently hiring an

INFORMATION OFFICER/ MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR.

The candidate will:

*have a thorough knowledge of the Canadian women's movement;

*have an excellent knowledge of written and spoken French and English.

NAC is an affirmative action employer. Please send your resume by Aug. 31/90 to:

Alice de Wolff, Executive Coordinator, NAC, #505-344 Bloor St. W., Toronto, Ont., M5S 3A7.

WOMEN TO TIE UP PARLIAMENT

ASWAC Lethbridge is among the Alberta women's groups expected to have a banner represented in a major cross-Canada action aimed at letting the government know that the issue of budget cut-backs to women's groups is not dead.

Called **The Banner Project: Speaking the Truth About Women's Lives**, the action involves women across the country making banners, which will be sent to organizers in Ottawa. They will be strung together and then wrapped around the Parliament Buildings.

The "tying up" of Parliament is to coincide with the third Commonwealth Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Women's Affairs in Ottawa Oct. 8 to 11. It will also be the 20th anniversary of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women.

ASWAC is the Alberta regional representative on the Banner Project, so completed banners should be sent to us through any of our offices for shipment to Ottawa (see page 2 of this Newsletter for locations of our offices). Banners need to be at ASWAC by Sept. 22.

Banners must be four feet high but they can be as long as you like (eight feet is probably a good length). Use a strong fabric for the background so that it will not rip when it is tied to the other banners. Attach 10" to 12" ties on all four corners and two other ties 16" apart on the vertical edges so it can be easily attached to the others. Cut several half-moon vents into your banner to let it fly freely. Don't forget to put your group's name on it. You might want to illustrate the experiences of women in your community with poverty, racism, etc., using pictures or words or both. Use your imagination! Call ASWAC Edm. at 421-0306 for more information.

WOMAN FINDS TAX RULES UNFAIR

The following are excerpts of a letter from Brenda Zinck of Jasper, Alta to the Minister of National Revenue, Otto Jelenik.

Dear Sir:

Please help me with the following problems I have encountered with my income tax.

My first is this: My husband, Ron, and I are both civil servants employed in Jasper National Park....I earned just \$363.04 more than Ron did and paid \$36.36 more income tax. It is unreasonable to me - the difference does not jive. On my TD1, I claim three dependents, 13, 11 and 9. I cannot fathom how a person with three dependents is almost on an equal scale of a person claiming single. This system is not encouraging people to have families. Why should a family with children, which earns the same as a single person, be required to pay the same amount of income tax?

My second point is regarding child support payments. Each month I receive child support from my ex-husband. What really gets me

is that the law requires me, as the mother, to claim the monies received for child support (and believe me, that amount I receive is used for raising my children; every bit, and of course more, is used for raising my children) as income. This, in my mind, is a responsibility from the biological father to support his children - it is not all-mony to support an ex-wife. Adding insult to injury is the fact that he is allowed to claim this child support as a deduction on his income tax. There is absolutely no compensation at all to the one raising the children. Financially, it really hurts!

How fair a system is this? In addition, my ex-husband earns three times the amount I earn - yet, he can use this as a deduction....

....This summer I received a brochure from your department telling me the income tax changes would be to my advantage (the family). This is just not true - we'll be paying more, not less.

How can this system be fair??

Brenda Zinck

MINISTERS DECLARE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IS REAL

The prevalence of violence against women led Canada's ministers responsible for the status of women to issue the Lake Louise Declaration on Violence Against Women May 31. The ministers declared that violence against women continues to be a major impediment to women's equality, says a statement from the Alta. Women's Secretariat.

The Lake Louise Declaration, which the ministers called a "first step", says:

"We, the ministers responsible for the status of women in Canada, are committed to achieving full equality for women in all aspects of life. As Canadians, we value the inherent worth and dignity of every individual and we expect all persons to treat one another with respect. Since violence and its threat are depriving many women of their ability to achieve equality, we declare that:

1. Violence against women is a crime and punishable under the law.
2. Women are entitled to live in a safe environment.
3. Offenders must be held accountable for their behavior.
4. The elimination of violence against women requires a response including prevention, public education, services and enforcement of the law.
5. Every individual, community and government in Canada must do everything possible to help the women, children and families affected by violence; we must all work together to achieve a society free from violence."

REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGIES HEARINGS PLANNED

Edmonton and Calgary will be among the locations for a series of public hearings held by a Royal Commission on New Reproductive Technologies set up by the federal gov't in Oct. 1989. The Edmonton hearings will be Sept. 13 and in Calgary Sept. 14.

Dawn Black, MP and NDP status of women critic, says, "The mandate of the Commission is to look into the causes, treatment and prevention of male and female infertility, all reproductive technologies, including reversals of sterilization procedures, artificial insemination, in vitro fertilization, embryo transfers, prenatal screening and diagnostic techniques, genetic manipulation and therapeutic interventions to correct genetic anomalies, sex selection, embryo experimentation and fetal tissue transplants, social and legal arrangements, such as

surrogate childbearing, economic ramifications of technologies, such as the commercial marketing of ova, sperm and embryos, and the application of patent law and the funding of research and procedures including infertility treatment.

"All of these issues are of special interest to women", says Ms. Black, "but the following is also a part of the Commission's mandate, and is crucial to women: judicial interventions during gestation and birth, ownership of ova, sperm, embryos and fetal tissue, the status and rights of people using or contributing to reproductive services such as access to procedures, rights to parenthood and informed consent, and the implications of new reproductive technologies for women's reproductive health and well-being."

HOSTS NEEDED FOR FOREIGN STUDENTS

by Susan Belcher

Surveys of International students have shown that their adaptation to Canadian culture has been slowed because of the limited access they have to Canadian families. The social, academic and emotional life of international students is normally confined to the campus itself. Interaction is primarily with other students and faculty members. This provides the students with a narrow view of Canadian culture. A major benefit of living and studying in a foreign culture is denied them if their primary experience of Canada is the university campus. Many of these students are single women.

The International Centre and the Alumni Office of the University of Alta. try to address this need by sponsoring a Host Family Program. The Alumni Office informs U of A alumni and others about the Host Family Program and maintains a list of families interested in hosting an international student. Singles as well as single-parent and two-parent families are welcome to join the Host Family Program. Prospective host families and international students are interviewed so that compatible matches are made. Orientation is provided.

Through social contact with a host family, the student's integration into Canadian culture is facilitated. This is particularly helpful to single women who may find it more difficult to overcome their isolation here than male or married international students.

The host family and international student get together for visits and activities of interest to both parties. Because of the intensity of the students' academic studies, these visits are often a month or more apart.

If you would be interested in learning more about this program, please call Susan Belcher at 477-5092 or Ione Challborn at 492-2692.

happenings happenings

EDMONTON

SEPTEMBER

-Sept. 12 to Dec. 5: Athabasca University for the Unemployed Women's Studies. Contact 421-8700. \$25.

-Sept. 13: Royal Commission on New Reproductive Technologies public hearings. Contact 492-3093. (See article in this newsletter.)

-Sept. 15: Welfare Advocacy Training Workshop. 9:30 am - 3:30pm Facilitator, Margaret Duncan, Edm. Social Planning Council. Sponsor: Indo-Cdn. Women's Assoc. Free but pre-register. 468-7170 (Jay or Rajni).

-Sept. 21/22: Third Women's Research Centre Annual Forum. Topics: Women in Arts, Women in Workplace, Feminist Theory and Practice, Women and Health, Women and Spirituality. \$20. (sliding scale). 492-8950.

-Sept. 22: Sat. Morning at the Law School: Motor Vehicles and the Law. Faculty of Law, University of Alta. Free. 492-3115.

-Sept. 22: Edm. Women's Music Collective Dance. Smoke-free dancefloor, non-alcoholic beverages available. Riverdale Community Hall, 9231-100 Ave., 8:30-11 am. \$7 (sliding scale).

-Sept. 23: Workshop - Unlearning Racism, Anti-Semitism and Classism. Edm. Gay and Lesbian Community Centre. Don: 424-2475, Brett: 488-2731, Diane: 432-1311. Free.

-Sept. 25: Public Awareness of Sexrole Stereotyping and Pornography (PASSP) networking potluck. 5:30 pm. #209-9246-34A Ave. Bring your own plate and cutlery. 450-4777.

-Sept. 26 to Nov. 26: (Mon. nights) 6:30-9:30 pm. Planned Parenthood of Edm. workshops: Current Issues in Human Sexuality. \$50 (negotiable). 923-3737 (Debbie Foster).

OCTOBER

-Oct. 12/13: conference - Wellness For Women -- Be Your Best! Guest speakers: Veronica Tennant, Sharon Wood. Edm. Convention Centre, \$59. 498-8402.

-Oct. 20: Sat. Morning at the Law School: New Small Claims Procedure, Faculty of Law, U of A. Free. 492-3115.

-Oct. 19/20: In-Sight '90 - A Festival of Women's Film and Video. Cdn. and Australian filmmakers. (See article in this newsletter.) 424-0724.

-Oct. 21: Unlearning Sexism and Homophobia Workshop. Gay and Lesbian Community Centre. Don: 424-2475. Brett: 488-2731. Diane: 432-1311. Free.

-Oct. 27/28: ASWAC Annual Assembly - Women In Action. Workshops, guest speakers. Registration \$30 before Oct. 1, \$40 after. (See other information in this newsletter.) 421-0306.

NOVEMBER

-Nov. 1/2: Women in Management - Pursuing Excellence. Ramada Renaissance Hotel. \$150 before Sept. 30, \$165 after. 423-9922.

-Nov. 14/16: conference - Well-Being For The Future - Choices and Challenges. Alta. Centre For Well-Being. 488-0180.

-Nov. 24: CONCERT!! Judy Small and Holly Near. SUB Theatre, University of Alta. Tickets \$17.50 at Common Woman Books. 432-9344.

-Nov. 24: Sat. Morning at the Law School - Wills and Estates. 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. Faculty of Law, U of A. Free. 492-3115.

CALGARY

SEPTEMBER

-Sept. 17-21: Planned Parenthood Week - Planned Parenthood Alta. will have an open house through the week at #206, 223-12 Ave. SW. Come in between 9 am and 4 pm for a chat and refreshments. Pamphlets, condoms and sponges available.

-Sept. 19: 7:30 pm - Planned Parenthood free lecture on Talking to Your Kids about Sex. West Hillhurst Community Centre. 261-9821.

-Sept. 22/23: Wen-Do Self-Defence Workshop for Women. Learn how to defend yourself against verbal and physical attacks. Taught by women for women. 2 days, 9 am to 4pm, \$50, low-income subsidy available. Register (maximum 20) 233-0731.

-Sept. 27: eight week course: Issues in Sexuality. Topics - Values Clarification, Anatomy and Physiology, Pregnancy and Birth, STD's, Contraception, Sexual Assault, Unplanned Pregnancy Options. 261-9821 for more information. To register call Janice Low, 229-3327.

Lesbian Drop-In Socials every 2nd and 4th **Thursday** of the month in the Old Y at 223-12 Ave. SW. For more info, peer counselling or to volunteer, call 265-9458.

CBCA is offering an **eight week** discussion and support group for women who have experienced an abortion and feel a need to talk to other women who have had a similar experience. Issues covered include: communication, assertiveness, decision-making, self-esteem and relationships. 261-9821.

Edm. Working Women will be publishing booklets for immigrant women on labour laws and will have free copies available in Vietnamese, Cantonese, Spanish and low-literacy English. Call 429-3370.

A self-help sexual harassment support group will be starting Mon., Sept. 28. All participants have been sexually harassed. Call 429-3370.



ASWAC Board Meeting Minutes

The Board met July 21-22 in Westeros at the home of Gerry Bailey.

In attendance: Annette Aarbo, Nancy Miller, Meg Dean, Terri-Ann Marco, Jacqueline Preyde; Regional Reps - Valda Roberts, Gerry Bailey; Guest - Dorothy.

Saturday, July 21

1) WOMEN AGAINST POVERTY (WAP) - WAP publication project worker Heather Moss was to present a draft of the publication and discuss/update on the project. Heather was not in attendance, so this agenda item was deferred to Sunday.

2) BUDGET COMMITTEE - The ASWAC audited financial statement for the 89-90 fiscal year was presented to the board and accepted as presented. The statement will be presented to the membership at the annual assembly Oct. 27-28 in Edm.

- As yet, no word has been received on ASWAC's 90-91 application for funding to the Secretary of State Women's Program. Annette updated the board on ASWAC's current financial situation which is, to put it mildly, tight.

- Meg updated on ASWAC's application to the Wild Rose Foundation for a \$45,000 grant for its Volunteer Support Project. Word on this application is expected in Oct. Application was made June 29.

3) FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE - Meg updated on the planned ASWAC Women's Art Raffle. A major delay encountered was the Alta. Gaming Commission's rejection of ASWAC's application for a raffle licence. ASWAC has appealed the decision and resubmitted its application.

- Jacqueline gave a detailed and informative report on the Edm. Fundraising for Non-Profit Organizations conference she attended on ASWAC's behalf in May.

- ASWAC Calgary Project Co-ordinator, Nancy Miller, reported that an application for \$2,500 will shortly be submitted to the Women's Secretariat to help fund Calgary's "Take Back The Night" activities.

- Consensus was reached on Terri Ann's suggestion that ASWAC organize a mini-conference or workshop to examine the fundraising potential and options available to "alternate" non-profit groups. It was also recommended that there be input to this conference from the ASWAC Long Range Planning Cttee. and that it be held before any ASWAC fundraiser is hired.

4) PERSONNEL COMMITTEE - Meg presented a rough draft of a proposed performance assessment process that would include focussing on the work of the board, the volunteers and paid staff. Until now, ASWAC evaluations have focussed solely on the performance of the individual paid staff person. Discussion ensued on how such a work-focussed rather than individual-focussed assessment could be applied within ASWAC. The role of the job descriptions was also discussed. Board members will study the assessment and give feedback at its Sept. meeting.

Sunday, July 22

5) REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT - Valda reported that she and the regional reps. will host a reception on Friday, Oct. 26 in Edm. at 4 pm for people arriving for the ASWAC assembly Oct. 27-28. This will also serve to connect assembly participants with their billets.

- Special personal invitations to the ASWAC assembly will be made to rural women. Also, with the intent of carrying out some coalition-building, to encourage other women's groups to have representatives on the ASWAC board or as regional reps. (continued next page)

"MS." MAGAZINE BACK IN BUSINESS

Remember "Ms." magazine? Remember what it became? Finally, eight months ago it stopped publishing.

Well, "Ms." magazine is back but with some of the spirit that made it such a milestone back in the 70's. Among the distinctive features of the revised "Ms." is that it does not accept or run ads.

The magazine will now stress the latest in feminist analysis and activism and its look resembles a well-

designed academic journal. The editors plan to run domestic and international news, profiles and reviews, as well as fiction by established writers. The new features will include Ecofeminism and Inner Space.

Publishing without benefit of advertising, says editor-in-chief Robin Morgan, "goes against all traditional wisdom. But 'Ms.' always has. That's what we're about." Subscriptions will cost \$40 a year; newsstand copies will be \$4.50.

NEW SEXUAL ASSAULT CENTRES ASSOC.

A new Alta. Association of Sexual Assault Centres will be announcing its official presence soon.

The Association, which includes the Sexual Assault Centre of Edm., is expected to be providing information packages about its aims, objectives and purposes, as well as contact information.

(continued)

- Regional reps indicated their support for the plan to encourage position-sharing for ASWAC board members. This would basically involve two women who feel they want to work together taking on one board position for the term. It was also suggested that a nominating committee format be used as part of the board and regional rep. selection process at the assembly.

6) WOMEN AGAINST POVERTY (WAP) - It came to the board's attention that Heather has moved and her whereabouts are unknown at the moment. Concern was expressed about the apparent vanishing of ASWAC's WAP publication project worker and the effect of this on the scheduled Aug. 31 deadline. Consensus was that the immediate priority is to find and contact Heather, then ascertain the whereabouts and status of the WAP material.

7) ASSEMBLY '90 PLANNING UPDATE - Annette outlined the progress of planning for the 1990 annual assembly to be held Oct. 27-28 in Edm. She described the workshops planned, the tasks assigned and presented the draft of the registration pamphlet to be sent out.

- Some discussion about the possibility of changing the venue for the assembly due to the need for more workshop space and because the present site is not wheelchair accessible enough.

- The board indicated the assembly workshops planned are looking exciting and extended its congratulations to the planning committee on its efforts to date.

- No word as yet on ASWAC's application to the Women's Secretariat for \$3,600 to go toward assembly expenses.

8) SUPPORT FOR ADVISORY COUNCIL - The board agreed to requests from an ASWAC member and the Calgary Project Co-ordinator that a letter of support be sent to the Alta. Advisory Council on Women's Issues.

9) ASWAC NEWSLETTER - Next deadline for the newsletter is Aug. 15 with publication scheduled for first week of Sept. That issue will include Assembly '90 information as well as details of the Calgary "Take Back The Night" march, which ASWAC Calgary is helping to organize.

10) CHILDREN AND POVERTY HEARINGS - The provincial NDP is organizing a series of public hearings focussing on the subject of children and poverty in Alta. ASWAC has been asked to provide contacts and background resources on the subject.

11) EDM. WOMEN'S BUILDING COLLECTIVE - Meg updated the board on the Collective's questionnaire aimed at getting collective members' feedback on the idea of moving to a new location. Feedback will be presented at the next board meeting.

- The Collective's proposed policy on collective membership fees was circulated among board members. There was some comment but no discussion. This

item was deferred to the Sept. 8-9 board meeting.

12) NEXT BOARD MEETING - The next meeting of the board will be Sept. 8-9 in Edm. at the ASWAC office, 9930-106 St. This will be the last meeting of the 89-90 board before the assembly.

THANK YOU, GERRY! Many thanks to regional rep. and honorary ASWAC board "Mom" for sharing your wonderful surroundings and hospitality with the board for its July meeting.

POSITION SHARING

A new option is going to be available to the new ASWAC board members selected at the Annual ASWAC Assembly Oct. 27-28 in Edmonton. They will have the option of sharing their board position with another woman for the duration of their term.

The aim is to provide a way for a board member to carry out her board responsibilities in a manner more in tune with her time, energy and commitment realities. It is also hoped being able to share a position will make running for the ASWAC board a more feasible option for women who want to be on the board but are not sure they can carry the entire workload and time commitments involved.

It is hoped that women who want to make use of this option will find a woman they want to work with as a board member, then present themselves for selection to a board position at the assembly. The two women sharing the position would be responsible for working out the logistics of exactly how they would share the work over the year. They would also be responsible for keeping each other updated on board and other ASWAC business.

As far as expenses go, the two women will also share expenses. For instance, if both women go to a board meeting, they would claim for one and work out between them how to distribute it.

If you would like more information about position sharing, just call the ASWAC office at 421-0306.



EDMONTON WOMEN: WE NEED BILLETS!



Billeting is going to be a mainstay of the accommodation options for this year's annual assembly, so any help you can give us in providing billets will be much appreciated.

The assembly will be Sat., Oct. 27 and Sun., Oct. 28, so billets will be needed for the Fri. and Sat. nights. If you can provide space for women on one or both nights, please give us a call at ASWAC Edm., 421-0306 (Valda). If you have any questions, don't hesitate to get in touch with us.

HOW YOU CAN BE AN ASWAC "WOMAN OF ACTION"

ASWAC Volunteer - General

The possibilities here are almost limitless. The work ranges from helping organize and carry out fundraising or action projects and events to helping with phone-abouts and office work.

Member of the ASWAC Board

ASWAC board members are selected at the assembly for a one-year term. As with any board of a non-profit organization, the ASWAC board is responsible for the over-all administration and business. Of all the ASWAC volunteers, board members spend the most time and energy on initiating and prioritizing ASWAC's direction and focus in any given year.

Volunteer - Committees

This involves working on the various ad hoc committees or one of the five standing committees. Ad hoc committees are formed as needed throughout the year to deal with specific issues, projects or activities.

Regional Representatives

At every Assembly at least 10 ASWAC regional reps are selected by the membership for a one-year term. They usually provide a good mix of rural and urban Alta. women. They initiate and prioritize work on a variety of issues and projects they see as important, as well as carry out the essential maintenance and strengthening of ASWAC's considerable support and information network, especially in rural areas.

SUBSIDIZE A SISTER

FOR ASSEMBLY '90



ASWAC tries to keep its' Annual Assembly accessible to as many women as possible, regardless of their financial realities. We are again offering the opportunity for you to send in an extra amount to cover the registration fee for a woman who cannot afford it at the moment.

This has been a successful and much appreciated option in the past and you are again welcome to help out if you can.

I would like to subsidize:

- Entire registration fee of \$30 (\$40 after Oct. 1)
- A portion of the registration fee \$ _____

NOTE: Assembly registration fee, membership fee, donations and sister subsidy can all be payable on one cheque.

AVOID THE RUSH...

GET YOUR 1991 ASWAC MEMBERSHIP

Name: _____

Membership: \$ _____

Address: _____

New

Renewal

Donation: \$ _____

Postal Code: _____

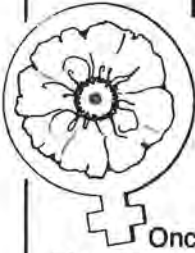
Phone: _____ (home) _____ (work)

**Suggested membership fee is \$20, but we will accept whatever you can afford.*

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

WOMEN IN ACTION

IT'S TIME TO REGISTER FOR ASWAC ASSEMBLY '90



Once again it's time to "think ASWAC Assembly". This year it is in Edmonton on Sat., Oct. 27 and Sun. Oct. 28. The theme is "Women in Action", so there will be information-packed, action-oriented workshops, as well as interesting keynote speakers. Of course, it will also be a great opportunity to chat and compare notes with active Alberta women.

REGISTRATION

Early registration, before Oct. 1, is \$30 and \$40 after Oct. 1. Registration includes all meals and snacks, workshops and the Sat. and Sun. keynote speakers.

ACCOMMODATION

Billets will be provided upon request (please indicate on the registration form if you require a billet). For those preferring hotel-motel accommodation, we will be providing a list of conveniently located accommodation with a variety of price ranges.

TRAVEL

A travel subsidy of \$.17/km up to \$75 will be available for women on low income. Subsidy application and payment will be done at the assembly.

CHILDCARE

A childcare subsidy is provided up to a maximum of \$50. Subsidy application and payment will be done at the assembly. Also, free on-site childcare will be provided at the assembly during the day and on Sat. night for children up to 12 years. **PRE-REGISTRATION BY OCT. 15 IS A MUST.**

WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE

The assembly site is wheelchair accessible. If you have any other special needs, please let us know and we will do our best to accommodate you. Call ASWAC Edmonton 421-0306.

*** All delegates registering for Assembly '90 through the ASWAC Newsletter registration form will receive confirmation in the mail as well as the full up-to-date conference details. ***

Edmonton

Alberta Status of Women Action Committee ANNUAL ASSEMBLY



"WOMEN IN ACTION"

Oct. 27-28, 1990

REGISTRATION FORM



Name: _____

Phone: (res) _____

Address: _____

(wk) _____

Postal Code: _____

\$30 before Oct. 1 (Can you subsidize a sister? See page 15.)

\$40 after Oct. 1

BILLETS

I will require a billet for:

1 night

2 nights

CHILDCARE

I will need childcare for my _____ child(ren), aged _____

Enclosed find a cheque/money order for \$ _____

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