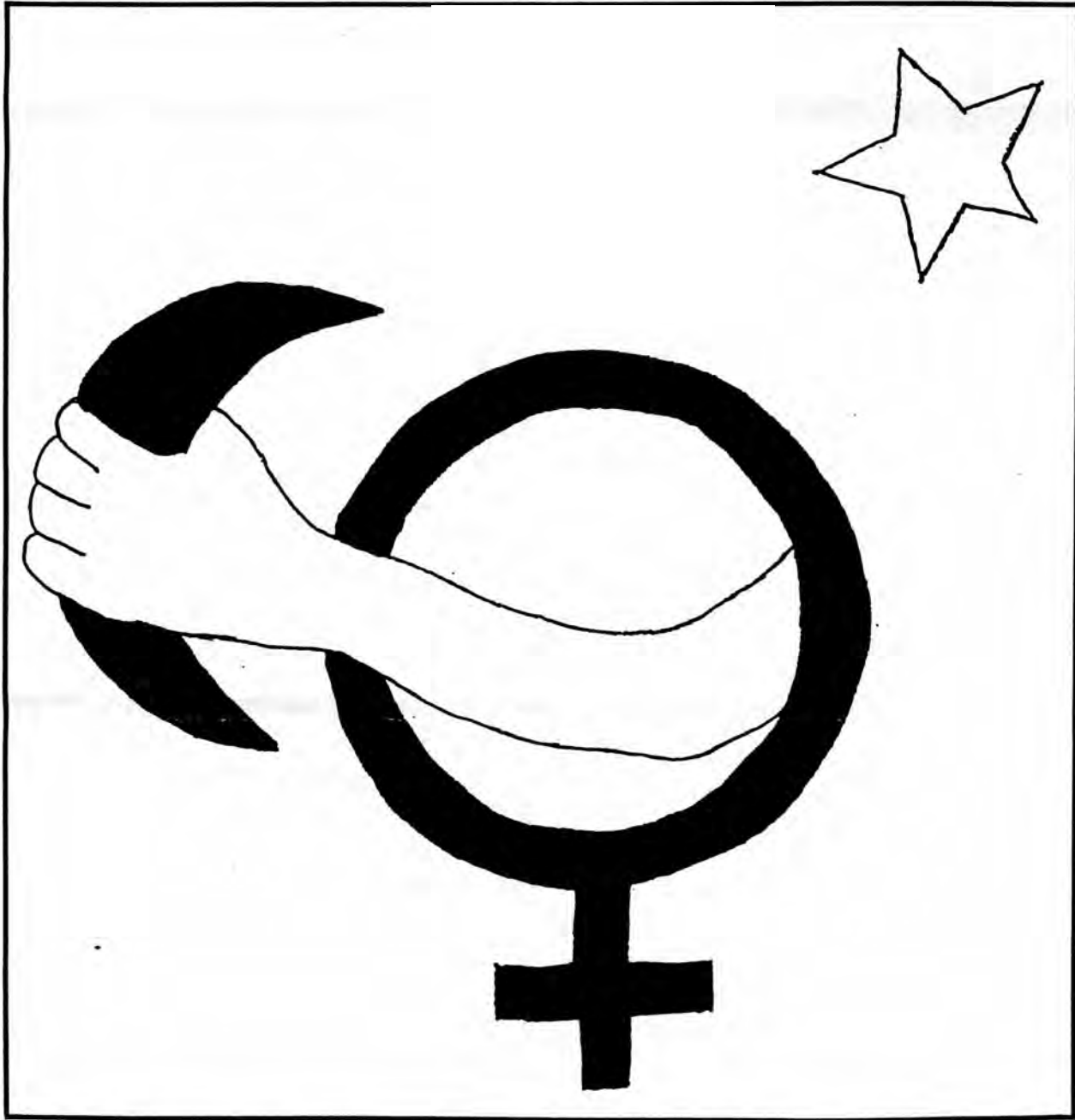


ASWAC

Alberta Status of Women Action Committee

August/September 1991

Volume 11, Number 4



WOMEN TAKE BACK THE NIGHT!

ASWAC

Alberta Status of Women Action Committee

1990-91 Board Members

Edmonton

Annette Aarbo	437-4938
Meg Dean	421-0306
Moyra Lang	421-0306
Dorothy Mandy	451-0933
Cathy Meade	421-0306
Deb Stewart-Furmanski	450-0158

Calgary

Danielle Aubry	233-0731
Donna Gould	233-0731
Nancy Miller	233-0731

Lethbridge

Sheryl McInnes	381-6868
Nancy Perkins	381-1685

Regional Representatives

Edmonton

Michelle Emslie	424-8451 r 422-0668 o
Valda Roberts	488-9659 r

Calgary

Debbie Smith	263-9615
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Fort McMurray

Nicole Balmer	791-9210 r 743-2121 o
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Two Hills

Nancy Mereska	768-2180 r
---------------	------------

Westrose

Gerry Bailey	586-2983 r
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Innisfail

Lori Crocker	227-1141 r 227-3881 o
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Grimshaw

Jocelyn Bathgate	624-4817 o 332-1673 r
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Medicine Hat

Anne Dickason	529-1539 r 544-4663 o
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ASWAC Edmonton:
Box 1573
Edmonton AB T5J 2N7
Located at:
Women's Building
#10, 9930-106 St.
Edmonton
FAX 425-3293
Phone: 421-0306

ASWAC Calgary:
#203, 223-12 Ave. SW
Calgary AB T2R 0G9
FAX 269-2012
Phone: 233-0731

ASWAC Lethbridge:
#202, 325-6th Street South
Lethbridge, AB T1J 2C7
Phone: 329-8338

The Alberta Status of Women Action Committee gratefully acknowledges financial support from the Secretary of State Women's Program and the Alberta Wild Rose Foundation.

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GOTCHA!

See what prime, eye-catching space this is? And it will be for rent in every issue of the ASWAC Networking Newsletter! See below for details...

SPACE FOR RENT!

Starting with the October issue of the ASWAC Networking Newsletter, the above display ad space will be available for sale. Any business, individual or organization wishing to purchase this space will constitute a major sponsor of that issue. The price of the space will be negotiable, with the price of the ad also including a small feature in that issue about the business or group using the ad space. Our hope is that this will be a helpful element of our Newsletter self-sufficiency plan.

For more information about our special promotional ad space, just call the Edmonton ASWAC office at 421-0306.

ATHABASCA U. OFFERS LOTS

Athabasca University is an open university that caters to the needs of adult students. This means you may register in courses regardless of previous academic achievement.

For more information contact:

- Northern Regional Office at 421-8700 (Edmonton)
- Southern Regional Office at 263-6465 (Calgary)

OUR FEATURE

TAKE BACK THE NIGHT

The slogan Take Back The Night was first used in the United States as a theme for a national protest march down San Francisco's pornography strip. The march took place at night and was in the spirit of many similar events taking place all over the world. Take Back The Night is a profound symbolic statement of our commitment to stopping the tide of violence against women in all arenas, and our demand that the perpetrators of such violence, from rapists to batterers to pornographers to imagemakers in the mass media, be held responsible for their actions and made to change.

That we have been unable to walk the streets after dark without a male to protect us from violence, has been assumed in this society for so long that people can hardly imagine a culture in which this would not be the case. The pollution of our media with sexist articles, programming, and advertisements, and the increasing amounts of pornography readily available, are hardly questioned. Rapes, muggings, and sexual harassment of women at all times, but especially at night, are the norm. For these and many other reasons we will march in numbers to protest.

We gather this September 13/91 to speak out against violence against women and support each other in this struggle to reclaim and empower ourselves as women, alone at night. We gather to honour the women who have gone before us, who fell



From Irish Feminist Calendar

victim to violence and to make changes for our daughters still to come. We will no longer be silent. Our voice is strong and growing. All women are welcome to attend, please call your local ASWAC office for times and locations.

Excerpts taken from "TAKE BACK THE NIGHT Women on Pornography", Edited by Laura Lederer.

CRIAW NEEDS BILLETS

If you can provide a billet for women from outside the city attending the November national conference of the Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women, your help would be much appreciated. Just call 492-8950 and Marcelline Forestier will be glad to take the details.



CRIAW CONFERENCE ICREF

1991

Edmonton, Alberta
November/Novembre 8, 9, 10

BRING A FRIEND TO ASWAC!

We've discovered the fastest, most cost-effective way to double our membership--and it's simple too! If you and every other ASWAC member encouraged one friend--just one friend, to become an ASWAC member, we would double our membership.

SO WHAT?

In these days of shrinking government funding, increased membership would be particularly helpful in two areas. One the additional membership fees and donations would increase our ability to take on projects and activities for which we are not funded. Second, increased membership will increase our volunteer base; this will become even more essential as the reduction in funding could eventually lead to a reduction in office staff.

WHY ASWAC?

As the largest feminist organization in the province, ASWAC is concerned with the status of women in Alberta--which we actively seek to improve. Our projects and activities reflect our commitment to this end. We are involved in coordinating annual events (eg. IWD, "Take Back The Night" etc) as well as major projects. For the past couple of years we have worked toward breaking the silence around women's poverty in Alberta.

Like you, your friend would be informed of and updated on women-centred events and activities province wide. She would have the opportunity to meet like minded (not to be confused with same-minded) women at our AGM and Assembly. Above all, she would have the opportunity to be part of Alberta's Feminist herstory in progress.

WOMANSOURCES IN ALBERTA

The following is a list of resources for women throughout the province. We receive a number of phone calls for women looking for resources or support groups in their area, if you have such information that you'd like to share please write to us. We welcome all input.

CALGARY

Women Looking Forward at #305, 223-12 Ave S.W. Calgary T2R 0G9, 269-1144, has a calendar of events for the Calgary area. The office will be closed from July 15th to September 3rd. Volunteers will be checking for and responding to messages. We will get back to you as soon as possible. Urgent requests can be directed to Nancy Miller at the ASWAC office Calgary (233-0731). We look forward to offering you are full resources again in the fall.

EDMONTON

Women's Program and Resource Centre, Faculty of Extension, University of Alberta, has a wonderful library, offers a wide selection of non credit women's courses and brochures on services available to women within Edmonton, the monthly Generic Women's Newsletter is produced here.

Please call to receive a brochure or application form on our new certificate program. The Counselling Women Certificate Program is an educational program which aims to combine contemporary feminist theory with the practice of counselling.

The Women's Program is offering many new and exciting courses this fall. Here's a sampler:

Building Strong Women's Groups (6354) taught by Pat Rasmussen, Oct. 5 & 6 at 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., will address issues of power and leadership, fundraising, writing proposals, working with boards and volunteers, networking and understanding burnout.

Most of the World's Work, taught by Nanci Langford, 10 Thursdays starting Oct. 3, 7-10 p.m., will explore the responses of 20th century society to the ever-present demands of household maintenance and child care.

Celebrating the Goddess: An Exploration of Symbols, Myths and Ritual-Making (6355), taught by Dr. Nadia Torrens, 12 Tuesdays Starting Sept. 24, 7-9 p.m.

Introduction to Feminist Thought, Level I (6338), taught by Halyna Freeland, 8 Mondays starting Sept 23, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Women and Revolution, taught by Malinda Smith, 10 Mondays starting Sept. 30, 7:30-9:30 p.m., is a seminar course and will draw on writings about women's involvement in non-western revolutions.

They are at 11019-90 Ave Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2E1, 492-3093. Call or write to receive a brochure or for further information.

FORT McMURRAY

Women's Resource Society at #305-8706 Franklin Avenue, Fort McMurray, Alberta T9H 3G2, has a lending library of books, tapes and videos. They put out a quarterly newsletter and receive a number of newsletters and papers from other women's groups so drop by and browse. For further information call or write.

LETHBRIDGE

The Women's Resource Centre at #202-325-6 Street S., 329-8338 is also the home of ASWAC Lethbridge. The resource centre has a small library and a calendar of events, they also put out Womyn News, call the office for more information.

RED DEER

Central Alberta Women's Outreach Society, #112, 4818 Gaetz Ave. Red Deer, Alberta T4N 4A3. The society promotes involvement of women in activities aimed at understanding and improving the social, political and economic position of women living in both rural and urban Central Alberta. They have a resource library, advocacy and referral service, career planning, Women of Canada study kits, meeting room and monthly newsletter. There is a small membership fee, contact the office at 347-2480 for further information.

HUG THESE WOMEN:

The following is a list of women who have given their time and energy for ASWAC projects.

Annette Aarbo

Meg Dean

Tammy Horne

Louise Janzen

Moyra Lang

Christine Leonard

Dorothy Mandy

Sheryl McInnis

Cathy Meade

If you would like to become involved and be hugged, please contact the Edmonton office.



WHAT'S IN A NAME?

What's in a name? Well, not a heck of a lot but it sure is nice to at least have one. Up to this point the ASWAC Newsletter has not had a name-it's just the 'ASWAC Newsletter'. We would like to put an end to this namelessness, but we need your help. We'll be accepting submissions for possible names until September 30th, 1991.

What's in it for you? The winner, who will be announced at the annual general meeting (AGM), will not only celebrate the knowledge that her great name idea will go down in Alberta feminist herstory, but she will also be awarded a free 1992 ASWAC membership! So, get your creative juices flowing and write or fax the Edmonton office.

ALBERTA FEMINIST CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ALBERTA WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES MEETING

August 21 at 7 p.m.

Theme: To be announced.

Location: Bader Towers, 11110-86 Avenue

For more information call Janet at 469-6148

Women in rural areas are invited to participate or to write letters of inquiry.

ENDOMETRIOSIS ASSOCIATION MEETING

September 12, 1991 at 7:30 p.m.

The next meeting of the Edmonton Chapter of the Endometriosis Association will be held in room 2f1.04, classroom D, WC Mackenzie Health Sciences Centre, University of Alberta. The guest speaker will be Nancy Petersen R.N. at Dr. Redwine's clinic in Oregon.

For further information call Maureen at 456-6899.

October 17, 1991 at 7:30 p.m.

This meeting will give interested women a chance to learn details about out of province facilities and the procedures to obtain coverage. An important information sharing session.

"TAKE BACK THE NIGHT" EDMONTON RALLY/MARCH

September 13, 1991

RALLY 8 p.m. Canada Place followed by a march from Canada Place to Beaverhill Park (105 Street) and back to Canada Place. Entertainment at Mom's Deli 10128-100 Street after the march. All women welcome. Please bring a candle.

BREAKING THE SURFACE: AN INTERACTIVE FESTIVAL/CONFERENCE ON WOMEN, THEATRE AND SOCIAL ACTION

November 13-17, 1991 Calgary, Alberta.

The purpose of this Festival/Conference is for Maenad Productions with the University of Calgary to experience and explore from both aesthetic and critical perspectives the techniques, theories and divergent practices of theatre companies concerned with bringing about social change on gender related issues. The Festival/Conference will bring together, for the first time, Canadian and international artists and scholar, students and members of arts and women's communities and the general public in the examination of these issues.

Maenad Productions invites you to participate in this Festival/Conference. It is our objective to create a provocative environment which will encourage maximum interaction between the participants and initiate an informative and productive network for all those concerned with gender issues and theatrical form.

For more information please write:

Kathleen Foreman

c/o University of Calgary

Department of Drama

2500 University Drive N.W.

Calgary, Alberta

T2N 1N4



CANADIAN WOMEN'S MOVEMENT ARCHIVES. ARCHIVES CANADIENNES du MOVEMENT des FEMMES

P.O. Box C.P. 128, Station/Succ, P, Toronto, Ontario M5S 2S7
(416) 597-8865

The Canadian Women's Movement Archives/Archives canadiennes du mouvement des femmes is compiling a guide to the records of the contemporary Canadian women's movement. This bilingual guide, to be published in 1992, will help scholars and activists locate records (i.e., minutes, reports, correspondence, photographs, posters, etc.) of the many women's groups which have existed in Canada since 1960. The project is funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

This summer we are sending questionnaires to about 2,500 organizations whose records we hope to list in the guide. We are including women's organizations, groups which focus on a women's issue, and feminist committees within larger organizations such as unions and ethnocultural organizations.

We would be glad to hear from any organization we may have missed. We are also eager to hear from any individual who has the records of a women's group. (Often when a group disbands, a member will preserve its records.) We would also welcome questions or suggestions related to the project.

*Susan Shea, Research Assistant

Canadian Women's Movement Archives/Archives canadiennes du mouvement des femmes

P.O. Box 128, Station P

Toronto, Ontario

M5S 2S7

(416) 597-8865



The ALBERTA ADVISORY COUNCIL ON WOMEN'S ISSUES

has moved. Their new address is 9810 - 111 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 1K1. Their phone (403-422-0668) and fax (403-422-9111) numbers remain the same. Their latest discussion paper, "WOMEN AND THE PROCESS OF CONSTITUTION REFORM" is available from their office, Women Looking Forward or the Alberta Status of Women Action Committee.

The NATIONAL ACTION COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

and 12 other national groups (including aboriginal, environmental, peace, development and labour groups) are co-sponsoring a CITIZENS' INQUIRY INTO PEACE AND SECURITY. The hearings will connect the daily violence, poverty, homelessness, and racial oppression in Canada to global systems of violence and militarism. Groups and individuals are invited to write, sing, dance, act or visually present their views on security in Calgary on Tues., Oct. 1st. For more information contact Doug Yard at 243-8645.



*(Calendar continued on page 7)

ASWAC EVENTS

This section has been set aside for ASWAC related events, we welcome your comments and suggestions. We would also like to hear from areas of Alberta that celebrate "Take Back The Night". The annual march is planned for September 13/91 in both Calgary and Edmonton.

ASWAC CALGARY

Calgary's 10th annual "Take Back The Night" planning is now underway. Information and planning sessions are being held Wednesdays, August 14th, 21st and 28th, at 7:30 p.m. in the old 'Y' Common Room at 223-12 Ave, for more information call the ASWAC office in Calgary. A childcare subsidy is available.

ASWAC EDMONTON

Organization meetings for "Take Back The Night" in Edmonton have been held and planning is underway. Our next meeting is August 14th at 7:30 p.m. at 9930-106 Street #10, all are invited to attend. On August 28th we will have a banner making session at Catalyt Theatre located at 84 Ave, and 109 Street. Please bring your own supplies such as paint, cloth brushes, paper, pens and anything else needed to create wonderful banners. This is a special plea for artists to attend as we need creative input. Call the Edmonton office for more information or if you are unable to attend this meeting and are interested in upcoming meetings.

ASWAC GENERAL

TAKE BACK THE NIGHT RALLY/MARCH!

This year's event will take place in Calgary and Edmonton on September 13th/91. All women are welcome to attend. The more women the louder our voice is, in speaking out against violence against women. Please call your local ASWAC office for the specifics.

WOMEN IN ACTION 1991-92

Action, action, action is very much the theme of this year's ASWAC projects. Women in Action projects have particular emphasis on areas outside the major centres of Edmonton and Calgary. We will use ASWAC's resources and activities to initiate, support and help coordinate the resources and activities of groups throughout the province working actively to improve the status of women.

We want to establish and support regional outreach by building communications and sharing resources with women's groups throughout Alberta.

Our annual general meeting will be held in Edmonton as a one day business meeting. October 19th. A major conference is planned for the spring of 1992, aimed at bringing together all the contacts made during these networking activities, it is hoped the priorities and projects of ASWAC for the future will be decided by the input from all Women in Action projects.

ASWAC LETHBRIDGE

The ASWAC-Lethbridge office fell victim to the suffocation of delayed funds and closed down temporarily as of July 26/91. The Step researcher Aruna D'Souza along with volunteers will keep the Resource Centre open as often as possible until we can re-open with a regular schedule.

In spite of this, some projects are being planned. The Women's Health Resources library and information manual are in final stages and will be ready by the end of August. An inter

agency committee is working on plans for "Take Back The Night" with a tentative date for this event on September 20/91. The major project for the fall is the first annual Women's Art Festival which will take place September 14 and 15 in conjunction with the southern Alberta Art Gallery's "Art Walk". On the Saturday there will be workshops for women artists and for the public about women in the arts. Sunday will feature exhibits and a juried show of entries by women artists and artisans in Southern Alberta.

The position of Office Coordinator is temporarily vacant as Sheryl McInnes has moved to Edmonton. A hiring process will occur when the Secretary of State grant arrives.

ASWAC REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

The regular ASWAC Isolation Brunch will be held Saturday, September 7th at 11 a.m. in Wetaskiwin. The brunch is an opportunity for interested women to get together and network about their concerns, as well as have a fun time. Relaxation, enjoyment and good talk are guaranteed. The Isolation brunch will be at R's Place Dining Lounge, 5411-40 Ave Wetaskiwin. Following the brunch there will be a regional representatives meeting at 1 pm. Reps. coming from afar phone ahead as overnight lodging is available as well as travel expenses. For more information contact Lori at 227-3882 or Gerry at 586-2983.

FROM THE ASWAC NEWSROOM:

The deadline for submissions on our next newsletter is October 4/91, publication date is October 11/91. So please send all submissions as soon as possible to our Edmonton office.

We invite your input and would like to hear from you. Is there something you'd like to see in the newsletter? Please let us know. If you've attended a workshop or conference and would like to share the information, please write to us.

VOLUNTEERS WELCOME !!

There is always plenty of help needed with ASWAC activities, so if you would like to help out, don't hesitate to contact us.

Among the activities on the go at the moment are:

- Newsletter collective (helping out with all aspects of production: from ideas to mailout)
- Speakers' Bureau. We are always asked to provide speakers and resource people on a variety of subjects concerning women. If there is an issue that particularly interests you, please contact the Edmonton office for an application form.
- Fundraising - A number of interesting and exciting fundraising activities are planned for this year. Help with their planning and implementation is welcome and needed.

Please call Cathy Meade at the Edmonton office (421-0306) if you want to help, if you're just plain curious, or if you want to take her out for dinner.

MOVING?

Call United Van Lines and send us your new address. Several Albertan women are suffering from ASWAC Newsletter Withdrawal simply because we are not informed of their address change. Don't let this happen to you!

WRITE ON!



As feminists, it is important that we are politically active in whatever capacity we can be. While political activism takes on a variety of meanings to a variety of people, one means of activism in which many of us can participate is letter writing. Writing letters to MLA's and MP's is a relatively effective way of lobbying on an individual basis.

In order to provide ASWAC's membership with information regarding issues warranting letters we have created this section for political information sharing. To this end, we encourage members to let us know of any other letter writing campaigns in which they are involved.

The Edmonton ASWAC office has a copy of MP's names and ridings, if you require this information please call the office.

Federal Government (MP's)

• **TABOO TAX** : Canadian women are paying GST on sanitary supplies, while frozen pizza or canoe rentals are GST free. In less than a year the Government will make over 30 million dollars from menstrating women. In contrast to that the Government will spend 9 million on women's programs this year. Write to Rt. Hon. Brian Mulroney, Prime Minister House of Commons Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6, please send copies at the same address to Hon. Jean Chretien and Hon. Audrey McLaughlin.

*Gay/Lesbian Rights

• Despite apparent recommendations from the Canadian Human Rights Commission, sexual orientation has not been added to the Canadian Human Rights Act. Write to your MP at the same address as above.

Provincial Government (MLA's)

• **Sex Education**: Alberta's current sex education curriculum is under review. Let's ensure that input is heard from more than just the New Right. Write your MLA at Legislative Building, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2B6

• **Bill 205**: In a nutshell, this bill allows the non-custodial parent (usually male) to take the custodial parent (usually female) to court on only oral evidence, if denied access to the child(ren). Call the Alberta Advisory Council at 422-0668 or 297-6161 (R.I.T.E. line) for more information and write to your MLA at the same address as above.

Alberta College of Physicians and Surgeons at #900, Manulife Place, 10180-101 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 4P8. Write your concerns in regards to *Abortion access *Sexual abuse of patients.

WANT A MUSIC FESTIVAL?

The early stages are underway in getting the ball rolling towards organizing an Alberta Women's Music Festival. At the moment the search is on for potential board members. Anyone interested, particularly if you have any kind of experience organizing large events, can contact Lorelei Loveridge at 433-4590.

ALBERTA FEMINIST CALENDAR CONTINUED

WOMEN AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Saturday September 28, 10 a.m.- 12 noon

Business Building, Room 3-5

University of Alberta, Edmonton.

Many women are considering self-employment as an alternative to working for private and public organizations. Self-employment holds the potential for job flexibility, autonomy, challenge and independence. This panel discussion will be an opportunity to hear about the experiences of women who are entrepreneurs, and to learn about the unique obstacles and challenges which women face as entrepreneurs. Future directions for social policy and education will be explored. This is a **FREE** public forum.

THE WOMEN'S PROGRAM AND RESOURCE CENTRE

is celebrating their 10th anniversary on Friday, September 20 from 2-5 p.m. at the Faculty Club, 11435-Saskatchewan Drive. Everyone is welcome to attend. R.S.V.P. by September 13 by calling 492-3093.

CALGARY BIRTH CONTROL ASSOCIATION THEATRE

August 15, 12:15 p.m. at #301, 1220 Kensington Rd. N.W.

"After the Montreal Massacre" documentary and discussion. Free admission, bring your lunch.

CRIAW CONFERENCE

November 8 to 10, 1991 at the Westin Hotel Edmonton.

Women from across the country will converge on Edmonton for this major conference of the Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women. Entertainment: singer Jennifer Berezan, also, Edmonton Feminist Singers. Conference fee is \$125 CRIAW members, \$150 non-members. For more information contact Marcelline or Noreen at 492-8950.



ASWAC AGM DATE FIRM

It's a go! October 19 will be the date of the ASWAC 1991 Annual General Meeting to be held in Edmonton.

Unlike previous years, this year will see a one day business session held in October, but a major conference held in the Spring of 1992.

Watch for details. A major mailout to ASWAC members will be made, probably in September, providing more details about the AGM.

We Think It's Time To Take the COMMON-CENTS APPROACH TO FUNDING!

cially when it comes to one of our most valuable resources--the Alberta Status of Women Action Committee

NETWORKING NEWSLETTER

ASWAC has worked hard in the past year to streamline the Newsletter's production and costs. We've got it to the point now where all it takes to have an issue of the Newsletter paid for is 25 women donating \$20 each!

Some women have already pitched in their \$20 toward putting this August issue in your hands. We're now taking donations for the October issue. So, send \$20 right away and you'll be an **ASWAC Newsletter Sponsor**. And just to show how much we appreciate your help, we'll send you an original-design ASWAC pin. If your group would be interested in helping to sponsor an issue of the Newsletter, please give us a call and we'll talk about how that can happen.

TIME TO RENEW FOR '92!!



ASWAC memberships run from September to September. So, **GET YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW** and you are squared away until September 30, 1992!

Help Keep the Changes Happening!

Name: _____ Membership: \$ _____

Address: _____ — New — Renewal

Donation \$ _____

Postal Code: _____ Phone: _____ (o) _____ (r)

Yes! I'm a Newsletter Sponsor too! \$ _____

Suggested membership fee is \$20, but we will accept whatever you can afford right now.
Make cheques payable to: ASWAC. Send to: Box 1573, Edmonton AB T5J 2N7