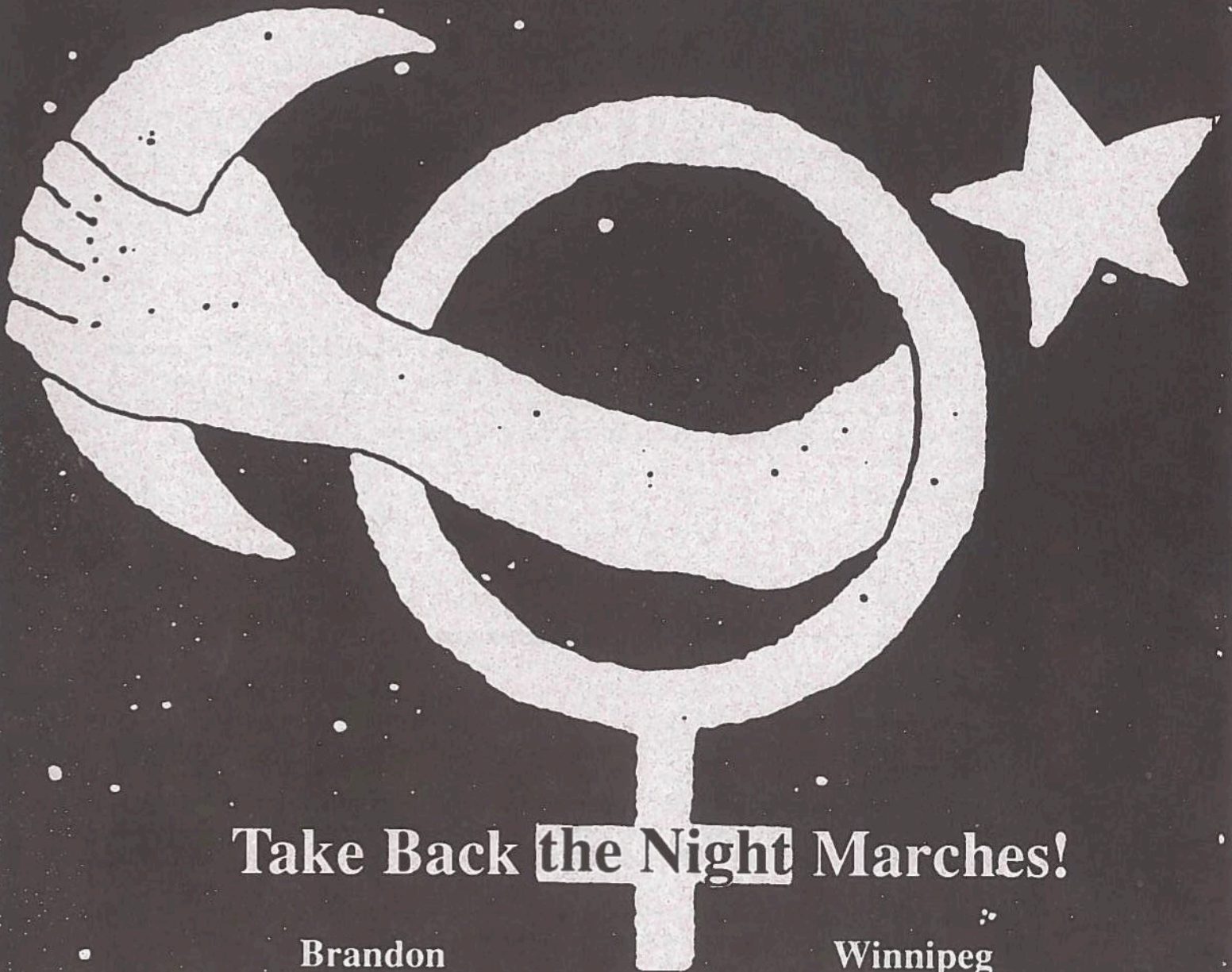


ACTION

MANITOBA ACTION COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN NEWSLETTER

September 1991

Volume 18 Number 7



Take Back **the Night** Marches!

Brandon

Winnipeg

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 20, 1991

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 21, 1991

7:30 p.m.

7:00 p.m.

Brandon City Hall

Legislative Building

About MACSW

The Manitoba Action Committee on the Status of Women is a voluntary, non-profit feminist organization working through political action, public education and personal growth in order to improve attitudes, raise issues and remove inequalities affecting women today.

MACSW was formed in 1971 by a group of women who presented a brief to the Royal Commission on the Status of Women in 1967. As well as a Winnipeg Branch, MACSW has branches in Brandon, Dauphin and Thompson.

About ACTION

ACTION is published 10 times a year by the Manitoba Action Committee on the Status of Women, with the assistance of the Secretary of State Women's Program. The purpose of ACTION is to inform MACSW members about MACSW initiatives, to encourage members to take action on a personal and political level, and to serve as a forum to discuss all issues affecting the changing status of women. Articles express the views of individual writers and do not necessarily reflect MACSW policy.

Submission Policy

News and feature style articles, profiles, reviews, essays, letters to the editor, illustrations, cartoons and photographs are all welcome. Written submissions should be double spaced and typed. Material may be edited. Sorry, submissions will not be returned unless accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope. The deadline for submissions for the October issue is September 15, 1991.

Send submissions to:

ACTION Newsletter
MACSW
16-222 Osborne St. S.
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3L 1Z3
Phone 453-3879

This issue brought to you by MACSW staff and Marion Foster, Pat Sadowy, Lynne Gibbons, Randa Stewart and Penni Mitchell. ACTION is available on tape. Please call MACSW 453-3879 (Voice/TDD).

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NOTE OF EXPLANATION:

Some confusion has surfaced over the cartoon on the front cover of the last ACTION. I would like to explain the choice of graphic and caption. Cows are female animals, which, it seems to me are often misunderstood and maligned --- just like feminists, and just like lesbians. But we also have a lot in common. Haven't we all, at some point, been disparagingly called cows or lesbians because we are women who do not easily conform to the status quo society around us? By poking fun at the notion that we are ALL any one single thing --- a bunch of cows, a bunch of lesbians, a bunch of man-haters, a bunch of feminists, I hoped to show how silly it is to put labels on us as women --- by depicting how ludicrous it would be if what "they" say about us turned out to be true.....

-pm

EDITORIAL

Reclaiming Take Back the Night

by Andrea James

In September, women across Canada will gather at legislative buildings, town halls and anywhere else they can get attention, and take to the streets carrying flashlights, placards and their individual and collective spirit. It's the annual Take Back the Night march --- part vigil, part protest, part rallying cry and show of solidarity --- against violence against women. The marches are commonly women-only and are often branded as sexist because of this practice.

Several years back when I attended my first Take Back the Night March, I didn't understand the reasoning behind the women-only policy but I went with an open mind. As I recall, it was the year following a protest from men who felt insulted when they were asked not to accompany the women on the march, so some effort was put into explaining why the organizers were sticking to the format. We were told that the march was to demonstrate that women have a right to walk safely on the streets - when they want, with whom and where they choose. It would hardly be consistent with this message if we were to be "escorted" by men, no matter how much they support us.

As much as I want to encourage men to be supportive, aware of their own issues, and willing to educate other men, this is *our* night. I will stand on the sidelines and cheer when men hold annual men-only Anti -Violence Against Women marches, but for now, I need to feel the strength and energy that can flow only from women with a vision.

This past spring, the American university I was attending held a Take Back the Campus march and rally which included speakers and an open microphone. It was open to women and men. What started out as a positive experience turned into an emotionally draining and painful one as man after man took the stage. We heard from some caring, pained, sick-to-be-a-man-sometimes men who spoke eloquently with great passion. But we also heard from men who

informed us of the actions they take to protect "their women", the revenge one man took (apparently "in kind" with a baseball bat) on the rapist of his girlfriend and, in a 20-minute self-promoting "poetic" diatribe that left me in



a rage of tears, we heard from a man who attempted to help us understand the mind of a rapist and abuser of children. In short, I now understand why it is so important to keep these events for women only. I left early, moved by the women who had the courage to share their stories, but saddened by an atmosphere in which women were no longer central, no longer really even there. I think something closed within all of us.

I'll take things a step further. Women still need safe spaces to gather and speak. It is not sexist to "ask" for this one night out of 365. We need to hear each other's voices, to validate ourselves and one another. We need to feel secure enough in our environment to be able to delve deep within and reveal our selves to a family of women. There is enough division among us at times. On this night we need to raise a common voice: strong, positive and united.

In mid-August MACSW spoke out to defend women's right to be cautioned about rapists in their communities. This issue is inextricably linked to the purpose of Take Back the Night and my mind has been full of assaults on women's bodies. We remember our sisters in Fort Richmond and Tuxedo in Winnipeg who were attacked in their homes, the women who have been murdered this year in Manitoba and our sisters in Saskatoon who were assaulted by Larry Fisher 20 years ago and have lived ever since without knowing that he was convicted.

Please take my hand on September 21, to reclaim the night for our mothers, our daughters, our sisters, our lovers, and our selves.

BRANCH REPORTS



Winnipeg Branch

by Jenny Robinson
Provincial Coordinator

Mary Collins, the federal Minister Responsible for the Status of Women announced in early August that a "Blue Ribbon" panel had been established to examine violence against women in Canada. They will spend \$10 million dollars travelling across this country talking to people about violence against women. Ten million, I thought, hmm that is almost as much as the Women's Program of the Secretary of State gets to fund all of its programs. So instead of enhancing existing projects or implementing changes and recommendations that are already well-documented, the federal government will spend \$10 million on plane fares, hotel rooms, and yes, another report that says, surprise, surprise, the women in this country face a great threat of violence.

Even though the panel has already started its tour, I encourage all of you to write a letter to Ms. Collins and make suggestions about how that \$10 million might have been better spent. Write to:

Honourable Mary Collins
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

A REMINDER:

The MACSW Annual General Meeting (continued) is fast approaching. The meeting is on *Saturday, September 28, 1991* at 1 p.m. in Room 107, Education Building, University of Brandon.

If you are interested in attending and live outside the Brandon area, please contact the Branch nearest you for more information. The Winnipeg Branch office will be coordinating transportation to the meeting for Winnipeg members interested in attending. Call 453-3879.

Winnipeg Branch

by Andrea James
Administrative Coordinator

CALLING ALL MEMBERS: Do you represent MACSW on any committees or boards in the city? Are you a member of one of MACSW's committees (e.g. Violence Against Women, Personnel)? If so, assume I don't know, forgive my ignorance, and give me a call (453-3879). I'm trying to establish an ongoing list of contacts and resource people and am attempting to keep track of what our Winnipeg members are up to. I'd also like to receive copies of minutes of external meetings if they're available in order to keep a record and to include our activities in the Annual Report

While I'm at it, if you have a key to the office, please let me know. You don't have to return it, we just want to know where they are.

It has been a busy time around here lately. I attended a meeting at the Women's Health Clinic intended to solicit support from the health and women's communities for a proposed educational program concerning women and AIDS. There is good vision in their proposal and they aim at teaching women life skills rather than simply disseminating information.

Jenny and I spent a morning at Marymount School speaking to a group of young women about feminism and MACSW. We watched the video *Playing for Keeps*, a realistic documentary about teenage mothers followed by an interesting discussion and tour of the facilities.

MACSW issued a call to the Winnipeg Police Department to be accountable for its lack of community awareness initiatives concerning the sexual assaults of two Fort Richmond women in their homes. Once again, the safety of women was deemed unimportant as the June assaults were neither released to the media nor relayed to Neighbourhood Watch groups.

We were in the news again within days because of the David Milgaard/Larry Fisher

situation. The coverage has been good about our outrage over the Saskatoon women who were never informed of Fisher's capture. However, both print and radio contacts have failed to use quotes which stress that one of our main concerns is that a serial rapist is currently up for parole and could be back on the streets any time. This item of information was left out of four *Free Press* articles, and numerous news reports on TV and radio. Nevertheless, since then we have received quite a few supportive phone calls from women who are not associated (yet) with MACSW and it's been nice to get positive feedback. And finally, Jenny and I attended a class on the Human Rights Code in the School of Social Work at the University of Manitoba. We viewed the NFB film *Women on the March* which is worth seeing for its excellent footage of the Suffrage Movements in Canada, Britain and the United States and of women workers in the First World War (just try to ignore the syrupy late 50's message that all is well for women now that we have the vote!). We then participated in a discussion about what has changed since the film was made and what has stayed the same. Needless to say, we could have spent much more time than we were allotted on that topic.

A big THANKS to Bev Nicol for donating 10 books to our library! Hopefully you've started a trend, Bev. Any volunteers interested in organizing and maintaining our library are welcome to contact me at 453-3879. See you at the AGM!

Brandon Branch

by Kathy Prendergast
Administrative Co-ordinator

It's been a summer of movies and music, along with all the depressing things going on in the world. So we survived it, and even had a bit of fun along the way! Our Summer Nights film

BRANCH REPORTS

series at Brandon University wrapped up at the end of August with *Five Feminist Minutes*. All showings were well attended and initiated lots of that great, spontaneous, angry discussion women are so well-known for. We are hoping to get *Company of Strangers* and *Playing for Keeps* for rental from our office. *The Famine Within* is the most powerful, and the most feminist film I have yet seen on the phenomenon of eating disorders in women. It made us all want to go out immediately for chocolate cheesecake, except unfortunately there isn't a place where one can do that in Brandon ... oh well. Many thanks to Anna Marie Boquist of the National Film Board in Winnipeg, who helped to make this series possible and helped in the selection of these wonderful films.

We set up an information/display table at the Brandon Folk Music and Art Festival August 10-11. We had a good response, a lot of information was picked up, and we even managed to sell a membership or two — helped along, no doubt, by close-to-perfect weather. (As a side note, a certain Winnipeg band called the Welfare Starlets was a smash hit. Watch for these women in Brandon again this fall!)

The struggle over women's reproductive rights in Westman is unending. A coalition has been formed to resist the efforts of the anti-choice forces to overtake the Brandon General Hospital, and we are represented on this coalition (see article below). We sent a letter of support to the Citizens for Responsible Health Care in Dauphin, following the hospital AGM which saw a (temporary) victory for the anti-choice hospital board. The fight isn't over yet ...

The Take Back the Night march is coming up, and also the ever-popular Annual General Meeting (continued). All Brandon members please mark these events on your calendars. Friday, September 20th and Saturday, September 28th. See Calendar of Events for more details.

BRANCH REPORTS



Brandon Branch

by Sheila Doig
Rural Coordinator

The more things change, the more they stay the same ... so the saying goes. "We can get just as good space at cheaper rent, if we move now." I'm looking at bulletin boards jammed with events, meetings, political statements, volunteers wanted and assorted want ads. Is this New York or Brandon? I have finally walked into the National Organization of Women (NOW) in New York and I groan "Help, I just left this." The issues are universal; the base line is budget. The empowerment of women's connections is exhilarating. Yes, glad to be back.

LET'S CELEBRATE! Lisa Chemerika, Rural Coordinator for six months working from her farm outside of Erickson, for her skills, experience and connections (National Farmers Union, among others), in presenting the aims and programs of MACSW and building good will for MACSW as a feminist organization. Her knowledge and analysis of rural issues is an education for us all. She also doubled the number of contacts for the rural newsletter that, this September, will reach over 100 women on farms and in communities throughout southwestern Manitoba.

It doesn't take long to get back into the "swing of things." The concept of the Rural Information Project newsletter (fourth issue will be out in September) is now new. My predecessor, Bev Peters, regularly sent out newsletters to MACSW members in Westman. Now, we are bridging MACSW members with other rural women in an informal web of sharing, to help overcome the isolation so many experience. Ideas and commentary will be shared in future issues of ACTION.

Yes, folks, "son of Meech Lake Accord" is due in September. Joe Clark will no doubt have us all dusting off our briefs for the next round of constitutional consultations so that we can secure women's rights and Charter rights in any constitutional amendments.

CONNECTIONS AND COALITIONS:

My activities recently included attending a meeting of the Coalition for Responsible Health Care formed to address the election of single issue members (namely anti-abortion) to the board of the Brandon General Hospital, and the impact of these views on all issues and concerns of the hospital.

I also provided resources to the Citizens for Responsible Health Care group in Dauphin, where I attended the public meeting of the Dauphin General Hospital. This was also a good time for Heather (Dootoff) and I to do some fall planning for MACSW activities.

BRANDON BRANCH LIAISON

I wrote a letter to Mayor Borotsik and City Council to express our appreciation of the reversal of their position that provincial changes to the funding of child care is not a municipal matter, and to support their decision to send a letter to Premier Gary Filmon.

I assisted at the Brandon Folk Festival MACSW display; attended the NFB film *The Famine Within*, Take Back the Night meetings and provincial planning meetings; I met with a Canada World Youth representative and participated at a protest at the Brandon Court House regarding the sentencing in the recent sexual abuse case.

OTHER THINGS:

Are you checking out your fall activities? Do you need some help planning an event, finding speakers, looking for referrals, assembling some resources, developing a grant submission? Better yet, why not book an NFB video from the office and have some fun and friendship. We have pamphlets and a short description of the videos to send you. We're planning on having *Company of Strangers*, *Playing for Keeps*, and *Sandra's Garden* available soon.

How Can I Help?

Parkland Branch

by Heather Dootoff
Administrative Coordinator

A Dauphin employer who did not want to "rock the boat" recently created a small tidal wave in the community.

Brenda Coma, a truck driver for over 10 years, was offered employment with Tordon Enterprises, to start July 8th. On July 3rd, Ms. Coma was told that Mr. Tordon could not hire her after all, as one of his employee's wives had reportedly threatened to have her husband quit if this woman were hired.

It was encouraging to see the general outrage created in the community by this incident of blatant discrimination. By far the majority of the people disagreed with the withdrawal of the job offer and felt that anyone who was qualified to do the job should have it, regardless of their sex.

The discouraging side of the episode was the inability of the people to assign the blame to the appropriate source. Most people held the "fish wife" — as she was called in a letter to the editor — responsible for the discrimination. People were much less likely to point the finger at Tony Tordon, the employer, but rather sympathized with him for being in a tight spot or for being naive. Few questioned the role of the husband whose wife allegedly makes decisions about his employment.

I am pleased to report that there was a happy ending to the incident. Mr. Tordon offered Ms. Coma the job again and she has been hard at work since July 25th. Mr. Tordon denies that public pressure influenced his decision to rehire. (Yeah, right...)

The support and encouragement received from Winnipeg and Brandon MACSW offices, Manitoba Women in Trades and Technology Association and local and provincial media was much appreciated by Ms. Coma and by Parkland Status of Women.

BRANCH REPORTS

Thanks everyone and keep on truckin ...

OTHER MATTERS

Amid the heat of the summer and the heat of the debate surrounding the Dauphin General Hospital, Parkland Status of Women volunteers were out delivering pro-choice pamphlets in Dauphin and the surrounding area in preparation for the Annual Meeting of the Dauphin General Hospital.

Although the "pro-life" board members still hold a majority on the hospital's board, I think we can be proud of our efforts. Attendance at the 1990 AGM was less than 150; this year over 1650 memberships were sold and attendance at the meeting exceeded 1000.

Only one board member, David Yerama, was ousted by opponents of the hospital's anti-abortion policy. The policy itself survived efforts to reverse it — 477 to 450 — and the fact that the vote was so close means that we haven't heard the last word on this topic yet. Stay tuned...

We also participated in an August 14th vigil to honour the life of Glenda Morriveau, who was murdered.



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AGM (Continued) Promises to Deliver

The MACSW AGM (Continued) on Saturday, September 28, 1991 in Brandon promises what the federal government has failed to deliver for the last four years: constitutional reform.

Sound boring? That's what the Canadian premiers and prime minister said when they met at a quiet rural centre in Meech Lake.

This round of MACSW constitutional reform comes as a result of a Provincial Coordinating Committee meeting held in Winnipeg last November. Provincial Coordinator Jenny Robinson says the proposed changes were designed to make MACSW's operating structure "more realistic in terms of its limited resources."

Recommendations are being put forward

that will cut the required number of Provincial Coordinating Committee meetings from 4 to 2 and give individual branches the power to make more decisions on their own. The only two standing committees that would be required would be the personnel and membership committees. The PCC would still approve position papers and decide political issues, but would focus predominantly on administrative/financial matters.

Constitutional changes must be made at an annual meeting. Based on a recommendation of the PCC meeting last November, draft constitutional amendments were created and are described below. -pm

Proposed Constitutional Amendments:

ARTICLE 6 - BRANCHES

Addition:

03. Branches operate autonomously, in consultation with the Provincial Coordinator, as each is responsible for its own political action and membership base.

ARTICLE 9 - PROVINCIAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE

02. Currently reads:

The Provincial Coordinating Committee shall consist of one representative from each of the Branch Committees and one representative from each of the subcommittees, all permanent employees and at least 5 and not more than 15 members at large.

Proposed change would read:

The Provincial Coordinating Committee shall consist of a minimum of three delegates from each Branch (Personnel, finance and Branch Representatives), up to two representatives from Rural/Northern areas, one representative from each of the subcommittees (if any), and all permanent employees.

03. Currently reads:

Representatives of Branch Committees and Subcommittees will be named by the respective committees.

Proposed change would read:

Branch Personnel and Finance committees will choose a representative to sit on provincial finance and Personnel Standing Committees. Subcommittees will name a representative(s) to sit on the Provincial Co-ordinating Committee.

04. Currently reads:

Members at large will be elected at the Annual General Meeting.

Proposed change: Delete this section.

05. Currently reads:

Members of the Standing Committees will be selected from and by the entire Provincial Coordinating Committee at its first meeting.

Proposed change: Delete this section.

10. Currently reads:

Any member who has failed to attend three consecutive meetings of the Provincial Coordinating Committee without due cause may be expelled from the Provincial Coordinating Committee.

Proposed change: Delete this section.

13. Currently reads:

The Provincial Coordinating Committee will meet no less than 4 times annually.

Proposed change:

The Provincial Coordinating Committee will meet no less than twice annually.

15. Currently reads:

The Provincial Coordinating Committee will be the final authority in cases of dispute involving Committee matters brought before it subject to Article 9.08.

Proposed change:

Matters involving dispute will be resolved among the Provincial Coordinator and Branch Representatives. If no resolution is found, the Provincial Coordinating Committee will be the final authority.

Pro-Choice Coalition Forms in Brandon

by Kathy Prendergast

At the Annual General Meeting of the Brandon General Hospital June 13th, a majority of pro-life members present voted to recommend to the Hospital Board of Directors that it ban all abortions at the hospital, under all circumstances. Members also elected one new board member with known anti-abortion views.

In response to these events, a Coalition for Responsible Health Policy was formed at a meeting July 31. It is an open-ended coalition which will work through public education to resist the efforts of anti-choice groups and individuals to overtake the hospital board meeting, and communicate with the hospital board on a regular basis. The Coalition is open to groups and individuals who are in agreement with the mandate/mission statement, approved at the July

31 meeting:

WHEREAS it is apparent that the community of Westman would best be served by a hospital board which is philosophically committed to providing a comprehensive range of medical services, the Coalition for Responsible Health Policy has taken as its mandate:

1. To ensure that single issues do not dominate board policy;
2. To ensure that a full range of legal medical services are provided at the Brandon General Hospital;
3. To ensure the election of board members who are concerned with all issues confronting the Brandon General Hospital.

If you are interested in getting involved, contact MACSW Brandon Branch (725-2955) or Co-chairpersons Shari Decter Hirst (728-5332) or Lydia Comty (728-0020).

BOLD PRINT BEST SELLERS' LIST (July 1991)

NON-FICTION

1. *Bobbie Lee: Indian Rebel*
Lee Maracle
2. *I Am Woman*
Lee Maracle
3. *The Courage to Heal*
Ellen Bass and Laura Davis
4. *The Courage to Heal Workbook*
Laura Davis
5. *Healing Voices*
Toni Ann Laidlaw, Cheryl Malmo and Associates
6. *The Dance of Anger*
Harriet Goldhor Lerner, Ph.D.
7. *Reclaiming Our Lives*
Carol Poston and Karen Lison
8. *Living the Changes*
edited by Joan Turner
9. *Making Peace With Food*
Susan Kano
10. *The Montreal Massacre*
edited by Louise Malette and Marie Chalout



FICTION

1. *Sojourner's Truth*
Lee Maracle
2. *Dream On*
Chrystos
3. *Agnes in the Sky*
Di Brandt
4. *Friend of My Youth*
Alice Munro
5. *Lesbian Love Stories II*
Terry Woodrow
6. *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit*
Jeanette Winterson
7. *More Serious Pleasure*
Sheba Collective
8. *Fox*
Margaret Sweatman
9. *Bingo*
Rita Mae Brown
10. *Bayou City Secrets*
Deborah Powell

MTS - Reach Out and Trace Someone

by Penni Mitchell

MACSW joined provincial wife abuse service providers and CHOICES in calling for public hearings on MTS' proposed Call Management Service.

Wife abuse service providers have expressed fear that the service — which displays your phone number to the person you're calling and can be used to prevent you from calling out certain numbers — could threaten women's safety in the home or their anonymity in calling help lines.

Concern has been raised that abusive partners could, for example, stop women from phoning crisis shelters by blocking access to the number on the new phones. Questions were also expressed about whether women calling crisis lines would fear their phone numbers would be revealed at the other end.

Some of the issues which may be of concern include:

- Invasion of privacy (for everyone) at work receiving calls, or making calls;
- Abusive partners blocking in-coming calls from friends;
- Abusive partners blocking out-going calls to helpers;
- Third parties reluctant to call for help/report abuse because they fear identification;
- Escalation of basic phone service for poor women and their families to cover costs of luxury services like Call Management.

While the Public Utilities Board has not yet decided whether it will hold hearings, MTS has said in news reports that customers can have their phone numbers blocked free of charge and automatic call blocking could be provided at crisis shelters.

Women and Words Invites New Members



by Pat Sadowy

Do you like to write? Would you like to share your words and ideas with other writers? Are you interested in hearing what other Winnipeg women are writing? If these activities interest you, consider joining Winnipeg Women and Words.

We are a group of women who meet regularly to share our writing. Our main focus is to serve as a response group, responding to works in progress. The forms of our writing vary but are generally poems, short stories, articles, and journal entries. While many of us often choose to write about current issues of particular interest to women, there is no restriction on topic whatsoever. Sometimes a woman's sharing is focused on receiving feedback that will help her revise a specific piece of writing for a specific purpose. Another's intent might be to share her feelings with caring listeners, with no immediate concern for publication.

Attendance at each meeting is encouraged but not required. We meet one evening a month, with an average attendance each month of about half a dozen women (though we'd love to see more!). Each woman decides on her own the degree to which she wishes to participate at a meeting; while some bring something to read each time, others attend only to listen and respond. There is no cost to join.

Besides our regular meetings, Women and Words has involved itself in other writing-related undertakings — workshops, readings, fundraising, retreats and publication of the group's works. In July, several of us participated in helping to prepare a radio program for Voices of Women on Cor FM.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, September 10th at 7:30 p.m. at MACSW. Current members, former members and any other women interested in the group are welcome to attend. Information about future meetings will be listed in the Calendar of Events. For further information please call Pat at 488-0988.

REVIEW

THELMA & LOUISE

by Marion Foster

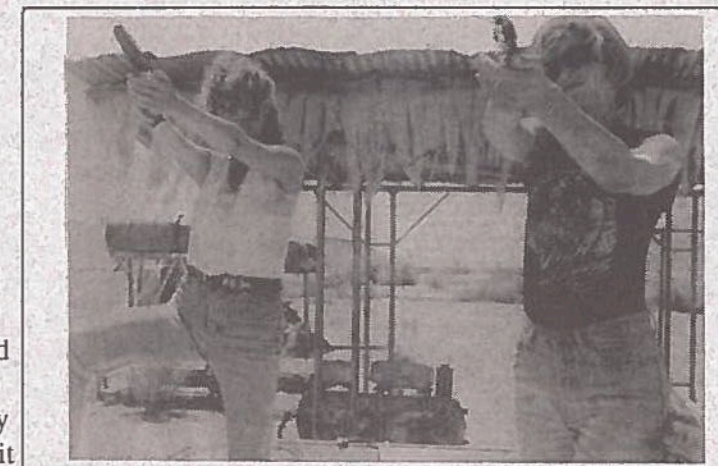
Many years ago, in more adventure-some times, I found myself working on a kibbutz for a few months. One of the forms of evening entertainment was the movie theatre with its free admission. Often watching movies was more of a participatory event than in other theatres. I remember one movie, a World War II adventure, in which assorted American and British troops parachuted into Germany to attack the "Eagles Nest". During the many sequences in which the Allies would outwit or out-muscle the Nazis, the audiences would stand, then clap, cheer and whistle.

What has this to do with *Thelma & Louise*? Well, that's exactly how I felt while watching the movie. If the comments of friends are typical, there would be a lot of cheering, then a standing ovation. (It's not ladylike to whistle)

Thelma & Louise stars Susan Sarandon as Louise, a fortyish, kind-hearted, but somewhat world-weary and cynical waitress in an Arkansas truckstop whose male companion takes too much for granted: and Geena Davis as Thelma, an exuberant, likeable, but immature housewife who married at 18 to Darryl, an obnoxious, paternalistic, beer-swilling chauvinist. The third heroine of the movie is Louise's '66 T-Bird convertible.

Louise and Thelma have the opportunity to spend the weekend in the mountains (Thelma without the knowledge of her husband). En route they stop at a roadside honky-tonk for a little refreshment. Thelma, elated at the prospect of a little freedom gets involved in a flirtation with a local Casanova who feeds her booze and whirls her around the dance floor. Feeling sick she goes out for some fresh air. The local follows her to the parking lot and attempts to rape her. In the meantime Louise comes looking for her, and the would-be rapist ends up being shot dead (first cheer).

Louise decides that because of Thelma's flirtatious behaviour, the cops will never believe their story and their best bet is to head for the



Thelma & Louise: Time to clap, cheer & whistle in unladylike fashion.

Mexican border.

Once they start running there is no stopping until the movie reaches its inevitable conclusion. But along the way there are many occasions to laugh and to cheer.

A large part of the story concentrates on the characters of the two women and on their interaction as they become outlaws in the American Wild West of the late 20th Century. The acting of Susan Sarandon and Geena Davis is superb!

The unwinding of events changes Thelma from a likeable, exuberant, but silly and immature girl to an equally likeable, exuberant, strong and self-directed woman. In contrast, Louise is a more controlled, no nonsense figure whose strength and intensity contrast perfectly with Thelma's unpredictability.

Another major plus in the film is the powerful filming of the landscape of the American southwest---the deserts, endless space, and great canyons create an almost mythological background to the story. Anyone who has experienced the particular quality of light that can often be found in the wide open spaces of western North America, will find the landscape irresistible. The way the two women deal with a loud, vulgar truckdriver who has been harassing them is worthy of another rousing cheer.

Towards the end there is a rather unbelievable Hollywood-style car chase. The ending itself is perfect.

Gun Control Lobby Seeks Support

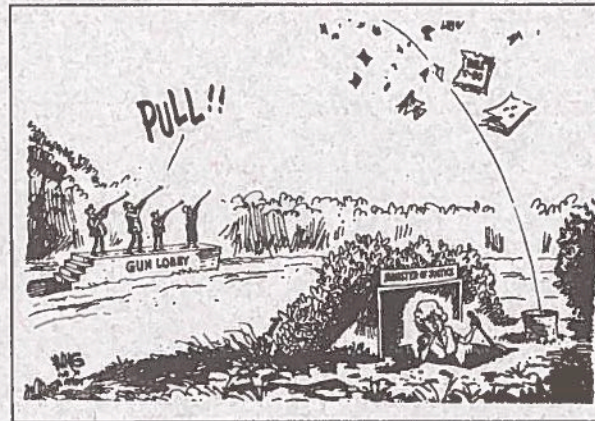
Dear Friend,

December 6, 1989, the day of the massacre at l'Ecole Polytechnique, was a black day for all Canadians. Over 550,000 people signed petitions demanding tougher laws, but it was not enough. We urgently need your help. Now.

Bill C-17 on Gun Control is entering 3rd reading in the House of Commons. We support it, but we want further improvements. However, the gun lobby is working very hard and spending a lot of money to have this bill defeated as they did with Bill C-80: thousands of letters against gun control have been sent to the Deputy Prime Minister alone. To counter this, the 80% of Canadians who want tougher gun laws must speak out!

PLEASE WRITE TO YOUR MP. Every letter is counted as 300 votes. Or sign and mail the enclosed postcard (no stamp required). If you need your MP's name call 1-800-267-8683 toll free.

We are not opposed to guns. We are for gun control. And we are not alone. The National Association of Women and the Law, the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women, the Canadian Medical Association, the United Church of Canada, the Canadian Police Association, the Caucus of Big City Mayors, the Cana-



dian Bar Association and the Canadian Criminal Justice Association all support tougher gun control.

Each year, 1400 people are killed with guns and hundreds more are wounded. Half of the women killed by their husbands are shot. Children are often intended and accidental victims.

The evidence is clear --- gun control saves lives. ACT NOW.

Heidi Rathjen Wendy Cukier

Heidi Rathjen
Ecole Polytechnique Gun Control Committee
Wendy Cukier - Coalition for Gun Control

Clip this out and send it to your Member of Parliament by September 15, 1991. There is no postage necessary. Just put in an envelope addressed to: Your MP, House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6.

Dear _____

As one of your constituents and one of the 80% of Canadians who demand tougher gun control, I'd like you to support Bill C-17 and the following improvements:

- Conduct a community check for all applicants and withhold gun-owning privileges from people convicted of assault or serious drug offences;
- Raise the age to buy guns and ammunition from 16 to 18;
- Make semi-automatic weapons restricted weapons;
- Ban and remove assault weapons from circulation;
- Register all weapons by type and serial number and set up a national database of owners and weapons;
- Require the Firearms Acquisition Certificate for ammunition purchases.

Please Reply. Thank you.

Name and Address: _____

Periodic Payments Flow Heavily into GST

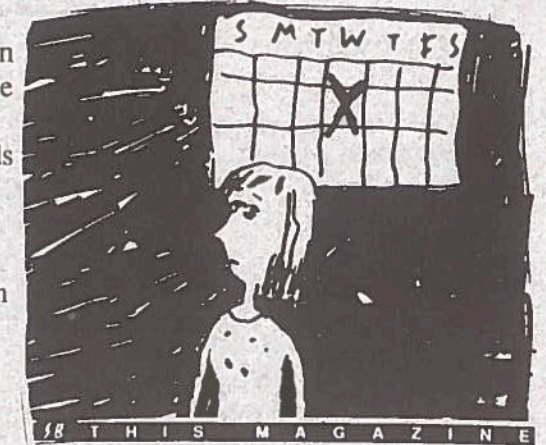
Federal NDP Status of Women critic Dawn Black has launched a national campaign to stop the Mulroney government's taxation of women's menstrual cycles.

By collecting GST on pads and tampons, the federal government will make an estimated \$30 million in a year from menstruating women — about three times the amount it spends on women's programs. Meanwhile, frozen pizza and canoe rentals remain GST-free.

In a strongly worded letter to Minister of Finance Don Mazankowski, Black reminded him that pads and tampons are a necessity not a luxury. She demanded that the GST be removed from these items.

A petition to remove the GST from pads and tampons is available from Dawn Black's office. Letters

protesting the GST on pads and tampons can be sent to: Dawn Black, M.P. House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6.



ATTENTION MACSW MEMBERS:

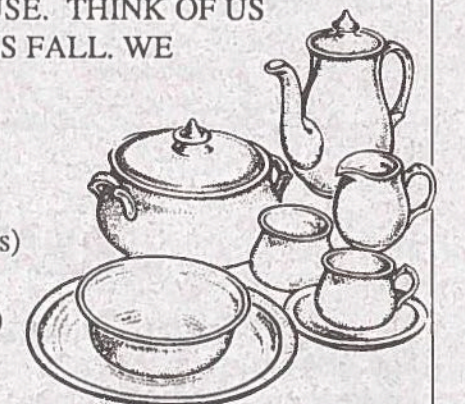
*Were You Thinking of Having a Garage Sale this Summer
But You Didn't get Around to it?*

DONATE YOUR ITEMS TO US INSTEAD!

MACSW Winnipeg Branch is having a garage sale on Saturday, October 20, 1991 at our office and patio location behind Pasquale's restaurant on Osborne St.

PLEASE MAKE DONATIONS TO THE MACSW CAUSE. THINK OF US WHEN YOU'RE CLEANING OUT THOSE CLOSETS THIS FALL. WE COULD USE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING :

- *Books (what about all that feminist sci-fi you've got?)
- *Clothes in good condition (re-use, reduce, recycle)
- *Household Goods (spare dishes, tools, records and tapes)
- *Baking (yummy)
- *Furniture in good condition (spare chairs, stable tables)
- *Baby Goods (always a hot item at garage sales)



You can drop off your garage sale items to the MACSW office (please wait until October if you can - we're cramped in the office). If you can't make it down, or your donations are too big for your car, call Andrea at the Winnipeg Office 453-3879 and we'll arrange pick up before the garage sale.



THANKS!

New and Renewed MACSW Members

Thank you to the following new and renewed MACSW members!

New

Rosemary Miguez
Susan Banks
Trish Elwick

J. Howard
Ruth M. Stewart
Sally Cunningham


Renewed

Ingrid Makus
Laurel Ridd
E. McFadden
Yvonne Hanso
Frances Stewart
Sheila Doig

EVOLVE is offering an introductory level, 5-day workshop on domestic violence intervention. It is intended for helpers or counsellors with general counselling experience. Training will centre around intervention with victims of domestic violence, intervention with male abusers and children who have witnessed abuse.

DATES AND TIMES: October 7-11, 1991 at Klinik, 870 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Registrants may attend only the first 3 days (working with women) or attend all 5 days including work with men and children.

COST AND REGISTRATION: Training is free; however a \$50 fee is required to cover workshop supplies for 3-day workshops; \$80 fee for all 5 days. Full payment will be required along with registration form. The deadline is **SEPTEMBER 13, 1991**. Enrolment is limited to 20 people. **CONTACT EVOLVE** at 207-83 Sherbrook, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 2B2, to register. Phone 788-4402 for information.

 Printed on recycled paper

SEXUAL HARASSMENT OFFICER

UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG
Part Time Term (1-3 years)

Sexual Harassment Officer required to act as an education officer to the President's Advisory Committee on Sexual Harassment and to educate the University community about sexual harassment. The Officer will resolve complaints, refer complainants and/or respondents for counselling, prepare reports and maintain records and statistics.

Applicants should have an undergraduate or graduate degree in Psychology, Social Work or one of the related humanities and at least 5 years of directly related experience. Familiarity with the post-secondary environment, sexual harassment issues and human rights legislation is essential. Excellent mediation, organization and communication skills are required. A benefits package and a salary commensurate with education and experience will be provided. Please send resume with names of three references to:

Employee Relations Department
The University of Winnipeg
515 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 2E9
DEADLINE: FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 6, 1991.

ARE WE WASTING OUR GREATEST NATURAL RESOURCE?

The Minnedosa and Area Committee on Wife Abuse and the Minnedosa Home and School Council are bringing two very prominent Manitoba educators to Minnedosa to speak to an audience of students, teachers, parents and community members about effective behavior management.

PLACE: MINNEDOSA UNITED CHURCH
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
DATE: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1991
SPEAKERS: DR. COOLEY, Ph.D. Psychology, Behavior Learning Specialist, and JEANNE GITZEL, Principal, Linden School, Winnipeg, President Manitoba Association of Principals



M.A.C.S.W. MEMBERSHIP FORM

Sign me Up!

I want to add my voice to the hundreds of Manitoba women who belong to MACSW.

NEW MEMBERSHIP

RENEWAL

Name _____

Address _____ City/Town _____

Postal Code _____ Phone _____ (H) _____ (W) _____

INDIVIDUAL Regular \$25
(or what You Can Afford)

ORGANIZATION - \$50
Sustaining \$40

Your membership includes a subscription to the *ACTION* Newsletter, published 10 times a year.

Make cheques payable to MACSW and send this form to:

MACSW Winnipeg Branch
16-222 Osborne St. South
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 1Z3

I'm interested in:

ISSUES

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Childcare | <input type="checkbox"/> Midwifery | <input type="checkbox"/> Reproductive Health Issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Equal Pay/Workplace | <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal Issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Women of Color/Racism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Law | <input type="checkbox"/> Trades & Technology | <input type="checkbox"/> Violence Against Women |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Farm/Rural Issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Women & Poverty | <input type="checkbox"/> Parenting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pornography | <input type="checkbox"/> Women & Disability | <input type="checkbox"/> Media Monitoring |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pensions/seniors | <input type="checkbox"/> Prostitution | <input type="checkbox"/> Young Women's issues |

ACTIVITIES

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Political Action | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> International Women's Day |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Speaking | <input type="checkbox"/> Research | <input type="checkbox"/> Office Duties |

NEAREST MACSW BRANCH

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> WINNIPEG
16-222 Osborne St. S
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3L 1Z3
453-3879 (Voice/TDD) | <input type="checkbox"/> BRANDON
202-107-7th St
Brandon,
R7A 3S5
725-2955 | <input type="checkbox"/> PARKLAND STATUS
OF WOMEN
118 Main St. S.
Mail: Box 23
Dauphin, R7N 2T9
638-3599 | <input type="checkbox"/> THOMPSON
Box 722
Thompson
Manitoba
R8N 1N5
778-8549 |
|---|--|---|--|

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*(Grab a pen and
mark these events on
your calendar!)*

September

- 4** Winnipeg MACSW Branch meeting. Come down for a non-threatening meeting of the minds. At 6:00, 16-222 Osborne St. S. (behind Pasquale's restaurant)
- 5** Potluck Supper at La Barriere, Outdoor Women's Network. Come and get to know other outdoor women. Bring your ideas and excitement for Fall cycling, hiking, canoeing, star gazing ... trips. Contact Barb 453-3745.
- 6-7** The Welfare Starlets (featuring MACSW's own Jenny Robinson) and Shawna Dempsey (of "We're Talking Vulva" fame) at the Tom Tom Club in Osborne Village (formerly Yuk Yuks). Small admission charge. Sets start 10:00 p.m.
- 8** Day Hike. Sprucewoods Provincial Park, Outdoor Women's Network. Contact Laurie, 772-3931.
- 10** Winnipeg Women and Words Meets at MACSW Office 7:30 p.m.
- 13** Sonia Johnson - Sponsored by Bold Print. She will talk about her new book: "The Ship that Sailed Into the Living Room : Sex & Intimacy Reconsidered." 7:30 p.m. (at Prairie Theatre Exchange), 3rd Floor, Portage Place. Tickets \$10 and \$7.00 low income; available at Bold Print, 478 River Avenue, 452-9682.
- 14** Workshop with Sonia Johnson - Sponsored by Contemporary Verse 2 (Winnipeg feminist poetry journal) and Bold Print. "Listening to Our Wise Woman Voice." Time: 10 - 4 p.m. Registration: \$50 (limited subsidies available). Location: Augustine United Church.
- 19** Brandon Branch Meeting, 7:30 Branch Office.
- 20** Take Back the Night March, Brandon. Begins with a rally outside Brandon City Hall at 7:30 p.m. with a social to follow the march through downtown Brandon. Free childcare. Must call 725-2955 to register by September 16, 1991. Bring flashlights, candles, and placards. Dress warmly and come ready to yell and sing! For more information call 725-2955.
- 21** Take Back the Night March, Winnipeg. Women-only march beginning at the Legislative Building. Women's social to follow at the West End Cultural Centre.
- 28** Celebration in honour of Millie Lamb, one of MACSW's founding members and a long-time activist. Poetry, music, theatre, refreshments and a cash bar. Ukrainian Labour Temple, 591 Pritchard Ave., Winnipeg at 7:30. Tickets \$10. Call 774-8573 for more information.
- 28** MACSW AGM (Continued) in Brandon. Room 107, Education Building, Brandon University, 1-5 p.m. Agenda: Proposed constitutional changes and election of new Provincial Coordinating Committee Members. Childcare available. Please call the Brandon Branch (725-2955) by Monday September 23 to make arrangements. (no exceptions).
- 29** Provincial Coordinating Committee meeting. Brandon, to follow AGM on Sunday. Room 107 Education Building, Brandon University. All PCC members planning to attend both and AGM and PCC please call Brandon Branch to arrange for overnight billets and to arrange child care if needed. (725-2955).