



AWARE

Winter 2004

Winter Greetings from the Centre....

Following a holiday break staff are returning to the AWRC with renewed energy to begin the winter program schedule. This year brings some familiar programs, as well as new ones and we look forward to getting started. Check our program schedule in this newsletter and watch *The*

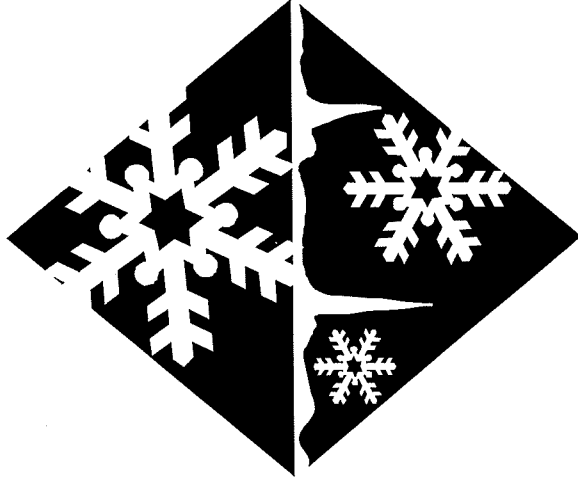
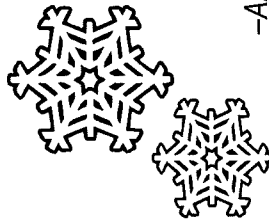
Casket newspapers for reminders of program dates.

If you have not been in to the AWRC this year, you are in for a surprise! A new hardwood floor has brightened up the space and made the floor much

more attractive.

We are very pleased with our new look and hope you will drop in for a visit.

—Amanda Workman



It is with stiff, frozen fingers that I write this greeting, on a morning with a -35 windchill. I am wearing a warm sweater, the furnace has been running all morning, I am on my second cup of coffee, but I cannot get warm. It is just too darn cold out!! Anyway, I digress...

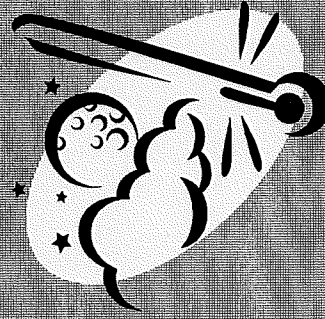
On these bitterly cold days it is nice to know that there is always a place to go to find warmth when you need it. Anytime you are running around downtown, stop into the centre to thaw out, share a warm cuppa with friends and perhaps browse through photos of the amazing 20th anniversary celebrations. These events were all

fabulous, and we were so happy to see everyone who turned out for them. Check out the reports inside for more details on the celebrations.

I hope everyone stays warm at heart, if not in body, and remember, "this too shall pass"!!

— Charlie ten Brinke

The "hot" topic of conversation these days is the weather! The frigid temperatures have caused many cancellations and are making life difficult for many people. Watch out for the wind-chill; unexposed skin can freeze in minutes! Dress warmly and stay safe!



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AWAre editor:

Charlie ten Brinke

Submissions to AWAre can be emailed to

aware__news@yahoo.ca

20 years of fabulous women...

AWA/AWRC 20th Anniversary Social Evening by Jean Crosby & Lucille Harper

On Friday evening an amazing group of women gathered at Silver Glen in Antigoniash for a social evening to celebrate and reminisce. Women of all ages travelled from near and far to reconnect with each other and to share memories of working together over the past two decades as members of the AWA and the AWRC. We shared great food, enjoyed the delicious company of women, celebrated our successes and laughed about our various trials and tribulations. It was wonderful to look about the room and to see Grace MacKinnon, our first AWA president, sitting among a group of the founding mothers – a courageous, visionary and intrepid group from whose table there rang much laughter. It was inspiring to see in one room many of the women who have contributed in countless ways to the social change work of the AWA and to building the AWRC – some of whom have moved to other parts of the province or country and some of whom remain and continue to work with us in Antigoniash. We were honoured that women returned to Antigoniash to celebrate with us just as we are honoured that women who are just now finding the AWA are choosing to work with us.

The atmosphere for the evening was set by a quintet of young women from St.F.X. Music Department who provided wonderful music. We thank Janis Dawson, Violin; Vera Martynkiw, Piano; Gill Merrit, Drums; Shannon Drall, Bass and Andrea Curry, vocals. One of the highlights of the evening was a dramatic reading created and

presented by Barbara Hayes, Deborah Chansomeuve and Yael Glück. They reflected upon “a passionate sisterhood” and through the recounting of their memories, they offered a perspective on some of the early events, conversations and struggles from which the AWA and AWRC emerged. As well, they read letters sent by women who could not return to Antigoniash for the event – letters of congratulations, letters remembering their involvement with the women’s movement in Antigoniash, letters about passionate sisterhood. Around the walls was a chronicle of some of the events, milestones, issues, and actions that have impacted and directed our work over the past twenty years. The growth of our organizations and the extent of our work in the community was visible in this trip down memory lane. It was a visual reminder of what we can do when we support each other in working for a world that is guided by women’s “politics of care, community, compassion, and connectedness” (Feminists for a Gift Economy). It was an evening that nurtured determination to continue to work for feminist social transformation.

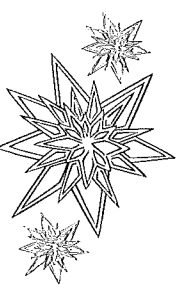
A Score for Women’s Voices chronicled the World March of Women 2000, when women from the world over organized to address issues of concern to women. The movie was shown at St. Francis Xavier University and provided organizers and participants opportunity to discover what women did in other communities and reflect on our own achievements here in Antigoniash. The Antigoniash Coalition for Economic Justice, the Sisters of St. Martha and other community-based

organizations worked tirelessly to organize vigils held weekly in front of the Town Hall designed to raise awareness about issues in Antigoniash. The movie was powerful and moving and provided viewers with a sense of local achievement within the larger world context. Sara Av Maat and Joanne Thompkins led a brief discussion after the movie about the local movement and in particular the contributions of Ed Miller, whose energy and organization were unparalleled. Anyone wishing to borrow the video for home viewing can contact the AWRC.

—*Amanda Workman*

Young Women’s Voices by Krista DeCoste

On Tuesday, November 18, 2003 approximately 114 people came out to the Dr. J.H. Gillis Regional to enjoy an evening **Celebrating Young Women’s Voices**. It was an evening to remember with harp, song, dancing and poetry. This event, under the direction of Krista DeCoste, was successful due to the dedication of the planning committee of young women comprised of: Ashley Cameron, Diana Diao, Betsy MacDonald, Clare Mulcahy, Lucy Wang, and two Canada World Youth participants, Sarah Bismella and Betty Boateng. Thanks to the creative skill of Keegan How the sound and lighting was spectacular. The brilliant performances highlighted the diversity of talent and culture of the young women of Antigoniash as well as valuing the connection the Antigoniash Women’s Center has made with many of these young women.



Feminism and Social Activism

by *Nancy Forestell*

As part of the 20th anniversary activities a workshop funded by the St.F.X. Centre for Regional Studies and co-sponsored by the Antigonish Women's Association and the St.F.X. Women's Studies Program was held on Saturday, 22 November, 2003. The workshop entitled, "**Looking Backward, Moving Forward:** **Feminism and Social Activism,**" explored past, current and future feminist activism in the local region. Attended by approximately 40 women the workshop included a panel discussion with past board members of the AWA/AWRC Angela Miles, Yael Glück, Sylvia Parris and Nancy Forestell who identified key successes and failures in local feminist activism over the past 20 years. Participants identified a number of central issues which need to be addressed such as including young women and their concerns in local initiatives, pursuing more consistently the goals of diversity within the AWA, retaining health and well-being while pursuing the seemingly never ending demands of social activism, and how to prioritize issues in a context of limited financial and human resources.

An Evening to Remember: AWA/AWRC's 20th Anniversary Cabaret

by *Katherine Reed*

What!? You missed it!? Well, we had a time, let me tell you...

Laura Smith was positively enchanting. Some of her songs are magical. Others move me to tears. Some are disturbing. But Laura is always funny, gracious, affectionate, and just lovely.

One of the things I love about Laura's music is that it has such integrity. You can strip out all the background lines, layers of orchestration, sophisticated recording techniques and when you have Laura sitting down with her acoustic guitar and a microphone, singing the songs that came out of her head and her heart, you get pretty much everything you ever got listening to her studio recordings... but you get so much more. This is not always the case with performers and I speak from experience in saying it is not easy for a performer to bring so much of themselves to a performance and an audience.

Nancy Wright taking on the persona of Ginette, a laid-off fish-plant worker was fall-down funny and very touching at times as well. Her accounts of quarreling with her husband "Leonard" over her sudden interest in saving the world by joining in protest marches was both hilarious and moving. "I've never spoken to Leonard like that in 20 years of marriage" she says sadly at the end of a rant wherein she is giving poor Leonard a blistering education on the grunt work involved in mothering and running a household.

Emmy Alcorn sang three of her own compositions in that beautiful, rich voice she seems to have ...dare I say it....inherited from her mom. It was lovely. She writes such interesting stuff and plays the piano extremely well.

Our emcee, Jane Kansas was entertaining, funny, and very nonsense-professional. She got through all the announcements, introductions, accolades, and appreciations without ever being too long-winded or uninteresting. This, my friends is not an easy thing to do. She also brought a good deal of historical information to the evening and some stimulating, and often hilarious, insights relating to it.

The St. F. X. dancers were absolutely beautiful and amazing. As they performed I was wishing that we could clear a huge space on the floor in the middle of the room, flood the place with coloured lights and let them go at it! I also was wishing they could have performed several other pieces. It's hard to get too much of that kind of thing, I find.

Ah well, if you missed it, please accept my heartfelt sympathy. The crowd of almost 200 people was a jubilant and very appreciative audience. The dancing, at the end of the evening to women's oldies like "Rise Up!" by the Parachute Club and "R.E.S.P.E.C.T." by Aretha was extremely satisfying. It was truly an evening to remember and I think it's safe to say that a good time was had by all. Take my advice: don't miss the next one. Would that be November of 2008?





Winter 2004 Programs



Check out the following Winter programs being offered at the Centre.

Women Supporting Women is a peer group designed to allow women to support each other through shared stories and experiences. Topics of discussion will be determined by participants who will meet for six weeks, starting Tuesday, February 3rd 2004, 9:30-11:30 am at the AWRC. Isabel Gillis, AWRC crisis support worker, will be facilitating the group.

Inspire, a peer group for young women, meets Thursday afternoons at the AWRC and will continue to do so throughout the school year. Young women aged 14-18 meet to talk about coping with the complexities of school, family and social relationships and health. The group is facilitated by Joni Mattie, volunteer and Amanda Workman, crisis support worker.

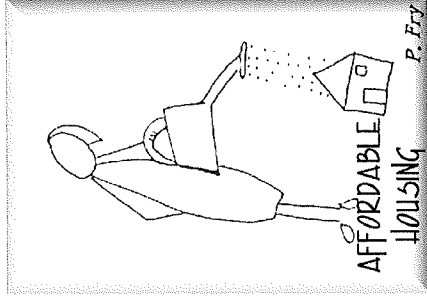
Students from the Dr. John Hugh Gillis Regional High School are currently being interviewed for the Teens Take Action program scheduled to begin training in March. This year's program has undergone revision, with the intention of engaging senior school peer educators as mentors for St. Andrew Junior School peer educators throughout the school year. Previously the program focused solely on the issue of dating violence and sexual assault and was a one time event presentation. The revised program will attempt to address a broader spectrum of issues. Krista Decoste has been engaged to co-ordinate the program and revise the training.

The Income Tax Preparation program for people with low income is set to begin February 2nd, 2004. Volunteers will fill out income tax forms for people with low income free of charge. Forms may be dropped off at the AWRC with a statement of income.

The On the Road to Employment program is scheduled to begin on February 9th, 2004. Interested women may contact Heather Carson or Gwen O'Neill at 863-3851. The 18 week program seeks to provide women with life and employment readiness skills.

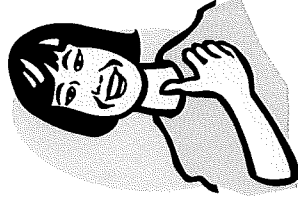
All programs offered at the AWRC are free of charge. For more information on any of our programs or services please call 863-6221

We are pleased to announce that Katherine Reed received a letter of congratulations from Health



Canada for the Affordable Housing project. Health Canada was very pleased with Katherine's work and wrote, "Wishing you continued success in your work for affordable housing for women in Antigonish". This was a project well-done!

Keep up the good work, Katherine!!



**Congratulations to
Lucille Harper on
completing her
Masters!! We are all so
proud of our Lucy!**

**It's that time of year
again... we will be raising
funds for the annual Sr.
Mary Macleod Bursary.
Watch for ticket sales and
help support continuing
education for women.**

Health Protection: Legislative Renewal and Women's Health

Health Canada is undertaking nation-wide consultations on proposed new health protection legislation. This exercise is part of its process to replace the Food & Drugs Act, the Hazardous Products Act, the Radiation Emitting Devices Act, and the Quarantine Act with a new Canada Health Protection Act. The proposed changes have implications for all Canadians and specific implications for women's health. Public health and environmental issues that will be affected by the changes include:

- * Direct-to-consumer advertising of prescription drugs
- * Drug regulation
- * Genetically modified and other "novel" foods
- * Drinking water
- * Communicable diseases
- * Confidentiality of safety data
- * Guiding principles of risk decision-making
- * Health protection issues in the context of international trade.

You can be a part of this

process! We strongly encourage you to consider registering for these hearings. There are two ways to register. You can call the office of Health Protection Legislative Renewal toll free at 1-888-288-2098 and request a copy of the report, Health and Safety First: A Proposal to Renew Federal Health Protection Legislation. Or you can also go to their site on the web: <http://renewal.hc-sc.gc.ca/>. Click the box on the left "To Participate" and then click #4: "Registration Form"

A similar proposal to the one now under review was first introduced by Health Canada in 1998, when previous public consultations were held. At that time, concern was expressed by a number of groups and individuals across the country including Women and Health Protection - that this attempt to renew the federal legislation was merely, a smoke screen for

deregulation and privatization. Some of the problems raised in the 1998 round of consultations have been addressed in this current proposal, but many concerns remain. Decide for yourself and let Health Canada know what you think. A copy of Health Canada's proposal (and technical background papers) are available on-line at:

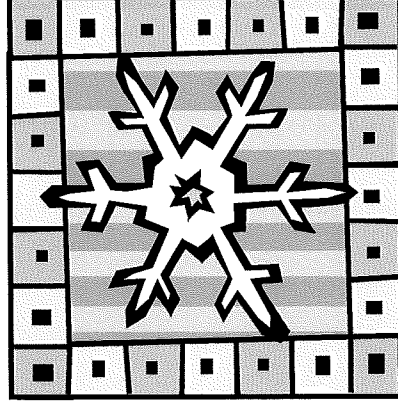
<http://renewal.hc-sc.gc.ca/> What do changes in health protection legislation mean for women's health? As Women and Health Protection has pointed out in a number of our publications (www.whp-apsf.ca) health protection policy and legislation have specific implications for women's health. As the major users of drugs and devices, women have historically experienced a disproportionate share of adverse drug events. In addition, women have not historically been properly represented in clinical trials, meaning that the effects of drugs on them are not well known. Yet, at the same time, women are the target of considerable prescription drug advertising aimed at consumers.

Medicalizing women's health issues has led to inappropriate prescribing on a massive scale (e.g. HRT for menopause) while new women's "diseases" are created in direct response to the development of new drugs (e.g. Pfizer's testing of a pink Viagra for female sexual dysfunction). The proposals for new health protection legislation now under review touch - directly and indirectly - on these and other issues of particular concern for women. We urge you to look at what is being proposed and also to visit our website for more details on some of these areas of concern for women's health.

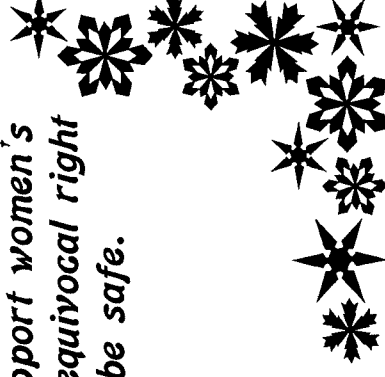
Women and Health Protection
P.O. Box 291, Station Q
Toronto, Ontario M4T 2M1

www.whp-apsf.ca

O9/2003



The AWA organized a Dec.6 commemoration Service for the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. The Naomi Society was invited to co-sponsor the event. The service was well-attended and was very moving for all present. Several women spoke to the sad and disturbing fact that male violence against women continues - largely unabated - on university campuses, in women's homes, in our communities. It is clear that the work of ending male violence against women must remain a priority. It can only be hoped that more will join the struggle to end male violence, including more of the men who support women's unequivocal right to be safe.



Web-bytes Bits 'n' bytes of the web to check out:

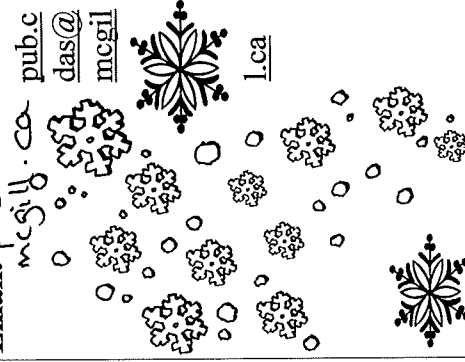
5 - 7 February 2004,
Montreal, Canada
Title: Conference
**"Gender and Human
Security"**
Host/Sponsor: Centre for
Developing-Area Studies
(CDAS), McGill
University
Details:

The McGill
University's Centre
for Developing-
Area Studies
(CDAS) is
organizing an
international
Conference on
Gender and Human
Security which will
address human
security from the
perspective of the
rights and needs of
people in societies
confronted by
political violence.
More details are
available on the
website.

Website:

<http://www.mcgill.ca/cdas>

Address: Center for
Developing-Area Studies
(CDAS), McGill
University, 3715 Peel
Street, Montreal (QC),
H3A 1X1 CANADA
Email: pub.cdas@mcgill.ca [pub.c](mailto:pub.cdas@mcgill.ca)



The following was taken off the Unicef website on the value of educating girls:

Fact: Why It Matters

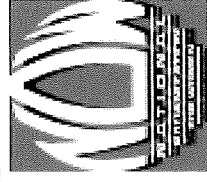
The report shows that girls denied an education are more vulnerable to poverty, hunger, violence, abuse, exploitation and trafficking. They are more likely to die in childbirth and are at greater risk of disease, including HIV/AIDS.

But according to *The State of the World's Children*, the positive impact of educating girls is equally dramatic: As mothers, educated women are more likely to have healthy children, and more likely to ensure that their children, both boys and girls, complete school.

"A child's lack of education not only limits her individual potential, but dramatically reduces hope that her children will be able to escape a lifetime of poverty and hardship," Bellamy said. "That's why UNICEF recognizes this issue as crucial to the entire development agenda. It prevents the loss of vast amounts of human potential."

In example after example, the UNICEF report details how bringing down the barriers that keep girls out of school makes schools more welcoming for boys as well as girls. Those barriers include schools that are too far from home, lack clean water and separate toilet facilities, and where the threat of violence is ever-present in and around the schoolyard.

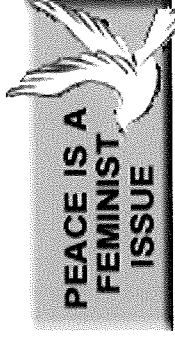
"This is not about choosing to put girls into classrooms instead of boys," Bellamy emphasized. "It's about approaching a key development challenge with strategy, sensitivity, and smarts. The things that get more girls into school, and keep them there, are the things that make schools better. And they make development efforts better, too."



NOW=
National
Organization for
Women

<http://www.now.org/issue/s/peace/index.html>

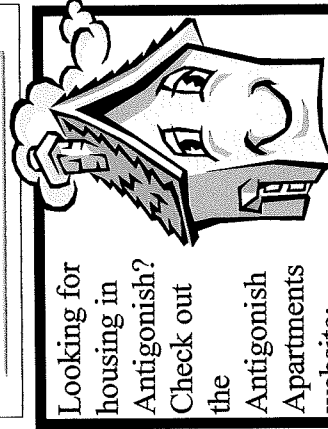
NOW's Progressive
Feminist Agenda for
Peace:



* Expose the connection between militarism and violence against women, including domestic violence and military-sponsored rape.

* Call for an increase in funding for domestic social services and curtail enormous increases in defense spending

* Support population assistance programs to reduce worldwide



<http://www.antigonishapartments.com/>

The following email was written last fall by Sharon MacDonald while on a work placement in Ethiopia. It has been reprinted with

Greetings again. In the spirit if the recent Thanksgiving Holiday you Canadians celebrated, I would like to list in this e-mail all the things I am grateful for.

These have come to my attention while living in Ethiopia (a country ranked 169 out of 175 countries - Canada is # 8) in the last two months. Malaria is very prevalent here; almost everyone has it or has had it. Every day the conversation is about who is sick, who is worse/better, etc. Mary and I are very scared of becoming sick, but we are taking all possible precautions. In this past week alone, four Karayu people have died from malaria. Not much else is new here; Mary and I bought a couple of bikes for cheap - the first couple times out several parts popped off but nothing too important, just my brake and pedal. We enjoy having something new to do and one day we biked the 18 km to the tiny town of Metahara.

THINGS I AM THANKFUL FOR:

My health. I am thankful that I am healthy in Ethiopia and have access in Canada to vaccines and medications, and that neither me or my loved ones ever need to suffer or die from a disease (like malaria) that could otherwise be prevented or cured.

My education. Especially at the university level. I am thankful that I choose what school to go to and what program to study and that the Canadian government had programs to help me pay for my education.

Self-empowerment. I am thankful that even as a female, I am strong,

independent and have the power to control my own life. I am thankful that I can receive an education, provide my own income from my own job and not have to be scared that I will be forced into any marriage I don't want to be. I will never be the second or third or fourth wife of a man, or forced to stay at home and take care of numerous children and do all the work in the home.

The Canadian government. I am thankful that our government is fully democratic and not corrupt. I am thankful that everyone has a vote and elections are not tampered with. I am thankful that the Canadian government has programs in place such as health and education, welfare, unemployment, etc. and that I never have to fear imprisonment for speaking my own views.

Canada, my country. I am thankful for the large amount of land, access to water, small population, thriving primary industries, availability of work, four different seasons, being famine and drought-free, access to...everything.

My culture. I am thankful that my culture does not practice female genital mutilation, polygamy or other harmful traditions. I am thankful that my culture is quite open and accepting.

Clean, running water that I can wash and drink from the tap without being fearful of cholera or some other water-borne disease, and electricity 24/7 back home in Canada.

Mary, the other intern. I am thankful that I have Mary here



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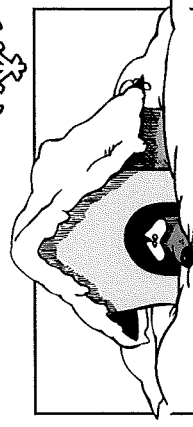
with me to laugh with, cry with and share this experience with. She is the one person who, upon returning to Canada, can truly understand what this time was like and how much it has affected me.

My family and friends. I am thankful for my loved ones back home who continue to support me in whatever I do and are always there for me. I am thankful that I am not responsible for sending my paycheck home to my family, as so many of my co-workers here are, and that they are all healthy and self-supporting.

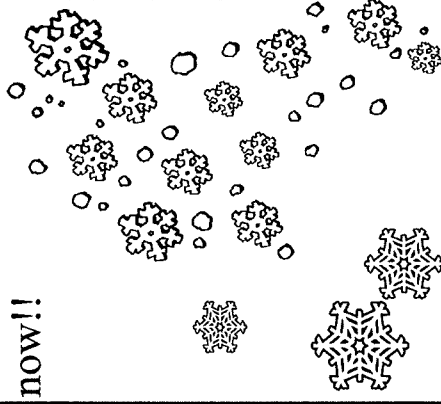
This opportunity. I am so thankful that I could do this internship as it has opened my eyes and heart, and has challenged me to really think about who I am and what I can do for others.

Sharon

c/o Gudina Tumsa Foundation;
P.O. Box 4003 Addis Ababa;
Ethiopia



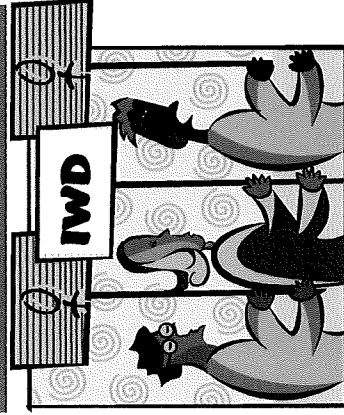
Who shall be in the doghouse?
Hmmm... who has not sent in their reports??
If you don't want to be listed here, start working on your spring submission now!!



IWD- International Women's Day

8 March, 2004

Watch for announcements in late February about our fabulous annual International Women's Day Celebration. The IWD Committee will soon begin the planning. If anyone has a suggestion about what sort of event they would like to have, or if anyone would like to be on the committee or help with the event, please call Katherine at 863-5212. All we know at this point is that we will be having F.U.N. on I.W.D.!



*Some on-line
IWD fun:*

Send an IWD e-card to the women you know to remind them to attend the gatherings:
<http://www.isis.au.st.com/postcards/>

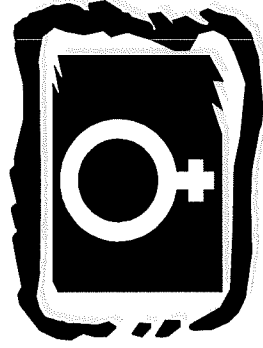
"Because We're Women"

written by Australian Feminist

*Joyce Stevens
in the early 1970's*

BECAUSE WOMAN'S WORK IS UNPAID OR UNPAID & WHAT WE LOOK LIKE IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN WHAT WE DO & IF WE RAPED IT'S OUR FAULT & IF WE LOVE WOMEN IT'S BECAUSE WE CAN'T GET A REAL MAN & IF WE EXPECT COMMUNITY CARE FOR OUR FAMILY WE ARE SELFISH & IF WE STAND UP FOR OUR RIGHTS WE ARE LOUD & IF WE DON'T WE ARE TYPICAL WEAK FEMALES & IF WE WANT TO GET MARRIED WE ARE OUT TO TRAP A MAN & IF WE DON'T WE ARE UNNATURAL & BECAUSE WE AREN'T DEEMED RESPONSIBLE ENOUGH TO DECIDE IF, WHEN AND HOW WE WANT TO GIVE BIRTH ..

WE ARE FEMINISTS



"I can't change my sex. But you can change your policy."

Helen Kirkpatrick (1940), on being told a newspaper didn't have women on its foreign affairs staff, in Julia Edwards, *Women of the World* (1988).

International Women's Day by *Marian Sawyer*

Planning is well under way for the celebration of International Women's Day around Australia - now in fact a week of activities centred on 8 March. IWD has taken on an increasingly 'official' character over the last twenty years, despite its subversive origins.

In 1975 Gough Whitlam was the first Australian Prime Minister to launch an IWD - the year it was also first officially celebrated by the United Nations. Government agencies put out calendars of events and government leaders are anxious to appear at them (John Howard may be an exception - his IWD commitments have yet to be revealed).

So what are these subversive origins? A widespread myth, now turning up on IWD home pages on the internet, is that:

It was on this day in 1857 that women employed in New York's textile and garment industry marched to protest about low wages and poor working conditions. Fifty-one years later, on 8 March 1908, these workers again called a strike - thousands marched to condemn child labour and to agitate for women's right to vote and for safe working conditions.

The only problem is that, as US academic Temma Kaplan has detailed in *Feminist Studies* (Spring 1985), no evidence can be found for either of these events. The story about the 1857 strike can be tracked back only to the

1950s, when it surfaced among French Communist circles in Paris. It is believed the story was invented to detach IWD from Soviet history.

The real historical strike was a general strike of shirtwaist workers in New York which lasted from November 1909 to mid-February 1910 and led to an upsurge in female unionism. More than 20 000 were involved and women maintained pickets outside factories in Lower Manhattan throughout these freezing winter months. More than 700 were arrested and others were clubbed or verbally abused. It had nothing to do with the origins of IWD.

It was German socialist Clara Zetkin who was the real mother of IWD. In 1907 she had organised an International Conference of Socialist Women and called for all socialist parties to fight energetically for women's suffrage. Zetkin was bitterly opposed to bourgeois feminism and wanted to ensure that working class women were not lured away from their class movement by default. Socialist parties had been too ready to accept manhood suffrage in place of universal suffrage. The conference participants, including Alexandra Kollontai, discussed demonstrating to publicise their support for women's equality.

In 1908 Branch Number 3 of the New York City Social Democratic Women's Society took up the call by organising a mass meeting on women's suffrage on 8 March. The following year the American Socialist Party declared the last Sunday in February to be National Woman's Day. In 1910, at the Second International Conference of Socialist Women in Copenhagen, Zetkin proposed that there be an International Woman's Day and this was celebrated by European socialists for the first time on 19 March 1911.

Russian socialist women

followed suit from 1913, celebrating IWD like the American socialists on the last Sunday in February. In Petrograd on 23 February 1917 an IWD demonstration by women textile workers turned into bread riots and then into the February revolution. The fact that 23 February on the old Russian calendar corresponded to 8 March on the Western calendar adopted after the revolution set the date for the Soviet celebrations of IWD from 1918.

From 1922 Clara Zetkin headed the International Women's Secretariat of the Communist International in Moscow and IWD became an official Communist holiday. It became International Women's Day (plural) after the Second World War.

The first Australian IWD rally took place on 25 March 1928 in the Sydney Domain, organised by the Militant Women's Movement of the Communist Party of Australia. Those attending included Edna Ryan, who died last week. The rally featured the demand for equal pay which was to become the focus of her life-long feminist activism. From 1931 IWD marches were held in Sydney and Melbourne. Although they were led by women, the majority of participants were male communists.

In 1936, reflecting the new 'popular front' strategy of the Comintern, non-Communist women's groups were invited to participate in the Sydney IWD Committee for the first time. Other States followed suit and by 1938 the groups involved in the Perth IWD Committee ranged from the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom to the Young Women's Christian Association, the Association of University Women and the National Council of Women. After the Second World War

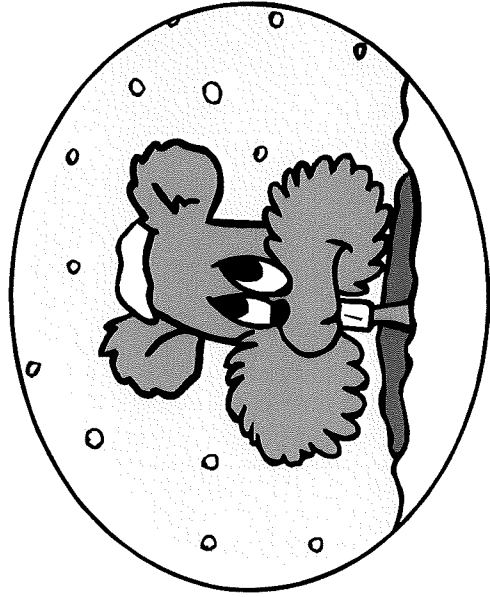
this kind of co-operation was disrupted by cold-war tensions and IWD once again became largely a Communist event, marked by small meetings, luncheons and concerts.

The Union of Australian Women, initiated by the Communist party in 1950, attempted to revive IWD and became its custodian in the 1950s and 1960s - a story well told by Barbara Curthoys in the recently published history of the UAW, *More Than a Hat and Glove Brigade*. Street rallies were hard to organise due to the attitude of State and local authorities, but UAW members sometimes engaged in peace walks with slogans printed on aprons or shopping bags. Closely watched by ASIO, UAW organised IWD functions featuring international themes and involving other women's groups.

In the 1970s the big street marches of women's liberation arrived and new open-ended collectives took over IWD, displacing the hat and glove brigade. Eva Bacon, a UAW stalwart, has told a poignant story of the 1976 Brisbane IWD. Washed out by a torrential downpour, women's liberation activists rescheduled the rally, forgetting to tell the UAW: 'Many of us regretted that we were not told... it was nevertheless good that IWD was honoured publicly'.

Today IWD is characterised by a mixture of celebration and stocktaking. There is an increasing emphasis on breakfasts - reflecting the tight schedules of many of those participating, particularly those with money to donate to aid projects for women. It has certainly come a long way from its origins - which is no reason to mystify them.

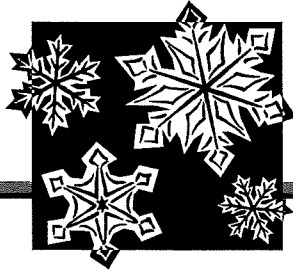
* Marian Sawer is Associate Professor in Politics at the University of Canberra
This article was published in the *Canberra Times* on 17 February 1997.



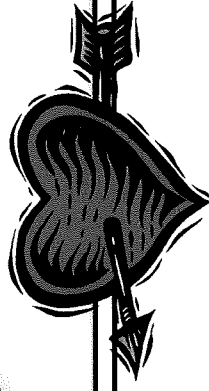
HAPPY GRUNTING DAY!

AWRC Staff:

Lucille Harper
Amanda Workman
Isabel Gillis
Vangie Babin
Christine Hanlon
Katherine Reed
Heather Carson
Gwen O'Neill
Jean Crosby
Jackie Jacques
Krista deCoste
Anrika Peters
John Jantunen
Patrick Tamao



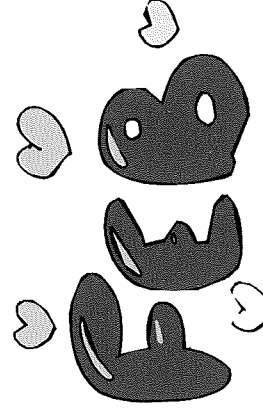
You deserve
to be queen
for a day!



2004 Board of Directors:

Elsa Arbuthnot
Nancy Forestell
Karen Kenny
Donna MacDonald
Heather Mayhew
Catherine Meery
Lynn O'Donnell
Maureen Shebib
Charlie ten Brinke
Mary Turay

This Valentine's Day, do something sweet for YOU - and this doesn't need to include chocolate! Make sure you read the article on fair-trade chocolate on the last page - it is a real eye-opener!



Hope you can avoid the
flu this winter!
Stay healthy!

Special thanks go to
Jesse, Jaime & Kieran
for their napping
cooperation, without
which this newsletter
would not be possible!



On a lighter note... HA HA HA HA HA

Sitting

Finally.
I sit down on the cold white seat...
A moment to myself.
Instantly I hear the doorknob jiggle-
Did I remember to lock it?
Little hands pound on the door... I smile and think, yes I did!
I hear a little voice say, "Mommy, you in dere?"
I roll my eyes; "no."
Then bigger feet come running...

There is a pounding on the door and a frantic life-or-death cry of "Mommy I need you to fix the VCR!"
"Give me a minute."

I sigh.
I make a mental note to have the room searched for bugs...

There must be something in there for as soon as I enter, my children panic.
It is chaos, mayhem, fear-the apocalypse is near because mom is out of sight.

Do they think I'll never return?
I contemplate it, look around and decide against it.

I'll need another coffee.
After all, it's 7am and it's been a long day.

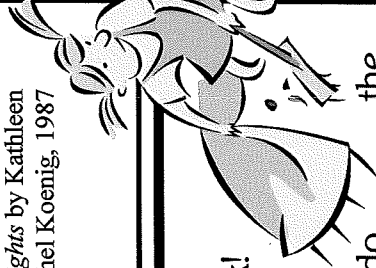
~Charlie
ten Brinke



As women, our historical role has been to clean up the mess.
Whether it's the mess left by war or death or children or sickness. I think the violence you see in plays by women is a direct reflection of that historical role. We are not afraid to look under the bed, or to wash the sheets; we know that life is messy. We know that somebody has to clean it up, and that only if it is cleaned up can we hope to start over, and get better.

— **Marsha Norman**

(1947-; American arts administrator, playwright; Pulitzer; Tony, 1983, 1991), in *Interviews with Contemporary Women Playwrights* by Kathleen Betsko and Rachel Koenig, 1987



I hate housework!
You make the beds, you do the dishes - and six months later you have to start all over again.

- **Joan Rivers**

Wrong Monday

First the alarm is mute. Forgot the plunger.
I discover the milk is sour right after I pour it on the cereal. I pad to the door stepping into what the cat threw up. I clean the floor and then my hands smell bad. Washing them I splash my blouse and have to change. After driving for an hour I remember I forgot to pack underwear and the speech I'm paid to give. The next sign I see is ROAD CONSTRUCTION NEXT 144 MILES. At that moment stalled in traffic, my period starts.

—**Marge Piercy**
(Available Light)

The following is an email recently sent to board members- this applies to you too!

If you think you are off the hook...

think again!! [insert evil laugh here]

I know, I know... the meeting cancellation had nothing to do with the flu or winter road conditions- the real reason tonight's meeting was cancelled was because you were all dreading the fact that I would be hounding you again for newsletter submissions. Well, you're right. However, the cancellation does

nothing to stop my hounding- thanks to good ol' email! So here it is, naptime- the only possible quiet moment I may have to format all those great submissions.... and low and behold, my inbox is empty! Could it be? Perhaps the frigid temperatures have caused the internet lines to freeze.... I'm sure SOMEONE must have something to say!!

So, everyone who is on a committee (and everyone should be on a committee) send me an update either on a recently held event (like the 20th anniversary events) or an upcoming event. Who's planning IWD? Can we get a one-liner about that? It doesn't have to be a massive article- I'm happy with a few one-liners here and there or a short paragraph about something.

Because you know, if you guys don't send me interesting stuff, I'll have to fill the pages myself... and all I have to write about these days are runny noses and dirty diapers!!

OK- I'll stop for now.... I hope to hear from you soon!!!!

~ Charlie

Valentine's Day & fair-trade chocolate

THOUGHTS FOR VALENTINE'S DAY

Chocolate is basically my favourite food group. You can imagine how delighted I was to discover that it's loaded with antioxidants. Given that cocoa butter is one of the more benign fats, it began to seem that, if careful to get chocolate with lower levels of sugar and no palm oil added, I could stop feeling guilty and just enjoy my habit.

But then, just before Christmas, I read an article that stopped me in my tracks. Apparently much of the world's chocolate is harvested by child slaves. According to the U.S. State Department, some 15,000 children aged 9-12 have been sold into forced labour on cotton, coffee, and cocoa plantations in the Ivory Coast in recent years. These children and young people are often locked up at night, and beaten if they try to leave. They work in hazardous conditions using machetes and applying pesticides without proper protection. Many of the children do not come from Ivory Coast, but from even poorer neighbouring countries such as Mali, Burkina Faso, Benin, and Togo. Their parents often think

there's nothing **about**
CHILD SLAVE LABOR
in the **cocoa fields**

they are sending their child for an apprenticeship or educational experience. They do not realize they are being taken to work on plantations, or in mines, or that they may be abused as domestics.

What to do? Well one part seemed obvious. Start buying only Fair Trade chocolate. Fair Trade guarantees a minimum price per pound and access to credit for farmers, supports sustainable growing methods and prohibits forced labour.

But what about the children who are not from Ivory Coast? What would they do if released? Do they even have homes to go to? Apparently groups such as the International Labour Organization and UNICEF are working along with governments in those countries to educate parents of the risks, provide micro credit to women so they can afford to keep their children in school, and to reintegrate former child slaves back into their communities.

The two best websites I've found so far are:

www.globalexchange.org/cocoa (re Fair Trade) and <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/h/standardipec/publ/field/africa/central.pdf> (a report by the International Labour Organization).

Fair Trade chocolate is available in Antigonish at the Sunflower and Café B2G, and in Halifax at Ten Thousand Villages and The Grainery Food Co-op. If anyone would like to talk to me about starting a Fair Trade chocolate campaign in Antigonish (lobbying processors to buy more Fair Trade product at Fair Trade prices, educating the public, etc.) I'd be delighted to hear from you.

SARA AVMAAT 863-0898

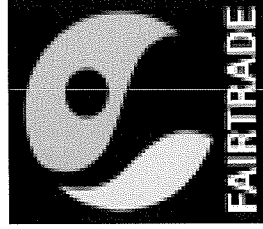
For more information on fair-trade chocolate, check out the following websites:

<http://www.globalmarch.org/fairchocolate/>

<http://www.connectionsmagazine.bc.ca/currentissue/art/chocolate.html>

<http://www.radicalthought.org/>

<http://www.stopchildlabor.org/internationalchildlabor/chocolate.htm>



"When (people) eat chocolate, they are eating my flesh." **Drissa** (above) was forced to work as a slave on a cocoa plantation in Cote d'Ivoire

Happy Valentine's Day