

**!W.A.R.
SEPTEMBER 11, 2011**

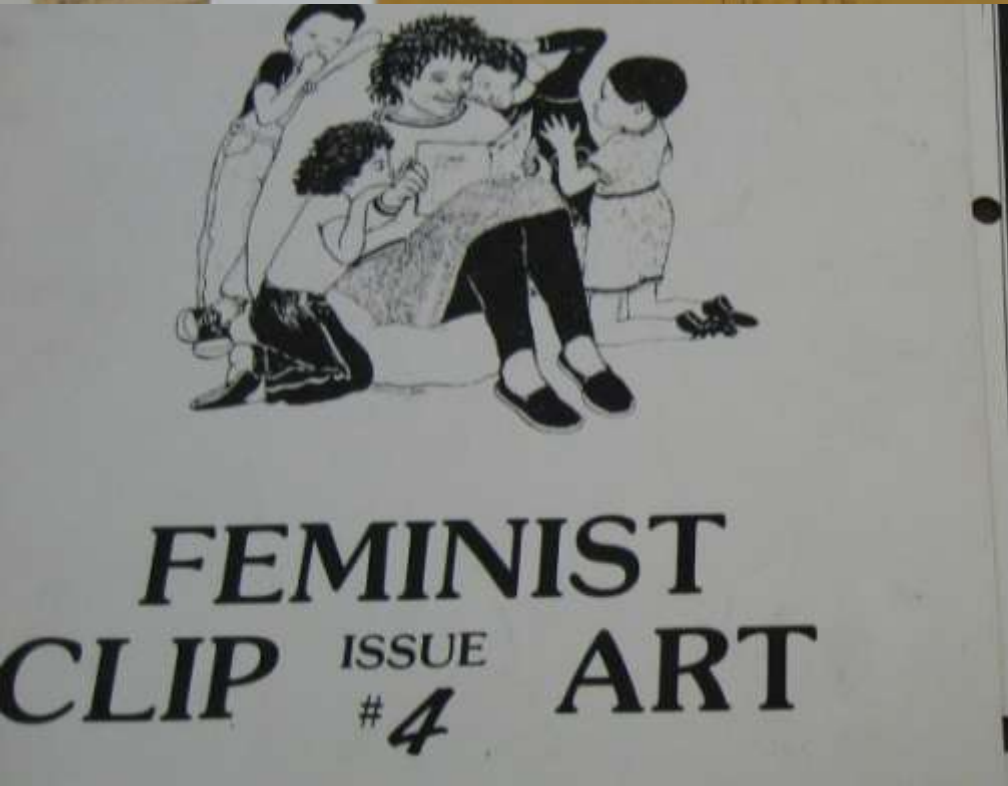
–

Wednesday Lupypciw,
Sharon Stevens,
Sandra Vida,
Michelle Wong

Calgary
Feminist
committee
action
Women
Women
women
Sisters
Control
Birth
Collective
Planned
status
Sistren
Watering
Politicized
Reclaim
milk
Non
colour
herland
Alberta
Sexual
hierarchical
Perspectives
Health
Kiss
ire
tell
Ladies
Planned
status
Sistren
Watering
Politicized
Reclaim
milk
Consensus
forward
looking
Parenthood
Night
become
feminist
Status
film



When artist Lisa Brawn came on the scene we could quit using feminist clip art



Lesbian fest funded with lotto board dough

If there was a political bill for the opposition in the air — and if it were like a graphic returned from a province — it's been unanimously **Artist's Board:**

March 6 day comes by that the province passed at the legislature when the *Liberal* and *New Democrat* are in their first meeting of the *Alberta* *Board* of all members of

the Alberta *constitution*. **Alison** said: "The *stark* example of this government is *shocked* — *politicians* can't be seen to *eliminate* the *constitution* to *defeat* *boards*." **Klein's** *past* *involvement* is to say that *nothing* but *of* *making*



Neil Waugh
The Legislature

retired what a *are*, "he

turned out, *CEOs* *bottom* of the list," *set* *right* at the *kick* *off* for the folks *Klein* *normal* *Albertans* " *whereas* *with* *My* *which* *the* *Herland* *run* *describes* *as* *working* *woman* *up*. *Are* *you* *a* *ry* *dyke*, *corpo* *go* *guru*? *Call*

ified *The* *Cho* *rate* *too* *high*

Then there's a *stark* subject *called* *Watching* *Lesbians* *Porn* *where* *we're* *told* "Ginger *Discovery* *and* *Lucky* *Chops* *go* *at* *it*." *And* *the* *apparent* *highlight* *of* *the* *fest* *is* *a* *panel* *discussion* *of* *female* *to* *male* *transsexuals* " *called* "You *Don't* *know* *Dick*." *The* *moderator*, *Christine*, *is* *described* *as* *a* "self-employed *businesswoman*, *activist* *and* *father* *who* *lives* *in* *Calgary* *with* *her* *cock* *or* *spaniel*." *And* *all* *this* *and* *much*, *much* *more* *is* *brought* *to* *Alberta* *taxpayers*

ers starting next *Tuesday* by your *friends* *and* *neighbors* *at* *the* *Calgary* *Community* *Lottery* *Board* — *or* *what* *a* *lot* *of* *it* *is* *the* *last* *remaining* *staff* *member* *is* *in* *the* *process* *of* *packing* *up* *the* *files* *and* *shipping* *them* *back* *to* *the* *provincial* *government*.

"We're not getting into the *political* *fray*," *insisted* *CELT* *spokesman* *Clare* *MacLeod*. "But it was *disappointing* *and* *a* *shock* *the* *board* *has* *been* *disbanded*."

MacLeod confirmed the *Herland* *festival* *got* *a* *\$10,000* *grant* *last* *September*, *the* *third* *such* *transfer* *of* *lottery* *funds*.

And the *audit* *had* *an* *application* *for* *another* *\$10,000* *before* *the* *board* *when* *the* *hammer* *came* *down* *last* *month*.

Last year's grant was to hire a *person* *specifically* *to* *figure* *out* *how* *to* *get* *more* *government* *grants*, *Herland* *spokesman* *Sharon* *Stevens* *revealed*.

"The *Calgary* *lottery* *board* *fit* *for* *us* *because* *they* *do* *offer* *funding* *in* *that* *kind* *of* *creative* *way*," *he* *said*.

Or *thankfully*, *did* *offer* *funding*. *MacLeod* *said* *her* *friend* *was* "obviously *quite* *horrified*" *when* *the* *program* *got* *charged*, *and* *she* *defeated* *the* *board's* *budget* *of* *Calgary's* *institution* *film* *festival*.

"If you look at any *funding* *program* *and* *dig* *deep* *enough*, *you* *will* *find* *bad* *grants*," *she* *said*.

"You can find *controversy* *in* *every* *grant*. *That* *doesn't* *necessarily* *mean* *it* *was* *a* *bad* *grant*."

"It may mean you *may* *not* *disagree* *with* *the* *focus* *of* *the* *agency* *or* *what* *they're* *doing*," *MacLeod* *explained*.

"That wasn't our *mandate*. *The* *provincial* *government* *were* *the* *ones* *who* *told* *us* *what* *we* *were* *doing*."

Including, you *have* *to* *assume*, *the* *grammatical* *error* *of* *Ginger* *Discovery* *and* *Lucky* *Chops*.

It *is* *in* *what* *the* *lottery* *boards* *were* *all* *about*, *then* *thank* *you* *Ralph* *Klein* *for* *filling* *them*.

And *get* *back* *to* *fixing* *sewer* *roofs*.

Herland-ish!

Public dough used to front feminist festival at library

One of the most interesting things about the Herland festival is that it's funded by the lottery board. The festival is a feminist festival that's been going on for a while now. It's a festival that's been going on for a while now. It's a festival that's been going on for a while now.



Nick Bell

Herland-ish! The festival is a feminist festival that's been going on for a while now. It's a festival that's been going on for a while now. It's a festival that's been going on for a while now.

There is one film "on the psychological and spiritual dynamics of *Manon* *Bois* *role* *play* *in* *dyke* *relationships*." Sixty *age* *play* *with* *a* *mother* *lesbian* *category* *a* *wild* *energetic* *boy* *in* *the* *lesbian* *parade*."

I wonder if my *body* *from* *the* *Ray* *James*, *the* *alderman* *on* *the* *community* *lottery* *board*, *will* *be* *catching* *this* *last* *Sick*.

There is another "pernographic parody" where two characters, *Ginger* *Discovery* *and* *Lucky* *Chops*, "go *at* *it*" and there is "a *deadpan* *delivery* *of* *posters* *for* *lesbians* *sexual* *harassment*."

Flipping through the program, I notice the *funny* *face* *of* *Stiller*. *Joe* *Coel*, *an* *alderman* *known* *to* *be* *a* *real* *tipster*. I expect our *senior* *Joe* *to* *be* *frank* *now* *cause* *that* *night*.

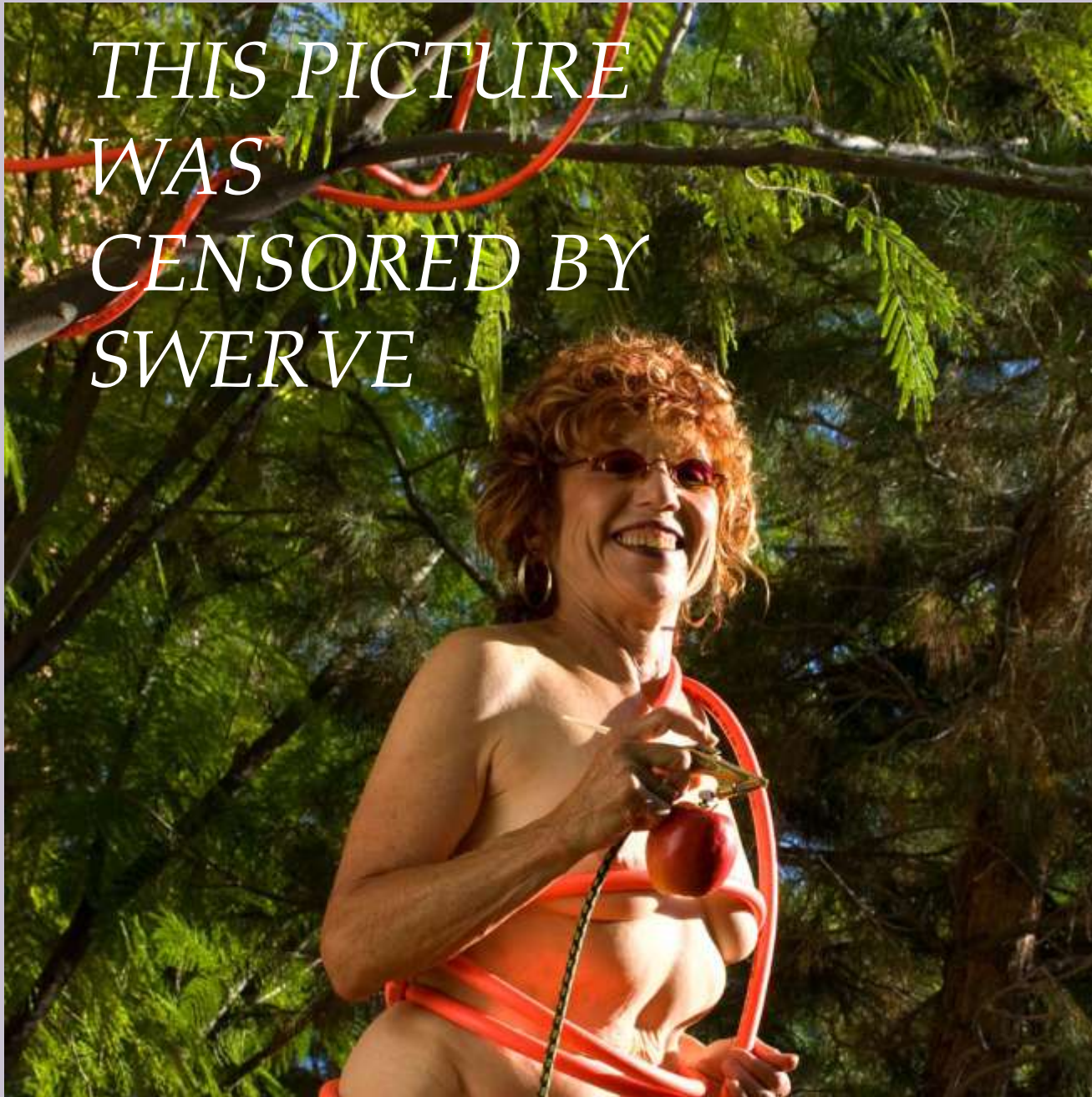
Since you're paying the *paper*, you can catch the *line*. Check out the *music* *video* *of* *a* "sassy *lesbian* *seduction* *in* *a* *leatherman*" or *eyeball* *another* *arty* *offering* *with* "lesbian *com*

April 28, 2002

Letter from the Minister wishing CSWAC success in their endeavours to raise minimum wage.



THIS PICTURE
WAS
CENSORED BY
SWERVE



Judy
with a
V And the
“V” stands
for victory,
folks. If you
look at the
roll call
of rebellious
women
with a cause



you'll find Eve, Joan of Arc and Virginia Woolf. At the head of the table sits Judy Chicago, whose 1975 masterpiece *The Dinner Party* knocked the socks off the art world. She's still fighting to get women's work the respect it deserves, challenging Calgarians with her new show, *If Women Ruled the World*.

written by Jacquie Moore, Swerve



Rituals Pass Knowledge of Sexuality from one Generation to the Next

Recently, when Melanie turned 12, she had her first period. Her mother, Sharon Stevens, hosted a menstruation celebration to mark the event by inviting her women friends to a party at her home. Melanie was welcome to invite one of her own friends, but chose not to.

"She thought it was sort of scary at first and just went along with it," Sharon explains. "She's embarrassed about our old times." But the reason for the celebration—the beginning of Melanie's menstrual cycle—was an important point in her life that her mother wanted to mark, so the party was held.

"When women get together, they talk about their first period or their first sexual experience, how horrendous or how enlightening it was because they didn't know very much," Sharon was determined it would be different for her daughter.

"I wanted to celebrate menstruation, the idea that if a girl, for about three days before her period starts, there was some kind of glow about her. That gave me some ideas. I was sitting on the deck when she came in the yard—the put her hand on the back gate and I looked at her across the pool. Instantly we both knew that we both knew—open to wonderful moments of mother-daughter communication. I made a big deal of it. I wanted to celebrate not just the beginning of menstruation, but mother-daughter stuff and young women's connection with older women. I believe other people have something to contribute in how my kids are raised."

The party created a safe environment in which Melanie was welcome to speak to other women about what it was like to have their first period.

"She wasn't hearing just my story. She learned about it from my friends, women that she knows who know her pretty well. There's an exchange of information from other generations to Melanie."

"The party was structured so that the women for the celebration wouldn't be lost in silliness. There was silliness and seriousness. Some people brought gifts for Melanie, like black pants, jeans for a room-quake store. Then we watched an old like called *Cramps*—it was a good laugh."

"We made good art. I put out a cardboard poster, punch, tempers, sanitary supply paraphernalia—Mabel and wrap-ups from sanitary pads—and some paint. Everybody painted. We found not just how beautiful pads really are." One of Sharon's friends gave Melanie a copy of an affirmation that said, *I accept my difference and welcome myself as female, powerful, as normal and natural. I love and appreciate myself.*

"The really got what the celebration was about. It wasn't necessarily just a celebration of menstruation, but of our bodies." The girls were followed by a ritual led by Gerri Lujan. "She started by creating a circle with symbols for earth, south, east and west. For earth, which represents earth, she had a clay pot, a symbol of stability."

"South is water, a symbol of no woman and creativity. For east, she burned sage—a symbol of spirit, the symbol of masculine and different ways of knowing. West was a candle—representing passion and energy."

"We passed hands in a energy circle and Gerri gave each of the members of the group had a red and a white candle. We lit the red candle one at a time, identifying our strengths, our needs and our wounds."

"Then we lit the white candles, which represented spirit. The queen was, like, symbol our spirit, so we all lit her candle. We passed white candles around, saying, this is a symbol of my body, blood of my wombhood. In paper ritual, they use menstruation blood, but we used red wine."

"We passed each other's hands with red wine. Once they were all heavily red, we lit the party. As one girl stepped back to the front, they spoke of something significant to them. It didn't necessarily pertain to the menstruation celebration, but to breaking free from patriarchal society that dominates our world. There was a toast to Melanie and to ourselves."

"I wanted to depict the symbols of what they might be



Illustration by Julie, Melanie's younger sister

"I think Melanie will be comfortable in her own sexuality... She feels comfortable with the natural flow of what goes on in women's bodies. I think she'll feel confident and assertive enough to not have sex if she's not ready."

hearing at school by having parties like this and having open, frank discussions with the kids. I just want them to know."

Sharon feels that Melanie benefited from the experience of having a safe place to discuss the changes in women's bodies.

"There was an obvious, immediate reaction. She went into grade seven this year—a whole year ahead. Her world definitely changed. An eight-year-old and got used to the new system, she was really confident, poised, stood up straight, was cooperative with her friends and her teachers. There's a little about her that exudes confidence," Sharon explains that she doesn't but hardly blame Melanie about being so confident, but she totally agrees with her comments.

"I don't want to think about it. She doesn't try to check, it's not my body. I'm happy with it. I really believe that she is very happy with it. I don't know how much of that can be put down to the ritual and celebration, but I think it had a good deal to do with it."

"They did sexual education in the first part of the school year and had a film on menstruation. Melanie said the whole class was nervous and giggly. She noticed that but didn't feel embarrassed herself. I think that has something to do with the ritual—she had already talked to a lot of other people about menstruation. It was brought out of the closet." The importance of the menstruation ritual lies in with sexuality, with being comfortable with our bodies, Sharon says.

"I think Melanie will be comfortable in her own sexuality, because she feels comfortable with her body, with the natural flow of what goes on in women's bodies. I think she'll feel confident and assertive enough to not have sex if she's not ready."

Although Sharon doesn't have plans to mark every event in her daughters' lives with celebrations, she appreciates ritual and tries to introduce it as appropriate times in her life.

"It's really powerful. It usually happens at a point where I need some kind of boost, some connection to my women friends. I want to have a new kind of celebration, the Christmas-Easter thing is not what I think is but I still have a need for some kind of ritual and celebration. It seems to me completely female."

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The Weekly Newsmagazine

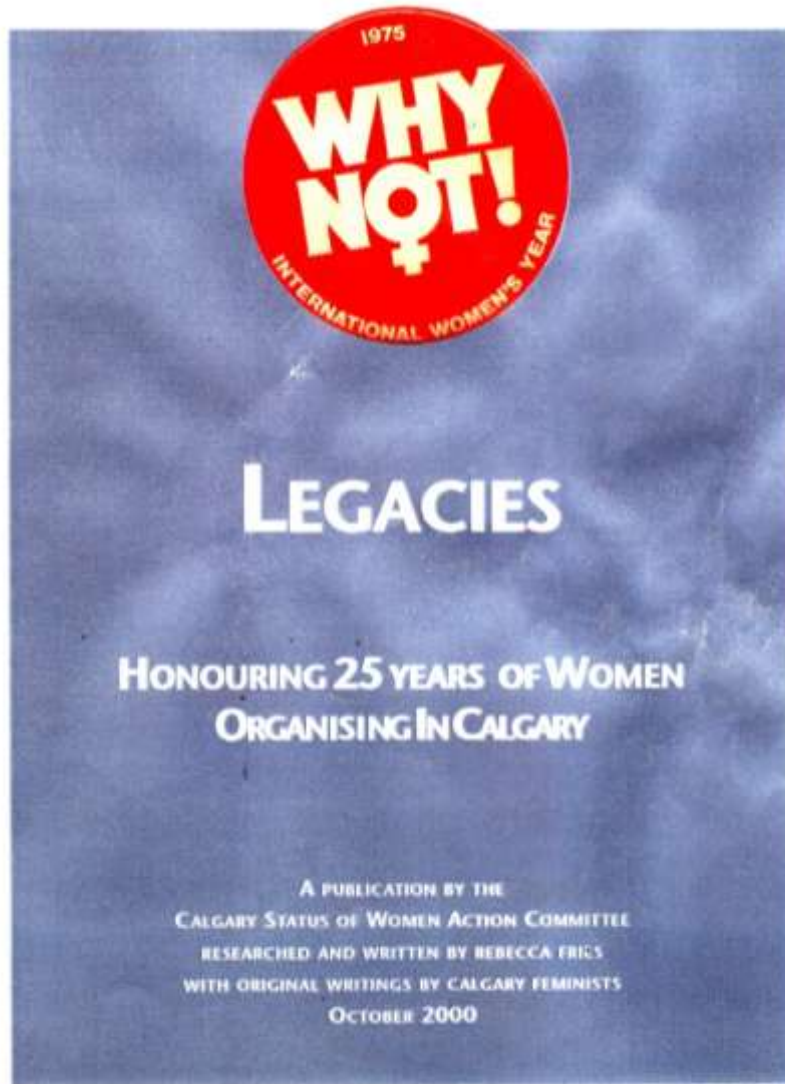
ALBERTA REPORT

FURY IN THE FEMISPHERE

The sisterhood gathers at Banff to explore the grievous problem of violence against women



Conference in Banff 1991 right wing coverage focused on divisions in the feminist community between the Marxist-leaning women of colour and the lesbian-led white women. Three federal Ministers in attendance who were immediately whisked away when feminist poet Rozena Maart, recited works about the political significance of menstrual blood.

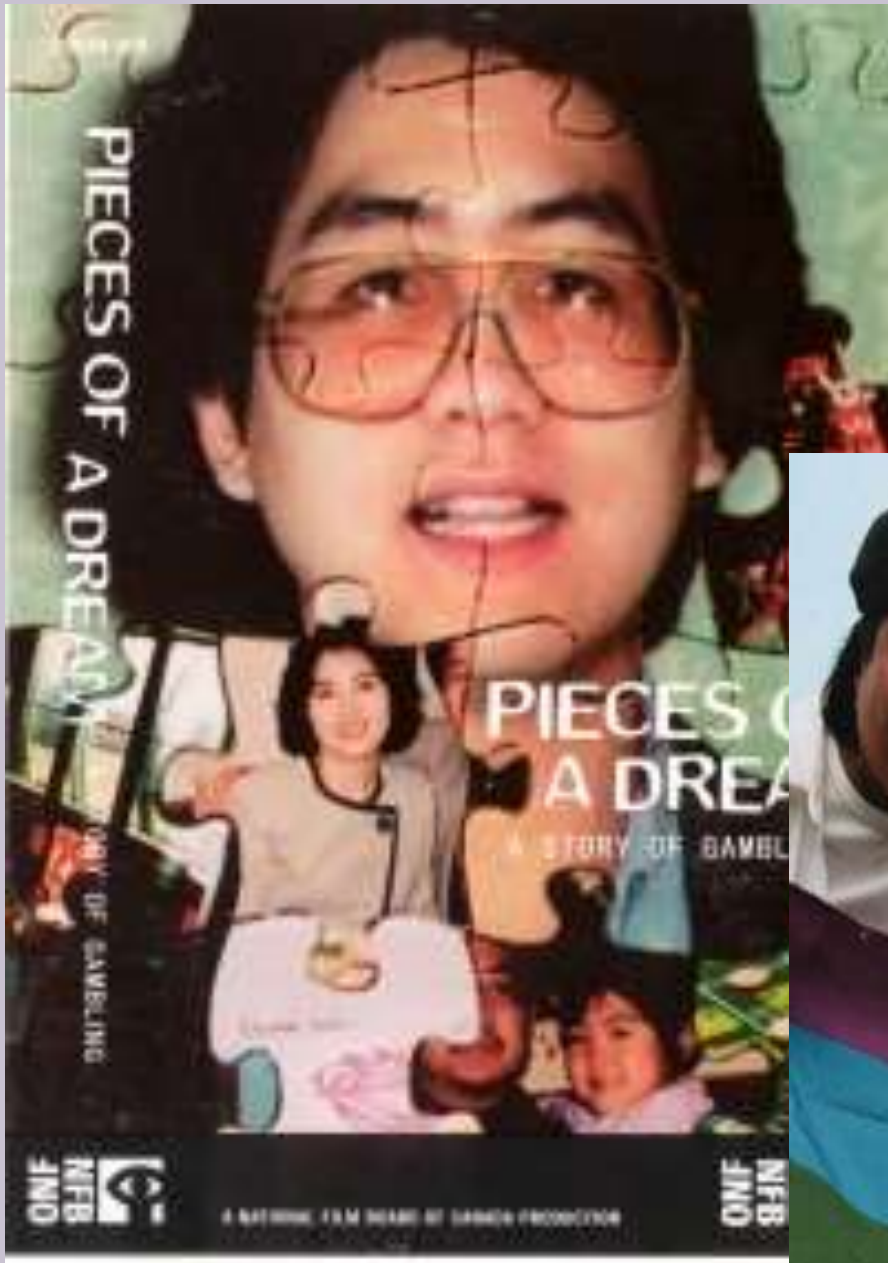


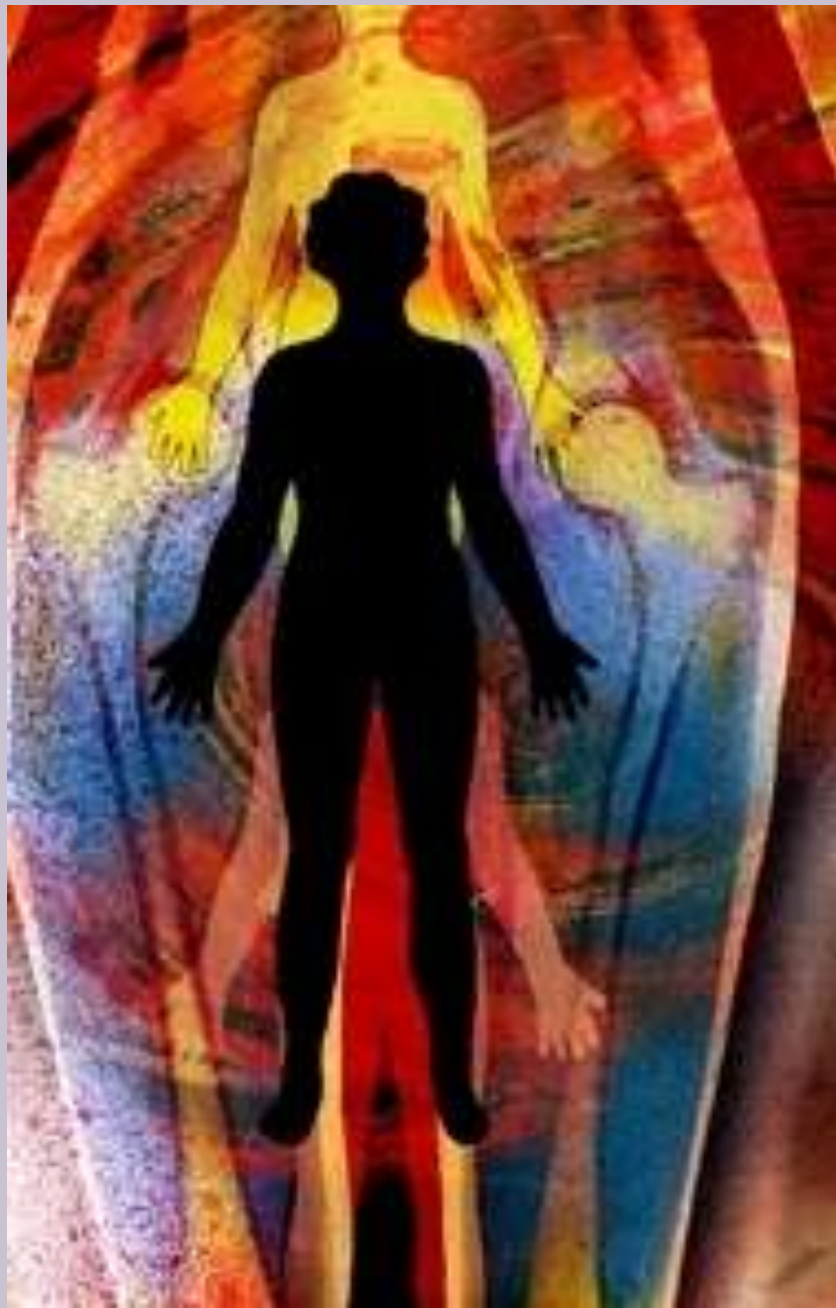
Limited copies
available at
Womens Centre in
Bridgeland, Old Y,
and for viewing at
the Glenbow
Museum



Herland In:
Camera Workshop
1999 – 2005
Film & video
production
for women by
women
6 years + 9 women
= 36 media artists

Michelle Wong





Sandra Vida

Sandra
Vida



THE FIRST TEN: The Exhibition

A GROUP EXHIBITION FEATURING
25 CALGARY ARTISTS

FEBRUARY 19 TO MARCH 15, 1985
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WALTER MAY
RITA McKEOUGH
RON MOPPETT
ARTHUR NISHIMURA



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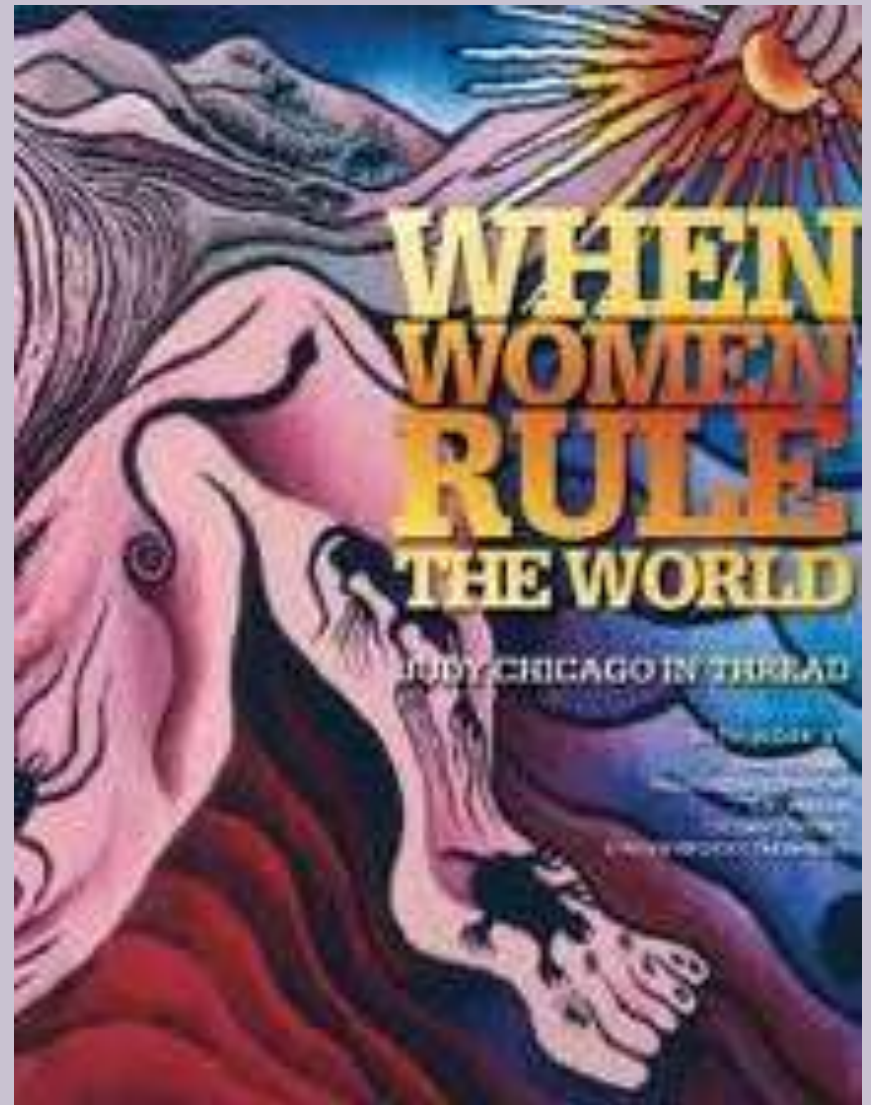
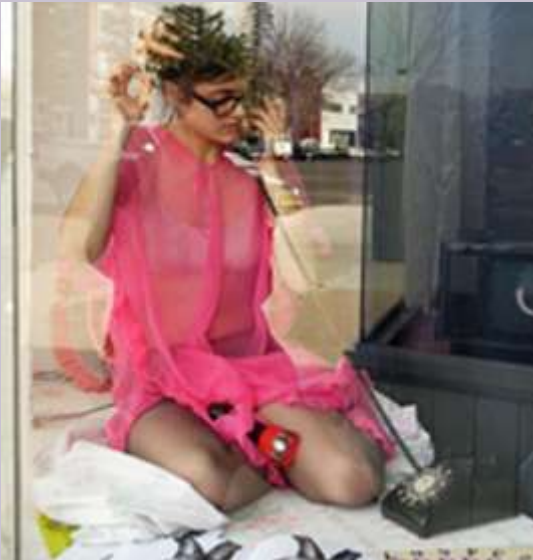
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THE FIRST TEN

AN EXHIBITION OF 25 CALGARY ARTISTS

Wednesday Lupypciw



Wednesday Lupypciw





Video Graffiti 1991



A video newsbox designed to screen short videos on topics not often covered in mainstream media; PMS, condom use, and the destruction of a community for parking lots – Sharon Stevens

Jasmine Valentina

Feb. 14, 1987 – Sept 11, 2010



“I don't think herland was the last creative celebration for feminists in Calgary because Feminism isn't dead; Feminism has just changed. I have been lucky enough to meet some radical feminists in this city over the past year— some of whom are very creative— and perhaps we are just fighting a quiet riot”. Jasmine comments to FFWD article on Feminist Evolution, March 2009



Resources

Alberta Status of Women Action Committee

www.connexions.org

Calgary Sexual Health Centre

www.calgarysexualhealth.ca

Feminist Evolution, closure of herland, CSWAC,
WLF, WofCC

www.ffwdweekly.com

Resources for funding

Creative original videos to highlight what choice means to you, your peers or Canadians in general. Cash prizes will be awarded

www.arcc-cdac.ca

Dr. Maria Eriksen Scholarship

An annual award of \$2,500, Essay focus on how to forward the cause of feminism in post-secondary studies and your life

www.mhc.ab.ca

TAG Small amounts of money for BIG ideas that move social or environmental justice forward. Take Action Grants <http://calgarydollars.ca/tag.html>

Re-bEarth: Re-birth the Earth

Why? Because we need more visible, tangible, creative demonstrations of love for our mother earth.

Old Y Centre

223 12th Avenue, SW

4:30 pm

