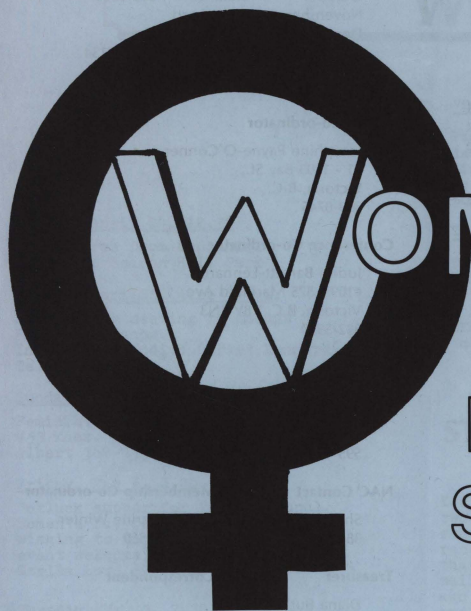


swag STATUS OF WOMEN NEWS

Debunking Some Myths About:



in

Math & Science

Speaker: Norma Mickelsen Ph.D. Education Faculty UVic
TUESDAY, APRIL 19 - 7:30 p.m.

Greater Victoria Public Library, Board Room Main Branch
EVERYONE WELCOME!

Volume 10 — #4

April 1983

The Victoria Status of Women Action Group was formed in 1971 in order to work for the implementation of the Report of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women; to foster public knowledge of the rights and status of women to promote full participation of women in social economic and political life.

SWAG is a voluntary group, registered as a society with an executive elected annually.

Address: P.O. Box 6296, Stn. C, or 1045 Linden Avenue
Victoria, B.C. V8P 5L5 Victoria, B.C.
381-1012

Working Groups

Each of the Contact Persons has a particular area of interest in women's issues. Members who share that interest or, have a concern or problem in that area are encouraged to make contact.

Contact Women

B.C.F.W.	Sylvia Watson 382-3914 Stella Lord 595-2542
Family Law	Gwen Bavin 383-2502
Education	Elizabeth Azmier-Stewart 642-3678
Human Rights	Norrie Preston 598-1390
Health	Susan Moger 592-4215
Labour	Stella Lord 595-2542
Feminist Study Group	Alice Albert 382-1536
Social Services	Elizabeth Hamlet 595-2569
Newsletter Editorial Board	Stella Lord - Editor 595-2542 Alice Albert - Layout Avis Rasmussen - Cover 598-3188

Co-ordinators

February	— Laurie Lawson - 595-1564
March	— Diana Butler - 598-6964
April	— Josephine Payne-O'Conner - 389-07
May	— Catherine Winter - 389-2959
June	— Alice Albert - 382-1536
July	— Gwen Bavin - 383-2502
August	— Alice Albert - 382-1536
September	— Avis Rasmussen - 598-3188
October	— Stella Lord - 598-9659
November	— Stella Lord
December-	
January	— Lois Vickery - 384-9134

Media Co-ordinator

Josephine Payne-O'Conner
#1 - 1205 Bay St.,
Victoria, B.C.
389-0745

Conference Co-ordinator

Judith Barrett-Lennard
#109 - 575 Marifield Ave.,
Victoria, B.C. V8V 1N3
382-5930

Recorder

Laurie Lawson
#2440 Foul Bay Rd.,
Victoria, B.C. V8R 5A9
595-1564

NAC Contact

Shirley Avril
386-4467

Membership Co-ordinator

Catherine Winter
389-2959

Treasurer

Diana Butler
2149 Granite
Victoria, B.C.
598-6964

Correspondent

MEMBERSHIP Entitles you to a subscription to SWA NEWS (\$10.00 per year) — a completely volunteer effort dependent upon your contributions... poems, article opinions, reports. **All feminist material welcome.**

Meetings/Workshops SWAG meetings are held the first & fourth Tuesday of each month (except when it falls on holiday) at 1045 Linden Ave., 7:30 p.m.

WHO? WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?

Victoria Women's Network

Panel discussion on Women & Health
including the following panelists:
Liz Bristowe and Susan Mogur.
To be held at Bartholomew's at 7:30
p.m. Check office for date.

Tuesday, June 7, 7:30 p.m.

SWAG Business meeting at 1045
Linden Avenue

SEE ANNOUNCEMENTS for more infor-
mation on events.

Sunday, April 24, 12.30

Peace March from Centennial
Square to Beacon Hill Park

Tuesday, April 26, time t.b.a.

SWAG supper meeting to discuss
Fall Conference.
Information Judith Barret Lennard
Tel. 382-5930

Sunday, May 11, 30-1230

Feminist study group at
453 Moss. Information: Alice
Albert 382-1536

Friday, May 6, 6.00.p.m.

Potluck supper for International
Women's Day Committee (those
wishing to work on next year's
event welcome). Information:
Stella Lord 595-2542

Tuesday, May 3, 7.30.p.m.

SWAG Business meeting
at 1045 Linden Ave.

Saturday, May 7, 1.30.p.m.

WAP Day of Mourning. March from
Memorial Arena to Courthouse.
(See announcement section)

Saturday May 7, all day

Vancouver Island Co-operative Pre-
School Association's Annual
Conference. MacLaurin Building,
University of Victoria.

STATUS OF WOMEN NEWS

You may have noticed that the last
two newsletters have carried a 48c
stamp. That's because we were
recently informed by the post office
that the regulations on 2nd class
mail which had changed about a year
ago do not now include newsletters
and magazines of "fraternal" organiza-
tions, (amongst others). The regul-
ations appear to allow newspapers
and magazines which are published
for profit second class mail status
but not non-profit, church, or
community organizations (makesense?).

Increasing mail costs and printing
costs are making monthly production
of the newsletter prohibitive. At
our last business meeting SWAG members
discussed whether we should 1) raise
the membership fees; 2) cut down
the newsletter to 4 pages to qualify
for the 32c postal rate; 3) keep
the newsletter at about 10 pages
and pay the 48c rate, but produce

the newsletter every other month. We decided that the latter was the best alternative given the cost/benefits of a much smaller monthly newsletter vs. a larger two-monthly newsletter. Unless we hear from a substantial number of members that they would prefer one of the other alternatives, the newsletter will now appear every other month. The next issue will be in June. Please bear this in mind if you or your group wishes to publicize events in the SMAG newsletter.

Well, election time has finally rolled around after a number of false starts. If there are any all candidates meetings in your riding (we have heard that there are none planned as yet), please try to attend and ask some pertinent questions on women's issues. If you need help formulating questions please phone Shirley in the office.

As far as we can ascertain, Muriel Overgaard is now the only woman candidate in the Greater Victoria area. Muriel has been a long-time member of SMAG and is conversant with women's issues, particularly those of women in the paid labour force. She includes in her campaign literature the promise to work for recognition of equal pay for work of equal value in this province. Muriel is running for the NDP in Oak Bay. If you feel you would like to help get her elected please phone her campaign office at 595-3145

SMAG joined the Sexual Assault Centre and the Women's Building for a fundraising event with singer Connie Kaldor at the Newcombe Auditorium on Saturday April 16. The event was a great success and the fundraising coalition was much encouraged by the turnout and the support. We hope that more events of this kind will be planned for the future.

Letters



SMAG
March 23, 1983.

Premier Bill Bennett,
Victoria.

Dear Mr. Bennett,

The Status of Women Action Group is pleased that talks on Aboriginal rights are now guaranteed to continue. We urge you to support the constitutional protection of Aboriginal rights for Native, Metis and Inuit people.

Please understand that it is NOT ENOUGH to recognize and affirm "existing" Aboriginal and Treaty rights as is now the case in the Canadian Constitution Act Part II, Sec. 35 (1).

Federal legislation has long discriminated against aboriginal women. (see enclosed press release). They have never had a freedom of choice in marriage without loss of Aboriginal birthright and cultural attachment to their homeland, i.e.: loss of "Status" designation.

Mobility of Rights must become an Aboriginal rights specified under Section 37 Part IV of the Canadian Constitution Act with an equality clause inserted in Part II Section 35.

The federal government has promised for years to change the Indian Act and end its discrimination against native women. All Provinces have adopted a U.N. Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women. NOW is the time to act.

We urge you to stand up for the rights of aboriginal women and enshrine those rights in the Canadian Constitution.

Yours sincerely,

Shirley Avril
for the Coordinating Committee

cc. J.C. Munro, Minister of Northern and Indian Affairs; United Native Nations (Victoria); Ontario Native Women's Association; Allan McKinnon. M.P. Donald Munro, Jim Manley, Rosemary Brown, M.L.A. Gordon Hanson and Charles Barber.

PORNOGRAPHY IS THE MYTH

RAPE IS THE REALITY

THE FOLLOWING LETTER WAS SENT TO:

Senator Jack Austin, Judy Erola, Francis Fox, Mark MacGuigan, Chales Lapointe, Donald Johnston, John Roberts, Serge Joyal, Marc Lalonde, Monique Begin, Herb Gray, Lloyd Axworthy, Jim Fleming, John Monroe, André Ouellet. With copies of Lynn Macdonald, Flora MacDonald, John Bosley, Allan McKinnon, Donald Munro, National Film Board (Studio D), Womanspirit Art Research/Resource Center, Vancouver Status of Women.

SWAG
March 4, 1983.

Dear

The Victoria Status of Women Action Group wishes to express the grave concern we feel about the direction of cultural policy in Canada. We consider the inclusion of a U.S. Playboy channel on Canadian pay T.V. and the scanty reference to issues of concern to women in the Applebert Report to be interrelated. The women of Canada are either stereotyped or ignored by the people elected to support our vital cultural contributions.

Regarding the First Choice/Playboy channel we demand an amendment to section 6 of Chapter 381 of the Broadcasting Act. This chapter is called Television Broadcasting Regulations and Section 6 reads, in part, as follows:

6.(1) No station or network operator shall broadcast (a) anything contrary to law; (b) any abusive comment or abusive pictorial representation on any race, religion or creed; (c) any obscene, indecent or profane language or pictorial presentation. In our view, item (b) has to include "or on either gender".

We reiterate our often expressed support for the Nation Film Board, specifically Studio D. This is the only production center where women have a fair measure of control. Studio D has served the women of Canada admirably well. The private commercial film industry makes profit-oriented mass entertainment material. It is controlled by men,

it provides profit and employment virtually exclusively to men, and its portrayals of women are derogatory. To imagine the work of Studio D would continue in the commercial private sector is far-fetched indeed.

The Canadian Content issue is very important in our position. Attention is drawn in the Applebert Report to: "the present inequitable access of women to all levels of responsibility and activity in the cultural sector which deprive Canadian society as a whole." Many of us are making real attempts at creating alternative images to the current sex-role stereotyped and often pornographic pictures that are highly visible in our society on our television screens, on the walls of our galleries and public buildings, on the stages of our theatres, in music lyrics and in the pages of books. Relaxing of Canadian Content regulations threatens the limited access women now have. We insist you support the writers, visual artists, performing artists, musicians, producers, directors and technicians of Canada.

Astonishingly, the Applebert Report did not deal with the problems specific to women. May we refer you again to the many excellent briefs presented by women's groups which outline specific concerns and suggest many cost efficient ways of resolving a number of current concerns. For example please note: the brief presented to the Federal Cultural Review Committee by Jillian Riddington and Sylvia Spring for the Vancouver Status of Women. This brief has our unequivocal support.

We urge the government to ensure that the Canada Council become responsible and accountable to all Canadians, regardless of gender. To that end we expect you to endorse and implement the UNESCO Recommendation on "the Status of the Artist", which states, 'give particular attention to the development of women's creativity and the encouragement of groups and organizations which seek to promote the role of women in the various branches of artistic activity!'

Canadians are impoverished because of women's artistic invisibility. The Victoria Status of Women Action Group is working for enrichment in Canadian Canadian culture. We expect you to do the same.

Yours sincerely,

Shirley Avril,
for the Coordinating Committee

March 17 1983.

Shirley Avril.
Status of Women Action Group
Victoria.

Dear Ms. Avril

I was glad to join with the large group of protesters who gathered on Parliament Hill on January 18 to voice determined opposition to the introduction of soft porn or, "the most adult of adult entertainment", on Pay T.V. I consider this to be another example, and one of the worst, of the ongoing exploitation of women.

The degradation and demeaning of one woman, is the degradation and demeaning of all women. There is a growing body of research and evidence to show the correlation between the sexual exploitation of women and the increasing incidence of violence in our society. And the violence, in 99 percent of the cases, is directed against women and children.

It is difficult to believe that this is what the CRTC had in mind when it publicly licensed First Choice to carry Pay T.V. Surely Canadian content requirements can be fulfilled with programs depicting our country, so rich in history, geography, its people and personalities. We certainly do not need to resort to pornography to express the diverse characteristics of our great country.

Like you I feel very strongly that the CRTC should review its decision of licensing First Choice. As I said to the gathering on Parliament Hill, if this is what Pay T.V. needs to survive, who needs Pay T.V.!

Thank you also for expressing your views concerning the recommendations of the Applebaum/Hébert report with respect to the National Film Board.

As you may know, the report has been referred to the Standing Committee on Communications and Culture for detailed study. While it is not the Committee's intention to duplicate the long series of public hearings already undertaken by Applebaum/Hébert, a number of witnesses will be making representations to the Committee with regard to the recommendations put forward. Among those appearing will be representatives of the National Film Board, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, and the Canadian Conference of the Arts.

Like you, I believe that the National Film Board makes a significant and meaningful contribution to Canadian film production, and I would not want to see its important work curtailed.

Because I am not a Member of the Committee reviewing the A/H recommendations, I have passed your comments along to my colleague, John Bosley, M.P. As Conservative Party spokesman for cultural matters, I know that Mr. Bosley will appreciate knowing of your views, to assist him in his work on the Committee.

For my part, you can be assured that I will be closely following the Committee's deliberations.

Sincerely,

Flora MacDonald
P.C. M.P.
Kingston and the Islands

Letters of support received also from Lynn MacDonald, MP; Allan McKinnon, MP.

Letters acknowledging our concern from: Charles Lapointe, Minister of State; the Hon. John Roberts, Minister of Environment; Hon. Herb Gray, Present of Treasury Board; the Hon. André Ouellet, Consumer and Corporate Affairs; Hon. Monique Bégin, Minister of National Health and Welfare; Hon. Serge Joyal, Secretary of State; Hon. Donald Johnston, Minister of State, Economic Development;

The Alliance for the Safety of
Prostitutes
Vancouver.

March 29, 1983.

Dear Women:

We are requesting that your group read the enclosed material (available in the office) and that you then write phone or wire your M.P. Mark MacGuigan, Ray Hnatyshyn, Ed Broadbent; and let them know of your objection to the proposed criminal code amendments. That such amendments only serve to further punish women who are already economically disadvantaged and socially outcast.

Demand the government repeal all prostitution laws and decriminalize prostitution, which would remove the outlaw status and allow prostitutes to control their own lives; by means of not having to work for pimps, not having to work to pay fines, lawyers, etc. Also by

removing the outlaw status prostitutes would be able to have battering tricks charged, would be able to get away from working for pimps. They would better be able to set up collectives such as the prostitutes in England have.

Instead of adding laws to make prostitutes criminals the government should be looking for and providing alternatives so that women are not forced into prostitution. As long as women earn 2% of what men earn, women will be forced into prostitution.

In Struggle,

Marie Arrington

Sally deQuadros

SWAG responded and sent a letter to Mark MacQuigan with the following recommendations:

- 1) Prostitution be immediately decriminalized that is that all laws against soliciting for the purposes of prostitution, under the Canadian Criminal Code be repealed.

B) An outreach program be established to offer support and tangible resources to these women.

C) Women wishing to leave 'the life' receive adequate counselling and subsidized job-skills training.

D) There be legislated, enforceable, protection for prostitutes against violence from both pimps and clients.

E) Should prostitution remain illegal the government will ensure that male clients receive the same treatment under the law as the women they patronize, that, should the law against soliciting remain, men who sexually harass women on the street be equally liable for prosecution.

Sincerely,

Shirley Avril

for the Coordinating Committee

cc. The Alliance for the Safety of Prostitutes, Allan McKinnon, Don Munro, Victoria City Council.

REPORTS

Notes of meeting held March 26th, at 1045 Linden Ave. (SWAG Retreat)

1. It was agreed that SWAG support the proposed course at Camosun on an introduction to the trades for women.
2. Josephine reiterated the view that we should organize around the concept of 'speak-outs' for our public meetings. This was discussed and it was decided that a mix of public meetings with a speaker and the speak out idea would be appropriate. It was decided that it was not necessary to have a public meeting every month but as and when a topic of current interest made a meeting appropriate. It was decided that we should have on hand a list of questions for federal and provincial politicians if and when elections were called.
3. It was decided that we need a revised version of the SWAG pamphlet. Several comments were expressed on the current one. It should be shorter; the emphasis on the Royal Commission was a little outdated; more use of statistics; we should leave the back page blank for an address for mailing.
4. The question was raised as to whether we really needed two types of pamphlet: one for attracting members and one for sending to prospective fundraising bodies. It was decided to pass these comments to Lois who had already started work on revising the pamphlet.
5. In connection with a discussion of the newsletter and the fact that the postal rate would now be 48 cents to maintain the present length, we discussed the possibility of raising the membership fee. Catherine was opposed to this because it may discourage membership from those on limited incomes. It was decided after some discussion that there should be three membership types: Regular \$10; Sustaining or Supporting \$20; and a Subsidized membership of \$5. It was also decided that after April the newsletter should be every other month and that there should be some discussion of the business meeting in it.
5. Catherine discussed the problem of being able to resolve personal issues and the need to discuss these with other women in a group. It was suggested that we identify issues which were of concern to a number of women (e.g. such as reconciling a career with feminism or being a feminist in

sexist society) and try to arrange 3 or 4 'rap' sessions a year on an informal basis.

6. Catherine read the comments from the questionnaire which were generally positive about SWAG and the newsletter, although there were several suggestions to change certain items, which were noted by Stella.
7. The theme for the fall conference was unanimously agreed to be "Women in Families". There was general discussion on ideas for workshops, etc. which Judy noted.

8. Several items of other business were raised:

(a) Smoking: This was raised as a problem at meetings by several women at the meeting on the 26th. It was also mentioned by some women in the questionnaires. It was decided to ask smokers to refrain as much as possible, to limit smoking to one person at a time and to have a break during the meetings where doors and windows could be opened to circulate the air.

(b) New members: Concern was expressed that there is no follow-up for new members. It was suggested that a list of new members be drawn up each month and people take on the task of calling them to invite them to meetings, ask what their interests are. There should also be someone to greet new people at meetings on a regular basis.

(c) Meetings: Judy mentioned that there seemed to be a problem in follow-up and acting on decisions taken at meetings. The chair should ensure that someone has taken responsibility for carrying out decisions and tasks. Items which needed attention between meetings should be reported at the business meeting so everyone knows what is happening. Shirley agreed to go over in synopsis form at the business meeting what happened during the past month.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:30 p.m. Present were: Catherine Winter Shirley Avril, Josephine Payne-O'Connor (and visitor), Elizabeth Azmier-Stewart, Judith Barrett-Leonard, Diana Butler, Stella Lord and Dorothy Maxwell.

Women in the Workforce: Affirmative Action and Parental Benefits.
National Association of Women and the Law 5th Biennial National Conference at the Empress, Victoria, B.C. February 23-26, 1983.

Monica Townson, economic consultant, author of "The Canadian Woman's Guide to Money and columnist for the Ottawa Citizen gave the keynote address on parental benefits. Townson began by noting that NAWL shows concern for the average woman and the woman's movement as a whole by the fact that they chose to be named Women and the Law.

In order to lobby for Parental Benefits which Townson sees as an economic issue, women must unite to work out strategies to obtain Parental Benefits including maternity leave, adequate daycare, reproductive freedom of choice, prenatal benefits and job security after leave. In effecting Parental Benefits there are two routes to follow: Collective Bargaining and Legislation. They complement each other. Parental Benefits must be kept a priority issue on the bargaining table by use of persuasive arguments carried forward in order that the employer may not drop or diminish the importance of Parental Benefits by using the recession as grounds for avoiding the responsibility. In time of recession women are forced into part time work. We must continue to fight for equal pay for work of equal value and cost and time sharing for child care.

A panel discussed Parental Benefits: Dr. Ratna Ray, Director, Woman's Bureau Labour Canada, Phyllis McCrae, Law Student, McGill, and Bill Brand Director of Personnel Programs B.C. Gov't. The latter said cost was a deciding factor for the small employer and to any employer if the number of women joining the workforce increases. SWAG asked the question: What % of B.C. Gov't employees take maternity benefits on a yearly basis? Brand replied that in 1980-81 about 1%.

Dr. Ratna Ray called women a disadvantaged majority. She sees healthy children as a social responsibility.

Workshops were on "Collective Bargaining for Parental Benefits", "UIC, Employment Standards and Maternity Leave", "Parental benefits: Concept to Reality", Parental Benefits: A Comparison of Canadian and European Jurisdictions" and "Pension Reform for Women".

A panel discussion followed the keynote address, Marie Murphy, lawyer with the Research Dept. of Quebec H.R. Commission. Shaah Day, Saskatchewan H.R. Commission Director, one of the panelists who was also keynote speaker at the NAC Annual Meeting Banquet had some valuable ideas. In the context of Affirmative Action she sees it as a systemic remedy for a systemic problem. She advises watchdog for window dressing and exploitation, job segregation and being underpaid. Heather Reisman, Toronto business consultant with Gerstein, Reisman & Assoc, observed that there is no need felt by Company's to implement affirmative action.

SWAG asked "Would it be effective NAC's regional caucuses considered compiling a list of corporations who have affirmative programs as a list for women to patronize in the purchasing of goods and services?" (thanks to Jordy Maxwell)

Affirmative Action Workshops followed. Reva Dexter gave an excellent workshop on how she set up a program of affirmative action for the City of Vancouver. A copy of her Progress Report 1982 of the Equal Employment Opportunity Program is in the SWAG office.

Other booklets include: Pension Reform with Women in Mind, Women in the labour Force, Women's Bureau Canada; Bibliography for Women and the Law in Canada; Parental Leave; A Key Bargaining Demand for University and Post Secondary Education Workers in Ontario, etc.

Avis Rasmussen

The NAC 1983 Annual Conference

Ottawa, March 25-28: Women from across Canada representing over 200 member groups (two million women) of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women met to discuss and vote on resolutions formulated from current women's issues and to lobby the Federal Government caucus by caucus with these important resolutions.

The meeting began with the NAC Annual Meeting Reports: Copies of the following are in our SWAG office: The President's Report by Doris Anderson who remains in this office for 83-84, the Treasurer's Report by Martha Elliot who also worked on organization of this meeting, Editorial (Status of Women News), Membership

(36 new groups), Employment, Health, Social Services, Pension, Constitution, Federal-Provincial Funding, Justice (Pornography and Prostitution), Native Women, Media Watch by Jillian Riddington, of VSW, Media Relations, Survival and Futurist.

Note: B.C. has 28 member groups and is second to Ontario which has 118. Over a dozen women from B.C. were at the meeting. Seven years ago when I went as the first SWAG delegate there were only three from B.C., myself, Lee Grills who was there year and a woman from Terrace. It seemed to me the political action level of the women's movement has gained expertise and momentum. Candidates did mention NAC and the grassroots feminist. Moira Armour, film maker and member at large called herself a 'crab grass feminist'.

B.C. has only one NAC executive committee member, vice president Jane Evans, Box 278 Armstrong, B.C. The B.C./Yukon Rep. is Jon Leah Hopkins from Whitehorse.

Workshops: were on Health, Survival, Allowance and Tax Benefits for Spouses and Children, Native Women (Mary Two Axe Early is still lobbying for status for Indian Women), Social Services and Federal/Provincial Funding, Employment and Justice (Pornography and Prostitution). I attended the latter two. The slide presentation for the Justice Workshop was too long for the length of the workshop to the discussion carried into the next session. The Justice Resolution the media misquoted read "In view of the NAC resolution on prostitution passed at the March 1982 Annual General Meeting, be it resolved that: (a) NAC is in favour of the decriminalization of the soliciting and bawdy house provisions in the Criminal Code. Another resolution passed: Be it resolved that NAC facilitate the work of women's groups in fighting against pornography.

Michelle Swernarchuk, Canadian Union of Profession and Technical Employees conducted the employment workshop. In Summary the resolutions from this workshop read: Priority government action on Canada's massive unemployment... the extension and implementation of affirmative action programs in the public sector..., legislation for a shorter work week, the reinstatement of full and free collective bargaining..., Massive

injection of federal funds for direct job creation..., full participation by all workers in all decisions relating to the introduction, implementation, and monitoring of technological change..., adoption of the recommendation of the Task Force on Microtechnology..., and a requirement that employers retain employees for the new jobs available.

Discussion and vote on NAC's proposed move of office to Ottawa

The vote was 50/50 and the office remains in Toronto this year. I voted negative because I thought more thought and evaluation was needed. Bilingualism and proximity to parliament were reasons for the move. The question will be raised again next year.

Copies of the Resolutions and all other papers gathered at the NAC annual meeting are in the SWAG office. Our SWAG display was on the table next to the Ottawa Feminist Bookstore and all our freebies taken.

Avis Rasmussen.

Q Q Q Q Q



**SHIRLEY AVRIL
WATERCOLOURS**

Opening May 23 - 7 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Continuing
Tuesday - Saturday until June 4th

FEDERATION GALLERY,
367 Water St., Vancouver, B.C.
681-8534

*******Announcements*******

HOMEMAKERS MAGAZINE

In March 1983 Homemakers magazine published articles in the Women's Place column on Freedom of Choice on abortion and free standing clinics. Advertisers in Homemakers are now being threatened with boycott of their products by Campaign Life. (the militant anti-choice group) Please write a support letter to: The Editor, Homemakers Magazine, 2300 Yonge St., Toronto, Ont. M4P 1E4.

BIRTHS

Born to Elzbieta Jaswinski, and Sierd Hortsing, a daughter Zosia Mira on Thursday March 10, 1983.

Born to Alice Albert, and Alastair Craighead, a son James Albert on Tuesday March 15, 1983.

Do you sometimes buy your child's teacher a gift? How about a consciousness raiser that will benefit the whole class?

The Federation of Women Teachers' Associations of Ontario has developed curriculum units about Canadian women for Primary, Junior and Intermediate students. These kits contain pictures and biographies of women important in Canada's history and culture, lesson ideas for teachers, student activity sheets and a bibliography. The kits were developed by teachers, for teachers and provide unique, attractive and useful materials for classroom use.

Primary \$13.00; Junior \$15.00
Intermediate \$19.00

To order send cheques in payment to FWTAO, 1260 Bay Street, 3rd floor, Toronto, Ontario M5R 2B8

Ten Years of Research on Women's Issues

In 1971, the Report of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women was published. Since then a large number of studies on women's issues has been produced. Here is an opportunity for you to review a selected number of them. Selected topics to be reviewed are: Women in the professions; Women in the Labour Force; Homemakers. Single Mothers; Women in the Arts and Literature; Women in the Media and Politics.

Friday April 29, 7.00-9.00 and Saturday, April 30, 9.00-4.00.p.m.
Fee \$25. Registration: U.Vic. Extension Division. Info: 721-8451

WAP Day of Mourning, Saturday May 7, 1.30.p.m. from Memorial Arena to the Courthouse past Red Hot Video. Please wear black, in solidarity with all those women who suffer because of pornography.

This march will commemorate the commencement of the trial of Red Hot Video which starts on Monday May 9 at 9.30.a.m. Judge Darryl Collin presiding. If women could attend the trial, it would be appreciated. WAP would like to see the Courtroom full of women. For more information call Teresa 598-5269 or Pam 656-7776

Tickets will continue at Red Hot Video Saturday April 23 and 30. 2.00.

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR SWAG MEMBERSHIP FOR 1983???????

Many memberships were due on March 8 (IWD). Please check your label and renew as soon as possible.

ARTICLES

The Search for Erotica

Feminists have little difficulty recognizing and defining the oppressive nature of pornography that confronts us everywhere from our corner store to the pages of women's "fashion" magazines. We know that pornography is hate literature which actively endorses objectification, degradation and violence against women. Attempting to define pornography has not been the most difficult problem in the anti-pornography movement. Quite the opposite, finding a positive healthy alternative has proved to be one of the most difficult tasks.

Why are feminists and other women demanding erotica? As women, we have learned to nurture our senses (i.e., we can be excited by the feel of a silk shirt or receive pleasure from the scent of fresh flowers) and yet have frequently overlooked stimulation of our erotic selves.

Through feminism, we are learning to understand and celebrate our sexuality. Many of us, at one time or another, have tried to fill the need for sexual stimulation through pornography. While it may have succeeded in sexually exciting us then, there was also an uncomfortable quality to it that we can now identify and analyze. In rejecting pornography, we began to search for an alternative: erotica.

We have also begun to identify what we want. Charlotte Bunch has pointed out (in Laura Lederer's *Take Back the Night*, p.82) that women, whether lesbian or heterosexual, can tell the difference between erotica, which celebrates our sexuality, and pornography, which degrades us. Though each of us may like or respond differently to various examples of erotica, certain elements continually surface in the defining process:

* Erotica must be a celebration of sexuality, touch, warmth, acceptance and shared pleasure.

* Those depicted in erotica must be shown with enough power to be there by choice.
 * Sexual encounters must be characterized by mutual respect in which each participant's needs and desires have validity and are of equal importance. Human dignity and self respect must not be threatened. (See H. Longino in Lederer, Take Back the Night, p.29).

These elements have brought us closer to a cogent definition of pornography. I believe the only way to refine this definition is by examining hundreds of examples of written and visual erotica. Therein lies the problem. While the abundance of porn overwhelms us, by comparison its alternative is nearly non-existent.

I would like briefly to examine the types of erotica available to us. First of all there is pornography itself which its male traffickers would like us to believe is erotic. The fact is, that isolated examples, lifted from magazines or films can be erotic. I do not know of anyone who has looked at those incredible air-brushed, polarized, retouched photographs of nude women (as in Penthouse) and has not responded with "Is she ever beautiful!" The problem is that once an individual photograph is placed back within the context of the pornographic industry, we know it cannot be validly called erotica though it may titillate, more by accident than by intent.

In order to appeal to a female market eager for erotica, a role-reversal has been attempted a la Playgirl, in which the viewer is presented with photographs of handsome nude men. (It is important to note, however, that the sex role reversal is an incomplete one. Men are not shown in the degrading and violent ways which women are depicted in similar "soft core" magazines. This simplistic solution has been a dismal failure. For most women, the depiction of an isolated nude male, genitals exposed, is not sexually exciting. Market research has shown that Playgirl is mainly purchased by gay men.

Along with a few examples of erotica from art and literature this is the sum total of what is available to us. The answer is not even as straightforward as having women produce erotica for a female audience. B. Ruby Ricj, in an article that appeared in the July 20, 1982 issue of The Village Voice talked about a woman who discovered her friend's father's personal copy of the Tee Corinne cunt colouring book—a book only usually sold in feminist bookstores. The problem now introduced is not the existence of the erotic object, but how it is used and by whom.

The wisest solution that I have heard comes from a member of Women Against Pornography. She has suggested that possibly the only non-exploitive pornography can be privately produced, that is, each of us would create drawings, poems, or whatever to privately woo our lovers or ourselves. Though this is idealistic, it does raise a crucial point—erotica, as opposed to pornography, may have to be removed from the profit motive, otherwise we will always be dealing in female commodities. The link of male power and profit is one too overwhelming to ignore.

Like all feminist issues, there are no easy answers to this problem. The only means to a solution of which I am totally convinced is that the responsibility for the production of erotica belongs to feminists. I would not trust anyone else to treat our sexuality with the respect it has only been rarely accorded to date. For me, erotica is a decidedly feminist undertaking while pornography is wholly patriarchal.

Roberta J. Pazdro

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But it was a shock to see her in a hospital room. There she was, hair tied back primly, medical chart in her left hand, pen in her right hand, long white jacket over her shoulders, exposing her lacy magenta bra and panties. What was she doing dressed like that in the hospital?

Was it possible? Why, yes! Stop the presses! The Maidenform Woman had become a doctor! According to the caption under this photograph, she was "making the rounds in her elegant Delectables"

At some point when I wasn't looking, everybody's favorite exhibitionist must have actually gone to medical school. I suppose that I had underestimated her intelligence - this happens so often with attractive women. I always thought she was a candidate for a cold, not a medical degree. I can only imagine the difficulties she had getting accepted, what with her portfolio and all.

But now any number of magazines are featuring her personal success story. On their pages, the Maidenform Woman is willingly displaying her new bedside manner in living color.

Poised, concerned, even prim, young Dr. Maidenform is photographed looking down compassionately at her bedridden patient. We don't know exactly what the patient thinks of all this. Fortunately for her, his leg is in traction and he can't move.

The other doctors in the ad seem quite unconcerned about her outfit. Dr Maidenform seems to have made it in a world that is entirely non-sexist. They aren't even glancing in the direction of her non-air-brushed belly button!

Quite frankly, I must admit that the Maidenform Woman cured me of a disease. She cured me of creeping complacency.

Until I saw her, I had become virtually numb to the advertising image of that handy creature, "The New Woman." We are now out of the era of housewife-as-airhead. We've even come a long way, baby.

We are plunging into the "successful woman as sex object" syndrome. The more real women break out of the mold, the more advertisers force them back in. We are now told that, for all the talk the New Woman is just the Total Woman in updated gear.

Under the careful, dress-for-success suit of an MBE is a woman buying Office Legs for sex appeal. Around the briefcase of a lawyer is, a hand shining with high-color nail gloss. Take away the lab coat, the stethoscope and syringe; and the doctor is just another set of "elegant delectables."

The point in all this isn't especially subtle. As Jean Kilbourne, who has long studied media images of women, said: "It's out of the question that they would ever show a male doctor like that. She is aloof but available. Underneath she is still a sex object."

Kilbourne's favorite entry in this category is a perfume ad that shows the successful woman mixing business with, uh, pleasure. In the first frame we see the busy executive at a business lunch with three men. In the second frame, we see her under the covers with one.

Advertisers have a big investment in this new-old image. I'm no talking about the professional woman market. There are hardly enough women doctors to keep the magenta lace factory in business. But there are now an increasing number of women who see professionals as glamorous and want to identify with them.

The advertisers are betting that these women want, as the Maidenform ad puts it, "just what the doctor ordered." So the doctor is ordered to strip, literally, her professional cover. She is revealed in the flesh, to be - yes, indeed - just another woman insecure about her femininity, just another woman in search of sex appeal, just another woman who needs "silky satin tricot with antique lace scalloping."

Pretty soon, I suppose, she will need it in the Senate, in the Supreme Court, even in the Oval Office. The Maidenform Woman. You never know where she'll turn up

Boston Globe



MORE NEWS

Monthly Report from the Issues for Young Women Project —Susan Moger

First Month-Mid February to Mid March

The bulk of the work involved hiring 2 staff, planning of the project with a time-line, writing a questionnaire, distributing the questionnaire and the start of tabulation. The project uses the SWAG office Monday and Wednesday mornings and shares a bookkeeper with the 2 S/A Centre projects to cope with the large amount of paperwork. The 3 staff people work well together and apart. A brunch was organized for the 3 projects in the SWAG-S/A Centre which will be repeated and include other women's project in the city.

Second Month-Mid March to Mid April

This month the work involved: collecting completed questionnaires, tabulation of those questionnaires, typing copy of tabulations and comments, planning of fact sheet and video script, meeting with SWAG executive, taping (audio) some of the women who had filled out questionnaires, beginning interviews with community members (e.g. CEC and Human Rights) to collect information for the fact sheet. A copy of the questionnaire is in the SWAG office, it is interesting reading.

A Workshop on Bill C-127, an act to amend the Criminal Code in relation to sexual offenses will be held May 2 at the Quaker Meeting Hall, 1829 Fern Street, Victoria. 9.00-4.00 p.m. Fee \$20.00. Resource Person: Joan Ranson, Barrister and Solicitor. The session is designed for private agency workers, advocates, and others working in the justice system. Registration payable to the Justice Institute of B.C. at 4180 W. 4th, Vancouver B.C. V6R 4J5 (We have forms in the office)

B.C. Regional LESBIAN CONFERENCE

May 20 - 23, 1983
John Oliver Sec. School
Vancouver, B.C.

Fee: \$32-\$40 sliding scale.

Covers: three days of workshops, support groups, art displays, craft market, music, Sat. night dance, a cabaret of astounding talent, three delicious and nutritious meals, high quality childcare, discounts on goods and services at various gay and women's businesses in Vancouver.

REGISTRATION FORMS AT
SWAG OFFICE

ANNUAL REPORT

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT - DECEMBER 31, 1982 VICTORIA STATUS OF WOMEN ACTION GROUP SOCIETY

Assets	1982	1981
Cash in the Bank-Note 1	\$ 7,019.55	\$ 8,950.60
Accounts Receivable	--	150.00
	<u>\$ 7,019.55</u>	<u>\$ 9,100.60</u>
	<u><u>\$ 7,019.55</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 9,100.60</u></u>
Surplus		
Balance forward Jan. 1/82	\$ 9,100.60	\$ 3,360.96
Operating (Deficit) Surplus	(2,081.05)	5,739.64
	<u>\$ 7,019.55</u>	<u>\$ 9,100.60</u>
	<u><u>\$ 7,019.55</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 9,100.60</u></u>
Income		
Memberships and Donations	\$ 3,593.65	\$ 1,795.84
Bank Interest	714.84	48.49
Miscellaneous	20.00	57.75
Conference Proceeds	1,620.60	1,887.55
Government Grant	12,000.00	10,545.00
	<u>\$17,949.09</u>	<u>\$14,334.63</u>
	<u><u>\$17,949.09</u></u>	<u><u>\$14,334.63</u></u>
Disbursements		
Postage & Stationary	\$ 1,702.88	\$ 366.68
Rent	1,220.00	205.00
Conference Expenses	1,026.00	2,077.12
Newsletter	1,967.11	2,844.35
Miscellaneous	249.06	183.26
Telephone	838.32	--
Other Conference Expenses,		
Donations, Memberships	928.27	845.55
Wages & Benefits	12,098.50	1,800.00
Publicity	--	273.03
	<u>\$20,030.14</u>	<u>\$ 8,594.99</u>
	<u><u>\$20,030.14</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 8,594.99</u></u>
Operating (Deficit) Surplus for year	\$ 2,081.05	\$ 5,739.64
	<u><u>\$ 2,081.05</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 5,739.64</u></u>

Executive

Auditor

ANNUAL REPORT
TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT - DECEMBER 31, 1982
VICTORIA STATUS OF WOMEN ACTION GROUP SOCIETY
DECEMBER 31, 1982

NOTE 1 CASH IN BANK

The society's cash is composed of the following accounts:

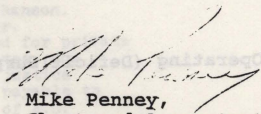
	1982	1981
Saanich Peninsula Credit Union		
- chequing	(\$ 554.80)	\$ 388.57
- special savings	7,267.80	8,544.50
- plan 24	301.15	12.13
- share account (assumed unchanged)	5.40	5.40
	<u>\$ 7,019.55</u>	<u>\$ 8,950.60</u>

The Members

Victoria Status of Women Action Group Society

I have examined the Treasurer's Annual Report and those Bank Accounts listed in Note 1, of the Victoria Status of Women Action Group Society for the year ended December 31, 1982.

In my opinion, the accompanying Report presents fairly the financial position of the Group as at December 31, 1982, and the results of its operation for the year then ended.


Mike Penney,
Chartered Accountant

Victoria, B.C.
February 20, 1983

REMINDER:

SWAG Business Meeting, Tuesday May 3, 7.30.p.m.
at 1045 Linden Ave.

MOST MEMBERSHIPS WERE DUE FOR RENEWAL IN MARCH
-PLEASE CHECK YOUR LABEL-

Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____

Renewal: ☐ New: ☐ Gift: ☐

Membership is \$10⁰⁰ per year due March 8.

(Reduced rates available if needed).

Send to: SWAG

Post Office Box 6296 Stn. C,
Victoria, B.C. V8P 5L5

Mar 84
~~Dec 83~~ (2)

[illegible]

DATE DUE

HC

2003