

WOMEN -
VICTORIA

VICTORIA STATUS OF WOMEN ACTION GROUP

c/o
766 Monterey Avenue
598-1390 or 598-2112

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NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

LOBBYING FOR CHANGE: ABORTION

The issue of abortion was confronted by the Royal Commission on the Status of Women when it made specific recommendations to amend the Criminal Code and make abortion a personal matter between a woman and her doctor up to the 12th week of pregnancy. Others such as the National Action Committee on the Status of Women and various members of the federal Advisory Council on the Status of Women recommend strongly that abortion be removed from the Criminal Code completely. The October Chatelaine gave the controversial subject a fair overview. The June issue of the Status of Women News published by NAC also contained a clear position paper on abortion. Here in Victoria, Elizabeth Forbes recently discussed the topic in her column with reference to the NAC article, and she concluded with Senator Margaret Norrie, that it is time to put an end to interference by law in a decision which should be made between a patient and a doctor.

Justice Minister Otto Lang has made it clear what his personal views are on abortion. Most unfortunately, through his intervention and blockage of a federal grant to a Saskatoon women's group that offers an abortion referral service, and by his rigid adherence to the letter of the law in his edicts to the Yukon and Northwest Territories which are under direct federal control, he is flagrantly violating his office by imposing his personal biases upon the administration of the law. An editorial in the Victoria Times recently pointed out that Mr. Lang's action in the North discriminates against unwed and poor northern women, and that by violating the spirit of the abortion law which is already confused and inequitable, he is making matters even worse.

According to a 1973 Gallup poll, 2 out of 3 Canadians believe that the law should be changed to see abortion as a private matter between a woman and her doctor. However, the minority who oppose abortion are busily making their views known and give the mistaken impression to government and to the Advisory Council on the Status of Women that they represent the majority of Canadians.

Do you want abortion taken out of the Criminal Code? A letter supporting removal of abortion from the Criminal Code should be sent to:

The Honourable Otto Lang
Federal Minister of Justice
Parliament Buildings
Ottawa, Ontario

Katie Cooke
Chairperson
Advisory Council on the Status of Women
63 Sparks Street
Box 1541, Station B,
Ottawa, Ontario

Joan Wallace
B. C. Representative to the
Advisory Council
c/o The Canadian Red Cross
4750 Oak Street,
Vancouver, British Columbia

WAGE DISPUTE AT CITY HALL

On Monday, August 19, 1974 about 50 women on Victoria City Hall's clerical staff banded together to fight for "adequate wages". The women expressed their dissatisfaction to their union, local 388 of the Canadian Union of Public Employees and to the City. They felt that the union had not bargained hard enough for them and that the city is perfectly willing to pay them inadequately. Starting salaries at City Hall are now \$446 for a clerk-typist, \$469 for a class-one, class-two steno and \$569 for a secretary. A secretary with several years of experience and with three or four persons working under her receives about \$600 a month. An inexperienced 19 year old male draftsman or labourer receives about \$700.

Mayor Pollen has publicly expressed his agreement with the women's statement and expressed his concern that these inequities should exist at the city. The current contract expires December 31 and negotiations have been taking place for the last six weeks. Management at Victoria City Hall has presented a package offer to the bargaining table who will pass it on to the general membership on Monday Nov. 18. It is to be hoped that this first offer will bring an end to the wage ghetto that these women have been confined to, that they will no longer be at the bottom of the wage scale.

STEPS TAKEN TO REMOVE SEX DISCRIMINATION IN THE SCHOOLS

The provincial Department of Education has recently appointed Reva Dexter as Special Consultant on Sex Discrimination in Public Education to direct the Department's actions in ending sex discrimination. Reva Dexter, who is a teacher and has a wide background of experience and research in women's studies and sex stereotyping, will advise the Departmental curriculum committees on program development and the selection of learning materials such as textbooks and visual aids. She will also work closely as a resource person with school boards, teachers, students and parents at the local level, conducting or participating in workshops, seminars and staff meetings. In addition, Reva Dexter will be a liason with other Government departments and agencies concerned with the matter of sex discrimination.

The Department set up last June an Advisory Committee of interested women's groups throughout the province to advise the Department on solutions to the problems of sex discrimination. This Advisory Committee with Reva Dexter has prepared a report entitled Equal Treatment of the Sexes; Guidelines for Educational Materials in order to:

- "1. make educators aware of the ways in which males and females have been stereotyped.
2. show the role language has played in reinforcing inequality.
3. point out the types of phrases written and actions depicted which perpetuate those attitudes that relegate women to a secondary and inferior status in society.
4. assist educators and others who seek to provide equal treatment of the sexes in textbooks. "

The report gives general guidelines for evaluating sexism and then some basic guidelines for revision of text and illustration. A summary of the latter include the following:

- "1. Women and girls should be given the same respect as men and boys.
2. Abilities, traits, interest and activities should not be assigned on the basis of male or female stereotypes.
3. The actions and achievements of women should be recognized.
4. The role of men in the home should be recognized.

This short useful guide concludes with recommendations for avoiding sexist language. It points out that the omission of women through the use of the term "man" to represent humanity, occupational titles like "chairman" which often ignore the existence of women workers, and the fact that males are usually chosen to represent "typical" examples -- conspires to exclude women from the reader's thoughts. In order to eliminate the belittling of girls and women often present in school texts, it suggests: 1) Avoid constructions implying that women because of their sex are always dependent upon male initiative. Example: A homeowner and his family. Alternative: Homeowners and their children. 2) Avoid patronizing tones towards girls and women. Example: The brilliant scientist is a woman! Alternative: She is a brilliant scientist. 3) References to a woman's appearance and family should be avoided unless it would be appropriate to refer to a man's appearance and family in the same context. Example: The candidates were Graham Johnston, president of Alcan, and Roberta Tonkin, a pert grandmother of five. Alternatives: The candidates were Graham Johnston of Alcan and Roberta Tonkin of Eaton's. Or the candidates were Graham Johnston, perky silver-haired father of three, and Roberta Tonkin, a pert blond grandmother of five! The report concludes by recommending that teachers' manuals also eliminate sexist assumptions that some activities will appeal more to boys than to girls or vice versa, and references to activities which segregate boys and girls.

DEALING WITH THAT OLD MOVEMENT BUGABOO, THE "MOST OPPRESSED"

"We need to validate categories of oppression because oppression does indeed function according to social groups; it's also the easiest way to make people see it. And we need to validate every form of categorical oppression we see. But we contradict the validation of categorical oppression when we try to establish hierarchies of oppression . . . the subtleties of domination contradict or transcend the categories more often than they remain within them. I would like to see categorical forms of domination validated as much as necessary and then immediately transcended -- absorbed (but not lost) into our conception of the whole."

Begin At Start, some thoughts on Personal Liberation and World Change, by Su Negrin, Times Change Press, 1972, \$2.75

BOOK REVIEW

WOMAN'S ESTATE, Juliet Mitchell; Penguin \$1.50

by Carolyn Folse

For a basic understanding of some of the revolutionary implications of the Women's Movement, this book provides a political analysis that is both scholarly and jargon-free.

Mitchell discusses the role of women as agents of consumer capitalism. Are the conditions present for submerging class interests to the feminist struggle, or will more women merely begin to participate actively in the oppression of underpaid minority groups, immigrants, and colonized peoples who supply consumer capitalism with products, services, and raw materials?

What are the politics of oppression? Does feminism require a socialist analysis of our oppression? And can a socialism that oppresses women succeed as socialism? Mitchell submits that the oppression of women is not as intrinsic to socialism as it is to consumer capitalism, even though socialist regimes do still tend to discriminate against women.

Women are probably the most exploited sector of our work force, but their exploitation as part of the working class is made invisible by their identification with the other aspect of their condition--their oppression as wives within the family.

"Here they join all classes of women to work--from an economic point of view--in a pre-capitalist mode of production." To underline this point the author draws an analogy between housewives and peasants under feudalism. "As for instance, in pre-revolutionary China there were rich, middle and poor peasants, so there are rich, middle, and poor housewives...."

In employment women are of a class, but this usually does not lead to a class consciousness because employment often does not involve economic independence and because women's primary identification in the society is that of a maintained person.

Yet to identify a woman by the economic classification of her husband is mistaken, as for instance, in the term "middle-class housewife." To assume that she takes on the class identity of her husband is to ignore the economic realities of marriage as it is now constituted under our law as well as by informal practice in most cases.

"Women must enter the work force in their own independent economic interest," according to the author. Yet by now it must be obvious that there are other means of liberating women than merely suggesting that they obtain jobs away from home. Many changes are needed to fully liberate women by opening up more choices and options than are now available. For instance, the concept of the paid work force should be expanded to include work in the home. It is time to pay something more tangible than lip-service to the important work of nurturing. And those who do this work have a right to economic security. (Perhaps the family allowance cheque can be seen as a small beginning in this direction.) Each spouse should be formally entitled to 50% of the total family income, and if halving the income meant that each partner received less than a minimum wage, the difference could be made up with a guaranteed income plan. Not only do partners deserve formal recompense for their work at home, but more alternatives for securing economic independence in meaningful work outside the home without neglect of children.

Mitchell goes on to discuss the origins and development of the Women's Movement in several countries as well as problems facing the movement. She talks about the pros and cons of acting without strong leadership, the reasons for the attempt to act without formal hierarchical systems, and other issues facing the movement.

Reading her book provokes the realization that many of our questions about the future of the movement must still go unanswered, but we definitely must keep asking political questions in order to have a firm ideological basis for our actions and words.

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA FEDERATION OF WOMEN

The following has been extracted from summaries in the Western Canadian Women's News Service written by Carol Gordon, Sharon Hirt, and Karen Richardson:

More than 350 women, representing several thousand from remote, inaccessible, rural communities and urban centres throughout B.C. converged at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver on September 14 and 15 with their energies and ideas for the founding convention of the B.C. Federation of Women. The Federation's primary purpose is to unite women's groups across the province, provide a resources exchange and internal communications network for its members, and to lobby for improvement in the status of women. It was not designed to replace or duplicate existing groups and services, but so act as an umbrella organization for women's groups and individual women which can give a strong voice and initiative to united policy and political action on women's issues.

The decentralized BCFW elected a 22 member Standing Committee. Twelve of these are Regional Representatives. Ten Members-at-Large were also elected to coordinate communications, membership, rural organization, financing and political action.

Members of the Federation joined separate interest committees on a volunteer basis to discuss changes needed in legislation on such issues as rape, prostitution, abortion, immigration, employment, welfare, family law and health. Committees were also formed to examine societal attitudes towards lesbianism, women in prison and women on welfare and the media's presentation of women.

Women's groups and individual women can affiliate themselves with the BCFW through donation. The Standing Committee is preparing a final written document containing a clear statement of policy on key areas of concern as ratified by the founding convention. For further information contact Kate Swann, BCFW co-ordinator, #209-2005 Pendrell St., Vancouver, or contact Jay Stewart, BCFW Membership co-ordinator, Box 116, Herriot Bay, Quadra Island, B.C.. Gillian Smith is the regional representative for Southern Vancouver Island (Region #11) She can be reached at #3-50 Government Street, Victoria, B.C. 384-1909.

(SWAG, which supported the efforts leading to the founding convention, is waiting for the written policy statement before taking the issue of affiliation to its membership. The executive has sent a letter to the Standing Committee expressing the personal conviction of its members that a mass demonstration in Victoria (as proposed at the Founding Convention as the first united act of the Federation) is an ineffective, overdone form of action which might alienate more women than unite.)

WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTRE

Tapes available from SWAG- contact Norrie Preston 766 Monterey--598-1390 if you or your group wish to borrow them.

Rosemary Brown--MLA: Women and the Arts; opening words at Women's Festival 1974

June Menzies--National Action Committee; address from the Women's Festival 1974

Mary Gusella--Secretariat for Interantional Women's Year: address from the Women's Festival 1974

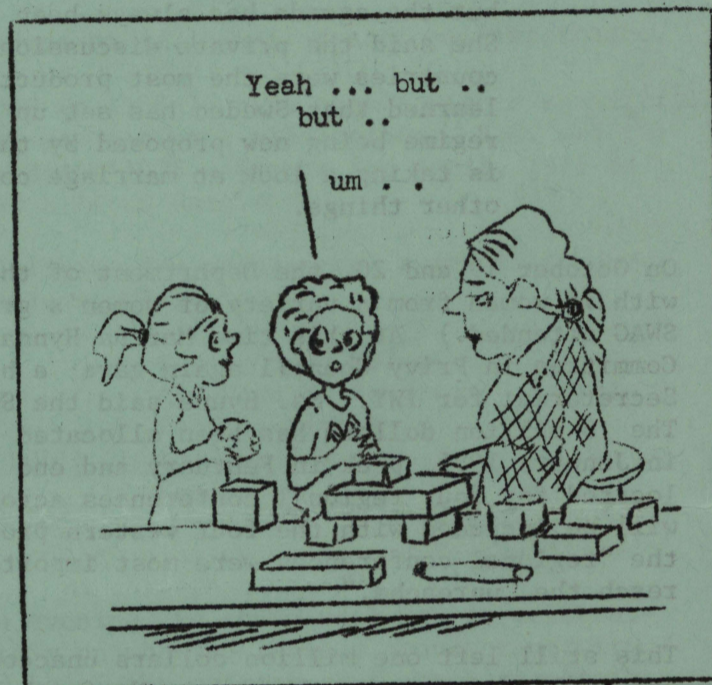
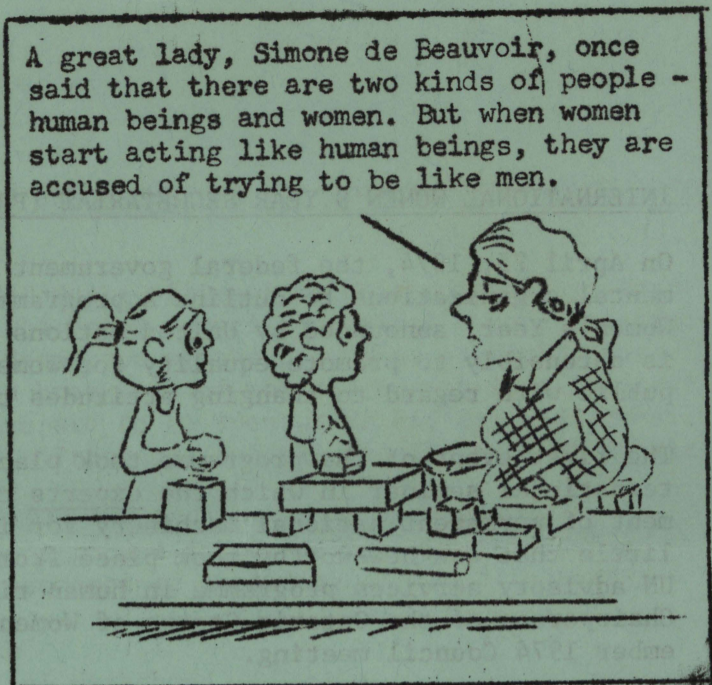
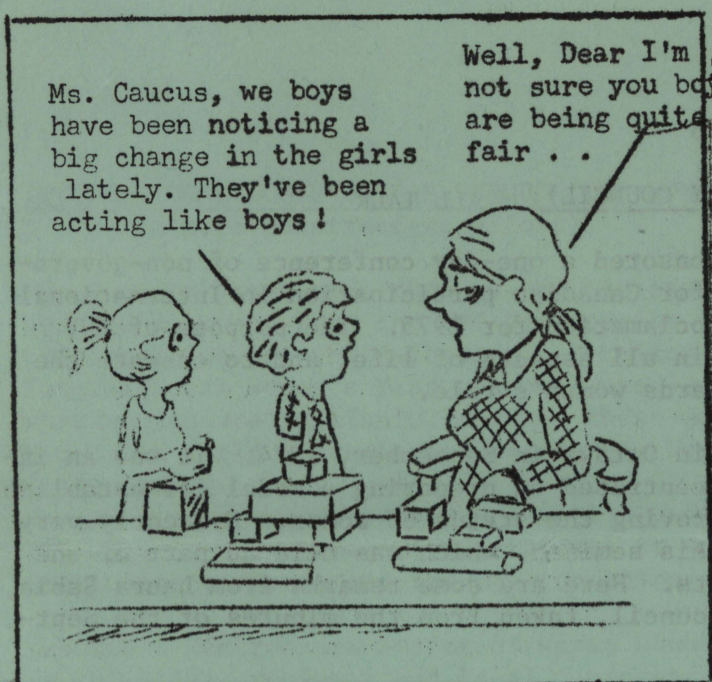
Panel on Rape--Jackie Griswald and Maureen Saylor (Seattle women)

You and Mrs. Murdoch and the Balloon Lady, produced by the Manitoba Status of Women Group

Channel 10:

After the tape You and Mrs. Murdoch and the Balloon Lady was shown at the September meeting, Jean Mohart took it to Channel 10 to see if they would run it. Channel 10 expressed interest at that time in having SWAG do some kind of series on women, of which that tape could be a part. It was decided to video the Festival in hopes of making a collage of sorts, as another possible part. Jean left it that SWAG would come back after the Festival and perhaps submit a proposal. The Festival was taped in part by Kathryn Dawson of Channel 10 until the machin failed; Gail Meyer helped her with that.

Are there people who are interested in the idea of such a series and who have the time, energy and ideas to work on it? If so let's hear from you. Contact person: Gail Meyer 384-3785.



(Cartoon by G. Trudeau, in RAMPARTS)

UPISLAND NEWS

Port Alberni Status of Women Action Group is in the midst of doing a night school course called Women in the Changing World. It began on September 30 and there are eight sessions: Women in the Media, Women and Politics, Women and the Law, Women and Health, Women and Poverty, Women and the Economy. Leaders were a local lawyer, the Vancouver Health Collective, Katherine Hazel, Fran Dodsworth and Yvonne Burnett.

The Port Alberni group has been revamped. They meet twice a month: on the first Wed. for a business meeting and on the third Wed. for a rap session at 611 9th North Avenue. Their newsletter "A Woman's Work is Never Done" comes out once a month. In Port Alberni contact Katherine Hazel at 724-0854. She has a new baby son, Eric, and there is nothing chauvinistic about him, he's lovely.

Courtney women have an ongoing program of women's issues and consciousness-raising. The first Tues. in the month there is a business meeting; every other Tue. is devoted to the program. Held in the evenings at the Low Income Hall, about 30 people have been attending. A rap group meets on Tue. afternoons and another meets on Thursday evenings. Contact Nicky Phillips, RR #2, 338-5763 in Courtney for more information.

Isis Women and Film visited Courtney on October 10, 11 and 12; about 175 people turned out to see the films and women's art exhibit. For more information contact Janet Fairbanks c/o General Delivery, Cumberland, telephone 336-2209.

Campbell River's Women's Placeholds periodic workshops. The first entitled Definition of Self was held November 5, Reentry into the Community will be held in mid January. Every Wednesday afternoon a consciousness-raising group meets. Yoga classes are held every Thursday morning. The Place is located at 660 Island Highway, Campbell River. Contact Ellen Hume or Carol Campbell at 287-9144.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR SECRETARIAT (PRIVY COUNCIL): ALL TALK

On April 25, 1974, the federal government sponsored a one-day conference of non-governmental organizations to outline a programme for Canadian participation in International Women's Year, announced by United Nations proclamation for 1975. The purpose of IWY is ostensibly to promote equality for women in all aspects of life, and to educate the public with regard to changing attitudes towards women's role.

The first event of the programme took place in Ottawa in September, 1974. It was an international seminar in which the experts concentrated on preparing a model for establishment of permanent national machinery for improving the status of women. Evidently very little that was newsworthy took place from this seminar, which was held as part of the UN advisory services programme in human rights. Here are some remarks from Laura Sabia, Chairperson of the Ontario Status of Women Council, taken from the minutes of the September 1974 Council meeting.

She said this was the eighth seminar across the world in eleven years but the agenda has always been the same -- all talk, but never any action. She said the private discussions she had with many delegates from other countries were the most productive part of her time there, e.g. she learned that Sweden has set up a Royal Commission to get rid of the regime being now proposed by the Ontario Law Reform Commission ... and is taking a look at marriage contracts, and judicial discretion among other things.

On October 19 and 20, the Department of the Secretary of State held a "consultation" with 75 women from a variety of women's groups across Canada. (Norrie Preston from SWAG attended.) At this time Martha Hynna, Coordinator of the Status of Women's Committee in Privy Council again gave a brief outline of the plans of Canada's Secretariat for IWY. Ms. Hynna said the Secretariat has a budget of 2.5 million dollars. The .5 million dollars has been allocated to an advertising campaign which will begin in January 1975, peak in February and end in March! A million dollars has been allocated for four regional conferences across the country and one national one. (B. C. will be included with the four western provinces and the North.) Ms. Hynna stated that the "regional conferences were most important and that local efforts were needed to reach the "unreached."

This still left one million dollars unaccounted for, but it was announced that Ms Hynna had to leave to go to the opera. No further information on how this money was to be spent was forthcoming except that one thing was made very clear. There is no money from the Secretariat for funding volunteer groups. Fiona Hyslop, (chief of conferences from the Secretariat), was left behind to field questions from 75 angry women delegates, who were told that the Secretariat was not interested in catering to groups such as ours during International Women's Year, but its efforts were going to reaching the "unreached".

The delegates said they were offended by the advertising campaign -- it uses the motto Why Not? -- and that they did not want conferences of this nature. The time has come for action, not talk. In discussion, alternatives were suggested such as publicity and educational programmes at the local level in the hands of local organizations.

The delegates also want Health and Welfare Minister Marc Lalonde, responsible for implementing legislation on the status of women to take the lead in the federal level and to set the pace for the provincial and municipal levels, to have legislation and by-laws affecting women either changed or initiated. A telegram was drafted and sent to the appropriate Minister and to the press, expressing our displeasure and stating our alternatives.

Unfortunately, it is impossible to sustain our interest in a mediocre attempt to imitate what was done in an excellent fashion by the Royal Commission on the Status of Women in 1968 - over 5 years ago. If you also fear that the Secretariat is passing off Canadian women with more talk and misplaced, redundant activity while spending a large amount of money, write to

Mary Gusella, Director or
International Women's Year
Secretariat
Parliament Buildings
Ottawa, Ontario

Martha Hynna, Coordinator, Status of Women
Privy Council Office, East Bldg.
Parliament Buildings,
Ottawa, Ontario

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR THROUGH THE WOMEN'S PROGRAMMES OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE OFFICE:
(a more constructive effort)

The Women's Programmes through the Secretary of State Office (which is completely separate and distinct from the IWY Secretariat of the Privy Council), provided a more constructive exercise for the delegates. Detailed information of the programme scheduled for International Women's Year was presented and a breakdown of how the budget is allocated; what monies are available, and how these monies are to be spent. We had ample discussion time with field representatives for the Women's Programme and the coordinators of special programmes.

The women's programme provides grants to women's groups for on-going activities, for particular projects and for the formation of new groups, including

- Women's Centres and Status of Women Councils
- Provincial, regional and Local Conferences and Workshops
- Communications projects
- Cultural Projects
- National Projects, for national women's groups or on issues of national importance.

Grant funds of \$505,000 in 1974-75 and \$500,000 in 1975-76 have been assigned specifically for IWY projects and broken down into regional and national allocations. B.C. and the Yukon's share is \$80,000 from April, 1974, to March 1975. Grants for April, 1975 to March, 1976, will be assessed and allocated at a later date.

If you wish further information regarding priorities for programmes, criteria for projects, types of activities, types of organizations, write to:

Women's Resource Centre
766 Monterey Ave.
Victoria

or

Carole Anne Soong
c/O Dept of Secretary of State
Pacific Region
1525 W. 8th Ave
Vancouver

WOMEN & ART

by

ROSEMARY BROWN: The following is a copy of the opening words to our Festival

It is a very special pleasure to be here this evening, to share with you in celebrating the creativity of women. If we were to rely on what we learned about creativity and art in school and in university, we would be of the opinion that women's contribution to this field was at best miniscule. We would believe like Rousseau, that "women have in general no love of any art: (that) they have no proper knowledge of any; and that they have no genius." We would also be feeling a little bit guilty about our presence here this evening--we would remember being told that "Art has no sex and art has no race" and that therefore, there should be no such thing as a "Women's Festival". We would believe that to dedicate two days of our lives to "Demonstrations of Women's art, literature, dance and theatre, discussions and dialogue" is to indulge ourselves in segregationist, non-productive activity. But as women, we know that there are times when it takes more courage and more strength to separate than it does to integrate. We know that there are times when our willingness to come together as a group is a positive indication of our growing respect for ourselves and for each other. As women, we have come to know that separating is often a victory for our raised consciousness and an end to years of acceptance of our underlying inferiority and lack of worth.

Tonight is one such occasion. The decision of SWAG to pay tribute to the talent of women in the arts, affords us the opportunity to say with Simone de Beauvoir that "One is not born a genius, one becomes a genius, and the feminine situation has, up to the present, rendered this becoming practically impossible." This festival challenges the presumption of male-focussed entertainment and says to all, that the spirit of womankind as it is expressed through the vehicle of art is a powerful and beautiful (cont. p.8)

Rosemary Brown, cont.

thing and we must honour it. We must honour the folk art of our ancestors. These ordinary sisters and mothers, mostly self-taught and gifted, who carved and painted for the fun of it, who could build a table, fashion a child's toy, weave a family's fabric, design the household utensils, create a fairy tale, compose a lullaby, even as they milked the cow, baked the bread and manufactured the candle and soap for the family. We must honour the early Indian women who were the architects of their villages, the teepee builders, igloo makers and pueblo constructors, back in the days when architecture was considered "women's work". We must honour George Sands, George Eliot, Gertrude Stein, Isak Dinesen, the Bronte sisters and all those women who had to write under male names in order to get their works published -- and the painters and sculptors who tried to make their art look like a man's in order to get it accepted.

We have always accepted, as Maryon Kantaroff said, the role of the woman as patron and muse in the arts. We have always accepted the woman's role as worker and breadwinner to support the artist, and as inspiration for the Mona Lisa, and for La Belle Dame Sans Merci and for Swan Lake and the ballad and the dance. But the veil of silence which has always shrouded our direct contributions to the arts began to disintegrate in the 1960's with the rebirth of the feminist movement, and the recognition of the crucial role which we have always played in collecting and preserving the arts is now being expanded to include the recognition of our direct contribution to this field.

The greatest accolade that any community can bestow on any of its members is to honour them publicly. Tonight as we honour our talented sisters at this festival, it is possible for us to say and I quote "The fault lies not in our stars, our hormones, our menstrual cycles, or our empty spaces, but in our institutions and our education -- education understood to include everything that happens to us from the moment we enter head first into the world of meaningful symbols, signs and signals. The miracle is in fact that given the overwhelming odds against women, or blacks, that so many of both have managed to achieve so much excellence -- if not towering grandeur -- in those bailiwicks of white masculine prerogative like science, politics or art."

And so in opening this festival, I would like to say thank you to Emily Carr and to Pauline Johnson and Alice Munro, and to Margaret Atwood and Margaret Laurence and to Mary Filer and to Maryon Kantaroff, to Yetta Lees, to Uta Allen, and to Barbara Dahlquist, to Anna Wyman, to Buffy St. Marie, to Celia Franca, to Zara Nelsova, and and to Maureen Forester, to Paula Ross and to all you others who have contributed to much of the quality of our lives over the years, and to our sense of achievement and our pride in ourselves, as your sisters.

In a larger sense, this Festival marks our coming of age. The idea of women performing primarily for other women is a liberating and exciting one. We come to it with joy and anticipation. In opening this festival may I say thank you to SWAG for designing this expression of memoirs, this rite of identity and for inviting us to share it with you. Thank You.

WOMEN'S FESTIVAL - A short recapitulation by Norrie Preston

The Festival Committee was generally pleased with what was accomplished during the festival. The Friday evening performance by Elspeth Strang, Carolyn Zapf, Jacqueline Sears, the Pumpkin Puppeteers and the Shirley Rowland Dancers was especially pleasing.

Due to the efforts of the Emily Carr Art Centre over 300 people were able to view an excellent art exhibit by women for women. We really appreciate the efforts of Roz and Bill Bowie and the generosity and goodwill of the artists who lent their works -- and we do wish the press had covered this aspect of the festival more fully. Our thanks to: Peggy Day, Ann Conway, Lesley Davies, Edith Hembroff-Schleicher, Myfanwy Pavelic, Stephanie Steel, Irina Schestakowich, Pat Martin Bates, Barbara Richardson, Winnifred Mitchell, and Mary Filer. Thanks to Harriet Avery for her photographic sculptures.

Over thirty-four women who were workshop leaders gave us the benefit of their experience, their training, and their special dedication. We were contacted by many women who volunteered to give workshops or other help. We appreciate the time that several women gave to appear on T.V. to talk about their workshops and the festival. We regret that there was not more mention made at the Festival of the very real contribution of the U Vic Women's Group.

(SWAG and the U Vic Action Group do not turn down any help that is volunteered. The poster that P and S Graphics proposed was far beyond our budget, \$125+ for 100 posters.)

(Women's Festival cont. from page 8)

The festival was written up in all the papers more than once, was advertised on TV interview shows, on radio news many times, had a paid ad thanks to Data Tech, and over 700 posters and flyers were distributed. I think that we did a fairly good job judging by the attendance. Three hundred five people registered on Nov. 1 and 2 and more than that were involved. All the bills are not in yet, but the cost came to about \$650, income was \$570.

Our goal in having this festival was to stimulate community interest in the women's movement, to raise the awareness of the public to the special problems that women face, to make women and men conscious of their special qualities and to draw attention to the activities of U Vic Action Group and SWAG. On the whole we feel that these aims were realized.

--Norrie Preston

(We have write-ups of some of the workshops. Anyone wanting to see them or make copies, contact Norrie.)

THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER:

The purpose of this newsletter is to relay information and ideas to a larger body of people than can come to monthly SWAG meetings. We hope it will become an instrument of two-way communication. Do write your thoughts, feelings, and concerns on any aspect of the subject of women's liberation. SWAG NEEDS INPUT FROM ALL ITS MEMBERS. So respond--write a letter, or submit an article--communicate. (We may have to edit, due to limitations of space.)

The newsletter can happen only if there are people willing to work on it. If you would like to help in any way, please contact Carolyn Folse, 384-2563 or Susan Stein 478-6238.

NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING: November 25, 1974, Monday night at 8:00 p.m. at the Cedar Hill Community Centre, 3220 Cedar Hill Rd.

As indicated at the September meeting, the B.C. Police Commission has established a Task Force on Women and the Police. They are studying three areas of concern--women as police officers, women as victims of crime and women as offenders. In studying these issues, the Task Force wants to draw upon the experience of as many women as possible. When a letter from the Police Commission was read out at the last meeting, it was suggested that a policewoman come and speak to us, for the purposes of stimulating discussion and ideas that might ultimately be useful to the Task Force. To this end, the program for the November meeting will involve several guests: a member of the Police Commission, a policewoman, and a social worker.

If you have any information or ideas you feel would be useful to the Task Force, please contact Joanne Prindiville, the researcher for the group, at 409 Granville St., Vancouver. Include specific recommendations if possible.

Membership: If you would like to become a SWAG member (or renew your old membership) please tear off the form below and send it with your \$2.00 to 766 Monterey Ave., Victoria

NAME: _____

Renewal _____

New Member _____

Address: _____

Telephone: (Home) _____

(Other) _____

(INTERESTS OR CONCERNS):

