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CAREY ROAD

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## THE TOTALLED WOMAN

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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 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,  
Victoria, B.C. V8P 5L5

Co-ordinators

February — Stella Lord  
March — Diana Butler  
April — Josephine Payne-O'Conner  
May — Catherine Winter  
June — Alice Albert  
July — Gwen Bavin  
August — Alice Albert  
September — Avis Rasmussen  
October — Pam Blackstone  
November — Stella Lord  
December-  
January — Lois Vickery

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595-2542

Contact Women

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

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382-3914  
Stella Lord  
595-2542

Family Law Gwen Bavin  
383-2502

Education Jean Newton  
598-3786  
Marguerite Mousseau  
479-1572

Human Rights Norrie Preston  
598-1390

Health Susan Moger  
592-4215

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Feminist History Alice Albert  
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Newsletter Editorial Board Lois Vickery  
Stella Lord

Editor Catherine Winter  
592-1281 Ext. 378

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598-3188

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

**Meetings/Workshops** SWAG meetings are held the fourth Monday of each month (except when it falls on a holiday) at the Women's Building, 760 Yates, 7:30 p.m.

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# WHO?

CAREY ROAD

# WHAT?

# WHEN?

# WHERE?

## April 26, Monday

SWAG Workshop. Alice Ages will speak on Mediawatch. 7:30 at the Women's Building 760B Yates St. An Office Warming Party will follow. B.Y.O.B. and a supply for the office. List of needs on last page.

## April 28, Wednesday

Learning at Noon. 12:05 to 12:55 Maritime Museum, Court Room. Topic: Wage Structures and Career Paths. Speakers: Maxine Boag and Muriel Overgaard.

## April 30, Friday

Victoria Women's Network will be holding a meeting at the Imperial Inn at 7:30. Speaker: Monice Lytton Topic: Motivation. Call Lynn Gough 479-2183 for information.

## April - Last Week

CARAL will hold a meeting. They are planning to have regular monthly meetings. Call Jennifer 474-1482 for information.

## May 1, Saturday

Feminist Exchange Meeting. 9:30 a.m. at the Women's Building, 760B Yates St.

## May 2, Sunday

Feminist History Group will meet at Alice Albert's 453 Moss St. 3:15. Speaker: Debby Gregory Topic: A Personal Reflection on Radical Feminism in England.

## May 3, Tuesday

SWAG Business Meeting. 7:30 at Catherine's 1130 Palmer Rd. 389-2959 for directions.

## May 5, Wednesday

Learning at Noon 12:05-12:55 Maritime Museum, Court Room. Topic: Working Conditions and Occupational Health Hazards. Speaker: Peter James and Pieta Van Dyke.

## May 8, Saturday

Rally for the Repeal of all Anti-Abortion Laws and to Defend a Woman's Right to Choose. 1 p.m. at Centennial Sq. to march to the Legislature - all banners and signs in support welcome. Speakers at the Legislature, weather permitting, at the James Bay Community Centre otherwise. More information under announcements. Call Jennifer 474-1482 for information or to volunteer to help organize the rally.

## May 12, Wednesday

Learning at Noon, 12:05-12:55 Maritime Museum, Court Room. Topic: Reviewing Remedies Speakers: Bet McMurchy and Linda Sproule-Jones.

## May 19, Wednesday

Business and Professional Women monthly meeting. Gathering 6 p.m., dinner 6:30 and speaker at 7:30 at the Imperial Inn. Speaker: Donna Bannister Topic: "It's Just Your Nerves" - Women and Drug Abuse. Call Phyllis Wrobel 479-9927 for info.

## June 3-5, Thursday - Saturday

1st National Women's Network Conference at U.B.C. Fee \$100 Contact Alice Albert for registration form - 382-1536

## July 5 - August 13

Women and Education Summer Institute at the University of Saskatchewan. For more information contact: Lise Cyrenne, WESI Co-ordinator, Room 3087, College of Education, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Sask. S7N 0W0

## October 22-23, Friday, Saturday

SWAG 10th Annual Conference. Theme: Celebrating Sisterhood; Past, Present and Future.

# Letters



February 25, 1982  
The Editor of SWAG

Dear Editor:

I have read the February 1982 issue of SWAG - Report on Labour. The article raises questions which deserve an answer. Your article is both timely and important - equal pay for work of equal value is the issue of the eighties. You have posed three questions:

## QUESTION 1

How can women's organizations support such strikes - what can we offer in SWAG? There are many ways women's organizations can show support for such strikes: visit the picket line, offer words of encouragement. Picket lines are lonely places and when on strike you feel no one cares. In some instances, where allowed by law, walk the picket lines. You will learn a lot about the strike which you will not read in the papers. Consider financial donations, but please, establish the need of the union. The B.C. Federation of Labour has a Defence Fund. We try to see financial assistance is delegated fairly. Money to the Federation's Defence Fund can be earmarked for a particular strike. If you are unsure of which route to take, visit the local union office, explain to them you want to show support, ask them what type of support they need.

During a strike SWAG can be a very important vehicle. In articles you can cover the issues concerning the strike - it can examine the complexity of concepts such as equal pay for work of equal value. Most people who are on strike have little time or energy to do any writing and I am sure articles such as these would be appreciated. Write to the local newspapers in your community to show support. Get on talk-line shows that debate the issues.

## QUESTION 2

Do women in trade unions want our support? Yes, of course. However, trade unions often find people are more interested in telling a union how to run its strike, what issues should be put forward rather than supporting the issues and the methods that the union has chosen in effecting their strike. There are many important elements to a strike that the public might not know about. For instance, an effectively run strike will have several strategies mapped out. One strategy may include

escalation of a picket line, another strategy may include having a rally. These are all timed considerations. There is a danger that interest and support for a particular strike might peak at the wrong time. Economic clout against the employer is a major strategic consideration. For example, a hot declaration declared by the B.C. Federation of Labour is considered a "bomb"; when all else has failed the Federation will consider whether or not to use a hot declaration. It must be used carefully otherwise it becomes ineffective. Whatever is done must be effective, that is the bottom line.

## QUESTION 3

If yes, do we need to foster more liaison with women in trade unions in Victoria? How can we do this? While I do not live in Victoria I expect the problem of liaison is the same in all communities in B.C. If you follow the advice I have given you thus far, that liaison will come about. However, you no doubt want action now. May I suggest that you contact a union of your interest and ask the elected officials to put you in touch with a woman to discuss the issue of liaison and have her report back to her executive. You might meet with the executive of that union.

One of the best groups I have worked with was the Vancouver Women's Research Centre. This group approached me, I met with them, I reported back to my committee and from there we made a recommendation to work with this group. Some say the trade union movement is too democratic, decisions must go through many processes - through committees, through elected officials of a union for approval, etc. This all takes time. The Vancouver Women's Research Centre was very patient with this procedure. They showed an understanding of our structure by being prepared to work within that structure. Often a woman's group gets off on the wrong foot by labelling elected officials as "chauvinistic", "bureaucratic", "right-winged" or "left-winged" whatever. While unions officials don't take too kindly to this type of criticism from within the trade union, you can be sure that they don't like it at all when it comes from outside.

One last comment. The issue of equal pay for work of equal value is an extremely complex issue. The Employer's Council of B.C. has said that there will be a massive disruption to the collective bargaining process if we proceed to this objective. When one considers

that old job evaluation schemes, merit plans, systems of increments will have to be re-vamped the task is monumental. However, women do not propose to sit back to continue receiving low wages or wages that do not portray the value of the job. Trade union women are going to need all the help and support they can get and we welcome that support.

Sincerely,  
Astrid Davidson  
Director of Women's Programs  
B.C. Federation of Labour

March 4th 1982  
Dear SWAG,

Herewith my rather belated subscription renewal. I had some reservations about renewing it, because of a confusion over your continual use of the phrase "Support a woman's right to choose." Choose what? to become sexually active, to use contraception, to develop a half-decent understanding with your doctor, or to copulate freely, expect a free "therapeutic" abortion and then choose to be astonished when Moral Majority types stage a backlash? That lot are denying women who really need abortions, rather than numerous twits who took the last article on the dangers of the pill (eg in *Playboy*) seriously, and neglected to take precautions, or decided that it would Destroy the Spontaneity of etc. etc.

You could also send wotsit Blackstone to Remedial English classes next time she outrages herself into the style of a Helen Gurley Brown chained to the railings outside 10 Downing Street.

Allison McAdam

March 23, 1982  
Dear Alison:

Thank you for renewing your subscription to SWAG NEWS. Certainly in an organization as diverse as ours most of us take exception to some policy or procedure. I appreciate your ability to look past your confusion to our common goals.

The phrase "a woman's right to choose" means, quite simply, the right of a woman, finding herself pregnant under any circumstances, to choose whether or not to bear a child. Her chosen lifestyle, the reliability of her contraception methods and the circumstances of conception are, in our policy, irrelevant to her right to choose. Without doubt all of those factors are of utmost importance to the individual woman and will have great bearing on her final decision. They do

not, however, relate to the principle of freedom of choice on continuing pregnancy. Ours is not to decide whether individual women deserve abortions. The decision rests only with the woman who bears the ultimate responsibility for the child she bears.

I must make a short reference also to the question of class. The rich will always have freedom of choice on abortion legal or otherwise. Our concern for freedom must include women who because of cultural background or socio-economic class are more susceptible to violent attack, less likely to have access to birth control information and devices and without a doctor, much less one with whom they can develop a "half decent understanding." "None of us is free until all of us are free."

"Wotsit's" name is Pam. The image of any woman (even Helen Gurley Brown) chained to the railing of a British institution fills me with pride. It was only through the outrage of the Suffragettes that we were given the vote.

For the rights of all women:

Shirley Ann Avril

March 9, 1982  
Dear Ms. Carroll:

I feel that your concerns regarding our stand on religious broadcasting, expressed in your letter of Jan. 27th, deserve a personal reply. I was, in fact, unhappy with the interview in question, as it did not allow me the opportunity to adequately discuss the reasons for our stance, and I was concerned that it may have left room for misimpressions.

While I hasten to assure you that we do not, in any way, oppose spirituality, or the right of the individual to hold her own religious beliefs, I must advise that our opposition to organized religion and the use of the media to disseminate its message remains firm.

I take issue particularly with two of your statements: firstly, that television evangelism is of great importance to the elderly and isolated. I would like to point out that most of the isolated elderly are women, and that tv evangelists exploit them -- through deliberate manipulation of their fears, loneliness, guilt, and insecurities. A recent "5th Estate" program, with Adrienne Clarkson, powerfully documented this tragic phenomenon, as does Jerry Sholes, a one-time copy-writer for Oral Roberts, in his book, "Give Me that Prime-Time Religion." Religious broadcasters in the U.S. bilk viewers for a total of up

to \$400 million per year. Much of this is the meagre income or life-savings of elderly and isolated women. This money is then used for political activity to further the goals of the "Christian Right" ... essentially white male supremacy. It is imperative that people are aware of the strong connection between television evangelism and the political ultra-right.

Secondly, you talk about "freedom of choice" to watch or not to watch, and "freedom of speech". The kind of manipulation used by these tv preachers, preying as it does on vulnerability, is an assault on freedom of choice. I might point out, also, that the ultimate goal of these fundamentalists -- who have aligned with, and financially support, the political ultra-right -- is to erode freedom of choice for all people, particularly women and minorities. They have been highly successful in the U.S., and are now pushing through anti-abortion bills (which deem life as "commencing at conception" and, if successful, will outlaw as murder not only abortion but IUD's and some birth control pills), and a frightening piece of legislation called the Family Protection Act, which will -- literally -- reverse the hard-won gains of the Women's Movement. Its ultimate goal is to restore the supremacy of the male in his home (including the right to rape and beat his wife) and to reinforce traditional sex roles and the primacy of the traditional family. (See the July/Aug. 80 "Kinesis" for details of this legislation.)

Finally, our opposition to television access for organized religion has apparently been perceived by some as an attack on freedom of speech. I submit, however, that any belief system which advocates the subordination of a particular group in society -- and fundamentalist Christianity (and some mainstream churches too) target women -- is itself a violation of the concept of freedom of speech.

To quote Phyllis Schlafly, an American opponent of equal rights for women: "I'm a Christian, and all good Christians believe that God made man to take care of women, to protect them, to go to war for them, to help them with their jackets and make sure that nobody messes with them."

Jerry Falwell, of "moral majority" fame, has publicly stated that "the three worst sins are: the 'killing of little babies', feminism, and sodomy (homosexuality)." He also used his tv "ministry" to urge viewers to vote for Ronald Reagan.

And this from "Citizens for Moral Values" in Vancouver: "... If you see a queer on the street and there are no witnesses around, beat that queer so that he will never walk again... The Nazis knew what to do with queers. God is on your side. Remember, the only good queer is a dead queer. ... It is bad enough that we must put up with Asians, blacks, Jews, and other filth. ... One day there will be a better world where the Bible will be the law." This is christian love and tolerance?

All would use a literal interpretation of scriptures to support these bigoted and extreme views, and (at least the first two, possibly the third) have the financial backing of tv evangelists. Falwell himself is one.

We perceive in the threatened proliferation of television evangelism in Canada a very real danger to women and minorities. While some of the mainstream churches are less extremist in their beliefs, a subtle -- but nevertheless frightening -- misogyny is prevalent among many. Orthodox christianity, generally speaking, continues to reinforce traditional female stereotypes; which themselves originated in christian ideology. It tells us our ultimate fulfillment is in the role of wife/mother, and still adheres today to the archaic virgin/whore dichotomy. The belief that woman is inherently evil -- her only redemption in child-bearing and subordination to the male -- originated in judeo-christian tradition. (Genesis 3:16) This is, in fact, partly responsible for the opposition to the ordination of women as priests (ie, Christ was a male, and men are "closer to God" than women). If you wish this information substantiated, I'd suggest Mary Daly's "The Church and the Second Sex" or Eva Figes' "Patriarchal Attitudes". It should also be noted that, in fact, some of the mainstream churches themselves presented briefs opposing religious broadcasting, apparently out of concern that the churches would "lose" people to the convenience and passivity of the electronic pulpit.

Religion (or spirituality) was borne out of people's concerns around the larger issues of the meaning of life, death and the endurance of the spirit. This is ultimately a very personal thing, and should not enter the political arena. Religion and politics (as we are seeing now in the U.S.) make very dangerous bed-fellows. This is precisely what the "Christian Right" wants, and what we oppose. They (quite correctly) see television as a powerful means to this end. With apologies for the unavoidable length, I hope this has given you some background on the reasons for our

position on this issue.

Sincerely,  
Pam Blackstone

Editor's Note: We would like to hear more from members on this issue. How do you feel about it? We need your feed-back if we are to speak on your behalf.

March 12, 1982

Dear Ms. Blackstone:

In reply to your recent letter.

As I am sure you are aware, the present business climate is not conducive to soliciting donations, and in fact, I find myself having to say "no" more and more every day. However, I find your direct approach in a personal letter, as opposed to a form letter, very refreshing and will therefore arrange to have a \$200.00 credit established for your use.

Yours truly,  
Mike A. Kynaston  
Vice-President, Monk Office Supply Ltd.

March 18, 1982

Dear Mr. Kynaston:

I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of S.W.A.G.'s Co-ordinating Committee, to express our sincere appreciation for your decision to grant our organization a \$200 credit.

With the general economic restraint prevalent, and the difficulty of raising funds in this climate, generosity such as yours is heartening for us, and very much appreciated.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,  
Pam Blackstone  
Funding Co-ordinator

March 23, 1982

The Managers  
Harpo's

It has been brought to our attention that a woman was physically thrown out of your club by your bouncer, Bob Dolan, at approximately midnight on Tuesday, Nov. 10, 1981. (Ladies "sic" night).

We find this treatment intolerable as Mr. Dolan used more force than was necessary to remove Ms Lloyd from the club premises. Ms Lloyd posed no physical threat to Mr Dolan, wanting only to discuss the misunderstanding and was

prepared to leave peacefully if a difference of opinion remained.

Mr. Dolan seemed to think that Ms Lloyd was trying to sneak into the club without waiting in the line-up, after having gone in to use the wash-room facilities. Ms Lloyd had come to the club with a friend who was also in the line-up and had been allowed into the club while Ms Lloyd was in the washroom. It is not unreasonable that Ms Lloyd felt she should be able to go in and sit with her friend.

Mr Dolan displayed hostile behaviour refusing to calmly discuss the situation. At one point he ignored their attempts to reason with him, at which point Ms Lloyd and her friend proceeded to return to their seats. Mr Dolan lunged after Ms Lloyd, physically throwing her out of the club.

We must point out that had Ms Lloyd been physically injured, your club as well as Mr Dolan would have been legally sued.

We view this behaviour as excessively violent. We consider the ability to match the degree of force to a situation, a necessary skill for a bouncer.

We ask that you investigate this situation and ensure us that no other woman is subjected to physical abuse in your club.

Sincerely yours,  
Lois Vickery

March 23, 1982  
Hon. Allan Williams  
Attorney General  
Dear Mr. Williams,

We are writing to support the funding application made by the Vancouver Status of Women.

The information and assistance provided by this group is of vital importance both to the women of the community and to a government concerned with their needs.

We urge you to provide full and prompt funding for the continuing work of the Vancouver Status of Women.

Sincerely yours,  
Diana Butler



March 24, 1982  
TO ALL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

Dear Friends:

Last year, with the expressed support of many representatives of the women's movement, postal workers achieved a breakthrough in the federal public sector for 17 weeks of paid maternity leave. I wish to again express my thanks and appreciation to those who responded to our call for support and whose hearts were with us in our determination to fight for equal rights for women workers.

Now, paid maternity leave is on the list of demands for other unions. Some have won similar benefits to ours - federal government clerical workers and translators and the letter carriers in the post office, as examples.

The momentum for paid leave for other bargaining groups is building now. The government and employers alike are aware of this trend and they know it is going to be difficult to resist. That is why I believe federal government Cabinet Ministers, namely Judy Erola and Lloyd Axworthy, have begun to work on legislative changes to the Unemployment Insurance Act to improve maternity benefits.

This is a positive sign. However, I fear that their objective will be to deflate the pressure for fully paid leave by bringing forth minimal changes to the Act which will marginally improve the eligibility requirements and level of benefits. This, in effect, would be a token gesture towards the full equality of women workers.

It is the position of this Union, and something I truly believe, that equality for women workers will not be achieved until the task of childbearing and caring is recognized as something to be shared between both parents and that the financial penalty of lost wages be abolished. To this effect, the C.U.P.W. supports the Canadian Labour Congress policy and the policy of the federal New Democratic Party, which calls for:

- 9 months of fully paid parental leave, for either parent, to be shared if they wish, upon birth or adoption of a child;
- 10 days paid parental leave for the sickness and/or special needs of a child;
- benefits to be covered by expanding the Unemployment Insurance Act;
- amendments to federal and provincial labour codes to protect the health, job

security and accumulation of benefits for workers taking such leave.

I feel very strongly that this is a critical step for the full equality of women workers and that all workers must be covered, not just those in unions. Already in other countries, notably in Sweden, this is recognized in law. In Canada, there is a broad issue of support for paid maternity leave, as witnessed by a recent Gallup Poll on this topic (published on February 26, 1982).

To win this right for all working people, I believe we must forge a broad alliance between the labour movement, our political allies and the women's movement to push the federal and provincial governments to make the legislative changes as proposed in the CLC/NDP policy.

We again solicit your support in this most significant struggle. You can contribute in many ways, such as communicating your support for the CLC/NDP position to the Canadian Labour Congress, to the New Democratic Party, to the federal Cabinet Ministers involved, to the President of the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women, to Provincial Premiers and women's lobby groups, and to those unions who have taken up the struggle by emphasizing this demand at the bargaining table.

As witnessed by our success last year, together we can do it!

Thank you.

Jean-Claude Parrot,  
National President  
Canadian Union of Postal Workers

March 30, 1982  
RNABC NEWS

Editor:

I am sure the "moral majority", the "pro-lifers" and the "right-to-lifers" will be ecstatic to learn that there is yet another group who care nothing about women and the pitiful circumstances surrounding unwanted pregnancies, as well as not caring about the ongoing quality of life often shared by unwanted children. The name, "Concerned Nurses for Life", of course, implies that nurses who support a woman's right to choose and have autonomy over her own life, are not concerned about life. How dare you insult the integrity, caring and hard work of nurses like myself who have devoted most of our lives to caring for and about people.

Let me share some of the circum-

stances in the caring "good old days" when abortions were illegal. We nursed the women who "survived" illegal abortions; we saw the hypocrisy that allowed nurses and doctor's families access to diatation of the cervix in the doctor's office; we saw women with money flying to other countries for legal abortions. The climate at that time could be best expressed by an actual statement made to me by a night supervisor in the presence of an unmarried young girl on the case-room table. "She made her bed, now she can lay in it!"

I refuse to allow a return of that punitive attitude in nursing.

Lois Vickery

### Office Manager Wanted

Duties: Manage the SWAG office, co-ordinate the work of volunteers and fundraising.

Qualifications: Must be an active SWAG member; would prefer a knowledge of fundraising and community resources.

Hours: 3½ hrs/day, 5 days/wk.

Pay: \$750

Starting: May 1 or as soon as filled

Apply: SWAG, P.O.Box 6296, Stn.C

## ARTICLES

### SWAG Feminist Information Exchange Day

#### Organizational Report by Shirley Avril

17 groups contacted; 14 groups intended to attend; 9 groups attended with 19 people present.

Tea, coffee, juice and carrot cake were supplied at the cost of approximately \$25.

The intent of this gathering was to bring feminist groups together to catch up on the news and views and to establish what, if any, were the concerns we had in common.

By establishing a feminist exchange we eliminate the problems inherent in trying to cover the broad range of all womens activities. This focus was reiterated at Saturday's meeting.

The structure of the group is ad hoc and the purpose is to extend the communication between groups and join forces for common projects. In this way we hope to avoid conflicting or duplicating activities and where possible share our workload. There is no intent that this group establish an entity of its own of that it infringe in any way on the political organizing activities of the B.C. Federation of Women.

The primary concerns that arose at Saturday's meeting were: 1) office space/newsletters/ bulletin boards/ and 2) fundraising.

A sub-committee of delegates from groups interested in co-ordinating mail outs and announcements has been struck and will meet Wednesday, March 31 at 7:30 at the Women's Building.

The next Feminist Exchange will be Saturday, May 1 at 9:30 a.m. Topic will be fundraising activities. Location to be announced.

#### Brief Summary of Goals and Activities of Groups Present by Catherine Winter

The Victoria Council of Women is the local chapter of a provincial, national, and international organization. Membership is groups only but any individual of any member group can participate. Meetings are the second Monday of the month at 1:15 at the Salvation Army Citadel. The Provincial Conference is May 11-13. Deadline for the newsletter is the last Tuesday of the month. The local group's priority currently in the status of the Emily Carr House.

Women Against Pornography is a collective formed as a reaction to the film Not A Love Story. They have prepared a pornography display and a pamphlet which presents arguments to use against pornography's apologists. They also have printed some slogan stickers e.g. This Degrades Women and have them available for sale. They need support on two levels 1) women who are willing to picket movies or march in demonstrations when needed 2) women who have explored the ideology of pornography and would like to work in the collective.

The Widow's Association was formed to give emotional, financial and educational support to widows. They operate an information centre three hours a day. They have developed a seven week course for widows which is now offered by the Y. They contact widows by letter, obtaining names through the obituary column. The group organizes and maintains a social and support network for widows. They have severe funding problems and face the closure of their office.

Victoria Business and Professional Women's Chapter is the local chapter of a provincial, national and international organization. The main focus is the status of women in business. The group lobbies on relevant issues. Meetings are the third Wednesday of the month at the Imperial Inn. Deadline for the newsletter is the first Wednesday of the month. This year's focus is pensions.

Everywoman's Books Collective is non-profit and their main goal is to run the bookstore. There are about twenty volunteers who meet every second Tuesday. They also make space available for poetry readings and provide a bulletin board for the women's community. They have a resource list of women professionals which is maintained intermittently. To have items put on the collective's agenda phone the store.

The Women's Building Society was founded to raise funds to establish a women's building to house services and businesses that meet the needs of Victoria's women. They have an office which is open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday where they maintain a large calendar of events in the women's community. The group have done research on early Victoria feminists as well as former women's buildings in Victoria. Their newsletter is issued approximately once a month. This year's focus is fundraising.

The National Association of Women and the Law is composed mostly of law students and practicing lawyers. They research and examine existing legislation as well as doing public legal education. They meet once a month. The National Conference will be in Victoria in February 1983 with the theme of Women in the Workplace focusing of Affirmative Action, Pensions and Parental Benefits. They welcome input and suggestions for the conference.

Victoria Women's Network is designed to give women a forum in which to meet each other for sharing of skills, concerns and information. It is a non-elitist, non-political organization. They meet once a month. Deadline for the newsletter fluctuates.

#### Contacts by Shirley Avril

Widow's Information Center  
421- 620 View St., V8W 1J5  
382-7122 (after 1 p.m.)

Business and Professional Women  
Box 1703, V8W 2Y1  
Dorothy Maxwell 384-0083

CARAL  
contact: Maxine Boag,  
1253 Walnut St., V8T 1N5  
385-5054

Women's Center Collective(UVIC)  
SUB, University of Victoria  
721-8353

Women's Building of Victoria Society  
760B Yates St.  
381-4133

Rape Assault Center  
1947 Cook St.  
383-5545

B.C. Federation of Women  
contact: Gillian Davies  
1450 Taunton Rd.  
V8R 1W9 595-6340

Council of Women  
contact: Lillian Money (Corresponding Sec.)  
5574 Medberry Close, Sooke, B.C.  
V0S 1N0 642-5379

Action Child Care  
contact: Mary Virtue  
78 Linden Ave  
V8V 4C8 386-5933

Women's Network  
contact: Sandra Aitken  
6020 Old West Saanich Rd.,  
Victoria, RR#7  
V8V 3X3 652-4359

Everywoman's Books  
641 Johnson  
V8W 1M7 388-9411

Women in the Law (Victoria Caucus)  
c/o UVIC Faculty of Law  
Box 2400  
V8A 3A8 721-8150

Flagrant: Vancouver Island Lesbian News-  
letter Collective  
P.O. Box 1604, Stn. E.

#### National Action Committee - 10 Years Old

#### AGM Report submitted by Shirley Avril

Women gathered from across Canada for our annual fest in Ottawa. This year was special as we looked back over ten great years. "Strategy for Change", a 30 minute film made in 1975 gave us glimpses back to the way we were: earnest, naive, angry. Laura Sabia in her keynote address told us "How it was in 72" and re-introduced our long list of formothers. In 72, just after the Royal Commission on the Status of Women, most of us thought our cause was so just it would be only a matter of months before the powers that be saw it our way, moved over and shared the power. In 82 we are less naive, more committed and still struggling with exactly the same issues, daycare, access to employment, abortion freedom, pension security, violence against women et al.

And a few new ones have been added over the years. Two years ago NAC formulated policy on freedom in sexual orientation. This year the survival workshop was new, examining the threats of pollution, scarcity, violence and radioactive materials.

We have grown from 35 to 188 current members in good standing. Introduction of regional representation over the last few years has helped to ease the east-west/north-south tensions that arise in any and all national organizations.\* Our membership base now includes a much wider variety of political analysis but we still need a much wider mix of race and class. Specifically the membership committee feels we need more representation from francophone groups, native Indian groups, domestic workers and immigrant women's groups.

As you may have heard Doris Anderson, was acclaimed the president of NAC. Due to her role in the Canadian Advisory Committee conflict and her image of a "one woman show" I have mixed feelings about her ability to work within a structure such as we have in NAC. However, her public profile will certainly keep women's issues in the news. She feels that with our recent success in the Constitutional question, now is the time for thrust in the movement toward equality. No one can argue with that. Hopefully she will prove to be the woman of our time.

Reports from Committees and past President Jean Wood are on file as are the resolutions dealt with at this AGM. Certainly the most controversial question was that of the Canada Pension Plan expansion. The resolution, as it passed, is as follows:

Be it resolved that the Canadian Pension system be reformed in the following ways

- a) to include all homemakers (whether or not they have young children) in the C/QPP's; if the homemaker is taking care of a child less than seven (yrs.) or a dependent, disabled family member this inclusion should be subsidized by all participants to the C/QPP's; if there are no young children or dependant disabled family members, this should be paid for by the homemakers spouse.
- b) to amplify the C/QPP so that its benefits would amount to 50% rather than 25% of previous earnings up to the average industrial wage.
- c) employers should be encouraged to provide supplementary coverage over and above that provided by this expanded public system; they should not be allowed to opt out of any part of the C/QPP.

The argument against a) was that a woman should not get a pension for staying at home doing nothings (Believe it!) Two factors must be pointed out: (1) her premiums are not subsidized, they are paid for by her spouse and this emphasizes that she is really working for him; (2) payments, however, are not based in any real sense on premium money incoming, it is in fact a bargain pension subsidized by government general revenue.

National Action Committee is our voice in Ottawa. The work done in committee and on the executive is phenomenal. We can be very proud to be part of the swelling tide toward equality.

\*But other than regional reps. the only executive members outside the "magic triangle" are Jillian Riddington V.P. (Vancouver) and Kathy Coffin V.P. (Halifax)

#### Phyllis Serota - Recent Paintings

a review by Shirley Ann Avril

Phyllis Serota has created for us a visual record of her reality. Her strong figurative paintings evoke a touching intimacy. The images range from the whimsical to starkly powerful; the emotions from tender to mysterious. And we become a part of it all.

Phyllis' work has mellowed and matured. The active brush workings create texture and depth. Har lines are softened, her colours muted. The effect is enveloping and penetrating, more provocative than ever before.

With a delicate, precise sense of colour, Phyllis interplays many reds and browns, always superbly balanced with greens and blues. Her composition and structure of space draw the viewer in, maintain interest and provide the resolutions necessary to an artistic statement. Strong linear divisions establish structure but never break the continuity of movement in and out of the picture plane. Vibrant points of interest in each painting kept drawing me back; a splash of colour, a facial expression, a hard, cold line. Phyllis has provided in each painting a consistent balance with constant interaction of background and foreground.

These paintings kept me emotionally involved and visually satisfied. A well integrated visual statement of dreams and visions: Her reality.

Phyllis Serota - Recent Paintings  
Kyle's Gallery, 1545 Fort St. 592-2211  
March 21 - April 10

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Book Reviews by Connie McCann of  
Everywoman's Books

Feminism in the 80's ... facing down the right. by Charlotte Bunch. Denver: InKling Press. \$2.20

This is a twenty-five page speech, given by Charlotte Bunch at the 2nd Lesbians Colorado Conference in November 1980, which has been published in booklet form. Every magazine I pick up lately appears to have an article on women in the 80's but no one has caught my attention until Charlotte Bunch.

She calls 1980 a turning point. Feminists have turned the corner from consciousness raising groups to "organized political struggle". She faces without flinching the power of Washington and accepts how women have very little influence over that power. "But I am for utilizing everything we've got. I believe in organizing in many different fronts at once."

Charlotte Bunch faces up to the bad news of the 80's but challenges it with a positive and realistic view point. She firmly believes in the rise of global feminism and states heartening examples.

She zeroes in on male terrorism as a major issue in the 80's and her answer "to terrorism is to organize". There is a shrewd assessment of the American New Right and their rise to power and how the women's movement could learn from them. Certainly, the New Right used some of the techniques of the Left, therefore, the women's movement should do the same.

The section titled feminism as a world view is perhaps the most poignant. She stresses feminism "as a perspective on the world". There is no going back in Charlotte Bunch's 80's vision, in fact, she marches to the tune of global feminism.

Healing Yourself. by Joy Gardner. Self-Published, 1972. \$4.00

Recently, at the Anne Cameron reading at Everywoman's, I had the pleasure of meeting Joy Gardner. She now lives in Victoria and is offering courses on healing yourself. If you have already read Healing Yourself then her newest book Healing the Family (3.95) should be on the shelves at the present time.

Healing Yourself is a pleasureable book from many aspects. It is self published and in its seventh revised edition, a remarkable story in itself. The home typed pages are decorated by hand drawn illustrations of herbs and remedies. The book is well laid out and a table of contents is included.

At the very beginning of the book, Joy makes a point of stating "if the price is too high for you, please write and tell us. If you can, enclose \$1.50 to help cover the expenses, and we'll send you a copy." Roses for Joy.

There is a good introduction which it is imperative to read especially if this is your first exposure to preventive medicine and the use of herbs, vitamins and home remedies.

I would never call myself a proponent of natural medicine but neither do I place total trust in the medical establishment. I, therefore, approached Joy's book with a mixture of curiosity and dubiousness.

I have my own cure for the common cold and after the first chapter I find it is exactly what Healing Yourself suggests. Constantly, through the book I found myself agreeing with remedies or finding remedies I already use. One of the most encouraging chapters for me was on birth control. For the past six months I have been using the Ovulation Method with perfect results (no pregnancy) and feeling much better for it. Joy Gardner gives good attention to the Ovulation Method and provides the information a woman needs to become involved in this most "natural" of all birth control.

Healing Yourself is a very woman oriented book that is useable no matter how much or how little we believe in natural medicine.

#### New Books at Everywoman's Books

Lily Briscoe: A Self Portrait. by Mary Meigs. Talon Books. \$8.95

Fight Back: Feminist Resistance to MaleViolence. Edited by Federique Delacoste and Felice Newman. Cleis Press. \$15.35

Women and the Chip. by Heather Menzies. The Institute for Research on Public Policy. \$6.95

#### Accomodation Wanted

Prospective student needs to live economically and wants to do so with companionable people. Either 1 or 2 women over 30 interested in finding and sharing a house or duplex. Call Lyn 381-5099 after 5 weekdays, anytime on weekends.

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# Announcements

## Repeal All Anti-Abortion Laws Defend A Woman's Right to Choose

The Victoria CARAL has three actions planned:

### April 30

CHEK-TV Channel 6 11 o'clock show - CARAL Reps will appear

### May 7

CFAX on Let's Talk It Over at 10am will feature reps from CARAL

### May 8

Rally and March to the Legislature

Gathering at 1pm in Centennial Square followed by the march to the Legislature. Speakers, either at the Legislature or the James Bay Community Centre depending on the weather. Speakers include:

Debra Atchison from NAWL  
Josephine Payne-O'Connor  
A Representative of CUPW  
- and a singer

Any representative of any group is welcome to bring a banner or a sign in support. Anyone interested in helping to organize the Rally call Jennifer, 474-1482.

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## Summer Women's Studies

Simon Fraser is offering three courses in the summer semester: Women's Health and Health Issues, a non-credit course which will seek to make women more comfortable with their bodies; investigate the health care systems; and investigate the relationships between our bodies and the lives we lead. Special Topics in Women's Studies "Women and the Media" will do a broad-ranging comparison of straight and feminist magazines in particular, examining issues of authorship, subject matter and influence. Special Topics in Women's Studies "Contemporary Women's Cinema" will examine recent experimental films from England, the U.S., Canada, France, Belgium and Germany and will situate them in a context of feminist theory. There are prerequisites for the two credit courses. For more information call 291-3593 at Simon Fraser.



Illustration: Giovanna Peeli

## Harnessing Dreams: Creative Job Search For Women

An exciting, new course for working women, housewives and students. The course offers step by step guidance for deciding about the kind of work you want and for a creative and assertive approach to job search as well as an ongoing support group. Leader: Rowena Hunnisett, an M.A. Candidate in Counselling Psychology at U.Vic.

Sessions: Tuesday mornings, May 11 - June 29, 9:30 - 11:30 at the Women's Building Office, 760 B Yates St. Register by May 4 by calling Rowena at 384-2833. Fee \$40 (Women on income assistance may call instructor for information on financial assistance)

## Tamarack

Terrace Women's Resource Centre has published the seventh edition of their newsletter Tamarack. It contains articles and information about events in the Terrace area. A copy is available in the Office.

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## C.A.R.D.W.O. Newsletter

The Committee for the Advancement of the Rights of Domestic Workers have published their first Newsletter, February, 1982. This issue came inside the March issue of Kinesis. The Committee "was created on May 17, 1981 because of problems and experiences encountered by domestics in Canada. The Committee came together through the joint efforts of domestic workers, the International Association of Filipino Patriots and concerned individuals... The overall goal of CARDWO is... to provide an organization for domestic workers to work together to fight for our rights and improve our working conditions..." CARDWO's address is CARDWO, c/o 728 East 7th Ave, Vancouver, B.C.

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## Feminine Condition - The Maritimes

A new co-operative magazine is being started in New Brunswick called the Feminine Condition Feminine. It will be published from January to June 1982 at a cost of \$1 per issue or \$6 for an individual subscription. Write: Feminine Condition Feminine, Box 101, Edmunston, N.B. E3V 3S1

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### B.C. Studies Conference

The third B.C. Studies Conference will be held at U.B.C. in February 1984. Proposals for Conference papers that will enhance our understanding of any aspect of BC's society are now invited. The Conference is interdisciplinary with an historical focus. The deadline for proposals is December 1, 1982. For further information contact:  
Barb Latham, Camosun College, or  
Alan Artibise, Dept. of History, UVIC.

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Release: Canadian Human Rights Commission  
**PREGNANT FEDERAL EMPLOYEES MAY USE UP THEIR PAID SICK LEAVE AND VACATION CREDITS, TRIBUNAL RULES**

OTTAWA, February 23, 1982 - Treasury Board's practice of preventing public servants from using their accumulated sick leave or vacation credits during maternity leave is sex discrimination, an independent human rights tribunal has ruled.

Loraine Tellier-Cohen, of Montreal, complained to the Canadian Human Rights Commission (CHRC) in October 1979 that she was forced to take leave without pay for 20 days surrounding the birth of her child.

She was not allowed to use any of the 17½ days sick leave and 15 days annual leave credits she had accumulated under the collective agreement between her union, the Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada, and the Treasury Board. Her case was referred to the CHRC by Status of Women Canada.

Montreal lawyer Lucie Dion, the tribunal member, ordered Tellier-Cohen reimbursed \$1,912.20 lost pay for the 20 days and awarded her \$2,000 as special compensation for loss of self-respect.

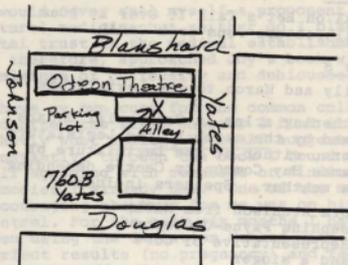
Dion stated that Canadian arbitration case law has established that the period surrounding the birth of a child is a "period of disability" during which there is pain, discomfort and physical sickness which prevent a woman from performing her duties.

Agreeing that this period is therefore "an illness within the meaning of a collective agreement," Dion concluded that Tellier-Cohen was "entitled to use her sick leave during the period of disability due to pregnancy."

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# swag OFFICE

760B Yates St.



Hours:

12:30 - 4 p.m.

Monday - Friday

Phone:

381-1012



From: Kinesis Mar. '82

# SWAG MEETING

Speaker: Alice Ages

## MEDIA WATCH:

Hon. Jean Chrétien, P.C. M.P.  
Minister of Justice,  
House of Commons,  
Ottawa,  
K1A 0A6

## Sex-Role Stereotyping

Dear Sir,

The Supreme Court decision to allow Joe Borowski standing to challenge the federal legislation on abortion worries me greatly.

If Borowski were to win, the 1969 amendment to the Criminal Code, permitting abortion under some circumstances, could be struck down. Abortion would be totally illegal again. Women would be forced to bear children against their will or to seek illegal abortions which could kill or maim them.

This must not happen.

As the 1979 Gallup Poll indicates, the vast majority of Canadians support access to legal abortion. I urge your department to vigorously defend those parts of Section 251 of the Criminal Code which are under attack.

Yours truly,

### Membership Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership  New  Renewal

Membership is \$10 per year (tax deductible) Send in \_\_\_\_\_

Check or money order available if required. Please send to: \_\_\_\_\_

1003  
1004  
1011

### B.C. Studies Conference

The third B.C. Studies Conference will be held at U.B.C. in February 1984. Proposals for Conference papers that will enhance our understanding of any aspect of BC's society are now invited. The Conference is interdisciplinary with an historical focus. The deadline for proposals is December 1, 1983. For further information contact: Herb Latham, Campus College, or Alan Artibise, Dept. of History, UVIC.

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Release: Canadian Human Rights Commission  
PREGNANT FEDERAL EMPLOYEES MAY USE UP  
THEIR PAID SICK LEAVE AND VACATION  
CREDITS, TRIBUNAL RULES

OTTAWA, February 22 (AP) — A federal court decision on Monday allows pregnant women to use up their paid sick leave and vacation credits during maternity leave if they are unable to work on an independent basis. The court ruled:

Lorraine Tellier-Cohen, 35, complained to the Canadian Human Rights Commission (CHRC) in October 1979 that she was forced to take leave without pay for 30 days surrounding the birth of her child.

She was not allowed to use up her 17 1/2 days sick leave and 14 vacation days during the 30-day period. The collective agreement between her union, the Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada, and the Treasury Board. Her case was referred to the CHRC by Status of Women Canada.

Montreal lawyer Lucie Dion, the tribunal member, ordered Tellier-Cohen reimbursed \$1,912.20 lost pay for the 30 days and awarded her \$2,000 as special compensation for loss of self-respect.

Dion stated that Canadian arbitrage case law has established that the period surrounding the birth of a child is a "period of disability" during which there is pain, discomfort and physical sickness which prevent a woman from performing her duties.

Agreeing that this period is therefore "an illness within the meaning of a collective agreement," Dion concluded that Tellier-Cohen was "entitled to use her sick leave during the period of disability due to pregnancy."

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**swag**  
**OFFICE**

7808 Yates St.  
Minister of Justice  
House of Commons  
Ottawa  
K1A 8A0

Dear Sir,

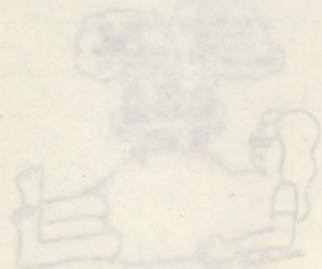
The Honourable Minister of Justice has received your letter of the 14th of February 1983 regarding the proposed amendments to the Federal Labour Relations Act.

The proposed amendments would require employers to provide a 30-day period of leave without pay to a pregnant woman who is unable to work on an independent basis during the period of disability surrounding the birth of a child.

The proposed amendments would also require employers to provide a 30-day period of leave without pay to a pregnant woman who is unable to work on an independent basis during the period of disability surrounding the birth of a child.

Yours truly,

381-1-1-1



# SWAG MEETING

Speaker: Alice Ages

## MEDIA WATCH:

### Sex-Role Stereotyping

Monday April 26 7:30 760B Yates

(map on p.12)

Followed by an Office Warming Party (B.Y.O.B.)

Bring an office supply. We need:

scissors  
erasers  
felt pens  
notice board  
pins & tacks  
ruler

book ends  
magazine boxes  
paper  
note pads  
appointment calendar  
boxes for 3x5 cards

boxes for 4x6 cards  
filing cabinet dividers  
mugs  
instant coffee or tea  
stabler  
anything else useful

#### Membership Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Renewal:  New:  Gift:

Membership is \$10<sup>00</sup> per year due March 8.

(Reduced rates available if needed).

Send to: SWAG

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

Return to:  
Status of Women Action Group,  
P.O. Box 6296, Stn. C,  
Victoria, B.C.  
V8P 5L5

Speaker: Alice Agnes

Sex-Role Stereotyping

Monday April 25 7:30 700B Yates

(wrap on p. 15)

Follow  
Give  
Office evening. We need:  
Office Morning Party (B.V.O.B.)

Camosun College Library,  
1950 Lansdowne,  
Young Building,  
Victoria, B.C. V8P 5J2  
(2 copies)

Membership form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Residence:  Home  Office

Address: B.C. 449, RT 3  
Post Office Box 6296 Stn. C  
Victoria, B.C. V8P 5L5