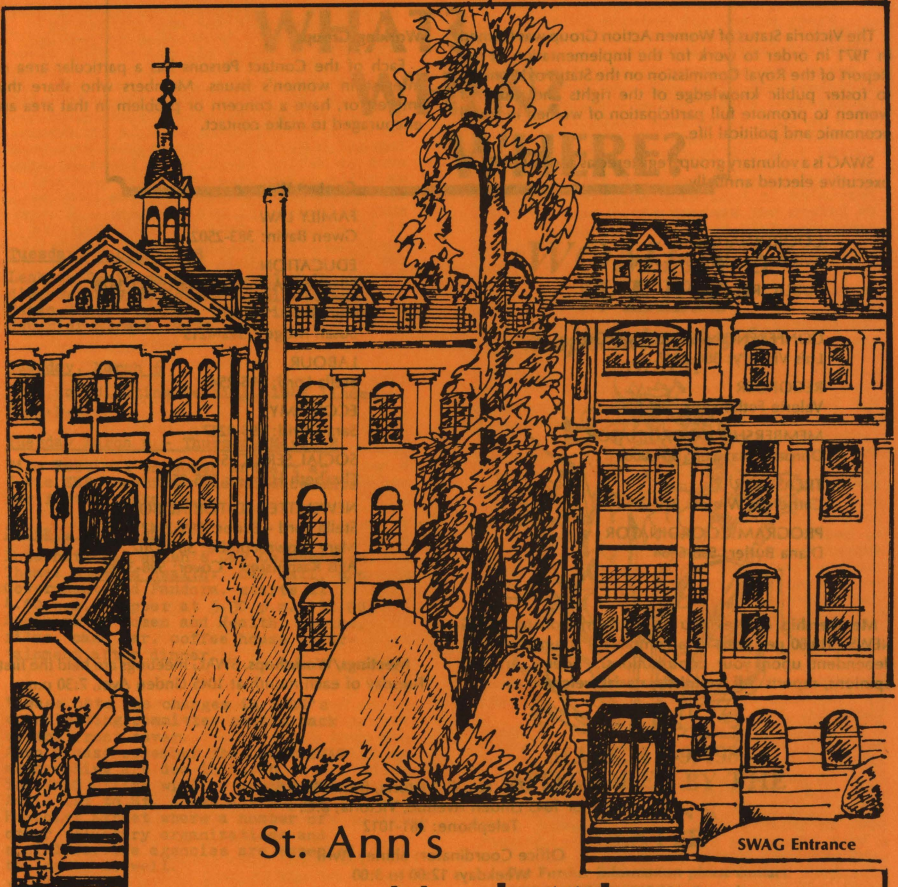


# swag STATUS OF WOMEN NEWS



St. Ann's

SWAG Entrance

**March 11th**  
**International Women's Day Celebration**  
**O.A.P. Hall, (Pandora & Government)**

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.

**COORDINATOR**

Avis Rasmussen: 598-3188

**PUBLIC RELATIONS**

**CONFERENCE COORDINATOR**

Lois Vickery: 386-1047

**RECORDER**

Valerie Fetherston: 598-8708

**MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR**

Dorothy Maxwell: 384-0083

**TREASURER**

Catherine Winter: 389-2959

**PROGRAM COORDINATOR**

Diana Butler: 598-6964

**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.**

**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**

**FAMILY LAW**

Gwen Bavin: 383-2502

**EDUCATION**

Elizabeth Azmier-Stewart: 642-3678

**HEALTH**

Susan Moger: 592-4215

**LABOUR**

Stella Lord: 595-2542

**ECONOMY**

Sara David: 595-8217

**SOCIAL SERVICES**

Elizabeth Hamlet: 595-2569

**NEWSLETTER EDITORIAL BOARD**

Stella Lord - Editor: 595-2542

Mary Brownscombe: 381-5202

Avis Rasmussen - Cover: 598-3188

**Meetings/Workshops.** SWAG meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at 1045 Linden Ave., 7:30 p.m.

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

Office Coordinator: Shirley Avril  
Weekdays 12:00 to 3:00



# WHO? WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?

Tuesday, February 28

Lesbian Feminism an informal talk and discussion with Rowena Hunnisett and Susan Moger. Lounge, Unitarian Church, Superior Street, 7.30.p.m.

Tuesday, March 6

SWAG Coordinating Meeting. 1045 Linden. 7.30.p.m.

Tuesday March 6 - Thursday March 8


Film Festival on Women and Art at U.Vic SUB Theatre. See announcements for further details.

Sunday, March 11

International Women's Day Celebration. Theme: Women's Health. OAP Hall, c/o Government and Pandora, starts at 4.00.p.m. Supper at 5.30.p.m. (\$2.00) Speakers on Women and Health, booths, films, cash bar, coffee house entertainment after dinner.

Please note the changes in SWAG's coordinating committee on the back of the front cover.

Also please remember that most SWAG memberships are due in March. The SWAG Office will be moving on April 1st to St. Anne's Academy on Humboldt Street where a number of other voluntary organizations and social service agencies are expected to locate as well.

 to Debbie Gregory who helped to type this newsletter and many previous ones as well. Debbie is off to England soon for a vacation and will not be able to type for the next issue. Any volunteers?

## WOMEN'S WEEK

*A special series for  
women*



**MARCH 5-9, 1984  
SPONSORED BY THE  
WOMEN'S  
CENTER**

For Further information please contact:  
COBY HERRINGTON, Co-ordinator,  
Women's Center  
592-1281 mornings  
479-7141 afternoons

  
**Camosun  
College**

# Letters



From Carol Gordon, Coordinator of the Cranbrook Women's Centre:

A request for information and materials together with some comments on the newsletter..."We love your newsletter. It's so full of so many ideas, lots of information and has a feeling of support oozing from its pages. Thank you."

Shirley wrote in reply and this is reprinted in full here as it will help to inform our members about some of the resources SWAG has at its disposal

Dear Carol:

Thanks for your cheerful note. It is most encouraging to hear such glowing comments on the newsletter.

The materials from the Copenhagen conference are being filed into our resource library under specific subject headings such as Asian Women, Affirmative Action, Peace Movement, etc.

The Women's Fundraising coalition consists of representatives from the Sexual Assault Center, The Women's Building Society and the Status of Women. Our purpose is to plan joint fundraising activities in addition to ongoing fundraising done by each group. Our activities are major public functions, such as concerts, and we endeavour to attract the public beyond the women's community. By working cooperatively, we share the workload and avoid competing for the increasingly rare donation dollar.

The political booklet proposal was made by an individual member. There is a chance that it will be included for funding in our next year's grant application to Secretary of State. The proposer's name is Josephine Adams, 407-180 Croft Street, Victoria, B.C. V8V 4R4.

I have enclosed an "Issues for Young Women" pamphlet. When we have copywrited the video we shall duplicate it for sale.

This is part of our on-going development of a resource center which is presently being catalogued. Materials available now, in which you may be interested, are a book "Planning a Successful Conference", available for \$4.00 including postage and "Changing Times", an extensive report on Women and Employment in B.C., available for \$16.00 including postage.

Thanks for your interest. I trust this letter answers your questions.

Yours etc.

The following letter was printed in Monday Magazine. For those of you who missed it, here it is:

Dear Editor,

Thank you for printing the informative article on the Fraser Institute (Sid Taffler - Nov.25-Dec.1). It is frightening and enflaming to realize that people such as Walter Block, with ideas as ugly as child labour and attitudes as cruel as racial and misogynous abuse have so much influence in our province. However, it is essential that we understand the roots of their philosophy and expose it for the poison that it is. Economics cannot be used to justify inhumanity. Money isn't everything. We, "the people", of this province understand this more each day.

Yours, etc.

Although we have no direct evidence, we feel that protesting by letter has paid off at least in one instance. In April Shirley wrote to BLOMS of Oak Bay to protest their use of an ad depicting a naked child climbing into bed. She wrote:

"....The unaffected behaviours of children are a joy to us all. Unfortunately a shockingly large segment of our population abuses this very precious characteristic of children. The statistics are horrifying. One in four girls and one in ten boys are sexually abused; most of them in their homes by people they know. There is virtually no legal protection for them. .... Advertising techniques in our day and age are very specific, sophisticated and calculated. For this reason we all need to be very conscious of how people's bodies are used for the purpose of advertising. We do not consider the use made of this child's buttocks to be cute. We consider it manipulative and dangerous. Please join us in an effort to protect the little ones of our community.

Since this letter was written, BLOMS has changed their advertising. It is important to recognize this when it happens; Shirley recently wrote to BLOMS to acknowledge the change:

"....A recent ad in Monday Magazine (Purrfectly Comfortable) was particularly appealing to me. I am writing to express thanks for your response to the information in the first letter. "Purrfectly Comfortable" is on our Women's Center bulletin board with a note about our correspondence."



Shirley also wrote the following letters on behalf of SWAG. These are edited for the sake of brevity and space.

To J.H. Heinrich, Minister of Education:

"...The Status of Women Action Group would like to add its voice to those deploring the loss of local autonomy (in education). The recent issue of who gets the money saved during the teacher's strike and how it will be used is an example of your manipulation of power. We feel strongly that those funds were earmarked for local use....

In all the recent furor about local autonomy and tenure of teaching staff there have been some issues of particular concern to women which have been neglected. May I bring to your attention the following points regarding the restraint policy and its effect on women in post-secondary programs.

- 1) Part-time courses and programs are being reduced to a far greater extent than full-time courses. The largest single group of students attending B.C. colleges is female, twenty five year of age and older, taking courses on a part-time basis.
- 2) A number of colleges are considering implementing a full cost recovery program policy for their part-time courses. This would force part-time course fees to three times and higher than the same full time program.
- 3) The "College Use of School Facilities" policy, released in October 1983, will likely eliminate college programming in communities of less than 10,000 population. The majority of students attending college programs in smaller communities are part time women students upgrading in Adult Basic Education and Employment Preparation programs.
- 4) Women's Access Programs will not be funded
- 5) Thousands of B.C. women, mostly single parents on income assistance will be denied the education subsidy which gave them access to the upgrading provided by post-secondary education.
- 6) Non-credit courses, forced onto a cost recovery basis will be too expensive for the very women who need these bridging programs.

In order for women to take their social and economic place in this province they must have access to education. It is your job to reduce the barriers not strengthen them.

Yours, etc.

To the Hon. Hugh Curtis, Finance:

We have reason to believe that a cabinet decision has been made to completely cut funding to the Vancouver Status of Women.

Vancouver Status of Women has provided an essential service for twelve years to the women of B.C. The group is fiscally responsible and well managed according to the Attorney General's own internal review. The funds received by V.S.W. are used to coordinate a multitude of volunteer workers.

To cut their funding is, in our opinion, indefensible political revenge for their criticism of the July 1983 budget. We demand reinstatement of their funding to the 1982 level.

Enraged,

(An earlier letter in support of V.S.W.'s application for funding was also written) Shirley also wrote to Ministers at the Federal level, as follows:

To Hon. John Roberts, Employment and Immigration:

Could it be true? Did you really say that unemployment among the women of Canada is not a top priority for you? The women of Canada need jobs. The women of Canada will vote for jobs. Working women are self-supporting and increasingly also the sole support of single parent families. Having suffered decades of job discrimination, women still find themselves last hired, first fired and grossly underpaid in the interim. You are in a position to effect change toward equal opportunity, equal treatment and equal outcome.

We demand that until women have half the jobs and half the wages in Canada's labour market you consider us a priority.

Yours, etc.

To Hon. Marc Lalonde, Finance, on wage controls:

"....As you are well aware, wage controls hurt the wage earner at the low end of the scale much more than those with more disposable income.

With women still earning barely half of the wages enjoyed by men, you are in fact, asking women to bear the burden of economic recovery.

We demand that you use the financial expertise at your disposal to develop a more equitable program of restraint. The women of Canada have paid far more than their due."

To Hon. Monique Begin, Health and Welfare: in support of her stand on universal medicare:

"....We encourage you to use every means within your power to ensure that provincial governments and doctors do not abuse this essential social service entrusted to their care.

User fees and extra billing are trite and insulting tokens demanded when a person is most vulnerable. We demand a responsible and honourable administration of our medical tax dollars.

We urge you to continue your fight for quality health care. There is much that needs to be done to change the focus from treatment of pathology to preventive care. It is essential that we develop a more efficient use of health care resource people such as nurses, paramedics, physical and psychological therapists. Support systems must be strengthened to facilitate home care. Individuals must be encouraged and given the means to take responsibility for their own wellness."

A reply from Allan McKinnon, M.P. in response to a copy of the above letter:

"...You are no doubt aware that the Conservative Party supports the principle of Bill C-3 (The Canada Health Act) and will ensure its passage through the House of Commons as soon as possible."

A letter from a new member:

"I was at your conference at U.Vic a few months ago and was very impressed by how well organized it was. I enjoyed it thoroughly. Am looking forward to reading your paper to see what other items you have coming up....."

Q Q Q Q Q Q Q

A letter from a women's collective at "Rubyfruit":

As you know, we at Rubyfruit have for some time now envisioned a building in the Valley that would make Rubyfruit more easily available for workshops, retreats and all-weather camping. We're currently in the process of gathering the energy and money to build that building: a 16' x 16' enclosed space with an additional 12' x 16' covered outside cooking space--"Emily's Place", after Emily Carr.

We've just received word that our application for a Canada Works grant to pay the women who participate in the building of Emily's place has been approved. We expect to begin work the week of February 13th, and our target completion date is June 1st.

Financially Emily's Place looks like this:

estimated total project cost	25,000
Canada Works money	-16,300
	9,000
money/materials from Rubyfruit members	-5,200
	<u>\$4,000</u>

We're writing to you because we hope to gather that remaining \$4,000 from women who in the future might want to use Emily's Place for workshops or for individual retreat space. If you have the resources now, please help make Emily's Place a reality; if you wish, we'll credit any contribution you make as advance payment for your use of Emily's Place in time to come.

You can make your cheque payable to "Rubyfruit" and send it to Box 220, Coombs, B.C. V0R 1M0

We think Emily's Place will fill an obvious need for a safe gathering/retreat space on the Island for women. We hope you can support the vision of Emily's Place and add to our energy for the project.

With loving hearts --

Shelagh, Cait, Cindy & Heather

## COMMUNIQUELLES

### BIMONTHLY FEMINIST MAGAZINE

INDIVIDUALS: free in Québec  
\$12 in Canada  
\$18 elsewhere  
INSTITUTIONS: \$18 everywhere

3585 RUE ST-URBAIN, MONTREAL, P.Q. H2X 2N6  
(514) 844-1761





# 'NEWS & VIEWS'

The Greater Victoria Disarmament Group is organizing a nationwide campaign called Peace Petition Caravan. The focus of the campaign will be to declare Canada a nuclear free zone including refusal of the cruise missile testing. There will be a doo-to-door campaign to get up a petition beginning in February which will wind up with a caravan travelling to Ottawa for a presentation to Parliament next June. Anyone interested in helping in any way is invited to contact David Jackman, Greater Victoria Disarmament Group, 4-2420 Douglas Street, Victoria V1T 4L7 Telephone 384-2445

The Vancouver Island Human Rights Coalition has organized its priorities which would be to "pursue public and membership education in the field of human rights (with the purpose of actively working for changes in the Human Rights Code), and open an advocacy office to assist victims of discrimination and harassment who are lost in the bureaucratic shuffle of federal and provincial agencies." They are looking for new members and donations. They have received a Federal Government grant to "assist in providing advocacy services to individuals and to promote human rights through public education." An office opened in August, at #418, 620 View St., Victoria B.C. V8W 1W6

The national office of CARAL sent us their newsletter. They now have two full-time and two part-time staff in the national office, due to a successful campaign to raise funds. There has been an increased number of supporters and new CARAL chapters and pro-choice groups across the country. The newsletter states however, "While we are pleased to see the increase in organized pro-choice support, we have to recognize that it is due in part to blatant anti-choice attacks on abortion services in many centres." Because of the attack on abortion services CARAL has become more involved in efforts to establish free-standing clinics. In April CARAL filed suit asking for a judgement that section 251 of the Criminal Code contravenes the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The way has been cleared to a spring court date, CARAL also sponsored a pro-choice defence fund to help pay the legal bills of the men and women charged with Dr. Henry Morgentaler. There are plans to organize a national pro-choice conference in 1984. For further information contact Magline Boag at 385-5054

## Announcements

The University of Victoria Women's Collective is sponsoring a three day Women's film festival March 6th, 7th and 8th. The film series "The Originals: Women in Art" will be featured. This is a 4 hour collection of films documenting the lives and works of a number of outstanding women artists and the issues women face in becoming recognized in the art world. The festival will be held at the SUB theatre at U.Vic from 1.30 to 5.00 Tuesday through Thursday (March 6-8). Women in Art will also be shown at 7.00 p.m. Tuesday evening. There is no charge but donations are requested.

SWAG office will be moving at the end of March. We are in need of the following items to help furnish the new office which will be at St. Anne's Academy (Room 119), 835 Humboldt Street. Contact Shirley Avril at 381-1012 if you can donate or lend any of the following items:

- electric kettle
- occasional chairs
- big soft cushions
- lamps
- mugs
- helping hands (and arms and legs)
- for preparation and moving

SWAG is organizing an evening on Lesbian Feminism on February 28, 7.30 p.m. at the Unitarian Church, Superior St. (in the Lounge). Leaders will be Rowena Hunnisett and Susan Moger. The evening will be informal, drinks will be served but please bring something to nibble on, if possible.

SWAG now has a catalogues resource library which includes a rich resource of feminist material. The library is open for use daily from 12.30-3.30 and by arrangement at other times. Items must be used on the premises.

The LAW CENTRE is sponsoring meetings as follows:

- Family Property in Marriage and Divorce, Thursday Feb 23, Shoreline Community School, 2750 Shoreline Dr.
- Separation and Divorce Wednesday February 29, Spectrum Community School
- Custody and Access Problems After Divorce Tuesday, March 20, Greater Victoria Public Library, Broughton St.

On Saturday April 28, Camosun will hold a conference on Women's History in B.C. to bring together people interested in this subject. The conference will identify research completed since 1980 as well as on-going research topics. Conference speakers will include amateur and professional historians as well as bibliographers, archivists, librarians, and curators. The final goal of the Conference is to publish another anthology (in addition to In Her Own Right (1980)) of women's history. For more information contact Barbara Latham, Camosun College, Pac/Can R/D Centre 3100 Foul Bay Road, Victoria B.C. V8P 4X8 Tel. 5921281 (ext 337)

International Women's Day will be celebrated this year at the OAP Hall c/o Government and Pandora from 4.30. to 10.00 p.m. The program includes Information booths from 4.30 p.m. Supper (\$2.00.) at 5.30. followed by cash bar and coffee house. There will be a couple of after-dinner speakers on the topic of Women and Health. Come and celebrate this important day and meet some old and new friends in the process. on Sunday, March 11th.

#### BOUQUETS



to Susan Weakes, office manager of Kelly Services, temporary placement, for the donation of a variety of office desk supplies.

A Workshop for Women: Healing and Empowering. to be given by Sara David February 25-26, March 10-11. Sliding scale fee (\$35.00 or 6% of monthly income whichever is greater). For information call SARA DAVID 385-2954 by February 17

#### Incest Survivors Workshop

A 12-week workshop meeting Tuesday evenings, 7.30-9.30 beginning February 28. Will cover such topics as dynamics of sexual abuse, fear, low self esteem, lack of trust, flashbacks, interpersonal difficulties, etc. Leaders are Susan Slatkoff and Laurie Robinson; cost \$120. Enrolment will be limited. Contact 477-8388 after 3.00 p.m. or 658-5488 evenings.

#### A Call for Revolutionary Quilters!!! (Experienced and Novice)

A group is being formed to fashion two quilts (approx 3' x 4') of great beauty and great import, to be used in Status of Women Action Group displays. If you are interested in being involved with a group which will instruct you in a traditional art, and provide a time and space for relaxed social activity please call Shirley Avril at the office 381-1012 or at home, 386-4467.

A directed independent study course is going to be offered by Simon Fraser University in the Fall of 1984 entitled Perspectives on Women: An Introduction to Women's Studies. The course will "examine the complex means by which our culture "creates" contemporary Canadian women. It will examine collective and individual efforts women have made to "recreate" themselves and a more equitable and humane society." Contact Program Director, DISC Program, Continuing Studies, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, B.C. V5A 1S6 or call toll free 112-800-242-1201



## A Starting Place for SWAG Political Action in 1984?

### Manoeuvring the Minorities

by Eve Zaremba

Nineteen eighty-four. That fateful year with which Orwell chose to identify the horrors of totalitarianism in one of the most frightfully prescient books of our time. Inevitably, at the end of 1983, we are being subjected to glib viewing-with-alarm by commentators who point to aspects of our current reality which appear to reflect Orwell's 35-year-old novel.

It is too simple to point to parallels between the products of his imagination and our reality, while ignoring differences and current possibilities. Negativity is cheap. And counterproductive. An overload of present or imminent horrors, whether of injustice or nuclear apocalypse, ultimately serves to numb the mind and permits taking refuge in despair. There is nothing easier than to give up. So, however unpromising the world of 1984, our real danger lies in the temptation to succumb to "eat, drink and buy, buy, buy, for tomorrow we die." That is what we are constantly being pressured and brainwashed to accept. I am convinced that the not-so-subliminal message coming from TV screens and newspaper is "Why bother to oppose the inevitable?" This insidious propaganda is aimed at immobilizing and turning us into sheep ready for the slaughter. Our worst fears will undoubtedly be realized by default if we, and enough other people, get brow-beaten into passivity. Even if the world is in fact going down the tubes, it is still in our power to refuse to lubricate its passage. It's the least one can do to keep one's self-respect.

With that in mind, it is worth recalling that '1984' has claims on our attention other than as a synonym for totalitarian nightmare. It is a year which will be rich in elections; for sure the presidential in the USA, most likely the federal in Canada, and possibly the provincial in Ontario. (Sound like lotteries, don't they?)

It's time we started taking elections seriously. The horrible examples of Reagan in the US and Bennett in BC should remind everyone who still needs reminding that it does matter who gets into office. In the by-gone days of the 60's and 70's it was the politically correct position amongst most leftists and other radicals, including feminists, that it made no difference which pack of white, bourgeois males held power. Since it made no appreciable difference, it was silly to get involved in electoral politics (except perhaps for the ritualistic vote for the New Democratic Party.) As recently as 1980, Broadside, in its federal election

issue, published a statement by a radical lesbian feminist who succinctly explained why it made no sense to bother with elections. In an adjacent column, Kay McPherson, then an NDP candidate, told us why the NDP was our only choice. These were the only two acceptable points of view at that period. How long ago all that seems! Now both of these positions appear too simplistic for our times. We can no longer afford, if we ever really could, to be either so idealistic or so ideological.

This is not a plea for a return to party loyalty or any such old fashioned stuff. A little pragmatic deviousness is called for, I believe.

Let's first look at the States, like all good Canadians.

Canadians cannot participate in the American presidential campaign, but we can sure learn from it. Take the emergence of Jesse Jackson as a candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination. He has no chance of winning himself, but his very candidacy will pull thousands of black and female voters into the electoral process. This is sure to give Reagan trouble come next November, regardless of who becomes his Democratic opponent. What's more, Jackson's constituency - described as a "rainbow coalition of the rejected, blacks women, Hispanics, Indians, Chinese, Europeans, Filipinos" - will also have to be reckoned with by whomever emerges as the Democratic candidate. Thus, Jackson will have had an effect on the election and on the President-elect, even though his name may never appear on the ballot.

Our system is very different, but a "rainbow coalition" here in Canada could also influence the outcome of our next federal election, even though it will still be white, bourgeois males who will run this country.

To accomplish this, more of us will have to vote and vote smart.

As I see it, the prime danger for us is a Conservative sweep by an electorate sick of Liberal rule. A big majority for Brian Mulroney will mean that the influence of the P.C. right-wing will grow and could escalate to the Bennett level once in power. Since all signs point to this outcome, the pragmatic question is how to prevent the worst from happening. Historically in Canada, minority governments have been best for the "rainbow" people. This suggests a strategy of building a combined anti-PC vote, which would go to whichever of the two other parties is strongest in a given region or constituency. To hell with ideology, let's vote so it hurts the Right. For instance, in the west all anti-PC votes should go to the NDP as the party there with the

only chance. in Central Canada, the drive should be to mobilize all sectors, including NDP supporters, to vote Liberal in strongly Liberal constituencies. Whether the NDP will bring themselves to do this is a moot point. But unless we stop our sentimental attachments to old fashioned parties, the Right will split our vote and win in a walk.

This is not an easy idea to accept or to implement. It would need careful planning, district by district, and a stupendous coalition effort. But that's no reason not to try. We all have much to lose if the Bennett phenomenon is anything to go by. All political parties will hate such a coalition and fear it. Which is a point in its favour.

It's as well to remember that there is more than one way to be involved in electoral politics. We need not play the game by the established rules. Combining in self-defence as suggested above has the added potential of helping the un- and under-represented segments of society to show dissatisfaction with the inequities of a 'winner take all' electoral system which works to the advantage of the established parties.

We are insufficiently conscious of the reality that our governments are almost invariably really 'minority' governments, having been elected by a minority of votes cast (not merely a minority of the population). The electoral system which we share with the Brits leaves all so-called minorities at the mercy of the largest single party, even though these 'minorities' may add up to a plurality. Parliamentary seats do not reflect popular vote, since votes for all but the candidate with the most votes in any constituency are essential 'lost'; they do not count. For instance, the Thatcher government in the UK was said to have won a smashing victory in the last election and has a massive majority in Parliament, yet the Conservatives did not get 50% of the votes cast. It is possible to hold power for years while supported by less than half the active electorate. Take the dreadful example of the Ontario Tories. They just about own the province, having been in power for forty years, although they have never once had a majority of votes cast in any of the 12 elections they have 'won' since 1943. So much for democracy.

Rejecting our electoral system on ideological grounds, and paying lip-service to extra-parliamentary radical change is worse than useless, it's counterproductive. A lack of clear means of achieving these ends produces discouragement and apathy which plays into the hands of the ideological activist-right.

Let's think seriously about electoral coalitions as suggested above, and let's consider the possible advantages of

proportional representation as a goal for the future. It would totally change the political map of Canada and prevent the kind of one-party regional monopolies we are prone to. More people would take electoral politics seriously because their votes and their party work would count. Groupings like Feminist or Green parties would have some chance, since they could get representation proportional to their support in the population.

It does not hurt to think about it.

This article appeared in BROADSIDE Vol. 5, no. 3, Dec 1983/Jan 1984.

Q Q Q Q Q

From Denise Jesshope and Nora Lupton:

A synopsis of the action-oriented section of their presentation at the SWAG conference, Growing Up With the Absurd: Children's Fears and How We Can Help Them

#### WHAT ABOUT THE CHILDREN?

According to a recent report from the American Psychiatric Association, a majority of young people expect a nuclear war to occur during their lifetime.

Dr. William Beardslee and Dr. John Mack blame the threat of nuclear war for apathy among the young and an alienation from the adults who subject them to such a threat.

Children trust us to protect them. The following suggestions reflect our belief that preventing nuclear war is the best protection for our children.

Communicate with your children. Recognize how much they already know. Listen to their concerns. Share your own fears and opinions. Parents who do not exchange views and encourage analytical thinking about world affairs are by their silence saying that these topics are not their business.

Become Active. Children need positive role models. They will feel comfort and confidence from their parents' participation. Levels of involvement include button wearing, reading, writing letters, showing a film, circulating petitions, using media to full advantage, marching, giving each other support and planning group strategies. Encourage children who want to be involved.

At Home. World peace has to start with a sense of personal peace and justice. The best place to learn these are in a cooperative and affirming home environment. Teach and practice communication, problem solving, and non-violent conflict resolution skills. Television has an indisputable effect on children's attitudes



towards violence and war. Turn it off, or be selective in viewing habits. Write to broadcasting companies expressing your opinion regarding programming.

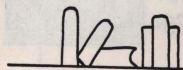
**Work with the Schools.** Encourage parents, teachers, principals, and school trustees to read and evaluate current text books. What kind of world picture do they present? Encourage the development of a peace education curriculum. Sponsor student and teacher exchanges to promote international understanding.

**Ask Tough Questions.** Ask your local school, hospital, civil defense agency what plans have been made for your community in the event of war. Ask what plans your Board of Health have made to publicize the effects of nuclear war.

Ask your elected representatives what they are doing to work for peace and the well being of future generations. Ask candidates for political office where they stand on specific issues. Ask questions of your doctor, minister, librarian, school trustee, the press....

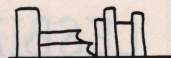
It is the children of this world who have the least power, yet it is they who have the most to lose. If we do not exercise our power as adult members of a democratic society we are being complaisant in not only our own suicide, but also the murder of the world's children.

♀ ♀ ♀ ♀ ♀



# RESOURCES

## RECENT ACQUISITIONS



### RESOURCES

#### Feminist Resources:

Communiqu'elles Sept 1983  
BCFW Sept 1983  
CARAL Summer 1983  
The Open Door Rural Lesbian Newsletter Oct 1983  
KINESIS Oct 1983, Nov 1983  
Flagrant Fall 1983  
STATUS OF WOMEN NEWS Summer 1983  
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A presentation and discussion on lesbianism. The evening will address difficulties we have personally and in women's groups in discussing lesbianism both as a personal and as a political issue.

We plan on making this evening fun and interesting as well as serious

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All women are  
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Registration: \$25  
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Barbara Latham  
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