

# swag STATUS OF WOMEN NEWS



**Note:** Annual Conference on October 20th weekend.  
This date is the anniversary of the "Persons Case"

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 Livingston: 386-7977

**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: 385-2954

**SOCIAL SERVICES**

Elizabeth Hamlet: 595-2569

**NEWSLETTER EDITORIAL BOARD**

Stella Lord - Editor: 595-2542

Paste-up and Layout — Mary Brownscombe: 381-5202  
and Alice Albert: 382-1536

Cover — Avis Rasmussen: 598-3188

**HUMAN RIGHTS**

Josephine Adams: 389-0745

**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?

## PICNIC:

Tuesday June 26 at Beacon Hill  
Park (tables near the swings).

TIME: 6:30 p.m. POT LUCK  
and BYOB and BYOM(usic). BE  
THERE

Co-ordinating Committee Meeting  
Tuesday July 3rd at 7:30 p.m.  
at the Office.

CONFERENCE PLANNING under way.

Theme: Women and the Constitution.  
Date: October, 1984

WATCH THIS SPACE FOR MORE INFOR-  
MATION!

\*\*\*\*\*

## The Right To Be Human:

Airs June 18th at 8:00 p.m. for  
one (1) hour on Knowledge  
Network (Channel 18 on your  
converter). SEE ANNOUNCEMENTS  
FOR MORE.....

## INDEX

Calendar.....	1
Status of Women News.....	2
TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE.....	3
Special Report.....	3
LETTERS.....	6
General (Articles).....	11
Announcements.....	12
RESOURCES.....	14



# STATUS of WOMEN NEWS

## OFFICE REPORT

Submitted by Shirley Avril

## SUPPLIES

- shopping to stock up with office supplies purchased with last year's budget.

## VOLUNTEERS

- REG YELLS helped with typing of letters lobbying for day care.
- CHARLOTTE VIMTRUP has typed the subject catalogue!
- VALERIE FEATHERSTON keeps the title cards up-to-date.

## NEW LOGO

- designed logo, discussed same with Design Typesetting and coordinating committee. Continuing to refine. This logo will be used in new letterhead.

## STATISTICS

- mailed stats on violence against women to the many people who called after seeing my response to Gorde Hunter.

## SECRETARY OF STATE

- Harvey Haus, resource person for bookkeeping and financial matters, will meet with us on July 17. If interested please call the office.

## PRO CHOICE

- mailed support materials upon request from Williams Lake Women's Center. They had just come out pro-choice and were to be challenged in an hour long radio talk show!

## CONFERENCE

- support work for Judy Atkins, summer student hired to coordinate research for conference on Canadian Charter.
- sent letter inviting Lorna Marsden to be keynote speaker.

## WOMEN'S STUDIES CHAIR

- Marilyn Callahan came in to use our directory of Women's groups.
- support letter written for Sec. State funding to U.Vic Women's Studies.

## VANCOUVER STATUS OF WOMEN

- support statements to the government and media upon learning of funding cut.

## LEGAL RIGHTS OF BATTERED WOMEN

- met with Nicole and Suzanne when Carol Pfeifer from Legal Services was here.
- Suzanne has left the project. We are forming an Advisory Committee to support Nicole. She intends to finish the project in Sept.-Oct.
- financially supported by the B.C. Federation of Women (\$200), B.C. Public Interest Research Group (\$200) and B.C. Legal Services (\$800).

## WOMEN AND ECONOMIC SURVIVAL

- discussed the positions available with a number of potential workers.

## CONFERENCE BOOKLET

- three sales plus two gratis to local groups

## PUBLIC MEETING

- coordinating with resource women for "It's Only Your Nerves"

## POLICY

- research and discussion with committee leading to policy on Sexuality & Lesbianism printed in this issue.

## HUMAN RIGHTS COALITION

- supplied names and addresses of Vancouver Island Women's groups for a mailout.
- began discussions on workshops on sexism for upcoming conference
- questioned apparent omission of discussion of sexual orientation on "The Right to be Human"

## WOMEN IN HISTORY CONFERENCE

- answered calls requesting info on the conference

## SOCIETY FOR MEN WHO BATTER

- made supporting statement on their request for Sec. State funding, being very clear that NO funds could be redirected from Transition Houses for this purpose.
- the focus of this group is to educate the public on it's responsibility for violence against women and providing services that will help men who wish to change their behaviors.

## B.C. FEDERATION OF WOMEN

- correspondance re: hiring staff
- talked with a local woman, Judy Andrews, from U.Vic Women's Center who is eager to revive regional activity.



### ST. ANN'S ACADEMY

- Gwen Brodsky is now reviewing the renegotiated lease.
- Hugh Curtis has put everything on hold because of renewed media attention to fire code problems in the building. We consider the building quite as safe as the one we now occupy and intend to take out tenant insurance against fire, theft, etc.
- the landlord of "The Gables" has a tenant ready to take our present space so we cannot continue much longer on a month to month basis
- perhaps July ?????????

### MEMBERSHIP

- updating membership file and newsletter label sheet as renewals and subscriptions come in.

### CALLS FROM WOMEN NEEDING:

- referral for family law
- legal separation advice
- lawyer for a will
- legal action re: contraceptives side effects
- doctors sympathetic to women
- activities for lesbians
- support group for bi-sexuals
- information on sexual harassment
- info. on the landlord-tenant act
- help with family stress

### LIAISON WITH:

- Everywoman's, Human Rights coal.,
- Solidarity, Multicultural Women's Assoc.,
- Volunteer Bureau, U.Vic Women's Studies, U.Vic. Women's Center,
- Gulf Islands Women's Center, Women's Sexual Assault Center,
- B.C. Public Interest Group, Women Against Pornography,
- North Shore Women's Center,
- National Action Committee, B.C. Federation of Women, Victoria Women's Network, Vancouver Women's Health Collective,
- Vancouver Status of Women, Women's Resource Center, Williams Lake, MacDonald Commission (economy), Fraser Commission (pornography and prostitution),
- Coalition of Women's Centers, Can. Abortion Rights Action League, Women's Building of Victoria Society, National Associ. of Women and the Law, Media Watch, Camosun College
- Women's Access !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

### STATUS OF WOMEN ACTION GROUP POLICY STATEMENT ON LESBIANISM

- Whereas, lesbians are subject to social discrimination both on the basis of their sex and their sexuality and
- Whereas, the current provincial and federal human rights legislation provides no protection against discrimination in employment, services or housing and
- Whereas, lesbophobia in the general public is evidenced in the labels attached to lesbians such as sick, immoral, deviant, perverted and the fact that the word lesbian is used as an insult and a derogatory label and
- Whereas, the Women's Movement has provided a context for women to discuss, consider and explore lesbianism as a viable option:

therefore, SWAG:

1. Affirms that lesbianism is a normal and healthy expression of female sexuality.
2. Encourages the participation of lesbians in our organization.
3. Pledges support in issues of particular concern to lesbians, such as child custody and employment security.
4. Endorses the inclusion of sexual orientation as grounds for protection against discrimination under both the federal and provincial human rights legislation.
5. Supports public education to counter the myths about and misrepresentations of the lesbian lifestyle.

Q Q Q Q Q Q Q

## COMMUNIQUE'ELLES

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

# ???

## TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Answers are on back page)

1. What proportion of a man's salary can a woman expect to earn? a) 100% b) 62% c) 95%
2. In which country is this higher than in Canada? a) Japan, b) Sweden c) Italy d) United States
3. What % of adult women are in the labour force? a) 51% b) 32% c) 49%
4. In which country is the % smaller? a) Great Britain b) Thailand c) Spain
5. What % of pre-school children have access to child care centres? a) 50% b) 12% c) 26%
6. In which country is the % smaller? a) Greece b) East Germany c) France
7. In which of following countries (2) is abortion not available on demand by a woman at the start of her pregnancy? a) Italy b) Tunisia c) Canada d) France e) USSR f) Japan g) Belgium
8. What is the rate of divorce per 1000 of population each year in Canada? a) 1.57 b) 2.38 c) 3.21
9. In which countries is the divorce rate higher? a) U.S.A. b) Great Britain c) Australia
10. How many 2 spouse families would fall under the poverty line if the wife stopped working outside the home? a) 20% b) 51% c) 5%
11. Three-quarters of women in the labour force earn less than a) \$20,000 b) \$12,000 c) \$16,000
12. What proportion of part-time workers are women? a) half b) two-thirds c) three-quarters
13. Which figure best represents the proportion of household tasks that are undertaken by women? a) 50% b) 85% c) 40%
14. According to a 1982 Gallup poll, what % of Canadians believe that decisions on abortion should be left to women? a) 50% b) 72% c) 27%
15. 1 out of 4 Canadian women is sexually assaulted at some time in her life a) true b) false
16. How many rape crisis centres were there in Canada in 1981? a) 78 b) 110 c) 41
17. What % of rapists is charged with rape and convicted? a) 2% b) 49% c) 51%
18. In 1978 how many Canadian women were battered by the man they lived with? a) 1 in 100 b) 1 in 20 c) 1 in 10

19. What proportion of divorced husbands default on their court ordered support payments a) 50% b) 25% c) 75%
20. There are 62 sports open to men in international competitions. How many are open to women a) 48 b) 40 c) 31
21. What is the date of the first Olympic marathon open to women a) 1972 b) 1984 c) 1976
22. In 1971 Statistics Canada estimated that household work represented the following proportion of Canada's GNP. a) 3% b) 20% c) 41%
23. How many of the 282 M.P.'s in the House of Commons are women? a) 93 b) 16 c) 24



## SPECIAL REPORT

### A WOMAN'S GUIDE TO POLITICAL ACTIVITY

Josephine Adams is coordinating a brand new SWAG project. One of our major objectives has always been to promote women's full participation in social, economic and political life. This new project: the production of a handbook on the many facets of political activity, is designed to encourage women to become more involved in public and political life.

We hope to provide a wealth of practical information on lobbying, pressure-group organizing, leadership, liaison, campaigning, endurance, the realities of public and private office and much more. To ensure that the information we provide in this handbook is relevant, we plan to interview a wide range of Vancouver Island women active in public and political life. Our handbook will be based on their achievements, skills and experience.



We are currently in the process of identifying (a) the information women need most and (b) the Vancouver Island women most qualified to provide it. We are including a questionnaire in this newsletter to enable you all to assist us with this task.

Please complete the questionnaire and return it to Josephine at the SWAG address. We want to hear from as many women as possible: from all political parties; from all cultural backgrounds; active in all areas of public and political life; from all parts of Vancouver Island; whether explicitly feminist or not.

To help us develop a genuinely multi-cultural perspective in our handbook, we are applying for funding to include a Native Indian researcher/interviewer on the project. The achievements of many Native Indian women can serve as an inspiration to us all.

Later this summer we will begin interviews with many of you who are actively involved in public and political life. We hope that you will all support this project. We will keep you posted as it progresses. Contact Josephine at 389-0745 if you would like more information or if you have comments and suggestions for her. Meanwhile, please send us your completed questionnaires. Thank you.

### QUESTIONNAIRE

Please indicate with a (x) or a ( ) which information would be of use to you.

Please write the name and telephone # of a contact person where you indicate you can provide information to us. Thanks.

#### 1. Identifying political rights, issues and solutions

This information would be useful to me.....  
I can provide information on this.....

#### 2. Organising pressure/action groups

This information would be useful to me.....  
I can provide information on this.....

#### 3. Community liaison/building alliances

This information would be useful to me.....  
I can provide information on this.....

#### 4. Leadership

This information would be useful to me.....  
I can provide information on this.....

#### 5. Fundraising

This information would be useful to me.....  
I can provide information on this.....

#### 6. Campaigning for public office

This information would be useful to me.....  
I can provide information on this.....

#### 7. Working in political parties

This information would be useful to me.....  
I can provide information on this.....

#### 8. Campaigning for political office

This information would be useful to me.....  
I can provide information on this.....

#### 9. The realities of public and political life

This information would be useful to me.....  
I can provide information on this.....

#### 10. Balancing public and private life

This information would be useful to me.....  
I can provide information on this.....

#### 11. Developing a career in politics/public life

This information would be useful to me.....  
I can provide information on this.....



# Letters



The following letter was sent to:  
Monique Bégin, Flora MacDonald,  
Margaret Mitchell, Allan McKinnon,  
Donald Munro and Jim Manly.

It was on request from the Canadian  
Day Care Advocacy Association of  
which we (SWAG) are a member.

The feminist movement has  
always considered day care an issue  
vital to women and a social service  
essential to the well being of our  
nation. For this reason the Status  
of Women Action Group became a strong  
supporting member of the Canadian  
Day Care Advocacy Association. This  
association is meeting in Ottawa,  
May 25-28. On Monday, May 28th  
delegates from the conference will  
be meeting with M.P.'s from all  
parties. We urge you to take time  
to meet with these delegates of ours.  
Please encourage your colleagues  
to come also.

Day care is a Canadian crisis.  
It effects the fundamental nature of  
our society. We insist that it is  
the responsibility of each one,  
through our social services, to  
provide quality care for the children  
of our nation.

No parent should be forced to  
choose between establishing personal  
financial security through paid work  
and providing quality care to her or  
his children. Everyone has a right  
to participate in the labour force  
and every child has a right to a safe  
and nurturing environment. As a  
society we must strive to provide  
jobs for all adults and quality care  
for each and every child.

The child care available to  
parents able to pay is sadly inadequate.  
The care available for children of the  
working poor is a national disgrace.

Day care is an election issue  
for women who are increasingly aware  
of how women and children suffer  
discrimination in this area. Please  
attend the session on May 28th to  
discuss the issues.

The same letter, with the following  
changes was sent to Judy Erola and  
Bob McClelland who were attending a  
conference of ministers responsible  
for the status of women.

The first paragraph deleted: "This  
association is.....colleagues  
to come also" and substituted:

Through the efforts of this Association  
the topic of day care has been included  
on the agenda for the meeting of  
ministers responsible for the Status  
of Women, on Monday, May 28th.

and ended with:

We would like to see a follow-up on  
this issue. One short table discus-  
sion will not be enough. We encourage  
you to press for a follow-up structure  
to deal with day care.

Day care affects policy in  
health, post secondary education,  
job development, training and re-  
training. Investment in our  
children is an investment in the  
future.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Judy Erola, on May 24th  
on "The Journal" came out in **STRONG**  
**SUPPORT** of "universal" (i.e. available  
to all & publicly supported &  
licensed) child care.

## Memberships Due?

Dear Sisters,  
I don't know when my yearly dues should  
be paid, but as I had a few extra dollars  
thought I would send them now.  
Please put \$10 for dues and use the rest  
for whatever is most needed.  
Thank you for being a sane island in this  
mad house called B.C.

Yours, Paula Woodward, Gold River



Dear Shirley,  
Thanks for the very generous contribution to the Joy Irving Trust Fund Committee. We expect the case to be heard in the fall of 1984. Your continued support is appreciated.

In Sisterhood, Marcy Cohen

Dear Sisters,  
Thank you for the complimentary copy of SWAG: Status of Women News. And thanks for volunteering to send us material.... I have enclosed 10 copies of our brochure for your office....

In Sisterhood, Nancy Adamson,  
Canadian Women's Movement Archives

Harvey Hersom, Director of Vital Statistics  
Ministry of Health, B.C.

Dear Mr. Hersom:

We strongly support a change in the law governing surnames given to children. We consider it very important that a mother have the right to give her child her surname or that the surnames of each parent be hyphenated for the child. We are pleased that more women understand now that it is their right to retain family names upon marriage. We look forward to the time when married women may, as married men now may, take a name of their own choosing....

Yours sincerely,  
Shirley Avril

Dear Ms. Avril:

Thank you for your letter regarding the choice of surnames for newborn children. Your concerns and others are collectively being studied throughout Canada by the Vital Statistics Council of Canada. I anticipate a consensus and a degree of uniformity will exist one day throughout Canada. In the meantime I will forward your letter to the responsible parties.

Sincerely, A. Harvey Hersom, Dir.,  
Div. of Vital Statistics, B.C.

Dear Shirley,

I would like to thank you for sending me a copy of your letter to Lynda-May Angus, President of the Federal Progressive Conservative Women's Caucus of Vancouver. I was delighted to receive it. The Progressive Conservative Party recognizes that there are particular issues of major importance to the 52 percent of the population represented by women and I assure you we have taken steps to address those concerns. We receive ongoing advice from our Women's Advisory Committee, and we are focussing on some of the immediate issues affecting women today: inequality in the workplace; the need for training programs geared to teaching women the technological skills needed in today's job market; and the securing of adequate pensions, to name just a few.

I recently delivered a speech to the Initiatives '84 Conference in Ottawa in which I addressed many of the concerns which prompted your letter. I am enclosing a copy for your perusal and I hope it will convince you that I, and our Party, are taking women's issues very seriously indeed.

Thank you again for your letter. It was a pleasure to hear from you.

Yours, etc. Brian Mulroney

Ed. Note: Lynda-May Angus has not yet replied to our letter

Andre Bureau, Chairperson, CRTC

Dear Mr. Bureau:

In response to your sending us a copy of Standards and Practices, let me be very clear. We demand adherence to the guidelines developed in the Report of the Task Force on Sex Role Stereotyping. It is unreasonable that you would expect the public to make yet another input on this question.... Another report is NOT NECESSARY it is STALLING. Please let us know the response of Privy Council to your proposed regulation against "the distribution of any program containing comments or pictorial representations which could be abusive of any race, religion or creed or either sex."

Yours sincerely, Shirley Avril

The Editor, Victoria Times Colonist

Dear Sir:

A great deal of research has been done on the facts and results of violence against women. The Status of Women Action Group would like Gordie Hunter and the reading audience to know that there is no need to embroider or exaggerate the statistics to prove a point. The statistics on rape and sexual assault used in our brief to the Fraser Commission on Pornography and Prostitution are from the Canadian Centre for Judicial Statistics 1981.

We sincerely wish these horrific statistics were not true. However, they are, so let's face reality.

A statistical fact sheet with extensive references is available to the public from our office....

Yours truly, Shirley Avril

Ed. Note: a letter and accompanying fact sheet were forwarded to the Fraser Commission at their request.

Dear Ms. Avril:

This will acknowledge with thanks your letter of May 9, 1984, regarding Day Care in British Columbia. Please be assured your comments and concerns have been noted.

Yours sincerely, R.H. McClelland  
(Minister of Labour)





Re: Premenstrual Syndrome

To Whom it may concern:

I have suffered from severe PMS for about 7 years. For the past year I have been treated by diet and vitamin therapy and have experienced 95% relief from all symptoms. I am a 41 year old mother of 2. My symptoms became much worse after my pregnancies and were progressively worse from 35 to 40. My symptoms included headaches 5 to 10 days a month, severe depression with suicidal tendencies, and a feeling of lack of control in my life. My doctor was about to put me on tranquilizers permanently. But this is the story. There is a pediatrician in Vancouver who has done several years of research and treatment of hyperactive children. He devised a diet to help them.... Hyperactivity in children is believed to be caused by monoamine oxidase deficiency and enzyme deficiency which inhibits digestion of amines and breaks down the sugar metabolism process.... Monoamine oxidase deficiency is usually common to more than one family member.... Through further investigation and subsequent treatment of mothers of hyperactive children he found they responded very favourably to the diet and vitamin program prescribed for their children.

The diet removes as much as possible all foods containing glucose and amines. Cheese, bananas, tangerines, grapes, wine and avocados are just some foods containing amines. I will soon be publishing a booklet to explain the disorder further. The booklet contains the diet, various recipes using alternative foods, the vitamin and mineral program and a questionnaire. If you are interested I will gladly forward the information. There will be a \$5 fee to cover printing and mailing costs. Please make your cheque payable to Information PMS.

The most positive aspects of the treatment are: it is free, it is painless with no side effects, it is natural and results should be apparent within 3 to 6 months if the program is adhered to 100%.

The link between PMS and monoamine oxidase deficiency is not a proven fact and there is no guarantee it will work for everyone but many women have been treated with almost miraculous results.

Yours truly, Linda Clements  
455 Keith Road, West Vancouver

Dear BCFW Members:

At the C.C. Meeting Feb. 25 and 26, a decision was made to hire a woman, for a 6 month trial period, in order to facilitate communication between the regions and committees. A job posting has been sent out which you should have received by now. This decision was made because the women at the C.C. meeting could think of no other solution to the lack of activity in the regions and in committees....

We, in the Lower Mainland Region, are concerned that this decision was made, and was about to be implemented, without the discussion and agreement from each region.... We ask that you discuss this proposal.... that you consider the long term implications....

Yours, Pam Moodie, Rhian Davies

Dear B.C.F.W. Coordinating Committee:

We have discussed the proposal of hiring a coordinator for the BCFW. It is our considered opinion, based on our experience, that a staff person would greatly enhance the work of the BCFW.... We recommend that the BCFW hire a staff person to do the support work necessary to accomplish the priorities set at convention ...pay someone to do the chores. We will not survive unless the chores are done and it is clear that volunteers cannot and will not and should not be expected to make the commitment necessary to do all the ongoing support work needed by a vital organization.

In sisterhood, Shirley Avril

!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Update on Emily's Place

Dear Women:

...We've cleared lots of trashwood... burned a huge trashwood pile and re-seeded the space where it was, laid water and drain lines for the kitchen, poured a 12' x 16' concrete floor for the Adirondack and 20 concrete pier blocks for the house foundation, added another set of runners to the bridge and tightened its construction, planted 200' of fence lines, found and repaired a wonderful kitchen wood stove, gathered up beautiful windows... we have, happily begun framing now and are up out of the mud! ...we've been moved and delighted by the initial response from women everywhere.... The project is only 16 weeks long, however, so our financial need will continue to be intense for the next three months.... We are in the process of silk-screening Rubyfruit T-shirts to sell and considering a women's dance at the Errington Hall in June.... Thank you for your support....

With loving hearts, The Emily's Place Crew

Dear Shirley:

I am enclosing a copy of the NAWL Brief on the new divorce legislation... the Lady Laurier Club which, has, in keeping with the criticisms contained in the NAWL Brief, proposed the following two resolutions.... Could you please let me know if SWAG is prepared to endorse these resolutions? ...Yours very truly, Gwen Brodsky

SWAG's response in a letter to MacGuigan

Dear Sir:

The Victoria SWAG would like to express appreciation for the proposed changes to the Divorce Act. We laud the move to no-fault divorce. However, we feel strongly that a mandatory one year waiting period is most unfair....An automatic waiting period is an undue hardship on those couples where each partner agrees to the divorce. If the petition has not been made jointly then the Court must be satisfied there is no reason to expect reconciliation. We are also concerned about the proposed limit made on maintenance awards. We support the deletion of s. 11(3) of s.8 of Bill C-10. It is not possible for the court to determine the future financial circumstances of a spouse and children. Therefore, maintenance awards must be open to review and extension. We also feel strongly that these reviews must be done within the jurisdiction of the original decision.... We are disappointed that the proposed legislation makes no mention of structures for assuring payment of child maintenance. We are quite aware that much responsibility in this area lies with the provincial government. On the other hand, we know, and you know, there is much that could be done federally....

Yours very truly, Shirley Avril

Dear Member Group:

...After a review of our Jan. planning meeting, it was agreed that our immediate priorities would be federal election strategy and the Pro-Choice Defece Fund.

Reminder: "I am Pro-Choice and I Vote" postcards can be ordered from CARAL at a cost of 2¢ each (for members).

CARAL will ask all of its members to contact their local candidates and question them on their position on abortion. We will supply literature on the issue to all candidates....

The Pro-Choice Defence Fund has bills outstanding and money is needed urgently.... Please consider by what means your group might contribute....

Sincerely, Leslie Peal, National Coordinator, CARAL

Dear Women:

...We have enclosed our cheque for \$200 as our current contribution to printing. this very worthwhile booklet. We would also like to advise you, that if you are short of money please let us know and we will try to come up with more. We ask only that you please send 6 copies of the booklet to each BCFW member group ...Thank you and good luck--Please keep in touch. BCFW Finance Committee

Dear Women;

The Victoria Women's Sexual Assault Centre, in conjunction with Summer Canada Works, has designed a research project aimed at encouraging women and hotel/motel management to promote safety procedures for women travellers.

This project was developed because of our concern over the increased number of women who may be travelling alone as part of their jobs. We believe that if women had better access to information about ways to avoid assault and if hotel/motel management took some fairly routine precautions, many potentially dangerous situations could be avoided.

The first objective of this project is to create a pamphlet outlining ways in which women may better ensure their safety when travelling. The second aim involves making recommendations to aid hotel/motel owners in providing safe accommodation for their women guests.

Unfortunately, there is not an abundance of material which points out any specific problems women face as travellers. Therefore, we feel that the only way to gain this information is to contact women travellers themselves.

We are asking any women interested in participating in this project, to answer a brief telephone questionnaire, commenting on any hazards they have encountered while travelling, and any recommendations, they can suggest, to reduce these possible hazards. Women can contact the Victoria Women's Sexual Assault Centre on Mon.-Tues. 9am - 9pm. and Wed.-Fri. 9am - 5pm.

We are confident, that with the help of women travellers, along with members of the travel industry, our recommendations will have the potential to make both women and hotel/motel management as responsible as possible in ensuring a level of security all women have a right to expect.

Sincerely,

*Jody Gabourie*

Jody Gabourie  
Project worker at the  
Women's Sexual Assault  
Centre

BCFW Finance Committee

Dear Women:

Thank you for the \$200 sent to help publish our proposed booklet on legal rights for battered women. We have also received support money from B.C. Legal Services and B.C. Public Interest Research Group....

In sisterhood, Shirley Avril



# GENERAL

## Small Expectations--Society's Betrayal of Older Women--Leah Cohen

They are either pathetic and a little dotty or demanding and difficult. That, says author Leah Cohen, is how society perceives the aging woman.

Cohen, 39, a political scientist, made a four-year study of older women in Canada, the US and Europe. Her effort has culminated in a book fraught with criticism and anger at the manner in which society treats elderly women.

Small Expectations...assesses the options and solutions open to women—all women age 25 to 100.

Cohen who talked to over 250 women from all walks of life, says that because most of the literature on aging focuses on men, her task was difficult. However she has come to the conclusion that the discrimination against older women is as insidious as it is all-pervasive.

Cohen says the elderly in our society are generally rejected, "but we are particularly disdainful of older women." The abuse begins early and starts to escalate after a woman reaches 25, she says.

"Fear of physical aging is instilled in us in our 20s--sometimes even earlier by the mass media. The beauty industry inundates us with the message that we must wage war on what are described as the ravages of age.

"The goal of this lavish attention to our appearance, of course, is to retain our sexual appeal to men, who are not punished for their aging and, indeed, are seen as improving as they grow older."

Cohen criticizes social welfare agencies "who simply do not exist to deal with the many problems older women encounter."

Older women she says are physically abused 3 times as often as older men, yet most hostels for battered women do not take in older women because they are geared to younger women and children.

She says that most women in Canada who are over 65 are living well below the poverty line. "If women were important, we'd see that they'd receive more than the paltry income of under \$6000 a year" in pensions, she says.

On a brighter note, Cohen thinks that women of her generation, who have lived through the feminist movement of the '60s and '70s, won't tolerate the injustices suffered by women who are now over 65. "We just can't, and I hope won't allow, society to junk old women like old cars."

(reprinted from Times-Colonist, May 8, 1984)

## CLASSROOM ROLE MODELS--Russell Baker (reprint from Times-Colonist)

Anita Bryant's triumph over homosexuality in Miami reminded me of schoolteachers. There was a lot of discussion in that dispute about teachers and whether their sexual proclivities do or do not influence children and, if they do, whether homosexual teachers can divert the young from the heterosexual path.

People who took Miss Bryant's view that they may talked about teachers as "role models"...seemed to be saying that teachers are people children tend to emulate. In any event, many Miamians must have thought their children would become homosexual if subjected to homosexual teachers.

That prompted me to ponder teachers I haven't seen, and scarcely thought about for decades, and for the first time I reflected on how their sex lives had affected my own. My first thought was that it was curious, perhaps perverse, that I have not turned out to be a spinster.... Until eighth grade, I did not realize that males were permitted to teach school and my impression was that married females were almost as unwelcome in the trade.

...Yet despite almost constant tutelage by spinsters, I never felt the smallest temptation to indulge in spinsterism....

Looking back, it seems we were always at least dimly aware of the sexuality of teachers or in most cases, the absence of it....one made certain assumptions about most of those teachers, and one of the firmest was that they had no sex life whatever. The idea of a teacher in the coils of rapture was as inconceivable as the idea of Herbert Hoover in Bermuda Shorts. Yet, very few of us, I suspect, were seduced by these "role models" into the juiceless life of celibacy....

High school--it was an all-male establishment--exposed me to masculinity at the blackboard....One assumed them to be married and, therefore, beyond sex. Being for the most part dull, they made marriage seem dull and sexless, yet I already knew that I would someday marry, and knew with equal certainty that even though married I would not turn my back on sex.

I had at least two homosexual teachers in that school. They didn't tell us they were, but we all knew it. I learned to jeer about them when they were out of earshot and to laugh about "queers", but I learned it from my "role models" in the schoolyard, and not from them.

One of them was largely responsible for encouraging a classmate to pursue a form of art at which he is now one of the world's best practitioners, besides being a family man. The other woke me to the amazing fact that in life there was also wit. The teacher I most wanted to emulate, however, was single, drank wine and had been gassed in WWI. Of this three admirable traits, there was only one I wanted to copy, and sure enough, to this day I love the sound of a popping cork.

# \*\*\*\*\* Announcements \*\*\*\*\*

## Thanks

Thanks to Nora Jane Rowe, Milnor Alexander, Margaret Nixon and Harriet Kendrick for cash donations.

## The Right to be Human: June 18th 8-9 p.m. Knowledge Network

This program is based on the belief that there is far more to human rights than individual beauty! It will explore the nature of human rights, the various ways in which human rights have been codified and enforced, and the personal cost of discrimination.

The program will feature an address by the Hon. Tomas Berger, explaining what human rights mean to ordinary people. On-location vignettes will address issues of discrimination at the provincial level (housing in B.C.), at the federal level (equal pay for work of equal value) and at the international level (the U.N. Charter of Rights for Children). Expert panelists including Prof. Lyn Smith (B.C. Advisory Committee on Human Rights) and Reginald Newkirk (Federal Human Rights Commission) will discuss human rights codes and enforcement. The program will also feature a phone-in interactive segment.

This program represents the achievement of a small team of local women working through the Vancouver Island Human Rights Coalition and the University of Victoria. Major credit must go to Brishka Lund of Women's Programs at UVIC Extension. Credit also goes to Josephine Adams, Gisela Ruebsaat and to Joan Russow of the Coalition's Education Committee. These women dreamed up the program, canvassed University ideas for the format, lobbied Knowledge Network, drafted a script for the on-location vignettes (professionally honed by Sue Gillingham), rounded up local talent for shooting, press-ganged local human rights experts and kept their heads throughout local upheavels in the Human Rights Code.

Of course, the cooperative efforts of very many people went into the program. The Coalition raised funds, Departments of Law and Social Work gave time and expertise, Extension provided studio, filming and publicity, and the children of Blanshard School gave us their joy. But the small group of women who started the ball rolling and have pursued this project for nearly a year, show what you can do the next time you find yourselves sitting around the T.V. saying "Why don't they do a program on....!" Do plan to watch this program. Do call in with your questions and comments. We hope you enjoy it.

--Vancouver Island Human Rights Coalition

## 1984 CONFERENCE: THE WOMEN'S WEST

July 11-14, The Yarrow Inn  
Park City, Utah

Workshops: Feminism & Politics in the West, Getting Western Women's History into the Classroom, Seeing Women in the West Through Myth and Fiction

Contact: Alice Albert for more info.

## TAPES AVAILABLE FROM INTERNATIONAL WOMEN IN LAW CONFERENCE-- APRIL 1984

Sexual Assault Survivors  
Feminist Jurisprudence  
Negotiation Skills  
Special Issues in Sexual Harassment  
Feminist Therapy  
Incest/Child Assault  
Sociology of Pornography  
Law in a Different Voice  
Reproductive Engineering/Reproductive Rights (3)

## BOOKS AVAILABLE AT EVERYWOMAN'S: Suggestions for summer reading at the beach

Wives and Daughters--Elizabeth Gaskell.  
"The most underrated novel in English".  
Clear Light of Day--Anita Desai. "A rich Chekhovian novel by one of the most gifted contemporary Indian writers."--The New Yorker  
A Woman's Age--Rachel Billington. Through four generations from the glittering Edwardian age to our own makeshift times.  
Stand We at Last--Zoe Fairbairns, author of widely-acclaimed Benefits.  
In Search of April Raintree--Beatrice Cullerton. Account of two Métis sisters.  
Rivington Street--Meredith Tax. A tumultuous novel of four unforgettable women.  
The Glass Boat--Alison Ward. A first novel, funny and perceptive.  
Fly Away Home--Marge Piercy's new novel.

## Non-Fiction

Tracks--Robyn Davidson. "Ranks among the best of the books of exploration and travel and, like them, is a record of self-discovery and self-proving."--Doris Lessing.

The YWCA in Vancouver has low rates for overnight: YWCA Hotel, 580 Burrard St., Vancouver V6C 2K9, Tel.: 683-2531  
single rooms--\$20-\$50 / night  
double rooms--\$30-\$40 / night  
triple rooms--\$39-45 / night



Lily Briscoe: A Self Portrait -Mary Meigs.

The Medusa Head-Mary Meigs. Autobiography of a menage a trois.

Nahanni Trailhead-Joanne Ronan Moore.

Autobiography. A year in the northern wilderness.

And the Children Played-Patricia Joudry.

The author's account of educating her children at home.

The Right to Lifers-Connie Paige. Who they are. How they operate. Where do they get their money?

Come in and browse our Virago Classics section. And remember--if you're short of time and/or inspiration, Everywoman's Gift Certificates make wonderful birthday or graduation gifts.

#### CANADIAN BOOK ON WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES

Voices from the Shadows: Women with

Diabilities Speak Out-Gwyneth Mathews

What do most Canadians really know about the lives of the disabled? We see them on the street, in shopping malls, in banks. And we support charities in their behalf. But do we know about the education they receive, the kinds of jobs they have, and how they feel about themselves, their relationships and the society in which they live.

Based on interviews, Voices from the Shadows explores the lives and experiences of disabled women in Canada. Employment, parenting, education, sexuality, housing accessibility and social and government assistance are all addressed. Written by a woman who is herself disabled, Voices from the Shadows provides a gripping and honest picture that Canadians can no longer ignore.

#### Kristina Potapczyk Trust Fund

Kristina Potapczyk has filed a complaint of sexual harrasment with the Canadian Human Rights Commission in Ottawa against her former employer M.P. Al McBain.

After reviewing the case, the commission substantiated her case and appointed a tribunal in December. A hearing date was set. A Committee has been formed to direct the campaign because Kristina is a young woman with limited resources. A trust fund has been established and donations are requested: Kristina Potapczyk Trust Fund, c/o Box 1060, Station F, Toronto, Ont. M4Y 2T7

#### Women's Building Society Update

The Women's Building Society held its AG meeting May 10, 1984 to examine the operation of the Society and its future. It was decided "that the Society will lie dormant for three or so years, retaining its tax number and Society status and reviving when the leases in St. Ann's Academy are up or when the membership has more energy to pursue its original goal". WBS monies are to be put into term deposits.

Many women-- Pat White, Cathy Mountain, Mary Anne Ellens, Lesley Duthie, Vivian Chenard, Susan Moger and Jane Henderson have devoted much time and effort over the years to the WBS. We thank them.

The WBS send submissions to 41 foundations for assistance. They received 17 replies (7 negative, 2 not able to help at present, 2 not in our guidelines, 1 building purchase not a priority but maybe renovations later, 3 make an application on our forms, 2 your project is eligible).

The physical space requirements WBS feels necessary are: 3000 sq. ft. or more; 12 rooms (small); 1 or 2 large meeting rooms; 2 entrances; good parking, bus services; central location; zoning suitable for office use; heating, wiring, floors and walls in sound, usable condition. Costs: @ \$170,000 (\$42,500 downpayment, \$127,500 mortgage); monthly PIT at 12% = \$1572.82; insurance, heat, light, janitor, water. Income: 2500 sq. ft at \$10/sq.ft./annum= \$2083.33.

EVOLUTION  
OF MAN...

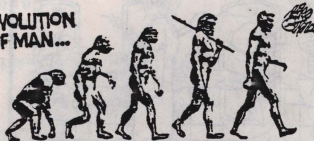
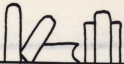


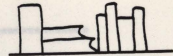
Photo: Nature, 1974, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000

and woman.





# RESOURCES



## RECENT ACQUISITIONS

### FEMINIST JOURNALS/NEWSLETTERS

Broadside 5 (7) May 1984  
 Action 2(5) May 1984  
 Kinesis May 1984  
 Ont. Native Women's Association 3(1) April 1984  
 NAC Memo April 1984  
 Nat. Association of Women and the Law 5(6) March 1984

### NON FEMINIST RESOURCES

Can. Human Rights Comm. Annual Report 1983  
 Physical Handicap and Employment: The Can. Human Rights Act  
 Special Programs in Employment, Criteria for Compliance; Can. Human Rights Act.  
 Helping You Helps Me, A Guidebook for Self Help Groups  
 Ministry of Human Resources Annual Report 1982-83  
 Pacific Group Papers Series 1-84  
 \*Does B.C. Need Fiscal Restraint?  
 \*The New Priorities of the Social Credit government of B.C.  
 \*Investment & Education in B.C.: A Review of the Evidence in Restraint & Recovery

### RESOURCES FOR WOMEN

Immigrant Women in Canada, A Resource Handbook for Action, B.C. Task Force on Immigrant Women 1982  
 A Guide to Childcare Services in B.C. B.C. Task Force on Immigrant Women 1984  
 Wife Battering: A Criminal Offence: A guide for battered women in Nova Scotia  
 Equal Pay Case Book (Canadian Human Rights Commission)  
 Methodology & Principles for Applying Section 11 of the Can. Human Rights Act (Equal pay for work of equal value)  
 Interpretation Guide for Section 11  
 Unwanted Sexual Attention & Sexual Harassment - a survey - Canadian Human Rights Commission  
 Women of Europe 15 Sept.-15 Nov. 1983  
 Daycare Advocate Issue #2 March 1984  
 NAC AGM resolutions passed  
 Vis a Vis 2(2) Spring 1984

\*\*\*\*\*  
 NEWS FLASH: KENSIS April '84  
 is missing!!!! BRING IT BACK  
 \*\*\*\*\*

### POEMS

#### Janson: His Story of Art

As his story reads, only the thoughts, actions and edifices of men are recognized as of consequence.

Bearing children is not my sole contribution to this world.  
 I am not merely a domesticated animal.  
 I am always aware of the physical rhythms of my body.  
 This does not make me any less responsible, decisive, creative a person.

I think about the responsibility of bearing the next generation, if only the men are mentioned while the women are displayed.  
 I, a woman, am part of history.  
 Like the Pied Piper  
 I demand recognition for a good job done and for my talents.

A. Artemis



"So when I took over the company I discovered we didn't need quite so many male executives."



NEXT SWAG MEETINGS:

## PICNIC

Tuesday June 26 at 1830 (or 6:30 p.m.)  
BEACON HILL PARK picnic area by the  
childrens swings and play area.  
POT LUCK, BYOB (discreet!) and BYOM  
SEE YOU THERE

Co-ordinating Committee: Tuesday July 3  
at SWAG offices 1045 Linden at 1930  
(or 7:30 p.m.)

Answers to quiz	1.b	2.b	3.a	4.Spain	5.b	6.Greece	7.Canada	Belgium	8.b	9.a,b,c,
	10.b	11.b	12.c	13.b	14.b	15.a	16.c	17.a	18.c	19.c
						20.c	21.b	22.c	23.b	

