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swag STATUS OF WOMEN NEWS



**No Move Yet
We're Still Hoping**

SWAG Entrance

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.

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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.

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

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or 1045 Linden Avenue, Victoria, B.C.
Telephone: 381-1012

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

WHO? WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?

Friday/Saturday, April 27, 28

B.C. Women's History Conference,
Camosun College. Contact Barb
Latham Camosun College.

Saturday, April 28

March for Peace 12.30 Centennial
Square, followed by activities at
Macdonald Park, James Bay

Monday April 30

Human Rights in Chile, an address
by Jean-Claude Parrot, President
of CUPW, at Union Centre Auditorium
2750 Quadra St.

Thursday, May 10

AGM of the Women's Building Society
at 7.30.p.m. at 1358 Hampshire Rd.
(See letter section and announcement
section for further details)

Saturday, June 2

Greater Victoria Multicultural
Women's Association Conference on
Concerns of Women in Today's Multi-
cultural Society. See announcement
section for details.

SWAG MEETINGS

Tuesday, May 1

Coordinating Committee meets at
1045 Linden.

Tuesday, May 29

"It's Just Your Nerves", a present-
ation on Women and Drug and Alcohol
Abuse, 7.30. Place - t.b.a.
(contact Shirley at 381-1012)

FAREWELL

To JUDITH BARRETT-LENNARD who leaves
for a new life in Perth, Australia.

THANKYOU Judith for an excellent
1983 Conference and also your insight
and thoughtfulness during the process
of decision making.

GOOD LUCK!



Star Systems

She smiles sweetly
in silver
on the disk
hung over your chest
a perpetual smile
promoting two thousand years
of virgin birth

no sex
no pain
no mess
a pope approved method
a product star-rated
when penis attached.

A. Artemis

STATUS OF WOMEN NEWS

SVAC Brief Presented to the Fraser Commission on Pornography and Prostitution
--April 2, 1984--

PORNOGRAPHY --Definitions

Pornography is anti-woman hate propaganda peddled in the name of "free choice" and entertainment. Its theme is not sex but violence directed towards women and children. This theme of violence is usually developed in a constant format. The reluctant female either passively submits or is coerced/brutalized by being bound, beaten, chained, tortured and raped. She is then portrayed as enjoying this brutal treatment. The message is one of objectification, degradation, violence and contempt for women. We condemn pornography.

Erotica is a healthy, enlightened exploration and expression of sexuality in print, film, paint and sculpture media. We do not oppose this or explicit sex in which both partners freely participate as equals. We support erotica.

Sex education dispenses information about contraception, our bodies, our sexuality and our sexual choices which are based on equality between partners. We support sex education. (During the hearing we offered as an example of a good sex education course "Steps to Maturity" which is offered in Nannaimo schools from Kindergarten on.)

FREEDOM AND RESPONSIBILITY

Freedom is not a concept without limits and responsibility. We cede some of our rights in order to live in our society, for example: controls on drugs, guns and speed limits for vehicles. The free exchange of ideas which form our right of political debate and dissent currently give 'carte blanche' to a group of men who slander, degrade and incite violence towards women and children.

Free speech and access to political decision making are based on money and power. Women have neither and cannot be expected to protect rights that are not only denied us but given to another group that perpetuates violence against us.

While we cannot support state censorship legislation as it exists in the popular imagination with respect to obscenity (nudity and explicit sex particularly), we think women have a responsibility to point out the abuse of freedom in pornography and society has a responsibility to acknowledge and denounce the violence and hatred inherent in this material.

Pornography is an industry which grosses \$550 MILLION per year in Canada. There is no reason for a hands off policy which is accorded to no other business venture.

CATHARSIS VS SOCIAL LEARNING

The old theory that pornography is harmless and serves as a catharsis for male aggression is now discredited. Pornography is no safety valve.

A growing body of research documents a positive correlation between an exposure to pornography and the committing of sexually abusive acts against women and children. Pornography serves as a role model which teaches that violence against women and children is acceptable and that women enjoy being degraded and brutalized.

Viewing violent acts not only encourages violence, but greater and greater violence is required as men become desensitized to it. This is noticeable in the images of women portrayed in any newstand. Our bodies are no longer just "air-brushed" but tied in chains. The proliferation of 'kiddie porn'. the abuse of another powerless group, is another example of this desensitization.

We consider any act or depiction of violence against women to be unacceptable and view as nonsense the over worked question--"How much violence is considered excessive?" We live in a country where:

- * A woman is raped every 17 minutes
- * A woman is sexually assaulted every 4 minutes
- * 1 in 4 women will be raped in her lifetime
- * 25% of women are beaten by the men with whom they live
- * 25% of girls and 10% of boys are sexually abused, 75% of the time by someone they know

Women and children have the right to freedom from material that advocates violence against us.

RECOMMENDATION 1

Whereas, there is much confusion in the general public around the areas of pornography, erotica and sex education and the meaning and effects of pornography, that,

A CANADA WIDE EDUCATIONAL MEDIA BLITZ TO DEFINE THESE ISSUES BE INITIATED VIA PRIME TIME TV, RADIO AND NEWSPAPERS.

and that,

Letters

THIS BE PLANNED AND ORGANIZED IN FULL CONSULTATION WITH WOMEN'S FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES, THE NATIONAL ACTION COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN.

and that, if public monies are unavailable,

ADDITIONAL TAXES BE PLACED ON THE WEALTHY PORNOGRAPHY INDUSTRY TO FINANCE THIS VENTURE.

RECOMMENDATION 2

Whereas, the focus of pornography is violence and degradation directed against women and children that,

PORNOGRAPHY BE DEFINED AS HATE LITERATURE/MATERIAL UNDER THE CRIMINAL CODE OF CANADA. (Specifically we would like to see gender included as one of the grounds and we would like to see anyone able to lay charges.)

RECOMMENDATION 3

Whereas, pornography is being financed in part by legitimate businesses (e.g. Eatons economic involvement in Playboy programming on Pay T.V.) that,

ECONOMIC PRESSURE BE APPLIED TO THE PORNOGRAPHY INDUSTRY AND ITS BACKERS.

RECOMMENDATION 4

Whereas, images of violated women and children have proliferated extensively and are so highly visible that,

GUIDELINES BE TIGHTENED TO REDUCE THIS HIGH VISIBILITY.

The Fraser Commission met in Victoria only to discuss pornography. SWAG, however, has also submitted a brief to them on prostitution. Copies of this are available for perusal in the office.

'NEWS & VIEWS'

A December Gallup Poll shows that a gender gap has appeared in Canadian federal politics over the

last year. The 14 point difference, which has opened up between men and women in reference to the Conservative Party is even larger than the 10 point gap which has President Reagan so worried in the U.S. Here, then, are the voting intentions of men and women according to the most recent Gallup Poll: December 1983

Party	Men	Women
P.C.	60%	46%
Liberal	25%	34%
NDP	13%	18%

Glenda MacPherson presented a Brief to the Task Force on Public Legal Services in which SWAG recommended the following:

1. The Ministry of the Attorney General restore the budget of the Legal Services Society to an adequate level where it can fulfill its mandate to the residents of B.C.
2. That women be granted counsel in all matters of divorce, separation, maintenance, division of property, child custody and support when eligible. If there is doubt as to the eligibility of a separating or divorcing woman because of previous family income, she should be supplied with counsel on the understanding that if a reasonable settlement is obtained, she then pay for counsel for her settlement.
3. That legal services continue to be available to women involved in criminal or civil proceedings or other legal matters as covered by Section 3 (2) of the Legal Services Society Act.
4. That the educational, advisory, and informational mandate of the Legal Services Society be continued and expanded with regard to the needs and interests of women.

The preamble to the above recommendations (i.e., the complete Brief) is available in the office.

Source: NAC Newsletter

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OFFICE REPORT

Submitted by Shirley Avril

FALL CONFERENCE

-debriefed 1984 w/ Sheila Brown
-next year: a joint conference w/ NAWL and Voice of Women on Women and the Constitution.

EMILY'S PLACE

- a retreat/camping space for women at Rubyfruit (Coombs just west of Parksville)
- coordinating w/ Flagrant Dance Collective for a benefit dance to support Emily's Place.

VANCOUVER STATUS OF WOMEN

- support letters and telegrams sent re. funding cuts.
- arranged press conference for the day of protest
- spread the word to Victoria women and groups re. threat to funding and January 30, Day of Protest.

LESBIANISM, FEMINISM & LESBOPHOBIA

- liaised w/ Susan Moger and Rowena Hunniset
- arranged space, refreshments, and display
- now working w/ any women interested in follow-up

WOMEN'S CENTERS CONFERENCE

- see report in this issue

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT PROJECT

- consulted w/ Barbara Gratham (placement officer) and Leila Harris (project officer)
- made application for students to work on resource library

BRIEF TO LEGAL SERVICES TASK FORCE

- consulted with Glenda MacPherson, a social work student, who wrote and presented a brief on behalf of SWAG. It is available in office.

NEW MEMBERS ON COORDINATING COMMITTEE

- Mary Brownscombe -newsletter layout
- Valerie Featherston -recorder, resource library
- Dorothy Livingstone -membership
- Sara David -contact woman for economy

ST. ANN'S ACADEMY

- choose space - Room 119
- negotiated w/ project engineer, Al English and more recently Allan Houghton.
- applied to the commission for space. We have been accepted.
- rode the see-saw - do we move/ don't we move????????
- the situation NOW is WAIT until a satisfactory lease can be negotiated

MEDIA WATCH

- our office phone number and address has been added to notice in Monday magazine
- several requests for forms have come in.

BRIEF TO FRASER COMMISSION ON

PORNOGRAPHY AND PROSTITUTION

- liaised w/ Robin Jamison, commission secretary
- typed brief which was written by Lois Vickery and presented by Diana Butler and Avis Rasmussen.
- it is available in the office
- gave the commission address to many people who called the office wanting to present briefs on their own.

FUNDRAISING COALITION

- has been disbanded as the three women involved, Cathy Mountain, Barbara Field and myself, had not the time to organize major events. There must be input from members of our three groups before more activity can be planned.

LEGAL RIGHTS OF BATTERED WOMEN

- member, Nicole Frchette, has been researching this topic for a law course.
- consulted extensively w/ Nicole on content for a booklet.
- contact numerous sources of funds
- we have received funding from B.C. Public Interest Research Group (\$200) and Legal Services (\$800) for printing 15,000 copies to be mass distributed throughout the city.

RESOURCE LIBRARY

- very little success in recalling outstanding loans, therefore, except in special cases, it is now a reading library.
- the title cards have been typed by Jean Muir
- subject cards are being worked on by Valerie Featherston

VOLUNTEER FAIR

- made signs, collected display materials etc.

RETREAT

- Gulf Islands Women's Place was not available for a sleep-over.
- excellent location was found at Twin Gables, Crofton

ISSUES FOR YOUNG WOMEN

- now copyrighted and available for rent or sale

PHONE CALLS/DROP INS

- most calls have been about problems w/ U.I.C., requests for family law information and lawyer referrals and pornographic videos and Pay T.V.
- each month 10-20 newsletters and brochures are sent to contacts who express an interest in SWAG.

Letters



From Shirley Avril on behalf of delegates to the Conference of Women's Centres to the General Manager of the Richmond Inn.

The women from the Conference of Women's Centres would register a formal complaint:

We are offended by the pornography displayed in the newsstand giftshop and ask that the hotel management insure that such magazines be kept from view....

The reply--

Although, as you mentioned he is an independent businessman leasing space from us he is still our ultimate responsibility. So after I discussed your note with him, he agreed that being a little more subtle in his magazine display could be beneficial to everyone.

Thank you for taking time to let me know the feelings of the delegates, I am sure you will find the problem rectified the next time you have occasion to frequent the hotel.

Yours truly, A.W. Arbuthnot
General Manager, Richmond Inn

From Employment and Immigration Canada,
Victoria Office

The Canada Employment Centre for Students is gearing up for another busy summer.... the CEC-S is a referral and placement service for students and employers.... This summer, there are more reasons than ever to hire a student.... I hope you will use our services once we open April 26, 1984. Our office is located at 2653 Douglas St. (near Hillside); our telephone number is 388-3458....

Yours sincerely, Barbara
Grantham, Supervisor CEC-S

From the National Action Committee on the Status of Women -- a plea to help raise \$100,000 to carry on the work of NAC, particularly the research and educational projects financed under the NAC Charitable and Educational Trust (tax deductible). Their address is Suite 306, 40 St. Clair Ave., East, Toronto M4T 1M9.

From the Minister of Employment and Immigration, Canada, the Honourable John Roberts.

...Let me first emphasize that the promotion of equality of opportunity to compete for and have access to jobs is indeed a basic aim of EIC.... From the standpoint of training, special measures have been built into the National Training Program to help women train for the jobs of the future. To this end, strategies are

already in place in our Canada Employment Centres to facilitate an increase in the number of women who enroll in institutional and industrial training. As well, women are being given priority for 30 percent of the spaces in EIC-sponsored training courses considered non-traditional for women. Furthermore, as of Sept. 1, 1983 living and dependent care allowances were increased for persons ineligible for unemployment insurance benefits while on training.

...Sponsors who submit applications for projects under Canada Works are required to outline their goals for hiring suitably qualified members of particular target groups, including women.

The Women's Employment Division of EIC in conjunction with employment program areas, develops a yearly plan of action to improve the delivery of employment programs and services to women. The long-term goal of the plan is to ensure that women's participation in employment programs and services is equal to women's representation in the labour force.... EIC has launched an advertising campaign encouraging women to consider their career options and inviting them to write for our "Job Idea Book for Women."

Yours, etc.

In response to an invitation to attend an Issues Forum sponsored by the PC Women's Caucus of Vancouver on the Canadian Economy

We are writing to thank you for your invitation.... We cannot afford to send someone from Victoria, however we would like to make some very strong input by way of this letter.

We are astounded that a discussion of the Canadian economy would omit unemployment. We consider this the most important economic challenge in Canada today....

We strongly object to the inclusion of Dr. Michael Walker, Director of the Fraser Institute on your program. We hate what the Fraser Institute policy has done in B.C. We will fight every possibility that such inhumane policy would rule in Ottawa.

We call upon the PC Women's Caucus to seek an understanding of women's suffering. The women of Canada are poor. There is pain in being unable to find work to support your children and knowing the welfare allowances are frozen. There is pain in knowing that choosing to love another woman means you can be driven from your home or denied employment. There is pain in being trapped in a low paying 'pink ghetto' with no avenue for retraining. There is pain in knowing there will be no pension

plan to ease your old age. This is pain Michael Walker will never understand or care about. But perhaps Conservative women will.

Find out what economic issues challenge the women who head two thirds of the poor families in Canada. Find out what economic issues challenge the 600,000 older women living from hand to mouth. Find out what economic issues challenge the young woman who has graduated from high school but has not been able to find work- year after year after year.

Find out what economic issues challenge Native women who first had their land and culture stolen then their token status denied. Find out what economic issues face immigrant women who handle a language barrier and racism every time they look for work.

The women of Canada have displayed a clear 'gender gap' in voting patterns. There is a 14 point difference in male/female votes for the Conservative Party. This is considerably larger than the 10 point gap that has so concerned the Reagan supporters in the U.S. and there are good solid reasons for it. Michael Walker is one of them. Wake up PC women!

Yours, etc...

From the Women's Building Society--

The time has come when we must examine the operation of the Women's Building of Victoria Society and make some decisions as to what we are going to do in the future. As you may be aware, St. Ann's Academy has been made available as low cost accommodation for numerous social service groups ... there may no longer be the need for our Society to continue to try to buy a building which would house services for women.

...If you think (the Society) should (continue), are you willing to be a member of the coordinating committee and carry on the work which is mainly fund-raising?... The two alternatives to the continuing operation of this Society are a) that the Society die a natural death and b) that the Society lie dormant for three or so years, retaining its tax number and Society status and reviving when the lenses in St. Ann's are up or when the membership has more energy to pursue its original goal....

If you wish to see the Society continue, we need new energy and a rebuilding of the substantial grassroots support we had when the first meetings took place.... If you care about the continuation of the Society it is very important that you attend the Annual General Meeting. If you are unable to attend, contact a member of the Coordinating Committee to indicate which of the options you would support.... If the Coordinating Committee does not hear from you and you do not attend the AGM, it will have to be taken that you are in favour of the Society terminating.

Although on one level the immediate need for a Women's Building may not seem to great at this time, I still hope that the Society has enough support that we can continue to work for our primary objective which I consider to be a building owned by women, accessible to all women and representing the strength of the women in our community.

Yours, etc. Jane Henderson

(Note: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING-- May 10, 1984, 7:30 p.m., 1358 Hampshire Rd. Telephone-- 598-7547)

To Francis Fox, Minister of Communications, Canada

Murrah! Tax dollars will no longer be used to support movies or television programs judged to be "sexually explicit" or "violent". We welcome the announcement that the CPDC will be given guidelines that protect women from abusive images.

We would like to remind you that the women of Canada expect a similar stand to be forthcoming from the CRTC. Regulation of Pay TV to prevent sexist programming is essential in the struggle against misogyn women face on every hand.... Let's have guidelines with teeth.

Yours, etc.

To the Equal Pay Information Committee (EPIC)

The enclosed cheque for \$20 is for use in the legal campaign to support Joy Irving's case with the Pension Appeals Board. (Response came following a letter from EPIC outlining the issue).

An important legal case, affecting all Canadian women, is now underway. You probably know that, a few years ago, we won the right to a division of CPP credits between spouses upon the dissolution of marriage.... Since a woman usually has less pension credits, because of lower earnings and less years in the paid labour force, this legislation almost always benefits the woman. However, this obviously just and progressive change in the CPP has some unexpected twists and turns, one of which was recently discovered by a local woman.

At the time of her divorce, Mrs. Joy Irving did not know of the possibility of a sharing of pension credits. There is no mechanism by which women automatically learn of this right. When she heard, she applied immediately....

The law states that you must apply within three years of the final divorce. Joy applied 25 days late... She appealed to the Hon. Monique Bégin who denied her appeal. Joy filed an appeal... a review committee was appointed, a hearing was held and decided in Joy's favour.... However, Bégin appealed this decision to the Pen-

Report

sion Appeals Board, which consists of Federal and Provincial Superior Court Judges.

The outcome of this case is obviously of great importance to Canadian women. Joy, as a low-paid clerical worker, cannot afford the costs involved. EPIC, is anxious to build a campaign that both focuses public attention on the case, and pays for the court costs.

In sisterhood, etc.
(EPIC- P.O. Box 4237, Vancouver B.C.)

From BCFW concerning the decision at the BCFW Convention not to supply a witness at Ann Hanson's trial re: the bombings of Red Hot Video. --- a letter from Ann Hanson herself.

As I explained to you in a previous letter I along with the defense group, are preparing a 'political defense for the arson charges We have been contacting witnesses for quite some time and at present have (several) commitments.... these people do not all condone the firebombings but this is not their purpose as witnesses.

I am writing this letter because I was told that BCFW did not want to send a witness to the trial. I was quite surprised and disappointed when I heard this. I hope that this decision was due to a lack of information and misunderstanding of the role of a witness and can be changed.

The role of a witness in a trial is to give factual information to the court which will add to the overall picture that the jury must examine in order to judge whether the accused is innocent or guilty. The role of a witness is not to condone or condemn the action that the accused is charged with-- that is the role of the jury.

In this particular trial, due to the nature of the defense, the witnesses may very well be asked, whether they think the fire bombings were necessary to stop the sale of violent pornography. The answer to the question must be truthful, and in this case, represent the view of the organization....

We would like the BCFW to supply a witness because the BCFW was and still is very active in the fight against pornography and RNV.... Obviously I would not expect BCFW to express anything other than their true views as stated in a number of public press releases and statements. The questions that the defense will be asking the BCFW in court will be given to you well in advance so that we can discuss anything that you have problems with.

Anyways I hope that you will seriously reconsider your decision.... spinning strength thru sisterhood, Ann Hanson

Our reply to BCFW--

At the Jan. 10th meeting of our coordinating committee SWAG agreed to endorse a BCFW representative to testify at the Red Hot Video Firebombings trial. It seemed clear to us that a BCFW witness would only speak on our behalf concerning the position that had already been made public.... If the decision is to be discussed again please consider this letter as a vote from SWAG in favour of supplying a BCFW witness to testify in accordance with BCFW policy and publicly established position.

From Hugh Curtis, Minister of Finance, B.C.

Thank you for your letter relating to possible funding cuts to the Vancouver Status of Women. It is my understanding that no group has as yet been notified as to their budget funding for 1984/85.

From Brian Smith, Attorney General, B.C.

At the present time no decision has been made on the funding level of any of the community based organizations ... A variety of options are being considered and as soon as a final decision has been made it will be communicated to the organizations directly.

From Monique Begin, Minister of National Health and Welfare.

... I appreciate the support of the Status of Women Action Group with regard to the important matter of Universal Medicare. Please rest assured that I will continue to promote equal access for all Canadians.

From Marc Lalonde, Minister of Finance

Thank you for your letter... expressing opposition to the extension of the 6&5 program in the public sector. I have noted your comments and appreciate the points you have raised.... A final decision regarding this important matter will be taken once all the options and representations have been reviewed. To this end, your comments are useful to me and I will keep them in mind during my deliberations.

From Judy Erola, Minister Responsible for the Status of Women on 6&5

The government will be exploring alternative options to the program... and will be taking into consideration views of groups such as yours. In addition, I assure you that the impact 6 and 5 has had on women's wages in relation to men's will be a factor affecting the decision.

--- REPORT ---

WOMEN'S CENTERS CONFERENCE REPORT

submitted by Shirley Avril

March 2-4 I attended a conference organized for Women's Centers from all over British Columbia and from Whitehorse, Yukon Territory. Thirty centers were represented! It was exciting indeed to realize that pockets of resistance have mushroomed in so many different places. The philosophies and directions represented by the delegates ran the entire continuum of the women's movement. Many centers are very small, some even without public space. These groups feel vulnerable in their community and avoid even the appearance of political action or feminism. Older centers are, for the most part, more highly structured with boards, collectives, steering committees and paid staff. Programs vary from casual drop-in to well organized, ongoing workshops and seminars. The focus for many is the violence against women and the constant work of picking up the pieces of the lives of battered and raped women.

This conference was organized by Jean Trask-Port Coquitlam, Christine Slater-Williams Lake and Trish Boyd-Fernie and sponsored by the Secretary of State department. It was difficult to decide whose idea it was or who was in charge or, quite frankly, why we had been gathered together. An overview of the agenda will be helpful.

Friday: Welcome and introductions
-never really happened-most women drifted in and out.

Sat: Intro. etc.
Josephine Payne -O'Connor [20 min.]
Lyse Blanchard, new Director
of Women's Programs [45 min.]
-she told us:

- Woman's Program budget had been almost doubled
- she was responsible for the 28% that went to national groups
- all decisions regarding the remaining 72% were made in the region, therefore, she couldn't answer our questions!

Workshops [2 hours]

- Researching funding sources
- Lobbying
- Decision making-Consensus

Lunch

Orest Kruhlak, Regional Director
Dept. of Secretary of State
[2 hours]

- his topic was Government planning
- it is my considered opinion everything he told us could have been covered adequately by a two page handout, a structural diagram of govt. hierarchy and a flow chart of the channels of decision making.

Policies and Procedures for Operations of Women's Centers

[1 hour]

- presented by the Port Coquitlam Women's Center
- included time for buzz groups
- practical information - we could have used the entire afternoon to discuss these issues.

Dinner -speaker Eileen Hendry

Eileen asked us what we would ask a fairy godmother for? As she listened to the replies outlining the desperate needs of women around the province she became very depressed and went on at length about how each problem women took on ten years ago had turned out to be incredibly deeper than we (she) had ever imagined. Now it appears our adversaries are even stronger and our difficulties unsurmountable. She quired, "Is there any hope for the future?"

There were a couple of responses about community recognition of women's issues, one about the children being the answer to the future and I said, "The problems are indeed horrific, but none are new. The women's movement has only uncovered what was always there. Recognizing, acknowledging these age-old horrors is a positive step. It is the first step toward the possibility of change."

Most of the delegates took responsibility after that session to take themselves to the lounge and dance up a storm to celebrate the power of women.

Sunday: Reports from Terrace, Fernie and Port Alberni on the LEAP grant program for beginning businesses. Followed by buzz groups [1 1/2 hours]
-prognosis was singularly depressing
-after 2-3 years work there was nothing yet produced or sold.
-other groups found themselves responsible for but without control over their fledgling companies

-all monies borrowed were due
in three years if project
was not showing a profit.

As is so often the case, my most interesting and informative discussions came during break times. The issues of policy and procedures are very important as we move toward using more paid staff and Canada Employment project workers. In my opinion, much more time could have been spent discussing what happens in centers around the province - what works, what does not work - and much less time could have been spent hearing and discussing what seemed to be Secretary of State initiated topics.

It is of note that we were told there would be no time for resolutions at any time during the conference. This gave some credence to our suspicions that the conference had not been organized to hear what the women working in the centers had to say. The experts had been gathered to give us the word. Needless to say we ignored this injunction.

I presented three resolutions that were passed at the plenary on Sunday.

Two came from an ad hoc meeting we squeezed in before dinner on Sat. when many of us met to discuss why we had come.

1) We recommend that the Secretary of State Department view favourably a grant application to organize a Women's Centers Conference for 1985.

2) We recommend that the Secretary of State Department make available additional funds to each group for the purpose of networking.

One was my own:

3) I recommend that a formal complaint be made that we are offended by the pornography in the magazine stand and ask that the hotel management insure that such material be kept from view. (see letters section of this newsletter)

In spite of my criticisms, a vote of thanks is due the women who worked very hard on organizing this conference. Such an undertaking is never easy and it is impossible to please everyone. Critical analysis of any event is useful only as a tool to make the next one better. We have begun a formal association of a very important network for the women of B.C. and Yukon. Let's keep our grassroots focus and learn from each other.

**Report of the NAC Conference
March 16-19, 1984, Ottawa.**

Ottawa was frozen but beautiful as 380 delegates from across Canada, representing women's groups from Vancouver Island to Newfoundland, met for the annual National Action Committee conference. This year's theme, "Women Mobilizing for Power", addressing the ways in which women can impact on the political process, was especially apt since Ottawa was in the throes of a Liberal leadership race and gearing up for a Federal election, and M.P.s of all parties were looking for support.

Friday 16th. Doris Anderson, retiring president, urged us all to get involved in the political process. She has been a very high profile and committed leader and we were sad to bid her farewell. The various business reports from the president, treasurer and vice-presidents indicated N.A.C. is in good shape (although I question the wisdom of committing our entire \$4,000.00 trust fund to a mail-out appear for funds). Chaviva Hosek, new president, was welcomed; rather too academic and low-key for my taste but I am sure the presidency will render its usual transformation!

Business done, a panel of representatives from each political party (except the Feminist Party of Canada??) spoke of the mechanics and realities of political life. Jean Piggott (P.C.) Margaret Mitchell (N.D.P.) Maude Barlow (Prime Minister's Office) and the perennial Greta Nemeroff (Independent Anarchist) urged us to exploit the 'gender gap' (see item on this in the newsletter - ed.):

Saturday 17th The election of officers produced some very good choices. Jane Evans (member of B.C.'s new Human Rights Council) elected to Vice-Presidency; the B.C.-Yukon region was divided into two; Jon Leah Hopkins elected Member-at-large; our new rep is...? Of all the candidates Louise Dulude struck me as the best next President.

The "Great Move" debate created a stir. Doris Anderson's proposal that N.A.C. establish itself in Ottawa for more effective lobbying at the Federal level produced a tie vote last year; this year it was defeated 66-75. Toronto

reps turned out in force to argue for remaining in Toronto: N.A.C. needs Toronto volunteers...and Toronto's women's groups need N.A.C. (don't we all?). The supporters of the move to Ottawa argued that it would (a) increase francophone involvement (b) vastly improve our lobbying power. I supported and lobbied for the move to Ottawa. I think this issue will return.

Of All the workshops, I attended Native Indian women's issues and the panel on women in politics. Overall the workshops produced resolutions on: Indian women's rights, equality under the new Charter; disarmament; pensions; permanent jobs for women; part-time workers' coverage; pornography midwifery; day-care; abortion; divorce. These formed the basis for the questions we raised in our lobbying session in the House of Commons on the Monday.

Jill Vickers gave an after-dinner address on "Politics, Sex and Power" and in spite of the generous banquet, the general exhaustion and the chablis, I made the following notes. She argued that earlier feminist movements had failed because they had not established independent and enduring feminist institutions. The women who won the vote had then directed their energy to trans forming male-stream institutions. As patriarchy recreates itself through institutions which serve to provide; the integration and stability of social forms; the shaping of action and the empowering to act; the transmission of loyalty and identity to coming generations...so, feminism must re-create itself for the future through its own institutions. In undertaking this task we must (a) stop rejecting institutions as necessarily patriarchal; (b) study the nature and dynamics of institutions; (c) build our own; (d) not support male institutions. She gave very few guidelines for this project. I disagreed with her on several points. However I agree with her central theme, that we take seriously the work of raising our children in loyalty to our movement; and to support women's institutions as a priority, with our money.

Sunday 18th. A day full of resolutions. Jill Vickers brought Roberts Rules of Order to life as we plodded through approximately 30 resolutions, in good feminist order. Regional reps gave their reports and a full sense of the cooperation between women across this vast land. New reps were elected. Lobbying items were selected; polished and practiced.

Maureen Forrester gave an address on the work of the Canada Council; she is more wonderful than they are. A panel presentation on the political work of women's Party Caucusses addressed the role we can play in the next Federal Election. In the evening we were invited to tea at the House of Commons with Judy Erola, Flora MacDonald, Margaret Mitchell and Lynn McDonald. It was a good opportunity to discuss the issues closest to our hearts. I got some good ideas on how to unseat our local M.P.

Monday 19th Lobbying Day. 200 of us met with each Party at the House. For the first hour we grilled 20 members of the NDP including Broadbent, Mitchell, Jewitt and McDonald. They left to be replaced by 22 members of the P.C. party, starring Brian Mulroney leaning heavily on Flora MacDonald. Having given a beautifully modulated pean to women in general and Flora in particular, he ordered the press cameras out and proceeded to display a painful and vast ignorance of all the issues facing women. An hour later the P.C. contingent was replaced by the Liberals (20 in all) and Mulroney's vacuous charm was replaced by Lalonde's peevish tantrums, tempered by a very forceful Judy Erola. Overall, the N.A.C. women were splendid and I learned a lot about (a) asking the right question of the right person at the right time, (b) following up on commitments to the M.P.'s had made to us before (c) being very well-informed on every detail of process and legislation (d) pinning down the 'victim' and getting a specific answer on what the M.P. is prepared to do (e) being polite and tenacious.

This four-hour session was followed by a press conference stating explicitly what promises we had been given. And by a (postponed) visit to the House Question Time to hear our concerns raised by opposition members to the relevant ministers.

Summary

A very useful conference. The conference focussed on what we want, what we can get and how we can get it. The lobbying was an excellent demonstration of how we can get it. In this election year, having seen all the possibilities the Hill has to offer I only wish that we could all vote N.A.C. for the women gave an excellent demonstration of political expertise, understanding of the issue facing women, and the endurance we all need to create social justice for women.

Josephine Adams (Payne O'Connor)
Foreign Correspondent and
SWAG Rep.

***** Announcements *****

As a result of the projected move of SWAG, the Sexual Assault Centre and CARAL to St. Ann's Academy the Women's Building Society wishes to reappraise the situation of a women's building in Victoria. Should the society die a natural death or should it merely lie dormant for 3 years to revive when the leases at St. Ann's are up? Is there a third alternative? To discuss these and other issues please attend the Annual General Meeting on May 10 at 7.30 p.m. at 1358 Hampshire Road. Or contact Pat White at 598-7547

The Vancouver Island Human Rights Coalition has trained volunteers to assist persons who have been subject to discrimination. They also conduct educational programmes. If you are interested in learning more or have experience in publicity, fundraising, organizing workshops, preparing a newsletter, office work, etc. please call at 382-3012, or call in at the office 418-620 View Street.

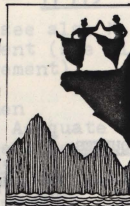
The Vancouver Women in Focus Society has a wide variety of videos and films which address numerous issues of concern to women. They also have taped interviews and lectures with women such as Margaret Atwood, Kate Millet, Marie Claire-Blais. The full catalogue is available for \$2.00 from their offices at Ste 204, 456 West Broadway, Vancouver. V5Y 1R3

Women Against Nuclear Technology and Trident Action Group are hosting a second Disarmament and Beyond Conference on April 29 1984 at Langara Campus, 100 W 49th Ave., Vancouver. The Fee is \$6.00 (employed) and \$3.50 for others. Free child care is available. The full program is available in the office.

Victoria Multicultural Women's Association will be sponsoring its First Conference in Victoria on June 2, 1984. The Title: Concerns of Women in Today's Multicultural Society. There will be workshops on Education, Employment, Family and Aging, Health and Welfare. For more information phone their office at 384-4525 or drop in at #101, 1012 Douglas Street, Victoria.

Women's History in British Columbia Conference

April 27-28, 1984
Camosun College



Registration: \$25
\$15 (students & unemployed)

Barbara Latham
Camosun College
3100 Foul Bay Road
Victoria, B.C. V8P 4X8
592-1281, Local 337

First International Feminist Book Fair
7 - 9 June at Jubilee Hall in Covent Garden
London, England

11-16 June, bookshops throughout Britain &
Ireland will be featuring Feminist books.

NATIONAL WOMEN'S HEALTH CONFERENCE
Autumn 1984
contact: Women's Health Information
Centre, 12 Upton Rd, London, N.1

LESBIAN ARCHIVES --Paris, France
65 Rue Saint-Martin
75004, Paris
Open Wed 1600-2000
Fri 1800-2200

Feminist Library--formerly WRRC--
and Information Centre
new location at Hungerford House
Victoria Embankment, London, Eng.

RESOURCES

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

FEMINIST RESOURCES:

North Shore Women Feb & Mar 1984
Healthsharing Winter 1983
BROADSIDE May 1983; Feb
Mar, Apr 1984
Communiqu'elles Mar 1984
KINESIS Feb, Mar & Apr 1984

ACTION Feb & Mar 1984
NAC MEMO Mar 1983
Status of Women News Jul & Oct
1983; Feb 1984
The Open Door Mar 1984
Women's Words V.1 #2 Mar 1984

NON-FEMINIST RESOURCES:

Keyes, Ken (Jr.) The Hundredth Monkey There is no cure for nuclear war--ONLY PREVENTION
The International Bill of Human Rights XXX United Nations
HUMAN RIGHTS- 50 questions and answers United Nations (5copies)
Human Rights Action Guide A Guide for Canadians to Celebrate the 35th Anniversary of
the Universal Declaration of Human Rights Human Rights Coalition (Canada)
Information Bulletin No. 3 Oct 1983 Human Rights Coalition (Canada)
The Fraser Institute, The Government and a Corporate Free Lunch a report prepared for
the Solidarity Coalition by Cliff Stainsby and John Malcolmson October 1983
Canadian Human Rights Commission Prohibited grounds of discrimination in employment, Sep '83
Bulletin de la Commission Bulletin, A Commission on Canada's future Nov 1983; Feb 1984
INDIAN SELF-GOVERNMENT IN CANADA Report of the Special Committee autumn 1983

RESOURCES FOR WOMEN:

IT'S YOUR TURN A Handbook for Canadian Women Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of
Women (1983/84)
AS THINGS STAND Ten Years of Recommendations Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of
Women 1983
Response to violence in the family and sexual assault Nov/Dec 1983
Vis-a-Vis (Health and Welfare Canada) Winter 1984
Women in Agriculture Supplement #13 to Women of Europe Nov 1983
Unwanted Sexual attention and Sexual Harassment: Results of a Survey of Canadians
Canadian Human Rights Commission March 1983
Job Idea Book for Women Employment and Immigration Canada 1983
Feminist Organizational Manual Secretary of State n.d.
Maternity and Child Care Leave in Canada Labour Canada Women's Bureau 1983
Preserving Universal Medicare A Government of Canada Position Paper 1983
Family Allowances for all? A report by the national council of welfare on federal
child benefits Mar 1983
THE CHARTER OF RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS A Guide for Canadians 1982

ARCHIVES

SUBJECT HEADINGS IN THE STATUS OF WOMEN ACTION GROUP RESOURCE LIBRARY

- Abortion
- Advertising
- Aging
- Affirmative Action
- African Women
- American Women
- Amnesty International
- Apprenticeships
- Asian Women
- Assertiveness Training
- Australian/New Zealand Women
- Bibliographies
- Biography
- B.C. Federation of Women
- B.C. Human Rights Commission
- Broadcasting (see also Media)
- Budget Response (B.C. July 83)
- Business management
- Canadian Advisory Council on S/W
- Canadian Human Rights Commission
- Canadian Research Institute for
the Advancement of Women (CRIAW)
- Careers (see also Non-traditional jobs)
- Central/South American Women
- Child Abuse
- Childbirth (see pregnancy)
- Child Care/Day Care
- Children's Rights
- Christian Feminism
- Christian Right
- Civil Rights
- Constitution of Canada
- Contraception
- Cooperatives
- Creativity (see also Visual Arts
Literary Arts, Performing Arts)
- Directories
- Divorce (see also family law, marriage,
children's rights)
- Domestic Workers
- Economics
- Education
- Employment (see also working mothers)
- Equal Pay for Equal Work/Work of
Equal Value
- Equal Rights Amendment - USA
- European Women
- Family Law (see also marriage,
divorce, children's rights)
- Family Management (see also Parenting)
- Farm Workers (see Immigrant Women: Farm
Workers)
- Federal Politics
- Feminist Party of Canada
- Feminism
- Film Catalogues (see also N.F.B.)
- ✓ Financial Management (see also taxation,
business management)
- ✓ Fundraising
- Great Britain Women
- Guaranteed Annual Adequate Income
- Group Process (see also Women's
Movement Organizing)
- Handicapped Women
- ✓ Health (see also Medical Practitioners,
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Mental Health)
- Herstory (see also Biographies)
- ✓ Homemakers
- Housing
- ✓ Human Rights (see also B.C.HRC, Canadian
HRC, Equal Pay, Affirmative Action,
Sexual Harassment, Children's Rights)
- ✓ Immigrant Women
- Incest
- Industrialized Nations
- International Women's Day
- Job Sharing-see Part Time Work
- Knowledge Network
- ✓ Labour (see also Affirmative Action,
Careers, Child Care, Equal Pay,
Apprenticeships, Non Traditional
Jobs, Employment, Maternity Leave,
Sexual Harassment, Part Time Work,
Technological Change, Unions,
Working Mothers)
- Language
- Legal Profession (see also National
Association of Women & the Law)
- ✓ Lesbians (see also Sexuality)
- Life Cycle (see also Menopause,
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Sexuality)
- Literary Arts
- Marriage (see also Divorce, Family Law,
Children's Rights)
- ✓ Maternity Leave
- Media
- Medical Practitioners
- Menopause (see also Health, Aging)
- Mental Health (see also Stress Reduction
-Self Healing)
- Middle Eastern Women
- Money-see Financial Management
- Multi-Culturalism

SUBJECT HEADINGS CONT.

- Municipal Politics
- ✓ National Action Committee on S/W
NAC
- National Association of Women
and the Law - NAWL
- National Film Board
- ✓ Native Women
- Networking (see also individual
group listings)
- New Democratic Party
- Non-traditional Jobs
- Northern Women -see Rural
and Native Women
- Nuclear Technology-see
Peace Movement
- Open Learning Institute
- Pacific Group
- Parenting (see also Family Manage-
ment, Children's Rights)
- ✓ Part Time Work/Job Sharing
- Peace Movement
- ✓ Pensions
- Performing Arts
- Politics (see also Pacific
Group, Provincial Politics,
Federal Politics)
- Pornography
- ✓ Poverty (see also Guaranteed
Annual Income)
- Pregnancy
- Prisons
- Prostitution
- Provincial Politics
- Psychology of Women
- Publications
- Quebec Women
- ✓ Rape
- Reproductive Rights-see Abortion
- Resources for Victoria, Women
- Retirement (see also Aging)
- Rural Women
- Russian Women
- Secretary of State Dept.
- Self Defence
- ✓ Sexism/Stereotyping (see also
Education: Sexism in the Schools)
- ✓ Sexual Harassment
- Sexuality (see also Lesbians)
- Single Mothers
- Single Women
- Social Credit Party of B.C.
- Social Services
- Societies Act
- Socio-Biology
- South/Central American Women-see
Central/South
- Speakers
- Spirituality
- ✓ Sports (see also Education: Physical
Education)
- Stress Reduction/Self Healing (see
also Mental Health)
- Taxation
- ✓ Technological Change
- Third World Women
- Unemployment
- Unions
- United Nations
- Vancouver Status of Women
- ✓ Violence (see also Wife Beating, Child
Abuse, Rape, Self Defence)
- Visual Arts
- Volunteer Bureau
- Widows-see Aging
- ✓ Wife Beating (see also Social Services)
- ✓ Women's Studies
- Working Mothers-see Family Management
- Women's Movement Organizing (see also
Group Processes)

Check [✓] indicates a quantity
of materials.

STATUS OF WOMEN ACTION GROUP

1045 Linden Avenue
381-1012
Office Hours 12:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Shirley Ann Avril
Office coordinator

please visit me!

NEXT SWAG MEETING:

Coordinating Committee: Tuesday, May 1st
at SWAG offices 1045 Linden.

GENERAL MEETING: Tuesday May 29th
"It's Just Your Nerves". Women and
Drug and Alcohol Abuse with Barbara
Grantham. Phone Shirley at the office
for location. 381-1012

Every Member Counts: YOU COUNT!

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

POSTAL CODE: _____ PHONE: (H) _____ (W) _____

AREAS OF INTEREST: _____

Membership and Newsletter Subscription: \$10.00

Send to: **Status of Women Action Group**

Box 6296, Station C,

Victoria, B.C.

V8P 5L5

NEW MEMBER ☐ RENEWAL ☐

ENCLOSED PLEASE FIND: \$ _____ MEMBERSHIP \$ _____ DONATION

SWAG,
Box 6296, Station C,
Victoria, B.C. V8P 5L5

MEMBERSHIP LIST

Municipal Politics

Community Action Committee

BC

National Association of Women

and Law - NWL

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Social Credit Party of B.C.

British Columbia

Mediation Act

British Columbia

North American

Central Canada

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