

HQ 1154
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Swag

Victoria Status of Women News

552 VICTORIA ave

JAN-1979

1979



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD

Next Meeting:
Jan. 22, 8:00 p.m.
General Meeting
ELECTIONS

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; and 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 yearly.

ADDRESS: P.O. Box 6296 Station C
Victoria, B.C. V8P 5L5

President Shirley Nordstrom
1429 Monterey Ave.
598-6485 V8S 4V9

Vice-President Gwen Bavin
(programmes) 1160 Greenwood Ave.
383-2502 V9A 5M1

Vice-President Avis Rasmussen
(projects) 3050 Uplands Rd.
598-3188 V8R 6B4

Secretary Susan Slatkoff
1422 Wende Rd.
477-8385 V8P 3T5

Treasurer Betty Henneberry
#3, 4391 Torquay Pl.
477-5543 V8N 3L3

Membership Chair Mary Dick
2194 Central Ave.
598-1722 V8S 2R5

Past President Mimi Robertson
1149 Wychbury Ave.
385-8680 V9A 5L1

MEETINGS/WORKSHOPS

SWAG meets the fourth Monday of each month (except when it falls on a holiday) at the James Bay Community Center, 140 Oswego St, Meeting Room 11 at 8:00 p.m.

WORKSHOPS COFFEE* GUEST SPEAKERS*

COMMITTEES

Members are encouraged to focus their energies on one or more committees. This is where the real work of SWAG goes on. You need not be an expert. Call one of the chairpeople and offer your services....

CHAIRPEOPLE

Family Law Virginia McCaffrey
3512 Plymouth St.
598-7228 V8P 4X4

Education no chair

Human Rights Norrie Preston
766 Monterey Ave.
598-1390 V8S 4V2

Health Caroline Meggison
1616 Fernwood
382-0866 V8T 2Y1

Labour Diana Butler
2149 Granite
598-6964 V8S 3G5

Herstory Christina Johnson
915 Byng St.
598-4113 V8S 5B1

Archivist Susan Slatkoff
1422 Wende Rd.
477-8385 V8P 3T5

MEMBERSHIP

Your membership entitles you to a subscription to SWAG NEWS; -- a completely volunteer effort dependent upon your contributions.. poems, articles, opinions, reports... All feminist material welcome.

NEWSLETTER

Lois Vickery
552 Victoria Ave.
598-1704 V8S 4M6

Typist Joan Palmer

Collation Gwen Bavin & Co.

MEMBERSHIPS ANNOUNCEMENTS

W.L. Baker Olivia Barr
Joyce Bewley Michele Campbell
Anne Carrow Susann Gordon
Dianne Grimmer Edith Gunning
Jane Henderson Florence MacLeod
Diana Walton Judy Waslenchuk
Joanna Wilkinson

These memberships are now due.
Your membership entitles you to a
subscription to the SWAG NEWS. Please
send \$5.00 to: Mary Dick
2194 Central Ave.
Victoria, B.C.
V8S 2R5



MARK YOUR CALENDAR



- Jan. 20 Secretary of State Consultation
for Vancouver Is. Region
- Jan. 22 SWAG annual general meeting
ELECTIONS
Discussion of goals & priorities
- Jan. 26-7 SWAG ex. seminar/retreat/CR/etc.
- Jan. 27 Morgana Motherwell concert
watch papers for details
- Feb. 3 Womens groups representatives
meet with Helvi Sipila of U.N.
Secretary General of Internat-
ional Women's Year, Assistant
Sec. Gen. of U.N. for Social
Development and Humanitarian
affairs. (if you would like to
represent SWAG call Shirley)
- Feb. 5 SWAG Ex. meeting at Diana's
598-6964
- Feb. 26 SWAG general meeting
- Mar. 2&3 Health Symposium



ARCHAVIST COMMITTEE - now consisting of
one member, Susan Slatkoff. If you have
feminist materials, journals, books, etc.
that you would like catalogued into the
SWAG collection, call Susan 477-8385

LIASON COMMITTEE - now consisting of one
person, Virginia McCaffrey. Virginia will
liase with community groups and councils
which elicit feminist involvement. She
also continues work on a co-alition
group to speak collectively on matters
of mutual interest. If you are interested
call Virginia 598-7228.

A few Herstory Calendars left. It's not
too late to begin organizing your new
year. Perfect for keeping track of all
the SWAG committee meetings you fully
intend to attend.

If you have experienced the trauma of
RAPE or SEXUAL ASSAULT
you may need to talk about it with other
women who have been through this too.

VICTORIA RAPE RELIEF

is starting

SUPPORT GROUPS

for women or children who have been raped
or sexually assaulted. (This means any-
thing from exhibitionism to child molest-
ation to rape.)

For more information call

VICTORIA RAPE RELIEF

383-3232 (crisis - 24 hr.)
383-5545 (bus. 9:30-4:30)
and speak to one of our trained workers
about your concerns. Our service is con-
fidential.

LETTERS

Wire sent to Prime Minister
Government House
Port Louis, Mauritius

The 250 members of Status of Women Action Group in Victoria, B. C. Canada are shocked and angered that a woman could be imprisoned for having an abortion. We demand Jocelyne's immediate and unconditional release.

* * * * *

Dear Ms. Nordstrom:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated November 24, 1978, expressing your concerns about recent changes within the Department of the Secretary of State.

Your comments regarding the Victoria office have been noted. As indicated by Mr. R. Robertson, Assistant Regional Director for the Pacific Region in his letter to you dated July 25, 1978, my Department intends to continue to provide quality service to groups in the Victoria area, although we recognize that the degree of informal, unplanned communication may be slightly reduced.

With regard to the Women's Programme, you may rest assured that Ms. Findlay will be replaced and the programme will continue to exist, although there is a possibility that there may be some restructuring of the programme internally.

I hope you will find the above information useful, and thank you for making your views known to me.

Yours sincerely,

John Roberts

The Secretary of State
of Canada

* * * * *

Dear Lois:

For some time many of us have been concerned about the position of persons in the therapy field who do not conform to the accepted procedures of more tradi-

tional medicine. Consequently we distributed the enclosed petition and to date we have between 1500 and 2000 signatures with more coming in all the time.

We were told that the present provincial government was considering a revision of the Medical Act and we felt we wanted to have some input. A recent conversation with the Minister of Health, however, produced a denial of this, but we feel that we want to prepare our material so that when this or another government is prepared to reconsider the Medical Act we will have information available and plans laid for our approach.

A public meeting is planned for January 24, 1979 at the University of Victoria Student Union Building. Please check with Murial Gough-Azmier at 595-6889 concerning the time.

Sincerely,

Molly Phillips

President, Greater Victoria
Health Circle'

PS. If you know of anyone else who might be interested in meeting with us, please feel free to ask them or suggest his or her name so that we can extend an invitation. Mr. and Mrs. Gough-Azmier will handle this.

* * * * *

Dear Alderman Ryan:

Attached is a copy of a letter the Victoria Status of Women Action Group has sent to Alderman Robin Blencoe supporting his stand and proposal for eliminating barriers to equal employment opportunity at City Hall.

We urge you, as chairman of city council's personnel committee, to endorse Alderman Blencoe's suggestions and to ensure that as soon as possible the necessary steps are taken to eradicate any discriminatory practises presently being conducted.

If you would like we would be prepared to meet with you to discuss equal employment opportunity programs and what they can achieve. We can be contacted at the above address or by phone at 598-6964.

Yours sincerely,
Diana Butler
Chairperson, Labour C'tee.

* * * * *

Dear Alderman Blencoe:

We are writing to express our support of your efforts to ensure that City Hall employment is based on equal opportunity. The issue of equal employment opportunity is one of central and vital importance and concern to our organization.

As you may know, the Victoria Status of Women Action Group was formed in 1971 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; and to promote full participation of women in social, economic and political life. And, in pursuit of these objectives SWAG has over the years conducted and carried out a number of related and important activities including -- organizing meetings and conferences, responding in the media to major issues, publishing a monthly newsletter, maintaining and conducting correspondence with major institutions, agencies and persons responsible for matters pertaining to the status of women, responding to calls for assistance from women who need advice and support, conducting on-going business through a number of internal committees (including human rights, labour and law), and participating on and with other outside committees and organizations on issues of concern to women. As a result of these activities and through personal experience, many members of SWAG have considerable knowledge of and skill in dealing with issues relating to the status of women.

We endorse your proposal to undertake a study to determine the current employment situation of minority and disadvantaged groups at City Hall. We know from similar work done elsewhere that discriminatory practices (usually unconsciously practised) do exist and we feel it is

most important to eliminate these and to ensure that affirmative employment action is taken to ensure full and equal participation.

We also endorse your proposal to appoint an advisory committee on equal employment opportunities drawing upon expertise and experience in the broader community.

If it is convenient for you, we would be most interested in meeting with you in the new year and discussing some of our views, background, experience, and information on equal employment opportunity programs. You may contact us through the above address or by phone at 598-6964.

Yours sincerely,
Diana Butler
Chairperson, Labour C'tee

* * * * *

Dear Shirley:

One never knows the value of addressing organized groups during election campaigns and I suppose that will continue to be one of life's imponderables. At the same time, SWAG (despite my own passive membership) is one of the groups whose support I cherish. Please accept my thanks for allowing me to address the Seminar, and be assured that all matters pertaining to women are at the forefront of my mind.

Thank you again, And warmest regards to all.

Irene Block

* * * * *

Dear Sisters:

I am sorry to announce that I must withdraw from the position of Co-ordinator. I had been looking forward to working with all of you. As it turns out, this year is not the right one for me. When I reached the decision I called an emergency meeting here in Vancouver, inviting as many as I could contact, to find any and all who are interested. The meeting was held two days ago, December 16.

I would like to thank those who came and took up extra work, and all those who have given me support in my decision. It has convinced me even more that the B.C.F.W. is a fine, strong organization with so many hard working women.

I would especially like to thank Miriam Azrael, our membership organizer, who has helped so much with Coordinator duties since convention, and who agreed at the meeting on Saturday to see that we get to the first Standing Committee Meeting.

If anyone is interested in the position, or in sharing in the meantime, please contact Miriam. We are hoping to hear from you before the next Standing Committee Meeting.

Sincerely,
Marg Verrall,
B.C.F.W.

VICTORIA WOMEN'S BUILDING

Meetings will be held every second Thursday of the month. It is important that we get together regularly to keep in touch with what's happening in each area. However, of equal importance is the contribution we each make between meetings.

Establishing a Women's Building in Victoria is a process that is generated by women time and energy. While locating a space and raising funds are essential, they are not the crucial factor at this stage. Sharing experiences, ideas, objectives and ourselves is what it is all about.

As a collection of women with different perspectives, we have come together because of common political beliefs and a common objectives which is to establish a focal point for the feminist here in this city. Through the integration of our various perspectives, only achieved by our working together, we will make the Women's Building a receptive environment for women.

It is well to remember that even a conversation with another woman about the building contributes towards its actualization. None of us has surplus amounts of time or energy. But we do have a choice about how we utilize what we do have. And if we all give whatever we can, however we can, we'll accomplish our goal. No one woman will make the building a reality. We all will.

Those working on various committees are requested to pass on new information and progress reports to Ness Wozny at 658-5314 who is chairing the January meeting and preparing the agenda. Should you be unable to contact her, messages may be left with either Ethel or Susan at 385-7188. Women interested in committee work but who are unable to attend the upcoming meeting are asked to call either Ness or Ethel.

ATTENDANCE IS SUPPORT

Dear Lois:

I feel really great about our past October Conference. To be free and comfortable with hundreds of women young enough to be my daughter and granddaughters is one of the truly grand feelings that come with age. To be included in the health discussions was an extension of my involvements with the Victoria Health Circle and the Cancer Victors and Friends. Now years past the menopause, I felt moved deep in the core of my being by the problems faced by women still in their child-bearing years. Struggling to throw off the double roles and the profit seeking and power domination of men of their bodies, women are beginning to realize the double bondage and dangers inherent in both "the pill to liberate women" and the phoney sexual "freedom" the pill has liberated. The profit motive and true freedom are incompatible. They cancel each other out. Women and men are caught in this "double bind." Men too need to recognize how much their own human growth depends on awareness of what they are part of. "God-ess forbid" we try to emulate and compete with them in a system that can only continue the physical, mental and spiritual castration of both sexes until (if we allow it to) the ultimate -- Doomsday.

So we "elders" support you in your struggle for awareness and strength to use and so develop the common sense you were born with and meanwhile we invite your support in Voice of Women (VOW) the aims which are to ensure that you lovely lot survive.

Let's elect only those candidates who aim for Peace, Justice and Freedom based

on cooperation. Such governments can set up labs where women scientists can research the needs of their own health and control safely the number of children they choose to bring into this world. It is only on women's terms in these areas of her well-being that men when women so choose, may be their faithful attendants at birthings or any other function, be it biological or medical.

A small beginning is the enclosed petition to revise the Medical Act of B. C. Since its circulation started two additional recommendations have been suggested:

1. That patients have full access to their own medical records when requested by themselves (these to remain confidential between patient and doctor unless the patient authorizes otherwise).
2. That feminist counsellors be covered under our Health Care system.

Any more?

Since the SWAG Conference, VOW feel you do already support their aims. It really was very encouraging to see so many young women, who may not have known who or what VOW is, take the literature, ask questions, bring their friends and come back for more.

Some of you might find time to follow up your interest and nurture it into a concern, for it is a life and death matter for you and your children -- far more than it is for us who are now growing old and therefore dying in the struggle. (Can't think of a better way to go -- just a singing-an-a-dancing in celebration of so many glimmerings of hope.) Above all your generation and you as women in it, creating the future not only biologically, but capable now of creating that future in your image, based on your human values. Men will learn, you know. They are your sons. Once they come to that understanding they'll respect themselves far too much to allow the domination of old men lost in the barbaric past.

This is a long winded way, perhaps, of saying (in short!) that Victoria VOW meets in the Activity Room, Eaton's Basement at 2:00 p.m. every 3rd Tuesday

of the month. Our next meeting is January 16.

Among other things, we'll be planning for the International Year of the Woman's (75) Woman, Helga Spirela's short visit to Victoria in relation to the International Year of the Child and The New Economic Order. If you are a student or O.A.P. you can join us for a \$2.00 membership. Need your input.

Muriel Gough-Azmier

You tell me that you're happy; well...
At least as much as one can expect.
And you had the choice way back when
(seems like years somehow)
To choose where you are now.

You say "Enough talk of liberation!"
I'm happy where I am
A man's home is his castle and
You know... He needs me where I am.

And I watch you around His castle,
Straightening that vase for the third time
With your voice quivering at the sound
Of your anger, when you tell him
Not to stain the floor with mud
(from his shoes that he wears on his feet).

And you can't understand those headaches
That come so often now...
You tell me you must cultivate more patience
Because it once was your virtue
(so many years ago now).

Sure, your daughter has it good
She does just what she feels (most times).
But you still don't understand, do you?
That there is more to life, love and eternity
Than a castle on a hill.

Caroline

EVERYWOMANS BOOKS
641 Johnson St.

From the health collective

Caroline Meggison

Professional Medicine vs People's Medicine

"The medical establishment has become a major threat to health. The disabling impact of professional control over medicine has reached proportion of an epidemic" (Illich)

Professional control over medicine" is the most dangerous and crippling aspect of our medical system. Professions of all sorts are only professions because they have a branch of special learning which is not common knowledge. This is not said to denounce all professions but to denounce the extreme professionalism of medicine. It is also said with the assumption that medicine and knowledge of our bodies is basic to living.

Many horror stories can be told of the danger of incompetent medical personnel and the medical hierarchy within hospitals. But let's not concentrate on the overt symptoms...an examination of the causes is in order. Causes vary in complexity, but one cause is the most common.

A simple analogy can explain this common cause if a car is compared with a human body. For example, your car is taken to a garage station for repair because it is not operating properly. You have little knowledge about your car (except how to drive it and basic maintenance procedures) The mechanic tells you what is wrong and proceeds to fix your car. There is a probable danger of erroneous repair work and extreme expense. Now replace the words car with body, garage station with doctor's office, and mechanic with doctor. There is danger and fear because you don't have the knowledge to understand potential "repair work"

If you understand your body, no one can control it simply because they have more knowledge than you. Medicine indeed is a complex study, but this is no excuse for hoarding of information. It is not only your right to understand your body, it is your obligation.

"One problem women face is their own passivity, that is that our health is really being taken care of by the medical profession. If we do not take our initiative on our own behalf in health care, we may become mere clients or practise material for professional people to study or work out their theories on. This is not to say that health care professionals are not capable of warmth and caring, but that their training and the structure within which they work virtually forces most of them to develop stereotyped expectations of their patients, particularly women" (Our Bodies, Our Selves, Chapter 6)

A group of women are attempting to create workshops to help women understand themselves, the medical system, and alternatives that are available. The following is a basic outline of presentation which is by and for women, and will be occurring March 2 and 3.

Hope to see you there

(cont.)

1) The Birth Cycle

CHOICES

- A) Childbirth
- B) Birth Control
- C) Body Cycles and Knowing Ourselves

Freedom to choose!

Where I am

Where I will be

What I am

And what I will be.

2) Our Sense of Self

- A) Sexuality
- B) Anger and Coping
- C) Feminist Therapy

To choose clearly and with conscious
Without a background of lies

That hides the truth

of choices.

They, whoever they are!

Told me not enough

Of choices

So I believed there were few

To choose.

3) Alternatives

- A) Nutrition
- B) Dealing with Medical Bureaucracy
- C) Healthful Medical Alternatives

No, I don't know the truth of freedom

But I do know the lies

Of choices.

Caroline

51,000 KIDS IN B.C. ARE ON WELFARE

.....

WINDSOR (CP) - More Canadian wives are walking out of their marriages than men and the experts are alarmed. Marriage counsellors say it is a new phenomenon that has left men dumbfounded and suddenly insecure. "They're bored and tired and deciding not to let men run all over them any more."

.....

OTTAWA - NDP's Stuart Leggatt attempted to introduce a private member's bill to remove the subject of abortion from the Criminal Code.

.....

TORONTO (CP) - A student at a private boys' school in Oakland, Ont., was suspended for refusing to bow his head during a daily Anglican prayer service.

.....

VATICAN CITY (AP) - The voluntary sterilization of three men in Rome as a birth control measure has been condemned by the vatican as "a serious violation of moral law."

.....

PARENTS IN CRISIS 656-4006

.....

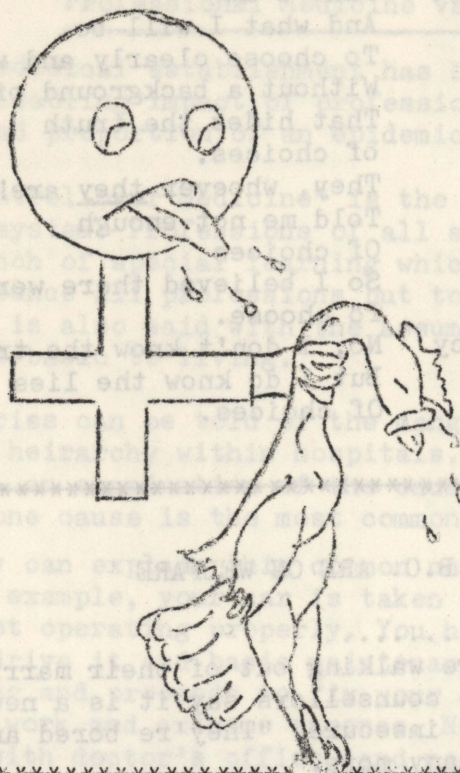
INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

The Female Offender .on the street
.in court
.in prison
.on parole

January 29-February 2, 1979

Dept. of Criminology & Continuing Ed.
Simon Fraser U.
Burnaby, B.C. V5A 1S6
or call (604) 291-3792

- TURKEY OF THE MONTH -

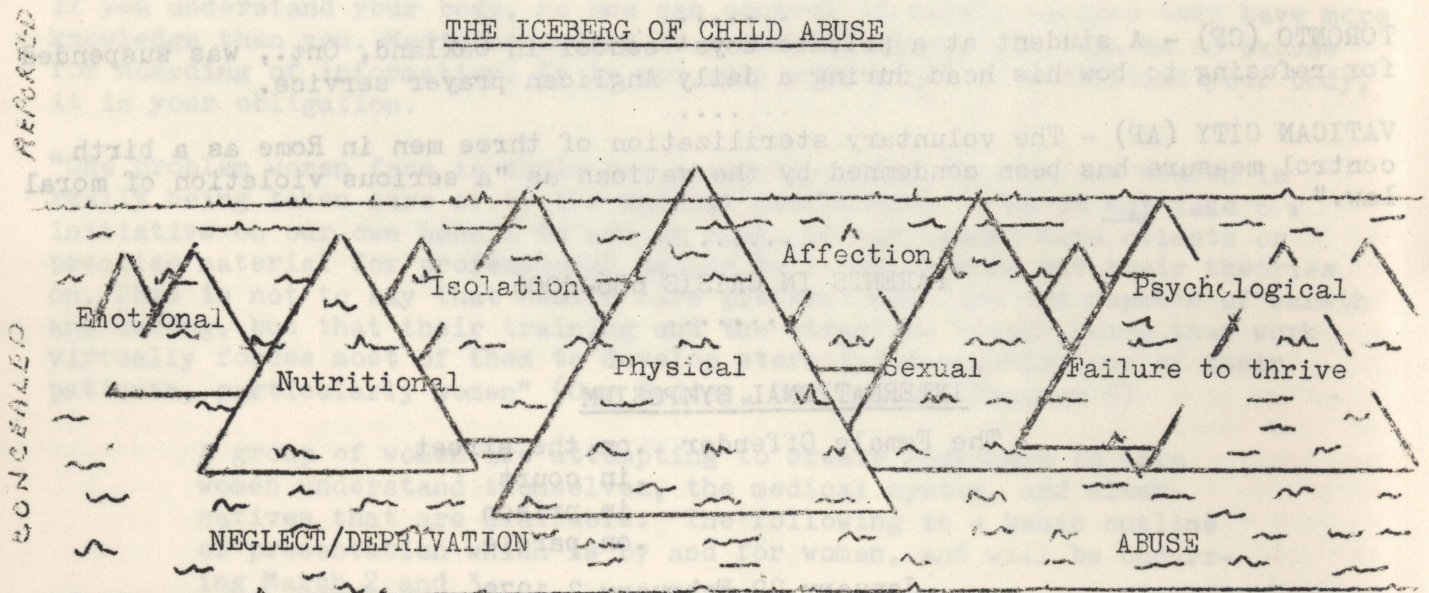


EX Human Resources Minister
BILL VANDER ZAIM labelled the fed.
 government sponsored International
 Year of the Child a blatant waste
 of taxpayers' money.

"In our province, we celebrate child-
 hood every day and the ministry of
 human resources is struggling to find
 solutions to the problems of child
 abuse and neglect, family breakdown,
 infant development and parental crisis"

BILL VANDER ZAIM

THE ICEBERG OF CHILD ABUSE



CHILD ABUSE

John Maccagno

Definition: Child abuse and neglect means the physical and mental injury, sexual abuse, negligent treatment or malnutrition of the child under 18 years by a person who is responsible for the child's welfare under circumstances which indicate that the child's health and welfare is harmed or threatened.

Incidence: is world wide with the highest incidence in society where physical punishment is an accepted way of disciplining.

Figures for U.S.A. and Canada estimate 380 per one million population.

Others estimate figures as high as 1500 cases per million population.

Most authors agree that for every reported case undoubtedly four to five that are not. Actually very little is known of the magnitude of the problem, e.g. older school age children -- does the problem miraculously disappear after the age three?

10% of children under two who present in the Emergency Department with injuries inflicted by parents or guardians.

A % of fractures under two years of age are considered non-accidental. 50% of established abuse previous abuse had occurred. Overall mortality approximately 10% -- permanent disability up to 25% of all cases.

The University of Denver working paper on Child abuse -- estimates that 30% per year increase in child abuse. If this projected through for ten years it is estimated that in the U.S. A. alone there will be one and a half million reported cases in 1987 with fifty thousand deaths.

Three hundred thousand permanently injured children.

One million potential abusers in the next generation.

CHILD AT RISK -- usually under one year

Statistics

One month to six month child:

Number one killer -- sudden infant death syndrome

Number two killer -- child battering.

Six months to one year child:

Number one killer is child battering

One year to three year child:

Number one killer -- accidents

Number two killer -- child battering

From three years on statistics unavailable:

Accidents listed as number one killer -- no mention of child abuse.

Failure to thrive accounts for approximately 5% of all pediatric hospital admissions.

From other studies

Approximately 50% of battered children have previously been treated for trauma.

90% have severe injuries which required admission.

Approximately 75% were listed as seriously ill on admission.

50% had head injuries.

45% had fractures

75% soft tissue injuries.

90% had a combination of the above.

40% of battered children usually present with facial trauma.

It is estimated that the child at risk is unrecognized he has an 80% chance of being further battered and a very distinct possibility of dying or being permanently maimed by the battering.

THE VICTIM--- is usually an infant:

- (a) demanding
- (b) defenseless
- (c) non-verbal

It is estimated that approximately 35% of all batterings are less than six months
35% six months to one year
30% one year to three years

Sex Incidence -- 2 to 1 male to female.

Premature greater risk.

Step children and adopted children are also higher risks.

THE ABUSER -- It is important to stress that child abuse occurs in all classes of society, there is no correlation with low I.Q. There is no correlation with "lower society."

Groups with Increased Incidence

1. fundamentalist religions -- believe God expects them to punish children vigorously
2. military bases
3. poverty groups

Qualifications to poverty groups is that possibly due to more frequent crises and diminished resources available -- there is more likelihood for battering.

The female is more frequent abusers than male again probably due to the fact that mothers spend more time with the children.

Apparently equal frequency of abusing -- male or female -- if the male is unemployed and at home.

Failure to thrive is almost always due to maternal incapability.

Average age of abusing parent -- female 26 years old
male 30 years old

Profile of Parent

- 90% of parents are not insane or criminal
- 5% are psychotic
- 5% are sociopathic

The sociopathic usually recognized with a long history of wife beating, trouble with the law, etc.

Majority are from homes where they were physically abused when they were children, i.e. the abusing parent was also an abused child.

Concept -- "right child" "right parent" "right time"

Right Child e.g. -- colicky child
-- demanding child
-- child that appears smarter than the parent
-- better looking
-- handicapped
i.e. the child stands out from the rest.

Right Time -- crisis e.g. -car breaking down
-child ill with crying
-interrupted intercourse
-drinking etc.

The crisis can be any everyday frustration.

Right Parent

Profile of the right parent -- the parent is capable of giving good physical care but cannot give emotional and protective needs -- long standing emotional problems which are highlighted by demands and responsibilities of parenthood.

-- Parents who reject their children and are primarily concerned with their own feelings and pleasures.

-- Parents stand to identify with their own sadistic parents and inflict on their own children hurts that they themselves experienced.

-- Parents with low impulses control leading to sudden rage reactions which are directed at the child, e.g. child picked up and vigorously shaken to control his crying.

Jealousy

The parents are incapable of forming any true emotional bonds, are jealous of any relationships between spouse and child. They see any bonds developing as a real threat to themselves and to their own limited relationships. Parents are often unaware of this but apparently this is a very real situation in a battering parent.

Crisis Situation

*Is usually a precipitating event -- i.e. right parent - right child - right time concept.

This is never an isolated event but the combination of a progressive breakdown of parental care. It very frequently occurs during mothering activities e.g. feeding the child, changing napkins, etc. The child may not be "cooperative" leading to feelings of extreme anger and frustration.

Studies indicate that potentially battering parents express extreme feelings of anxiety and annoyance when the baby cries and many of them will freely indicate that this is what makes them unhinged for they feel that they cannot cope with a crying child. This is to be considered one of the warnings, so one has to be very concerned about a parent whose reaction to a crying child is such that it appears that they cannot cope with it any longer.

AN EXTRACT FROM A MOTHER'S LETTER "I don't think anyone ever really knows how big a strain child bearing and child rearing is until they have been through it. When my babies were small I used to find myself flying into an insane rage particularly with the youngest. I would find myself flailing at him in all direction, slapping his face, kicking or shaking him and finally throwing him across the room. Babies and small children sap everything from their mother, they are lifes cruelest torturers, always wanting more when mother feels least like giving."....

In summary the parents are like children themselves -- hostile because of their own unmet needs, resentful because of the demands made on them as parents -- often tied to their own parents in neurotic love/hate hostile dependent relationships -- unable to give of themselves -- unable to meet the needs of their children -- act like children with rivalries like children -- jealousies of attention like children -- strike out in a blind rage like children. It is important to remember that the abusive parents was an abused child himself.

CLINICAL HISTORY OF CHILD BATTERING

Statistics indicate that 98% of child battering is reported by agencies and only 2% by physicians. It would appear that physicians in general are not aware of the problem or tend to not report.

The most important aspect of history in child battering is for the examiner to be very suspicious.

1. The history is inconsistent with the extent of the trauma, e.g. six month old child rolled over in a crib and strikes his head, presents with a fractured skull, this history is inconsistent with the findings. E.G. Extensive one sided burn with a history of a child who apparently rolled against a steam register for "couldn't roll off."
2. The history is not uniform under different questioners.
3. The accident prone child.
4. Over and under reaction of the parents.
5. Repeated visits to doctors or emergency departments for minor or imaginary complaints.
6. Reaction of the child when separated from the parents.
7. Delay between the accident and seeking medical aid -- 40% next day
-- 40% four days later
8. *The high degree of suspicion regarding the potential for abuse.

It is well to remember that children rarely injure themselves, especially those that are under one year old.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

Examine the child for bruises and welts, e.g. confined to buttocks and lower limbs are invariably child abuse and punishment. Very frequently finger prints or thumb prints are on the arms and chest and hand prints may be discernible on the child's body.

**In small children bruises to lips or frenulum and gums very frequently due to a bottle being stuffed in child's mouth -- especially so if child is colicky with much crying.

**Be aware of mouth injuries in young and older children -- this may be due to a punch.

**Human bites on a child often attributed to other children, maybe indication of "scape goat" -- where other children are encouraged to pick on a different one.

Loop scars -- marks from being hit with belts

-- lash marks

-- tattoos with sharp instruments, e.g. initials on the child's leg

-- choke marks

-- tie marks to arms and legs.

Burns -- approximately 10% of child abuse presents as burns. Most frequent are cigarette burns or incense burns. Frequently a child will present with a burnt thumb and it may be that the child was a thumb sucker and this is the parents attempt to "stop the habit."

Dry contact burns -- forcibly held to hot radiator, manifold or dry heat. This usually involves a very extensive burn to one side of the body, both palms, soles of the feet, etc.

Scalds -- two distinct patterns:

(a) dunking -- you will find burns to buttocks, perineum and abdomen. This is often a punishment for lack of toilet training or enuresis. There is a clear cut demarcation water level with hands and feet scarred because of the way the child was put in. It is extremely improbable that this type of accident is consistent with any history given.

(b) hot water thrown on a child, hot coffee, hot tea very difficult to differentiate from accidental scald of child pulling a pot of water over himself. One has to have a high degree of suspicion.

(c) forcible immersion of hand or foot -- burn usually well above the wrist or ankle and more severe than one would expect if the child actually accidentally placed an extremity in the hot water.

For some unknown reason burns as a form of child battering seldom involve the face.

Eye Injuries** very frequent

- hyphema
- dislocated lenses
- detached retina
- fundiscopic hemorrhages

These are very frequently overlooked as an eye examination is seldom carried out in any great detail on small children. The tremendous significance of this injury that over 50% lead to permanent blindness or impaired vision.

CNS Damage -- subdural hematomas associated with fractures can be subtle or acute.

The concept of a SPONTANEOUS SUBDURAL -- this was a diagnosis where the subdural was present without a fracture. This was thought to occur for no apparent reason. It is now known that this is usually due to violent shaking with rapid acceleration and deceleration of the brain leading to tears of the veins with subdural bleeding. Retinal hemorrhages are invariably present. It is important to consider this diagnosis in any subdurals of no known cause, for all intent and purposes these are all due to violent shaking and therefore a form of child abuse.

Abdominal Injuries -- the second most common cause of death in battered children.

Invariably due to tearing of the mesentery, small bowel, splenic or liver tears. High degree of suspicion necessary or will be frequently missed.

The complaints by parents include:

1. he bumped his head
2. he bruises easily
3. he fell down the stairs
4. he fell off the bed or couch
5. a swing hit him in the stomach

Obviously these are complaints that one hears many times a day in an Emergency Department. Some will be related to child battering, therefore be suspicious.

As a general rule the fairly obvious clinical signs of child battering include

- failure to thrive
- perioral injuries
- odor of alcohol on a child's breath
- fractures under three years old
- evidence of frequent injuries
- bizarre injuries
- advanced or unattended injuries or illnesses
- trauma to genital and perineal areas
- clearly demarcated burns
- subdural hematomas
- skull fractures
- ruptures viscus
- DOA's

These are usually not missed, the ones that are most easily missed are those cases with very subtle findings or those where the injuries are such that they could conceivably been caused by those things outlined by the parent.

MANAGEMENT

1. Prevention
2. Early identification
3. Treatment
4. Follow-up
5. Rehabilitation

Objectives

1. To protect the child against initial and repeated violence.
2. To provide parent abuser with necessary support and therapy to enable them to cope with causes of their aberrant behaviour.
3. Enable earliest return possible of the child to rehabilitated and safe natural home.

The danger with all programs is that the tendency is to the vengeance rather than therapy as demanded.

".... criminal process is a solution to child abuse" is usually totally ineffective. Probably it has some deterrent effect on the parent capable of controlling his conduct but its chief value lies in the satisfying of the conscience of the community that the wrong of the child has been avenged. But the true cause of battering or the child's conduct has not been sought out and treatment is of little concern.

The accepted treatment today is that a battered child is better in his natural home if the parents are considered to be fit, i.e. the danger of repeated injury to a child is considerably reduced when it has been possible for parents to form an on-going relationship with professional help. It is considered acceptable today that criminal action is grossly inappropriate and it certainly does not prevent child abuse. ".... criminal sanctions are poor means of preventing child abuse, day to day family life charged with the most intimate of emotions is not likely to be an area of life easily ruled by the threats of fines and prison. The criminal law tends to destroy a child's family relationships and cannot preserve or rebuild them...." "Beginning of a prosecution is likely to be the end of a chance to improve the child's home situation...." Thus using the law creates such hostility that it makes case work with the family all but impossible. These sanctions do nothing to help the child.

Notification

In British Columbia the law is very clear that everyone has a legal responsibility to notify the Director of Child Welfare or his designate in any suspected child abuse or child neglect. The person who makes the report is liability free providing this call is made without malicious intent.

PREDICTIVE QUESTIONING -- a list of questions that may give clues to supporting your diagnosis. e.g.

1. Does your child cry a lot?
2. How do you manage the baby crying?
3. Does the baby crying upset you when you are unable to stop the crying?
4. Does the baby crying make you feel like crying?
5. How do you feel inside when the baby cries?

The answers often indicate anxiety, despair and frustration and can point out eventually to abusive parents. These questions also include some that indicate "bailing out", i.e. using someone else in the time of crisis. e.g.

1. Can you call someone at the times you are having problems with your child?
2. Does it make you anxious to have someone watch you feed your baby?
3. Do you get the feeling that others are critical of you and how you feed your baby?
4. Do you understand the problems you have with your baby?

These questions often indicate that the parents are under tremendous pressures and that they have fought all their lives to respond to someone else's needs and that they are emotionally incapable of handling even the most basic emotional needs of a child.

Predictive questioning also includes those which inquire about the patient's feelings about being left alone, e.g. are they afraid of being left with the baby. *This is a very common fear amongst abusers. Predictive questioning also includes those about unreasonable expectations. e.g.

1. When do you feel that your child is old enough to understand what is expected of him?
2. How well do you feel that your child understands you?
3. Can they tell when you are upset and need help?

These questions will indicate whether the parent is turning to his own child for satisfaction of his needs (role of reversal).

Appropriate observations of the child in question by appropriate questioning and by appropriate house visits, etc. will often diagnose the potential of child abuse.

DYNAMICS OF A BATTERING FAMILY

POTENTIAL

What allows a parent to injure a child?

1. Imprint of mothering is lost -- usually a disastrous childhood -- the parent as a child was belittled physically, was injured physically and was chastised.
2. Basic trust patterns -- unable to use people to solve one's problems -- this is learned as a child. When attempts are made to go to mother or father for help the usual normal reaction is that the mother or father will assist, but in the battering family the child's call for help is usually met by physical injury or by being publically chastised or ignored. Thus leading to isolation.
3. Unsupporting spouse relationship -- "concept of crummy partners." The abusing parent is a difficult person, incapable of feedback because of distrust, he is incapable of any real emotional relationships. Thus it is not an accident that they select mates like themselves as they are unable to give anything of themselves. Therefore the situation arises where two people of identical emotional makeup mate and both are incapable of looking after the child. Therefore the concept of "right parent," "right time," "right child."
4. Poor self image -- the abusing parents feel that they are no good, they feel that they have no value. This is a learned reaction and is not unexpected for their own childhood has been one of being kicked around and chastised.
5. Role Reversal -- the battered child's home the mother usually expects the child to look after her, to fulfill her needs. This is her expectation. This child is not allowed to be a child, e.g. a four year old child is "such a comfort when I have a headache."

The child with any intelligence learns fast, he learns how to conform and to comply to protect himself from physical injury.

In many situations this is the first tip off in that a child at a very early age e.g. a nine or ten year old will act like a twenty year old in looking after the home etc.

CHILD AT RISK

It is important to realize that not every child in a family will be abused. That the child that is abused will be different or special or will give some demand which the parent cannot meet. The child at danger is usually "a stubborn child":

Wrong sex
Handicapped
Colicky, etc.

Often times this means that the mother or father identifies the child with someone he or she hates. It is important again that the crisis can be anything and that THE CRISIS IS NOT THE CAUSE, the crisis can be any daily frustration.

It is important to remember as well that in a battering family that other sibs who are not physically injured would also have some degree of emotional problems because of their home situations.

Concept of the "Sick Family"

All families have problems but most have the capability of "bailing out," i.e. using other people in time of needs being it grandparents, each other etc. In the "sick family" this skill is not learned because of their own childhood being so miserable. This leads the parent to unreasonable expectations of the child, e.g. don't cry, don't soil yourself, etc. The child has to comply to protect himself. It is not unusual for a battering mother or father to expect a one year old or six month old child to be toilet trained and become very annoyed when the child wets himself or soils himself. Concept adopted by these parents really is then one of role reversal, whereby the child is expected to look after and comfort the parents and do as the parents feel they should be doing. The child will attempt to follow the ground rules set by the parents, this is a learnt function called compliance.

In such a family situation the child learns that he cannot trust anyone. Childhood is essentially missed in these children as there is no room for childhood things. It is accepted that misbehaviour will not be tolerated in most of these households. Basic trust learned will not be present if the child cannot seek out other people. This basic trust is learned at home and the abusing family the child's attempts to be comforted are met with abuse, thereby leading to emotional deprivation and isolation. These children learn not to use other people and this leads to a self image that they "are no good."

In their life these children present with problems selecting friends and invariably they find each other and mate with people like themselves. Thus the cycle is complete, the battered parent → the battered children → back to the battered parent.

In summary, in terms of the numbers the problem of child abuse is indeed staggering. If one considers the spinoffs from the so-called "sick families" the problem is further magnified. The products of such families include:

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Child abuse | Drug use in children |
| Child neglect | Obesity |
| Emotional deprivation | Retardation |
| Failure to thrive | Learning disabilities |
| Behaviour disorders | Teenage pregnancies |
| Sociopathic behaviour | |

Most importantly that the child that is abused will in all likelihood also become an abusing parent.

CONCLUSION

It is of utmost importance that all people from all walks of life be more aware of child abuse and that the physicians and the communities become more aware of the scope of child abuse and how to prevent and treat this illness.

Reference material available on request. John is an emergency room physician and founder of the Parkside Emergency Physicians. He is not a feminist but we share with him a great concern in this area.

WORDS THAT MAKE WOMEN disappear

The Ontario Status of Women Council thinks language is important. Sex stereotyping is deeply engrained in our day-to-day language. And while there are those who scoff and make poor jokes about "personhole covers", the OSWC views the misuse of language as a major obstacle in the attainment of total equality for women. If, as children grow older, they hear only of policemen than they learn to think of police officers in male terms. Society assigns roles to its members through language - we are what people say we are!

All of us must develop a greater awareness of the implications of sexist language in all forms of communication.

What is sexist language? It's language that excludes women or gives unequal treatment to women and men. It's language that tells a woman she is two things. She is a man and she is not a man. If a woman is swept off a ship into the water, the cry is "Man overboard!" If she is killed by a hit-and-run driver, the charge is "manslaughter". But if she encounters visible or invisible signs that say "Man Wanted" or "Men Only" (under Ont. human rights, visible signs give her the legal right to complain)- she knows that the exclusion does not apply to plants or animals or inanimate objects but to female human beings.

While watching a film in nursery school on primitive people, a three yr. old girl was told that "man invented tools" and "man discovered fire". Later she asked her mother, "Mommy, weren't there any women in those days?"

A very good question, and one that prompted her mother to do some thinking about just how unfair to women the English language is. After all, if all human beings are consistently referred to as "men", then a woman is automatically denied equal status.

And in employment practices, only in recent years has an effort been made to eliminate sexist labels from job titles. Newspapers now have changed their job listings from the segregated "Help Wanted-Male" and "Help Wanted-Female" to a single, nonsegregated list.

Yet gender-free job titles can make a difference. When the Los Angeles City Council approved a plan to abolish the titles of "policeman" and "policewoman", replacing them with the classification police officer, women on the force became eligible for promotions to ranks for which they had been ineligible in the past.

As the young girl in nursery school noticed, "man" is one of the most over-worked nouns in the English language. It is used to mean a person, worker, member, agent, candidate, representative, voter, even astronaut. Consider the legislator. He is a man of the people. To prove that he's the best man for the job, he takes his case to the man in the street. He is champion of the working man. He speaks up for the little man. He remembers the forgotten man. And he believes in the principle "One man, one vote".

If we agree to stop overworking the word "man", what other words are we going to use in its place? The cardinal rule is simple: Be inclusive. When referring to the human species, we can say people, human beings or men and women. For "mankind" we can substitute humankind, humanity or the human race. "Primitive man" can be changed to primitive people; "pre-historic men" can become pre-historic human beings; "man's conquest of space" can be the human conquest of space.

(cont.)

Where job titles are concerned, the major rule is: Be specific. Name the occupation by the work performed, not by the gender of the worker. "Mailmen", "firemen" and "cameramen" are mail carriers, fire fighters and camera operators. A "workman" is a worker, a "newsman" is a reporter, a "foreman" is a supervisor and a "watchman" is a guard.

Whether a male or a female does the job shouldn't affect its title. Instead of saying "steward" and "stewardess", we should use the inclusive term flight attendant; and instead of saying "maid" or "janitor", we can specify whether we want a house or office cleaner or a building superintendent or custodian.

But the pronoun is the real problem. How do we avoid referring to the unknown singular subject as "he"? Our language needs a common pronoun but none of the various ones suggested has yet shown signs of gaining acceptance. The likeliest candidate is already in the language, at least on the level of informal speech. This is the quasi-singular "they", as in "Everybody will wear what they want to wear". Often you can reword a sentence to avoid singular pronouns altogether. Thus, instead of saying, "If the student practices this exercise, he can learn it", you can say, "If students practice this exercise, they can learn it". Finally, once we have included both females and males in our language, we should remember to treat them equally. Instead of saying: "Henry Harris is an up-and-coming lawyer and his wife Ann is a striking brunette", we might say either: "The Harrises are an attractive couple. Henry is a handsome blond and Ann is a striking brunette", or "The Harrises are highly respected in their fields. Ann is an accomplished musician and Henry is an up-and-coming lawyer".

Equal treatment also should be accorded women of achievement. Consider a headline that appeared a few years ago: "Writer's Wife Becomes Mayor". This "wife" had been the first woman ever elected to the local City Council but even when she became mayor she remained a "writer's wife".

In 1976 the New York Times updated its Manual of Style and Usage, cautioning writers that "in referring to women we should avoid words or phrases that seem to imply that the Times speaks with a purely masculine voice". But despite this resolve a front page story that same year, reported on a study of retirement income, cited statistics on a "married retiree and his wife" - without any indication that some married retirees might have husbands!

Wives. Ladies. Girls. A man's property. Someone fragile and polite. An innocent. Not only has a woman been defined as something less than a lady and something more than a girl; she has been called fickle and foolish, silly and superficial and, above all, weak. In our language the qualities of the adult - strength, courage, will, wisdom and self-reliance - have been given exclusively to the male. Thus it is no wonder that until recently the word "woman" was avoided as though it were something bad to be and that "girl" is like calling a Black man a "boy" - it makes the adult unimportant and immature.

Now increasing numbers of women are showing a new pride in their adulthood. They do not like to be called "honey" or "dear" by male grocers or bank tellers who hardly know them. They do not like to be called an "old maid" if they're single or a "housewife" if they're not. They are not "girls", "gals", "wives", "ladies" or the "fair sex". They are women - and beginning to be happy about the fact.

Article by Alma Graham, reprinted with permission from
Redbook Magazine, March 1977

AND WHO SAID THAT MAN CAME FIRST? OR WHAT MOST MALE AUTHORED TEXTS DON'T TELL US

Sexual development of the foetus is initiated when an X or Y chromosome supplied by the male parent pairs with the X chromosome from the female parent.

Six weeks after conception the XX embryo develops ovaries and the XY embryo, testes. The testes of the XY embryo then produce hormones called androgen. It is the presence of androgens that produce male differentiation, while their absence leads to a female foetus.

This situation of "adding something" to make a male implies that nature's propensity is to produce a female.

When one looks at the genital tract of a seven-week embryo it is clearly female in form. The femaleness of mammalian embryos was known to biologists as early as 1957 (with 15 years of prior research), but has received little attention. Most text still refer to the "undifferentiated" embryonic phase, rather than acknowledge the appearance of female anatomy.

This forces a reversal of long-held concepts about the nature of sexual differentiation. The view from the biological reality shows us that rather than the clitoris being an undeveloped penis, it is correct from the foetal point of view to say that the penis is an exaggerated clitoris, as well the male scrotum is derived from the labia (lips around the vagina).

Submitted by Margaret Nixon from the text by Leonide L. Martin,
Health Care of Women. New York: Lippincott, 1978.

THINK ABOUT IT !

There has been so much talk lately about the importance of keeping the family together at all costs. It is the new cry of all government social services and social do-gooders. One cannot help but wonder though, if "the powers that be" have truly taken a careful look at the "costs".

Consider the family in which daddy hits mommy. The sons of this family grow up with the ever reinforced belief that women are for hitting. The daughters will see mother accepting the beatings and "keeping the family together"....Woman's role? That is the message they get.

Consider the family where father is seldom home because he is out at the beer parlour with "the boys". Again the pattern is being set that this is the way life is within the family. If, in her loneliness, mother should turn to someone else for love and companionship she is considered a whore and not being a true woman, is responsible for ruining the family.

Next, consider the case where the "man of the house" is one hell of a hustler holding down two jobs and providing goods as nauseum for "the family" while mother just provides the services which don't really count because they are just "woman's work". YOU got the message - so have the kids.

It is many years since the Giselle Institute of Child Study discovered that the children suffer far more mental damage from an emotional divorce of their parents. As long as we continue to worship this sacred cow (the family at all costs) we shall continue to sacrifice our children's chances of developing a lifestyle of mutual respect for all individuals.

MORGANA

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IRRATIONAL IDEAS

1. is the idea that it is a dire necessity for an adult to be loved or approved by almost everyone for virtually everything she does.
2. the idea that one should be thoroughly competent, adequate, and achieving in all possible respects.
3. the idea that certain people are bad, wicked, or villainous and that they should be severely blamed and punished for their sins.
4. the idea that it is terrible, horrible and catastrophic when things are not going the way one would like them to go.
5. the idea that human unhappiness is externally caused and that people have little or no ability to control their sorrows or rid themselves of their negative feelings.
6. the idea that if something is or may be dangerous or fearsome, one should be terribly occupied with and upset about it.
7. the idea that it is easier to avoid facing many life difficulties and self-responsibilities than to undertake more rewarding forms of self-discipline.
8. the idea that the past is all-important and that because something once strongly affected one's life, it should indefinitely do so.
9. the idea that people and things should be different from the way they are and that it is catastrophic if perfect solutions to the grim realities of life are not immediately found.
10. the idea that maximum human happiness can be achieved by inertia and inaction or by passively and uncommittedly "enjoying oneself".

A GUIDE TO RATIONAL LIVING in an irrational world..Albert Ellis & Robert Harper

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Excerpt from THE YAM FACTOR by Martin Page, an English journalist who studies social anthropology at Cambridge and a Fellow of the Royal Anthropological Institute in London --

STOCK EXCHANGE MAN

I now turn to capitalism's central institution, that pivot on which our economy turns, the stock exchange.

Soon after I returned from one of my field trips to Africa, Harry, my stockbroker friend, invited me to come with him to observe the exchange at work from the gallery. As I gazed down at the colourful bustle and hubbub on the trading floor below, I was gripped by a strange feeling that I had witnessed an almost identical scene before, but in very different surroundings.

The first and most obvious peculiarity was that for no apparent reason arising from the nature of the work, all the traders were of the same sex.

Harry said that only once had a woman succeeded in making her way into the exchange. She had been greeted by a great male roar in which indignation and excitement had been about equally mixed, and then chased to the exit by a howling mob, grabbing at her clothes.

Second, all the traders had dressed themselves so similarly that it was difficult for a visitor to distinguish one from another, except that some had swollen bellies -- an indication, where I had come from, of malnutrition.

Third, as Harry pointed out, none of the firms had their own pitch. Instead, their representatives were scattered all about -- one standing on the unmarked patch of floor where petroleum stocks are dealt in, another in the metals section, another in government bonds and so on. "I suppose this allows a broker who wants to buy, say, a petroleum stock to ask around all the dealers in one spot, to get the best price?" I remarked.

"Oh no" said Harry. "They all ask the same prices. Otherwise there'd be chaos." On the contrary, it was about as cumbersome a way as the market could be organized in the electronic age. For a broker with a long list of stocks and shares to buy and sell could not simply approach one dealer, but had to walk back and forth and round and round the floor, doing his deals one at a time, even if he was doing all of them with the same firm. "I suppose you'd call it tradition," said Harry.

It was when Harry began to talk about gulls and bears that my memory slipped into gear. While staying in a small African village called Kwukwu, a local farmer had invited me to go with his four wives to the market in the nearby town of Lokofa. We met at dawn. The women were not wearing the clothes, or rather cloth, in which I had seen them before -- a small square of fabric suspended by a string tied around the waist. They were dressed in flowing, brightly patterned robes with matching head scarves that are the uniform of the exclusive sorority of market mummies.

Wife No. 4 was carrying a large basket of yams, balanced on her head. Wife No. 3 had a similar basket of kola nuts, and No. 2 had a bag of giant wild snails, a local delicacy whose texture and flavour is reminiscent of India rubber chewed in school days. The chief wife had nothing. I asked her what she was going to sell. "Goats," she said. "But you don't have any," I remarked. She laughed loudly, put her arm around me and exclaimed, "You shall see everything, white man. But to understand, you must be patient." After two hours' walk, we reached the edge of the market. "You wait here," she ordered. "Only women allowed in." "Why?" I asked. "It is our custom." "What would happen if I did?" "All the mummies would shout at you and chase you and try to pull your trousers off."

I took up a vantage position on the back of a parked truck. I could see three of the wives scattering to the yam, kola nut and snail sections of the market respectively. No. 1 went to the goat area and, greeting another mammy there, spoke to her rapidly. After only a few minutes, she embraced the other mammy and wended her way through the livestock and the little heaps of produce back to me. She then proposed that I buy us some beer for breakfast. After she had downed three ice-cold glasses, she said, "It's good. Prices very very high today. I have sold four goats." "But where are they?" "I deliver next week, so I buy them next week, very cheap." "But how can you be sure prices won't be even higher next week?"

"I know, I Know," she cackled. "Before I come, Mrs. Opokwu say to me she sell goats this week. Mrs. Cherymatin say to me she sell goats here this week. Mrs. Doquah, she say to me she sell goats here this week. Today, goats very short so price very high. Next week, too many goats, so price very cheap. So I sell this week's price, buy next week's price." "But how can you be sure that the mammy you spoke to will keep her promise to buy from you at today's price next week?" "We have deal," she replied reproachfully. "A mammy makes deal, she sticks to it even if it costs money." On the way back to Kwukwu, I said to her. "In my country, we call what you're doing 'selling short on a bear market'." She looked at me, wide-eyes. "You have market mummies in your country too?" she asked. "No, only men are allowed to deal like you do where I come from." She paused, wondering for a moment whether I was making fun of her, and deciding I wasn't, doubled over in helpless laughter.

"They say out here that you have man in your country who behaves like women." she spluttered. "How is the word? Horosexual? Before, I never believe."

CARAL

Canadian Association for Repeal of the Abortion Law.. The purpose of CARAL is to ensure that no woman in Canada is denied access to safe, legal abortion. Our aim is the repeal of all sections of the Criminal Code dealing with abortion, and the establishment of comprehensive contraceptive and abortion services, including appropriate counselling across the country. "We regard the right to safe, legal abortion as a fundamental right."

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IT WILL BE A GREAT DAY

WHEN

OUR SCHOOLS

GET ALL THE MONEY

THEY NEED

AND THE AIR FORCE

HAS TO HOLD

A BAKE SALE

TO BUY A

BOMBER

The SWAG fall conference has become a community tradition in Victoria.

Women from all walks of life and all points of the feminist spectrum look forward to the annual women's movement 'Amorgsborg'. The conference is in essence an information exchange between very diverse individuals and groups.

Each year we learn more about functioning within the new structure being established by the feminist perspective. We consider our conference part of the ongoing process of establishing feminist models as well as dealing with more short term and specific goals.

Conference Committee

Lorraine Ayres
Jean Ethridge
Anne Howie
Christina Johnson
Shirley Nordstrom
Avis Rasmussen
Susan Slatkoff
Johanna Wilk nson

OBJECTIVES

1. that feminists otherwise busy outside of SWAG during the year will be refreshed and stimulated.
2. that women outside the movement will feel welcome and learn something of feminist objectives.
3. that those attending will learn the current social, political and economic status of women.
4. that those attending will have the opportunity for sharing and interacting with other women.

BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE

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; and to promote full participation of women in social, economic and political life.

SWAG is known in the community as a liberal feminist group. (Some would even say conservative!) The group reflects the city of Victoria which is a medium sized, low density provincial capital. The politics are conservative. The economic situations are diverse. We have high income levels and high unemployment.

SWAG activities rely entirely on volunteer participation. The annual conference is a priority with SWAG membership. The executive usually does the work. Last year we managed a committee which was one half non-executive. While we had membership help this year, the bulk of the workload did fall on executive members.

Our location changed this year from Elliot building to MacLaurin (both at UVic campus) and all aspects of the change were positive. There were no comments this year to indicate the people felt a university location to be elitist and our registration again indicated that all areas of the city and all socio-economic groups were represented.

Some problems reoccur each year and must be considered in early planning. Personal participation and interaction between registrants, display groups and workshop leaders is essential. Another frustration is the large selection of workshops with such a limited time. The question of honourarium for workshop leaders must be dealt with each year. Last year pre-registration solved a great deal of last minute confusion. This year the mail strike interfered and in fact registration was done largely by phone. But even this advance knowledge helped immeasurably in planning workshop sizes and avoiding a crush at the concert door.

LAST YEARS RECOMMENDATIONS

- make every effort to stick to the timetable. A bell may be a friendly way to tell people it's time to move on.
- pre-registration information should include descriptions of the workshops and background information on workshop leaders.
- minimum hour-long workshops; possible longer
- involve workshop leaders in planning stages of conference work
- have a 'hospitality host' to look after speakers and workshop leaders
- alternative to tea and coffee during breaks/ Friday night bar
- alternative to cafeteria lunch
- Childcare, although expensive is essential
- consider planning for and advertising for a greater involvement of men
- consider establishing a criteria for display groups
- try to keep all activities in one building

ACTIVITIES

This year's conference activities were specifically aimed at individual women and community groups run largely by or for women.

1. KEYNOTE ADDRESS

- meant to fulfill objectives 1,2, and 3
- guest speaker: Judge Nancy Morrison - North Vancouver
- positive response to her witty but hard hitting message
- fulfilled objectives well
- major money budget item

2. CONCERT

- meant to fulfill objective 1
- organized by an experienced performer -this was an invaluable asset for expertise and contacts.
- didn't match the mood of the speakers address; late start and major performances by a man let to concert falling flat and eliciting a negative response.
- major budget item for money, time and energy.

3. WORKSHOPS

- meant to fulfill objectives 1,2,3, and 4
- organized by one committee member - even with help this was too much for one person
- involved guests and SWAG members who had specific knowledge or expertise
- 4-5 member panel -45 minute presentation
 - 15 minute break
 - 60 minute discussion
- response to format very favourable
- many groups did not break down in last hour as they were only 20-30 in number and were pleased to remain with all panel members.
- panel format encouraged interaction between workshop leaders as well as participants; especially valuable in controversial areas eg. child abuse and economics
- fulfilled objectives very well
- major budget item; money, time and energy

4. DISPLAY GROUPS

- meant to fulfill objectives 1,2,3,4,
- organized by one conference member without trouble
- involved a wide variety of community groups
- no financial expenditure; modest energy expenditure

5. ART EXHIBIT

- meant to fulfill objectives 1 and 4
- organized by UVic people
- excellent response by artists

6. NO HOST BAR

- meant to fulfill objectives 1,3, and 4
- disappointing response; after concert ran late most people had left.

7. LUNCH

- meant to fulfill objective 4 (and stave off starvation)
- bag lunches (vegetarian and non-vegetarian) picked up and eaten in SUB Upper lounge.
- very positive response to quality of food and socialization.

PROCESS

April

- planning meeting #1
- Nancy Morrison 1st choice as speaker
- discussion on location: Spectrum vs UVic
- registration decisions: pre-registration only
fee \$7.00 includes lunch
- format decisions
- lunch discussion
- lobby display plans
- preliminary workshop suggestions
- funding application made to Secretary of State Dept.

May

- planning meeting #2
- continuing April discussions
- bookings made for facilities and lunch

June

- planning meetings #3 and #4
- final planning done for workshops -requests to leaders sent out
- advertising flyers sent to women's groups
- registration form made up
- kits planned

July/August

- contacts made with workshop leaders
- revisions and substitutions as necessary

September

- press releases
- posters: design/printing/distribution
- T.V./radio coverage
- registration letter
- letter to groups for exposition
- letter to women artists for exhibit
- 2nd letter to workshop leaders
- collection of kit material
- registration forms printed
- begin pre-registration
- concert arrangements

October

- layout/printing of concert programs
- letters to registration replies (most not sent out because of mail strike)
- art exhibit
- day care arrangements
- finalize lunch and coffee arrangements
- press releases for concert and art exhibit
- plot workshops from registration forms
- assemble kits
- endless final arrangements, phone calls and errands

This is a sketchy outline of the jobs involved in bringing together the Focus Women '78 conference.

Publicity consisted of update information in SWAG April, May, June and September newsletters, poster distribution (500 all over Victoria) and press releases to the following outlets.

local papers Color et - editor and Nancy Brown
 Martlet
 Monday
 Sidney Review
 Sooke Mirror
 Victoria Times - editor and Elizabeth Forbes

local radio CKDA
 CJVI
 CFAX
 CFMS FM

local T.V. CHEK T.V. -Ida Clarkson
 John Barton
 Jim Payne
 Cable 10 -Charles Barber

Women's publications throughout the province

The only media coverage we received this year was in public service radio announcements, public notice columns in newspapers and a brief, unsatisfactory interview on the John Barton talk show.

BUDGET

| <u>EXPENDITURES</u> | | <u>INCOME</u> | |
|---------------------|----------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Travel | \$350.50 | Grant | \$1435.00 |
| Publicity | 100.83 | Registration | <u>1044.00</u> |
| Salaries | 274.00 (childcare) | | |
| Honouraria | 320.00 | | |
| Facilities | 515.52 (lunch/piano) | | |
| Kits | 796.73 | | |
| Postage | 71.00 | | |
| Telephone | 22.36 | | |
| Miscellaneous | <u>28.06</u> | | |
| | \$2479.00 | | \$2479.00 |

ANALYSIS

The conference this year was a qualified success. Feedback from participants was generally positive with negative comments made about the concert program and particular workshop leaders. Response to the new format and location were overwhelmingly positive.

Our numbers were decidedly down with approximately 250 including workshop leaders as compared to the 350 we expected. This placed a strain on our budget and unfortunately after all the bills were paid workshop leaders were left without the honourarium we had hoped to provide this year. The conference hinges each year on voluntary contributions of time and expertise from and workshop leaders, committee members and from a Secretary of State grant. But we would like to work towards the conference becoming self-supporting.

Registration was again largely from the community rather than SWAG membership and the wide variety of offerings was appreciated. Twenty-five new members were signed up.

RECOMMENDATIONS : to next years conference committee

- consider panel instead of a keynote speaker
- change concert style or program content
- maintain two hour workshops
- 'healthy' lunch is indispensable
- consider advertising for and planning for participation of men
- workshop suggestions: 'Year of the Child' topics
 - Values and Directions
 - Freedom and Commitment
 - International scene
- UVic childcare facilities are excellent
- spread workload out eg. to committees as in 1977
- have conference treasurer
- involve workshop leaders in planning as much as possible

Planning meeting and correspondence files are available for your information.
December 1978