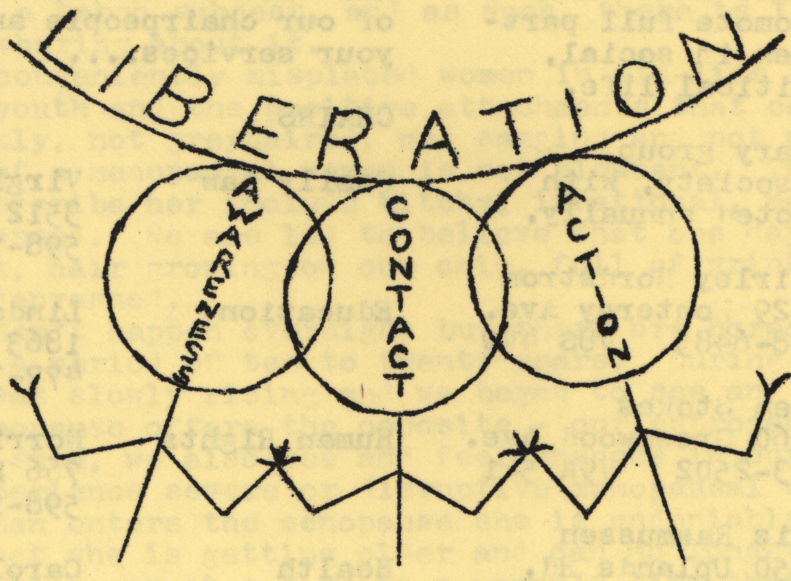


# SWAG

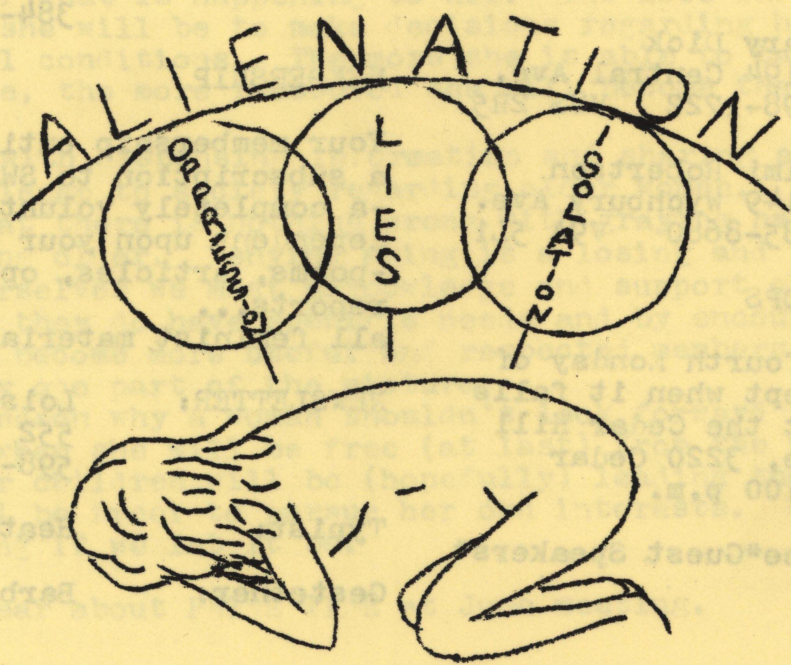
## Victoria Status of Women News

552 VICTORIA ave.

JUNE-1978



OR



NEXT MEETING:  
PRIME TIME  
CEDAR HILL REC  
JUNE 26, 8 P.M.  
EVERYONE WELCOME

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 annually.

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

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

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

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

Treasurer Betty Rozon  
#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 Cedar Hill Community Centre, 3220 Cedar Hill Road, 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 our chairpeople and offer your services....

#### CHAIRS

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

Education Linda Picciotto  
1863 Feltham Rd.  
477-3576 V8N 2A7

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

Health Caroline Megeson  
1616 Fernwood  
382-0866

Labour Diana Butler  
2149 Granite  
598-6964 V8S 3G5

Herstory Linda Gilligan  
601 Moss St.  
384-6629 V8V 4N7

#### 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

Typist: Heather Sidor

Gestetner: Barb Wozny

# PRIME TIME

## MENOPAUSE A NEW BEGINNING

by Susan Reger

Every woman will experience menopause. Considering that fact, it is surprising and disturbing to note that for most people menopause is still very much a taboo subject, and as such, there is little discussion or information sharing about it.

Society has conveniently misplaced women in mid-life by emphasizing the glories of youth and the positive attachments that can come from being: not wrinkly, not greyhaired, not sagging and not menopausal. The stereotype of a menopausal woman is not pleasant. The adjectives often used to describe her include bitchy, irrational, moody, temperamental and depressed. We are led to believe that one day we will wake with a hunchback, hair growing on our chin, full of wrinkles, greyhaired, overweight and depressed.

The changes don't happen overnight but there are hormonal changes that occur over a period of ten to twenty years. During puberty, our estrogen level was slowly rising and we began to see and feel changes in our bodies. Menopause offers the opposite - our estrogen level slowly declines and as such, we also see and feel changes in ourselves. Most women do not experience severe or disruptive menopausal symptoms. However, when a woman enters the menopause she is undeniably confronted with the fact that she is getting older and can no longer have children. As well, menopause comes at a time in a woman's life that usually coincides with other mid-life events (crises).

Misinformation and lack of information have for so long clouded discussion about menopause. However, in the last two years some books and pamphlets have been written giving current and accurate information. Exposure in the media has been slight but it's a first step. Additional steps are in many ways up to individual women to take. It is very important that women talk with one another and share their own experiences about menopause. The more a woman knows about menopause, the less she will be afraid of what is happening to her. The more informed she is, the better able she will be to make decisions regarding her medical and psychological conditions. The more she is able to talk with other women her own age, the more reassured she will become that she is not alone.

Hand in hand with dispensing information and sharing experiences must come a challenge to society regarding older women. We must really begin to feel that there is nothing wrong with graying hair, getting wrinkles...getting older. Denying aging is a losing and fruitless game. To be fair to ourselves we must acknowledge and support older women by recognizing that they do have specific needs and by encouraging them in their efforts to become more useful and respected members of society. Menopause is only one part of the picture.

There is no reason why a woman shouldn't look forward to her menopausal years as a time when she will be free (at last) from the hassles of birth control, when her children will be (hopefully) leading their own lives, and when she will be freer to pursue her own interests. Menopause can be a new beginning if we let it be.

Hear about PRIME TIME at June meeting.



**\*\* IS Your membership up to date? \*\* \*Mark Your Calendar\***

The following memberships are renewable in July and August:

- |                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| Sharon Anderson  | Kerry Carney   |
| Myan Baker       | Judy Clark     |
| Marilyn Callahan | Marion Cook    |
| Eileen Caner     | Angela DiLalla |
| Patricia Carfra  | Andrea Pite    |
| A. Robbins       | Rex Thomson    |
| Earen Unruh      | Ursula Wernet  |
| Polly Walter     |                |

Send cheques (payable to SWAG) to:  
 Mary Dick  
 2194 Central Ave.  
 Victoria, B.C. V8S 2R5  
 \*\*\*\*\*

*Thanks*

# CONFERENCE

**FRIDAY:** speaker Nancy Morrison  
 Family Court Judge  
 North Vancouver

concert  
 no-host bar

**SATURDAY:** workshops (tentatively covering)  
 politics  
 money  
 handling sexism  
 violence  
 health  
 back to paid work

Our best conference ever is in the works!  
 Plan now to attend and bring a friend.  
 Registration forms in the September newsletter.  
 \*\*\*\*\*

## REMINDER

No newsletters/meetings July and August (R. and R. time).  
 If you have a problem and are unable to contact the chairperson of that area, make contact with another chairperson (for rerouting).

HAVE A GOOD SUMMER  
 \*\*\*\*\*

- JUNE 15: Coalition meeting with Terry Wuester.
- JUNE 16: Rape Relief Benefit SONG of the SOUL.
- JUNE 21: Conference committee meeting 8 p.m.
- JUNE 22: Rape and protection workshop 7:30 p.m. Esquimalt Rec. Centre 527 Fraser.
- JUNE 23: ROLES FOR MEN & WOMEN in the CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY Grace Lutheran 7:30 p.m.
- JUNE 26: SWAG general meeting PRIME TIME.
- SEPT 25: SWAG general meeting VIOLENCE.
- OCT. 27-28: 7th annual fall conf. FOCUS WOMEN.

\*\*\*\*\*

CHRISTIANITY/FEMINISM??  
 mutually exclusive?  
 diametrically opposed?

Some feminists and theologians don't think so.

**HEAR:** KATHY STORRIE  
 from Canadian Women & Religion  
 Professor of Sociology  
 University of Sask.

**SEE:** MEN'S LIVES  
 a film on how we are socialized into stereotyped roles.

ROLES FOR MEN AND WOMEN  
 IN THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY  
 Grace Lutheran (across from Central Jr. High)  
 June 23rd 7:30 p.m.

QUESTION & DISCUSSION PERIOD  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**NEW PUBLICATIONS:**  
Changing Your Name in Canada - How to do it Legally \$3.50  
 International Self-Counsel Press  
 306 W. 25 St., North Vancouver, B.C. V7N 2G1  
Towards a Positive Image of Housewives & Towards a Positive Image of Women in Sport (free) Secretariat for Social Development, Ontario  
 Status of Women Council, 3rd floor, 801 Bay St., Toronto, Ont. M5S 1Z1

## SECRETARY OF STATE SUMMER GRANT NEWS

The summer project is progressing positively...with cooperation from the Art Galley of Greater Victoria, the Provincial Archives, the Dept. of History in Art at the Univ. of Victoria, various museums and galleries outside Victoria as well as numerous individuals.

In the making are slide shows for general public presentations on Women and the Arts in B.C. Much information has received little to no attention previously. We hope the materials produced will be of benefit to those interested in local history and Women's Studies.

Among the subjects being developed are the following:

1. Textiles of Early Women Settlers
2. Views of Victoria by Women Painters and Sketchers
3. Women as Patrons and Volunteers
4. Women of the Island Arts and Crafts Club
5. Arts and Crafts by Women of Distinct Ethnic Groups
6. Arts and Crafts of Native Indian Women.

Periods prior to 1930 are being given the greatest emphasis. Among the artists who are being viewed (aside from the inevitable Emily Carr!) are Statira Frame, Theresa Wylde, the Crease sisters, Grace Melvin, Caroline Fellows, Henrietta Woods, Katherine Baitwood, Margaret Kitto, Emily Woods, Maude Lettice....

Another woman, also a SWAG member, will join us in July when Kathy Bridge accepts a fellowship to go to India. The new person is Anna Franklin who specializes in Native Indian studies. She has worked with Dr. Marjorie Mitchell in the Anthropology Dept. at Camosun College and will enter the University of Victoria this fall.

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## WOMEN ARTISTS

An art show of local women artists, preferably SWAG-WAG members, is being planned as part of the 6th Annual Women's Conference to be held at the University of Victoria. The MacPherson Library Gallery which has good attendance because of convenience is being reserved. The dates will be those preceding and during the conference weekend: October 20 - 30.

Do you want to exhibit your work or do you know someone who would like to exhibit? If so, please contact the committee working on this show. We can be reached through the summer project:

Women and the Arts in B.C.  
c/o Dept. of History in Art  
University of Victoria  
Victoria, B.C. V8W 2Y2  
phone 477-6911 (local 4405, 4477)  
office Sedgewick 53.

## KNOW YOUR ENEMY

Vancouver (CP) - City council voted Tuesday to uphold its decision to refuse a grant to the Vancouver Status of Women, defeating three proposals for grants of varying amounts.

Rejection came after council heard a presentation from Betty Green, chairMAN of the Pro-Life Society of B.C., who presented a 458 name petition against granting money to the women's group.

She said taxpayers should not have to "support the campaigns of political action groups."

Lee Grills, president of the Status of Women, said the organization needs a grant because its provincial grant had been cut to \$75,000 this year from \$150,000 last year, forcing the group to reduce staff and services.

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# LETTERS

Dear Ms Ackinclose:

Thank you for your sincere comments regarding the television advertising for our Feminine Hygiene products.

It is a cause for immediate concern to us that the advertising in question is viewed unfavourably by anyone. We are constantly aware of our responsibility not only to consumers but to all who may be exposed to our advertising. We feel that this strong sense of responsibility has been demonstrated in the quality and presentation of our products to the public.

We chose television to advertise this particular product because we were anxious for you to know about it and the most effective and efficient medium is television.

Based upon available independent consumer research studies, it is our belief that the majority of people do not object to the advertising of Feminine Hygiene products on television. In fact, the number of people objecting to television advertising for this product category is only slightly greater than the number who object to television advertising of any kind.

In our ongoing attempts to ensure that we are aware of the latest consumer attitudes, thereby minimizing the risk of offending people, our research studies are updated regularly. Any shifts in consumer attitudes recorded since the last survey are weighed in our decisions regarding the most appropriate way to advertise our range of Feminine Hygiene products.

Again, thank you for taking the time and interest to get in touch with us.

PROTESTS → Johnson & Johnson  
2155 Blvd. Pie IX  
Montreal, Quebec H1V 2E4

Dear Ms Nordstrom:

If abortion is "a matter of personal conscience," and if it must be an "individual decision," then SWAG has already taken a stand against those who would remove a woman's right to decide. Certainly this stand should be made public.

Of course the decision to have an abortion is an individual, not a collective decision. No one wants a vote that will force someone to have an abortion. However, some "Right to Lifers" want to force women to continue unwanted pregnancies, even in cases of rape, thus removing the right of the individual to decide.

"Right to Lifers" are vocal and numerous. They cannot be resisted effectively on an individual, personal basis. They must be resisted on a collective basis. If SWAG remains neutral on this issue, it fails as a feminist organization.

Obviously safe and effective birth control is more palatable than abortion. But totally safe and effective birth control isn't available yet, is it? Even if it were, how would it help in cases of rape?

Numerous lives have been ruined by unwanted pregnancies. Unwanted children still are not adequately cared for in many instances throughout North America and the world at large.

Please do not be wishy-washy on this issue. It is not possible to please everyone all the time; but when human rights are at stake, that is the time to take a stand - even if it is not popular with everyone.

I hope you will tell me your decision.

Carolyn Robe  
Fort St. John

Dear Shirley,

re: The Abortion Issue

It is my feeling that SWAG must take a stand NOW. We must see to it that women have the choice of whether or not to have an abortion.

Each individual in this society must take charge of and responsibility for his/her own life. Part of this taking charge entails controlling our own bodies. It is totally inconceivable to me that any person or group of persons such as anti-abortionists should even consider forcing their morals upon me or any of my sisters. Abortion is a matter of personal conscience, but SWAG, representative of the rights and status of women, must champion the cause of abortion on demand in order that each of us can choose to abort or not to abort, by the dictates of her conscience - it cannot be stressed too strongly that it be her conscience only, not some moralistic anti-abortionist who will not have to carry, deliver or care for this unwanted child. I cannot fathom any person, on moral or any other grounds, advocating the birth of an unwanted child as opposed to abortion. It is totally unrealistic.

I feel compelled to bring up at this time one point which is never stressed when discussing abortion by such as the "right to life" people and that is the psychological results of carrying, delivering and then giving up a child. In my estimation the psychological pain of giving up a child who has been kicking in your belly for months would far outweigh the psychological damage of an abortion early in the pregnancy. This woman, this person, this mother-to-be, should be the prime consideration in light of the psychological advantages of abortion as opposed to endeavouring to care for an unwanted child, or giving it up for adoption.

The fact that it is even considered to disallow abortion on demand makes me angry. Nobody, but nobody, has the right to tell another individual how to control her own body. I can't stress that point too strongly. Abortion on demand is a MUST.

Fortunately, I personally do not have to be afraid of being denied an abortion should I desire one. I have had a hysterectomy. Nonetheless, as a champion of women's rights, and a feminist, I stand up to be counted in favour of abortion on demand. We must take a stand NOW and we must not relent 'til we have won our total freedom on this issue.

Yours sincerely,  
Marina Hendry

Dear Philip:

Just what are you saying with all that NEYing?

Back to the knitting needles, GIRLS?

Straight from the horse's (?) mouth?

\*\*\*\*\*

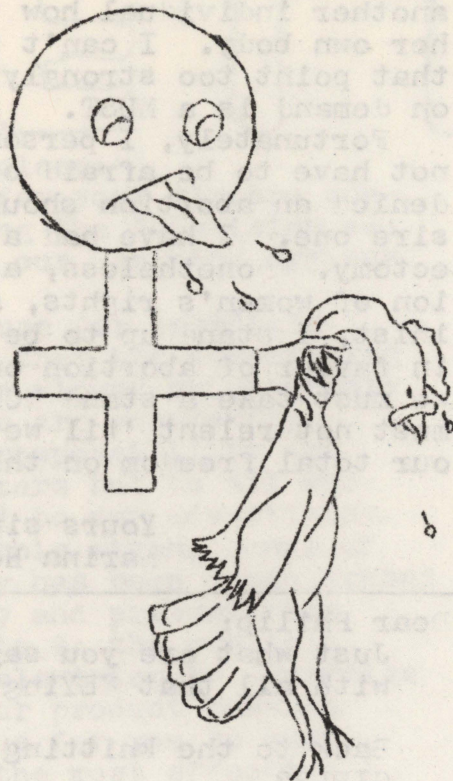
London - A British high court, in what is believed to be an unprecedented legal action, has granted an interim injunction asked by a husband seeking to prevent his wife from having an abortion.

The day her husband went to court Mrs. Paton moved out of the couple's home, went to stay with her parents and instructed a lawyer to start divorce proceedings.

Mrs. Paton's lawyer said: "She is not in good health and it is because of her health that she wants to have this abortion.

RESULT: Joan Paton, a 29-year-old housewife who won a court case permitting her to have an abortion against her husband's wishes, left a Liverpool hospital today after having the operation.

- TURKEY OF THE MONTH -



MEL COUVELIER

... "Did you see her blouse for god's sake!"

Saanich Mayor Mel Couvelier voted against funding the Victoria Rape Relief Centre Tuesday saying he was disturbed by what he felt was a low-cut blouse worn by a centre representative (Trisha Mary Noon).

Couvelier was also upset at the fact that Rape Relief Centre staff spend some of their time in Greater Victoria schools lecturing both male and female students on the dangers of rape.

Trish was one of our local people who took part in the demonstration against Trident (Bangor, Washington).

GOOD WORK.

WE CAN LIVE WITHOUT TRIDENT.

♪ Song of the Soul ♪

Friday, June 16  
8:00 P.M.

A PROGRAM of women's  
MUSIC + poetry

at Metropolitan United Church  
(Quadia + Pandora)

EVERYONE WELCOME

DONATIONS AT THE DOOR

Proceeds to Victoria Rape Relief Center



# HEALTH - COMMITTEE -

Pro Life = ANTI CHOICE

Press release of May 15th: 3,000 Rally for Pro-Life...

"A Mothers' Day anti-abortion rally staged by Victoria Pro-Life attracted between 2,500 and 3,000 participants Chairman Arla Rendle said today."

As if the sensationalism of the actual rally wasn't enough to contend with, now we have to contend with sensationalism in estimations. So sorry CHAIRMAN Arla, you got a little excited. There were only between 250 to 300 anti-CHOICE (pro-life) people there.

The organization of the rally (speaker system, police patrol, sensational placards, etc.) must be complimented. But (with no apology intended) the basic content and issues of the rally were basically boring if not downright offensive.

No detail need be told as the hard-sell sensational "words of wisdom" were all the same and certainly have been heard before. Exploitation of an adopted 12-year-old "who was glad he wasn't swept away by abortion" and a new mother standing with babe in arms and "glad she did it" were the added features.

The smaller group of believers in freedom of choice as regards abortion is where the attention should be focused. The strength and courage of the women and men who were able to stand up and firmly say "I believe it is my choice what I do with my body," was tremendous and heart warming.

"All we are asking is freedom of choice," was sung steadily while holding a banner stating Freedom of Choice (which the pro-lifers attempted to block out). A symbolic wreath of coat hangers which was held in front of the anti-abortion people and the banner Freedom of Choice was clear and got its message across. A woman politely attempting to speak a few words into the microphone was rudely refused (by a jeering pro-life crowd) which further testified to the closed-mindedness of the pro-lifers. Most apparent was the strength of the "freedom of choice" people being able to stand courageously against a larger and noisier group. After the pro'lifers marched off (in a so-called "symbolic march") to the Victoria General Hospital, a quieting circle was held which greatly helped to renew strength and energy.

A distressing and confusing factor was that of being forced to rally against other women. Women pro-lifers who claim that women who are economically disadvantaged should not have a choice in regards to pregnancy are vindictive.

The path of feminism and sisterhood is obviously a difficult one. We are asking for what belongs to us...our bodies.

Caroline

\*\*\*\*\*

# R A P E

To request a copy of Nancy's study (available shortly) write to: Nancy Goldsberry  
525 Fort St.  
Victoria, B.C. V8W 1E8

"It is important to view rape and rape justice within a historical context rather than as an isolated phenomenon since it is defined differently in various societies and at different historical periods. Rape flourishes in an atmosphere of sexism and exploitation for individual or collective gain."  
(from Renee Kasinky, "Rape: A Normal Act?", Canadian Forum, September 1975, p.20.)

The definition of rape depends on one's perspective. Changes in the law and community mores influence how each one of us sees rape. A clear rape to one person is not a rape to another and this view is related to one's own experiences and values.

A definition of rape as sexual penetration of a (woman's) vagina with a (man's) penis without the woman's consent, outside of marriage, is the concept codified in the criminal code of Canada.

Beyond this definition there are subtle and not-so-subtle distinctions made, based on concepts that involve appropriate behaviour for women and men.

Almost all data that supports theories about "who gets raped" comes from reported rapes. A woman, once having decided to report a rape is at the lip of a funnel of events. As the case proceeds from police questioning through the legal system, other persons have the opportunity to validate or discredit her initial decision. Since only those cases which proceed through this channel are available for most studies a biased view of the rape situation is given.

The highest statistical estimate for a conviction rate on reported rapes is presently 7% in Canada.

A very limited amount of information is known about women who define experiences as rape which are never ever reported to the police. The highest estimation of rape reported to the police is 40%, with other estimates ranging from a low of 4% to 30%. A 10% rate has been quoted by crown attorneys in the judicial system and is the figure most often used by RCMP officers in B.C.

Why so few rapes are reported is one of the subjects for discussion in Rape in British Columbia. The Ministry of the Attorney-General recently contracted Nancy Goldsberry to research rape in B.C. and to propose the best programmes for dealing with rape.

The brief discusses the medical treatment of raped persons, the police and the judicial system in respect to the victim of rape. A survey of responses by individual women and groups of women, the herstory of rape relief organizations and a section on sexual abuse of children is presented.

The brief discusses the position that "women are trained to be rape victims." ... "Efforts must be taken to eradicate our individual responses to threatening situations. Specific programmes of assertiveness training, emotional and physical self-defense need to be offered in a wide variety of settings for women."

# LAW - COMMITTEE -

Dear Mr. Vander Zalm:

We understand that 75% of all court-ordered support payments to women in Canada are ignored and that 70% of all welfare recipients in B.C. are women. We would like verification of the last statistic and a breakdown of the statistics regarding women on welfare i.e. if they are on welfare because they are not receiving

- (a) any support payments
- (b) sufficient support payments from the marriage's traditional and long-term breadwinning spouse.

We, the Family Law Committee of the Status of Women in Victoria, have enclosed a critique of the proposed Family Relations Amendment Act (Bill 69) of 1977, written by the Women and the Law group of Victoria (a national group like ourselves) and our letter sent to the Attorney-General Hon. G. Gardom, Q.C.

Yours sincerely,  
Avis Rasmussen

Dear Miss Rasmussen:

I am in receipt of your letter regarding statistics available on payment of maintenance and support benefits.

I am sorry that I cannot provide you with any data on the percentage of court-ordered support payments since this does not fall under my jurisdiction, and I am not sure it is even available from the office of the Attorney-General.

I encourage you to make such a request of the Hon. Garde Gardom to determine if this kind of information is available.

Having said that, let me further point out that I have been endeavouring to refine Ministry of Human Resources processes in conjunction with those of our court system in an effort to ensure that maintenance payments are forthcoming.

I am of the view that our enforcement procedures are not sufficiently strong to assure that court-ordered payments are, in fact, made and we have been trying to find a vehicle that would assure that these benefits are provided.

While I cannot indicate to you how many welfare recipients are entitled to maintenance payments, an informal survey would indicate that a majority of female single parents receiving Income Assistance would fall into this category.

There is a further complication in that the courts seem to persist in their habit of granting only the 100 per month maintenance payment that is exempt under Ministry of Human Resources Income Assistance regulations.

This has been done despite the fact that a spouse, in many instances, can afford to pay much more.

I would certainly welcome any ideas that you have on how we might make the laws more enforceable and look forward to your future comments.

Yours sincerely,  
Wm. N. Vander Zalm

Dear Mr. Vander Zalm:

In reference to your letter in which you, too, expressed concern at weak enforcement procedures for court-ordered payments and the result in a burden on welfare coffers, there are two procedures that could be effective.

The Family Law workshop at the Justice Council Symposium of Nov. 4-6, 1977 proposed resolution #12: "Be it resolved that an automatic enforcement of maintenance orders Canada-wide be established with the collections to be enforced by the Department of National Revenue payable to the custodial parent, guardian or dependent spouse."

This was passed by the entire Symposium. It had been introduced by an accountant who was no doubt aware of the necessary changes to the income tax laws. The USA made changes in their income tax laws to accommodate the eight states that have Community of Property laws.

A court ordered payment should be court enforced. This is done in Scotland. (See The Family and the Law, by M. Puxon, Maintenance and Property, part four, Ch. 2, Penguin 1963.) The courts should be responsible for collecting the payments and paying the person for whom the money was specified. Then the courts would know whether their laws were being upheld. Otherwise court orders are an expensive, meaningless exercise; expensive and time consuming not only for the courts but also for the clients who have other responsibilities, namely children.

In this way the courts would truly act as a mediator to see that justice was carried out and ensure the spouse is made responsible for her or his family.

The cost of supporting one family should not be dumped onto Welfare by a spouse well able to support the family, in order to start another family. This is happening at a rapid rate in Victoria. For a woman who has not worked outside the home for ten to 30 years it is usually impossible for her to find a job to support herself and her children for much above subsistence level. Welfare allows her to look after her children herself which is important for the children's emotional welfare when one parent has left. Why should children be penalized because their parents are separated or divorced? Foster parents receive a suitable amount of \$500 or so per month per child. Court-ordered support payments can be as little as \$50.

Your ministry might also address itself to one basic cause of women needing welfare, to the fact that a woman who works in the home, bears and looks after her children, is not recognized to be working or as of any economic value in our society. She is, however, doing one of the most important jobs in our society, an intensive, responsible job with no convenient hours. A married woman in B.C. is also considered legally incapable (see Fundamentals of Canadian Law, F.A. Chapman, McGraw Hill, 1974, ch.8) together with North American Indians, Enemy Aliens and Convicts. Under the present marriage law a married woman is only entitled to support from her husband in the form of food, clothing and shelter for which she must remain sexually faithful and keep his house; in short, she is a chattel. Many women today are not interested in being regarded as such.

If marriage was by law considered a partnership recognizing that both partners contribute equally to the family unit regardless of role, if community of property joint management was effective upon marriage the regard of one spouse toward the other and of both spouses toward marriage as a truly important commitment coupled with economic responsibilities would be much greater resulting in less dependency on the government for help.

The Family Law Committee on the Status of Women was pleased by your response to our letter but was surprised that statistics correlating welfare recipients to maintenance payments had not been considered before. We hope the above ideas will prove useful.

Yours sincerely,  
Ms Avis Rasmussen

Dear Miss Rasmussen:

Thank you for your further correspondence regarding maintenance collection.

I found your comments thought provoking and appreciate this additional consideration.

Sincerely,  
Wm. N. Vander Zalm

MAY 20.

VANCOUVER (CP) Unified family courts must be established and matrimonial property laws reformed before no-fault divorce laws are brought before Parliament, Justice Minister Ron Basford said Friday. Family law reform in Canada is complicated by the fact that Parliament has jurisdiction over marriage and divorce while the provinces have jurisdiction over matrimonial property and civil rights issues.

### THE LATEST SCAPEGOATS

Human Rights in B.C. could be further eroded by recent legislation introduced in the House. People in our province could be faced with compulsory confinement for up to three years without a criminal charge. If the addicts go now, who will be next ?

WRITE YOUR M.L.A.

\*\*\*\*\*

TORONTO (CP)

Routine is killing marriages, says the president of the Ontario Assoc. of Marriage and Family Counsellors. "More and more couples are boring each other into divorce," Claude Guldner, a Kitchener, Ont., sex therapist and counsellor said in a recent interview. He recommended periodic separations as one remedy.

\*\*\*\*\*

YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY BABY ??????

LONDON- British-made chastity belts are in demand all over the world.

The iron contraptions weigh nearly five pounds each, fit around the waist and between the legs and are locked at the front with a padlock.

WHERE'S THE GRAVOL ?

\*\*\*\*\*

# LABOUR

# - COMMITTEE -

## WHAT PRICE HOUSEWIFE?

OTTAWA (CP) MP's put the economic value of housework at between \$5,300. and \$10,000. a year during Commons debate Friday on whether housewives should get pay or pensions.

"I would find it difficult to put a price on my wife," said Jim McGrath, Conservative social affairs critic, adding that he could never replace Margaret's maternal influence on his family.

"But if I were to lose her, I would have to pay \$10,000. a year to a housekeeper." She would be eligible at age 65 for Canada Pension Plan benefits.

McGrath, father of six children, advocated the government deduct extra CCP contributions from the working spouse - usually the husband - to make housewives eligible for retirement pensions.

McGrath was one of four male MPs debating a private members motion by Adrien Lambert (SC - Bellechasse) proposing the government consider some

financial benefit to housewives.

McGrath, MP for St. John's East, called the idea "simple justice."

Charles Dionne (SC - Kamouraska) led the discussion, declaring "no mother leaves her children without having to."

"They admit they would prefer to stay home but they need the money," said the father of six, arguing benefits of some kind were necessary to entice women to stay home.

Frank Philbrook (L - Halton) said housework "is a very satisfying role to many women," but later he said modern society "has made motherhood a lonely, isolated state."

He quoted studies putting the value of housework at \$5,300. annually for a mother with one child between age 12 and 17. The work of a wife caring for four children, one less than a year old was \$8,400. a year.

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June 3, 1978

## WOMEN'S VOICES, CHILDREN'S ECHOES

### Shirley Wilde, Real Estate Agent

"Who'd want to be a realtor? After 12 years in the business there are times when I ask myself this very question. I suppose lack of real estate knowledge, challenge, the desire and need to make money were the motives behind me acquiring my real estate licence.

During my working years I've have two career and two jobs. The jobs provided the financial means to enter two different careers. Before I married I served seven years with the R.C.A.F. I started out as a policewoman and retired as a special investigator. Twin sons kept me running in circles until they were enrolled in school - at that time I entered real estate.

Both careers were equal pay and equal opportunities. In real estate the opportunities are unlimited as long as your energy lasts, if the economy is buoyant and the industrial base of the community is solid. There are no restrictions on women in real estate that I am aware of.

I've sold commercial and residential properties, vacant lots, farms and acreages. I've subdivided land for myself and for clients - mind you on a small scale. I've served as a Director of the Society of Real Estate Salesmen and have been involved with committees.

Shirley Wilde - cont.

My philosophy on responsibility and accountability keeps me involved in many things besides being a wife, mother, realtor and member of organizations. I've always felt women should get involved in decision making at all levels when it concerns the family, home and the community. Instead of letting someone else decide what is best for me I'd prefer to decide myself.

In case I've made real estate sound like a bed of roses let me conclude by saying real estate is like farming - you have to make hay while the sun shines because it is either feast or famine!

Diane Prior, Government Employee

My life took a turn two years ago when as a married person I was chalked up as another statistic of those classified as separated.

First thing to do was get a job. Having two children to support needed a substantial amount of money plus security of having an income.

Second, finding babysitters for one school age and one pre-school child. For my pre-schooler, daycare was the answer. For my grade one child numerous after-school babysitters - one that taught my child how to leap out of windows, another who locked my child out of the house so as to entertain her company and satisfy her appetite on anything in the refrigerator, yet another who chose to brow-beat my child thus setting in numerous insecurities. For the past nine months my children have been very adequately looked after by a woman I went to school with. To her I owe a great deal of gratitude for all she has done for my children and myself.

Having my own income means that I now know exactly how much money I have to deal with. Necessities are looked after first - always. I know that what I have in the cupboard is enough to last till next pay day. I know that each and every household bill is paid monthly, on time. I know that when I can afford something extra, I will spend wisely. I feel that I have gained a great deal of respect for the dollar, having learned how to manage the finances and make ends meet.

Having ambition is setting goals for yourself and being persistent enough to achieve them. I have just found out that I have been accepted into another position with a training program for which I competed. I shall apply myself and before long hope to step up to more responsible positions, thus creating a good future for myself in the work force and meeting the needs of my employer.

Tracy Porter - age 16, High School Student

As far back as I can remember my mother has worked while raising a family. Has this affected me in any way? Yes, it certainly has.

My mother's responsibility towards a job has created my independence. I have never felt lonely and afraid when I got home from school and my mother wasn't there to greet me with a plate of my favourite cookies in one hand and a nice tall glass of cold milk in the other. It has never been that way. I know my way to the cookie jar and the refrigerator. More important than that, I know my chores and should get them done.

She hasn't agreed to sit me down on my wedding day and tell me her secrets of getting rid of Ajax grit in the bathroom sink or the best way to scrub the toilet bowl so that all the rust stains flush away. As a matter of fact she has tried

Tracy Porter - cont.

to veer me away from an early marriage and towards a career in which I can make myself happy.

I am not trying to place my mother on a pedestal by saying how great it is that she can hold down a job, have time for her various activities, take care of two kids and worry about two more. Life is not a Geritol commercial. But I am writing this so it becomes more obvious to the reader what kind of individual I am. At sixteen, I'm not a whining, snivelling brat who plans on two kids after an early marriage. I have goals that will make my happy, and as far as marriage goes - who wants to settle down to drudgery before 25 at least.

That's what a working mother has done for me.

Margaret Patten - age 23, University student

The term 'working mother' is a somewhat erroneous one since all devoted mothers work very hard, be it in the home or in the outer work force. Simply being a mother is a twenty-four hour a day job.

During my lifetime my mother has never been a part of this outer work force and therefore I find it easier to see the advantages of this arrangement.

There are the obvious benefits of having a mother who spends her days at home: eg. having the meals made, having the washing done, being taken care of when sick, etc. but I think that the greatest benefits come during the critical years of early childhood. In my opinion, no young child should arrive home to an empty house. Didn't you ever come home crying during those early years and be comforted by your mother? The raising of children is possibly the greatest responsibility and the greatest enjoyment of life. I would never, except of course through necessity, give up the chance to be a full-time participant in my children's lives as my mother has been in mine.

I fully realise that in many cases a woman works because she has to. However if a mother works simply because of an urge to feel useful rather than out of economic necessity I would suggest that she consider a few hours of volunteer work per week. This can be done while children are in school and there are certainly always organizations that desperately need the help.

I wish to reiterate that I am basically in favour of working women. My only wish is that these women be able to spend the greatest amount of time possible with their children, especially during the young years. Too many parents, both men and women, spend very little time with their children. This is a very great shame. I hope to be available to oversee the upbringing of my children and to offer to them the set of values and morals which I hold to be true.

I wish that all children could enjoy the benefits, both physical and psychological that I have experienced in having a mother who works very hard, but in the home and for her family.

Kelly Porter, Chartered Accountant Student

In May of 1976 I went to work as a teller at one of Victoria's larger and more successful financial institutions. Like any other operation where the management positions are dominated by men, I was given the old 'you can advance as far as you like in this firm, regardless of your sex' routine.



Kelly Porter - cont.

Advancement for any woman hired as a teller is even more difficult when you soon find yourself competing with male tellers (alias 'management trainees').

A typical example is an accountant position another male and I were 'competing' for. We both put in hours we weren't paid for in order to train for the job, but afterwards it became difficult to determine which one of us was the successful candidate. He was awarded the position and the salary that went with it while I stayed after work each night completing the work load he couldn't handle. It makes one wonder why he was awarded the job in the first place since I had two years of university compared to his grade twelve and I could handle the work while he could not.

Don't you ever wonder why you never see your friendly neighborhood teller after six month of service? Bankers will tell you the reason for the high turn over in staff is women leaving to get married or travel. They neglect to mention the pitiful salaries and lack of meaningful advancement.

I lasted 15 months. During that time numerous males came and went as managers, loans officers etc. always to higher and greater rewards while the females who trained them stayed in their little wickets.

Today I am a waitress while taking a chartered accountant course. I make almost as much money in tips a month as I made in salary in my tellers cage. You wonder why bank workers are starting to organize unions - could it be they finally see the worth of solidarity?

Do you know that at the Bank of Montreal at Royal Oak a woman who spent 15 years working for the bank was fired for trying to start a union. Fifteen years of very satisfactory work, fired when she was not very many years off retirement. If you are looking for a female ghetto start with your bank, but don't look for me there, I would rather be in a non-status waitress job than in a white-collar prison. If I ever go back to working for a bank it will be as a well paid auditor, I hear that's the up and coming field for women ever since the B.C. government hired a female Auditor-General. I wonder if she started in a bank?

Carole Day - age 23, government employee

As the daughter of a 'working mother' I feel I have a great deal more respect and admiration for the woman who is my mother and friend than I would have, had she stayed home to push a vacuum around.

The children of 'working mothers' learn at an early age what the word responsibility means. They are expected to pitch in and help, and helping gives a child a feeling of pride at being given the responsibility and being trusted enough to do a 'grown-ups' job.

Those who believe that the children of working mothers are neglected and unloved believe a myth. I never felt neglected and unloved, if I came home from school and my mother wasn't there. My mother always took time to spend with us. I always felt needed and loved.

I have also found, very recently in fact, that working mothers have a much broader outlook on life than those who stay at home. Their ideals seem to change with the times rather than grow stale with age and lack of understanding. At the age of 23, I can talk openly to my mother about my personal life, and I feel proud to call my mother my closest friend. Can the children of non-working mothers do the same?

VICTORIA WOMEN EXCHANGE INFORMATION

Women's Institute;  
c/o Pat Andrews,  
797 Hampshire

Girl Guides of Canada,  
938 Mason

Crises/Need,  
P.O. Box 5112, Stn. B.,  
V8R 6N3

Sisters' Council for the  
Mothers' Vision,  
1300 Pandora

Circle Craft,  
c/o Mary Cook,  
1715 Davie

Repeal of the Abortion Law,  
c/o Cathy Mountain,  
241 Howe

Women in Vietnam,  
c/o Rhoda Paellis,  
207 1414 Hillside

Consumers Association,  
c/o Barbara Rolls,  
104 1725 Cedar Hill X Rd

Single Parents,  
c/o James McCrossan,  
707 1020 Burdett

Parents in Crisis,  
c/o Bernice Packford,  
Ministry of Human Resources,  
1627 Fort

Saanich Mental Health,  
1243 Oscar St.

Saanich Peninsula  
Guidance Association,  
2440 Sidney Ave.

Day Care Mothers Ass'n  
c/o Doreen Newell,  
1578 Clive Drive

R.N.A.B.C.  
c/o Elizabeth Clement,  
1568 Westall

University Womens Ass'n,  
c/o Peggy Matheson,  
441 Victoria Ave

U- Vic Womens Action,  
c/o Christina Johnson,  
5 2517 Fernwood

Faculty Womens Club,  
c/o Lorraine Ayers,  
3940 Smugglers Cove

National Secretaries,  
c/o Joan Island,  
309 660 Niagara

Women in Law,  
c/o Gillian Smith,  
107 118 Croft St.

Conservative Womens Groups

John Howard Society-  
Womens Group,  
620 View St.

Intercultural Assoc.,  
620 View St.,

Transition House,  
523 Trutch St.,

Voice of Women,  
1821 Fern St.

Everywoman's Books,  
2033 Oak Bay Ave.

Rape Relief,  
15A 1947 Cook St

Women's Ecumenical Council,  
1042 Monterey

Victoria Council of Women,  
771 Pandora

-continued-

Women in Corrections,  
c/o 916 Johnson St.

Women in Social Work,  
c/o 916 Johnson St.

Jay Cettes,  
c/o Marilyn Webb,  
2031 Frederick Norris Rd.

Lesbian Action Group,  
1798 Kings Rd.

N.D.P. Womens Caucus,  
c/o Lois Vickery,  
552 Victoria Ave.

Business & Professional  
Womens Club,  
294<sup>1/2</sup> Wascana St.

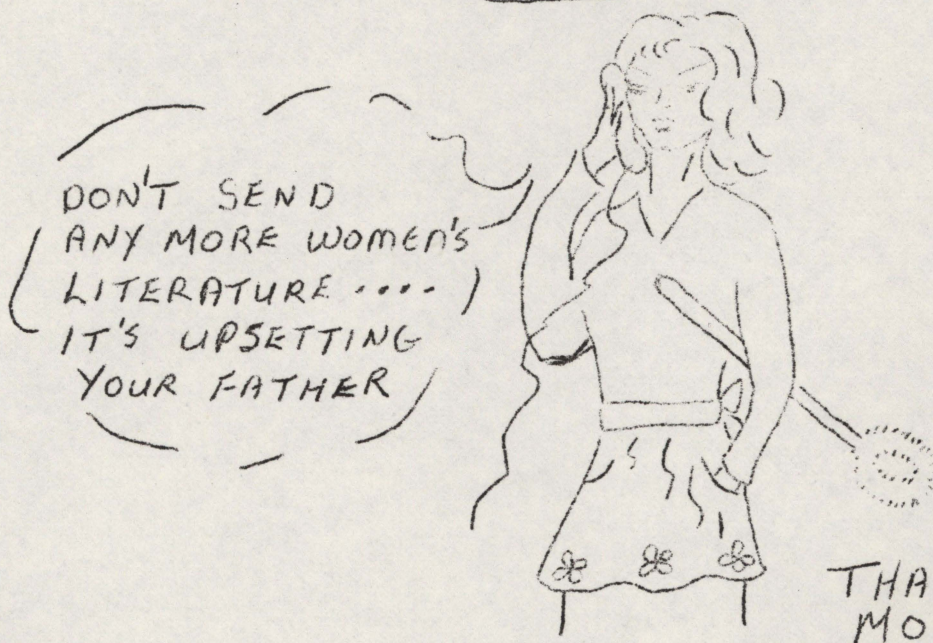
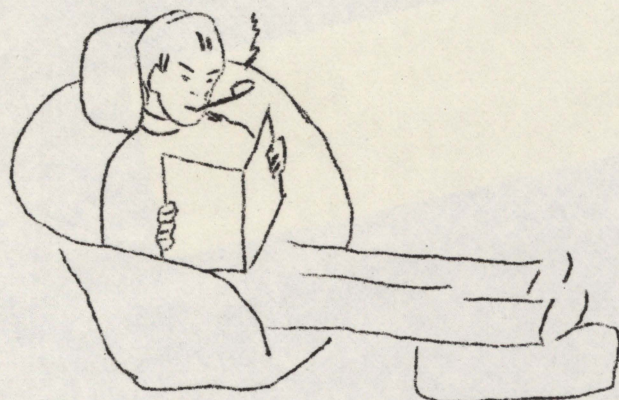
S.W.A.G.  
1429 Monterey Ave.

Community Action,  
551<sup>1/2</sup> Fisgard St.

Women Doctors Assoc.,  
c/o 1121 Yates.

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## THE PATRIARCHY



DON'T SEND  
ANY MORE WOMEN'S  
LITERATURE .... )  
IT'S UPSETTING  
YOUR FATHER

THANKS  
MOM!

