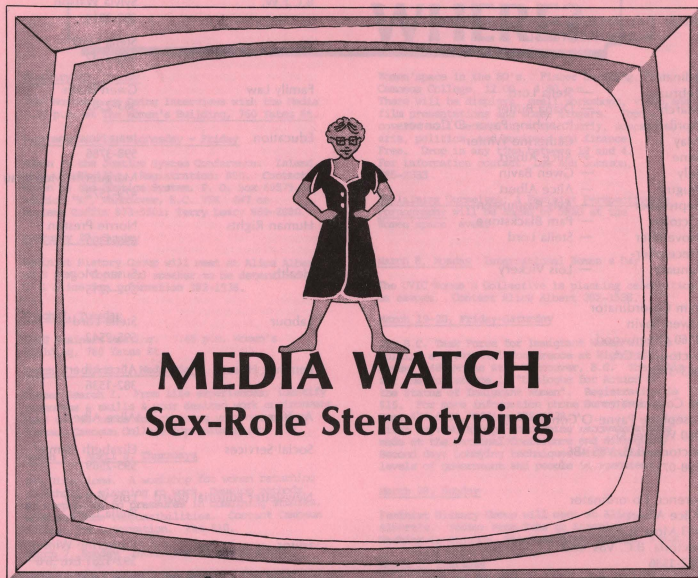
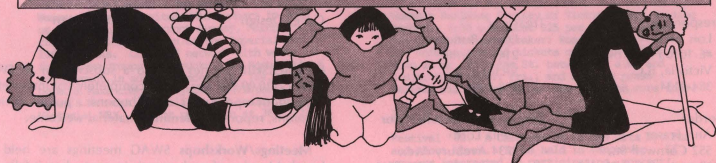


swag STATUS OF WOMEN NEWS



MEDIA WATCH

Sex-Role Stereotyping



The Victoria Status of Women Action Group was formed in 1971 in order to work for the implementation of the Report of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women; to foster public knowledge of the rights and status of women to promote full participation of women in social economic and political life.

SWAG is a voluntary group, registered as a society with an executive elected annually.

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

Co-ordinators

February	— Stella Lord
March	— Diana Butler
April	— Josephine Payne-O'Connor
May	— Catherine Winter
June	— Alice Albert
July	— Gwen Bavin
August	— Alice Albert
September	— Avis Rasmussen
October	— Pam Blackstone
November	— Stella Lord
December-January	— Lois Vickery

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Contact Women

Each of the Contact Persons has a particular area of interest in women's issues. Members who share that interest or, have a concern or problem in that area are encouraged to make contact.

Contact Women

B.C.F.W.	Sylvia Watson 382-3914 Stella Lord 595-2542
Family Law	Gwen Bavin 383-2502
Education	Jean Newton 598-3786 Marguerite Mousseau 479-1572
Human Rights	Norrie Preston 598-1390
Health	Susan Moger 592-4215
Labour	Stella Lord 595-2542
Feminist History	Alice Albert 382-1536
Archives	Alice Albert
Social Services	Elizabeth Hamlet 595-2569
Newsletter Editorial Board	Lois Vickery Stella Lord
Editor	Catherine Winter 592-1281 Ext. 378
Cover Design	Avis Rasmussen 598-3188

MEMBERSHIP Entitles you to a subscription to SWAG NEWS (\$10.00 per year) — a completely volunteer effort dependent upon your contributions... poems, articles, opinions, reports. **All feminist material welcome.**

Meetings/Workshops SWAG meetings are held the fourth Monday of each month (except when it falls on a holiday) at the Women's Building, 760 Yates, 7:30 p.m.

WHO? WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?

February 22, Monday

SWAG Workshop on Doing Interviews with the Media
7:30 p.m. at The Women's Building, 760 Yates St.

February 24 -26, Wednesday - Friday

Women in the Justice System Conference. Island Hall, Parksville. Registration: \$90. Contact Women in the Justice System, P. O. Box 69579, Station "K", Vancouver, B.C. V5K 4W7 or Marlene Coffin 873-5501; Terry Leary 669-2880.

February 28, Sunday

Feminist History Group will meet at Alice Albert's at 3 p.m. Topic and speaker to be determined. Call Alice for information 382-1536.

March 2, Tuesday

SWAG Business Meeting. 7:45 p.m. Women's Building, 760 Yates St.

March 3 - April 7, Wednesdays

Career Search I. From life experiences, identify strengths & skills & your desired work environment. Make use of tests for choosing your occupation. Contact Camosun College for information. \$10

March 4 - April 8, Thursdays

New Directions. A workshop for women returning to school & planning to work. Develop methods of responding to pressures in combining studies, work and home responsibilities. Contact Camosun College for information. Fee \$10.

March 7, Sunday International Women's Day

International Women's Day Brunch. Victoria Women's Network invites SWAG members to join us for an informal brunch Sunday, March 7th from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at the Imperial Inn, 1961 Douglas. Come and network with women from other groups and countries. Reservations and payment in advance necessary. (\$4.00 per person) Make cheques payable to Victoria Women's Network and mail to 893 Leslie Dr., Victoria, V8X 2Y5, or phone Lyn at 384-7825.

Women's space in the 80's. Fisher Building, Camosun College, 12:00 - 4:00 p.m. There will be displays, small workshops, video and film presentations and women singers. Topics covered will be health, work, family, education, arts, politics, and business and finance. Free. Drop in any time between 12 and 4. For information contact: Lee Ann Johnson, 385-2333

Reclaiming Ourselves: A Feminist Perspective on Pornography will be shown by SWAG at the Women's space event.

March 8, Monday International Women's Day

The UVIC Women's Collective is planning celebrations on campus. Contact Alice Albert 382-1536.

March 19-20, Friday-Saturday

The B.C. Task Force for Immigrant Women will be holding a Provincial Conference at Highcroft House, 1489 McBae St., Vancouver. B.C. The title for the Conference is "Dialogue for Action on the Status of Immigrant Women". Registration is \$15. For more information phone Buncy Pagely, Home 479-6824, Office 388-4728. First day: Workshops concerning recommendations made at the National Conference and dialoguing. Second day: Lobbying techniques with different levels of government and people in agencies.

March 28, Sunday

Feminist History Group will meet at Alice Albert's. Topic: From Tube to Steamies; Washing in Glasgow. Speaker: Alice Albert. 3 p.m.

April 1, Thursday

Women's Building Society of Victoria Fund Raising Dinner. 6:30 p.m. Cost \$25 per plate. Menu: Six Greek Dishes. Speaker: Rosemary Brown. For information and tickets call 381-4133 or drop in at 760 Yates St. between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Mon., Wed., Fri., and Sat. A press release will be going out shortly with more info.

July 5-11, 15-17

Festival '82. A Celebration of the Arts By, For and About Women. To be held in Vancouver. If you are interested in participating, contact: Carol Street, P.O. Box 1032, Stn. A., Vancouver V6C 2P1. Phone 681-8557. Brochure available from Catherine Winter 592-1282 ext 378.

Letters



January 6, 1982

Dear Lois,

This letter contains good news and bad news. The good news is that I have been successful in moving up the career ladder. Effective December 1, 1981, I assumed the position of Senior Social Development Officer for Native Citizens Programmes in British Columbia and the Yukon.

The bad news is that I will no longer be working with women's groups in Vancouver Island/Sunshine Coast region. I say bad news because working with you has been both professionally and personally rewarding. Please accept my sincere thanks for your cooperation, sharing of information and for all you've taught me.

Now for some more good news. Responsibility for Women's Programme in your area is being transferred to my colleague Ms. Sheila Brown. Shiela is a very warm and capable woman and I know your group will both benefit from and enjoy your working experience with her. Shiela is looking forward to meeting you during the New Year. If you want to get in touch with her, she can be reached at 732-4685.

Wishing you continuing success in your efforts, I am,

Yours sincerely,
Cheryl Brooks
Senior Social Development Officer

January 12, 1982

Dear Ms. Rasmussen:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of December 30th regarding the need for a full time staff person for the Women's Access Program at the College. The letter will be considered by the Board at its regular meeting in February.

You should be aware that our budget request for 1982-83 includes provision of the training you are requesting, and that we share your desire that our level of programming not be reduced.

If we face financial constraints in 1982-83 such that the total level of college services cannot be maintained, we shall be engaging in some very difficult and strenuous establishments of priorities and alternatives.

Thank you for writing to express your interest and support.

Yours very truly,

Lloyd H. Morin
Principal, Camosun College

January 14, 1982

Dear Ms. Blackstone:

Thank you for your letter of December 8, 1981, regarding our "B.C. Trade Practice Act" pamphlet.

Some time ago, I received a complaint that a pamphlet published under the jurisdiction of this Ministry made no reference whatsoever to women — the only persons depicted were male. That pamphlet was produced before I assumed this portfolio; I changed the policy.

Therefore, in the pamphlet about which you write, both males and females are represented. I think that is an important step forward.

With respect, I cannot entirely agree with you that in the particular pamphlet, women are depicted in a derogatory way while men are not ridiculed. I think the humour in Johnny Hart's cartoons is in large measure derived from the weaknesses and foibles of all the characters — male and female. Certainly, none of the characters fits any popular standards of physical attractiveness.

However, I have instructed my Information Branch to review the cartoons in this pamphlet prior to its next printing and to replace those in question with cartoons that better depict consumer transactions.

Thank you for bringing your concerns to my attention.

Yours sincerely,

Peter S. Hyndman, Minister
Ministry of Consumer and Corporate Affairs

P.S. I hope you appreciate my initiative in appointing the first woman Deputy Minister in the history of B.C. Actions speak louder than words!

Mr. Peter Menzies, Editor
Peninsula Free Press

January 14, 1982

Dear Mr. Menzies:

While you have not "incurred feminist wrath" (you are a little prone to hyperbole!), you have certainly necessitated a feminist response to your January 13th column (on pay for housework).

Firstly, the point made that some homemakers have "overbearing" husbands (though you have yet to meet a woman married to "such an ogre") is — sadly — very true. We have met, and assisted, many women with such husbands. Transition

Houses are full of such women. "Overbearing" is a rather euphemistic choice of words here: let's try domineering, bullying, and sometimes, violent.

Secondly, your concern about the source of the funds for such salaries is, of course, legitimate. But in your quest for humour, you have not treated this subject fairly. In fact, several noteworthy (and quite simple) schemes have already been proposed in this regard. One is, in fact, the phasing out of the federal income tax exemption for a "dependent" spouse (the government, contrary to your assertion that "it already subsidized housewives", presently compensates the husband for the wife's labour), and a re-allocation of this money in the form of increased Family Allowance cheques, directly to the "dependent" spouse. While this would only amount to \$210/month (based on the 1980 exemption), it would nevertheless compensate her to some degree for her own labour. (I would like to ask you to imagine the consequences, Mr. Menzies, if this argument had been applied to the concept of pensions or of subsidized medicare: our senior citizens would not have even the little protection they have today against poverty in old age, and affordable medical care would be economically unfeasible for many people. The point is, simple solutions do exist and, with a little effort and imagination, can be made workable.)

The analogy you cite re your slovenly college days is annoyingly irrelevant to a discussion of pay for housework. Of course you should not be paid for cleaning up after yourself. A homemaker, on the other hand, spends much of her time cleaning up after other people. She is providing both an essential public service (raising children... the citizens of tomorrow) and a valid personal service to the immediate members of her family. This should not be confused with picking up your socks when you feel so inclined.

There is, in fact, no clear consensus in the Canadian Women's Movement, on the issue of pay for homemakers. It is an extremely controversial issue. (Some feminists feel that such work should, indeed, be recognized and financially compensated as such; others fear that adequate salaries could encourage women to stay in the home, thus reinforcing traditional sex roles.) S.W.A.G. concurs with the proposal that homemakers be incorporated into the Canada/Quebec Pension Plan (which presently excludes them entirely) to reduce the penalty accompanying the status of homemaker. It should be pointed out, as well, that the C/QPP presently penalizes women who temporarily leave the labour force for family responsibilities by including in the total pension calculation all the low- or zero-income years spent working in the home. This results in drastically-reduced pensions for women.

Though some husbands do, of course, see that their wives are provided for, homemakers generally comprise a surprisingly vulnerable group in society. They are entirely dependent on the

male breadwinner for their economic survival; many can expect poverty on divorce or upon his death. (90% of divorcees do not receive alimony; 75% receive no child support.) As you yourself point out, few who have not actually undertaken the job recognize the heavy workload involved. Studies indicate that full-time homemakers perform between 50 and 100 hours/week of housework tasks. With, of course, no remuneration or benefits, no holidays or sick leave. The cost of replacing their services has been estimated at between \$12,000 and \$35,000 per annum.

You create the impression that homemakers "choose to stay at home, with or without children" while their husbands "take jobs". While it is undeniable that some do so choose, a great many others are compelled to remain home because of the lack of adequate day-care in this province. (According to one study, only one day-care space exists at present for every 18 children needing one.) Recent labour force statistics reveal that increasing numbers of married women, even those with children under six, are in fact entering (or re-entering) the labour force. A 1973 Canada Labour Force Survey indicates however, that, of those women who wished to work, but weren't, one-third gave inability to make satisfactory child-care arrangements as the reason. Moreover, the longer a woman is absent from the labour force, the less her "value" on the job market and the greater her difficulty upon re-entry.

Inadequate day-care, the lack of flexible working hours, the scarcity of jobs for women, and the inadequacy of training and re-training opportunities aggravate this problem tremendously for women wishing to (re)integrate. It is simplistic and irresponsible to imply that all homemakers "choose" to remain at home. Some women may indeed prefer to, but inflation is, increasingly, dictating the need for two salaries for many families to remain above the poverty-line. The fact is, however, that many such women face serious barriers to labour force participation.

Yours truly,
Lois Vickery

January 18, 1982
Dear Friend,

The Simone de Beauvoir Institute of Concordia University is putting on an exciting and important conference on Teaching and Learning Related to Women in Montreal in late July and early August 1982.

This conference is a follow-up on the Copenhagen conference two years ago and will advance greatly contacts between and knowledge of women all over the world.

To put it on is not easy and is, of course, expensive. The people at Simone de Beauvoir Institute hope to bring in up to 50 delegates

from each of 6 geo-political areas covering the whole world, Canada being one of the 6.

I was invited to Montreal last month for a meeting about the conference and it is as a result of the meeting that I am writing to you now.

- 1) If your group or the Women's groups in your area would like to sponsor a delegate from a poor country by providing her air fare please contact Line Robillard Heyniger at Concordia University, Simone de Beauvoir Institute, Sir George Williams Campus, MU Annex, 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West, Montreal, Quebec, H3G 1M8. She will be delighted.
- 2) If your group would like to nominate one or two women to the selection committee who will pick the Canadian delegates for the conference, send the names and information about the people to CRIAW, (International Conference for Teaching and Learning Related to Women), Suite 415, 151 Slater Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 5H3.
- 3) Do not hesitate to go to Montreal to attend the open sessions of the official conference and help set up an unofficial parallel conference, as happened in Copenhagen.
- 4) Please pass this information on to any Women's Group in B.C. or elsewhere with whom you are in contact. I know very few people and this information should travel as far and wide as possible. Thank you.

Yours very sincerely,

Jennifer R. Waelti-Walters
U. Vic. Department of French Language
and Literature

Dear Sir: (Sic)

Re: Employer Account #: VFK 95092 3

We acknowledge your recent communication and completed Form PD20, Employer Registration.

The employer account number which we have assigned to you is recorded above and it is important that you refer to this number in any future communication.

We are enclosing current Income Tax, Canada Pension Plan and Unemployment Insurance Payroll Deduction Tables, which contain related information, a supply of Form TDI Employee's Tax Deduction Return and Social Insurance Number Kit.

Yours truly,

M. Blumke
Revenue Canada Taxation

January 27, 1982
Dear Ms. Blackstone:

I was truly shocked this morning when I heard you advocate that ALL religious broadcasting be banned from the media! I hasten to say that it would not affect me personally since I do not watch evangelists on TV. However, one cannot have selective freedom of speech and there is little doubt that to many persons, some elderly and isolated, they are of great importance.

It appears to me that there is not nearly enough emphasis on the true sovereignty of the individual. We do have freedom of choice now to listen or watch evangelists on TV or radio or not to do so. We may choose to be subjugated or not by fundamentalist Christianity. I am not affiliated with any church, Christian or otherwise, but I certainly would not want to interfere with the right of someone who views things differently.

The application of English Common Law is really all that any of us needs, i.e. to be free to do anything we wish except that which is specifically forbidden. My freedom ends where yours begins. I do hope you will have serious second thoughts about this in favour of genuine democratic freedom which is being eroded palpably and daily.

Sincerely yours,
Sydney Carroll (Ms.)

P.S. Tish Lakes is a friend and former voice student of mine. She is living in the interior just now but was very active in women's affairs when living in Victoria. Maybe you know her. In any case, please realize that I am not some hopelessly traditional woman who might be written off as a Philistine!

Especially in support of your Action against religious infiltration. In the Dark Ages people bought off their sins with donations to the Cloisters and Churches; now they buy them off with donations to the churches of the media. We are still in the Dark Ages, only a bit more slick and far reaching.

Ms. Elly Roelossen

All Memberships
due

March 8th
Forms on Back Cover

ARTICLES

REPORT ON LABOUR

The focus of last year's SWAG meetings was "Women and Work". Apart from a handful of general enquiries on labour issues, therefore, a great deal of my activity as SWAG's contact person for labour issues was devoted to helping in the planning of topics for the monthly meetings and The Fall Conference also on "Women and Work."

The diversity of issues which are covered by the term "labour" was demonstrated by the range of topics at the conference workshops which covered issues from equal pay to pensions. As it happens, equal pay and pensions were also issues which seem to have been taken up with some vigour this past year by women across Canada.

The issue of equal pay for work of equal value has been the focus of several strikes by women in the union movement and the issue of pension reform has received unprecedented lobbying attention from both NAC and the Advisory Council

These two thrusts on these issues not only illustrate the determination of women to achieve financial independence but they also illustrate two different vehicles and methods of women's collective struggle for it: one via the union movement through collective bargaining and strikes and the other via women's organisations, through lobbying and education. Both need to be maintained if the degree of financial independence we need is to be achieved. The thrust of some unions (notably CUPE and HEU, the Hospital Employees Union, in B.C.) toward escalating demands for equal pay for work of equal value should be applauded and have the full support of women and women's organisations.

This brings me to an area of some anxiety on my part this past year. Two strikes in the Victoria area involving CUPE locals, one over equal pay for work of equal value (school board employees) and the other over working conditions and pay for part-time workers. Both strikes made gains for these women but for reasons which are complex and varied, neither local was completely successful in achieving its demands and in each case the strikes ran to ten weeks.

SWAG's involvement and my own was somewhat limited, and yet had women in the Victoria area been mobilized on the issues, I cannot help feeling that these strikes may have been of shorter duration and achieved a lot more. The reasons for our minimal involvement were:

- 1) the question of legal restrictions on secondary picketing;
- 2) the traditional reticence of unions to solicit help from 'outside' groups;
- 3) the limited amount of available time by active SWAG members during the strike in the Summer;
- 4) lack of ongoing contact and liaison between women in the union movement and women's groups;

5) reluctance of many in SWAG to engage in picketing or 'demonstrations.'

Despite these problems a demonstration on the equal pay issue was organized by Maxine Boag, a SWAG member and an active member of the B.C. Teachers Federation which was attended and actively supported by a number of women's groups in Victoria, including myself on behalf of SWAG. I also spent a couple of mornings helping with picketing (but felt it should have been more!).

During the strike of part-time library assistants in CUPE, members of the local came to explain their position to our November meeting and letters were written to members of the Board in support of their demands.

These two strikes, which were over very crucial issues for working women, raised for me the following questions, which I also believe need to be addressed by SWAG:

- 1) How can women's organizations support such strikes? What can we offer in SWAG?
- 2) Do women in trade unions want our support?
- 3) If yes, do we need to foster more liaison with women in trade unions in Victoria? How can we do this?

One positive move recently has been the start of preliminary discussions on the possibility of forming an Equal Pay Coalition through the initiative of Nola Landucci (a SWAG member and former Director of the Human Rights Branch in B.C.). The aim of the coalition is and when it gets underway will be to bring the equal pay for work of equal value concept, which is now incorporated in the federal legislation, into the B.C. Human Rights Legislation.

The announcement by Premier Bennett in November that he would appoint a Deputy Minister for Women's Employment in the near future created a flurry of activity, and an extensive and comprehensive brief on women and employment is in the process of being prepared by Pam Blackstone (under the advice of the coordinating committee) for submission to Premier Bennett in the near future.

Stella Lord
Labour

FUND-RAISING REPORT TO DATE

To all those members who so generously dug into their wallets or chequebooks, in response to our cry for help, we want to express our deepest appreciation. Your generous donations are already helping us nearer to our goal. It is very heart-warming to know that we have such solid and real support behind us. This office is going to happen!

We have expanded our original vision, and see the office functioning as a Women's Resource Centre, providing access to feminist information and research, and offering support and referral for women in crisis or needing support, and providing a place for women to make social contact with one another. (This already exists, in a way, spread among a handful of women's homes. We want to see it centralized, with high community visibility. It will enable us to more effectively fulfill our (w)mandate.)

To all of you who received our letter requesting donations and put it aside or threw it out, because it was too near Christmas; or because it was another unneeded hassle; or because you had other things on your mind at the time; or because your finances were tight; we now respectfully ask you to take a moment to reconsider. Any donation, even just \$5.00, will help us get one step closer to realizing our vision. If all our members gave just \$10, we would be \$2,000 richer!

We would also like to clear up a possible source of confusion. Unbeknownst to us, the Women's Building Society sent out a mailing around the same time as ours, also requesting donations for their goal of a Women's Building and to pay a salary. We have had some feed-back, asking why the two groups don't get together and share space and an employee.

This is a valid question, which deserves a prompt answer. Firstly, the Women's Building Society is trying to raise funds to purchase a building, so their goal is considerably higher than ours. And, in fact, we are presently looking into sharing their office space. This rented space is viewed by them as temporary, and we see sharing it as an interim measure until Victoria gets its Women's Building. (We share with them the vision of this building housing all of Victoria's feminist groups. Just think of the networking possibilities!) Until this happens, we are taking the first step toward this, by moving in together. If other groups are interested, eventually a larger space will be needed.

The salaried position which both groups are seeking funds for, however, cannot be shared. We wish to hire a Co-ordinator, who will oversee and handle much of SWAG's day-to-day operations, at the direction and with the help of the Coordinating Committee members. The Women's Building Society, on the other hand, is hoping to hire a professional fund-raiser, to co-ordinate and spear-head their serious drive for the large sums needed to purchase a building. This person's focus and expertise will necessarily be entirely on fund-raising. They are not looking for a Co-ordinator or, indeed, we would have looked into sharing an employee. We hope this has cleared up any misunderstanding.

Again, thank you to everybody who has given their support. And if you chose not to, we ask you to reconsider. If a donation is out of the question, there are other ways you can help. The office will need supplies, equipment, and

furniture -- from paper clips to desks. If you have, or know of, any surplus items available free or cheap please give Shirley (386-4467) a call. It would help a lot!

From: Times-Colonist January 25/82 p. 25

EIGHT-HOUR DAY AND CONTRACT ASKED FOR MOM

Winnipeg (CP) - A Carleton University professor says mothers at home should have a statutory eight-hour workday, other worker benefits and the right to negotiate a contract.

"Motherwork should be rewarded and recognized," said Helen Levine of the Ottawa university's school of welfare studies. She was speaking to the Perspectives on Women in the 1980's conference at the University of Manitoba held recently.

Levine said mothers who decide to work outside the home should be encouraged.

But she said fathers have to get more involved in caring for children in order to give them the attention they need.

"We have no question children deserve tender loving care and that services must be maintained. What we protest is that this is restricted to one sex."

Today's man-centred society denies mothers the right to equality at home and in the business world, she said.

"Men have a vested interest in maintaining dominance so they will maintain the kinds of services they get at home and in the workplace."

From: WIN NEWS Spring '81

THE DEPO-PROVERA CONTROVERSY

Pro

"Report to USAID of the Ad Hoc Consultative Panel on Depot Medroxyprogesterone Acetate" (July 1980), U.S. Agency for International Development (AID), Office of International Health

"Conclusions of the International Medical Advisory Panel on DMPA at its Meeting on 14th October, 1980", International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), 18-20 Lower Regent St., London SW1Y 4PW, England

"Eighth Annual Report" of the Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction, World Health Organization, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland

Con

"Depo-Provera, A Critical Analysis" by Stephen Minkin, Published by the National Women's Health Network, 224 Seventh St., SE, Washington, D.C.

"Testimony on Depo-Provera before the Subcommittee on International Economic Policy and Trade, Committee on Foreign Affairs, U.S. House of Reps., Washington, DC by Stephen Minkin.

"The Corporate Crime of the Century" published in Mother Jones, 625 Third St., San Francisco, CA 94107

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Washington, DC, refuses permission to distribute the drug in the U.S.A.



Daughters of Copper Woman by Anne Cameron

A great majority of the SWAG newsletter readers at one time or another may have visited Everywoman's Books. Some might even remember when it was located in Oak Bay Ave. Many women will recall Everywoman's anniversary's celebrated by tea and cake served in the store on the Saturday closest to Valentine's Day. This year is to be no exception, in fact it is a special celebration. We are seven years old.

You are invited to join us for tea and cake from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on February 13th. Although all twenty collective members will not be there at one time we will be in and out during the day.

The collective has grown from that small but brave group of five in 1975 who opened a store on Oak Bay Ave. with a small amount of money to over twenty today. All decisions are made collectively at pot luck suppers every other Thursday. Schedules and agendas are dealt with at that time. Our main objective has always been to keep the store open Tuesday through Saturday 10:30 - 5:30 and offering books by, for and about women. Supporting women writers and the feminist publishing industry is now an integral part of the collective.

So this year as part of our celebration Everywoman's and Press Gang are presenting Anne Cameron reading from her latest book Daughters of Copper Woman. The reading will take place at

the store on February 13th at 7:30 p.m.

In many ways this reading is a special event. This is going to be a celebration of the collective power of women. Press Gang Publishing is a feminist collective from Vancouver. Anne Cameron, a life long resident of the Island, has presented us with stories from native women reflecting the collective power of women.

In 1980, Anne received permission to set the stories down which had been related to her by native women. Weaving together the lives of mythic and contemporary characters, Daughters of Copper Woman, offers a story of old magic and old ways. She tells how the native women of the Island maintained a flourishing intertribal society. It was here that the wisdom of the older women was conveyed, in story and deed, to the new generation.

One very poignant chapter for me was titled The Warrior Women. She speaks of "A woman warrior (who) recognized the face of the enemy and was prepared to do whatever necessary to defeat it". The old woman goes on to talk about the circle "...it was fine to go to the circle, ... just sit with women, and listen and maybe get strength from smiles and cuddles and just bein' with women you knew loved you."

As part of a modern warrior woman circle at Everywoman's I am excited about the reading of Daughters of Copper Woman. It is time to celebrate the collective power of women.

Connie McCann

Editor's Note: I have given the complete text even though this won't be out in time to be an announcement because the event and the whole of Connie's thesis needed to be recorded.

Pornography Bibliography

Books:

Susan Brownmiller, Against Our Will: Men, Women and Rape, Simon and Schuster, New York, 1981.

Brownmiller's groundbreaking work on rape puts violence against women in its proper context and does away with many myths that surround the issue of rape.

Lorenn Clark and Debra Lewis, Rape: The Price of Coercive Sexuality, Women Press, Toronto, 1977

Clark and Lewis connect rape and possession of property in this important Canadian book.

Andrea Dworkin, Pornography: Men Possessing Women, perogee Books, New York, 1981.

According to Dworkin, pornography reinforces male power. This is a compelling book especially because Dworkin does not hide her feelings about the subject. Not for the squeamish, but then neither is the subject.

Beatrice Faust, Women, Sex and Pornography, Macmillan, New York, 1981.

This concerned point of view stresses the need for sex education in a culture that needs pornography.

Susan Griffin, Pornography and Silence: Culture's Revenge Against Nature, Harper and Row, New York, 1981.

This is an ambitious text that tries to deal with art, eros and other cultural issues. Griffin's is the most eloquent argument for women to speak out, but the book makes most sense if you are familiar with her last book, Women and Nature.

Laura Lederer, Take Back the Night: Women on Pornography, William Morrow and Co., New York, 1980.

This anthology of writings on every aspect of the pornography issue includes women's experience in the trade, the legal issues and excerpts from major texts. As an overview, this book is most useful.

Periodicals

Body Politic, April and August 1978. In the April issue, Gerald Hannon articulated the gay liberation point of view on censorship opposing the feminist stance. In the August issue, the Body Politic published the responses from feminists under the title "Pornography: The New Ter-

rorism?" Included is a think piece from Andrea Dworkin addressing issues that are dealt with more extensively in her new book and a letter from Eve Zaremba and Susan G. Cole.

Saturday Night, September and October, 1978. Robert Fulford's September column contained familiar arguments against censorship but in his October column, he admits he ought to think about it a little more. Perhaps the sentiments expressed in Christina McCall Newman's piece on the back page of the October issue had something to do with his change of heart.

Mother Jones, April 1980. Entitled "Sex Porn and Male Rage" this is a must read issue for anyone exploring the issue of violence against women. Included is an examination of the pornography industry and an extraordinary investigative piece on the anatomy of a sex crime.

This Magazine, Vol. 12, No. 3, July-August 1978. This issue contains Wynna Kostash's "Pornography, a Feminist View" which is the first careful study of the issue from a feminist perspective in a Canadian periodical.

From: Broadsheet November 1981, p.11

Announcements

Beyond The Rainbow

Beyond the Rainbow is a newly formed collective in Victoria that came together to administer facilities at 538A Yates St. These facilities consist of a meeting space, with kitchen, a small format video organization - Mandala Media-and, for three days of the week an informal coffeehouse with openings for performers, art exhibitions or poetry readings. Beyond the Rainbow was formed with networking in mind.

Memberships fees are \$5 for individuals, \$10 for non-profit groups, \$20 for profit groups. Memberships entitle you to rent Beyond the Rainbow for any meetings, workshops or functions that are in accordance with the aims of the collective: day \$10, night \$15, weekend - by special arrangement.

Coffee House Hours: Thurs/Fri/Sat 3-10 p.m.

For more information call: Pashta MaryMoon 386-4663

Law Centre

The Law Centre is moving to a new location at 1221 Broad St. Telephone 388-4516

Women As Elders

Resources for Feminist Research is planning to publish an issue in 1982 entitled Women as Elders. The overall theme will be tansistions, changes and continuities in female elders' lives. The guest editor for this issue is Emily Nett from the University of Manitoba. The deadline for receipt of materials in APRIL 15, so send your ideas for the issue now. Address: RFR, OISE, 252 Bloor St. West, Toronto, Ont. M5S 1V6

Status of Women Canada

A national study is being undertaken under the auspices of Status of Women Canada. A modest but serious study to assess the current status of women in Canadian theatre particularly women playwrights, directors and artistic directors. If you work in the theatre, have been involved in feminist theatre, have concerns about the characterization of women in plays, are aware of any obstacles, and/or can suggest programs, legislation or other action, contact: Rina Fratielli, 96A Bellevue Ave., Toronto, Ont M5T 3N9

SWAG After September

After September, SWAG meetings will be:
Business - 1st Tuesday of the Month
Workshops - 4th Tuesday of the Month.
Meetings will be held at the Women's Building
760 Yates St.
SWAG in 1982

At the retreat on February 5 and 6 some decisions about where SWAG is going were made. For this year we have decided to focus on the Image of Women in the Media. We will be having workshops on many aspects of this, including the tie in with pornography, advertising's effects in the third world. We will also be planning actions around the theme.

The year will have a second theme. This is our tenth anniversary. We will be celebrating our birthday. The conference will be closely tied to the history of women and to the history of SWAG.

Some decisions about the format of meetings were also made. To make what have been our general meetings more attractive to new members and to enhance their educational or informational role we have decided to limit the business to announcements and information about major activities. The meetings will become mainly workshops. The business of SWAG will be conducted at the other monthly meeting which used to be called the Co-ordinating Committee Meeting. As it has in the past this meeting will be open to all members. We will not however, repeat most of the business at the workshops.

SWAG has also taken the plunge and rented office space in the Women's Building. We will have all our meetings there in future. Renting the office will give us a place for files, and if funding comes through, a place for the office co-ordinator to work from. We see this as a vital step for SWAG if it is to survive as a functioning group.

If you have comments or want more information call any of the Co-ordinating Committee members listed on the inside of the front cover.

Office Equipment Needed

SWAG needs equipment for our office. If you can donate any of the following or are willing to donate money toward any of the following please contact Shirley Avril 386-4467

desk lamp
office chair
folding and stacking chairs
filing cabinet
bookshelves
typewriter
periodical holders
pencil sharpener
small couch
ashtrays

if you can think of anything else ask Shirley.

Feminist Parenting Support Group

A support group to deal with feminist parenting issues such as childbirth, pay for parenting, single mothers and community resources is being formed. The objective of the group will be to support feminist parents, explore political issues around feminist parenting and plan actions on these issues. To join or get more information contact; Josephine Payne-O'Connor 598-1703

The Image of Women in the Media

This will be the focus of SWAG workshops and actions this year. In keeping with this theme the following are the Canadian Advertising Advisory Board guidelines on non-sexist advertising. We urge all members to keep these in mind and to write and complain when they are violated.

The Canadian Advertising Advisory Board has set up a special Advisory Committee on Sex-Role Stereotyping. The Committee's guidelines for non-sexist advertising include:

recognition of the changing role and occupations of men and women

portrayal of the family showing men, women and children as equally supportive participants in home management and household tasks

portrayal of men and women of various ages, backgrounds and appearances in a wide range of activities.

portrayal of men and women as equally capable, resourceful, self-confident, intelligent, imaginative, independent and decision-making beings

avoidance of showing excessive dependence on or need for products

use of males and females in advertising relevant to the product

use of non-sexist language

a realistic balance in the use of women both as voice-overs and as experts and authorities

Members of the public are encouraged to send to the Committee complaints about advertising which they feel does not present realistic portrayals of men and women. Complaints should be sent to CAAAB Advisory Committee on Sex-Role Stereotyping 1240 Bay Street, Suite 305, Toronto, Ont. M5R 2A7

From. Equal Times 3 no.1:10-11, Dec. 1981

*Renew Your
Membership NOW*

Review of In Her Own Right

In Her Own Right: Selected Essays on Women's History in B.C.

addresses a variety of subjects from the time of the first immigration of single women on the Tynemouth, in 1862, to the absorption by the war effort in the late 1930's of groups of women who had until that time been most active in the reform and relief efforts begun by B.C.'s maternal feminist reformers. A picture gradually emerges of a group of prominent, very active Vancouver and Victoria middle-class women and the organizations in which they were involved. The same names appear over and over again, names of women who could be active in the reform movements of the day because of their privileged position as members of the leisure class. This is not to deny that women like Maria Grant, Helen MacGill, and Evelyn Farris made genuine strides for the advancement of women, and much needed reforms in B.C. However, it is paradoxical that they were able to do so in great part due to the social status they acquired by virtue of having influential upper and middle class fathers or husbands.

The essays do not shy away from problems which resulted from the middle-class backgrounds of some of the prominent women and women's groups. Tami Adilman, in her essay on "Evelyn Farris and the University Women's Club," points out that "It is obvious that the Women's Liberal Association did not want their membership to include working women."¹ Reference is made in other parts of the book to women's organizations which preferred to remain elitist middle-and-upper-class in character. Nora Lupton states that "Participation in the B.C. Protestant Orphan's Home Ladies' Committee was an indication of status,"² though she also goes on to point out that the home provided excellent care for its children for fully one hundred years.

Given the stratified character of the society of the day, it is hardly surprising that the reform movement and its attendant women's suffrage movement tended to be the preserve of women of leisure and privilege. Opportunities for other classes of women were very limited, so that they would have had to concentrate chiefly on survival. Deborah Nilson's essay shows that the prevalence and persistence of prostitution in Vancouver, particularly during times of economic depression, was related to the scarcity of other means of employment for women.

It is unfortunate that the women most in need of reform assistance were not the women with enough power to address the problems, and that the women who were respected in the community conversely didn't have the working women's perspective. Marie Campbell, in her essay on sexism in B.C.

trade unions, shows how trade union men turned to middle-class women's groups rather than to working women for advice on women's wages, with the result that a wage for women was accepted which was less than one-third that which James Wilton, a trade union leader, considered a reasonable wage for a working woman.³ Briefs from middle-class women's groups expressed a desire to "Be fair to employers as well as the employee,"⁴ natural enough since their husbands were more likely to be employers than employees. No less prominent a woman than Helen MacGill failed to support women's needs for higher wages.⁵

Additionally, mention is made throughout In Her Own Right of the racist bias of these women, or at least the tendency of important B.C. women's groups to use the general anti-Oriental bias in their rhetoric to further their own political ends. Only two of the women portrayed in the book, Agnes Deans Cameron and Helena Gutteridge, are shown to have had a lifelong commitment to genuine egalitarian principles of equal rights for men and women. Both seem to have been unusual women in other ways as well, less committed than the others to maintaining the middle-class Anglo-Saxon lifestyle with its traditional marriage roles, and more interested in their own personal fulfillment. For many of the others, as Gillian Weiss concludes, "the suffrage campaign was a minor battle in the war to retain and extend middle-class values throughout society."⁶

All of this becomes more understandable when we view the prominent women and women's organizations of B.C. in the decades around the turn of the century as part of the larger North American reform movement. It is helpful to have the kind of historical perspective Linda Kealey gives us in her introduction to A Not Unreasonable Claim, Women and Reform in Canada, 1880-1920's. The emergence of women into the public sphere is described by Kealey as "a primarily middle-class revolt against the uselessness of a dependent existence (which) emerged in late Victorian Canada just as public attention was focussing on a series of social problems which seemed to threaten the smooth path of progress." She describes the tendency of families to be involved in reform causes together, and we can see a number of husband-wife teams very active in reform in B.C.: the Farrisces, the Smiths, Rev. and Mrs. Lashley Hall, Agnes and Grace MacInnis, Bishop and Mrs. Cridge. Kealey also notes that "involvement in one group often meant involvement in other reform interests,"⁸ and certainly it is apparent both in the essays and Linda Hale's "Profiles of Prominent British Columbia Suffragettes and Social Reformers" that many of the women described were active in a number of groups. Kealey also describes the fears of social degeneration held by white Anglo-Saxon Protestants, and the belief in the superiority of their own social mores which was a driving force in

their reform movements, and was reinforced by church doctrines. Women were welcome in reform groups for their nurturing abilities and this led to the rise of "maternal feminism," which Kealey defines as "the conviction that woman's special role as mother gives her the duty and the right to participate in the public sphere."⁹ It would seem that in B.C. as elsewhere most early feminists were maternal feminists.

The most important point under consideration here is that suffrage was not a primary goal for these women, whose feminism had little to do with a belief in natural equal rights. Suffrage was a tool which they hoped would give them "the power to achieve the reforms in family, property, and labor laws which affected women and children."¹⁰ Given Kealey's larger historical perspective, the middle-and-upper-class elitist, religious and sometimes racist nature of many of the prominent B.C. women and women's groups becomes not only understandable but predictable.

As Gillian Marie says in her opening essay, "Historians have written about the suffrage movement, but in isolation and not within the context of a wider social reform movement. This narrow focus gives the reader the false impression that suffrage is the sole story of women in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, that their only goal was the franchise, and that feminism died with the granting of the suffrage."¹¹ Many different B.C. women's organizations were interested in suffrage for many different reasons, but common to most of them was the fact that the franchise was considered a necessary tool rather than a major goal. Diane Crossley shows in her essay how many of these women continued to press for reform and were subsequently involved in the Liberal government's new social policies after B.C. women finally got the vote in 1917. They used the franchise to accomplish the reform goals they had set for themselves decades before. Whatever their motives and class interests, the B.C. women whose lives are illuminated in In Her Own Right accomplished a great deal in the areas of necessary reform and helped us all to have our primary political tool, the vote. They may not have been truly interested in equal rights for women, but their efforts have made it possible for us to work today to influence government policy toward that end.

Footnotes:

1 Barbara Latham/Cathy Kess, editors, In Her Own Right, Selected Essays on Women's History in B.C. (Victoria: Camosun College, 1980), p. 162.

2 Ibid., p. 45.

3 Ibid., p. 174.

4 Ibid., p. 177.

5 Ibid., p. 180.

6 Ibid., p. 284.

7 Linda Kealey, editor, A Not Unreasonable Claim, Women and Reform in Canada, 1880's - 1920's, (Toronto: The Women's Educational Press, 1979), p. 1.

8 Ibid., p. 3.

9 Ibid., p. 7.

10 Ibid., p. 13.

11 Latham/Kess, op. cit., p. 2.

* * * * *

An Exercise in Sexism... 'Women's Movement Causes Old Age'

That is the next headline we expect to read in our daily newspaper. The next best thing was provided in Today (a free magazine you get with English-language weekend papers, whether you want it or not) in their April 25 article on 'Bag Ladies.'

In the featured subheading to the article, Today proclaims: "The women's movement has rescued battered wives and single mothers but done little about a problem it may have helped to create: the growing number of vagrant women on the skid roads of Canada."

We searched everywhere in the article for the proof of this absurd and outrageous statement that the women's movement created the problem of vagrant women.

We think we found it: "The increase had been linked to the greater mobility afforded women by the women's movement."

To us this means either or both of: the women's movement is running a bus service or women who stay put in their place don't come to bad ends.

We are tired of the media giving us little lessons of this type.

We are greatly tired of the media's use of every article on every problem of women, children or men as another opportunity for a cheap shot at one of the most important social movements of our time.

The next worst thing after the fact that the statement appeared at all is that a woman wrote it. A female representative of the Salvation Army was also quoted in the same article as saying in her opinion one of the reasons why the Salvation Army provides 50 beds across Canada for these women in contrast to 2,300 for men is that it is upsetting to think of women sharing dormitory-type accommodation.

Therefore, it is better that they remain on the street.

Meanwhile, the women's movement was responsible for every single one of the new-type shelters that do exist for battered women and women in different crisis situations but we have yet to see a headline reading: WOMEN'S MOVEMENT TAKES RESPONSIBILITY FOR WOMEN IN CRISIS WHO ARE SHUNNED BY TRADITIONAL SOCIAL AGENCIES, GOVERNMENTS AND CHURCHES.

That would be a lot truer than what appeared in Today.

From: Communiqu'elles, May 1981, p. 13.

MediaWatch

MediaWatch, a sub-committee of NAC is distributing complaint forms. The forms are available from MediaWatch, Box 46699, Stn. G, Vancouver, B.C. V6R 4K8. A special Task Force on Sex-Role Stereotyping in the Electronic Media has been set up by the CRIC and some guidelines for 'self-regulation' will be created.

Send complaints on forms or freehand to:

CBC Television and Radio:
CBC and Radio Canada,
c/o Louise Imbeault, Co-ordinator,
Portrayal of Women,
1500 Bronson Ave,
Ottawa, Ont. K1G 3J5

Canadian Advertising Advisory Board
1240 Bay St., Suite 305, Toronto, Ont. M5R 2A7

Canadian Association of Broadcasters
P.O. Box 627, Station B, Ottawa, Ont. K1P 5S2

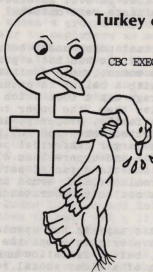
C.R.T.C., c/o Secretary General's Office
Ottawa, Ont. K1A 0N2

Be sure and send a copy to MediaWatch at the above address.

Editors Note: The forms are self carboning, and produce four copies

Turkey of the Month!

CBC EXECUTIVE PRODUCER



who authorized the Strip-O-Gram to be delivered to the weather man on the 6 p.m. News on New Year's Eve.

swag MEETING

7:30 Monday February 22

WOMEN'S BUILDING

760 Yates

Speaker: Mimi Robertson

Topic: 'Dealing with the Media'

Memberships Due

November \$4.00 to March 1982 or \$14.00 to March 1983

June Andrews Irene Hill Elzby Jazinski Ann Wilmut Nina Westaway

December \$3.00 to March 1982 or \$13.00 to March 1983

Sheila Anderson	D. Balin	Florence Best	Gayle Chapman	Penelope Czwarno
Phyllis Carlyle	Barbara Darling	Sheila Drew	Carolyn Folse	Donyne Haggarty
Colleen Hicks	Ann Haggarty	Lou Holland	M.J. Johnson	Sandy Kennedy
Bev Kruithoff	Jerrine Lee	Maureen Lawson	Cheryl Leask	Alison McAdam
MacKintosh/Spiney..	Jan Meadows	Ruth Miller	Denise Nadeau	Mary Potrebenko
Irene Scott	Paddy Tsurumi	Ruth Taylor	Barb Walker	Nadya Ward

January \$2.00 to March 1982 or \$12.00 to March 1983

Joyce Bewley	Elma Cobb	Elizabeth Hamlet	Mary Caffka	Shirley Keller
Barbara Latham	Dorothy Livingston	Mary Martin	M. Nixon	Janet Patterson
Roberta Pazdro	Mimi Robertson	Susan Slatkoff		

February \$1.00 to March 1982 or \$11.00 to March 1983

Sandy Middlemiss Maxine Zurbrigg

March 1982 \$10 until March 1983

ALL MEMBERSHIPS DUE !!!!!!!!!!!!!*****

Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____

Renewal: ☐ New: ☐ Gift: ☐

Membership is \$10⁰⁰ per year due March 8.

Send to: SWAG

(Reduced rates available if needed).

Post Office Box 6273 Stn. C,
Victoria, B.C. V8P 5L5

From: Box 6296, Stn. C,
Victoria, B.C.
V8P 5L5

Stella Lord,
2734 Avebury Ave.,
Victoria,
B.C. V8R 3W4

Memberships Due

8:30
MEETING

Membership form

7:30 Monday February 22

WOMEN'S BUILDING 8:30-9:30 PM

Speaker Mimi Robertson

Phone Office Box 6296 Stn. C

Order with the Media