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Lesbian News

# RAG

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Lots more happened -- check this Newsletter -- but final note is a word to these courageous womyn Women in Protest (whether you all are) for the "STOP BPE" spots that appeared on our street March 7th. Great to see the action and thank for spreading the awareness.

'Till next month ... in sisterhood,

Marlene

... ACCOUNTS ...

... Meeting on March 27th ...

... 1981, ...

... for more information ...

NON-VIOLENCE TRAINING FOR WOMEN -- April 4 & 5 ... Call Pashtata ...

GAY MEN'S GROUP -- March 27th ... 1220 Pandora Ave. ... "Coming Out" Radio - Guest Speaker ...

WOMYN'S NITE AT ... CLUB -- Every 2nd Thursday ... lounge atmosphere 7:30 - 9:00 ... disco 9:30 - ... No cover ...

NEXT ISSUE OF "RAG" ...

Lots of good feminist, home-grown poetry ... extra information & background on ... Bishop....Pashta's article on "Spirituality & Counselling" .... Words of Power .... articles & information on Violence Against Womyn... and more!!

Coming out -- (no pun intended) -- APRIL 15th.

## F.L.A.G. Newsletter 1981

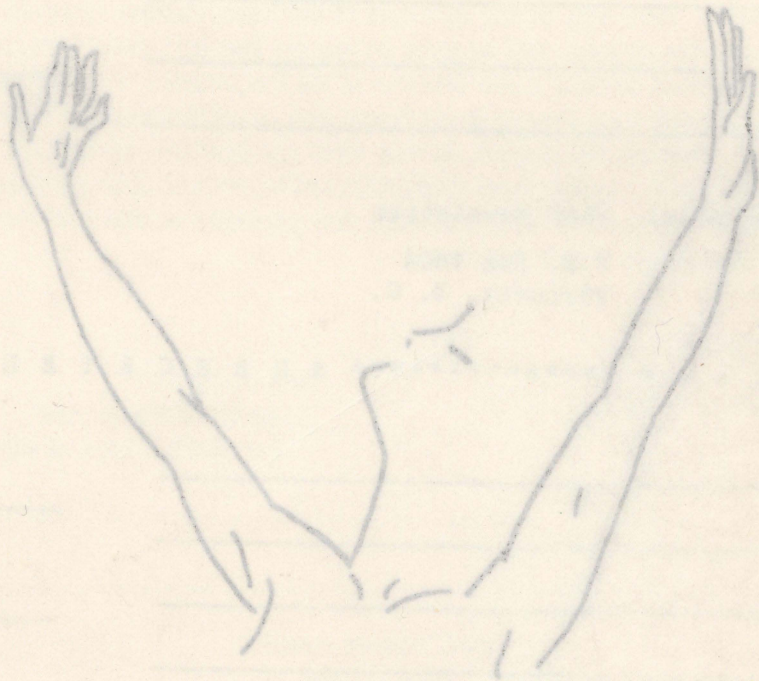
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F.I.A.G. Newsletter 1981

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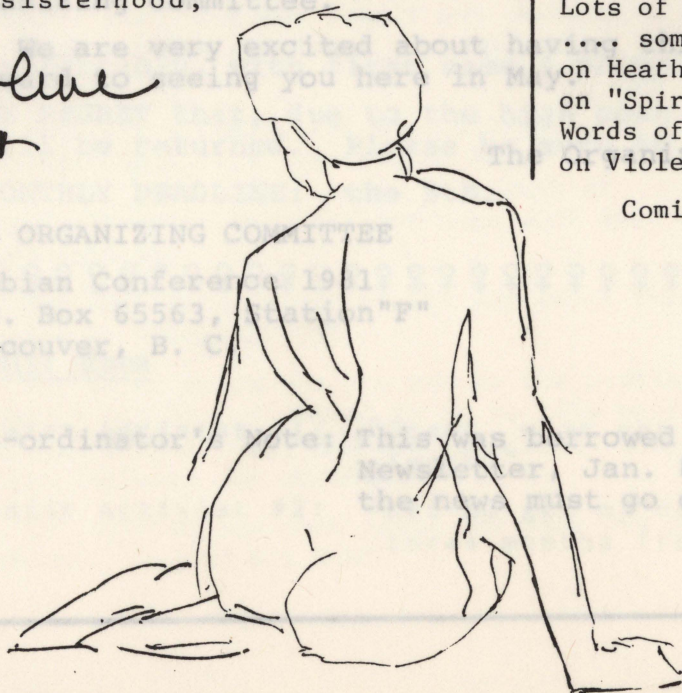
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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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F.L.A.G. Meeting -- March 29th, 7:30 p.m.  
Donna's.

NEWSLETTER Meeting -- March 18th, 4 - 6 p.m.  
Marlene's.

SPIRITUAL CIRCLE FOR WIMMIN -- Every Sunday,  
8 p.m. , #1 - 507 Simcoe Str.  
Call Pashta for more information:  
382-4460

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The ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Lesbian Conference 1981  
P.O. Box 65563, Station "F"  
Vancouver, B. C.

(Co-ordinator: This was borrowed (?) from the BCFW  
Newsletter Jan. 81. My apologies but...  
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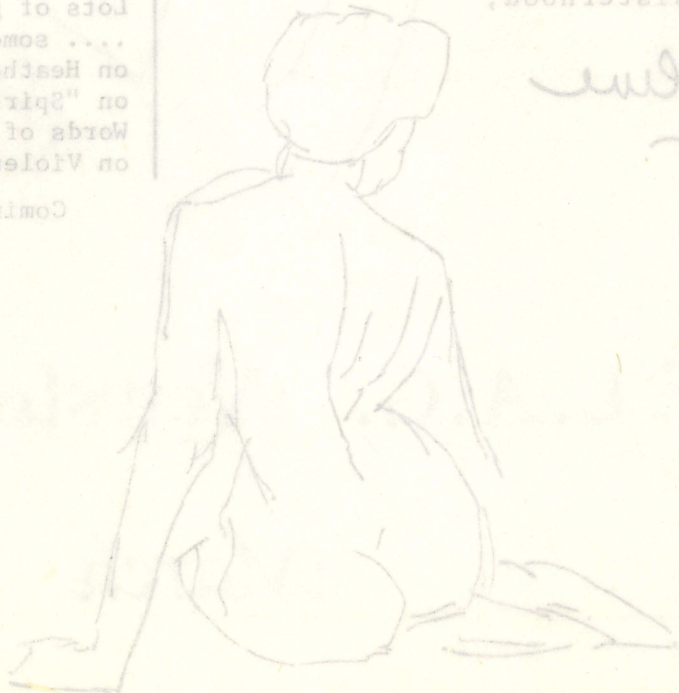
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 on Violence Against Womyn... and more!!  
 Words of Power... articles & information on "Spirituality & Counseling"....  
 on Heather Bishop.... Pashta's article... some extra information & background lots of good feminist, home-grown poetry



# 1981 Lesbian Conference

Sisters:

Preparation for the 1981 Lesbian Conference, the first in two years, and the first-ever west of Ontario, are well under way. It will be held in Vancouver May 16, 17 and 18 of 1981. The organizing committee is made up of approximately fifteen women from many areas of the lesbian community.

We are planning the conference to represent the interests of all of us - for, as lesbians, we continue to face lack of money, and social outlets, threat of job dismissal, threat of child custody battles, and non-recognition and censorship in the arts and in sports.

We want the conference to be an enjoyable time where we can exchange experiences, information and skills, and also take away some practical organizing ideas, contacts, and networks in order to continue working together after the conference. In Vancouver, we are already using the conference as a way to help strengthen our local organizations and networks and to establish a strong lesbian presence in the community at large. To date, we have had two dances and a salmon bake to start raising money, ideas and enthusiasm; and we have several more events planned. We are also planning events like film and art shows and a public meeting to run concurrently with the conference but to be open to the general public. We hope to provide English-French translation and signing. The conference will be wheelchair accessible.

We have also put together a questionnaire which is available by writing to our address below. We want to hear from you; what do you or your group wants from the conference. Please write as soon as possible if you have any ideas or suggestions for the organizing committee.

We are very excited about having this conference and look forward to seeing you here in May.

The Organizing Committee

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Lesbian Conference 1981  
P.O. Box 65563, Station "F"  
Vancouver, B. C.

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(source unknown)



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(Subtitled: Nicky Tanguay)

"What you always wanted to know about a Lesbian/Feminist Workshop but were afraid to ask"

When a friend of mine asked me to go to this workshop I was, at first, apprehensive. After agreeing that I would go, I started to wonder -- what had I gotten myself into! Had I just signed my life over to a group of radical womyn who were going to paste a permanent sign on my back reading "RADICAL LESBIAN FEMINIST -- BEWARE"? (Well, what do you expect from a newcomer to the Lesbian Community??)

So I went, with all these fears and anxieties set in me. Upon entering the place where the workshop was to be held I noticed that most of the womyn there I had seen before, or knew. (What a relief!) The first thing this showed me was that I was NOT ALONE but among friends. And I also learned how much I didn't know but had yet to learn.

The two womyn who put on the workshop were Lesbian Feminists themselves. They were also like myself -- a person wanting to change the community for the better. These womyn are in the process of putting together a workshop manual for other Lesbian Feminists to use when putting on their own workshops.

One of the topics which were discussed (and will be in the manual) was the myths about Lesbians. Here is a sample:

- Lesbians are not real womyn.
- Lesbians must want to be men.
- Lesbians must be confused.
- Lesbians role play.
- Lesbians hate children.
- Lesbians wear male clothing.
- Lesbians are all truck drivers.

(There aren't enough truck for us all!)

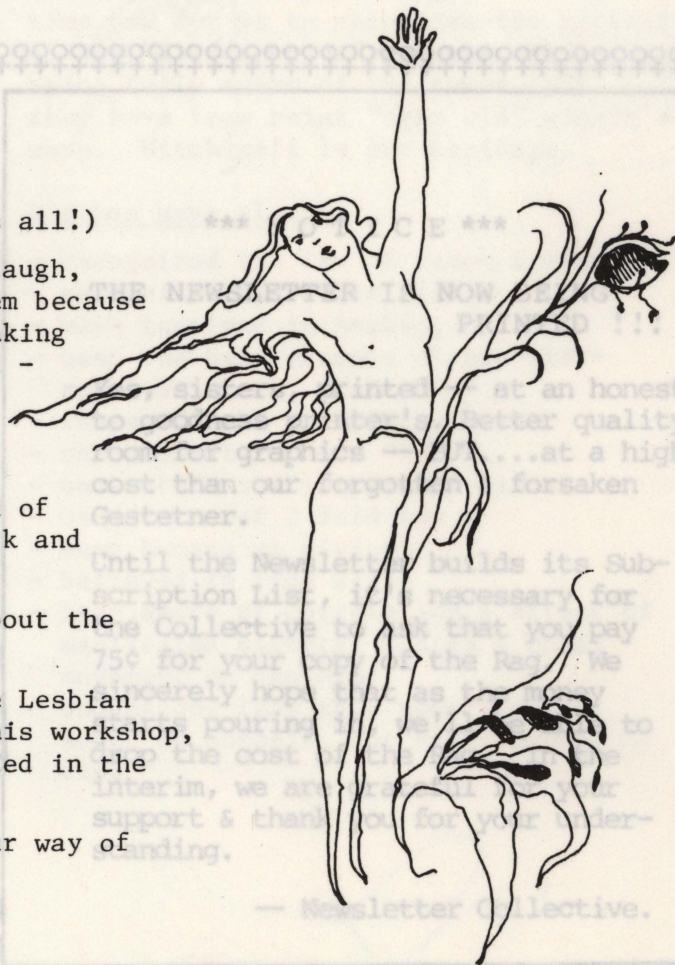
My first reaction to the myths was to laugh, but then I had to seriously look at them because it wasn't that long ago when I was thinking with that general out-look. (Not as bad - but almost.)

What did I really get out of the workshop? Well... I have gotten hope that things just might change if enough of us are willing to help and put some work and effort into it.

The ONLY thing I can really say about the workshop -- EXCELLENT!!!!

For those womyn who are new to the Lesbian Community and have a chance to go to this workshop, I recommend it for any who are interested in the Lesbian Feminist way of being.

It could change your ideas and your way of thinking. IT SURE DID MINE!





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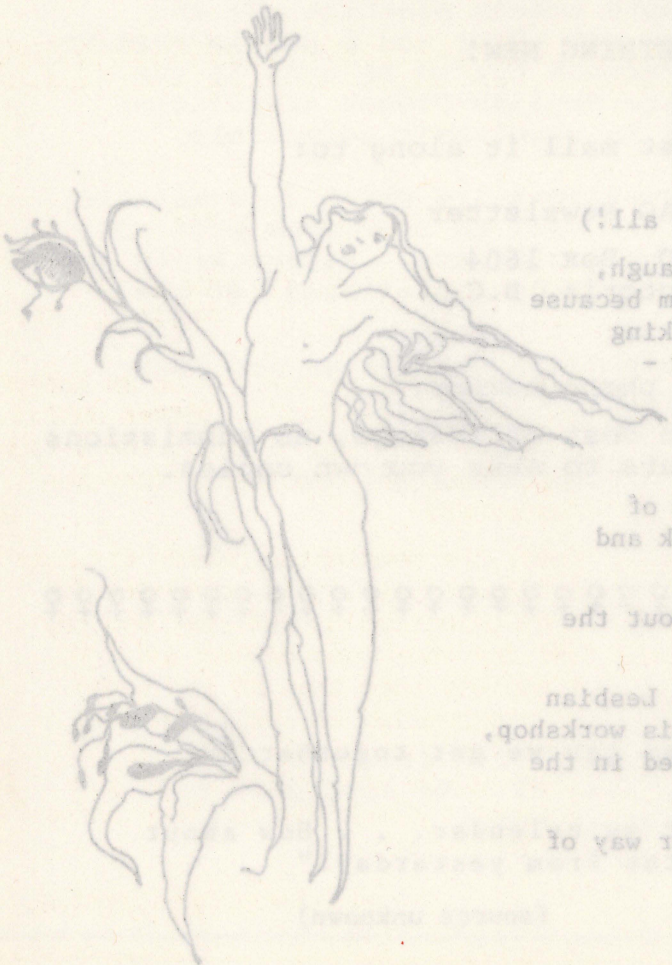
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# VGH gets ready for abortion fight

The Victoria General Hospital is already gearing for another controversial annual meeting next fall.

Indications are that there will be a repeat performance of last year's meeting with pro- and anti-abortion factions fighting to elect their representatives to the board of directors.

Administrator Jim Fair told the VGH board earlier this month some 2,000 new applications and renewals of memberships came in, on top of 3,000 existing memberships.

Last fall about 1,500 people — half the existing membership then — jammed the University Centre auditorium and elected three anti-abortion trustees to the board.

Fair said the hospital has booked Memorial Arena for the night of Sept. 10, a date dictated by scheduling clashes with pro sports teams which use the municipal facility.

"We're squeezed between lacrosse and hockey," joked chairman Alan Patterson.

Rent for the arena is \$1,050 and a public address system which VGH will have to bring in is estimated at \$1,500-\$2,000.

"Maybe we can sell popcorn to make up the losses?" asked Dr. John Anderson.

"No you can't. The concessions all belong to the city," said hospital treasurer Roy Wellums.

This article appeared in the Times/Colonist recently. The "Abortion Issue" seems to have become a sporting event (or so jokes A. Patterson).

Being denied the right to make decisions about my own body makes me ANGRY but having my freedom "joked about" has driven me to RAGE.

It's long past the time for all womyn of Victoria to stop the battle over abortion. We will not give up the rights to our bodies, our minds and our lives.

I ask that we, the womyn's community, form a united front on September 10th.

(Please see Newsletter attachment!)

..... Marlene

## LESBIAN DROP-IN

(Subtitled: "HELP! HELP!")

In the last newsletter, we put out a plea for help on the Drop-In Collective and had no response.

We have ideas of offering discussion nights, films, entertainment at Drop-In but the Collective is so small we have not had the energy. If we do not get any more support, we feel we will have to discontinue Drop-In.

Our next meeting is March 26th, 6:30 p.m. at 106 Superior Str. (before Drop-In). If you want to join us, even commit yourself to leading a discussion one night, or have other ideas, please come. Or call one of us:

SAGE: 384-4627

JOPLING: 386-5061

RUTH: 385-7429

### \*\*\* NOTICE \*\*\*

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Yes, sisters, printed -- at an honest to goodness printer's. Better quality, room for graphics -- BUT...at a higher cost than our forgotten & forsaken Gestetner.

Until the Newsletter builds its Subscription List, it's necessary for the Collective to ask that you pay 75¢ for your copy of the Rag. We sincerely hope that as the money starts pouring in, we'll be able to drop the cost of the Rag. In the interim, we are grateful for your support & thank you for your understanding.

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Witchcraft -- A Feminist Way

Pashta MaryMoon & Donna Bannister

As a result of the issue of witchcraft being brought up at the SWAG conference, we were invited to speak at the evening meeting on March 23 about our perspective of witchery and what it means to us. Having only one hour and a lot of information we wanted to pass on, we had no difficulty meeting both objectives. (We talked fast!) We don't know how many of the wimmin have been aware of their own sense of magic but watching eyes sparkle as we spoke told us that everyone of them were enjoying learning/re-learning that feminist witchcraft is real, positive and part of each womyn's power. We shared the following:

Witchcraft provides for wimmin today:

1. a herstorical perspective of wimmin/wimmin's power
2. feminist spirituality (witch as priestess)
3. feminist work perspective (witch as healer, councillor)

Myths about witchcraft:

- are ugly and cackle
- worship evil forces
- don't really exist
- kill/eat children
- are overwhelmingly sexual
- throw curses
- hate human beings
- work for their own gain
- don't have to work at a job
- ride broomsticks
- are too beautiful and seductive
- can/will hex with a look
- are revengeful
- practise strange rituals
- have power only on full moons & at midnight
- give birth to demons
- live in caves & little forest huts
- have fearsome powers controlled by evil
- are in reality only sick women
- never had childhoods
- are not members of any other "acceptable" faith
- are only in fairy tales
- have sex with the devil

These myths were created and have

served to convince wimmin that

- using power is anti-human
- only a few isolated wimmin have been "cursed" with the power.

That is not true. We all have the power. All our lives, but more obviously in the wimmin's movement, wimmin have been re/dis/covering the power/magic. It is time now for us to recognize the heritage of our "dis/coversies" and use them, being fully aware of the power that they have from being "ages old" wimmin's ways. Witchcraft is our heritage.

Witches have always:

- recognized the law of cause & effect
- recognized spirit in all
- been involved in healing
- been the best example of non-hierarchies
- respected the power of wimmin
- revered nature
- understood the purpose of ritual
- used forms of 3 fold law
- seen humans as divine
- believed in free will
- been aware of correlation & effect of manifested univeral bodies & their movement on the mind
- understood that true power is the power of oneself, not over anyone else

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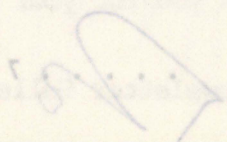
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continued from page 6

Witches have always understood the balance of:

- spiritual/manifested
- light/dark
- work/celebration
- seriousness/levity
- end/means
- verbal/non-verbal
- ritual/spontaneity/intuition
- awareness/awe sought in sound/movement and silence
- yin/yang
- aggressive/passive
- positive/negative in all humans, life existence
- clarity/chaos

So...how do we develop our own magic? Much of what we are doing now is right on course -- learning how to function as a community; to care for each other whether or not we are sexually involved; to give full strength to our power, our skills, our thinking; to relate to each other without patriarchal and hierarchical values; to be "original virgins" (she who is one unto herself).

We do not know of any specifically "feminist" covens in Victoria although we are developing a strong, support group of feminist witches here. Each womyn has her own special path to follow and there are as many as there are wimmin; the following are the paths/resources that we have found useful.

\* Give our intuition, dreams, senses of others and ourselves the benefit of the doubt -- it doesn't matter whether or not we believe or not. Everything magic we do comes back to us, usually in ways we can recognize. We can prove the validity of our craft by trying it and waiting.

\* Our fantasies are valid and make fascinating stories. When we tell each other and receive the respect we deserve for all our 'thinking', our imagination grows. Part of our power is in seeing in new ways. Ask questions about "coincidences" (i.e. friend mentions having

wanted to show you a book. What time did she think of it? What were you doing? There might be more of a relation than you know.

\* Non-violence/group process training was primarily influenced by the wimmin's movement. It encourages concepts/skills to integrate all levels of our lives - spiritual, social, personal and political. It challenges the means we use to reach an end, and demands that our personal/political lifestyles are based on our world perspectives and our visions.

\* Peer/Co-counselling offers 3 ways in which to develop the power;

1. by giving us a safe space to throw off the mis/conceptions we have of our own power (mostly lack of it)
2. by encouraging clear, unrestricted thinking
3. by demanding that we acknowledge and credit both the power that we use and the power we have but haven't learned to use YET.

\* Spiritual development: one of the roles of the witch is a priestess. A priestess' function is to keep the mediums for spiritual development (language, symbols, rituals & community commitment) clear and appropriate to her sisters & when necessary, to safeguard the mediums from patriarchal thinking. Any time that a feminist re-evaluates her spirituality & any time that she shares her discoveries, she is acting in the role of priestess. Work/play together to recognize, acknowledge & encourage each other's spiritual development. The more commitment we establish from within ourselves & towards each other, the more complete our power becomes.

#### BOOK RESOURCES

POSITIVE MAGIC, Marion Weinstein

GYN/ECOLOGY, Mary Daly

SPIRAL DANCE, Starhawk

WANDERGROUND, Sally Gearhart



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- clarity/chaos
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- positive/negative in all humans, life
- aggressive/passive
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- spiritual/unmanifested

So...how do we develop our own magic? Much of what we are doing now is right on course -- learning how to function as a community; to care for each other. Whether or not we are sexually involved; to give full strength to our power, our skills, our thinking; to relate to each other without patriarchal and hier- archical values; to be "original virgins" (she who is one into herself).

We do not know of any specifically "feminist" covens in Victoria although we are developing a strong, support group of feminist witches here. Each woman has her own special path to follow and there are as many as there are witches; the following are the paths/ter- sources that we have found useful.

\* Give our intuition, dreams, senses of others and ourselves the benefit of the doubt -- it doesn't matter whether or not we believe or not. Everything magic we do comes back to us, usually in ways we can recognize. We can prove the validity of our coven by trying it and waiting.

\* Our fantasies are valid and make fascinating stories. When we tell each other and receive the respect we deserve for all our 'thinking', our imagination grows. Part of our power is in seeing in new ways. Ask questions about "cointi- dences" (i.e. friend mentions having

wanted to show you a book. What time did she think of it? What were you doing? There might be more of a relation than you know.

\* Non-violence/group process training was primarily influenced by the woman's move- ment. It encourages concepts/skills to inte- grate all levels of our lives - spiritual, social, personal and political. It chal- lenges the means we use to reach an end, and demands that our personal/political lifestyles are based on our world perspectives and our visions.

\* Peer/Co-counseling offers 3 ways in which to develop the power:

1. by giving us a safe space to throw off the mis/conceptions we have of our own power (mostly lack of it)
2. by encouraging clear, unmanifested thinking
3. by demanding that we acknowledge and credit both the power that we use and the power we have but haven't learned to use YET.

\* Spiritual development: one of the roles of the witch is a priestess. A priestess' function is to keep the mediums for spiritual development (language, symbols, rituals & community commitment) clear and appropriate to her coven & when necessary, to safe- guard the mediums from patriarchal thinking. Any time that a feminist re- evaluated her spirituality & any time that she shares her discoveries, she is acting in the role of priestess. Work/play to- gether to recognize, acknowledge & en- courage each other's spiritual development. The more commitment we establish from with- in ourselves & towards each other, the more complete our power becomes!

BOOK RESOURCES

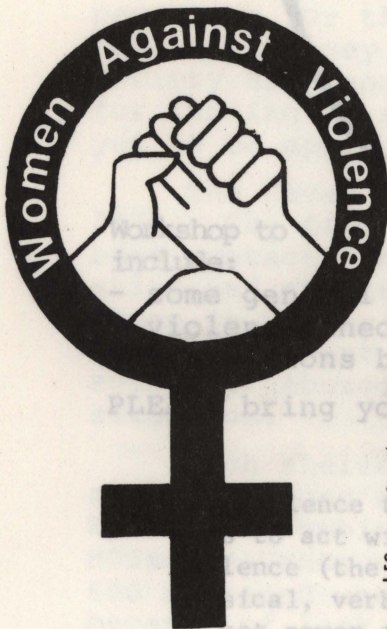
- POSITIVE MAGIC, Marion Weinstein
- GYNECOLOGY, Mary Daly
- SPIRAL DANCE, Starhawk
- WANDERGROUND, Sally Gearhart



I N T E R N A T I O N A L W O M Y N ' S D A Y

by: Nicky Tanguay

Every time I've connected with the womyn here in Victoria I'm amazed by the energy that they give out. For those who took in the Rally at Centennial Square and also the I.W.D. Fair at Camosun College, you might see why and agree.



Saturday, March 7, 1981 -- The rally at Centennial Square was very well put together by the womyn from the Rape/Assault Centre. The speakers included: Fraya Cook, C.A.R.A.L.; Donna Mottershead, Amalgamated Clothing & Textile Workers Union; Jude Angione, W.A.V.A.W.; Feminist Alice Ages; Josephine Payne-O'Conner, Laurie Baillie & Susan Slatkoff, Rape/Assault Centre; and, Luanne Armstrong.

Although all the speakers were excellent, I was hardest hit by Luanne's speak on RAGE -- very powerful. And I thought Alice Ages' speak was very colorful.

Many thanks to those womyn who put a lot of strong positive energy into the rally. The attendance for the rally wasn't what I had expected. It's too bad that there weren't very many womyn who came out to support their sisters in their fight against violence against womyn.

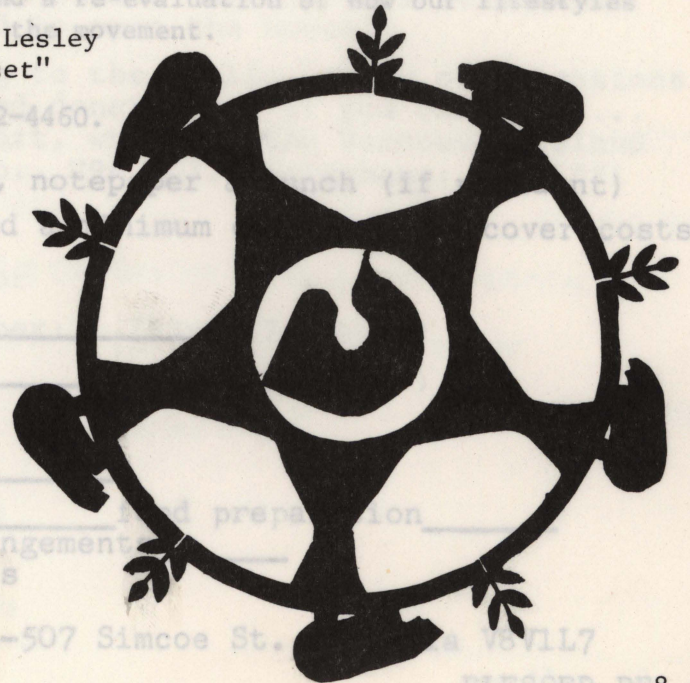
Sunday, March 8, 1981 -- The International Womyn's Day at Camosun College went very well. There were about 23 different organizations which took part in this event. The tables ranged from F.L.A.G., S.W.A.G., Rape/Assault Centre & C.A.R.A.L. to the Day Care Services, Y.W.C.A., & Junior Services League of Victoria. (You name the organization and they were there!)

F.L.A.G. did pretty good on selling a few items, considering the conflicts of different organizations for having us there.

\*I would like to take time here to thank Lesley for having patience with her "Global Closet" and with the flack she got from a small minority of womyn. Way to go, Lesley!!

The day had its ups and downs but it and Saturday showed me what womyn could do when they put together their energy and utilize it for the benefits of other womyn.

The weekend was long and fun and educational. I think the womyn in Victoria deserve a thankful applause. Hopefully we'll see this energy more often.



MAIL TO: N-VTC, c/o Pashta MaryMoon, #1-507 Simcoe St. V8V1L7



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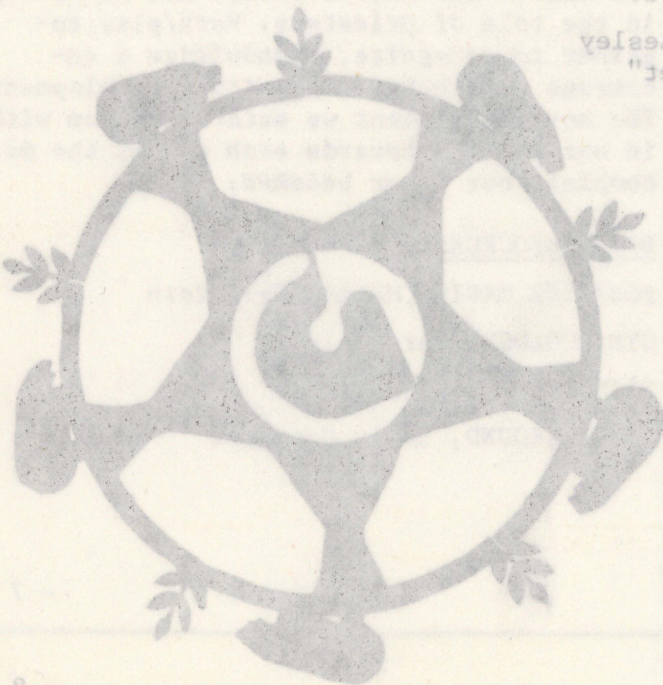
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NON - V I O L E N C E   W O R K S H O P

P R E S S   R E L E A S E

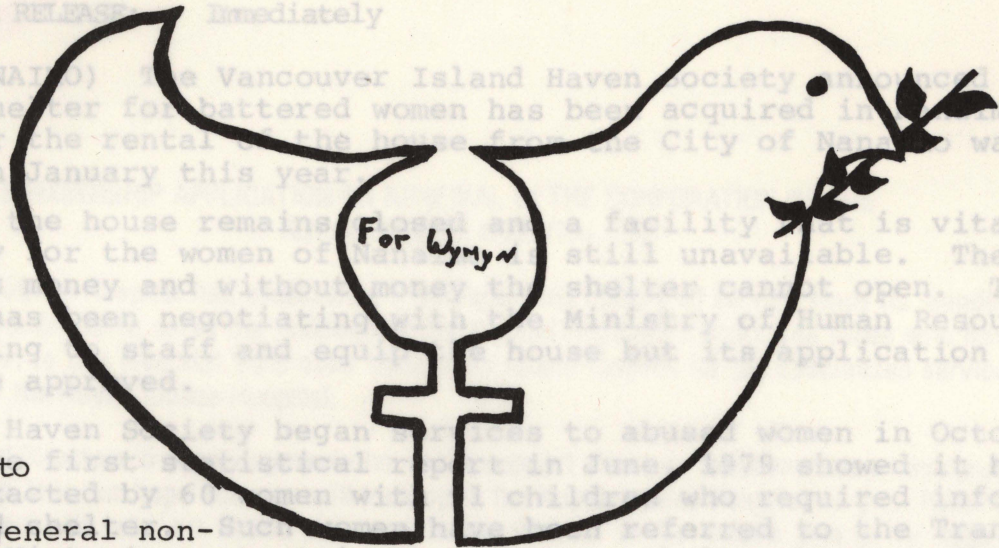
APRIL 4 & 5

March 2, 1981

FOR RELEASE   Immediately

(NANAI) The Vancouver Island Haven Society announced today that a shelter for battered women has been acquired in Nanaimo. A lease for the rental of the house from the City of Nanaimo was signed in January this year.

But the house remains unusable as a facility that is vitally necessary for the women of Nanaimo is still unavailable. The reason is money and without money the shelter cannot open. The Society has been negotiating with the Ministry of Human Resources for funding a staff and equipment for the house but its application has yet to be approved.



Workshop to include:

- some general non-violence theory & tools
- connections between feminism & non-violence

PLEASE bring your favorite short reading on non-violence and/or feminism.

\*\* Non-violence training is NOT learning to react passively but discovering ways to act with power and assertiveness without returning violence for violence (the word violence is used here to indicate any situation - physical, verbal or organizational - where one factor has or is attempting to get power over the other.). Non-violence training focuses on developing the power/control of oneself and one's life.

Non-violence training includes theory on both an ethical and tactical level; group process; consensus decision making; de-centralized, hierarchial decision making systems; strategizing methods; evaluation methods; actual training/preparation for action and a re-evaluation of how our lifestyles do or do not support the goals of the movement.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL PASHTA 382-4460.

BRING: pillows, sleeping bag, notepaper & lunch (if resident)

Please register in advance as we need a minimum of wimmin to cover costs

CONTACT PERSON: Ruth Lea Taylor

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number: 753-4317 (Work)

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ 247-8273 (Home)

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

I need hospitality \_\_\_\_\_ childcare \_\_\_\_\_

I can offer hospitality \_\_\_\_\_ childcare \_\_\_\_\_ food preparation \_\_\_\_\_  
help with practical arrangements \_\_\_\_\_

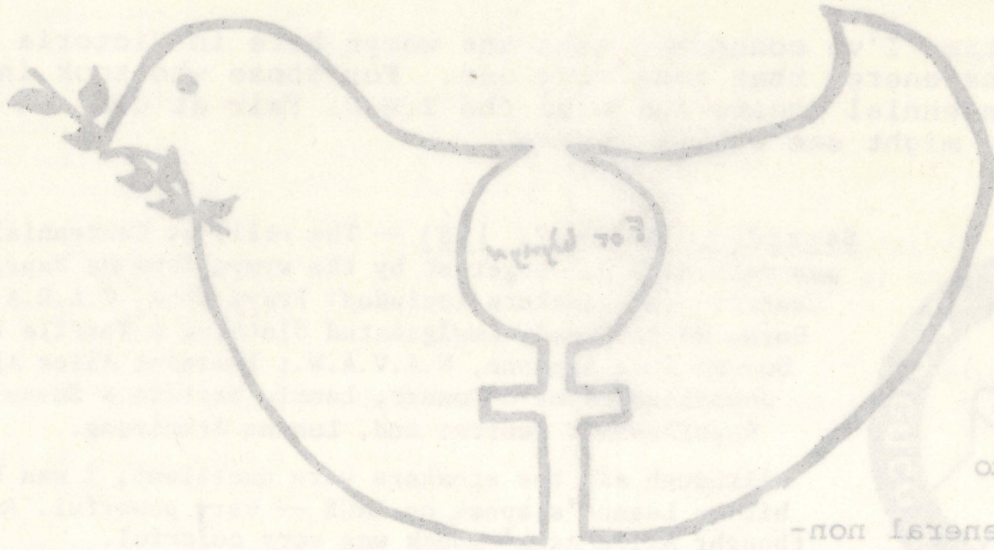
I can pay \_\_\_\_\_ (\$7-15) to cover costs

MAIL TO: N-VTC, c/o Pashta MaryMoon, #1-507 Simcoe St., Victoria V8V1L7

BLESSED BE



APRIL 4 & 5



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 help with practical arrangements \_\_\_\_\_  
 I can pay \_\_\_\_\_ (\$7-12) to cover costs

MAIL TO: N-VTC, c/o Pasha MaryMoon, #1-507 Simcoe St., Victoria V8V1L7

BLESSED BE







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But the house remains closed and a facility that is vitally necessary for the women of Nanaimo is still unavailable. The reason is money and without money the shelter cannot open. The Society has been negotiating with the Ministry of Human Resources for funding to staff and equip the house but its application has yet to be approved.

The Haven Society began services to abused women in October, 1978. The first statistical report in June, 1979 showed it had been contacted by 60 women with 91 children who required information and shelter. Such women have been referred to the Transition House in Victoria or to private emergency shelter homes. The need for a permanent house to provide this service rapidly became evident. Abused women need a safe refuge from the battering situation.

Such shelters are not a new concept although they haven't been around as long as wife battering. There are five shelters in British Columbia... all operating to full capacity. The Transition House in Vancouver reported in 1980 that it had housed more than 600 battered women but more than 900 had to be turned away because of lack of space.

A federal report, Wife Battering in Canada: The Vicious Circle, reported last year that 200,000 women in Canada are battered by their husbands. And half of these women do not have access to a transition house or hostel that accepts battered women. Nanaimo will remain in the latter half of this statistic unless sufficient funds are found to open the house.

The Society is now appealing to the public, other organizations and women's groups for support and donations. If you can help... in money, in time or simply support, write to the Vancouver Island Haven Society at Box 311, Nanaimo. V9R 2L3. Telephone: 753-1021

CONTACT PERSON: Ruth Lea Taylor

Telephone Number: 753-4317 (Work)  
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Royal Jubilee Hospital  
Victoria, B.C.

Founded 1858

The Newsletter Subscription List has dwindled down (almost excessively!) over the last while. The Collective needs your SUPPORT in order to continue working for the Victoria Lesbian Community. If you haven't yet

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL IN THE CORPORATION OF THE  
ROYAL JUBILEE HOSPITAL

The Royal Jubilee Hospital has established a distinguished history of service since its founding in 1858. It continues to serve the residents of the Capital Regional District and those who have been referred to this Hospital from other Vancouver Island Centres for the specialized services provided by the Royal Jubilee Hospital.

The Board of Directors is deeply appreciative of the support which so many members have given this Hospital. It is our hope that you will look upon the Royal Jubilee Hospital as your Hospital and that you will take an active and continuing interest in its affairs and in its future.

For your information, according to the By-Laws of the Royal Jubilee Hospital, any person who contributes at least five dollars shall become an Annual Member, and a person who contributes fifty dollars or more shall become a Life Member of the Corporation. These By-laws are currently being revised in response to a change in the fiscal year of all Hospitals in British Columbia consistent with the Government fiscal year, namely April 1st to March 31st of the succeeding year. With few exceptions, each member is entitled to hold office or vote at all meetings of the Corporation provided he/she is present at such meetings, and provided he/she held membership at least one month prior to the date of that meeting.

*Register  
after Apr. 1*

M.A.J. Butcher  
Executive Director and  
Secretary, Board of Directors

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

Royal Jubilee Hospital  
Victoria, B.C.

Founded 1858

APPLICATION AND RENEWAL FORM FOR MEMBERSHIP IN CORPORATION OF ROYAL JUBILEE HOSPITAL.

I wish to (apply for) (continue my) membership in the Corporation of Royal Jubilee Hospital and enclose:

\$ ..... for an Annual Membership  
\$5.00 to \$50.00

\$ ..... for a Life Membership  
\$50.00 and over

.....  
Name

.....  
Address





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I wish to (apply for) (continue my) membership in the Corporation of Royal Jubilee Hospital and enclose:

\$ 250.00 to \$50.00 ..... for an Annual Membership  
\$ 250.00 and over ..... for a Life Membership

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Address



\*\*\*\*\* S U B S C R I B E \*\*\*\*\*

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F.L.A.G. Newsletter 1981

March



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