



# VICTORIA STATUS OF WOMEN ACTION GROUP

Office: 320-620 View St., Victoria, V8W 1J6, (604) 381-1012

# NEWS

DEC. 1987 Vol. 14, No. 5

## A WOMAN'S PLACE IS AT CITY HALL

JEAN KAVANAGH

Civic Elections slated for Nov. 21

A woman's place is at City Hall! There can be no debate about this statement in this year's Victoria civic election as the greatest number of women candidates in the city's history throw their hats into the municipal arena.

And keeping with our commitment to women and politics, SWAG hopes to inform the public about the women candidates, and raise the profile of women's issues at the municipal level. SWAG will host an All-candidates meeting on Monday, November 9 at the Downtown Public Library Multipurpose Room from 7:30 to 10 p.m. We encourage all SWAG members and women in the community to attend.

Although issues of particular concern to women are the focus of the Nov. 9 meeting, the forum is not only for the women candidates. We hope all mayoralty and aldermanic candidates will be in attendance.

Since, however, SWAG has focused on women and politics throughout the past few years, we are very happy and pleased to profile these excellent candidates, who just happen to be women, in this year's civic election race.

Nominations had not closed when we went to press and we hope not to miss any candidate.

Long-time Victoria alderman JANET BAIRD is seeking re-election for her fourth term this fall. Janet has worked with a number of groups in the community, and this past year chaired the city's Parking and Traffic Committee. Her municipal work has also included participation on the Engineering and Public Works committees.

First-time municipal candidate JAN GREENWOOD is part of the Greenwood/Liefschultz/Van-Dyke team that is hoping to take three Victoria council seats. Jan is a 20-year Fernwood resident, a nurse and community educator. She is Field Supervisor for the Fairfield Homemaker Service, and founder of Mothers Against Drunk Drivers, Vancouver Island Branch. Jan is particularly concerned about waste management and senior citizens' issues, especially health and housing.

Incumbent candidate SUZANNE HANSEN is seeking her second term on Victoria City Council. Suzanne is a reporter with Highton and Assoc., and for six years was a reporter with CPAX. Her main area of responsibility has been the

Downtown Enhancement Project and council liaison for the Songhees project. Suzanne says her main interests are in planning, and she likes the work on City Council.

JUDY LIEFSCHULTZ is one of the five women seeking a council seat for the first time. An urban planner and business consultant for Ventures (advising women in business), Judy is well known in Victoria's women's community. She is president of the Greater Victoria Women's Shelter Society and a member of the Vancouver Island Human Rights Coalition and SWAG. Judy's campaign themes include: planned development of our downtown core, economic development that promotes local purchasing, and safety for women, children and the elderly in the home and on the streets.

Dr. JOSEPHINE PAYNE-O'CONNOR has taken the plunge from political writing into political campaigning. A former SWAG president, Josephine is the author of SWAG's book 'Sharing Power: A Political Skills Handbook for Women'. She is Executive-Director of UVIC's Public Interest Research Group, and supervises research, public education and advocacy in the public interest. Josephine is on the Women for Economic Survival executive, past education chair for the Human Rights Coalition and worked with the forerunner of the Victoria Rape-Assault Centre. She is particularly concerned about public involvement in the areas of: downtown redevelopment and heritage preservation, recycling and waste management and poverty issues.

PIETA VAN DYKE is a James Bay activist who sits on the city's Advisory Planning Commission. She is a political analyst with the Ministry of Labour, was chair of the James Bay Community Project for seven years, and vice-president of the Victoria Labour Council in 1982-83. Pieta was a founding member of the Save Our City Coalition against the Cadillac-Fairview development. She is concerned about affordable housing, improving public interaction in City Hall policy, and would like to see Victoria marketed as a year-round cultural-tourist destination centre.

Green Party candidate APRIL WELLS is another making a first bid for City Council. A former teacher and a political activist, April has worked at the grassroots level in Victoria for 12 years. The Green Party believes a non-hierarchical, open, feminist process is needed at City Council. April would like to see more

Cont. . .

neighborhood decision-making instituted. She is a former member of the James Bay Community School Society board and a founder of the James Bay Pre-School Co-op. Her campaign issues include clean beaches, recycling and a more diversified economy.

SWAG encourages everyone to attend all-candidates meetings throughout the community and to get out and VOTE on November 21.

There are many excellent women running for council positions throughout Greater Victoria, and we urge women in other municipalities to talk with and support these women. Space restrictions prevent us from profiling each municipality.

We would like to offer encouragement and good luck to women mayoralty candidates throughout Greater Victoria also: GRETCHEN BREWIN, Victoria; SUSAN BRICE, Oak Bay; LINDA MICALUK, North Saanich, and NORMA SEALEY, Sidney.

---

---

## NOTES ON A WORKSHOP WITH ROSEMARY BROWN

*DONNA J. MURRAY*

---

How can we effectively lobby? This question was answered, by Rosemary Brown, in a two hour workshop at the recent Island Women's Conference, in Port Alberni. Following are notes from that workshop which could be useful in an election time or when lobbying for any issue.

\*\*\*

Collect information about the issue. Use surveys, interviews and be comprehensive in your fact finding. Make sure your facts are beyond reproach - if you can be discredited you will be. Use the collected information in working on changing the social climate - the social climate of a community will lead ultimately to changing the government's mind on specific issues - the community must demand change in numbers that cannot go unheeded.

\*\*\*

Broaden your base of support. You need a wide base of support. Build allies. Build bridges. You need everyone on your side. Look at alternative sources of support - look beyond the 'already converted'.

\*\*\*

Use media effectively. Use press releases, and letters to the editor. Keep information coming. Advertise. Print flyers and leaflets and distribute them. Monitor the media effectively. This will let you know what the social climate is. Answer letters to the editor - both in the paper and by contacting persons who have misinterpreted the facts. Use radio talk shows to your advantage - if the issue is other than your area of interest call up and introduce your issue by using comparisons. Treat the media fairly. Send the same information to both friendly and hostile media. Treat this aspect of lobbying as though it were a job to do.

\*\*\*

Be well versed in your subject. Know the facts. Write a script and practice it out loud to your family and friends - you will

sound like you are confident and know what the issue is all about if you are well spoken.

\*\*\*

Understand the bureaucracy. You have to do your research. Know who is responsible for what. Under whose jurisdiction does your issue fall? Know who is ultimately responsible for the final decision.

\*\*\*

Understand the politician. After you have identified the target, zero in. Read Hansard where the particular issue is concerned. Call the constituency office and ask if the politician has spoken on this particular subject. Ask for copies. Read them. Understand the attitudes, prejudices and beliefs of the politician.

## GIFT GIVING IDEAS

While not wishing to contribute to the excessive emphasis on buying presents that annually depresses most of us, here are a few ideas for presents that might be suitable for someone you know - even for yourself.

Bridgehead offers you a chance to buy products from Third World countries without exploiting the producers. Run by Oxfam-Canada, Bridgehead also does special promotions which raise funds to support projects in Third World countries. Their Christmas Catalog is available in the SWAG Office or from Oxfam, 381-5226.

Everywomans Books has a good selection of alma almanacs and calendars (feminist staples, it seems). They have new titles by Anne Cameron, Jane Rule, Helen Potrebenko, Maureen Moore, and Katherine Forrest as well as many old favourites you might have overlooked. A couple of hot new non-fiction titles are WOMEN OF FAITH IN DIALOGUE edited by Virginia Mollenkogg and BEING PREGNANT by Daphne Morrison. If you can't make up your mind, you can always buy one of their gift certificates. Everywomans Books is at 461 Johnston, open Mon-Sat, 10:30 - 5:30.

SWAG is lucky to be able to offer sets of 6 "hasty notes" with envelopes for \$2.50, illustrating the 50th anniversary of the "persons" case. Artist Jeanette L. Walker did a commemorative etching which is currently on display in our office and on which the notes are based.

Our November-December art exhibit offers photographs and watercolours by Catherine Fraser, and calendars by Mary Kingsley, all of which would make lovely gifts. SWAG gets a wee cut on all artwork sold from the office, so your gift will be twice appreciated.

---

---

Society for Children's Rights  
to Adequate Parental Support

This non-profit society is committed to:

1. Improving enforcement of child support.
2. Rationalizing the process of establishing child support.
3. Changing societal attitudes about the responsibilities of parents towards their children after divorce.

### Membership:

\$3.00 annual membership

### Contact:

S.C.R.A.P.S.  
c/o North Shore Women's Centre  
Suite 8-117 East 15th. St.  
North Vancouver, B.C.  
V7L 2P7 Phone- 984-6009

DONATIONS GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED



\*\*\*

From the politician's point of view look at and understand: the social climate - what are people really saying about the issue; the economic climate - is it advantageous to the economy to put your issue into practice, and; the political climate - what is the ideological commitment of the politician plus the general aura if the country. You must know if these three factors indicate that the community is ready for the implementation of your issue. It doesn't matter what you do or how you say it - the social, economic and political climates are what really influence a politician.

\*\*\*

Put your plan into action.  
Write letters. Hand written letters are still more effective than mass-produced printed cards. Send carbon copies to lots of people - if politicians know that someone else is reading their mail, they might get a little uncomfortable and look more closely at the issue.  
Send telegrams. Although no longer delivered to a politician in letter form they are still effective.  
Set up a telephone tree - you phone three people, who in turn phone three people, who each in turn phone three more people. Call the constituency office and ask what is being done about your issue - when a politician cannot reach her/his own office to check messages your efforts take effect. A combination of these three tactics makes a politician sit up take notice and hopefully act on the issue.

\*\*\*

Combine the above with any or all of the following:  
- a comprehensive media program;  
- a brief - if well prepared with useful information will show that you have done a lot of work;  
- personal interviews with the responsible politician - when you find you are not getting the answers you want from other sources arrange to see the person responsible (ask specific questions and be well prepared as the politician will try to destabilize you);  
- hold public meetings - you can do it, you don't need to wait for someone else to do it. It can be very effective, good for the media and will certainly ensure that a politician behaves well;  
- volunteer to be an ongoing consultant on a particular issue for the politician - keep doing it, mail information, clippings, etc. with a short covering letter ("Thought this might interest you.")

\*\*\*

Use political action as a last resort. For 'difficult' issues (i.e. choice for reproduction, sexual orientation) you have to raise the public's consciousness slowly but surely. Some issues, regardless of the climates, will not make a politician move. After you have done everything you know how to do legally to change a politician's mind, and failed, you have to move towards getting the politician out of office. This is one of the most powerful lobbying tools that we have. Spread your sphere of influence, talk to friends, family, strangers about upcoming elections. Get involved, volunteer to work for the officials supportive of your issues.

Suggested reading: \*\*\*

Kome, Peggy. Play From Strength. Available from: Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women  
66 Slater Street, 18th Floor  
Box 1541, Station B  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1B 5R5  
- discusses strategies concerning sections 15 and 16 of the Constitution.

**LE PARMINOUE**

**Intimate Invasion**

Quebec Profession Theatre Company

A concerned look at pornography

**8 p.m., WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1987**  
**UVIC UNIVERSITY CENTRE AUDITORIUM**  
**TICKETS \$5**  
 FROM UVIC BOX OFFICE, ● EVERYWOMAN'S BOOKS,  
 IVY'S BOOKS, SWAG OFFICE ● 381-1012 for Information  
 CO-SPONSORS: UVIC WOMEN'S CENTRE and STATUS OF  
 WOMEN ACTION GROUP

SWAG encourages all members, your friends and family to attend this unique Canadian production. SWAG has brought the production to Vancouver Island, please come out and support it.

# DEPRESSION IS A FEMINIST ISSUE

JAN BOUTILIER

Studies reveal that up to six times as many women as men experience depression and up to 30% of all women experience depression at some time in their lives.

Edited from an article by Rose Mary Murphy

Jan Boutilier

The roles women are expected to fill demand that they nurture others, provide service at home and in the workplace, be subservient and dependent, and rely on partners for economic support and physical protection. In addition, a woman's self-esteem and self-worth is tied to her performance in traditional roles, submitting to the feminine stereotypes that are considered healthy. Women are to be submissive, dependent, emotional, easily hurt, compliant, nice, good, pretty, and never angry. If a woman doesn't meet the demands of the stereotype she risks negative feedback, psychiatric labelling with diagnoses and rejection by employers, friends and partners.

There is no definition for depression. There are many contradictory meanings and psychiatric labelling which focuses on the individual rather than the social context.

Generally the term "depression" is used three ways: first, as a normal transient mood of sadness; second, as a symptom, accompanying another disease or problem; and third, as a clinical syndrome.

The clinical syndrome of depression is a prolonged, pervasive and pathological mood of sadness and despair that interferes with the person's social and bodily functions. This syndrome can be divided into various affective disorders. The symptoms of depression are pervasive, affecting the person's mood, physiology, thinking and behaviour. As many as 54 different behaviours have been associated with depression. The cardinal symptoms are:

"feelings of inadequacy, and helplessness  
loss of motivation, psychomotor retardation,  
ineffectiveness, fatigue, sleep disturbance,  
pessimism, dejected mood, and self-devaluation".

Feelings of anxiety, guilt, hopelessness, worthlessness, and anger are also common.

Studies have documented that between one quarter and one third of all females experience depression of moderate severity at some point in their lives and this problem is predominately experienced by young women. Of these, only a small percentage seek help from a physician, let alone a psychiatrist. Women are diagnosed with depression twice as frequently as men in a study of data collected over 40 years in 30 countries. The sex differential is especially great in young adults 25 to 44 and female rates are three times as high as males.

Married women 20 to 29 years of age receive tranquilizers and sedatives four times more often than a man of the same age and antidepressants at an astounding ratio of eight to one.

The female endocrine hormones have been blamed for causing depression in women, and researchers have studied the menstrual cycle, contraceptive drugs, the postpartum period and menopause. Review of the evidence shows that menstrual tension and oral contraceptives have only slight effect. There is no evidence of a relationship between the menopause and depression. This myth can be laid to rest.

The object loss theory hypothesized that traumatic separation of a child from her/his mother precipitates depression. This theory is used to make women feel

guilty about leaving their children, to make mothers feel responsible for the psychological welfare of their children, and to rationalize why women should "stay home" with young children. In fact it has been found that consistent nurturing by anyone during a loss period prevents later problems. It is the real or imagined loss (of love, a person, function or status) that is related to depression. One extensive study found that parental loss is not related to depression at all. Instead, it is the impact of loss and changes in the child's living conditions, such as poverty and conflicts that are related to well-being in adulthood.

Freud's anger-turned-inward theory views depression as an inward-turning of aggressive instinct, instead of directing anger at the appropriate object, it is accompanied by feelings of guilt.

Women are often angry about the injustices in their life situations. They are angry because of their enforced powerlessness and the imposed prohibitions against expressing that anger. Women are only allowed to become ill or depressed.

The psychological theories examine the conditions of women's lives. The first pathway to depression is described in the social status hypothesis. Women find their situation depressing because real social discrimination makes it difficult for them to achieve in society which leads to legal and economic helplessness, dependency, chronically low self-esteem, low aspirations, and ultimately to clinical depression.

The second pathway is described in the "Learned helplessness" hypothesis which proposes that social conditioning of girls prevents them from asserting themselves. Girls learn to be helpless, internalizing the feminine stereotype and thus have limited responses when under stress.

Repeated failure to affect changes results in the internalization of devaluation and insignificance. We need only examine women's job ghettos, working conditions and relationships with men to realize the depth and breadth of situations imposed on them against their will.

**LIFE STRESSORS**- There are two major types of stress. One is the strife of major life events and the other is the minor stress and irritations of daily life. Major life events, especially "loss" events, such as loss of self-esteem, interpersonal discord and socially undesirable incidents can create stress and result in physical/emotional illness. The frequently used "events" scales have been criticized for being biased toward events more likely to happen to men; for omitting important female experiences, such as rape, abortion, and childcare; and for including middle-class events while excluding events likely to happen to poor people.

Role strain, or stress associated with roles, is the type of life event clearly related to depression in women. Role strain includes role conflict, role discontinuity role ambiguity and role overload.

Society's expectations of women are overwhelmingly contradictory...women are viewed as superwomen--able to bear, nurture and raise children, organize the household and do the housework, work in the labour force, and be a supportive, caring, sexy charming, witty, thin, young partner. Supermothers and martyrs devote their lives to their children and husbands. If either role is lost the result is low self-esteem, worthlessness, and likely depression.

Studies show that married women are depressed more than married men, while single men are more depressed than single women. And, the rate of depression increases directly with the number of pre-school children at home.



A study of tranquilizer use reveals that 67 to 72 percent of all these medications are prescribed for women and that the highest proportion of users are housewives.

A report on the health of Canadian women further documents the stress experienced by housewives. As family income rises, the number of medical visits by the housewife decreases.

In the labour force more than twice as many women experience anxiety and depression. The rate doubles for the housewife. Twice as many housewives compared to labour force women experience anxiety and depression. Findings show that the presence of young children was the most important factor related to conflict in mothers.

Deprivation of women lies at the heart of the institution of motherhood. And deprivation leads to depression. Mothers are expected to nurture and care for others 24 hours a day and yet remain dependent people. At the same time they are denied nurturance in return... a separate adult existence, and the right to express their rage except through illness.

Employed women carry a double work load. Time budget studies show that they increase their workload by 11 to 17 hours a week while the male spouse increases his by 1 or 2. Working class mothers with children at home are five times more likely to become depressed than middle-class women.

#### GOALS FOR CHANGE

Socialization practices have to change so that women do not continue to internalize their oppression, so that women and men will be raised as equal beings worthy of dignity and freedom to develop all their potential. The importance of labour to the emotional and financial well-being of women must be recognized. Women's labour requires redefinition and rewards. The feminization of poverty must be reversed. Child-care responsibilities must be equally shared and child support services provided for all who need assistance.

The goals of therapy must include increasing women's personal power, self-esteem and autonomy. The goals of therapy must include making the connections among patriarchy, oppression and women's well-being. This is necessary so that women can stop blaming themselves for their pain and problems and direct their energy towards changing unjust living conditions. Mutual self-help groups and feminist counselling offers a way to work towards these goals.

## SWAGgerins' . . .

### DEBBY GREGORY

Greetings to new members Margaret McCrory, Caroline Miede, Cathi Sudol, and Linda Siegel. Over the months I am meeting more of our members, enjoying putting faces to the names in our files. Although many of you do attend workshops and special events, some may never have done more than mail in your yearly dues. I know that pressures of work, family, and other interests often pile up - at a recent Thursday-at-Noon talk, Nola Landucci remarked that living in Victoria is a full-time job in itself.

Sometimes, though, we don't do more because we fear we don't fit in: I'm too young, too old, too middle class, too working class, too straight, too radical, too predictable, too outlandish. As women, we are socialised to be apologetic for whatever our size/shape/background/strengths/weaknesses may be. Unfortunately, we don't drop those apologetic habits of thought as easily as we'd like to. So, if you've thought of getting involved and

been put off by the fear you're too something . . . now's the time to ac-cen-tuate the positive and come on in.

Although SWAG works like mad, there is always more we could be doing. The phone rings a dozen times a week with the question, "What is SWAG doing about X?" As important as X usually is, the chances are we aren't doing anything about it due to lack of womanpower. Two examples which spring immediately to mind are the Meech Lake accords and free (sic) trade, and how these will each affect the status of women. I've been compiling files of newspaper clippings, published statements, and documents on both these topics, thinking that someone will surely come along and want to use them. If anyone is inclined to do some work on these or other topics, let us know. Perhaps you could write an article for the newsletter, or organise an information session, or lead a discussion. If you've not got the time or inclination, but know of someone else who might, pass that information along.

The SWAG Office Collective has some new faces. Doris Bergbusch is still doing Mondays, Connie Kurtenbach is on Tuesdays, Lisa Cooper does Wednesdays, Janet Lundman does Thursdays, and Georgia Welles handles Fridays. Saturdays are done by Erin Graham, Connie Carter, Loree Potts, and, starting soon, Alexandra Zacharias. Margaret McCrory and Alice Albert are working on an archival system. Liz Cullen does most of our graphic work. Three women have just started to help with typing, filing, and other office work: welcome to Georgina Philip, Leslie Jennings, and Lorraine Tausen. (Lorraine has just sorted through the desk drawers and found all manner of goodies we didn't know we had.)

Kathleen Sokvitne, a Registered Nurse doing a degree programme at UVic, is doing her community health practicum in our office. Besides making herself generally useful, Sok is hard at work on the Women's Health Needs Survey conducted by SWAG's Health group. She is translating the results from computerese into English, with appropriate annotations. Once her report is finished, we can think about how best to make use of it. Ideas are, as always, gratefully accepted.

All work and no play makes Jill frazzled. Do plan to stop by the Office on Friday afternoon, December 11, between 3 and 6pm, for a year-end celebratory Open House. Bring simple refreshments to share, and maybe a friend who's never heard of SWAG. There may not be an over-abundance of things to celebrate in this cockamamie world, but that's all the more reason to have a party.

The Christmas/Chanukah/Solstice season is often especially stressful on women: all that cooking/cleaning/company/expense/expectations takes a physical and emotional toll that is often unrecognised. For the past two years, Susan Slatkoff has conducted a highly enjoyable Thursday-at-Noon session entitled "Bah, Humbug: Seasonal Depression." This year Susan will be out of town, but I've decided to continue the tradition. You are all invited to the Third Annual Bah Humbug Celebration at the Office Thursday December 17th. Bring your favourite anti-Christmas story and a funny hat.

And last but not least...GET OUT AND VOTE IN THE CIVIC ELECTIONS!

# ABSENTEE MOTHERS SUPPORT GROUP

Deborah Goulet is one of many women who, in order to escape an abusive relationship, has had to leave her children behind. When she phoned the SWAG Office to enquire about support groups for non-custodial mothers, we had to say we didn't know of any. She offered to start one, and agreed to be interviewed for the Newsletter in order to publicise the issue.

At first, Debby was reluctant to use her surname, in case her husband discovered her whereabouts. She reconsidered, remarking she wants to tell the truth. Her story may help other women in similar situations.

The background to her case, briefly, is that her husband had been abusive to her before their marriage as well as after, but had had counselling. She had been optimistic about his desire and ability to change his behaviour. He had custody of his two children from a previous relationship. Debby had been involved in the care of these children for over three years, and though she was not their biological mother, she was extremely close to them. They called her "Mummy" and relied on her for emotional as well as physical care.

Debby says her husband was a good father and was never abusive to the children. However, the children frequently witnessed his violence. "They were seeing that all the time," and 4-year old Thomas was becoming aggressive towards his 5-year old sister.

The last straw was a beating that caused a concussion, severe bruising, and a wound over one eye requiring 12 stitches. At this point Debby feared if she didn't leave she would face a kill or be killed crisis. She went to the Transition House in her home town (in another province), and laid assault charges. The police declined to arrest her husband; had they done so, she could have stayed at home with the children.

Debby felt she "had to decide for me." She felt she couldn't safely stay in her own community. Having made

the decision to go, she left quickly, without returning home to collect personal possessions or to say goodbye to the children. At the time, she didn't know her rights, didn't know she could get custody, and was too unsure of what awaited her to know whether she could properly care for Christie and her brother.

Now Debby goes for physiotherapy and for counselling. After spending a short time at Transition House here, she is in an apartment which she shares with a friend who is also an absentee mother. She hasn't yet contacted the children, though she plans to send them birthday cards next month. She writes to them daily in her journal, thinks of them constantly, and hopes to be reunited with them.

Not yet at the stage of making firm plans, Debby is preparing the groundwork for her own future. Upgrading her education and employment skills is a major priority for her, and she has already started taking courses by correspondence.

Talking to Debby, it was obvious she has an enormous wealth of quiet determination and courage. The pain of leaving her children is only bearable with the knowledge she took the right course of action. A book that has helped her come to terms with her position is Absentee Mothers by Patricia Paskowicz.

In the US, there is an organisation of mothers who have lost custody of their children. Debby would like to start a group for non-custodial mothers here. She will be giving a Thursday-At Noon talk on the subject November 12th. Whether your interest is personal or theoretical, you will certainly find her presentation worthwhile.

## YES . . . BUT . . .

YES, the wage gap between men and women has diminished, BUT, much less than you realize. In 1971, a woman's earnings were 60% of a man's. In 1984 they were 65%, so that we've gained only 5% in 13 years. On average, a woman with a university degree still earns less than a man with a high school diploma.

YES, we have succeeded in having laws changed to ensure a fairer sharing of assets upon divorce BUT...most divorcing couples

own very little, and the trend is for support payments to be smaller and last for three years at most. Since over half of the marriages today end in divorce the chances of a young bride becoming a poverty-stricken single parent is skyrocketing.

YES, minimum pensions have been raised BUT...Canada's population is growing very fast, and most of the very old are widows with incomes below the poverty line.

YES, more childcare is available than before BUT...since thousands more mothers are working outside the home and many have to support themselves and their children, the supply of good childcare spaces is squeezed and more inadequate than ever.

One of the reasons why - after decades of fighting - we have come such a little way to achieving real change is the fact that our successes have created a backlash. Right-wing groups unashamedly spread lies about the women's movement and NAC in general. Most outrageous is the lie that NAC is "anti-housewives", "anti-motherhood", and "anti-family".

NAC has always insisted that our society recognize the crucial role of the family. We have always supported measure would give housewives the respect and security they deserve.

NAC has fought on behalf of mothers and pregnant women for ...maternity leave..benefits...higher family allowances...day-care...protection in the workplace...and NAC supports the right to choose whether to have children, and when.

NAC, unlike most right-wing groups, does not advocate only one type of family. The only sorts of unacceptable families are those where there is exploitation, violence, abuse, and incest.

For every mile we've come...there's an extra mile to go. Support NAC, send donations to; 344 Bloor St. W., Suite 505, Toronto, ON, M5S 1W9.

---

WOMENWISE- a feminist Health Centre Quarterly published in the U.S., is planning to concentrate on matters of importance to women internationally and would like to have more input and articles from women from other countries on an on-going basis. Articles should be between 4 and 12 double-spaced typed pages and can be based on research or personal experiences and observations. For information contact Michelle Duford, Womenwise, 38 South Main St., Concord, New Hampshire 03301; (603) 225-2739.



# THANK YOU . . .

B. Gail Riddell for your very informative letter and your comments on "The Rights of Older Women" article by Joan Hardy (October issue).

As a result of the conference sponsored by SWAG last May I hasten to assure you that your last paragraph "Let's work together to enhance older women's self-confidence, rather than undermining it - bitter, frustrated women don't get ahead in the world, but positive, articulate and healthy women can and do!" is very much the heart and soul of the philosophy behind the new group of women taking up the gauntlet of 'ageism' in our society and what we as women can do to change social policies etc.

As Program Director, Career Development/Women in Management and Retirement Education, perhaps you could keep the Victoria SWAG office notified of any new, workshops, ideas, of interest?

SWAG appreciates feedback... write us a letter..share your ideas, thoughts, news....and we appreciate any kind of volunteer support we can get too!!

## STRIPSEARCHING SUPPORT THE CAMPAIGN

The Irish Freedom Association has sent a petition sheet to SWAG office for people to sign. They are increasingly putting pressure on the Thatcher government to end this degrading practice. International pressure is particularly important if the campaign is to succeed. They are asking you to sign the petition but also to write to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and to the Minister of Prisons, Northern Ireland Office, Belfast, Ireland. They would also like to receive copies of these letters. Irish Freedom Association Box 596 Station U Toronto, Ontario M8Z 5Y9

The Waxing Moon Healing Village Society

Their concept is to develop a ♀'s sanctuary with emphasis on harmonious cooperation for self healing, personal growth, regeneration and development of skills.

"We envision the possibility of creating an inexpensive Home Base for independent ♀ of all ages, races, retired or working in a peaceful rural setting."

The Healing Village will offer:

-safe supportive space for ♀ in transition and need of healing

-alternative home base for aging ♀

-community of competent healers

-supportive environment for dying ♀

-international network

-retreats...workshops...job training programs...outlet for ♀'s crafts...camping...organic gardens...restaurant...healing centre...♀'s cultural festivals ...time sharing for living space.

If you want information or want to become a member contact them c/o 3541 W.14th. Ave. Vancouver, V6R 2W3

Brenda Bryan is treasurer and all correspondence goes through her. They are applying for charitable status so that donations will be tax deductible and they are looking for ♀ for -membership -founding land members -organizing benefit activities -and they are looking for property again...ideally acreage with access to lake or river.

## MEMBERSHIP CONFUSION!

To clear up any remaining confusion caused by our change-over in membership procedures, please note that membership in SWAG now costs \$12 a year - or \$6 if you are on low income. This amount barely covers the cost of sending out the Newsletter, so we would be

especially grateful if all who are not paid up could get their money in as soon as possible.

The other change is that all memberships are now renewable each September. This is why some of you who are paid up for the year received notices to pay again: we are trying to bring everybody up-to-date to September '88. The yearly amount is prorated by a dollar a month, which is why some of you were asked to pay \$4 or \$7. If you have any concerns or questions, please give us a call.

## Speaking of Artwork

Georgia Welles, whose abstract landscapes have been on display this past month at SWAG, has sold one of her paintings. Her exhibit will continue through the first part of November, and then a pair of women artists are planning a joint exhibit through the end of the year.

## More N-e-t-w-o-r-k-i-n-g

The Home Businesswomen's Network is a year-old national network for women who run home-based businesses.

Their newsletter--The Home Business Advocate--and an annual national directory of home-based businesses can be accessed by contacting them at 195 Markville Road, Unionville, Ontario, L3R 4B8.

This organization would like to contact all Canadian home-based businesswomen as well as those considering setting up a business in their homes. They are compiling statistics and demographics about the home business community in Canada and are dealing with the media to strengthen credibility.

Wendy Priesnitz, national coordinator is touring the country this Fall giving seminars on how to start a home business and holding inaugural meetings of local chapters of the network.

## MEMBERSHIP Including Newsletter Subscription:

- \$12.00 YEARLY; prorated at \$1.00 per month from September
- \$6.00 Low Income • \$25.00 Sustaining

SEND TO:

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

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

POSTAL CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: (S) \_\_\_\_\_

NEW MEMBER  RENEWAL  FOR A FRIEND



**VICTORIA STATUS OF WOMEN ACTION GROUP**

Box 6296, Station C, Victoria, B.C. V8P 5L5  
Office: 320-620 View St., Victoria, V8W 1J6, (604) 381-1012

Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# D A T E L I N E S

## NOVEMBER

### WOMEN'S FORUM ENDS

This SWAG-sponsored series of talks on a variety of feminist-related topics ends on **Wednesday, November 3rd**, with a presentation by Joan Graves and Anna Paletta, entitled "Feminist Possibilities: Alternative Futures". Joan and Anna will create positive fantasy visions about what the future may hold for women. Come to Spectrum School, 957 Burnside Road West. No fee, open to women and men.

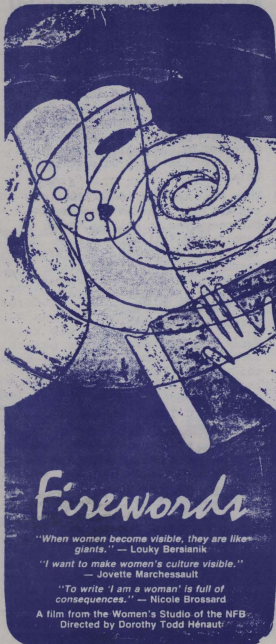
### FILM EVENINGS

Nov. 23 & 30, N.F.B.

8II Wharf, 7:30 p.m.

Free, all welcome

**FIREWORDS** to be shown



"When women become visible, they are like giants." — Louky Beraniak

"I want to make women's culture visible."  
— Jovette Marchessault

"To write 'I am a woman' is full of consequences." — Nicole Brassard

A film from the Women's Studio of the NFB  
Directed by Dorothy Todd Hénault

**4th** Disabled Women's Network (DAWN) monthly meeting, 2-4pm at SWAG.

Women For Economic Survival Open House 5-7pm in their new drop-in centre above the Keg Restaurant on Wharf Street at the bottom of Port Street.

**9th** All-Candidates Meeting on Women's Issues, 7:30 at the Downtown Public Library, sponsored by SWAG.

**12th** Greater Rights for Older Women (GROW) meeting, 7:15 at SWAG. All women welcome - no arbitrary age limits.

## THURSDAY-AT-NOON

### November

**5th** Women and Sport Jennifer Birch-Jones, BC Rep, Canadian Association for the Advancement of Women in Sport (CAAWs)

**12th** Absentee Mothers Deborah Goulet, a non-custodial mother

**19th** How Afghani Women Came Out of Purdah Phyllis Hopkinson, former CUSO volunteer and teacher in the Middle East

**26th** Women and Employment in Victoria Bonnie Jean Devine and Corinne Koehn, Shoreline/Spectrum Community Employment Project

### December

**3rd** War Toys: Harmless or Lethal? Judy Kudjunzic (to be confirmed)

**10th** When a loved one is in Intensive Care: What do you ask? How involved can you be? Kathleen Sokvitne, R.N.

**17th** Third Annual Bah Humbug Celebration: Combating Seasonal Depression

All Thursday-at-Noon talks are free. Bring your lunch. All women welcome.

**18th** THE INTIMATE INVASION Anti-porn play, 8pm at UVic Centre Auditorium. Co-sponsored by SWAG and the UVic Women's Centre. \$5

**20th** Hot Flashes Women's Cafe. 8-11 p.m. 106 Superior St. \$2. Outrageous desserts and Wonderful Fresh Coffees.

**NOVEMBER 20 and 21-** Growing Together Times For DADS

A time for men to share ideas, concerns and dreams about the business of fathering.

**FUN FELLOWSHIP FOOD-** location to be determined depending upon registration. Led by Dave Nordstrom, family counsellor and fathering advocate.

\$20. registration- \$15. to members of Capital Families and V.I.C.P.A. Telephone Dave at 386-7033. Deadline is Nov.10.



## YOUR VOTE COUNTS!

21st Municipal Elections

## DECEMBER

**3rd** Monthly meeting of DAWN - Disabled Women's Network. SWAG office. 2 to 4 p.m.

**11th Year-End Open House** 3-6pm at SWAG. Bring simple food to share.

**11th** Hot Flashes Women's Cafe. **CRAFT NIGHT-** also the same outrageous desserts and wonderful coffees. \$2. 106 Superior St.

**25th** - January 3rd inclusive: SWAG Office Closed. Phone messages will be checked. The Office will re-open on Monday morning, January 4th.

This issue of SWAG was produced by Jan Boutilier and Liz Cullen. Many thanks for all written contributions, next deadline is January 15. Good Christmas season and a Smashing New Year to all!!!!