

WOMEN ARE NOW AN ISSUE IN THIS ELECTION

Most of you will have heard about the findings survey when it came out in the news by reporting that Social Credit support is dwindling because of its less encouraging but equally important message for those of us concerned about women's rights, is that women's issues are NOW ISSUES to the average B.C. voter.

The survey was an impressively comprehensive poll of voter opinion in all areas of the province - fifty voters in each riding were interviewed. They were asked to name those problem areas which they felt would become the hot political issues in the up-coming election. Of 22 problems mentioned by enough people to be considered an "issue", NOT ONE IS AN ISSUE OF SPECIAL CONCERN TO WOMEN. Day care support, better job opportunities, equal pay, improved Human Rights legislation - all these went unmentioned.

The most optimistic interpretation that can be put on such results, is that these issues of vital concern to women are among those lumped together down in 12th place - uncounted and unremarked - 'OTHER' i.e. NOW ISSUE.

All this comes as no surprise to B.C. MLAs. The Vancouver Status of Women Council adapted the questionnaire from the May issue of Chateleine, and sent it to all 55 MLAs on May 15th. To date they have received only 10 replies, most of them from NDP members. The tally is Social Credit - 1, Liberal - none, NDP - 5, Anonymous - 4.

Obviously our MLAs need not concern themselves over the condition of women when the people who elect them DO NOT CONSIDER WOMEN'S ISSUES TO BE ELECTION ISSUES.

The only way to impress the importance of women's rights upon our elected representatives is to make their constituents aware of the issues. This means a personal letter to you to your MIA, indicating that you are interested in their views. You might ask some of the questions given below.

STATUS OF WOMEN ACTION GROUP

NEWSLETTER

JUNE - 1972

VOLUME 1 - NUMBER 1

As a voter in your riding, I would be most interested in learning your views on the following questions. I will look forward to receiving your reply:

1. Have you read the Royal Commission Report on the Status of Women?
2. Do you think women should be appointed to advisory and professional positions in the Provincial Civil Service in the same ratio as they appear in the labour force?
3. The B.C. Government, in cooperation with the Federal and Municipal governments, should provide funds for the setting up of day care centres.
4. The B.C. Government should increase significantly the number of women on its Boards, Commissions, Corporations, Councils, Advisory Committees, and Task Forces.
5. Counsellors should provide girls with the same career information as boys.
6. The B.C. Government should amend the Human Rights Act to recognize the concept of equal partnership in the workplace.
7. The B.C. Department of Health should organize family planning clinics in each public health unit, and provide mobile clinics where necessary.
8. The Human Rights Act should be amended in such a way that protection and anonymity of the complainant are maximized.

EDITOR: Shirley Plater
131 Beechwood,
(388-6k49)

STATUS OF WOMEN ACTION GROUP

NEWSLETTER

JUNE - 1975

VOLUME 1 - NUMBER 1

EDITOR: Shirley Pieter
131 Beechwood,
(388-6k49)

WOMEN ARE NON-ISSUE IN THIS ELECTION

Most of you will have heard about the Province survey when it made news by reporting that Social Credit support is dwindling across B.C. Its less encouraging but equally important message for those of us concerned about women's rights, is that women's issues are NON-ISSUES to the average B.C. voter.

The survey was an impressively comprehensive poll of voter opinion in all areas of the province - fifty voters in each riding were interviewed. They were asked to name those problem areas which they felt would become the hot political issues in the up-coming election. Of 22 problems mentioned by enough people to be considered an "issue", NOT ONE IS AN ISSUE OF SPECIAL CONCERN TO WOMEN. Day care support, better job opportunities, equal pay, improved Human Rights legislation - all these went unmentioned.

The most optimistic interpretation that can be put on such results, is that these issues of vital concern to women are among those lumped together down in 12th place - uncounted and unremarked - 'OTHER' i.e. NON-ISSUE.

All this comes as no surprise to B.C. MLAs. The Vancouver Status of Women Council adapted the questionnaire from the May issue of Chatelaine, and sent it to all 55 MLAs on May 16th. To date they have received only 10 replies, most of them from NDP members. The tally is Social Credit - 1; Liberal - none; NDP - 5; Anonymous - 4.

Obviously our MLAs need not concern themselves over the condition of women when the people who elect them DO NOT CONSIDER WOMEN'S ISSUES TO BE ELECTION ISSUES.

The only way to impress the importance of women's rights upon our elected representatives, is to make them aware that a large number of the electors (potentially more than 50%!) will make their decision on election day on the basis of HIS or HER stand on just these non-issues. This means a personal letter from you to your MLA, indicating that you are interested in learning his views. You might ask some of the questions given in the SWAC questionnaire.

As a voter in your riding, I would be most interested in learning your views on the following questions. I will look forward to receiving your reply:

1. Have you read the Royal Commission Report on the Status of Women?
2. Do you think women should be appointed to supervisory and professional positions in the Provincial Civil Service in the same ratio as they appear in the labour force?
3. The B.C. Government, in cooperation with the federal and municipal governments, should provide funds for the setting up of daycare centres.
4. The B.C. Government should increase significantly the number of women on its Boards, Commissions, Corporations, Councils, Advisory Committees, and Task Forces.
5. Counsellors should provide girls with the same career information as boys.
6. The B.C. Government should amend the Family Relations Act to recognize the concept of equal partnership in marriage.
7. The B.C. Department of Health should organize family planning clinics in each public health unit, and provide mobile clinics where necessary.
8. The Human Rights Act should be amended in such a way that protection and anonymity of the complainant are maximized.

The Education Group thinks that this is a particularly worthwhile project that could be expanded next year. Copies of their report and the aids used in the programme are available from Marged Dewar, #4 - 129 Rockland Ave. (386-7880), or Shirlee Pister, 131 Beechwood (388-6149).

WOMEN ARE NON-ISSUE IN THIS ELECTION

Most of you will have heard about the Province survey when it made news by reporting that Social Credit support is dwindling across B.C. Its less encouraging but equally important message for those of us concerned about women's rights, is that women's issues are NON-ISSUES to the average B.C. voter.

The survey was an impressively comprehensive poll of voter opinion in all areas of the province - fifty voters in each riding were interviewed. They were asked to name those problem areas which they felt would become the hot political issues in the up-coming election. Of 22 problems mentioned by enough people to be considered an "issue", NOT ONE IS AN ISSUE OF SPECIAL CONCERN TO WOMEN. Day care support, better job opportunities, equal pay, improved Human Rights legisla- tion - all these went unmentioned.

The most optimistic interpretation that can be put on such results is that these issues of vital concern to women are among those lumped together down in 12th place - uncounted and unremarked - 'OTHER', i.e. NON-ISSUE.

All this comes as no surprise to B.C. MLAs. The Vancouver Status of Women Council adapted the questionnaire from the May issue of Chelaine, and sent it to all 25 MLAs on May 10th. To date they have received only 10 replies, most of them from NDP members. The tally is Social Credit - 1; Liberal - none; NDP - 5; Anonymous - 4.

Obviously our MLAs need not concern themselves over the condition of women when the people who elect them DO NOT CONSIDER WOMEN'S ISSUES TO BE ELECTION ISSUES.

The only way to impress the importance of women's rights upon our elected representatives, is to make them aware that a large number of the electors (potentially more than 50%) will make their decision on election day on the basis of HIS or HER stand on just these non-issues. This means a personal letter from you to your M.L.A. indicating that you are interested in learning his views. You might ask some of the questions given in the SWAC questionnaire.

As a voter in your riding, I would be most interested in learning your views on the following questions. I will look forward to receiving your reply:

1. Have you read the Royal Commission Report on the Status of Women?
2. Do you think women should be appointed to supervisory and professional positions in the Provincial Civil Service in the same ratio as they appear in the labour force?
3. The B.C. Government, in cooperation with the federal and municipal governments, should provide funds for the setting up of day-care centres.
4. The B.C. Government should increase significantly the number of women on its Boards, Commissions, Corporations, Councils, Advisory Committees, and Task Forces.
5. Counsellors should provide girls with the same career information as boys.
6. The B.C. Government should amend the Family Relations Act to recognize the concept of equal partnership in marriage.
7. The B.C. Department of Health should organize family planning clinics in each public health unit, and provide mobile clinics where necessary.
8. The Human Rights Act should be amended in such a way that protection and anonymity of the complainant are maximized.

HOME POLITICAL TRUTHS

The Political Life Group has been working on the results of a questionnaire to evaluate political involvement. They handed it out to SWAG members at the May meeting, and also tested a random sample of women. Some results need little processing, however, and one of them is that of 25 SWAG members responding, only 4 had attended an all candidates meeting at the time of the last election. Eleven people had previously worked on political campaigns.

Now that we are so much more politically aware, the proportions should change radically by the end of the up-coming elections.

Here are some other facts and figures to help build your energies:

- If you live in VICTORIA or ESQUIMALT MUNICIPALITIES, you are not represented by a woman at any level of government - Municipal, Provincial or Federal.

- VANCOUVER ISLAND sends no women representatives to either the Provincial Legislature or the Federal House.

- Only 9% of the MLAs are female, and much as Grace McDinnis works like ten, she still works out to exactly 0.4% in a houseful of "MCPs"!

NB: We do have one very capable woman running provincially in Victoria. Those who would like to work on Kathleen Ruff's campaign can call her or Jim Beaubien (385-0903). Her campaign will start off with the first canvas on July 10th. Canvassers will meet at the NDP office on Blanshard Street, at 8.00 p.m.

\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

A Canadian economist has devised a formula for estimating the amount theoretically owed women for sex discrimination in employment. He suggests that as little as 52% or as much as 78% of the female - male wage differential could be attributed to the effects of sex discrimination.

According to his formula, women workers in the U.S. are owed between 34.8 billion and 51.9 billion dollars a year.

Canadian women can't send out their bills 'til the 1971 Census is published, but we could be giving some thought to the proportion we'll charge the banks, the telephone companies and other discriminatory employers!

SWAG SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

Since February, about 15 different SWAG members have participated in the Status of Women program organized by the Education Group. They have gone out in groups of 3 - 5, to lead small discussion groups on the Status of Women in our society. All six high schools in District #61 were approached, with three of them expressing interest in having us come to speak to their senior guidance classes. Over 400 students were reached.

A variety of aids were used: consciousness raising questionnaires for the students; short booklists of the best liberation literature; the most glaring wage differential statistics for B.C., etc.

An evaluation questionnaire was also sent around to the students at one of the schools, and received surprisingly positive results. Though about half of them felt that our particular session was 'not really' useful, they all had constructive suggestions for improvements in format and additional topics that they wanted a chance to discuss. A large proportion felt that the condition and Status of Women was a subject on which they would like to have more classes and/or discussion groups.

The Education Group thinks that this is a particularly worthwhile project that could be expanded next year. Copies of their report and the aids used in the programme are available from Marged Dewar, #4 - 1249 Rockland Ave., (386-7880), or Shirlee Plater, 131 Beechwood (388-6149).

The Political Life Group has been working on the results of a questionnaire to evaluate political involvement. They handed it out to SWAG members at the May meeting, and also tested a random sample of women. Some results need little processing, however, and one of them is that of 25 SWAG members responding, only 4 had attended an all candidates meeting at the time of the last election. Eleven people had previously worked on political campaigns.

Now that we are so much more politically aware, the proportions should change radically by the end of the up-coming elections.

Here are some other facts and figures to help build your energies:

- If you live in VICTORIA or ESQUIMALT MUNICIPALITIES, you are not represented by a woman at any level of government - Municipal, Provincial or Federal.

- VANCOUVER ISLAND sends no women representatives to either the Provincial Legislature or the Federal House.

- Only 9% of the MLAs are female, and much as Grace MacInnes works like ten, she still works out to exactly 0.4% in a household of "MCPs".

NB: We do have one very capable woman running provincially in Victoria. Those who would like to work on Kathleen Ruff's campaign can call her or Jim Beaudin (385-0903). Her campaign will start off with the first canvass on July 10th. Canvassers will meet at the NDP office on Blanshard Street, at 8:00 p.m.

\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

A Canadian economist has devised a formula for estimating the amount theoretically owed women for sex discrimination in employment. He suggests that as little as 52% or as much as 78% of the female - discrimination.

According to his formula, women workers in the U.S. are owed between 34.8 billion and 51.9 billion dollars a year.

Canadian women can't send out their bills 'til the 1971 Census is published, but we could be giving some thought to the proportion we'll charge the banks, the telephone companies and other discriminatory employers!

SWAG SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

Since February, about 15 different SWAG members have participated in the Status of Women program organized by the Education Group. They have gone out in groups of 3 - 5, to lead small discussion groups on the Status of Women in our society. All six high schools in District #61 were approached, with three of them expressing interest in having us come to speak to their senior guidance classes. Over 400 students were reached.

A variety of aids were used: consciousness raising questionnaires for the students; short booklets of the best liberation literature; the most glaring wage differential statistics for B.C., etc.

An evaluation questionnaire was also sent around to the students at one of the schools, and received surprisingly positive results. The' about half of them felt that our particular session was 'not really' useful, they all had constructive suggestions for improvements in format and additional copies that they wanted a chance to discuss. A large proportion felt that the condition and Status of Women was a subject on which they would like to have more classes and/or discussion groups.

The Education Group thinks that this is a particularly worthwhile project that could be expanded next year. Copies of their report and the aids used in the programme are available from Marged Dewar, #4 - 1249 Rockland Ave., (386-7880), or Shirlee Pister, 131 Beechwood (388-6149).

FALL CONFERENCE

At the May meeting, members decided SWAG will organize a one-day Vancouver Island Conference on the Status of Women. The tentative date for the Conference is on the last weekend in October, but this depends on the availability of a guest speaker; it is hoped that Grace MacInnis will agree to come. Purpose of the Conference would be to bring together as many groups and individuals interested in women's rights, as possible; to encourage the formation of Status of Women Action Groups in other centres on the Island, and to plan co-operative action in the struggle to equalize the Status of Women in this province and across the country.

We are presently seeking out groups in each centre up-island who will act as conference information outlets, as well as approach other Women's Groups in Victoria who may be interested in working with us on this conference.

More information is available from any of the executive members whose names etc appear on the last page of the newsletter.

HAVE YOU SEEN ???

Noticed the Hillside Palm Springs SPA ads recently? These have always cashed in on the prevalent view of woman as a commodity - the view which leads a woman to place absolute importance on maintaining her physical desirability as the sole means of preserving her market value. With an ad which appeared in the Times last week, this exploitation has become incredibly overt.

HOW DOES YOUR MAN FEEL ABOUT YOUR FIGURE? DOES HE HAVE CAUSE FOR COMPLAINT? they ask. And after a letter from one poor husband who finds that his affection for his wife is getting smaller as she gets larger, finishes up with - HE DESERVES A LOVLIER YOU. HIS HAPPINESS CAN'T WAIT !!!!!

If the use of this demeaning image of women makes you angry, why not phone and protest this sexist form of advertising. If you belong you might threaten to cancel your membership. Why can't they advertise the same benefits (those of a healthy body and the satisfaction of physical accomplishment) for women as they do for men?

CANADIANA

At last --- some Canadian books on the Women's Movement.

- The Lace Ghetto: By Maxine Nunes and Deanna White. New Press. \$6.95. (Expensive, but the Public Library does have on order if you can wait). MacLean's says it's a "primer of feminism, illustrated by a series of ads that unwittingly make points about women's lives that no media man ever intended". Cool tone, but the effect is far from cool - will raise the consciousness of Auntie Toms.

- The Baby Trap: By Ellen Peck. Pinnacle Books. \$1.50. Explores the varied pressures - from the overt demands of grandparents to the most subtle self-doubts - upon the married woman to have children. Makes a valid case for those who don't.

And more to come, according to the Women's Educational Press, who will be bringing out an anthology of writings on women and the women's movement in Canada SOON. Title: Women Unite - You might ask your bookstore to get it in stock. Publisher's address: Women's Educational Press, 280 Bloor Street, Room 394, Toronto, Ont.

At the May meeting, members decided SWAG will organize a one-day Vancouver Island Conference on the Status of Women. The tentative date for the Conference is on the last weekend in October, but this depends on the availability of a great speaker; it is hoped that Grace McDermott will agree to come. Purpose of the Conference would be to bring together as many groups and individuals interested in women's rights, as possible, to encourage the formation of Status of Women Action Groups in other centres on the Island, and to plan co-operative action in the struggle to equalize the Status of Women in this province and across the country.

We are presently seeking out groups in each centre up-Island who will act as conference information outlets, as well as approach other Women's Groups in Victoria who may be interested in working with us on this conference.

More information is available from any of the executive members whose names etc appear on the last page of the newsletter.

HAVE YOU SEEN ???

Noticed the Hillside Palm Springs SPA ad recently? These have always cashed in on the prevalent view of women as a commodity - the view which leads a woman to place absolute importance on maintaining her physical desirability as the sole means of preserving her market value. With an ad which appeared in the Times last week, this exploitation has become incredibly overt.

HOW DOES YOUR MAN FEEL ABOUT YOUR FIGURE? DOES HE HAVE CAUSE FOR COMPLAINT? they ask. And after a letter from one poor husband who finds that his affection for his wife is getting smaller as she gets larger, finishes up with - HE DESERVES A LOVELIER YOU. HIS HAPPINESS CAN'T WAIT !!!!!

If the use of this demeaning image of women makes you angry, why not phone and protest this sexist form of advertising. If you belong you might threaten to cancel your membership. Why can't they do the same benefits (those of a healthy body and the satisfaction of physical accomplishment) for women as they do for men?

CANADIANA

At last --- some Canadian books on the Women's Movement.

- The Lace Ghetto: By Maxine Nunes and Bonna White. New Press, \$6.95. (Expensive, but the Public Library does have on order if you can wait). MacLean's says it's "primer of feminism, illustrated by a series of ads that unwittingly make points about women's lives that no media man ever intended". Cool tone, but the effect is far from cool - will raise the consciousness of Aunt Tom's.

- The Baby Trap: By Ellen Peck. Finsale Books, \$1.50. Explores the varied pressures - from the overt demands of grandparents to the most subtle self-doubts - upon the married woman to have children. Makes a valid case for those who don't.

And more to come, according to the Women's Educational Press, who will be bringing out an anthology of writings on women and the women's movement in Canada soon. Title: Women Unite - You might ask your bookstore to get it in stock. Publisher's address: Women's Educational Press, 280 Bloor Street, Room 304, Toronto, Ont.

DISCRIMINATION IN THE LABOUR FORCE

Recently a male bank teller applied to every bank, trust company and insurance company, in and around Vancouver, for a job, and was told that none of these institutions hired men as tellers. Complaint was filed with the Fair Employment Practices Branch of the Department of Labour, Ottawa. Letters were sent to personnel directors of all banks. Replies received from three; of these two stated that they complied with the Labour Act, and the third stated that they do not discriminate and would be willing to look again at the man's application. Vancouver's SWAC has been working on this case of discrimination in employment. Victoria's SWAG has commended them on their efforts, and believes that this case illustrates well the fact that men are denied the right to employment in certain areas of the work force. In banks, 90% of female employees enjoy the privilege of working in the under \$5,000 wage category, whereas only 28% of the men have this right. As an example, not too long ago, a bank manager was quoted on the radio as saying - in regard to this case - that any man who wanted a job as a bank teller needed his head examined. Now really, whose head needs examined.

On the subject of banks, we have been contacted by a woman bank-teller, who wanted to apply for a management training programme in Vancouver, advertised among the staff. She was told not to apply for this training, by the office manager, as the bank's policy was not to consider women for this programme. This woman has had four years experience in the bank, and at home is the sole support of a family. Believing that a law was being broken - namely, being discriminated against, because of sex, in employment - Kathleen Ruff immediately sent a letter off to Sylva Gelber, Director of Women's Bureau in the Department of Labour in Ottawa. In the letter she stated the woman's case, and asked them to send information, so that the woman involved could go ahead and lay a complaint under the Fair Employment Practices Act. Reply came shortly after stating that as of yet Bill C-206 is not in force and received first reading in the House of Commons on May 10, 1972. What a blow! Until that law is in force women shall be discriminated in all conditions of employment.

June 5th in the Times, an article appeared with the headline "Disenchanted Policewoman Quits". Janet Holmes, Victoria's only policewoman has quit the police force. Because there is no provision in Victoria for a policewoman of her rank - first class - she was paid the same rate as a second class male constable and had no opportunity for advancement, because it is necessary to be classified as first class before being considered for the rank of sergeant.

Janet Holmes said she was assigned primarily desk duties and about 25% doing such things as patrol duty, investigations and working with the public.

Prior to coming to Victoria, she had a seven-year experience with the Durham County police force in England. There, about 75% of her time was spent in police duties. Also, out of a 1,600 member force, about 80 women were employed. She stated that in England both male and female did the same jobs, from handling lost children to checking out the breaking and entering complaints. Somehow, Victoria feels a woman is more valuable around the station, answering phones and sitting at a desk.

B.C. OUT TO LUNCH

Representative from all Human Rights Commissions across Canada met in Edmonton on May 25th to discuss Human Rights in Canada. British Columbia was not represented, and has not joined the newly formed Canadian Association of Statutory Human Rights Agencies. Why?

A small library has been set up with feminist literature. At present, one person on the grant is studying the requirements for setting up a day-care centre, with the hope of starting one in the future. However, they DO have a baby-sitting exchange service operating now. So far, approximately ten people or so visit the Centre each day.

The following courses are being offered:

DISCRIMINATION IN THE LABOUR FORCE

Recently a male bank teller applied to every bank, trust company and insurance company in and around Vancouver, for a job, and was told that none of these institutions hired men as tellers. Complaint was filed with the Fair Employment Practices Branch of the Department of Labour, Ottawa. Letters were sent to personnel directors of all banks. Replies received from three of these two stated that they complied with the Labour Act, and the third stated that they do not discriminate and would be willing to look again at the man's application. Vancouver's SWAC has been working on this case of discrimination in employment. Victoria's SWAC has commended them on their efforts and believes that this case illustrates well the fact that men are denied the right to employment in certain areas of the work force. In banks, 90% of female employees enjoy the privilege of working in the under \$2,000 wage category, whereas only 28% of the men have this right. As an example, not too long ago, a bank manager was quoted on the radio as saying - in regard to this case - that any man who wanted a job as a bank teller needed his head examined. Now really, whose head needs examined.

On the subject of banks, we have been contacted by a woman bank-teller, who wanted to apply for a management training programme in Vancouver, advertised among the staff. She was told not to apply for this training by the office manager, as the bank's policy was not to consider women for this programme. This woman has had four years experience in the bank, and at home is the sole support of a family. Believing that a law was being broken - namely, being discriminated against, because of sex, in employment - Kathleen Ruff immediately sent a letter off to Sylvia Gelber, Director of Women's Bureau in the Department of Labour in Ottawa. In the letter she stated the woman's case, and asked them to send information, so that the woman involved could go ahead and lay a complaint under the Fair Employment Practices Act. Reply came shortly after stating that as of yet Bill C-200 is not in force and received first reading in the House of Commons on May 10, 1975. What a blow! Until that law is in force women shall be discriminated in all conditions of employment.

June 5th in the Times, an article appeared with the headline "Disenfranchised Policewomen Quit". Janet Holmes, Victoria's only policewoman has quit the police force. Because there is no provision in Victoria for a policewoman of her rank - first class - she was paid the same rate as a second class male constable and had no opportunity for advancement, because it is necessary to be classified as first class before being considered for the rank of sergeant.

Janet Holmes said she was assigned primarily desk duties and about 25% doing such things as patrol duty, investigations and working with the public.

Prior to coming to Victoria, she had a seven-year experience with the Durham County police force in England. There, about 75% of her time was spent in police duties. Also, out of a 1,000 member force, about 80 women were employed. She stated that in England both male and female did the same jobs, from handling lost children to checking out the breaking and entering complaints. Somehow, Victoria feels a woman is more valuable around the station, answering phones and sitting at a desk.

B.C. OUT TO LUNCH

Representative from all Human Rights Commissions across Canada met in Edmonton on May 25th to discuss Human Rights in Canada. British Columbia was not represented, and has not joined the newly formed Canadian Association of Statutory Human Rights Agencies. Why?

CLEARING HOUSE FOR FEMINIST MEDIA

Publishes a quarterly list of people writing and publishing Feminist Work or working for other media in that field. SWAG has just received its first copy of this list, and would like to make the information available to as many interested people as possible. So - if you're interested in getting in touch with people across Canada who are writing non-sexist children's books, teaching women's courses, doing research on women, publishing on women in academic journals, making films, operating publishing houses, etc., please call Marged Dewar (386-7880). She will be glad to make the list available to you. OR you can send a batch of envelopes (self-addressed and stamped) or a dollar for a year's mailing services to:

Clearing House for Feminist Media,
P.O. Box 207,
Ancaster, Ontario,

and receive your own list.

Now that SWAG publishes a newsletter, we'll be getting ourselves listed!

AD-WOMEN: ARTISTS: PR-EXPERTS!!

We have booked the Public Library Display Case on Yates Street for the last two weeks of September, and need people to work up a really imaginative and eye-catching display to spread the word on SWAG and the Women's Movement. Call Shirley Plater (388-6149) or Norrie Preston (598-1390) if you have ideas, or want to work on the display.

WOMEN'S COURSES - FOR US

After a complete void in this area in Victoria, things are looking up with TWO courses planned for the coming fall.

SWAG - YM/YW

Will jointly sponsor a series of noon hour lectures on the Report of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women. The series is still in the planning stage, but each session will likely centre on a guest speaker who will deal with one specific aspect of the report, such as LEGAL RIGHTS; WOMEN IN THE LABOUR FORCE, etc. Working on the course from SWAG are Norrie Preston (598-1390), Ella Davis (477-2995), Shirley Nordstrom (478-7186) and Irene Beavis (383-0457). They would be glad to hear your suggestions for topics or possible guest speakers.

UVIC EXTENSION DEPARTMENT

Is offering a course of lectures to be given by Marjorie Mitchell, an anthropologist. Main purpose of the course is to help women to understand more fully what it means to be a woman, biologically, historically, socially and culturally. It will include sessions on such things as women in primitive societies, socialization of female children, women in Canadian literature, etc.

A PLACE OF YOUR OWN - THE VICTORIA WOMEN'S CENTRE

An Opportunities for Youth grant has been given seven Victoria women to start up a Women's Drop-in Centre. It's located at 1551 Oak Bay Avenue (at the Fort and Oak Bay Avenue Junction), and you can visit there between 12.00 noon and 10:00 p.m. - to rap, read or even take a course. The feeling is warm, and the people are cheerful. A small library has been set up with feminist literature. At present, one person on the grant is studying the requirements for setting up a day-care centre, with the hope of starting one in the future. However, they DO have a baby-sitting exchange service operating now. So far, approximately ten people or so visit the Centre each day.

The following courses are being offered:

CLEARING HOUSE FOR FEMINIST MEDIA

Published a quarterly list of people writing and publishing Feminist Work or working for other media in that field. SWAG has just received its first copy of this list, and would like to make the information available to as many interested people as possible. So if you're interested in getting in touch with people across Canada who are writing non-sexist children's books, teaching women's courses, doing research on women, publishing on women in academic journals, making films, operating publishing houses, etc., please call Marge Dewar (388-7880). She will be glad to make the list available to you. OR you can send a batch of envelopes (self-addressed and stamped) or a dollar for a year's mailing services to:

Clearing House for Feminist Media
P.O. Box 207
Ancaster, Ontario

and receive your own list.

Now that SWAG publishes a newsletter, we'll be getting ourselves listed!

AD-WOMEN: ARTISTS: PR-EXPERTS!!

We have booked the Public Library Display Case on Yates Street for the last two weeks of September, and need people to work up a really imaginative and eye-catching display to spread the word on SWAG and the Women's Movement. Call Shirley Fisher (388-6149) or Norris Preston (598-1390) if you have ideas, or want to work on the display.

WOMEN'S COURSES - FOR US

After a complete void in this area in Victoria, things are looking up with TWO courses planned for the coming fall.

SWAG - YW/YW

Will jointly sponsor a series of noon hour lectures on the Report of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women. The series is still in the planning stage, but each session will likely centre on a guest speaker who will deal with one specific aspect of the report, such as LEGAL RIGHTS; WOMEN IN THE LABOUR FORCE, etc. Working on the course from SWAG are Norris Preston (598-1390), Ella Davis (477-2925), Shirley Nordstrom (478-7186) and Irene Beavis (383-0457). They would be glad to hear your suggestions for topics or possible guest speakers.

UVIC EXTENSION DEPARTMENT

Is offering a course of lectures to be given by Marjorie Mitchell, an anthropologist. Main purpose of the course is to help women to understand more fully what it means to be a woman, biologically, historically, socially and culturally. It will include sessions on such things as women in primitive societies, socialization of female children, women in Canadian literature, etc.

A PLACE OF YOUR OWN - THE VICTORIA WOMEN'S CENTRE

An opportunity for Youth Grant has been given seven Victoria women to start up a Women's Drop-in Centre. It's located at 1521 Oak Bay Avenue (at the Port and Oak Bay Avenue Junction), and you can visit there between 12:00 noon and 10:00 p.m. - to read, or even take a course. The feeling is warm, and the people are cheerful. A small library has been set up with feminist literature. At present, one person on the grant is studying the requirements for setting up a day-care centre, with the hope of starting one in the future. However, they DO have a baby-sitting exchange service operating now. So far, approximately ten people or so visit the Centre each day.

The following courses are being offered:

BATIK
BEADWORK
MACRAME
CROCHETING

WEAVING
KNITTING
WOMEN AND THE LAW
POTTERY

NATURAL FOODS
ORGANIC GARDENING
NATURAL CHILDBIRTH

The schedule of events is:

Saturday	2.00 p.m.	-	BATIK
Tuesday	7.30 p.m.	-	COUNSCIOUSNESS RAISING
Wednesday	7.30 p.m.	-	MS FIXIT
Thursday	2.00 p.m.	-	OPPRESSION GROUP
Monday	7.30 p.m.	-	OPPRESSION GROUP

For more information phone: 385-3843

MORE - FROM B.C. TEL

SWAG recently followed the lead of the Port Alberni Group, and sent a letter to B.C. Tel requesting that they add the wife's initial or name in listings for married couples. At present only the male's initials are given. Unless you happen to know HIS name, you'll have trouble finding HER, if she happens to be married. We feel that this step would recognise the equality of partnership in marriage, and would also be of great practical use.

B.C. Tel has replied to the effect that the letter has been forwarded to their 'Directory Design Department' for further ACTION; let's hope that is not just a figure of speech!

Perhaps if we made individual requests of this nature we would see our initials or names appear that much sooner.

MS

For more than twenty years, Ms has appeared in secretarial handbooks as the suggested form of address when a woman's marital status is unknown; a sort of neutral combination of Miss and Mrs.

Now Ms is being adopted as a standard form of address by women who want to be recognized as individuals, rather than being identified by their relationship to a man. After all if 'Mr' is enough to indicate 'male', then 'Ms' should be sufficient to indicate female gender.

A spot survey was done, and here are the results on the use of 'Ms' in Victoria:

B.C. Tel	- against directory rules
Victoria Public Library	- will upon request
Royal Jubilee Hospital	- if used, they would consider that a mistake had been made
City Hall	- No, they would not use it
Bank	- No, not on an account or cheque
Department Store	- Not on an account card

EXECUTIVE:

President	- Kathleen Ruff	477-3549
Vice President	Norrie Preston	598-1390
Recording Secretary	Sharon Finkleman	386-3091
Membership Secretary	Diane Grimmer	477-6148
Corresponding Secretary	Ness Wozny	658-5314
News Letter	Shirley Plater	388-6149

NATURAL FOODS
ORGANIC GARDENING
NATURAL CHILDREN

WEAVING
KNITTING
WOMEN AND THE LAW
POTTERY

BATIK
BEADWORK
MACRAME
CROCHETING

The schedule of events is:

BATIK	-	2.00 p.m.	Saturday
CONSCIOUSNESS RAISING	-	7.30 p.m.	Tuesday
MS FIXIT	-	7.30 p.m.	Wednesday
OPPRESSION GROUP	-	2.00 p.m.	Thursday
OPPRESSION GROUP	-	7.30 p.m.	Monday

For more information phone: 385-3843

MORE - FROM B.C. TEL

SWAG recently followed the lead of the Port Albert Group, and sent a letter to B.C. Tel requesting that they add the wife's initial or name in listings for married couples. At present only the male's initials are given. Unless you happen to know HIS name, you'll have trouble finding HER, if she happens to be married. We feel that this step would recognize the equality of partnership in marriage, and would also be of great practical use.

B.C. Tel has replied to the effect that the letter has been forwarded to their 'Directory Design Department' for further ACTION; let's hope that is not just a figure of speech!

Perhaps if we made individual requests of this nature we would see our initials or names appear that much sooner.

MS

For more than twenty years, Ms has appeared in secretarial handbooks as the suggested form of address when a woman's marital status is unknown, a sort of neutral combination of Miss and Mrs.

Now Ms is being adopted as a standard form of address by women who want to be recognized as individuals, rather than being identified by their relationship to a man. After all if 'Mr' is enough to indicate 'male', then 'Ms' should be sufficient to indicate female gender.

A spot survey was done, and here are the results on the use of 'Ms' in Victoria:

- Not on an account card
- Not on an account or cheque
- No, they would not use it
- a mistake had been made
- if used, they would consider that
- Victoria Public Library
- Royal Jubilee Hospital
- City Hall
- Bank
- Department Store

EXECUTIVE:

- President - Kathleen Ruff 477-3249
- Vice President - Norrie Preston 598-1390
- Recording Secretary - Sharon Finkelman 386-3091
- Membership Secretary - Diane Grimmer 477-6148
- Corresponding Secretary - Ness Wozny 658-5314
- News Letter - Shirley Pister 388-6149