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STATUS of WOMEN NEWS

Conference

October, 1985

Don't Miss It Register Now

Executive producer Kathleen Shannon of the award-winning Studio D at the National Film Board says the women's film unit is overflowing with projects and energy.

Shannon, who has headed Studio D since its inception in 1974, will be the keynote speaker at the 13th Annual SWAG Fall Conference being held at UVIC October 25 and 26. She will speak at the Friday evening session and her talk will be followed by a coffee party.

In a report by Ann Charney in *Chatelaine*, Shannon explained the source of Studio D's energy.

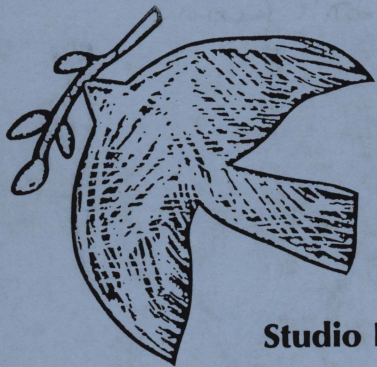
"As a nonhierarchical women's collective, we are an anomaly within a large patriarchal structure, a structure where the positions of power are, for the most part, in the hands of men. We'd never before had a chance to express our ideas as women film-makers."



Studio D celebrated its 10th anniversary in 1985. It is staffed by 16 women and has produced about 60 films. Shannon, the founder of the unit received an honorary doctorate of laws from Queen's University.

Registration Fee

Registration fee for the SWAG Conference is \$25 including lunch and wine and cheese. However, SWAG will make subsidies available to students or unemployed women unable to pay the full amount. Please contact the office at 381-1012 or drop in to 213-620 View Street.



Studio D

Film for Social Change

A quick run-down on some of the films which Studio D has produced demonstrates the kind of human and social commitment behind the film-makers: the Oscar-winning *If You Love This Planet*; a film dealing with pornography, *Not A Love Story*; *Speaking Our Peace*, a film about women, peace and power which will be used at the SWAG conference in a workshop; *This Borrowed Land* which features farming women in the Peace River Region and the threat to farmland; *Abortion: Stories from North and South*; *Dream of a Free Country: A Message From Nicaraguan Women*; *Behind the Veil: Nuns*, *Head Start: Meeting the Computer Challenge*, and *D.E.S.: An Uncertain Legacy* which will soon be available in Victoria.

Workshops Galore It's Your Future

You can Take Hold of the Future in a personal or a general way by choosing to attend workshops that interest you. For example, you might want to learn how to handle life When Adult Children Come Home or you might want to discuss a moral issue such as Reproductive Technologies. Either way, there's a workshop for you at the 1985 SWAG Conference.

Christine St. Peter, coordinator and lecturer on Women's Studies at the University of Victoria says that the uncontrolled development of reproductive technologies "is the greatest threat facing us today after the threat of nuclear holocaust."

St. Peter says the issue is of grave concern because "the experimentation and implementation of these technologies are ones that women have no control over at the present time, and yet they are used on our bodies, and may radically change our role in the future and might, unless we help to determine how they are being used, be very destructive."

She says that tens of thousands of scientists are working in this area and yet the ethical questions are not yet resolved.

"It is like atom-splitting."

This workshop is geared to inform women who do not know about reproductive technologies, and to stimulate discussion around the moral issues. Some of the questions which will be raised are worth thinking about.

Have you thought about the possibility of extra-uterine birthing machines? If women are not needed to bear the babies is that freedom or a misogynist threat to something we value?

What if people choose to have boys instead of girls or what if they always have a son first and a daughter second? What are the implications if the girl is always the junior partner?

There are dangers in reproductive technologies and St. Peter says: "We really have to be talking about this."

In these times of high unemployment many parents have their adult children come back home to live--just as they were beginning to enjoy living apart from their children.

Psychiatric social worker Dorothy Livingston of the Saanich Mental Health Clinic, says she decided to conduct a workshop on the subject of "when your adult children come home" because "my adult children came home."

Livingston says when parents and young adults live together it "violates our present value system" but, she says, there is nothing wrong with changing our values which tend to lag behind experience.

It is important to adopt an attitude of give and take and to treat each other as adults, says Livingston. "The basic needs of both groups must be met."

She says that in her workshop at the SWAG Conference, she will be asking people about their experiences and "we will welcome various points of view both by parents and young adults. It's sharing really."

Conference

Goddess Power in Our Lives is the conference workshop being presented by Ann Rosemary Conway, a Victoria artist who has been researching and drawing ancient goddess figures since 1979. Her studies and work have evolved into her establishment of Dream Hill Centre where she teaches "visualization techniques to empower the feminine aspect of divinity within the self."

The workshop will centre on slides of European goddess images and proceed with discussion using visualization techniques and goddess chants.

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A Retrospective of Films
From NFB's Studio D

Thursday, Oct. 17
NFB Theatre, 811 Wharf St.
Free

8:45 - 9:45 Attention Women at
Work, I Want to be an Engineer
10 - 11 Abortion: Stories From
North and South
11:15 - 11:45 If You Love This
Planet
12 - 1:00 Speaking Our Peace
1:30 - 2:00 This Borrowed Land
2:15 - 3:15 Dream of a Free
Country: A Message From the
Women of Nicaragua
3:30 - 4:30 Turnaround

Women and Peace

Any speculation about women in the future must be preceded by a question. Will there be a future, not only for women but for everyone, for the planet itself? Unless the nuclear arms race can be halted, unless the nations that possess nuclear weapons, and especially the two super-powers, can be persuaded to make genuine efforts to end this lunacy, the prospects do not look promising. Women have taken a large part in the growing peace and disarmament movement, and I believe we must take an even greater part in the future and on behalf of the future. Margaret Laurence in *Canadian Woman Studies*.



Conway will show how her study of symbolism has become a tool for self growth; she will also present a booklet of some of her drawings. Her journey in search of her feminine heritage that has been denied and her own inner growth will be shown in a retrospective of the last fifteen years of her art at the University of Victoria in the spring of 1986.

POLITICAL DINNER SUPPORTS WOMAN FOR MAYOR

by Jerri Lee

It was a political evening with a feminist touch. The atmosphere in St. John's Church Hall Sept. 28 was warm, beautiful and exciting when the Women to Elect Gretchin Brewin staged a fund-raising dinner for 180 people who paid \$25 a plate to support the election of a woman mayor for Victoria.

The dinner tables were beautifully arranged with flowers and candles. There was exuberance in the air as Brewin's supporters contemplated success at the polls for a woman on Nov. 16.

Brewin told the gathering, that there were three election issues for Victoria--the economy, the economy and the economy. She said that, on the one hand, the city has an economy based on resource industries such as forestry, agriculture and aquaculture. But inter-related

are tourism, arts and culture, retirement and sports.

Ottawa Mayor Marion Dewar, who in June was elected national president of the NDP, was guest speaker. A strong peace activist, Dewar urged her audience to think globally and act locally. She said for too long lip-service has been paid to equality and affirmative action but women should be in executive positions in both public and private sectors. "Committed people in Victoria can elect a female mayor, a good mayor," she said.

Women were obviously flexing their political muscles--an important part of the process if 50 per cent of the population is to get honest representation.

Brewin will conduct a workshop on politics at the SWAG Conference this month.

SWAG WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Why don't you become a SWAG member? If you would like to be part of a volunteer organization of women working for women with women, SWAG is for you. Drop into the office or fill out the membership form on this Newsletter. Just \$10 a year.

STATUS OF WOMEN ACTION GROUP

The office is located at 213-620 View Street, Victoria. Please drop in. Our resource library is open to the public and we have feminist journals from across the country. Watch our bulletin board for upcoming events of interest to women. Phone 381-1012

Take note

Women In This Decade, an exhibition of photography by the women of British Columbia will open in Victoria at Open Space Gallery, Nov. 4 to 16.

The photography competition called for works depicting issues, themes and images of relevance to women in this decade. The works feature aging, marriage, women at work in traditional and non-traditional jobs, travel, relationships and environmental concerns.

The event was sponsored by B.C. Women's Programs.

A lecture on Causes and Nutritional Support for Pre-Menstrual Syndrome will be offered October 30, at 10:30 a.m. and 5:15 p.m. at the Victoria Naturopathic Clinic, #206-1175 Cook Street. Call 382-1223.

Frieda Waelti is conducting classes in knitting, crochet and finishing techniques in Cordova Bay and at the Panorama Leisure Centre. For more information please call 658-8002.

A Passage to East Indian Culture is the name of a one-day course being offered at Camosun College, Sat., Nov. 2 from 9:30 to 3:30 on the Lansdowne Campus. Fee is \$15 including an Indian lunch. Pre-registration by Oct. 20 in the Dawson Bldg or call 592-2311.

Directions: A Course for Single Parent Women is offering discussions on a variety of topics including: communication skills, self-worth/self-image, parenting, stress management and goal-setting, problem-solving and decision-making. Contact Beatrice Keizers at 385-1114.

Daytime studio space is available downtown for a negotiable price. Call Joan at 386-9583 from 4:30 to 10 p.m. and anytime weekends until 10.

Endometriosis And How You Can Survive Its Effects is the subject for Total Concern, a support group which will meet Oct. 15 at 7 p.m. in the Saanich library meeting room.

New SWAG Coordinators

The SWAG Coordinating Committee has been enhanced by the addition of four new members who are filling vacancies. In line with the Constitution, the new members were appointed to fill the vacancies until the next election. Two positions were not filled at last year's election and two members resigned.

The new Coordinating Committee members are: Heather Gibson, who began a Women in Trades support group in Victoria and is coordinator of the trades immersion program at Camosun

College; Mahinder Doman, an independent researcher in East Indian culture, a community development specialist in multi-cultural issues; Lynn Hunter, a political science graduate who is currently co-chairperson of Gretchen Brewin's election campaign, active in the NDP Women's Caucus, and Pam Whitaker, a political science major at UVIC, who has been active in women's issues on and off campus and who writes for the SWAG Newsletter and is on the Conference publicity committee.

The Canadian Women's Economic Summit was the theme of the NAC Conference attended earlier this year by our SWAG rep Alice Albert who sent in a belated report.

In part this is what Alice said: "The workshop on Volunteer Management was the most exciting, stimulating and rewarding workshop I had been to in a while. We addressed several problems faced continually by volunteer groups. How do we keep volunteers? How do we attract volunteers? What do we do to lose volunteers so consistently?"

Three contradictions that must be dealt with were identified--the exploitive

nature of volunteer work, the satisfaction derived, and the basic need for volunteers.

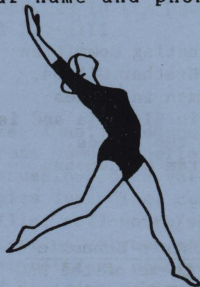
Three strategies were suggested: State clearly our objectives and develop a support group to re-affirm our appreciation for the work of volunteers; use their skills appropriately; Determine the motivation of the group and the volunteer--ask her why she chose us and what does she want to do, and ask ourselves what we expect; follow up by getting a clear commitment from the volunteer: provide a job description/time line for volunteers or even an informal contract. Above all reward the volunteer and ourselves.

NEWS

SWAG NEWSLETTER

Kids in need is a newly-formed Vancouver organization geared to pressuring for reform on child support. KIN was started by mothers who believe child support payments should be collected from fathers (or mothers) just as any other debt is collected. They want government to take over the hassle of collecting payments and to streamline procedures, they want judges to consider children a priority and they want lawyers to stop advising fathers to pay as little as possible.

The SWAG Newsletter is published every second month by the Victoria Status of Women Group. Contributions are welcome and should be brief. Any material submitted for publishing may be edited. Submissions to the SWAG office must include your name and phone number.



Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____

Membership and Newsletter Subscription: \$10.00

Send to: **Status of Women Action Group**

NEW MEMBER ☐ RENEWAL ☐

P.O. Box 6296, Stn. C.
Victoria, B.C. V8P 5L5
(604) 381-1012

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