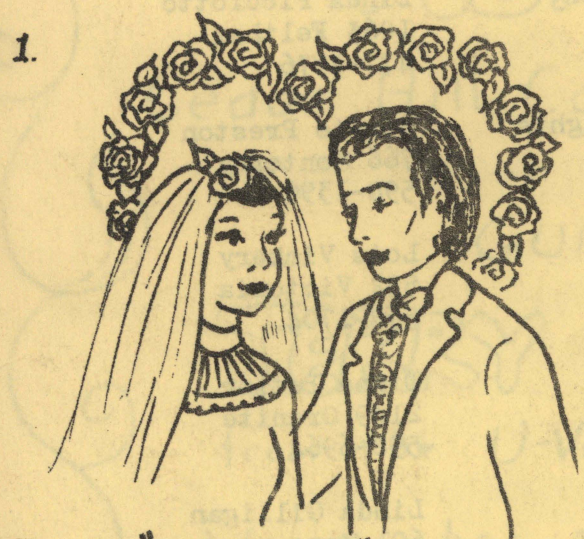


swag

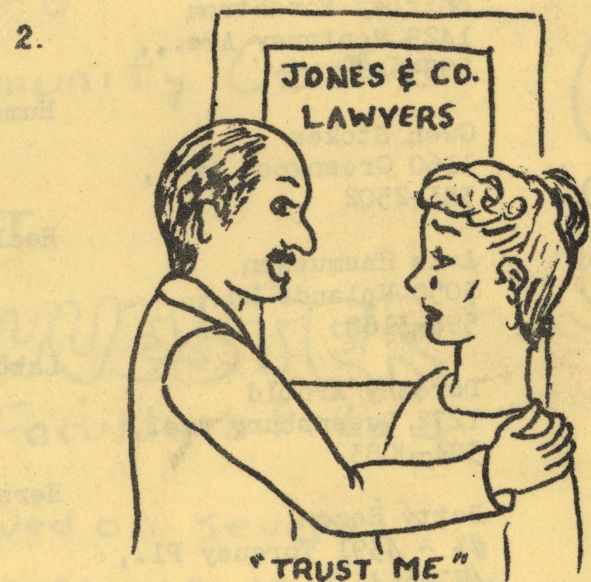
victoria status of women news

1429 monterey ave.
victoria b.c.

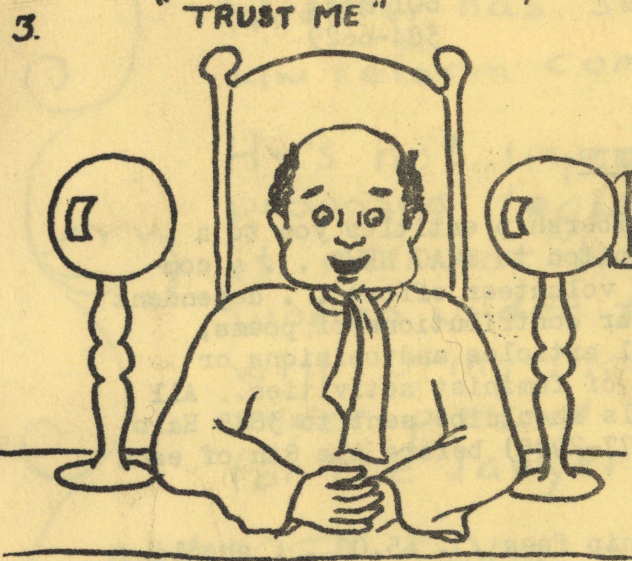
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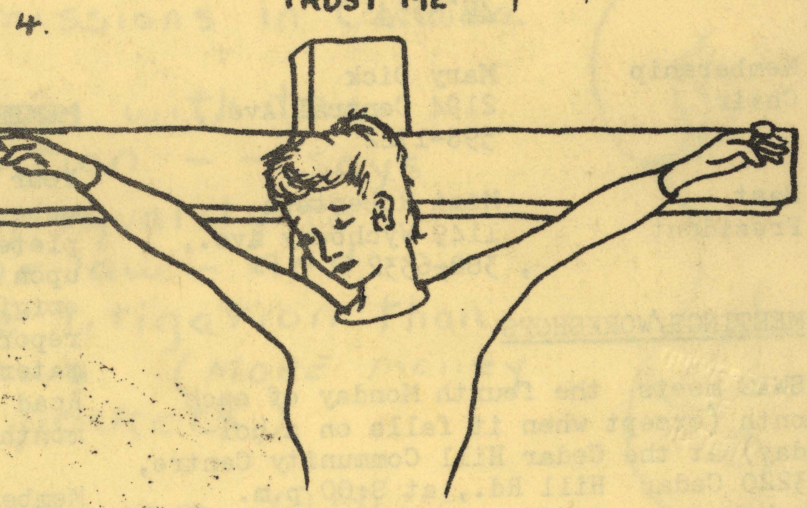
"TRUST ME"



"TRUST ME"



"TRUST ME"



Bill 69: Same old plot - Same old ending!

SOME BASICS

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

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

President	Shirley Nordstrom 1429 Monterey Ave.,, 598-6485
Vice- President (programmes)	Gwen Stokes 1160 Greenwood Ave., 383-2502
Vice- President (projects)	Avis Rasmussen 3050 Uplands Rd., 598-3188
Secretary	Dorothy Arnold 1272 Queensbury Ave., 384-0083
Treasurer	Betty Rozon #3 - 4391 Torquay Pl., 477-5543
Membership Chair	Mary Dick 2194 Central Ave., 598-1722
Past President	Mimi Robertson 1149 Wychbury Ave., , 388-6332

MEETINGS/WORKSHOPS

SWAG meets the fourth Monday of each month (except when it falls on a holiday) at the Cedar Hill Community Centre, 3220 Cedar Hill Rd., at 8:00 p.m.
Workshops . . . coffee . . . guest speakers.

COMMITTEES

Members are encouraged to focus their energies on one or more committees. This is where the real work of SWAG goes on. You need not be an expert. Call one of our chairpeople and offer your services ...

CHAIRPEOPLE

Family Law	Avis Rasmussen 3050 Uplands 598-3188
Education	Linda Picciotto 1863 Feltham 477-3576
Human Rights	Norrie Preston 766 Monterey 598-1390
Health	Lois Vickery 552 Victoria 598-1704
Labour	Diana Butler 2149 Granite 598-6964
Herstory	Linda Gilligan 601 Moss 384-6629

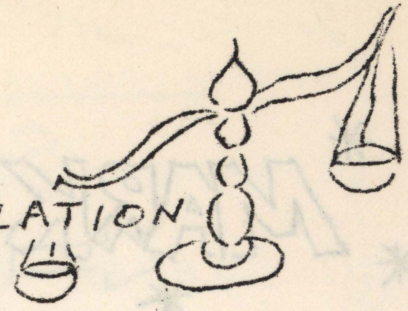
MEMBERSHIP

Your membership entitles you to a subscription to SWAG NEWS . . . a completely volunteer effort . . . dependent upon your contributions of poems, original articles and opinions or reports of feminist activities.. All materials should be sent to 3828 Haro Road (477-2995) before the 8th of each month.

Membership fees . . . \$5.00 . . . should be sent to 2194 Central Avenue, V8S 2R5.

BILL
69

BILL 69



MATRIMONIAL PROPERTY LEGISLATION

WORKSHOP & MEETING

FEB. 27th 8:00 p.m.

Cedar Hill Community Centre

GUEST:

TERRY WUESTER

from the U-Vic Faculty of Law

Wuester has served on several law reform commissions in Canada

He's not impressed with the proposed legislation -- says it will not bring equality to women under the law - and will bring more litigation than under present laws. (MORE money for the lawyer's pockets.)

WHAT CAN WE DO??

WE CAN CHANGE IT BEFORE IT GOES TO THE LEGISLATURE IN APRIL.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- FEB. 18 Health Committee workshop (see insert this issue)
- FEB..20 Labour Committee meeting (598-6964)
- FEB..21 Human Rights Committee meeting (598-1390)
- FEB. 25-26 Health Committee workshop (see insert this issue)
- FEB. 27 SWAG general meeting (see insert this issue)
- MARCH 2 Conference Committee meeting (598-6485) SOLICITING MEMBERS!
- MARCH 7 SWAG executive meeting
- MARCH 8 International Women's Day (watch the papers for SWAG letter to editor)
- MARCH 13 Family Law Committee meeting (598-3188)
- MARCH 17-20 National Action Committee - General Meeting (Ottawa)
- MARCH 18 B.C. Women's Studies Assoc. PAPER CONFERENCE (Vancouver)
- MONTHLY MEETINGS: March 20; April 24; May 22; June 26.

!! ANNOUNCEMENTS !!

QUADRA THEATER has "Women in Film" every Monday & Tuesday evening
Please fill out the Bill 69 tear-out questionnaire in this issue

THINGS TO LOOK FORWARD TO

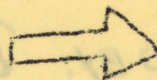
- MONTHLY MEETINGS DEALING WITH: Re-entering the Labour Force (Back to Paid Work)
- Middle Years - Prime Time
- Dialogue with High School Students.

FALL CONFERENCE: October 27-28

LOOKING

OO

AHEAD



I would like to extend two large bouquets; one to last year's executive, especially those long term members; and another to the people who agreed to work on the executive this year.

I agreed to the position of president with mixed feelings. I knew it would be impossible for me to carry on the work load of past presidents. And yet because of those past contributions I could not stand by and watch SWAG slide underground - - even for a year. I felt a public responsibility to those who imagine the women's movement to be dead.

I see my function as chairing executive and monthly meetings. I see my position as a figurehead only - - something to satisfy the Societies Act. Responsibility and authority rest with the membership, focused primarily in the SWAG committees. The executive will function as a representative body for planning and decision making.

I will not be able to keep up high profile communications with the press. But SWAG committees have become autonomous enough to fulfill that function.

I will not be able to personally continue the fantastic newsletter that Mimi, Vaughan and Maxine put out. But Ella Davis has agreed to edit and do the lay-out for the first few issues. Pat Tanner will cut the stencils and Barbara Wozny will run them off on the gestetner. We are relying on each committee and each individual member to supply material and we will be looking for three or four volunteers each month to staple and address the publications.

The SWAG phone has been discontinued. It was too expensive an item for our cut budget. Most calls will be referred to appropriate committees. Please feel free to call the home numbers of executive members and committee chairs.

Shoulder your responsibility, exercise your authority; join a committee. Interesting meetings are being planned.

Please mark your calendar and bring a friend. Hang in there: we may be tired - but we are not dead!

Shirley

HEALTH WORKSHOPS

for women

STRESS + TIME MANAGEMENT

LED BY: BARBARA PENDERGAST, M.A., PSYCHOLOGIST
CHARLOTTE ATLUNG, M.A., PSYCHOLOGIST

Each woman, whether a homemaker, a career woman, a student -- or all three! - has various stresses that at times become unmanageable. This workshop will be specific enough to enable each participant to gain individual ways of valuing and caring for herself so that she can enjoy her lifestyle. This will be done through small discussion groups, exercises designed to increase self-awareness, and examination of coping skills.

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 18, 9-11:30 \$20 per person

FLAVOR + CONTENT

LED BY: JUDY BOËL, M.ED. & GUILLE LIBRESCO, M.S.W., M.D.

This workshop will enable us as women to begin to feel a sense of our own power - to enrich our lives by learning how to face those parts of ourselves that we're uncomfortable with. This way we tap into new sources of energy and can learn to undo depressive or compulsive life styles.

SAT. + SUN FEB. 25 + 26, 1-7, 1-7 \$30 per person

Both workshops to be held at Unitarian Church, 106 Superior. Bring lunch and pillow. Financial assistance is available. For more information call Cathy Mountain, 383-2165.

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____ Workshop _____

Address _____ Phone(s) _____

Send to Joan Palmer, 1760 Broadmead Street, V8P 2V9

We must have your registration, plus fee in full, one week in advance of the workshop you are attending.

fee is not refundable

numbers are limited

SWAG is pleased to offer to you at very reasonable rates

QUESTIONNAIRE

We would invite you to complete the following questionnaire so that we might assess your feelings.

We would however, suggest that you make your specific feelings known to;

The Ministry of the Attorney-General

Your local M.L.A.

1. When there has been a division of responsibilities in a marriage, one spouse raising children and providing a home while the other spouse provides financial support. At the break up of the marriage:
 - (a) The non-supporting spouse should have an obligation to become self-supporting as quickly as possible.
Yes () No ()
 - (b) The non-supporting spouse should have some financial allowance, made for each year away from work.
Yes () No ()
 - (c) The property of the marriage should be divided equally regardless of who makes the financial contributions.
Yes () No ()
 - (d) Business assets generated by one spouse alone should be divided equally.
Yes () No ()
 - (e) Illness or incapacity of one spouse should make financial support mandatory.
Yes () No ()
2. Present and proposed legislation deals with the division of property at the break up of marriage. I believe that there should be equal rights to property all during the marriage.
Yes () No ()
- 3.. I believe that property of one spouse acquired by windfall or inheritance should be shared.
Yes () No ()
4. Conduct during the marriage or marital misconduct should be considered in assessing:
 - (a) payment of support Yes () No ()
 - (b) division of property Yes () No ()
5. People should be able to draw "Marriage Contracts" at the time of marriage to decide on their own how property and income will be divided if there is a breakdown of marriage.
Yes () No ()
6. Are Family Court services adequate?
Yes () No ()

We would invite you to complete the following questionnaire so that we might assess your feelings.

We would like to know how you feel about the following questions known for

STRESS & TIME MANAGEMENT

LEO BY: BARBARA PENNACCA, Ph.D.
Your Local M.L.A.

1. When there has been a division of responsibilities in a marriage, one spouse raising children and providing a home while the other spouse provides financial support. At the present time, do you know how:
 - (a) the non-supporting spouse would react if called to become self-supporting as a result of a divorce?
 - (b) the non-supporting spouse should have some financial obligations for each year away from work?

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1980

THE LAW CENTRE

510 Fort Street

Victoria, B.C. V8W 1E6

- (c) The property of the marriage should be divided equally regardless of who makes the financial contribution.
 - (d) Business assets generated by one spouse alone should be divided equally.
 - (e) If illness or incapacity of one spouse should make financial support necessary, the other spouse should be responsible for the support of the dependent spouse.
2. Present and proposed legislation deals with the division of property at the time of divorce. I believe that the current legislation should be amended to:

- (a) provide for a more equitable division of property.
 - (b) provide for a more equitable division of property.
 - (c) provide for a more equitable division of property.
 - (d) provide for a more equitable division of property.
 - (e) provide for a more equitable division of property.
3. People should be able to make "pre-nuptial" agreements at the time of marriage to decide on their own how property and financial matters will be divided in the event of a divorce.
4. Contact during the marriage or marital relationship should be restricted in assessing:
- (a) payment of support.
 - (b) division of property.
 - (c) custody of children.
 - (d) visitation of children.
5. The Family Court services should be:
- (a) expanded.
 - (b) restricted.
 - (c) eliminated.
 - (d) improved.

3296 is pleased to offer you a very reasonable rate



The November Newsletter printed a critique of Bill 69, the proposed Family Relations Amendment Act. The Victoria Law Centre held a Public Forum on Bill 69 at the MacPherson Theatre on Jan. 17 and a great deal of information and idea exchange took place between the law and lay panels. David Vickers, former deputy Attorney-General, chaired and Mark Krasnick, director of policy planning in the attorney-general's ministry outlined the proposed legislation.

The lay panel of Gwen Stokes, SWAG vice-president and Family Law Committee member who very ably presented the Law Committee's concerns (i. e., too much judicial discretion given in Bill 69), Jocelyn Gifford of the University of Victoria School of Social Work who brought up the need for the Unified Family Court system in B. C., John Chew of the Chamber of Commerce and President of Chew Excavating who discussed marriage contracts with lawyer Ron Barber because Bill 69 has made allowance for them but has said business assets do not come under family assets, and Joan Currie, president of the Business and Professional Women who made a point about "fault" and was the lay partner to lawyer Carol Huddart, all discussed certain other aspects of the bill with a law panelist.

Lawyer Marnie Stevenson told what would happen with respect to property settlements in several typical but mythical cases to illustrate the law as it now stands and that written in Bill 69. The spouses that have both worked outside the home and have no children naturally have a more equitable situation upon divorce property-wise than when one spouse has stayed at home (with the children). Bill 69 suggests that women have economic equality when it says upon divorce both spouses must become economically independent, and Marnie suggested the Government wait until women do have this before bringing in the kind of legislation proposed in Bill 69. (What about bringing in Community of Property within marriage? We don't need Bill 69.)

Don Farquhar, lawyer, gave a dissertation on "Fault" and considered it should be allowed for the judge to consider fault when making a decision.

Alternatives to Bill 69 were brought forward by Terry Wuester of the University of Victoria Law School. Although each province has been asked to deal with their Family Relations Act, Manitoba is the only province which actually brought forward legislation that works within marriage not just division of property upon divorce. As the Times reported (they did the publicity for the meeting) and Terry Wuester said, "Manitoba has tried to adopt some aspects of community property including commercial assets, but has kept some of the separate property aspects" and that our "present law tends to be complex and unfair but there are 'tremendous problems' with Bill 69".

Three hundred people who attended were given information papers on the Law Centre resources, and their questionnaire which was repeated in the Times, the B.C. Ass'n of Social Workers view of the Family Relations Amendment Act (send opinions to Ste. 302, 2515 Burrard St., Vancouver, V6J 3J6), Bill 69 Needs Redrafting by the Family Law Committee of SWAG, and a paper on which to write questions to be answered by the panel (but few were answered and the rest would be given consideration by the Law Centre). Ron Rapin who had chaired the organizational meetings at the Law Centre was in charge of the information. Dorothy Arnold, myself, and Gwen Stokes as panelist, attended those meetings.

PATIENTS' RIGHTS

1. You have the right to considerate and respectful medical treatment.
2. You have the right to full information about your body, tests, treatments and prescribed drugs.
3. You have the right to be fully informed before consenting to a medical procedure.
4. You have the right to refuse treatment and know the consequences.
5. You have the right to see another doctor for a second medical opinion.
6. You have the right to refuse to have your body used for research and teaching purposes.
7. You have the right to have your medical records kept confidential.
8. You have the right to be accompanied by a friend or family member through a medical experience.
9. You have the right to action on complaints about poor or inadequate treatment.
10. You have the right to privacy in your medical care and treatment program.
11. You have the right to leave hospital if you so choose. A "Discharge Against Medical Advice" form can be signed.

Patients do not (so far) have access to their medical records.

Anyone interested in a workshop on "Dealing with the Health Care Hierarchy" please contact the SWAG Health Committee.

Lois Vickery
Chairperson
Health Committee
598-1704

MARCH 8TH IS

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



There will be a celebration held at the Eaton's mall at 12 noon. The theme centers around Women and Work.

Plans include:

- singing
- women folk dancers
- a puppet show
- an Akido demonstration
- poetry
- speakers on -
 - International Women's Day
 - Women and Labour
 - S.O.R.W.U.C.

The next planning meeting will be held at 249 Maddock Street, Feb. 20th at 7:30.

We need your support - people to take part, people to be a sympathetic audience, and \$\$\$.

For more information call:
Sharon - 595-8277
Lauri - 477-4312

* * * * *

FAMILY LAW REPORT (cont'd from P. 4)

Channel 10 presented the whole video of the public forum on Jan. 26th and I hope other places in B.C. will ask to see it so they can send their views to their M.L.A. and the Attorney-General, Parliament Buildings, before the legislature begins in March.

The Family Law Committee will meet Monday, March 13th at 8 p.m. We hope to discuss the Testators Family Maintenance Act with a woman who has experienced its shortcomings. If you have anything you would like to bring up about Family Law or are interested, please phone Avis 598-3188.

CONSCIOUSNESS RAISING

SWAG will help you to start your own CR group. CR offers an opportunity to meet other women; to develop trust; to examine your position in society; to develop skills for coping with your problems; communication/support.

Call Anne Howie, 6833 Wallace Drive Brentwood, 652-3658

FROM F.L.A.G. NEWSLETTER

The Feminist Lesbian Activist Group joins B.C. Federation of Women; plans celebration of International Women's Day; sends letter of protest to Attorney General of Ontario re police raid on The Body Politic.

"It can hurt just about as much to get a bad haircut."

THESE WORDS ACCOMPANIED A PICTURE OF A WOMAN'S BREAST - SCISSORS POISED - ABOUT TO SNIP OFF THE NIPPLE.

SO...



A ROYAL RASPBERRY -

to

MR. B'z

& THE MARTLET

The Manager, Mr. B'z
634 Humbolt Street
Victoria, B.C. V6W 1A5

Dear Sir:

Members of the Status of Women Action group find the ad you placed in Thursday's Martlet, offensive. We do not consider the mutilation of human anatomy amusing and do not feel that it relates in any way to an unsatisfactory hair cut. Neither does such an advertisement induce us to use your services.

We hope that your future advertising is in better taste.

Yours sincerely,

Shirley Nordstrom
President, SWAG

c.c. Martlet Editor
UVic Women's Action Group

HAVE YOU
RENEWED your
MEMBERSHIP?

PLEASE!
SEND \$5

to

MARY DICK
2194 CENTRAL AVE.
VICTORIA, B.C.
V8S 2R5

PLEASE!



PLEASE!

~~Happy~~ HAPPY READING! ~~Books~~

A PROUD HERSTORY - A Celebration of Women by Women for People.

This was the theme of the Sunday morning service at the Unitarian Church on February 5th, planned and organized by Lynn Thomson, with the help of a large group of women. Enthusiastically received, it proved to be a real consciousness-raiser. Some comments: "most moving", "affected me greatly", "increased my awareness".

Women coming to the service were invited/requested to bring a representation of their work/art/achievements, for display, and a fine display it was.

If you are interested in putting on such a service in your church, phone Lynn at 595-0582 and she'll gladly furnish you with her script and even help you put it on.

* * * * *

MANY HAPPY RETURNS OF THE DAY TO EVERYWOMAN'S BOOKS!!

Saturday Feb. 11th found members of Everywoman's Books collective happily celebrating three years of operation of their bookstore. Friends of the store who dropped in were treated to coffee and birthday cake.

Started on a shoe-string by a handful of women, the bookstore collective is a healthy, ongoing operation with approximately 20 members sharing the work. No one gets paid - it's a labour of love.

With its wide range of feminist literature, the women see the store as a service. It's also a comfortable, friendly place to visit for a chat and a browse. Have you been in yet?

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE SEXIST NATURE OF ACCEPTED ENGLISH USAGE?

Casey Miller and Kate Swift, freelance writers and editors, authors of WORDS AND WOMEN, (Anchor, 177 p. \$2.75), have written a book described in New York Times Book Review as "... a complacency-shaker... Committed, pointed, unarrogant and good-humored, it stands as a model work of its kind."

In the foreword, the authors point out that the way English is used to make the simplest points can either acknowledge women's full humanity or relegate the female half of the species to secondary status. "A language is not merely a means of communication; it is also an expression of shared assumptions. Language transmits implicit values and behavioral models to all those people who use it."

Miller and Swift write as if their aim were to provoke thought, not outrage. They do this with precision, humor, elegance and true intelligence.

This consciousness-raising book is available at Everywoman's Books, 2033 Oak Bay Avenue.

8

FROM THE LABOUR COMMITTEE

Yes indeed, SWAG finally has a Labour Committee! In December 1977, following up on the two workshops on women and labour at the SWAG Annual Conference ("Women's Issues in Collective Bargaining" and "Organizing the Un-organized"), several interested women got together and laid the foundation for a Labour Committee within SWAG. It was decided, given the diverse backgrounds of the committee's members, that the Committee would spend the first half of 1978 informing itself of the relevant legislation, organizations, issues, and people in the labour scene. After that and gradually through the next year, it was decided that the Committee would establish contact with other labour groups, begin to lobby and respond to issues affecting women at work (e.g., health and safety regulations, maternity provisions, promotion, barriers, pensions, child care, unionization, re-entry, etc.).

In January, following up on the objectives set down, the Committee invited Jane Morley, a Victoria lawyer, to discuss the B.C. Labour Code with the group. The Code is the major piece of legislation affecting workers in B.C. It sets out regulations and conditions for organizing unions, for establishing collective bargaining, for settling disputes and grievances, and for conduct during disputes. The Code also sets out the role of the B.C. Labour Relations Board which, in a very real sense, acts as a court for the carrying out of the provisions of the code, ensuring the peaceful and sensitive (hopefully) resolution of disputes and grievances.

The committee will be meeting again in February (on Monday the 20th at 8 p.m. at 2149 Granite Street - 598-6964). All are welcome. Our next meeting will be discussing amongst other things the following items: proposed amendments to the Canada Labour Code and the appropriate response, establishing contacts with the local labour scene, establishing a library and catalogue of relevant information on labour and women, reviewing the Worker's Compensation Board Manual as it pertains to women, and reviewing a number of articles on women in the labour force. We hope that you will be interested enough to come.

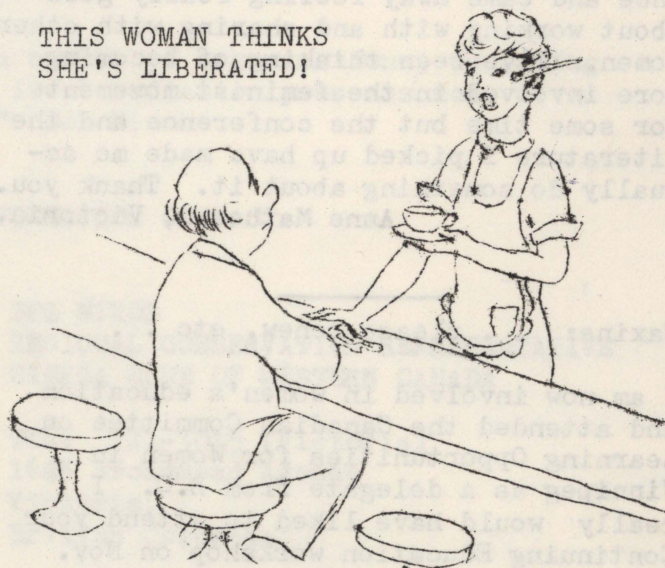
Diana Butler
Chairperson, Labour Committee

FEMINIST STUDY GROUP

women only

Meets every other Tuesday (next dates are Feb. 21, March 7, etc.) from 8 - 10 p.m. at the Unitarian Church, 106 Superior Street. For more information call: Lynn - 595-0582
Cathy - 383-2165

THIS WOMAN THINKS
SHE'S LIBERATED!



"No, my husband doesn't mind me working and sometimes he even helps me with my housework!"

LETTERS

Dear Maxine:

. . . am sending you cheque for my membership.

It's a great magazine and chock full of information. The article on T.V. ads sure struck a sore spot in me. I find most of them crude, tasteless, misleading, time wasting, plus an invasion of my privacy; in fact not a whit better than some of the stereotyped, inane T.V. programs. How can we go about getting some worthwhile programs? We could have upgrading courses, art courses, language, etc., instead of soap operas. The possibilities are endless.

Thanks again for sending me "SWAG".
Mary Ross, Duncan.

Here is \$5.00 for a new membership . . . it's a result of the recent conference at U. Vic. While I didn't absolutely agree with everything you did, I do absolutely agree with the fact that you did it. Good luck!

Elizabeth Bristowe,
Victoria.

Maxine: . . enclosed cheque for \$5.00 .

I attended the "Focus on Women" conference and came away feeling really good about working with and sharing with other women. I've been thinking of becoming more involved in the feminist movement for some time but the conference and the literature I picked up have made me actually do something about it. Thank you.

Anne Matheson, Victoria.

Maxine: . . please renew, etc . .

I am now involved in women's education and attended the Canadian Committee on Learning Opportunities for Women in Winnipeg as a delegate from B.C. I really would have liked to attend your Continuing Education workshop on Nov. 28th. If you are mailing out workshop notes, please add my name to the list.

Donnie Patterson
Burns Lake, B.C.

"HOUSEWIFE" - as defined in booklet issued by Insurance Corporation of B.C. entitled All About Autoplan:

Housewife means any woman who maintains, manages, and controls an independent domestic establishment and who does not

- (a) engage in a definite regular occupation for wages; or
- (b) report regularly to a place of employment apart from her residence; and in this regulation, wherever the context requires, where no female person meets the criteria prescribed to determine the rights or benefits of a housewife, "housewife" may include any male person who is not a "head of household" and who otherwise meets the criteria prescribed to determine the rights and benefits of a housewife.



"Well, Gentlemen, it's that time of year again.... we have to come up with a token woman for each board and commission. Can you think of any women who might be qualified?"

NUCLEAR POWER AND HUMAN/ENVIRONMENTAL FRAGILITYTOPIC - RADIATION HAZARDS

AN ADDRESS BY SISTER ROSALIE BERTELL, Ph. D.

Senior Cancer Research Scientist, Roswell Park Memorial Institute,
Buffalo, N.Y.
Consultant to New York State Medical Society, Committee on Environmental Quality

AS PART OF A CANADA/UNITED STATES SPEAKING TOUR, SISTER ROSALIE BERTELL WILL
APPEAR AT:

NEWCOMB AUDITORIUM
601 BELLEVILLE STREET
VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA

MARCH 13, 1978 (Monday) 8:00 p.m.

THE NUCLEAR ELECTRIC POWER INDUSTRY REPRESENTS ITSELF AS THE SALVATION TO THE ENERGY CRISIS. THE NUCLEAR ECONOMIC FIASCO, THE IRRESPONSIBLE HANDLING OF DEADLY WASTE MATERIALS AND THE THREAT OF MALICIOUS PERVERSION OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS BY TERRORISTS ARE THE BETTER KNOWN PROBLEMS OF THE NUCLEAR INDUSTRY. UNTIL NOW PUBLIC HEALTH HAS BEEN A SLEEPER ISSUE.. IT MAY WELL BECOME THE DEATH BLOW SINCE MAN'S FRAGILITY IS A KEY LIMITING FACTOR WHEN DEALING WITH A LIFE-THREATENING TECHNOLOGY.

AFTER FIVE YEARS OF STUDYING THE EFFECT OF EXPOSURE TO IONIZING RADIATION ON HUMAN BEINGS AND THEIR OFFSPRING, AND AFTER EXAMINING THE EXTRAVAGANT CLAIMS OF THE NUCLEAR INDUSTRY SISTER ROSALIE BERTELL HAS CONCLUDED THAT NUCLEAR GENERATORS ARE NOT COMPATIBLE WITH THE HUMAN CONDITION AS WE KNOW IT.

Note: This meeting is being arranged by a number of organizations, including Voice of Women and the Sierra Club. "Low level radiation presents some of the most significant biological problems." Bob Nixon

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:

BOB NIXON
REGIONAL CONSERVATION REPRESENTATIVE
SIERRA CLUB OF WESTERN CANADA

TEL: 721-3015 (Victoria)
1645 Broadmead Avenue
Victoria,
British Columbia

1429 Monterey Avenue
V8S 4V9

Dear Friend,

The Status of Women Action Group, Education Committee, is developing a Speakers List of women and men in the community. The aim is for presentations to be given at schools and meetings. By informing the community, we hope to bring an awareness to the Victoria area of community and career-minded women; and we hope to present positive role models to children. We are also including men who are aware of the problems of sex bias and are working to eliminate it.

If you could be available to speak, please indicate your preferences and means of contact below. We are also interested in your suggestions of other possible speakers. If you have any questions, please call me at 598-6485.

Sincerely,

Shirley Nordstrom

_____ Available to speak

_____ Unavailable to speak

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

TOPICS AVAILABLE TO SPEAK ON _____

OCCUPATION OR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT _____

WILLING TO SPEAK TO: Small groups (20) _____ Large groups (100) _____

Grades K-6 _____ Grades 7-12 _____ Adult groups _____

In Victoria area _____ In Saanich-Sidney area _____ In Sooke area _____

EXPECTED HONOURARIUM (IF ANY) _____

OTHER COMMENTS OR RESTRICTIONS _____

OTHER POSSIBLE SPEAKERS _____

STATEMENT ON MATRIMONIAL PROPERTY LAWS IN CANADA

Eight years ago, the Royal Commission on the Status of Women called upon all Canadian provinces and territories to enact matrimonial property laws that would recognize the concept of equal partnership in marriage and would acknowledge the contribution of each of the spouses to that partnership. At the minimum, the Royal Commission said, these laws should provide for an equal distribution between the spouses, upon dissolution of the marriage through separation, divorce or death, of the assets that both of them worked and saved to acquire during the course of their marriage.

Except in Quebec, where a regime of this nature already existed at the time of the Royal Commission's report, no province or territory in Canada has yet attained that minimum objective. Worse still, none of them have yet publicly stated an intention to do so, in spite of the fact that six out of seven provincial Law Reform Commissions reported that equal sharing upon marriage dissolution was clearly the most equitable course to follow (the seventh decided that it wasn't enough).

As evidenced by its 1976 statement on marriage (A Definition of Equity in Marriage, May 1976), the Advisory Council on the Status of Women (ACSW) has always strongly supported the recommendation of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women in this area. In that statement, the ACSW said that the law should treat marriage as a partnership of equals, and that women's work inside the home should be deemed to be of equal value to their husbands' work outside the home.

The following summary demonstrates that provincial governments do not agree with this position. None of the four bills presently being studied by provincial legislatures (in Prince Edward Island, Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia) provide for equal sharing of assets acquired through the spouses joint efforts during the marriage. In another province, Manitoba, a bill providing for equal sharing was passed but, after a change of government, was suspended before it came into force.

So-called "reforms" that fall short of even the minimum objectives of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women are not enough. The ACSW once again calls on all of this country's governments to provide for matrimonial property regimes that will recognize women's real contribution to the marriage partnership.

PRESENT SITUATION IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Authorities disagree on what standard matrimonial regime exists in B. C. at the present time. Some judges have maintained that separation of property is still the rule, while others have held that judicial discretion now prevails. The resulting situation is as follows:

a) During the marriage: The legal battle mentioned above has no effect on the situation of the spouses while they are living together. The general rule is still that a wife has no rights at all over the property acquired and owned by her husband.

The following common law rule also remains unchanged. It provides that when a husband buys property in his wife's name or transfers property to her, he is presumed to have made her a gift of it. If he wants to claim any part of this property as his, he has to provide proof - other than his word - that the transaction was never meant to be one of gift.

There is also agreement on the wife's right, under the Wives' Protection Act, to register an interest in the matrimonial home. This registration does not give her a property interest in the home, but it prevents husbands from selling or mortgaging the home without their spouses' consent.

(Cont'd on next page)

b) Upon separation or divorce: This is the time when the disagreement over B.C.'s matrimonial regime can have serious consequences. Judges who maintain that separation of property is still the rule may grant a woman alimony/maintenance, but do not consider themselves empowered to give a wife any right over her husband's property, whatever the circumstances. For these judges, the Murdoch case still applies in B. C.

On the other hand, judges who believe that B. C. courts have the right to use discretion in cases of division of marital property will redistribute assets between the spouses when they think it is justified in the circumstances. Although no clear standards have emerged, it would at least appear that judges who hold this view would grant some share of the husband's property to a woman who had worked without pay in her husband's business or on his farm.

The wife's registered right to prevent her husband from selling or mortgaging the matrimonial home may be lost if she commits adultery. This right also automatically disappears on divorce.

c) Upon the husband's death: The wife's registered interest in the matrimonial home entitles her to a life estate in it, which means that she can live in the home for the rest of her life. Apart from that, a husband can leave everything he owns to people other than his wife, subject to her possible right to obtain support from the estate if she is destitute.

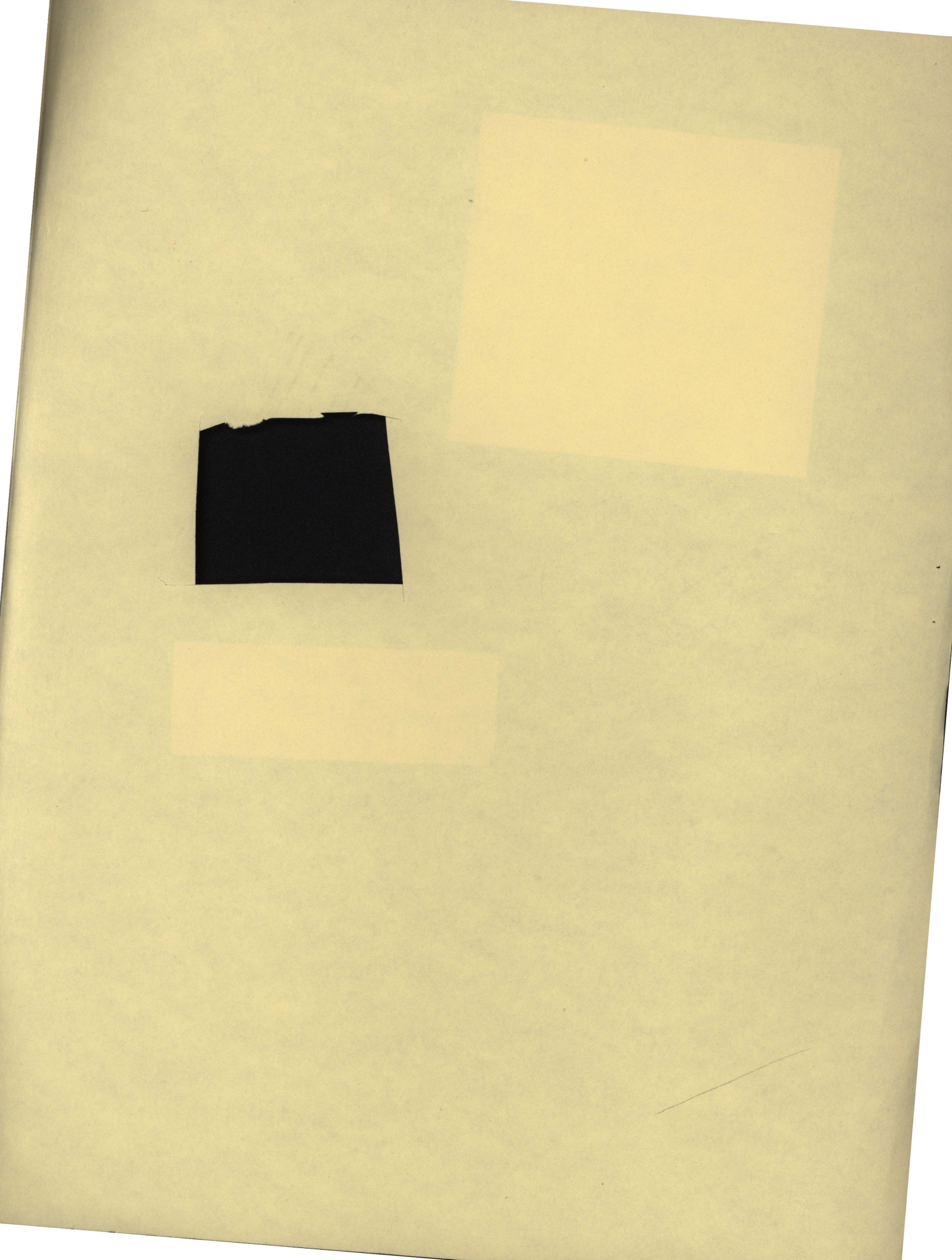
PROPOSED LEGISLATION

The B. C. government introduced a "Family Relations Amendment Bill" in the last session of the legislature. This bill, which provides for a standard matrimonial regime of limited deferred sharing with judicial discretion, would apply to all spouses who did not opt of it by contract. It would work as follows:

- a) During the marriage: Same as the present situation.
- b) Upon divorce or separation: The general principle would be that "family assets", including mainly the home and its contents, the family cottage and car, bank accounts for family use and rights under pension or retirement savings plans, would be divided equally between the spouses. Business assets (as well as savings not in RRSPs) acquired during the marriage would not normally be shared. Contrary to the B. C. government's statements regarding this bill, it does not "recognize marriage as a socio-economic partnership in which the homemaking, breadwinning and child-rearing duties are considered of equal value".

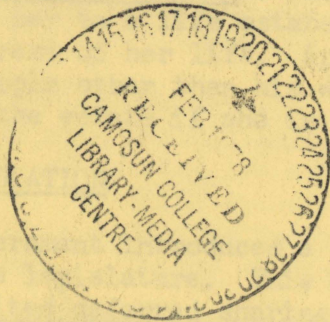
The courts would be empowered to vary the equal shares of "family assets" if the result would otherwise be "unfair" considering a number of specific circumstances which do not include sexual conduct. Judges could also order the sharing of the spouses' other assets, but the bill gives no clear guidelines for this and does not even say that such sharing must take place when a wife has worked without pay in her husband's business or on his farm.

- c) Upon the husband's death: Same as the present situation.



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