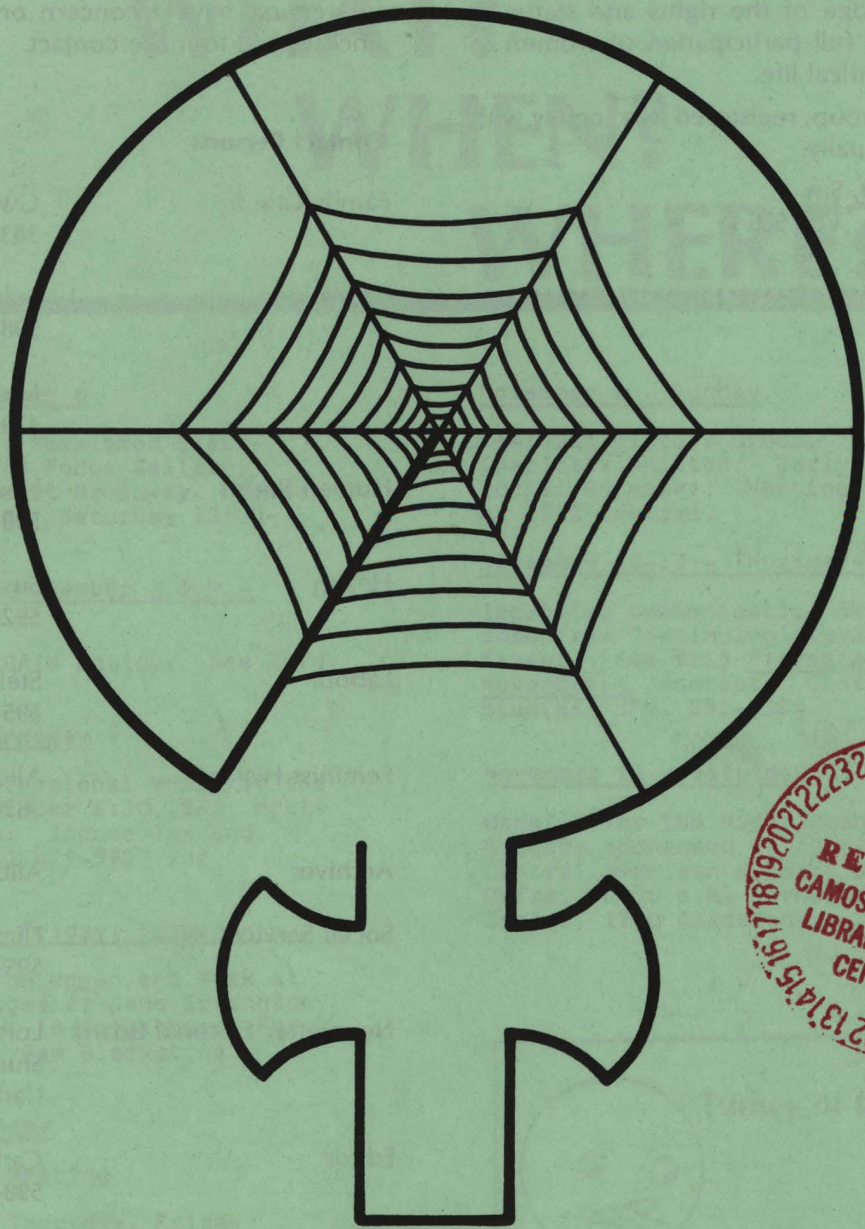


HQ 1154  
S954

# swag STATUS OF WOMEN NEWS



# WOMEN & WORK



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 annually.

ADDRESS: P.O. Box 6269, Stn. C,  
Victoria, B.C. V8P 5L5

\*\*\*\*\*

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V8V 1M8 382-3914

\*\*\*\*\*

Contact Persons

Each of the Contact Persons has a particular area of interest in women's issues. Members who share that interest or, have a concern or problem in that area are encouraged to make contact.

Contact Persons

Family Law

Gwen Bavin  
383-2502

Education

Jean Newton  
598-3786

Marguerite Mousseau  
479-1572

Human Rights

Norrie Preston  
598-1390

Health

Susan Moger  
592-4215

Labour

Stella Lord  
595-2542

Feminist History

Alice Albert  
382-1536

Archives

Alice Albert

Social Services

Elizabeth Hamlet  
595-2569

Newsletter Editorial Board

Lois Vickery,  
Shirley Avril,  
Catherine Winter

Editor

Catherine Winter  
598-3620

**MEMBERSHIP** Entitles you to a subscription to SWAG NEWS (\$10.00 per year) — a completely volunteer effort dependent upon your contributions . . . poems, articles, opinions, reports. **All feminist material welcome.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Meetings/Workshops** SWAG meetings are held the fourth Monday of each month (except when it falls on a holiday) at the James Bay Community Centre, 140 Oswego St., Meeting Room. 2, 7:30 p.m.

\*\*\*\*\*



# WHO? WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?

## October 8 - November 6

Clay sculpture by Persimmon Black-  
bridge at Women in Focus Gallery,  
Suite 204 - 456 West Broadway. Monday  
- Friday 9:30-5:00; Saturday 12:00-  
5:00.

## October 19 & 26, November 2 & 9 - Monday

Workshop on New GAIN policy. See info  
in this issue.

## October 21 - Wednesday

Business and Professional Women at the  
Imperial Inn. Dinner 6:30 (\$6); Meet-  
ing 8:00. Topic: Income Tax and  
Investment. Call 479-9927 for  
information.

## October 23, 24 - Friday, Saturday

SWAG Conference on Women and Work at  
UVic. Keynote speaker Gene Errington,  
CUPE Researcher. 18 Workshops. For  
information call Pam Blackstone  
656-7776.

## October 26 - Monday

NO SWAG General Meeting

## October 29-30 - Thursday, Friday

Managerial Skills for Women Entering  
Management. Workshop from Continuing  
Studies at Simon Fraser. Fee \$115.  
Preregistration by October 23 For  
information contact: Continuing  
Studies, SFU, 291-4304.

## November 6, 7, 8 - Friday-Sunday

BCFW Conference. If you are inter-  
ested in being a SWAG delegate or  
observer, contact Catherine Winter  
598-3620 or 592-1281 ext. 378.

## November 8 - Sunday

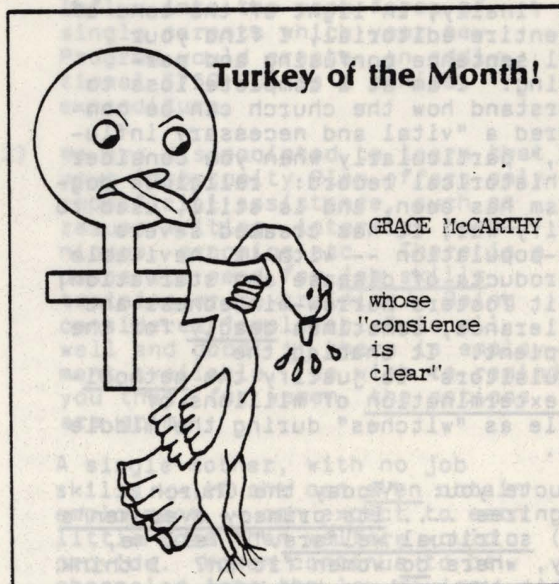
Feminist History Group. Topic:  
Charlotte Whitton: Early Feminist and  
Social Reformer. Meeting at 3:30 p.m.  
at 2372 Central.

## November 12-13 - Thursday-Friday

Improving Communication Skills. Work-  
shop from Continuing Studies at Simon  
Fraser. Fee \$115 Preregistration by  
November 6 Contact: Continuing  
Studies, SFU, 291-4304.

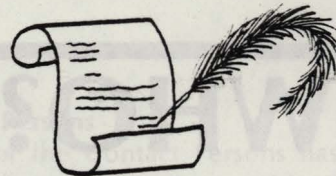
## November 14 - Saturday

Benefit for the Nicaraguan Health  
Brigade sponsored by the Victoria  
Central American Support Committee and  
Oxfam. 8:00 p.m. Fernwood Community  
Center, 1240 Gladstone.





# Letters



Dear Mr. McDonnell:

I found your Sept. 4th editorial re the abortion "debate" disappointingly superficial. Appearing promising at the start, it evades a more in-depth analysis, and -- in my opinion -- falls flat on its face in the final paragraph. Some comments:

Firstly, while you acknowledge that this "issue" cannot be ignored by those of us with a social conscience, you persist -- still -- in subtly portraying those concerned as two "sides" -- two extremist groups, opposed in outlook but equally fanatic. The inference here is that, if the anti-abortion forces oppose abortion, then surely the pro-choice people favour it. It is hardly this simplistic. Many pro-choice supporters are so only because, like yourself, they view the religious dogmatism of the "pro-life" group a threat to personal liberty. They are opposed to the imposition of one group's values on society at large. No more extremist than you yourself!

Further into the editorial, you touch on the vital fact that power, not dead fetuses, is the real issue here. The reader is made hopeful of a deeper exploration of the implications of this, only to find it -- dis-appointingly -- glossed over. I am most curious to know, in fact, how the "traditional" woman perceives her "power" in the home. It is illusory at best. (Perhaps you could interview Arla Rendle for more on this!)

And, finally, in light of the tone of the entire editorial, I find your final sentence confusing and perplexing. I am at a complete loss to understand how the church can be considered a "vital and necessary influence," particularly when you consider its historical record: religious dogmatism has been, and is still, used to justify war; it has created severe over-population -- with it inevitable by-products of disease and starvation; and it fosters narrow-mindedness and intolerance, sometimes deadly for the recipient. It enabled the "Inquisitors" to justify the methodical extermination of millions of people as "witches" during the middle ages.

To quote you: "Today the Church recognizes .... its primacy over men's (sic) spiritual welfare." Tell me, Derry, where do women fit in? I think you hit the nail on the head.

P.L. Blackstone,  
Sidney, B.C.

Dear Miss Blackstone:

Thank you very much for your letter written on behalf of the Victoria Status of Women Action group, in which you have outlined your concerns regarding funding of the Victoria Rape/Assault Centre. I am pleased this matter has been brought to my personal attention, and I read your letter with a great deal of interest.

The signing of the 1981/82 contract between the Coalition of British Columbia Rape Centres Society and the Provincial government was delayed, pending clarification of certain contractual issues. However, I understand that the items which delayed signing of the contract have now been clarified and resolved and that the Ministries of Health, Attorney-General and my Ministry will continue to provide funding for this year.

Your observations relating to the evaluation of the Coalition's services are not to be construed as an invasion of privacy. Program evaluation is an integral part of the decision-making process involved in the allocation of funds. I am sure you can appreciate that funds are limited and it is critical that these funds are distributed to programs where they will be put to the most effective use. My ministry receives requests for funding from many groups and must make a determination as to which groups can best provide the service. In this process, program information is vital in order to arrive at decisions that ensure the allocated funds are distributed in the most equitable way.

Again, thank you for writing to me on this important matter. Your observations on behalf of women's health and safety are much appreciated and I would like to take this opportunity of sending my best wishes to you and the members of the Victoria Status of Women Action Group.

Sincerely,

Grace M. McCarthy,  
Minister - Human Resources

\* \* \* \* \*

## ANNOUNCEMENT

Single Parent Resource Centre - new hours

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday to Friday.  
1611 Quadra Street. 385-1114



Dear Mr. Patterson:

Victoria Status of Women is, needless to say, angry and disappointed with the results of the Annual General Meeting of Sept. 10th. We agree with the Victoria Labour Council that the "pro-life" manipulation of the Hospital Society is unconstitutional, and we will be contacting the Minister in support of the motion to open the voting to the general public.

We are concerned, not only for the health threat to Victoria's female population presented by the now further restricted access to abortion, but also for the overall quality of health care to be expected from VGH. We cannot help but feel that the six new Board members, not only single-issue oriented, but inexperienced and -- no doubt -- disinterested in anything beyond immediate removal of the TAC, may contribute to a serious decline in the quality of health care generally that the VGH is able to offer the community. As the incumbent members pointed out, hospital administration is a complex and challenging task, requiring competence and dedication. With the pending move to the Helmcken site, this is not the time for inexperience and apathy on the board.

We do, however, wish to congratulate the Board on the excellent -- and no doubt difficult -- job done in organizing the annual meeting. It was a well-organized and orderly meeting, and careful consideration was obviously put into preparing for the likelihood of heated dissent. We wish particularly to commend you on your excellent chairing of the meeting. We offer our condolences to the three outgoing members, and congratulations on a job well done.

Sincerely,

Pamela L. Blackstone

cc: Victoria Labour Council  
"Times-Colonist"

\* \* \* \* \*

Dear Mr. Munro:

Victoria Status of Women hereby affirms our support for the demands of the Concerned Aboriginal Women who recently occupied the Dept. of Indian Affairs offices in Vancouver that:

- 1) A meeting be arranged immediately between yourself and these women;
- 2) For the immediate resignation of Fred Walchli, Regional Director;

- 3) That there be a full and independent public inquiry into the activities of the D.I.A. in the B.C. region.

And further, that all charges against the 53 aboriginal women arrested be dropped immediately.

We are outraged that the legitimate concerns of these women regarding the quality of life for aboriginal people and the mismanagement of the Dept. of Indian Affairs are not being acknowledged, let alone acted upon. The 53 women jailed were demanding only to be heard; to make their grievances known. We support them fully and call for the immediate dismissal of all criminal charges against them.

Yours truly,

Pamela L. Blackstone

cc: Alan McKinnon, MP  
S. Madigan, Regional Crown Counsel  
Allan Williams, Attorney-General

\* \* \* \* \*

Dear Mrs. McCarthy:

While we would like to commend your Ministry on the pledging of an additional \$750,000 to create new day-care spaces, we would like also to offer the following observations for your consideration:

- 1) Existing day-care facilities in B.C. are painfully inadequate already, and most have long waiting lists. With the expected influx into the work-force of single parents which your new Program would create, an additional \$750,000 is a minimal expenditure.
- 2) We are disappointed to learn that your Opportunity Plan offers only superficial assistance, such as resume writing, interview techniques, grooming etc. There is a desperate need for job skills training or re-training. Being considered "employable" is all well and good, if there is employment available. We wish to remind you that, for women, the options are grim.

A single mother, with no job skills -- if she can even obtain employment -- can expect to earn little more than welfare would provide. Women continue to be channeled into the low-paying, female job ghettos. Discriminatory hiring practices preclude them, in many instances, from the



Letters

better-paying, traditionally "male" unskilled occupations. In addition, her meagre income is further eroded by outrageous rents, high food prices, and expensive day-care.

- 3) May we also point out that the labour a single mother undertakes in the home and in raising children should be considered "work," and she should be adequately compensated for it.

We certainly agree, Mrs. McCarthy, that "employable" people should be encouraged to reduce their dependency on social assistance. But we submit that not only must job opportunities be created for them, but skills training offered, to enable them to live with independence and dignity.

Learning how to write a resume is a dubious advantage if one lacks job skills, training, or experience to include in it. This would appear to be no more than another scheme to trim the budget and cut corners. It may well eliminate a few "free-loaders" but at the expense of many legitimately qualified cases.

Yours truly,

Pamela L. Blackstone

cc: Rosemary Brown, MLA

\* \* \* \* \*

Editor, L.I. N.D.P. Newsletter

Your coverage of the anti-choice position on abortion is an affront to every woman who has/is working on women's rights.

If any other policy making committee had presented a resolution to convention and had that resolution accepted as policy, would we still be debating the issue? Can we look forward to a right-wing, pro multi-national, anti-union position in the next issue of the newsletter (with an editor's note, of course)?

Justification of dictatorial power over women is more appropriate coming from the male dominated/oriented religious factons, than from an N.D.P. newsletter.

Lois Vickery, Co-ordinator

\* \* \* \* \*

Dear Mr. Heinrich:

I am writing to advise that the Victoria Status of Women supports Ursula Kernig in her complaint of discriminatory hiring practices against the Coquitlam School Board.

In June, 1980, she applied there for employment as a janitor (after receiving specialized training), only to be informed that the school district concerned did not employ female janitors. The reasons given -- that "it is dangerous in the dark" and "women have children" -- were extremely discriminatory. She filed her complaint in Sept. 1980, and the investigation subsequently commenced. It was discovered that, indeed, the Coquitlam School District had failed to hire female janitors for the past eight years, despite the fact that women had applied for the job.

We understand that her case has now, after almost a year, progressed to your office. We trust that a board of inquiry will be appointed immediately, and that Ms. Kernig's complaint will be given the serious consideration it deserves.

Victoria Status of Women will be watching, with great concern, for the outcome of this investigation. It has implications for the many women now seeking employment in "non-traditional" areas.

Yours truly,

Pamela L. Blackstone

cc: Hanne Jensen, Acting Director  
B.C. Human Rights Branch  
Alan Andison, Acting Chief of  
Compliance, B.C. Human Rights  
Ursula Kernig

\* \* \* \* \*

Dear Women:

I received copy of your letter to Jack Heinrich, etc. to request appointment of board of inquiry of my complaint under the Human Rights Act. Thanks for support and good wishes!

As a result of pressure, the "loop-hole" in the H.R. Act has been plugged, though it is questionable if it will be applied retroactively. I will keep you posted.

My address in latest KINESIS is misprinted - it's 2113 not 218. Also, I am not aware if J.H. has refused to appoint a board. Hope not.

With best regards,

Ursula Kernig



# ARTICLES

Dear Dr. Saad:

A newspaper article concerning a convicted rapist who admits he will probably rape again when released in two months -- and hints darkly that he may "progress" to murder -- has just come to our attention. In this article, you are quoted as saying that "violent sex crimes are the price to be paid for a free society."

We, the members of the Victoria Status of Women, take exception to this blase and ignorant remark. (We are, in fact, most curious to know your rationale for such an irresponsible statement.) Need it be pointed out that it is women who are paying this "price"? Would rape be so blithely and flippantly tolerated; would it be joke material and porn fantasy, if men were the victims? Would you, yourself, be so blase if your wife or daughter were the victim of a violent sexual assault? Which is not beyond the realm of possibility.

A woman is raped every 17 minutes in Canada. One out of four of us can expect to be sexually assaulted before the age of 18 (usually by a family member). Often accompanied by beatings and/or the use of weapons, rape is not an act of unbridled "passion." The rapist does not particularly discriminate in his choice of victim: females as young as 6 months and as old as 90 years have been raped. Contrary to popular myth, an "unattractive" (by arbitrary male standards) woman is as much at risk as a center-fold candidate of being sexually assaulted.

Rape is an expression of power and dominance over women; the violent acting out of the blatant misogyny which pervades our culture. Society subtly condones rape; trains men to believe sex is their privilege/right, free for the taking; perpetuates the image of women as sexually available and submissive. As long as these attitudes prevail, as long as rape is viewed as an individual mental "aberration," rape will not end.

The subject of the press coverage seems to be crying out for help. To deny him this is unthinkable treachery to the women of Canada. It seems he cannot be easily "fit in" within the limitations of the system. There is a resource available in Vancouver to men like him: Men Against Rape (David Hastey, M.A.R., P.O. Box 65306, Stn. F, Vancouver, B.C. Phone 437-0767).

These men have an understanding of how rape functions in our society; they are dedicated to helping men examine and change their violent ways of relating to women. Their work is highly respected, though "untraditional." We hope you will contact them for more information, and we have written the rapist concerned, urging him to make contact.

We demand that immediate action be taken to protect the women of B.C. from this man. It is not a "free society," Dr. Saad, in which 51% of the population must live daily with the fear of rape.

Yours truly,

P. L. Blackstone

cc: Allan Williams,  
Attorney-General  
David Hastey,  
Men Against Rape

\* \* \* \* \*

Dear Ms. Blackstone:

I read your lengthy letter with great interest and concern and apparently my quotation has been taken out of context.

Before I try to explain my comment, I must say that this publication was part of a lengthy interview over the telephone with one of the editors of the Province in which we discussed the problems of violence in general, particularly violence against women. As you know, if one statement is taken out of context, it can create a different impression.

I quite agree with your position that rape is an expression of power and dominance over women and that the rapist does not particularly discriminate in his choice of victim, but may I extend this observation a little further and say that violence in general is an expression of power and dominance over a helpless victim and, in this situation, the rapist does not differ very much in his attitude from another violent criminal. I would like to extend this concept even further by proposing that the crime of rape cuts across all barriers of class, culture and sex. It so happens that in free societies, the most

likely victim would be a woman or a child; in societies which restrict the freedom of women, in prisons, and in war situations, the most likely victim of rape is a man or a child.



Another reason I mentioned that violent crimes might be the price we will be obliged to pay in a free society, came in the context of an argument that violent criminals, including rapists, should be forced to take treatment and should not be let out of prison unless they are deemed to be safe. As you are aware, involuntary treatment of a mentally disordered person is almost an impossibility unless he is certifiable within the meaning of the Mental Health Act and in this case the involuntary treatment will be limited to the period during which the patient was certified. Also, as you are aware, there is rigorous legal restriction which limits the use of that condition to rapists unless the rape could be directly connected to a grossly disorganized psychotic disorder. During my interview, I mentioned that as soon as the sentence expires we are under obligation to let the man go into the society because that is the situation with our justice system, namely, that a man has the right to be left alone until he breaks the law and people cannot be judged and incarcerated according to their potential for criminal activity, but according to what they do.

I must say that any treatment for sex offenders or violent offenders in general, will be completely superfluous without the informed consent of the patient, his commitment to treatment, and his willingness to participate in a process of painful change. No matter how much the subject cries for help, there is nothing that can be done unless he is committed to change and I must say that in our experience in the Regional Psychiatric Centre we are frequently met with a patient who says something but his actions clearly indicate something totally different.

I do not feel that my remarks, taken in their proper context, are in fact irresponsible or ignorant. We have been running our program for almost nine years and it is based on the premise that men should re-examine their violent propensities, their ways of relating to women and how to treat women as an equal partner in a free society, not merely as sex objects who would serve an immediate purpose as long as they are in a vulnerable position. I cordially invite you to visit our sex offender program and meet with the Director of that unit to see for yourself that this basis is a pivotal

part of our program without which I must say that our program cannot continue.

I wish to correct a certain remark you have made in your letter, namely, that society conditions men that sex is their privilege or right, free for the taking, and perpetuates the image of women as sexually available and submissive. In my opinion, it is the attitude of the criminal in general that regards his immediate needs as rights, be they sex, money or power, and in the criminal way of thinking, they regard that whatever is available and in a vulnerable position is their right to take. Violence towards women is part and parcel of overall violence which we are experiencing in our society.

I assure you that we will continue to offer help for everyone who is willing to undergo change and will continue to operate our program on the basis of respect and regard for women as equals in our free society, and I am going to contact the society for Men Against Rape in Vancouver for further information. I feel that this society can perform a valuable role for our patients after they are released from prison. I hope this has corrected any misinformation you have had from a brief quotation from a lengthy interview, and if you have any further questions or wish a visit to be arranged, please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. A. Saad

cc: Alan Williams, Attorney General  
David Hastey, Men Against Rape

\* \* \* \* \*

Carol Huddart, County Court Judge  
The Law Courts, Vancouver

Dear Carol:

Victoria Status of Women wishes to offer our heartfelt congratulations on your new appointment as a county court judge. We want to thank you for all you have done for women in Victoria over the years. You will be badly missed by many. If we can ever be of any assistance, please let us know.

Sincerely,

P.L. Blackstone

\* \* \* \* \*



# ARTICLES

## Marriage Contracts: Preparation for Divorce Before Marriage

Those who are still hung up on the cultural ritual of marriage have found a way to avoid costly legal battles in the eventuality of divorce. And as Jane Henderson, a Victoria lawyer, pointed out in her talk sponsored by the Law Centre last month, this "eventuality" occurs in 50% of marriages.

Jane cautioned that parties drawing up a marriage contract should bear in mind that it is about disposition of property and legal rights and distinctions should be made between business and personal assets.

Contracts can be negotiated before, during or after marriage. One advantage is that contracts are usually drawn when the parties are calm and clear-headed and can therefore reach amicable agreement as to terms and the disposition of property. In contrast, separation agreements are made after the marriage has broken down. Another advantage is that a contract removes some of the arbitrariness of "judicial discretion" (although it may still be exercised in the event of a legal battle).

The B.C. Family Relations Act provides for a fifty-fifty division of "family assets" but it is not always clear what is or is not a family asset. Section 45(2) states: "Property owned by one or both spouses and ordinarily used by a spouse or a minor child of either spouse for a family purpose is a family asset."

But his hobby and your jewellery may be classified as family assets. There are "grey" areas yet to be resolved concerning inheritances, business assets, personal injury awards, and pensions.

At one time such agreements were illegal on the ground that they were against public policy; preparation for divorce might encourage it. Now these agreements are legal and binding but have not been tested to any great extent in the Courts. While marriage contracts have come into existence to ameliorate some of the effects of fuzzy legislation, obviously that legislation will be paramount until amended. Jane stated that most clients are businessmen. This suggests to me that avoidance of the Family Relations Act may be the primary motivation behind drawing up such con-

tracts rather than clarification of simple property matters.

Another form of marriage contract suggested by Lois Vickery would abolish divorce altogether. In an article in the *Humanist*\* a few years ago, Lois proposed marriage based on a 5-year contract with an option to renew at 5-year intervals. Lois envisaged it as follows:

- " . The terms of the contract be mutually agreed upon by the partners.
- . The terms of reference to include child responsibility.
- . Each partner will have the right to an equal share in the assets accumulated during marriage otherwise than by gift or inheritance received by either spouse from outside sources."

Short term marriage contracts would provide a way to clarify marital expectations (giving parties a chance to change their minds) as well as a way to terminate or renew a relationship in a civilized manner. But property battles might still go on. However, if business and law partnerships involving large amounts of money and property can be dissolved without litigation so can marriages. Perhaps a combination of the above ideas would work.

Obviously the present legislation needs to be amended and clarified and perhaps marriage (property) contracts should become part of any new statute. However, it seems likely that as long as lawyers and accountants are making big money out of family property disputes that family relations actions will continue to clog the Courts. In the meantime there is an alternative which is already gaining in popularity -- Cohabitation Agreements.

Lyn Gough

\*L. Vickery, "Till Death Us Do Part: Does Marriage Have to be Forever?" *Humanist* in Canada, No. 40, pp. 35-6.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Vancouver Workshop - Sept. 25-26

Any conference which brings women together to discuss their mutual concerns and grants a forum to exchange information has great merit.

The Status of Women Workshop in Vancouver on September 25-26 brought



many women with different backgrounds and ideas; however, there was scant chance to exchange ideas because the whole thrust was a review of a booklet on the parliamentary process. Most of us know who is where and what is worse - who is doing nothing! In my estimation, more could have been gained by a longer forum to present our concerns to Ottawa. (Could it be they don't want to hear them?)

On Friday night we met and talked over drinks and an elaborate array of snacks. While we munched seafood and caviar two of our sisters were a few feet away plying their trade on the Granville sidewalk. Ironical? I think so!

Saturday morning we gathered to hear about the UN Conference on women and view a film. Coffee and buns - our sisters still working the sidewalk trade - and then the book review! The information in the book has great merit; however, I feel it could have simply been mailed to us to be used for reference in future.

Next came a "lovely" luncheon and this is where for me the real conference began. Talking to a woman on my left about her work towards establishing a Transition House in Port Alberni; beside her two women from the Kootenays protesting cuts to welfare mothers, safety for women, etc. On my right a young woman from SFU Women's Resource Centre and next to her a dedicated feminist teacher who has spent years campaigning for non-sexist education.

After lunch we gathered again for an open forum chaired by Lee Grilse. This was the guts of our coming together for me. A chance to unite forces for expressing and acting on our common problems. A plan of action was reported by Gus Long for aiding welfare mothers in the present crunch - information on the coalition for day care facilities and information on one solution that is working well and could be expanded.

The women were great! There were those just charged with energy - some on the edge of burnout, some who just criticized the efforts; but in all - women talked!

Gwen Bavin

\* \* \* \* \*

You say you are a woman and you can't cook?

Often I hear this and similar phrases, questioning me about my femininity.

Yes, my voice looks and actions point rather drastically in the direction of a woman.

Society requests females to be able to produce every third or fourth evening a five course meal, in conjunction with a cocktail dress and lots of smiles; that is if you're newly wed or not having any children.

Women in today's time are strongly advised to be of the working force. How could a man's salary alone pay for his new motorbike and his wife's unreasonable request for a microwave oven? Both man and wife, with no choice suffer from the 9-5 syndrome.

Still, after days, weeks, months and years of 9-5 the female without questions starts juggling pots and pans, carrots, peas, meat potatoes, pies, coffee with Grand-Marnier. Put it all in the proper perspective and it ends up on the table as a delicious meal, naturally with lots of smiles.

I am very envious of these "real" women. When I come home from my 9-5, I'm tired. I want to sit down, read my newspaper, yawn a few times, tell my partner what happened at work, maybe even have a drink. Then thanking the inventor of the microwave oven and the T.V. dinner I would go about "cooking."

If I were a male, this kind of cooking would be highly acceptable, even praised. But I happen to be a woman and can't cook!

My trouble is, menus beyond coffee and tea do have the tendency to burn, dissolve, run away or break - steaks ending up on the table as leather soles, souffles going "ka-pouff." The foods, which I started cooking at 5 p.m. they are often believe it or not beyond recognition at 6 p.m.

I desperately hope that one of these days the belief that females and cooking are a unit will disappear.

Am I wrong in my conviction that the world's best chefs are male?

Elizabeth Zenger

\* \* \* \* \*

#### Video - Equal Time Equal Space

A feminist video presentation about survivors of incest. Women interested in arranging showings in 1982 should write:

Equal Time  
c/o Ottie Lockey  
52 Admiral Road  
Toronto, M5R 2L5



# Announcements

## INFORMATION SHEET New GAIN Policy

Ministry of Human Resources  
October 1981

This information sheet reflects the view of citizens and a wide cross-section of community groups in the South Vancouver Island District.

We believe that the introduction of the new GAIN (welfare) regulations will have long term negative effects on families - leading to an increased rate of physical and emotional breakdown and possible child neglect and juvenile delinquency.

This Information Sheet looks particularly at the facts and figures but we believe that values expressed by this change are of equal and primary concern. For the first time in the history of this Province, the government has not recognized and supported the value and responsibility of the parent. For the first time, the single parent does not have the right to choose to care for her infants and young children, but is required to put them in the care of others. At a time when marriage breakdown has become a problem in our society, this policy will put pressure on families which will lead to the breakdown of the parent-child relationship.

### WHO IS AFFECTED BY THE NEW POLICY?

Single persons up to age fifty-nine, and adult couples up to age fifty-nine, who have no physical or mental disability making them unemployable.

Single parents with one child over six months, or two children one of whom is over age twelve, and who have no physical or mental disability requiring the parent to remain at home.

### WHAT ARE THE CHANGES?

- change in classification from "unemployable" to "employable" with the requirement that the person be seeking full-time paid work

-reduction on monthly GAIN allowance. For singles, adults and parents with one child, the reduction is \$55 per month; for families of three or over the reduction is \$35 per month.

-No ongoing GAIN granted. Singles and adult couples must reapply every month. Parents must reapply every four months.

### WHAT IS THE EFFECT OF THE CHANGES?

Less money for food and monthly expenses: for example:

Single persons will now receive a maximum of \$320 per month. This amount is \$150 for support, and \$170 for shelter.

Single parent with one child will now receive \$540 per month. This amount is \$240 for support and \$300 for shelter.

(These persons receive less shelter money if shelter costs are under the maximum allowed.)

Increased costs involved in looking for work:

bus fare, work clothing, outside clothing for winter, babysitting

Stress on the single parent mother because of budget problems, fear of having GAIN cut off at four months, worry about leaving children in the care of others

Stress on children because of mother's worries, mother's absence, changing child care, possibility of being left alone, reduced food budget

Increase in the workload of Human Resources workers because of increased paperwork, thus reducing family services, child welfare and support services to those in need.

### WHY WAS THE POLICY CHANGED?

The Ministry of Human Resources believes that there are jobs and child care available for people now receiving GAIN, and these cuts will force welfare recipients out into the job market.

### WILL THE POLICY CHANGE DO WHAT THE MINISTRY EXPECTS?

It is unlikely that the new policy will take many persons onto the job market because:

1. Unemployment rates are high - for women they average 8% per year in B.C.
2. Child caring resources are not available - in Victoria region there are almost no places for children under three years; day care centres having waiting lists of from eight months to two years;



after-school care, weekend care and evening care is almost non-existent. New startup funds made available by the Ministry of Human Resources will have no effect for at least six months, and will not meet even present demands.

3. Manpower grants for upgrading or training which would make people more employable have been cut, and two-year waiting lists are common.
4. Many unskilled persons have to take minimum wage jobs which offer a pay of approximately \$600 monthly - not enough to support a family, as well as cover the costs connected with working (bus fare, child care, workclothes, increased cleaning bills, added food costs, etc.)

#### WHAT CAN THE CONCERNED CITIZEN DO:

1. Write letters to: the Editor of your local paper; the Minister of Human Resources, Parliament Buildings, Victoria; your local M.L.A.; the Opposition critic, Rosemary Brown, Parliament Buildings, Victoria; the Ombudsman, Parliament Buildings, Victoria.
2. Give this information to friends, family and community organizations you belong to.
3. Ask for an appointment with the Minister of Human Resources in order to express your concerns.

#### WHAT CAN THE WELFARE RECIPIENT DO:

1. Ask your local Ministry of Human Resources office to put you in the classification "unemployable" in order that your GAIN rate will not be cut back, and in order that you can remain home with your children.
2. Get a letter from your doctor if you or your children have health or other problems requiring you at home. Give this to the worker.
3. Appeal the decision to classify you as "employable". Ask for a HR 202 form at the office. Help and advice with appeals is available at (a) the Law Centre, 510 Fort Street, Victoria; (b) the Barber-Hanson Community Office, 1020 Blanshard Street, Victoria.
4. Send a letter of concern to the Minister of Human Resources, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, with a copy to the Opposition Rosemary Brown, Parliament Buildings, Victoria.

5. Write the Ombudsman, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, telling him how this policy has affected you.

#### WORKSHOPS ON THE NEW GAIN POLICY

The Law Centre has set up a workshop on the new policy. The workshop will cover a discussion of the changes, how the changes will affect people, the appeal process either as a recipient or on behalf of a recipient, and a video of an actual appeal hearing. The workshop is October 19th and 26th, November 2nd and 9th at 7 p.m. at the Law Centre, 510 Fort Street. Please pre-register, 388-4516. This workshop is FREE.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### Everywoman's Books

##### NEW BOOKS:

Changing Bodies, Changing Lives - adolescent & excellent, produced by the Boston Women's Health Collective.

The Well of Loneliness by Radclyffe Hall.

We are carrying Mother Jones and have lots of copies of A Directory of Women in Business by Mary Virtue - very well presented and a lovely binding - an essential for every woman in Victoria.

##### Coming Soon:

A Woman's Notebook II  
Everywoman's Almanac 1982  
The Dinner Party Calendar 1982

A Pre-Xmas Sale - Nov. 6th & 7th - discounts 10-50% - our first sale ever!!

## SWAG Coordinator

Six month position, open to active members of SWAG. (Available subject to receipt of funding.

Apply: P.O. BOX 6069,  
Station C,  
Victoria V8P 5L5



# Announcements

## Festival '82 - A Celebration of Women in the Arts

If you are interested in participating, we have a questionnaire to be filled out and returned post paid. Call Catherine Winter 598-3620 or 592-1281 ext. 378

## Nova Scotia Cabinet Endorses Elimination of Discrimination Against Women

An article in the Halifax Chronicle Herald, Aug. 19, 1981 reports that the Nova Scotia cabinet has endorsed Canadian ratification of the U.N. Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women. Nova Scotia is the first province to do so.

## Training Program Cuts

Vancouver Status of Women is trying to collect information about cuts in Manpower Training Programs. If your program has been cut, contact Jean at Vancouver Status of Women, 400A West 5th Ave., Vancouver, B.C. V5Y 1J8 873-1427

## Jubilee Hospital Meeting

The "moral majority" made another sweeping victory at the Royal Jubilee Hospital Annual General Meeting.

A resolution was introduced by Alice Ages: Resolved that to further safeguard the well being of the fetus, women should be hospitalized as soon as pregnancy is ascertained and be required to remain in care until term, in order that the fetus not be harmed by irresponsible eating, drinking or behaviour on the part of the woman.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Sexual Harassment Reports

1. The U.S. Government has released a report on sexual harassment among its employees. The report made strong recommendations about corrective action. Copies of the report are available on request by contacting the Office of Merit Systems Review and Studies.

Multiple copies are available from the Government Printing Office at a cost of \$6.00

2. A report entitled Sexual Harassment: A Report on the Sexual Harassment of Students is available from National Advisory Council on Women's Education Programs, 1832 M Street, NW #821, Washington, D.C. 20036

\* \* \* \* \*

## SHE'S A CARPENTER

A BCFW Co-ordinating Collective Member has become the first qualified woman carpenter in B.C.

Marcia Braundy, BCFW regional contact for the West Kootenays, was 30 when she decided to become a carpenter. She was a teacher and community worker and had spent three years helping to raise \$35,000 and to construct a community centre in the Slocan Valley. It was then that she decided to try building construction. But few people took her seriously and training was a slow, difficult process.

In 1977 she enrolled in the pre-apprentice carpentry course at Northern Lights College in Dawson Creek; she was the first woman in any trades course. As a female pioneer in the skilled trades, she faced sexual harassment and called the college course a "horrendous experience."

Later, she attended courses as an apprentice at Camosun College and Pacific Vocational Institute. In gaining good employment, Marcia says she has been lucky. Her first job was with a small construction company in the Kootenays, where she learned good finishing skills. Since then, she has been sent on numerous jobs including construction of the extended care hospital in Nakusp. She was the first woman on the 90-member Kootenay Local 2458 of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America; currently, she is an apprentice to the union.

In Marcia's words: "We cannot change society and society's attitudes overnight - that will take 20 years. But we do want to be fairly treated and we want public assurance that concerned bodies take seriously a woman's right ... to choose a field of work."

\* \* \* \* \*

For women who would like to enter a trade but are unsure of which training they'd prefer, a three-month "exploratory apprenticeship training program" is available. Women gain on-hand practical experience in 13 different trades and ultimately choose, if desired, which trade they feel best suited for. Those who complete this course receive high priority in selection for the Labour Ministry's pre-apprenticeship seats at PVI. For more information, call 294-3878.



# ARCHIVES

## RECENT ACQUISITIONS

### Feminist Newsletters:

ASPEN - a newsletter for and about  
northern women \*  
v.1 #1 March 1979

ACTION - Manitoba Action Committee on  
the Status of Women \*

v.5 #12 June 1978  
v.5 #13 Aug. 1978  
v.5 #14 Oct. 1978  
v.5 #15 Nov. 1978  
v.6 # 2 Feb. 1979  
v.6 # 3 Mar. 1979  
v.6 # 3 Mar. 1979  
v.6 # 5 May 1979  
v.6 # 7 Sept. 1979  
v.6 # 9 Nov. 1979  
v.6 #10 Dec. 1979

RAG - F.L.A.G. Newsletter \*  
Mar. 1981  
Apr. 1981

NAC Apr. 1981

BROADSIDE \*  
v.2 #4 Feb. 1981

YUKON WOMEN'S NEWSLETTER \*  
n.d.

THE NATIONAL NEWSLETTER - the Canadian  
Association of Sexual Assault Centres  
1980

### Non-Feminist Newsletters and Resources:

Working Teacher \*  
v.2 #2 n.d.  
v.2 #3 n.d.  
v.3 #1 n.d.

The Canadian Advisory Council on the  
Status of Women:

Women and the Constitution (2)

Women & Constitutional Renewal by Mary  
Eberts Sept. 1980

Women and the Constitution The Next  
Five Years

Listing of Women's Groups Canada  
1981 Secretary of State

Family Law in Manitoba (2)

WALT'S WICKED WOMEN by Charles  
Solomon Vancouver Sun Aug. 15, 1980

\* donated by Shirley Avril

### PRO-FREEDOM

I for one am more than disappointed  
with the outcome of the September 3rd  
Victoria General Hospital election  
(Pro-Life versus Pro-Choice) and I am  
bloody ticked off about constantly  
having other people's morals shoved  
down my throat. With rape and incest  
on the rise, God help us if we are  
further victimized by the constant  
reminder of a fate that someone else  
has chosen for us. What is it about  
society that it refuses one half of  
its make-up any support at all but  
rather repeatedly tries to SHOVE us  
back decades and always keep us down?  
I did not realize until recently that  
drug companies are now being pressured  
into abolishing birth control for  
womyn. Sound a little far-fetched? I  
thought so until this election when I  
realized we are all at the mercy of  
people who can walk into any church on  
Sunday and get support for their cause  
(over our lives). I am not for a  
moment knocking religion or those of

us who find sanctuary in our spiritu-  
alism. I DO resent, however, wolves  
in sheep's clothing who claim them-  
selves as "Christians" and use that as  
a club to gain support within the  
masses. Some of those people are as  
"Unchristian" as they come. Religion  
aside, I feel angry and defiant about  
the attempt of these people to pass  
laws governing my body, my life, and  
the very right to accept responsibi-  
lity for myself and my actions. What  
an insult to our intelligence  
AGAIN!!!!

I am asking you for support now be-  
cause perhaps together we can make  
enough noise about what is ours that  
someone may hear. Please sign the  
following petition (everybody) and  
send it to:

PETITION  
c/o 900 Carlton Terrace  
Victoria, B.C. V9A 5A5

Thank you,

Dallas

Petition is on the back cover



Hon. Lloyd Axworthy  
Minister of Employment & Immigration  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0J9

Dear Sir:

A few months ago you admitted that the current point system makes it virtually impossible for domestic workers to gain landed status in Canada. You also said that in the near future recognition would be given to domestic workers' experience, training, skills and the demand for their work so they may qualify for landed status.

I support those statements. For too long, domestic workers have suffered from the uncertainty of their temporary status in Canada. Your statements have raised their hopes of being granted equality with other immigrant workers. I see no reason why - when there is a great demand for their work, and they contribute to the economy with their labour and taxes - they should not enjoy the same privileges and benefits that go to other workers.

I am concerned, however, that recent changes you have made restrict landing only to those women who have had the opportunity to take formal childcare or housekeeping training and who come from countries able to offer them stable work experience as nannies or housekeepers. The result will be that a "select few" from the U.K. and northern Europe are granted landed status, while the thousands of domestic workers from the Caribbean and the Philippines won't have a chance. This kind of racist immigration policy is intolerable.

I support the domestic workers' demand for landed immigrant status, and urge you to:

1. Change the point system for all classifications of domestic workers to recognize the training and experience most women - particularly those from the Third World - have had from birth in childcare and housework.
2. Allow domestic workers working in Canada on temporary work permits to apply for landed status without being required to leave the country.
3. Extend the same rights of landed immigrant status to non-status domestic workers.

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(Name)

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(Address)



# ARCHIVES

## RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy  
Minister of Employment & Immigration  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G3

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v.1 #1 March 1979

ACTION - a newsletter for and about the status of women in Canada  
v.1 #1 March 1979  
v.2 #1 April 1979  
v.3 #1 May 1979  
v.4 #1 June 1979  
v.5 #1 July 1979  
v.6 #1 August 1979  
v.7 #1 September 1979  
v.8 #1 October 1979  
v.9 #1 November 1979  
v.10 #1 December 1979

THE NATIONAL NEWSLETTER - The Canadian Association of Sexual Assault Centres  
v.1 #1 March 1979  
v.2 #1 April 1979  
v.3 #1 May 1979  
v.4 #1 June 1979  
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v.7 #1 September 1979  
v.8 #1 October 1979  
v.9 #1 November 1979  
v.10 #1 December 1979

### Non-Feminist Newsletters:

Working Teacher \*  
v.2 #2 n.d.  
v.2 #3 n.d.

A few months ago you submitted that the current point system makes it virtually impossible for domestic workers to gain landed status in Canada. You also said that in domestic workers' experience, training, skills and the demand for their work so they may qualify for landed status.

I support those statements. I support the necessity of their temporary status in Canada. Your statements have raised their hopes of being granted equality with other immigrant workers. I see no reason why - when there is a great demand for their work and they contribute to the economy with their labour and taxes - they should not enjoy the same privileges and benefits that go to other workers.

I am concerned, however, that recent changes you have made restrict land- ing only to those women who have had the opportunity to take formal childcare or housekeeping training and who come from countries able to offer them a "select" work experience as nannies or housekeepers. The result will be that a "select" few from the U.K. and northern Europe are granted landed status, while the thousands of domestic workers from the Caribbean and the Philippines won't have a chance. This kind of racist immigration policy is intolerable.

I support the domestic workers' demand for landed immigrant status, and urge you to:

1. Change the point system for all classifications of domestic workers to recognize the training and experience most women - particularly those from the Third World - have had from their childcare and housekeeping work.  
2. Allow domestic workers working in Canada on temporary work permits to apply for landed status without being required to leave the country.  
3. Extend the same rights of landed immigrant status to non-status domestic workers as is given to status domestic workers.  
4. Amend the Immigration Act to allow domestic workers to apply for landed status without being required to leave the country.  
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I am writing you for your kindness as I am a woman who has been in Canada for many years and I am now a Canadian citizen. I am writing you for your kindness as I am a woman who has been in Canada for many years and I am now a Canadian citizen. I am writing you for your kindness as I am a woman who has been in Canada for many years and I am now a Canadian citizen.

PETITION  
c/o 900 Carlton Terrace  
Victoria, B.C. V8A 5A5

Thank you,  
Petition is on the back cover



## Membership Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Renewal: ☐ New: ☐ Gift: ☐

Membership is \$10<sup>00</sup> per year due March 8.  
Pro-rated until March 1982 it is now \$8<sup>00</sup>.  
(Reduced rates available if needed).

Send to: SWAG  
Post Office Box 6269, Stn. C,  
Victoria, B.C. V8P 5L5

### Memberships Due October

Elizabeth Ballam	Peggy Foulds	Dorothy Maxwell	Linda Travers
Elizabeth Bristowe	Christina Johnson	Iris Palfrey	<u>Memberships \$6 to</u>
Mary Brownscombe	Marilyn Meyer	Margaret Prevost	<u>March '82</u>

## P E T I T I O N

We demand the right for womyn to a medically safe abortion. We are outraged at the lack of freedom womyn have over their own bodies. We demand they have the right to make their own choices and we demand it NOW!!!!

Name

Address



From: Box 6296, Stn. C,  
Victoria, B.C.  
V8P 5L5

Camosun College Library  
1950 Lansdowne,  
Victoria  
B.C. V8P 5J2  
(2)

(2)

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