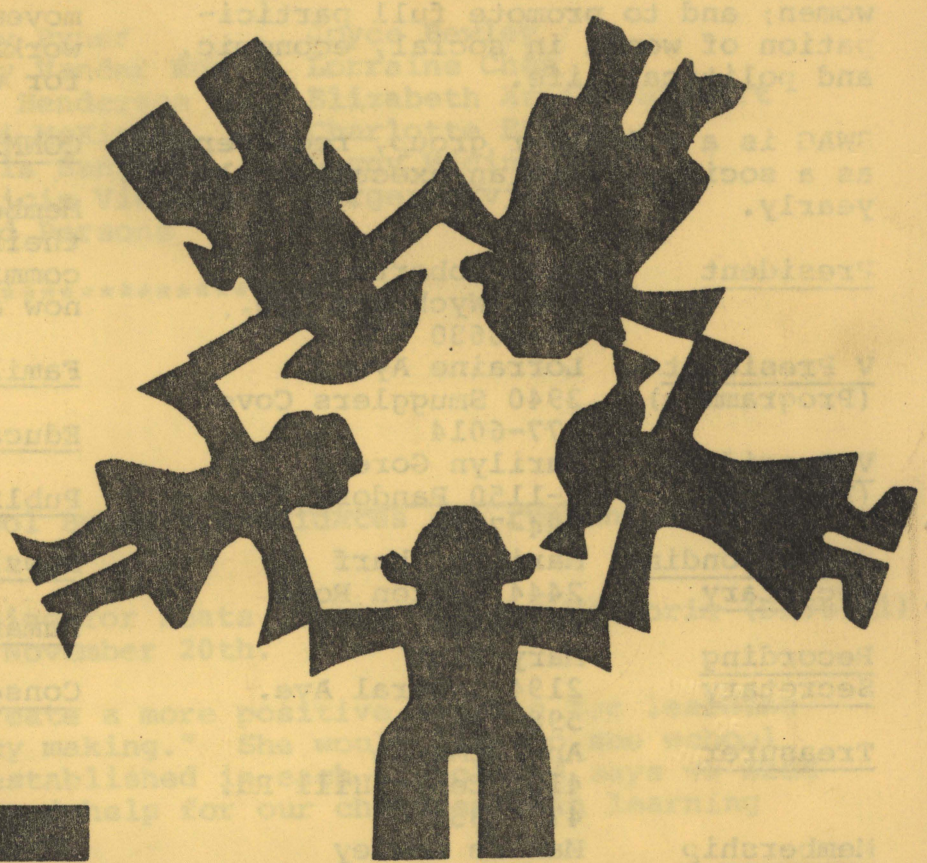


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**swag**  
status of women action group

Victoria Status of Women News  
November, 1976  
Volume III, number 6

**CONFERENCE  
REPORTS**



**ALL  
WOMEN  
WORK!**



## SOME BASICS

Victoria Status of Women Action Group (SWAG) was founded 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 volunteer group, registered as a society, with an executive elected yearly.

<u>President</u>	Mimi Robertson 1149 Wychbury Ave. 385-8630
<u>V President</u> (Programmes)	Lorraine Ayers 3940 Smugglers Cove 477-6014
<u>V President</u> (Projects)	Marilyn Gore 3-1150 Pandora Ave. 384-7220
<u>Corresponding</u> <u>Secretary</u>	Marilyn Wharf 2444 Sutton Road 477-8453
<u>Recording</u> <u>Secretary</u>	Mary Dick 2194 Central Ave. 598-1722
<u>Treasurer</u>	Ann McMurdo 4101 Cedar Hill Rd. 477-7358
<u>Membership</u>	Maxine Cowley 164 Beachwood 598-8167
<u>Past</u> <u>President</u>	Norrie Preston 766 Monterey Ave. 598-1390

### MEMBERSHIP

Your membership is important. There is strength in numbers...the more we

(There will be no meeting in December.

have, the more likely the government and the community is to listen. Your support, your volunteer time and your financial contributions, no matter how small, add to the movement of women and men working to attain equal rights for women in our society.

### COMMITTEES

Members are encouraged to focus their energies on one or more committees. Those committees now active are listed below.

<u>Family Law</u>	Linda Sproule-Jones 477-3324
<u>Education</u>	Christina Johnson 595-4791
<u>Public Life</u>	Dorothy Maxwell 384-0083
<u>Newsletter</u>	Marilyn Gore 384-7220
<u>Human Rights</u>	Norrie Preston 598-1390
<u>Consciousness Raising Groups</u>	Lynn Carter 595-0582

### MEETINGS

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

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD  
ON NOVEMBER 22, 1976

Program will be "On Becoming a Man" with representatives from the Men's Collective. This might be a good evening to bring along a male friend, son, husband...

The A.G.M. will be in January.)



MEMBERSHIP

This is our last newsletter of 1976. I would like to appeal to all members to please renew their membership. Send your cheque for \$3.00 to M. Cowley, 164 Beechwood, or see me on Nov. 22/76 at the meeting.

Welcome to our new members:

Ann Goard	Nancy Pyner	Joyce Bewley
Grace Carey	Kathy Vander Ros	Lorraine Chan
Virginia McCaffrey	Jane Henderson	Elizabeth Azmier Stewart
Louise Loughheed	Vicki McKinnon	Charlotte Etches
Lucy MacPherson	Haldis Sankey	Peggy Macintosh
Jean Ethridge	Patricia Vickers	Margery Evjen
Everywomans Books	David Parsons	

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ELECTIONS November 20th

Don't forget to vote!

For Greater Victoria School Board 8 candidates are running after 5 seats.

Two SWAG members are running for seats on the Greater Victoria (Dist.61) School Board - elections November 20th.

CAROL PICKUP hopes "to create a more positive climate for learning through intelligent policy making." She would like to see school consultative committees established in each school and says we need more adequate assessment and help for our children with learning disabilities.

MIMI ROBERTSON lists experience in school parent associations, the Camosun College Council and the Dept. of Education advisory committee as assets. Mimi challenges the priorities of the Board which released special counsellors to save \$92,000, but agreed to spend \$58,000 to send administrators to conventions. Her priority is the child in the classroom.

Support SWAG members on November 20th

In Sooke in the Belmont Zone 6 candidates are running for 2 seats; Four are women - incumbent Irene Lane, Gwen Day, Bonnie Jean Fournier and Arlene Ward.

In North Saanich incumbent Lois Walsh is running against Gary Norman Gibson.

For Council - In Oak Bay Jacquei Sellgren is running for the first time while Shirley Dowell is up for re-election.



SWAG MEETING/WORKSHOP      NOV. 22nd  
CEDAR HILL COMMUNITY CENTRE      8:00 PM

Our guests will be men from the Men's Collective. Because we live with men and raise sons, it is important to examine the stereotyped image of men in society and to assess to what degree we contribute to the perpetuation of these images, which in turn hinder our own full development.

GROWING UP MALE

BY WARREN T. FARRELL

Everything a boy or man learns about "what a man should be" tells him that he must never, under any circumstances, act like a woman. Men speak of "the importance and creativity of my wife's role as a mother and manager of our home", but when it comes to caring for their children full time and without pay, these fathers are nowhere to be seen.

Today the interpretation of 'women's liberation' is women rejecting their traditional role and "coming up" to a man's work and status, such as that of an executive. We seldom hear of men's liberation, though, and when we do, it is not usually in terms of men coming up to women's status. Many men, however, have begun to feel that they are just as trapped as women in a system that determines their behavior and limits their choices.

The need of many men to have a title next to their name, or to have a new car is now being questioned. Some men are making the connection between this need to prove their masculinity through job and prestige striving to the fact that men have more heart attacks, migraine headaches & commit 70% of suicides. Studies have also shown that masculine expectations tend to encourage men to commit 88% of crimes. Men are also becoming aware that negative images of women affect men, since these images and the fear of expressing "feminine" traits - which all men have - help prevent men from doing what they want to do.

Getting beyond masculinity is achieving new freedoms, freedom beyond proving oneself, beyond worrying about appearances - on the playing field, or in the office; in earned degrees or job titles; in clothes, status or swagger. It is getting beyond condescension and contempt toward women, needing to be in control - ultimately a security object.



WOMEN'S CENTRE STILL ALIVEFrom the Victorian in October

The Women's Centre at 552 Pandora has undergone some changes since it lost its funding but it's still alive and kicking, despite a lack of money.

The centre has no paid staff and no social services - women who staff the centre are volunteers - but there are still plenty of reasons why women can and should attend and use the facilities.

Now known as the Women's Community Centre, it's considered primarily as "a space for women". Any women's group may use it for meetings or whatever.

But rent still has to be paid for the accommodation so women volunteers tackle that problem by raising funds through various enterprises. Women's Pub Night or Boogie Night, as it's otherwise known, is held alternative Fridays.

Turnout is usually good with between 30 to 50 women attending. Some bring their children along and there's a room for them to play under supervision.

Although the swing has been away from social services, the centre seems to have drawn in more support and commitment to it since the women lost their grant.

It now has a store - a woman's emporium called UPFRONT - where arts and crafts, jewellery, clothing, pictures, plant holders, records, and many other items can be purchased. Most of the articles are made by women who are the sole contributors.

The store has been open six months and although business isn't exactly booming, there's a steady sale of goods. Women are encouraged to contribute to the store.

For women who would like some free legal advice, women law students from the University of Victoria will be on hand every Wednesday from 3 to 6 p.m.

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LETTERS

There will be a Single Parent Co-op starting in December in Sooke - funded by L.I.P. The program will include:

- co-operative exchanges (babysitting, clothes, carpools, etc.)
- drop-in centre
- self-help groups
- workshops on parenting skills and other relevant topics
- recreation for children and adults.

For more information - or to give information - contact Elizabeth Azmier Stewart - 642-3678.

P.S. Our definition of single parent means anyone needing the resources we have.



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- drop-in centre
- self-help groups
- workshops on parenting skills and other relevant topics
- recreation for children and adults.

For more information - or to give information - contact Elizabeth Amner Stewart 643-3678.

P.S. Our definition of single parent means anyone needing the resources we have.



WARNING: The Department of Consumer Services and the Department of Human Resources at 5791, 91 rue de la Paix, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L1, 1947 Cook Street.

Don't give away your "rent aid" income tax refund! Stay away from tax payers! M.P. 00:8 is also of interest as it will aid a as law as possible to find out of statistics for purposes. This year the Renters' Resource Centre is available for rent aid and other must be claimed by filing your income tax return.

IF YOU ARE A RENTER, and your taxable income was less than \$10,000, you probably qualify for a refund of up to \$1000.00. IF YOU ARE A RENTER, and your taxable income was less than \$10,000, you probably qualify for a refund of up to \$1000.00.

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NEED is a 24-hour anonymous telephone service available for anyone and handled by trained volunteers. We are here not only for people in crisis but to talk over any concern - whether large or small. We hear from people of all ages and walks of life - people who want someone to listen to their concerns, people who want help in making a decision, people who are desperate and people who simply don't know what resources are available in this community. Need is presently looking for volunteers. If you are a mature and caring person and are interested in working on the phone (for 2 hours a week) please write to: Need, 388-6322, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L1. We would like to hear from you. Phone the office at 388-6322. We would like to hear from you. Phone the office at 388-6322.

Hopki Beter, Executive Director  
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ll. su ot tarant

Ottawa Ontario 10-21  
a delipococ to ai ti elidicomi ylyttu wot staiscappa I  
President, Victoria Centre of Women Action Group, has to consider  
I want to say that on 10/10/81 I visited a house and  
Regret that previous commitments prevented me from joining you on  
this occasion, but would like to wish you a successful and fruitful  
productive meeting.

ions Campaign, Minister of State for Women and Women's Sport, talk  
tion of this group now you as that you do not understand  
(This telegram didn't arrive in time to be read at the Conference.)

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MORE LETTERS

WARNING from the Department of Consumer Services and the Department of Human Resources:

Don't give away your "rent aid" income tax refund! Stay away from tax buyers!

This year the Renter's Resource Grant is called "Rent Aid", and it must be claimed by filing your income tax return.

IF YOU ARE A RENTER, and your taxable income was less than \$10,000, you probably qualify for a refund of up to \$100.

Don't give any of it away to tax buyers - even if they say they will prepare your return for you. You can do your own, and you can get free help from your local Revenue Canada Taxation Office.

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NEED is a 24-hour anonymous telephone service available for anyone and handled by trained volunteers. We are here not only for people in crisis but to talk over any concern - whether large or small. We hear from people of all ages and walks of life - people who want someone to listen to their concerns, people who want help in making a decision, people who are desperate and people who simply don't know what resources are available in this community.

Need is presently looking for volunteers. If you are a mature and caring person and are interested in working on the phones (for 4 hours a week), we would like to hear from you. Phone the office at 386-6328.

Bobbi Etter, Executive Director

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Ottawa Ontario 10-21

President, Victoria Status of Women Action Group

Regret that previous commitments prevent me from joining you on this occasion, but would like to wish you a successful and productive meeting.

Iona Campagnolo, Minister of State Fitness and Amateur Sport.

(This telegram didn't arrive in time to be read at the Conference.)

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MORE LETTERS

VICTORIA RAPE RELIEF is proposing to hold the Annual General Meeting on the evening of November 10, 1976 at the Centre, 1947 Cook Street.

This will be a business meeting to begin at 8:00 p.m. for the purpose of elections to the Board of Directors as well as a resume of the past year's activities.

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FROM VICTORIA RAPE RELIEF:

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in SWAG's Conference "All Women Work".

The Conference seemed to be well attended and the workshops covered a wide range of topics.

I would like to make a couple of comments:

1. It would have been helpful to have been advised of the format in time to have allowed me more preparation. As it was, I arrived in the morning unaware that in a few minutes I was expected to address the Conference.
2. Because of the great interest in, and wide diversity of the workshops, it would have been possible to take in more of them if they had been scheduled differently. Perhaps, if addresses had been finished by Saturday mid-morning, there might have been the opportunity to hold the workshops for the rest of the day.

It seemed a shame that many women, especially workshop leaders, were unable to participate in the many other topics of such interest to us all.

I appreciate how utterly impossible it is to accomplish a Conference of such scope so that everyone is totally satisfied. It was such a positive experience for me that I guess I wanted to go to everything, and hear everybody and spend at least a week immersed in the whole thing.

Congratulations on the way that so many women were able to meet, talk, share, and experience the importance of being women.

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Rita Rolfe



NOTES AND NEWSSTUDENT LAW CLINICS - L. Sproule Jones

The students of the Law School at UVIC have set up a number of free legal advice clinics offering advice and information to anyone on any legal matter.

The following is the schedule for the Clinics:

Tuesday 2 - 5 p.m. Vic West Community Centre, 965 Alston

Wednesday 3 - 6 p.m. Fernwood Community Centre, Fernwood and Gladstone

Wednesday 3 - 6 p.m. Women's Centre, 552 Pandora (This clinic is operated by women law students for women only)

Thursday 4 - 7 p.m. Blanshard Court, No. 1 - 2505 Blanshard Court

Saturday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. James Bay Community Centre, 435 Simcoe

The times for these clinics are geared primarily to students' class schedules. Since some women feel they can only seek legal advice when their husbands are at work and the children are at school, the clinic at the Women's Centre has indicated a willingness to try and set up special appointments for those who feel this is necessary.

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HIDDEN INFLUENCES IN READERS

Happy Highways - Grade 4 reader - J. M. Dent (Canada) Limited  
1962 Unit Four Brave Hearts - pages 107-181

7 stories: 7 main characters (6 malè, 1 female)  
33 total characters (30 male, 3 female)

of the 33 characters:

3 are animals -  
1 guinea pig - male  
2 moose - male  
2 kites - male  
3 female - humans  
25 male - humans

Illustrations: total number of illustrations 28  
8 illustrations of scenery, planes, etc.  
6 illustrations of male, female characters  
14 illustrations with all male characters

7 authors: 4 female, 3 male

- Vaughn McMorland

(try this exercise on some of the text books your children have)

\*\*\*\*\*



MORE NOTES AND NEWSRAPE RELIEF

From the Daily Colonist, November 3, 1976, by Gorde Hunter

"I have written before on the work done by the Victoria Rape Relief Centre. I thought then, as I think now, that the centre offers an invaluable aid to those defiled by lustful cowards.

I also decry much of the money spent on many Local Initiative Program ventures. But to think that this worthwhile local program was turned down for a L.I.P. grant, is nothing more or less than tragic.

Rape Relief applied for a grant of \$20,400 and was turned down. The money would have been spent on a public information program designed to advise how to prevent attacks and of what action should be taken in the event of rape.

This particular group has had strong success and it is indeed true that many, including police officers, have gone to Rape Relief for vital information. The need of such a service is without question and the past success of the program is there for all to see.

We blow millions on largely inconsequential or cosmetic undertakings in this country, yet cannot find a lousy \$20,400 to continue or further a needed operation. Local MPs should be screaming their loudest over the stupid omission."

WRITE your local MP and ask her/him if she/he is.

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POPULAR WORKSHOP WILL BE CONTINUED

From the Daily Colonist, Saturday, October 30, 1976.

"A discussion that became a popular feature of a recent conference at UVIC will be continued next week.

Women in their middle years was a workshop topic that attracted women of all ages at a recent Status of Women Action Groups' conference at UVIC.

"The younger women were interested in planning for their middle years while older women were looking for direction and support", June Preston, the group leader, said later.

The discussions included a look at how the middle years were accepted in the past and what the attitudes are today. It was generally agreed that there are more opportunities today, and that middle years can be the beginning of a great period of rediscovery in one's life.

....continued



MORE NOTES AND NEWS

POPULAR WORKSHOP continued

She said the talks will be continued at a three-session seminar starting Monday night. The theme will be enlarged to include the needs of women in middle age.

The groups are part of the Prime Time Project, financed by the Federal Health and Welfare Department and sponsored by the YW-YMCA. All women are invited to attend the sessions. More information and registration can be obtained by phoning Marilyn Callahan at 386-7511."

ALL WOMEN WORK

Conference Feedback

WOMEN IN DEPARTMENT STORES

This was an interesting and informative workshop. Some of the main points that came out during the course of the discussion were:

1. That even though many women are taking courses and through years of experience are better qualified (in some instances) than men for positions in management in department stores, they are still being bypassed and the men are usually selected for the positions.
2. That a good 95% of the women in department stores work part-time so therefore do not qualify for the fringe benefits available to full-time employees.
3. There is still a gap between men's and women's wages, although this situation has gradually been improving over the past 10 years.

The final point brought out was that there is going to have to be a good deal of change in society's attitudes if women are to achieve equal opportunities for management positions and equal pay.

- Carole Gavoris

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RADICAL FEMINISM WORKSHOP - Leader Alice Ages

I attended Alice's first workshop on radical feminism. The purpose in doing so was to determine if we were "radical" in our thinking, and if so, to what degree.

....continued



ALL WOMEN WORK

ALL WOMEN WORK

RADICAL FEMINISM WORKSHOP Continued

Various theories were discussed, and Alice pointed out to us the difference between liberal, socialist, and what were classified as radical feminists. The rise in feminism was likened to the struggle of the black people for recognition and equality in the U. S. We talked about what causes the consciousness of people to be raised, and the consequent frustrations experienced in the application of feminist beliefs in day to day life. It was generally felt that the term "radical" is purely a matter of degree and is applied by those who decide to sit in judgment over others who may be advocating social change; i.e. the equality of women.

Alice concluded the workshop by telling us a little about herself and what brought her to her present thinking.

For my own part, I found this workshop to be interesting, informative, and whether or not we agreed with each other on the points discussed, there was plenty of food for thought in what was said.

- Anne Howie

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WOMEN IN BUSINESS

Women in business have skills which equip them for communication but they submit to office structures which greatly limit equal advancement to men because of other women who accept this office structure.

- Dorothy Maxwell

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WOMEN ON SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

We opened our workshop under the direction of Wilna Thomas by discussing what we each wanted to personally "get out" of our time spent together. Being basically two groups, those on social assistance and those not, our interests varied greatly and that seems always to make for a richer experience. My own particular interest lay in the so-called "myths" many of us have absorbed during the years, mostly due to media coverage. How can one enter into an honest, meaningful relationship with another with these sort of barriers before us? We proceeded to deal with some of these as well as problems some women were currently experiencing. One woman spoke of past experiences, being herself now off social assistance. We also looked at how it felt to be a female social worker and having to deal with human misery day after day. How do they as women deal with the sometimes resulting depression?

....continued



ALL WOMEN WORK

WOMEN ON SOCIAL ASSISTANCE Continued

Workshops such as this are very vital for so few of first hand look at "the system" and how it affects not just statistics.

I feel that we each came away somewhat more knowled in closing I'd like to add that we indeed were fort such a delightful person as Wilna with us.

- Kathy Barwick

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WORK IN THE HOME

After a short introduction by Chris, during which s briefly some of the legal problems houswives face, divided into two sub-groups. The rest of the time the smaller groups during which time the leaders pl minimal a role as possible. This was good as the o group felt free to air their ideas and discuss the they encounter as housewives and mothers at home. did have suggestions as to areas we could concentra lot of time was spent discussing the problems of is stagnation and possible solutions. The time went v and it was obvious we shared many frustrations. Pe solutions offered helped someone in our group, but feeling even more strongly that the answers are as as we all were although even an hour spent recogniz and sharing some of your experiences is supportive.

- Ann Goard

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WOMEN IN THE ARTS

As I stressed in my address, those who come to "Wom would be the resource people who would gather infor another. Sometimes it is worthwhile for women in d fields to be confronted by each other's attitudes a to be conscious of how other women react to their e know how those who are competent and experienced in art reached their level of accomplishment and to ex points. A few words, a measure of music, some shap a colour, can redirect our thoughts and our lives.

In the first session, three women representing the women", shared their ideas and art-life experiences

....contin





ALL WOMEN WORK

ALL WOMEN WORK

WOMEN IN THE ARTS Continued

The second group was larger and represented women working at music, writing, sculpture, painting, and other arts. A male artist who came described his problems and endeavours. Some felt inhibited by his self-assurance. There is, of course, a male tradition in the arts. Did we get our womanly viewpoints across?

I am grateful to Virginia MacCaffrey who helped me direct the second discussion, to Terri Winchell, librarian at Camosun College who made a special trip to show me relevant books, and to every woman who came.

You may not agree with the following views which came out in discussion, although not necessarily in these exact words. You may think instead.

Women musicians and writers have a longer story of acceptance. Women as sculptors and painters are up against a greater wall of prejudice.

\*

There is not much discrimination as a woman composer but there is as a composer.

\*

There have been seven women composers in Canada who paved the way for Canadian women composers today.

\*

When I was pregnant I thought I would lose all my creativity.

\*

A woman needs a husband to support her if she is an artist.

\*

Looking after the household is tremendously creative.

\*

My husband left. He could not understand what I was trying to do.

\*

A woman should set a time during the day for working at her art.

\*

I paint, compose music, write and work in a hospital.

\*

When I retire from my job I am going to take up painting again.

\*

No one else sees my vision. I can try to share it.

Excellent books to read on Women in the Arts:

Our Hidden Heritage Five centuries of women artists by art historian, Eleanor Tufts (Oak Bay Library)

Through the Flower Struggle as a woman artist by Judy Chicogi (Camosun Library)

Victorian Photographs of Famous Men and Fair Women by Roger Fry

"Paradoxes and Dilemmas, The Woman as Writer", by Margaret Atwood, chapter in Women in the Canadian Mosaic ed. Gwen Matheson, pub. 1976. (greater Victoria Library)

"Breaking out of the Female Mould" by Maryon Kantaroff chapter in Women in the Canadian Mosaic

- Avis Rasmussen



ALL WOMEN WORKCONSCIOUSNESS RAISING

Lorea Tubb and I held 2 small, but lively workshops at the Fall Conference. Our theme was "Any Woman Can" - join or get a C.R. group going. Four people took us at our word and four new C.R. groups bloomed early in November. What a glorious, late season garden for Victoria feminists!

Gail Woodward and Jean Nordstrom set a date and opened their homes to friends and women from our list. Their groups are now meeting weekly and bi-weekly in each others' homes. Jennifer Tedlie put posters around campus and battled the Martlett for a fair article on C.R. Fourteen women are now meeting Tuesday nights at the UVIC SUB. Nancy Pyner came to our workshop, attended one of Jennifer's sessions, and dashed home to Sooke to put an ad in the local paper. Six women met in her home and more have expressed interest. If you're in Sooke and would like to join, call Nancy Pyner at 642-5437. Ann Howie would still like to form a group in the Brentwood Bay area. For other areas, leave your name and number at the Women's Center 385-3843 or call Lynn Carter at 595-0582 in the evening.

Bouquets of congratulations and thanks to Gail, Jean, Jennifer, and Nancy!

- Lyn Carter

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WOMEN IN VIET NAM - The Venerable Thich Mandala

Discussion of life of women in Viet Nam contrasted with position of women in the West. The present government policy is to include women in every phase of national life, e.g. 25% of National Assembly members are women. Job and wage structures are the same for both sexes. The Commander of the Liberation Forces in South View Nam was a woman who has seven children. Part of the reason for this is the Buddhist culture in which any person (male, female, adult, child) is in the same path of spiritual development and therefore equal. With this as a base, the new egalitarian society in Viet Nam has no major difficulty in developing a concept of equal treatment for the sexes. Problems in the South, because of foreign influence, are greater as, for example, in rehabilitation of 40,000 former prostitutes. The basic lesson to be learned from the Viet Namese experience is that the enemy must be clearly identified in order to succeed. This is applicable in our own experience in that if we are to succeed in breaking down barriers we must understand that men are victims as well, and the enemy is a system which must be changed.

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ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN NEWS - Norrie Preston

Yvette Rousseau has been chosen by the Federal Government as the new chairperson of the Federal Advisory Council on the Status of Women.

Mrs. Rousseau, who has been Acting Chairman of the Advisory Council on the Status of Women since June 1, 1976, brings to her new position a broad experience in the women's movement, having served as Vice-Chairman of the Advisory Council on the Status of Women since 1973, and prior to that, as President of "La Federation des Femmes du Quebec".

Mrs. Rousseau started her career as a textile worker. She joined the ranks of the union and assumed different responsibilities before becoming Vice-President of the Confederation of National Trade Unions. In 1967, she represented the CNTU at the International Conference on Women's Work, in Brussels.

Meanwhile former chairperson Dr. Katie Cooke is now a Director of Research in the Department of Indian Affairs, while Vice-chairperson June Menzies has become Vice-chairperson of the Anti-Inflation Board.

Some Background

The Advisory Council on the Status of Women is composed of thirty people from across Canada, appointed by the Minister of Health and Welfare, Marc Lalonde, to advise the Federal Government on matters relating specifically to the position of women in Canada.

Presently, the A.C.S.W. is composed of one member from N.W.T., one from the Yukon, two members from B. C., two from Alta., two from Sask., one from Man., six from Ont., six from Que., one from N.B., one from P.E.I., two from Nova Scotia, and one member from Nfld.

The Council works closely with labour groups, volunteer groups, provincial status of women councils and other national and international organizations, including the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.

It is a prime responsibility of the A.C.S.W. to inform the general public and the various media on the recommendations, and the rationale behind those recommendations, which it submits to the Canadian government.

....Continued



ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN NEWS Continued

Some Important Stands Taken by the Council Since 1973

Abortion

In April 1975, A.C.S.W. reiterated its decision of September 1973 that abortion be removed from the Criminal Code.

April 1975 - A.C.S.W. urged the Government to present to Parliament at the earliest possible moment, amendments to the appropriate provisions of the Criminal Code to prohibit the substitution by an Appeal Court of a verdict of guilty, when a jury had pronounced an acquittal, and to limit the powers of appellate tribunals in the case of jury acquittals to the ordering of a new trial.

April 1975 - As no jury had convicted Dr. Henry Morgentaler, A.C.S.W. urged that the Governor-General-in-Council exercise the Royal prerogative of mercy to commute his 18-month sentence, release him immediately and pardon him.

Boards and Commissions

In September 1973, A.C.S.W. reiterated its recommendation to the Government that a balance be established between men and women appointees to boards, commissions, and councils, etc., under federal jurisdiction, beginning with the appointment of women to fill Supreme Court vacancies.

Family Court

April 1974 - A.C.S.W. recommended that family courts be given the opportunity to exercise a comprehensive and integrated jurisdiction over all matrimonial and family proceedings including divorce, judicial separation, alimony, and the division of matrimonial property.

June 1974 - A.C.S.W. recommended that the multidisciplinary approach suggested by the Law Reform Commission be utilized;

- that the adversary system in current use not be carried forward into the proposed Family Court system;
- that a Maintenance Award Fund be established into which payments ordered for the support of an estranged family would be made and out of which such payments to the family would be drawn;
- that the Family Court system include provisions for special support that would enable the spouse who has been out of the labour force, to work towards becoming economically independent;
- that in all Family Courts there be an equal proportion of women in the judiciary and in all professional, technical and support positions; and
- that the position of Family Courts is of such importance that there must be cooperative appointments mutually agreed upon by federal and provincial authorities.

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ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN NEWS Continued

January 1975 - A.C.S.W. recommended: that the principle of a Unified Family Court be accepted;

that judges of the Unified Family Court be federally appointed and be specially trained in family law;

that Family Court considerations be closed to the general public except when unanimous consent of parties concerned is given to the contrary. Nevertheless, in all cases, except when the judge orders otherwise for reasons of public policy, the press and interested public bodies, such as welfare organizations and Civil Liberties associations, should be permitted to be present subject to a prohibition against publication of names, addresses or other identification of persons concerned; and

that well qualified professional support staff be available to work in cooperation with the Family Court judges.

Human Rights

In April 1975, because of its acute sense of frustration owing to the Government's continuing inaction on human rights legislation, A.C.S.W. demanded an immediate meeting with the Prime Minister to review his Government's intentions in this regard.

October 12, 1976, the speech from the throne announced that a Human Rights Bill would be debated during this Session of Parliament.

In another issue of the S.W.A.G. newsletter we will summarize recommendations taken on Child Care, Birth Planning, Rape, Pensions, Banking, and Credit Granting.

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FEDERAL HUMAN RIGHTS LEGISLATION

Are you aware that the following types of discrimination are still perfectly legal in Canada?

1. Employers under federal jurisdiction - such as banks, airlines, insurance companies and telephone companies - can refuse to hire or promote people on the basis of age, sex, or marital status.
2. Hotels or restaurants under federal jurisdiction, such as those operated by the railways, can refuse guests on the basis of race, colour or religion.
3. Banks can refuse credit on the basis of sex.
4. Employers under federal jurisdiction, can, and do, provide women employees with smaller pension plans and insurance benefits than those provided for male employees.

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FEDERAL HUMAN RIGHTS LEGISLATION Continued

The need for federal human rights legislation has been apparent for many years, despite the fact that a Canadian Bill of Rights was passed in 1960. This Bill, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, national origin, colour, religion or sex, sounds good on paper, but unfortunately it has absolutely no powers of enforcement.

When it was tested in the Supreme Court of Canada in the Lavell-Bedard case of 1973, (the Indian women who lost their Indian rights because they married non-Indians), the Court ruled that the Bill of Rights does not take precedence over the Indian Act.

This means that the Bill of Rights has no power to prevent the Federal Government from discrimination in any way in its laws - past, present or future.

The Canada Labour Code does provide some protection against discrimination on the basis of race, national origin, colour or religion in the area of employment, but it does not include age, sex, or marital status in the list of prohibited types of discrimination.

There is no protection under federal legislation from discrimination in housing, accommodation or services provided by organizations operating under federal jurisdiction.

A nation-wide letter-writing campaign criticizing the Federal Government for its inaction on human rights legislation was launched on October 25, 1976 by the Federal Advisory Council on the Status of Women.

Letters to more than 2,000 organizations across Canada, with membership in the millions, went out today under the signature of A.C.S.W. chairwoman Yvette Rousseau. They are directed towards organizations concerned with human rights and include minority groups, women's organizations, religious and civil rights associations, professional associations, and unions.

"We have been trying for over three years to persuade the Federal Government to pass human rights legislation, but they have not given it any priority", Mrs. Rousseau said. "We believe that by pointing out the inequities that affect many groups in Canada the Government will respond."

"Every province in Canada now has a human rights commission", Mrs. Rousseau said, "but the Federal Government, although it did introduce a human rights act in 1975, never passed it."

The letter points out that discrimination on the basis of ethnic origin, colour, religion, age, sex, and marital status is still legal for organizations under federal jurisdiction, such as banks, insurance companies and airlines.

It says in part: "If you are a member of a minority group... services and accommodation can be denied to you because of your race or colour."

....Continued



FEDERAL HUMAN RIGHTS LEGISLATION Continued

"If you are an older worker...employees under federal jurisdiction can legally refuse to hire you because of your age."

"If you are a member of a religious group...services and accommodation can legally be denied to you because of your religion."

"If you are a woman...you can be denied accommodation, services, employment or equal opportunity for advancement. Your employer can legally provide small pension and insurance benefits for you than for male employees."

The letter explains that governments do react to pressure from the public and urges everyone to write to Justice Minister Ron Basford and their own MP urging quick action to pass the Human Rights Act.

WRITE NOW!!!

Governments do react to pressure from the public. Write now, and urge your friends to write, objecting to the fact that discrimination on the basis of race, colour, religion, age, sex and marital status is still legal in this country under federal law.

The speech from the throne said "the Government will introduce a Human Rights Bill. The major effect of the Bill will be to prohibit discrimination on the grounds of race, colour, national or ethnic origin, religion, age, sex, marital status or physical handicap. In particular, the Bill will establish the principle of equal compensation for work or equal value performed by persons of either sex.

Let us put our energies at this time into making sure that the Government actually passes such an Act.

Write today to Justice Minister Ron Basford, House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario. K1A 0A6.

Homemakers in the CPP

Proposals concerning homemakers in the Quebec/Canada Pension Plans supported by both the A.C.S.W. (Advisory Council on the Status of Women) and the joint official councils on the status of women, received final discussion by the federal/provincial welfare ministers at a conference in June. There was unanimous agreement to accept a proposal of a 50/50 split of pension benefits at the time of legal separations or divorce. However, Ontario did not give its approval to the proposal of a drop-out provision for the spouse who leaves the labour force to take care of children. As Ontario has veto power in joint federal/provincial decision, this proposal cannot be acted upon.

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Homemakers in the CPP Continued

A.C.S.W. has learned from Health and Welfare Canada officials that legislation is being drafted regarding the first proposal. There will be no other federal/provincial ministers' conferences on this subject.

(Reprinted from Advisory Council on the Status of Women Bulletin, August 1976)

The speech from the throne October 12, 1976, announced that the Canada Pension Plan would be amended to recognize the value of contribution made to the family and society by both marriage partners in the event that one remains at home while the partner works outside the home.

It has been pointed out by June Menzies former Vice-chairperson that this plan will allow women much more equity than they now enjoy and is an urgent and necessary step towards economic equality within marriage. The legislation will be a recognition of the husband's responsibility to share the wife's loss in social security benefits when she withdraws from the paid labour market. The principle of equity and interdependence within the marriage unit has not yet been achieved, but Menzies states "a plan for splitting pension credits between spouses will bring it one step closer".

However, amendments to the Canada Pension Plan must be based on two concepts - both concepts are necessary for women to move toward economic equality.

Menzies believes these to be first - equity within the marriage unit reflecting the economic interdependence of spouses; and second - equity within the larger economy reflecting economic interdependence between the unpaid work of women and the economy.

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SELF DEFENSE

Any woman interested in taking a course in physical, emotional and psychic self-defense, please call Rape Relief (383-3232) or Rowena Hunnisset (384-2833), course instructor, for further information or free leaflet. Cost : \$1.00 per session - 1½ hours per week. Time and place to be announced.