

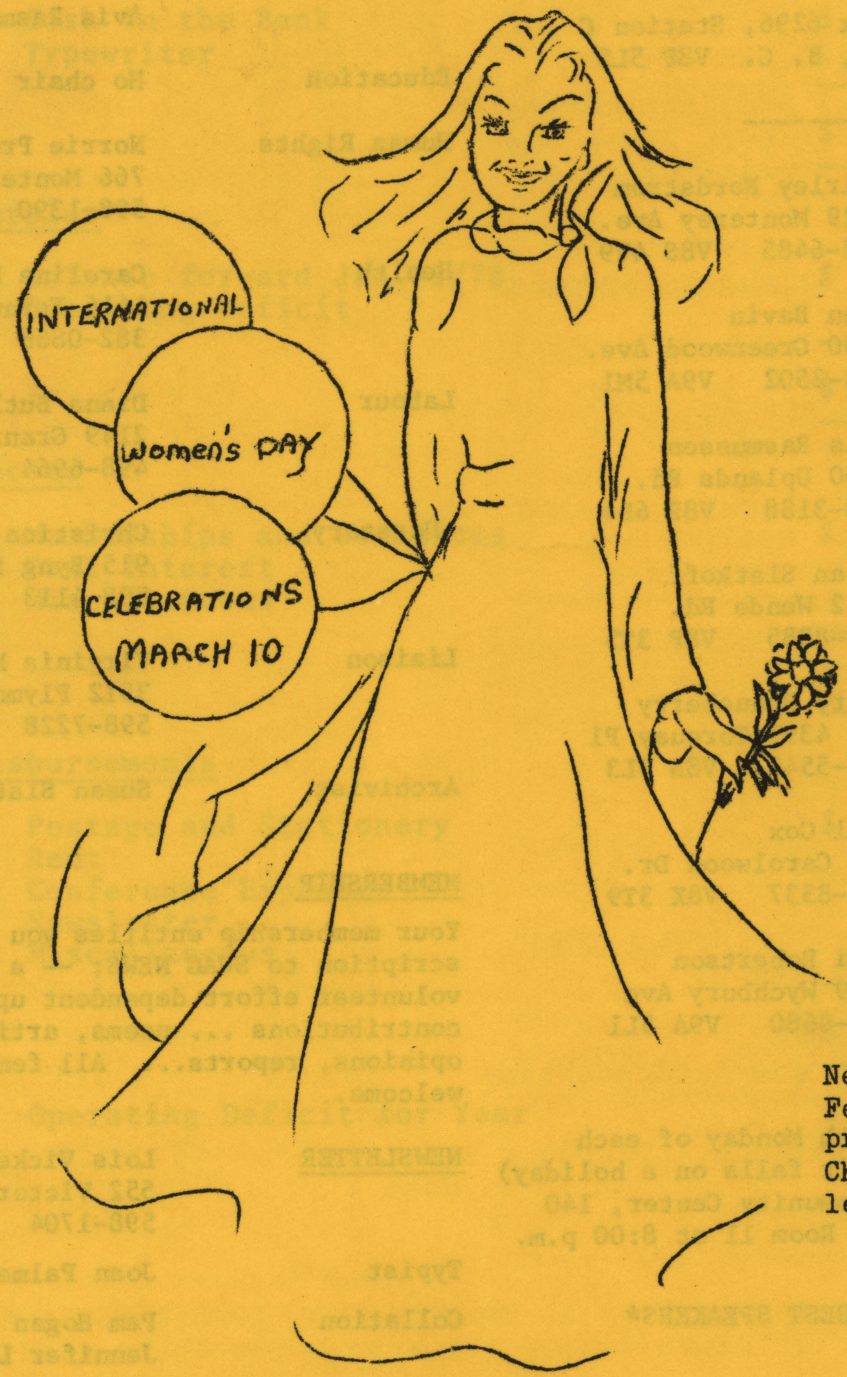
HQ 1154
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Swag

Victoria Status of Women News

552 VICTORIA ave

FEB-1979



Next Meeting:
Feb. 26, 8:00 p.m.
proposed new
Children's Act
legislation

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

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

ADDRESS : P. O. Box 6296, Station C
Victoria, B. C. V8P 5L5

President	Shirley Nordstrom 1429 Monterey Ave. 598-6485 V8S 4V9
Vice- President (programmes)	Gwen Bavin 1160 Greenwood Ave. 383-2502 V9A 5M1
Vice- President (projects)	Avis Rasmussen 3050 Uplands Rd. 598-3188 V8R 6B4
Secretary	Susan Slatkoff 1422 Wende Rd. 477-8385 V8P 3T5
Treasurer	Betty Henneberry #3, 4391 Torquay Pl 477-5543 V8N 3L3
Membership Chair	Gail Cox 963 Carolwood Dr. 658-8337 V8X 3T9
Past President	Mimi Robertson 1149 Wychbury Ave 385-8680 V9A 5L1

MEETINGS/WORKSHOPS

SWAG meets the fourth Monday of each month (except when it falls on a holiday) at the James Bay Community Center, 140 Oswego St., Meeting Room 11 at 8:00 p.m.

*WORKSHOPS*COFFEE*GUEST SPEAKERS*

COMMITTEES

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

CHAIRPEOPLE

Family Law	Gwen Bavin Avis Rasmussen
Education	No chair
Human Rights	Norrie Preston 766 Monterey Ave. 598-1390 V8S 4V2
Health	Caroline Meggison 1616 Fernwood 382-0866 V8T 2Y1
Labour	Diana Butler 2149 Granite 498-6964 V8S 3G5
Herstory	Christina Johnson 915 Byng St. 598-4113 V8S 5B1
Liaison	Virginia McCaffrey 3512 Plymouth St. 598-7228 V8P 4X4
Archivist	Susan Slatkoff

MEMBERSHIP

Your membership entitles you to a subscription to SWAG NEWS; -- a completely volunteer effort dependent upon your contributions ... poems, articles, opinions, reports... All feminist material welcome.

NEWSLETTER

Typist	Lois Vickery 552 Victoria Ave. 598-1704 V8S 4M6
Collation	Joan Palmer Pam Hogan Jennifer Lowen

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT - 1978

VICTORIA STATUS OF WOMEN ACTION GROUP SOCIETY

Group Assets

Cash in the Bank	\$ 1,828.57
Typewriter	212.93
	<hr/>
	\$ 2,041.50

Surplus

Balance forward Jan. 1/78	\$ 3,098.67
Operating Deficit	1,057.17
	<hr/>
	\$ 2,041.50

Income

Memberships and Donations	\$ 715.68
Bank Interest	140.29
Miscellaneous	901.20
	<hr/>
	\$ 1,757.17

Disbursements

Postage and Stationery	\$ 322.22
Rent	191.00
Conference Expenses	884.60
Newsletter	666.02
Miscellaneous	750.50
	<hr/>
	\$ 2,814.34
	<hr/>
Operating Deficit for Year	\$ 1,057.17

The funds in the Bank at December 31, 1978 have been allocated for expenditures which have yet to be paid.

1978 FEDERAL STUDENT COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT - WOMEN
AND ARTS IN B. C.

Income

Grant		\$ 7,434.00
Donation		100.00
Bank Interest		45.64
		<hr/>
		\$ 7,579.64

Expenditures

Salaries	\$ 6,721.27	
Supplies	539.08	
Travel and Transportation	104.23	
Photography, Films and Processing	138.11	
Honoraria	30.00	7,532.69
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Bank Balance - December 31, 1978 - Note 1		\$ 46.95

1978 CONFERENCE GRANT

Income

Grant		\$ 1,435.00
Registration Fees		1,044.00
Bank Interest		12.50
Miscellaneous		27.58
		<hr/>
		\$ 2,519.08

Expenditures

Child Care	\$ 357.37	
Facilities	515.52	
Honoraria	275.00	
Kits	747.04	
Miscellaneous	111.00	
Publicity	138.18	
Telephone	11.82	
Travel and Accommodation	162.25	2,318.18
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Bank Balance - December 31, 1978 - Note 1		\$ 200.90

Note 1

The funds in the Bank at December 31, 1978 have been allotted for expenditures which have yet to be paid.

MEMBERSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

Peggy McIntosh	Monna Huskroft
Joan May	Christina Johnston
Norma Mickelson	Shirley Keller
Sheila Anderson	Jean Kidd
Nellia Blake	Doreen Newell
Rita Casey	Harice Parkingson
Lorraine Chan	Evelyn Peaker
Gayle Chapman	Lynn Pearson
Counselling Centre UVIC	
Gail Cox	Carol Pickup
Heather Crampton	Pat Ried
Mabel Dean	Jim & Sharon Skouge
Carol Dobbison	Carole Anne Soong
Carol Folse	Linda Spoule Jones
Ann Goard	Susan Stein
Harriett Lopatecki	Peter Stein
Vivian Kirk	Faye Sturrock
Susan Slatkoff	Muriel Wagner
Jane Hastings	Marjorie Wessels

These memberships are now due. Your membership entitles you to a subscription to the SWAG NEWS. Please send \$5.00 to:

Gail Cox
963 Carolwood Dr.
Victoria, B. C. V8X 3T9

✧ ✧ MARK YOUR CALENDAR ✧ ✧

- Feb. 19 7:30 p.m. Labour Comm. meeting at Diana's -- 598-6964
- Feb. 26 7:30 Coffee
8:00 SWAG general meeting -- Discussion on proposed new Children's Act legislation
Speaker: Not yet confirmed
- March 1 7:30 p.m. B.C. Federation of Women Regional meeting
Anyone and Everyone Welcome
Rape/Assault Center
- March 3 Health Symposium -- Details and Registration form in Newsletter
- March 5 7:30 SWAG ex.meeting at Lois' 598-1704
- March 10 Extravaganza celebrating International Women's Day
WATCH FOR DETAILS
- March 10 Women's Concert
- March 17,18 B.C. Federation of Women Standing Committee here in Victoria. ANYONE welcome to attend. Contact Alice Albert 382-1532

DIVERSION is an alternative to the Court process. If you are interested in being a volunteer counsellor, a training programme is beginning in March. Contact:

✓ Llonna O'Gorman
Diversion Centre
610 Gorge Rd. East
383-7143

VICTORIA RAPE/ASSAULT CENTER (Old Rape Relief)

Volunteer Training Session
March 6 - April 9
9 evenings and 1 weekend

Register by Monday, Feb.26
call 383-3232

Please advise if you need child care

ISSUES WOMEN FACE IN MANAGEMENT

March 1-2 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Queen Victoria Inn
Fee: \$70.00

Contact: Helen Fletcher
Division of UVic Extension
477-6911, Local 4803

MEN'S AWARENESS GROUP -- For men in a period of transition related to family breakdown matters. Contact:

Joyce Bewley
The Law Center
388-4516

Beginning February 13

SINGLE PARENT RESOURCE CENTER
910 Mason Street

Offers a number of group and drop-in programmes. Phone 385-1114

RADICAL CR GROUP

✓ Contact: Alice Ages, 477-2694

EVERYWOMANS BOOKS
641 Johnson St.

LETTERS

Dear Sir/Madam:

We are writing to urge your support of the funding application made, here, by the Vancouver Status of Women.

The work of this group is of vital importance both to the women of the community and to a government concerned with their needs. Information, assistance and encouragement is provided for women struggling against discrimination, fighting to provide adequately for their children, striving to make sexual equality a reality in this Province. These goals cannot be achieved without organization and communication between women, and this 'unifying factor' is the most important function of this group.

Through the Vancouver Status of Women, women in the community can experience the concern of the government to carry out the recommendations of the Royal Commission. In providing full funding to the group, you make it clear to us that this Commission is not an empty promise. An important function of the Status of Women is, as you know, to make recommendations to all levels of government on issues involving women. In funding this group you are endorsing the importance of women's issues to the government. Women, surely, have a right to expect their government to show their concern in this way.

So we, at the Victoria Status of Women Action Group, strongly urge you to provide full and prompt funding for the continuing work of the Vancouver Status of Women.

Yours sincerely,

Josephine Payne
Corresponding Secretary
Victoria Status of Women
Action Group

Dear Members:

There is a new group of people for our 'fine upstanding citizens' to vent their anger on and to condemn. These are the women society has named Deserting Mothers and the numbers are growing every day. While I don't deny that certain members of this new group may be acting on selfish emotions, let's take a look at the motivation of the majority of them. When the crisis of marital breakdown occurs any good and loving parent will naturally want to save the children from any unnecessary hurt. Most women know that they are 'last hired - first fired' in the employment scheme. Add to this the common knowledge that women's wages are very much below the average man's wages. The only other alternative is to turn to welfare agencies for support. Most women know that 70% of all court orders for support are ignored and the courts seem powerless to enforce them. It is a very dismal state of affairs isn't it, so let's examine the alternatives. In most cases the father has established his career, supplied a house, and the children have their own circle of friends at school and in the neighbourhood. If he is a loving father, does it really make sense to drag them away into substandard housing and overall poverty conditions? In my estimation, any woman who has examined all the options and sacrifices herself for the children should be comforted, not condemned. If you must damn -- damn the society that has forced this action on her.

Gwen Bavin

Letters - Cont'd

Dear Ms. Payne:

Thank you for your letter of December 14th expressing your concern over the election of Fouse Faour as a member of the New Democratic Party to the House of Commons representing the constituency of Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe.

I would like to point out to you that Mr. Faour was nominated and elected by members of the NDP in the federal riding of Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe as their candidate. I do not question the wisdom of their judgement and I am honoured that he is in our caucus. I retain the right, as do all members of the NDP, to reserve judgement on aspects of Party policy. Obviously, a democratic political Party is not completely homogeneous in thought; nor should it be, in my view.

Although a Party must remain consistent with its policy in making decisions when it governs, there are inevitably certain particular policies that an individual member will not be able to support.

Thank you again for writing.

Yours sincerely,
Edward Broadbent

Dear Sir:

We, at the Status of Women Action Group in Victoria, wish to express our dismay at the recent criticism, on the part of members of your NDP caucus, of a research grant awarded to Dr. McGeer of the University of British Columbia.

We assume that the body who awarded this grant evaluated the importance and viability of the proposed research, and assessed the qualifications and capabilities of Dr. McGeer. Critical discussion of these findings by your caucus might have been relevant, but criticism of the award simply on the grounds of Dr. McGeer's marriage to a politician clearly commits the elementary logical fallacy Ad Hominem: an attack on the person, not her work. We have no evidence to show that marriage, even to politicians, is a barrier to scientific ability!

If we were to allow, for the sake of argument, that the criticism levelled against Dr. McGeer is relevant, and that talented professional women may be penalized in cases where they are married to

politicians, then the outcome is clear. No talented woman, seeking to pursue a socially valuable career, would marry a politician. Frankly, given the attitudes of some members of your caucus, this advice is possibly sound! The sexism inherent in their position can be illuminated easily by considering a simple alternative, viz., that Pat McGeer resign in light of the fact that his spouse has secured a politically significant (one supposes) research award.

It seems to us that members of your caucus have conflated two distinct issues. We agree that it would be most unfair to allow the spouse of a politician to gain advantages in their field of work simply because of this relationship. We condemn this kind of nepotism. But we feel very strongly, on the other hand, that a qualified and talented person has the right to work for success in their chosen field, even where they are married to a politician. The distinction can always be drawn in practice, where one considers only the qualifications and abilities of the individual in their chosen field.

We ask that you present these arguments to those members of your caucus guilty of criticizing Dr. McGeer unfairly. We further ask that they be required to make a formal apology to her for making her the focus of their outrageously sexist attitudes. Finally, we ask that you assure her of our support and sympathy.

Yours sincerely,
Josephine Payne
Corresponding Secretary
SWAG, Victoria

Dear Ms. Payne:

I have been given the responsibility of replying to your letter of January 10th in which you express dismay at the recent criticism by members of our NDP caucus re the research grant awarded to Dr. Edith McGeer from lottery funds.

May I say that I was equally dismayed at your reaction to this criticism. From the first year of my election to the British Columbia legislature in 1966, I have been an advocate for the elimination of discrimination against women. Needless to say, in those years my speeches on

Letters - Cont'd

equal rights for women received very little support. However, I continued to fight for women's rights as the records will show. The advent of status of women action groups such as your own has been most welcome, and I pay tribute to the fine work done by the status of women groups throughout British Columbia.

I am therefore amazed at the stance taken by your group on the research grant awarded to Dr. McGeer. To suggest that the criticism was sexist shows a basic misunderstanding of the principle outlined in this matter by NDP members. The principle is simply this:

Any spouse (male or female) of a politician must not accept or appear to be involved as a recipient of monies channelled through government, particularly if the persons involved are members of the government in power which ultimately has control of provincial revenues (in this case, lottery monies).

If Dr. Edith McGeer had been the cabinet minister and Dr. Pat McGeer had applied for the grant, the same criticism would have been levelled at him.

When one is married to a politician, male or female, certain personal desires must sometimes be sacrificed to maintain a high standard of political ethics. In this particular case, for Dr. Edith McGeer to apply for medical research grants when there are no doubt hundreds of other similar requests from researchers, who are not related to a government member, shows a most considerable degree of insensitivity.

Finally, may I ask that you and the Status of Women Action Group in Victoria give us your support to ensure that high standards of political morality prevail in government.

Yours sincerely,
Eileen Dailly, M.L.A.
Burnaby North

If you need a job done, give it to a busy person..... she'll add it to her list.

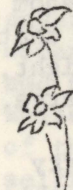
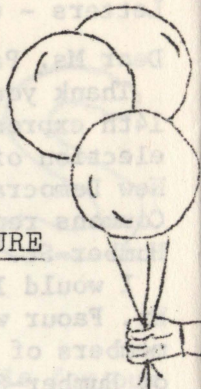
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CELEBRATE

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

A FESTIVAL OF WOMEN'S CULTURE

Sat. March 10



WOMEN and the ARTS -
exhibits, workshops 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

DINNER/DANCE 8 p.m.-1 a.m.

James Bay Community Centre,
140 Oswego St.

Sat. March 10



to benefit the Women's Building
of Victoria

Tickets available at Everywoman's
Bookstore
or at door

Any women who would like to exhibit or be otherwise involved in the planning of this event can call Nancy 479-0189

CARAL

Canadian Association for Repeal of the Abortion Law.. The purpose of CARAL is to ensure that no woman in Canada is denied access to safe, legal abortion.
Cathy 383-2165 or
Box 6282, Depot C, Victoria V8P 5L5

The B. C. Federation of Women is an umbrella organization of women's groups in B.C. It exists only because the women's groups across the province want a means of communicating with each other and a way of working together on issues of mutual concern. It has no other purpose -- no membership other than women's groups. All women involved in the B.C.F.W. are members of one or more women's groups and the groups are members of B.C.F.W. There are no individual members.

The Standing Committee is elected by delegates from the member groups at an annual convention. Its job is to carry out the day to day running of the Federation. The Standing Committee does not set policy -- that is done by delegates at the annual conventions. The Standing Committee is not B.C.F.W. The women on the Standing Committee have various specific job responsibilities which they fulfill in addition to work they do in their local women's groups as well as all other commitments in their lives.

The Sub Committees are groups of women who are members of B.C.F.W. because the groups they belong to are members. Sub committees are made up of women from around the province who are interested in working on a provincial level in one specific area of women's oppression -- i.e. Lesbian Rights, Health, etc. These women also have jobs, families, local group commitments, etc. -- all demanding time and energy. No woman is paid by B.C.F.W. for her work. It is a responsibility taken on in addition to, not instead of, all the other responsibilities in her life.

When a group joins B.C.F.W. they have to write a letter specifying that they agree with the aims and goals of the Federation and that they follow and support B.C.F.W. policy. Responsibility of membership does not end with that letter. Groups must be prepared to actively support the policy wherever and whenever possible, and to work on a provincial level to institute fundamental change in our society.

This means filling out the Health Sub Committee's questionnaires on various issues concerning women and health, regardless of the situation in your town as this is a provincial organization and only by getting information on a provincial basis can we be in a position to see how we are affected by decisions that divide our power.

This means -- for the same reasons -- sending in any funding information be it good or bad.

This means actively supporting lesbian rights and not ignoring it "because we don't have any lesbians here." There are lesbians everywhere there are women and it is important to offer and provide services and information, that lesbians may want or need.

Also -- it is important that your local media gets press releases issued by the B.C.F.W. and if they are not used, asking why.

It means being willing and able to work and think on regional and provincial levels as well as local ones.

It means clearly understanding B.C.F.W. policy and being able to articulate the reasons behind it.

It means sending informed, prepared delegates to convention -- delegates who represent the group because proposed policy has been worked through in the group and decisions made.

It means each member group realizing that it is B.C.F.W. in its communities and when B.C.F.W. speaks and acts, the groups act as well.

Action should be initiated by member groups. The Standing Committee, when notified of a proposed action will enlist other member groups for active participation, will send out press releases and provide support and assistance. The Standing Committee does not initiate action or set policy.

The other place action originates is with the Sub Committees, but this too requires active support and participation from member groups.

All the B.C.F.W. policy was decided upon at conventions by delegates from member groups -- it did not just appear magically. We demanded it, wrote it, accepted it and should follow it.

Standing Committee from previous B.C.F.W. Newsletter
Volume 3, Number 3

Convention Minutes: Are in the process of being sent out. If you want to see the minutes, drop into your local women's centre as they are not being set to individual delegates but to member groups and standing committee members only.

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Second B.C.F.W. Standing Committee Meeting
Victoria, March 17 and 18, 1979

All Standing Committee Members attending the Victoria Meeting are kindly requested to write to Sharon Ellingsen, 324 Moss St., Victoria no later than March 1 if billeting is required. Details about your billet and agenda will be sent after March 1. Please bring a sleeping bag if you can.

Because B.C.F.W. will not provide meals, we will provide a lunch. For Saturday evenings meal, we thought of reserving tables at a local, inexpensive restaurant. Does this sound agreeable? Please send in comments and suggestions re: your favourite ethnic restaurant.

See you there!

Alice J. Albert and Sharon Ellingsen
Co-reps South Van Island

.....
COPING METHODS

In times of uncertainty or stress certain methods of coping are available.

1. Roles & Scripts - people may become more conforming and authoritarian. They feel helpless and dependent and turn to rules to decrease their anxiety and uncertainty.
2. Social Comparison - an adaptive reasonable way is turning to other people to help define and label what is being felt. This is a more supportive method.
3. Identity - in times of crises people can turn to their inner reserves. The sense of self-esteem, identity and dignity that has developed over the years, can help maintain an "even-keel".

Psychology of Interpersonal Relations

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I have often heard from women in the professions, as well as from women in the world of business, and of politics, that they "made it" despite being women. WELL, MY PHILOSOPHY IS AND HAS ALWAYS BEEN, THAT UNTIL ALL OF US HAVE MADE IT, NONE OF US HAS MADE IT.

Rosemary Brown

- TURKEY OF THE MONTH -



PAUL WINN

Field Rep. - Secretary of State

for not planning in advance child care funding for the Jan. 20 th consultation with Vancouver Is. women's groups

Tsk, Tsk, Paul !

LONDON (AP) - Britain has ended virginity tests for Indian, Pakistani and Bangladesh women after lawmakers blasted the restrictive immigration procedure conducted by male doctors as "degrading," "monstrous" and "dreadful."

VIC. TIMES - Eight young mentally handicapped people are being prevented from moving into their new group home on Redfern, near Foul Bay Road at the Oak Bay border, because nearby residents fear the home will lower property values in the area.

There are 20,000 legislated offences listed outside the Criminal Code, and the Code itself has another 20,000 offences.

"There are two things a man needs for success, a good wife and a tremendous dog."
....Indiana football coach Lee Corso.

VANCOUVER (CP) - The failure of city council to revoke business licences of some downtown discotheques allegedly practising racial discrimination has outraged the city's black community. Paul Winn said that this city's approach is indicative of a "closet bigotry" in Canada.

From now on it is unlikely that there will be any designer powerful enough to put the majority of women into any styles they don't want to wear. P. Glynn, fashion ed.

Too many women are just one man away from welfare or poverty. Literally, if many women didn't have the protection and financial assistance of a husband, lover, father or son they'd be reduced to welfare. The negative attitudes of the economic system to women coupled with their own lack of marketable skills and confidence, as well as age and status have, and are, preventing many women from making positive choices about their personal economic future and security.

Let's review some of the statistics of women in the work force. The unemployment rate for women runs around 9% officially; unofficially it has been placed at more than 18%. Of the approximately 4,000,000 women in the labour force in 1975, 1,146,000 were single women, 347,000 widowed, separated, divorced, and 767,000 were married with husbands earning \$10,000 or less. But what do all these numbers mean in terms of women's role in the labour force?

It seems that, unfortunately, women continue to be employed in what are known as female "job ghettos" -- two-thirds of all working women are employed in only three occupational areas -- clerical, sales and service. Employers often use part-time workers in these fields as a source of cheap labour, and women working part-time are very vulnerable. They are largely non-unionized, do not always receive the same rates as full-time workers, and do not have fringe benefits. Many companies will attempt to get around paying full-time by making only part-time work available. Many women who need the income from a full-time job are forced to take part-time work because that's all that is available. And there is now before the House of Commons an amendment to the Unemployment Insurance Act that makes anyone working less than 20 hours a week ineligible for unemployment benefits. Women lose again!

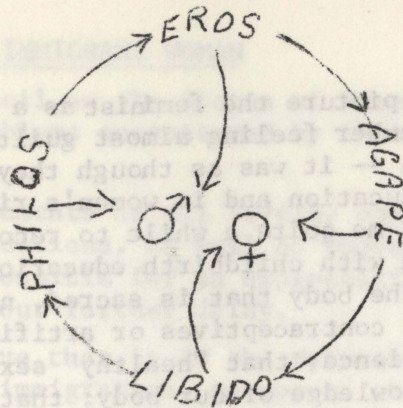
Some women do not want full-time work because of household and child-care duties, yet they must because their income is essential to maintaining a standard of living just at the poverty line. In 1975, 40% of the female-headed families as compared to 9.2% of the male-headed families lived just below the poverty line. For a majority of women economic reality means they must work for a living to keep themselves or families at a minimum standard of living. Yet, at the same time, cultural reality pressures women into the traditional responsibility for household maintenance and child-care, making full-time employment very difficult.

Among the hidden unemployed mentioned earlier are many women who need to work but whose skills and age require upgrading, retraining, or some other adult education courses to fit them for the workplace. Outreach and affirmative action programmes are examples of the direction to go. These programmes are, however, in serious jeopardy as federal funding is being cut drastically. Women lose again!

Women's work must be recognized and taken seriously. That means in the work place and the home. With a guaranteed adequate income and removal of the myriad of discriminatory practices at work, women will begin to accept more responsibility in our society as they see themselves as full and equal partners in and beneficiaries of the many goods and services available in our Canadian society.

Because touch is an indication of power, it is acceptable when done by a man; when by a woman, the implication of power is unacceptable and must be denied. The alternative interpretation of sexual intent is a more acceptable one.

Nancy Henley



MARRIAGE

Lois Vickery

The legacy of romanticism and religion have combined to form our myths and socialize people into an unrealistic approach towards marriage.

"Falling in love" is the main criteria for marriage in our culture. We find the one and only, some intervention or obstacle occurs, "the dragon is slain," and the white knight carries off the fair princess and they marry. (All fairy tales end there.) Marriage is entered into with idealization of the mate and totally unrealistic expectations.

I view religion with its tendency to spell out responsibilities and behaviours of each sex based on dominance/subservience, as destructive to autonomous beings. Further, the nice girl/bad girl syndrome is crippling to the sexuality of both men and women.

Our socialization process is inadequate for the preparation of people for marriage; the traditional structure's dictums provide limited scope that only the more conservative/traditional people are able to tolerate.

People are inadequately prepared for the day by day erosive tedium, the effects of societal pressures, the balance of dependence/independence and the pervasive message that each 'owns' the other. Not only is marriage pictured as being 'perfect' and only 'sickies' have problems, but the whole security bind may impede a legitimate amount of experimentation.

I think there is also a lack of awareness that people and people's needs change over time. There's not always the mutual affection and trust in a relationship and partners may suffer a great deal of anxiety when faced with change.

I am very impressed with the configuration given above. The combination of libido (sex), eros (physical and psychic intimacy), philos (love between equals), and agape (acceptance of mate as a fallible human being without implicit conditions or demands to change or conform to others image) could form the basis for an extremely fulfilling relationship. Unfortunately, many have not achieved this ideal and can spend years wondering "what's missing."

A marriage relationship takes time and effort. I also do not have positive feelings about extramarital relationships. They are used frequently in our society and serve (1) as a lever out of a primary relationship; (2) a person lacking in courage who hangs onto the partner (parent substitute) while testing the water to see if it's safe for swimming; (3) as a threat to the partner; and (4) a method of maintaining the now outmoded life long monogamy concept.

In sum, with many years experience and much contact with people, I am not impressed by the quality of marriages. Permanence is no indicator of a good relationship. More work should be done in the area of preparation and MORE CHANGES ARE NEEDED IN THE STRUCTURE OF MARRIAGE i.e. contract marriages, communal living, if this institution is ever to meet women's needs.

THE PREGNANT FEMINIST

There are many who would picture the feminist as a man-eating destroyer of motherhood and the family. I remember feeling almost guilty reading SWAG News and nursing my daughter at the same time -- it was as though they were in two separate worlds. Active both in childbirth education and in women's rights (at least in spirit if not in action!) it has taken me quite a while to recognize that there is a unifying thread interweaving feminism with childbirth education: respect. Both believe that it is the natural state of the body that is sacred, not to be "man-handled" by introducing unsafe, untested contraceptives or artificial stimulants to induce labor at the doctor's convenience; that "healthy" sexual image is the product of greater understanding and knowledge of our body; that birth, as a natural function should be taking place in a warm, humane environment away from the cold technology that deals with statistics of mortality, not women. You could say that childbirth education began when so many women who had found their "deliveries" cold, degrading, lonely and painful experiences began to search for something better. The feminist seeks something which has never been. Wading through hundreds of years of oppression and inequality she seeks to create a new status. The childbirth educator is trying to win back rights that were stolen. Rights that used to be ours: the right to our own birth, our own body, our own child. Taken over by the "men of medicine," they have been hidden for years.

Being a feminist does not make me a frustrated mother; far from it. It gives me the strength to expand the concept of mothering to whatever I want it to be. Self-awareness and self-respect are taken through pregnancy, labor and birth to motherhood. Being aware of sex role stereotyping allows me to be free of the good mother image of sewing, cooking and housekeeping; feeling comfortable with my body lets my daughter identify her "gina" as proudly as her toes and say "good" while masturbating in the bath.

Childbirth education activates the father to an active and supporting role setting a model for future family development. His interest and awareness in the birth as a shared experience grows into an awareness of the woman as an individual.

Childbirth education is a feminist response to the medical intervention in childbirth and the lack of recognition of a woman's rights to control of her body and its functions. They are both saying, "Give to me what is rightfully mine."

In tribute to my mother, Betty Andrews.

Lorraine Andrews Messer
Canadian Director
International Childbirth Education Ass'n

"The fact is that public MEN must put up with laughing, caricaturing and sneering." Monday Magazine Jan. 19-25, 1979

Vaughn phoned Monday Magazine re their sexist terminology and was told by Derry McDonell that she was "over-reacting."

Most of us can comfortably live with a great deal of ignorance, few of us can tolerate much ambiguity.

CACSW RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE IMMIGRANT WOMAN

The Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women meeting here in Ottawa this week examined some of the problems encountered by the immigrant woman in the Canadian labour force.

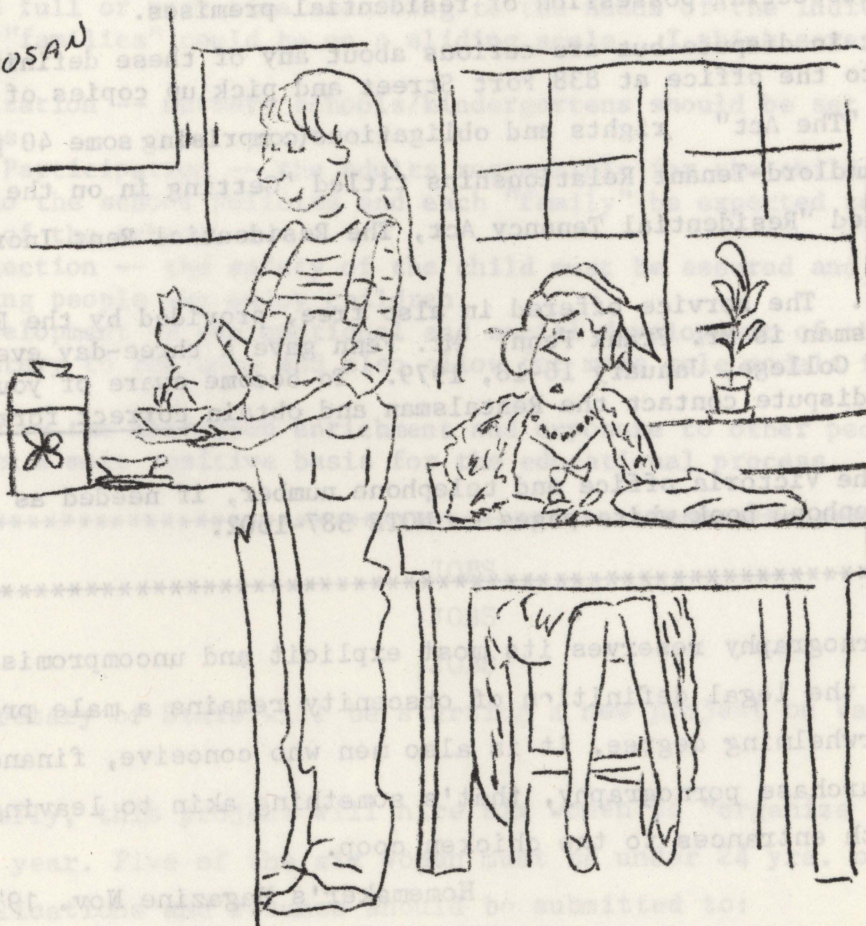
The CACSW finds that governments at all levels, employers, and citizens who know about and profit by these conditions, as well as those who have not cared to inform themselves, are together responsible for an exploitative situation which all Canadians should correct without further delay.

Members of the CACSW believe that it is the responsibility of the federal government, which encourages immigration, to ensure that the immigrant woman has the opportunities to learn about her rights, Canadian culture, and the official language of the region in which she lives. The CACSW recommends that these objectives should be pursued more consistently and realistically, especially in the case of women.

With regard to the subject of immigrant women in the labour force, the CACSW believes that this will result in more opportunities for entry and advancement of immigrant women in the Canadian labour force.

For further information, please contact: Marie-Helene Boyle at (613) 992-4975.

To SUSAN



"You should wear a little jewelry with your overalls, sweetheart, so people don't get the wrong idea."

Women's WORK
SECTY OF STATE

From Shirley

Does this "Act" protect you? Are you a tenant receiving "service or facility" with respect to residential premises? If yes, it does.

Also, if you are a disgruntled tenant, in a dispute with your landlord causing a breakdown in communication with the landlord, you may find remedy through the Rentals Office right here in Victoria (established for two years). They are at 838 Fort St., telephone -- 387-1602.

Recourse for renters in dispute with landlords over such situations involving:

- unnecessary intrusion
- loss of utilities contracted for
- loss of services contracted for
- rental increases (in excess allowable)
- hidden increases
- locks and access
- distress through foreclosure, etc. (foreclosure can take 6 months from order nisi to order absolute)

The "Act" describes "tenancy agreement" as an agreement, whether written or oral, express or implied, having a predetermined expiry date or not, between a landlord and tenant respecting possession of residential premises.

If you are not in dispute but are curious about any of these definitions, you may wish to drop in to the office at 838 Fort Street and pick up copies of:

1. Bill No. 86 "The Act" rights and obligations (comprising some 40 pages)
2. A guide to Landlord-Tenant Relationships titled "Getting in on the Act."
3. Pamphlet titled "Residential Tenancy Act, The Residential Rent Increase and Its Exceptions."

These are free. The service offered is also free, provided by the Rentals Office. Our deputy Rentalsman is Mr. Frank Fenn. Mr. Fenn gave a three-day evening lecture course at Camosun College, January 16-18, 1979. To become aware of your rights and obligations in a dispute contact the Rentalsman and obtain correct forms and procedures.

Make note of the Victoria office and telephone number, if needed as it is not listed in our telephone book white pages -- NOTE 387-1602.

While pornography reserves its most explicit and uncompromising degradation for women, the legal definition of obscenity remains a male prerogative. Since, to an overwhelming degree, it is also men who conceive, finance, produce, distribute and purchase pornography, that's something akin to leaving a mountain lion to guard both entrances to the chicken coop.

Homemaker's Magazine Nov. 1978

One asks little boys what they will be when they grow up.

One asks little girls what they will be when their children grow up.

Family Circle

CHILD CARE

Lois Vickery

Child care outside the home has been a bouncing ball among groups and political parties.

People on the right view the alternative as a threat to the traditional family. They state the rearing of children is the responsibility of parents, not the state. They view child care proposals as a sign of moral decay and feel mothers should stay home and look after their children (unless they are on welfare of course). The last election brought the social credit party into power in British Columbia -- along with all the other social service cut-backs came a cut-back in daycare subsidies.

Mothers are into the work force mainly because of economic reasons. That reason, along with job satisfaction, leaves them in an emotional bind. Child care arrangements are difficult and costly as we no longer have the extended family. One of the factors in child abuse is the constant ongoing contact with children within the isolation of the nuclear family. Another factor, mothers find living on welfare provides economically as much as working at a low paying job and paying for childcare.

I feel daycare is a necessity in our culture both for children and adults. It could be used full or part time according to the needs of the individual "families." Expenses for "families" could be on a sliding scale. I think several basics are necessary:

1. Regionalization -- nursery schools/kindergartens should be set up in neighbourhood areas.
2. "Parent" Participation -- the adults responsible for the child should have input into the school policies and each "family" be expected to participate in the work of the school.
3. Care/Protection -- the safety of the child must be assured and staff members be warm caring people who enjoy children.
4. Child Development -- the emotional and social development of the child would be complementary to the home and also allow for more role models for the child to emulate.
5. Education -- the increased enrichment and exposure to other people and ideas would form a more positive basis for the educational process.

JOB

JOB

JOB

Secretary of State will be starting a new project on Vancouver Is. in April 1979.

Briefly, this project will hire six women to "organize women" and will run for one year. Five of the six women must be under 24 yrs. of age.

Applications and resumes should be submitted to:

Paul Winn,
207 1525 West 8th Ave.
Vancouver, B.C.

WOMEN AND HEALTH

University of Victoria MacLaurin Building
March 2 & 3, 1979

Friday: Registration -- 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. and visit displays
Film -- 8:00 p.m. "This film is about rape."
Discussion --
Music -- Cricket and Friends

Saturday: Registration -- 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.
Please check the sign-up lists for schedule of workshops
Workshops -- 10:00 - 12:00 noon and 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Lunch Hour -- Visit the displays and see the films

WORKSHOPS

I. Birth Cycle

Childbirth

- Natural childbirth and midwives
- Availability of home births
- Hospital births and what's available

Led by Sharon Marx

Birth Control

- Methods
- Myths and Politics
- Abortion and D.E.S.

Led by Linda Williams

Body Cycles and Knowing Ourselves

- Menstruation and Hormonal Cycles
- Physical fitness (different ways of)
- Self care

Led by Margaret Brown

II. Our Sense of Self

Sexuality

- Aging and body concepts
- Loving our bodies
- Touching

Led by Charlotte Atlung

Anger, Stress & Coping

- Where does anger originate.
- Terminal niceness and its detrimental effects
- Anger that is not even recognized as such

Led by Alice Ages

Feminist

- Traditional therapy vs. feminist therapy
- Tranquilizers: necessary or not
- Sick situations vs. sick people

Led by Barbara Pendergast

III. Keeping Yourself Healthy

Lifestyling for Your Health

- Health promotion
- Health maintenance
- Self responsibility

Led by Kathy Kelly

Nutrition

- Vitamins and Theories
- Natural vs. chemical vs. food source
- Healthful food vs. health food

Led by Gaile Dixon

Dealing with Medical Bureaucracy

- Your right to knowledge
- Update on present laws
- How to know a physician is good or bad

Led by Nancy Crossen

Please bring a bag lunch for yourself and any children in day care. Coffee, teas and juices will be available. Child care will be held in Day Care #2 on McCoy Road, off Gordon Head Road. Please bring enough diapers for those children who require them.