

swag STATUS OF WOMEN NEWS



SWAG VIDEO

SPECIAL: Issues for
Young Women
by Susan Moger
(Sexual harassment, pornography etc.)
James Bay Community Centre

**TUES.
JUNE
28th
7:30
P.M.**

ALL WELCOME
to this
ROUND TABLE
DISCUSSION

FLESH-POT VIDEO

CLOSING OUT SALE!

No Willing Flesh



Now, J.R. aren't you convinced that changing Women's roles are affecting big business!

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 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 6296, Stn. C, or 1045 Linden Avenue
Victoria, B.C. V8P 5L5 Victoria, B.C.
381-1012

Working Groups

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 Women

B.C.F.W.	Sylvia Watson 382-3914 Stella Lord 595-2542
Family Law	Gwen Bavin 383-2502
Education	Elizabeth Azmier-Stewart 642-3678
Human Rights	Norrie Preston 598-1390
Health	Susan Moger 592-4215
Labour	Stella Lord 595-2542
Feminist Study Group	Alice Albert 382-1536
Social Services	Elizabeth Hamlet 595-2569
Newsletter Editorial Board	Stella Lord - Editor 595-2542 Alice Albert - Layout Avis Rasmussen - Cover 598-3188

Co-ordinators

February	— Laurie Lawson - 595-1564
March	— Diana Butler - 598-6964
April	— Josephine Payne-O'Conner - 389-0745
May	— Catherine Winter - 389-2959
June	— Alice Albert - 382-1536
July	— Gwen Bavin - 383-2502
August	— Alice Albert - 382-1536
September	— Avis Rasmussen - 598-3188
October	— Stella Lord - 598-9659
November	— Stella Lord
December-	
January	— Lois Vickery - 384-9134

Media Co-ordinator

Josephine Payne-O'Conner
#1 - 1205 Bay St.,
Victoria, B.C.
389-0745

Conference Co-ordinator

Judith Barrett-Lennard
#109 - 575 Marifield Ave.,
Victoria, B.C. V8V 1N3
382-5930

Recorder

Laurie Lawson
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Victoria, B.C. V8R 5A9
595-1564

NAC Contact

Shirley Avril
386-4467

Membership Co-ordinator

Catherine Winter
389-2959

Treasurer

Diana Butler
2149 Granite
Victoria, B.C.
598-6964

Correspondent

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 first & fourth Tuesday of each month (except when it falls on a holiday) at 1045 Linden Ave., 7:30 p.m.

WHO? WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?

Tuesday June 28, 7.30.

Premier showing of two audio-visual presentations developed for SWAG and the Sexual Assault Centre. James Bay Community Centre, 7.30 p.m. Refreshments.

Thursday, June 30 7.00

Conference Coordinating Committee
1045 Linden Ave.

Tuesday, June 28, 7.00

Examining Your Right to Know:
Consumer's Approach to Vetting
Exercise Programs. YM-YW

Tuesday, July 5, 7.30.

SWAG Coordinating Committee meeting
1045 Linden Av.

ED'S NOTES

Summer is almost here. This is evidenced not only by the cooler weather and the rain, but also by the winding down of notices of upcoming events in the newsletter!

SWAG's last formal event until September is the premier showing on June 28 at James Bay Community Centre at 7.30 p.m. of two educational/discussion group audio-visual packages, entitled "Issues for Young Women" and "Let's Talk About Sexual Assault". These were prepared for SWAG under the direction of Susan Moyer. Both projects were funded by federal job creation projects. Please come to view these packages and perhaps contribute some ideas of where and how we could get them to appropriate audiences.

Conference planning continues with the excellent coordination of Judy Barrett-Lennard (tel. 382-5930). The theme this year will be Women and the Changing Family. It is planned for October 28. It is still not too late to participate in planning and organizing the event. The next meeting is Thursday, June 30. Womanpower will be much in demand in the fall as we begin advertising and registration. Please call Judy if you can help.

Members may also wish to know of the upcoming CRIAW Conference which this year is being held in Vancouver November 11-13. A few programs are available in the office.

Don't forget--the office is open 12.30-3.30 daily. Messages can be left on the telephone recording equipment.

ED



STATUS OF WOMEN NEWS

*****THE OFFICE REPORT*****

Red Hot Video Trial: Women Against Pornography organized a march for the beginning of the trial and a street theater event the weekend after the judge handed down his decision. The trial was a difficult experience for the women involved but much was learned about the "wheels of justice". Watch for an analysis of the process to be published soon by WAP. The final decision by the judge was guilty (under the federal obscenity laws) with a \$100.00 fine levied for each of the 3 films involved.

There were many calls into the office from the general public, journalists and Vancouver women's groups.

Conference: The conference committee has met several times and has finalized location (Uvic.), theme (women and the changing family), keynote speaker (Darlene Mazari-Vancouver alderwoman/businesswoman/member of blended family/former single parent/supportive, enthusiastic feminist) Letters, telephone calls, committee information, meeting minutes etc. have all been processed through the office.

NFB Films: We organized a showing of "Killing Us Softly" May 28 and joined with the Women's Transition House for the screening of several new films on sexual abuse of children and wife battery.

Fundraising Letter: A fundraising letter went to all SWAG members including an announcement about the discussion meeting "Reconciling Feminism with a Career".

Public Meetings: The discussion meeting led by CATHERINE WINTER was well attended and participation was lively. NEXT MEETING is a screening of the "Issues for Young Women" video and the sexual assault project slide show: Tue., June 23, 7:30 James Bay Community Center.

Media Workshop: SHIRLEY attended a workshop with MAUREEN MILGRAM of CFAX on "Making the Media Work for You". There were helpful ideas on press and media releases, personal contact techniques, advertising,

public announcements and organizing which will be used to raise the public profile of SWAG events.

Secretary of State: OREST KRUHLAC, The regional director and SHERILA BROWN, our regional representative visited the office and met with SHIRLEY, JOSEPHINE, STELLA, ALICE, and CATHERINE. The visitors were most impressed with our office space, our variety of projects and the co-operation that exists between women's groups in Victoria.

Resource Library: With the help of CATHERINE, SHIRLEY has set up a new subject card catalogue. The filing cabinet has been re-organized up to the "e's". The resource library will be catalogued with an extensive card file to make it a valuable and easy-to-use library. Volunteers welcome.

Phone Calls/Drop Ins: The office receives many calls for community information, requests for medical or legal referrals, requests for speakers etc. Occasional callers or visitors need a 'listening ear' or support counselling.

✱ CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING SYNOPSIS -- June 7, 1983 *** ✱

Financial Report: Grant of \$12,500. has come in from Secretary of State.

Old Business:

- we received almost \$300. from the Connie Kalsor fundraiser
- free standing abortion clinics; we will hold action on the Winnipeg situation until further developments; we will send letters of support for the Toronto clinic soon to open.
- office space; we will work toward having a one evening per week drop-in in the fall

New Business:

- Issues for Young Women -see report
- Policy: support for contact women to attend conferences in their area of interest. \$ to be dependant on situation but the principal of support is important.
- Resource materials; purchasing "Networking Handbook" \$6.00
- A Working Majority \$4.95
- "Women and Part Time" Work \$3.95

-Newsletter: Archives to change title and layout. Consideration of including Sexual Assault Center news in our newsletter - no decision
-Pacific Group: research body to present alternative economic/social policy for B.C. \$50. membership. we joined to receive materials etc. and monitor for 1 year.

Conference: -see office report
-variety of fundraising ideas ie. sales at conference to be discussed further
-format: Friday night with keynote speaker OR Saturday only with banquet. undecided
-honouraria; transportation, childcare, accommodation for workshop leaders; \$75-100 for keynote speaker
-workshops under discussion: lesbian families, custody alternatives, men raising children, strategies for social services in B.C.

adjourned 9:50 p.m.

The Secretary of State of Canada
Ottawa
May 5, 1983

Dear Diana Butler:

I am pleased to inform you that a grant of \$12,500.00 has been awarded to your organization for its project "Fall Conference and Operations". A cheque for this amount is enclosed.

It is encouraging to learn of the objectives of your organization and I feel confident that the proposed activities will contribute to a better understanding of the status of women in Canada....

May I offer you and the members of your organization my congratulations and best wishes for success.

Yours sincerely,
Serge Joyal

REPORTS

ISSUES FOR YOUNG WOMEN MONTHLY REPORT April 15-May 15

The month's activities were spent deciding upon what should go into the fact sheet and how we wanted it to look and what we wanted in the video.

With the help of our graphic artist, Annie Weeks, we have arrived at decisions regarding content, size, print and colour. Annie is now working on the lay-out.

We film the video on May 16, as a round-table discussion between five young women. They will speak about the issues of pornography, sexuality and being their age in today's world.

This month has really seen the coming together of our project. We eagerly await the completion of the fact sheet and the video.

Letters



Sisters:

Enclosed you will find my cheque for a renewal membership to SWAG. Although I moved to Edmonton in Dec. I would still like to continue my subscription. I look forward to the newsletter and I like to keep up with what's happening in Victoria. I have also joined the Alberta S/W Action Committee so I get a good coverage of issues in Western Canada. Keep up the good work.

Thanks,

Margaret Bigelow

the following was sent to:
Pierre Trudeau, Judy Erola and
Yvon Pinard (house leader)

The time has come for a co-ordinated, concentrated look at the political and personal issues facing women in Canada.

The example has been set by the report of the Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs on Violence in the Family. This is a superb document and the fact that it was researched by many members of Parliament and presented to the House of Commons gave publicity and credence to a previously invisible fact of Canadian life.

There are many such issues facing women today.

The Advisory Council on the Status of Women does an admirable job within its jurisdiction. Yet, the Advisory Council, because it reports to only one minister, does not have the power and the credibility to effect change.

The time has come to establish a Parliamentary Committee that will monitor and review government action. We need a Parliamentary Committee that will focus on government spending estimates as they affect women.

We need a Parliamentary Committee that will review legislation and recommend actions and changes for every ministry. Because 52% of our population remains disadvantaged, it is essential that there be one standing committee which will monitor all legislation affecting women, including the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and which will receive annual reports from all government departments concerned with women's programs, and undertake special projects to benefit women.

Working for the future,
Shirley Avril
for the co-ordinating committee

copies to: Margaret Mitchell M.P.,
Donald Munro M.P., Allan MacKinnon
M.P., Jim Manly M.P.

The responses were:

from the Office of the Prime Minister a basic thank you, I will pass your letter on the Honourable Judy Erola, Minister responsible for the Status of Women.

from Yvon Pinard:

Thank you for your letter of May 5, 1983 concerning a committee on women's issues.

As you know, my colleague, Judy Erola, has frequently pointed out that issues often tagged as 'women's issues' are really societal in their scope. It is, therefore, doubtful whether such issues could be resolved through a restricted approach.

While a committee might provide an outlet for the frustrations of people concerned with very real inequities and problems, it would, I think, prove to be a 'take-two-aspirin-and-call-back-in-the-morning' response to a situation that requires socio-economic medication on a systemic basis.

Yours sincerely, Yvon Pinard

The following was sent to:
Mark MacGuigan
Minister of Justice
in response to a proposal put
forward by Pat Carney (Van. M.P.)

The present system of collections of child maintenance places an undue burden on the courts and an unreasonable burden and stress on the custodial parent.

Each month a court ordered maintenance payment is defaulted the custodial parent must return, at her own expense, to the court to request enforcement. The cost in time, legal fees and distress is appalling.

The burden on single mothers, half of whom live below the poverty line and most of whom have very little more, is inexcusable.

We would suggest that a much more humane and indeed much more cost-efficient system is possible.

The Divorce Act could be amended to empower the courts to collect and enforce child maintenance payments automatically through the issuance of continuing orders. We would suggest the courts be responsible for the collection and dispersal of all such payments.

The women and children of Canada have suffered long enough.

Yours sincerely,
Shirley Avril
for the co-ordinating committee

copies sent to M.P.'s Pat Carney,
Donald Munro, Allan MacKinnon and
Jim Manly

The standard acknowledgment letters have come from Pat Carney and Allan MacKinnon.

and the following from M. MacGuigan

Thank you for your letter of May 5, 1983 concerning enforcement of maintenance orders.

I can assure you that I am well aware of the plight of the custodial parent who is attempting to ensure that the non-custodial parent lives up to the obligations imposed by a separation agreement or a court order.

As you may be aware, a Federal-Provincial Committee on the Enforcement of Maintenance and Custody Orders was established in the summer of 1981 and is expected to submit its final report in the very near future. IT WILL MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO BOTH THE PROVINCIAL AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS, AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL DO ALL THAT IT CAN TO ALLEVIATE THIS VERY SERIOUS PROBLEM. (ed. caps)

In the review of the Divorce Act that is presently underway my office has considered several options for maintenance and custody orders. Those suggested by you, namely continuing orders and automatic court collection, would be governed by the provinces through their control of procedure in the courts and their jurisdiction over property and civil rights. These two possibilities would, therefore, be beyond the jurisdiction of the federal government, but at the federal level we are committed to improving enforcement of such orders and continue to investigate ways in which to do so.

I appreciate your concerns and welcome the input of your organization on this important issue.

Yours sincerely, Mark MacGuigan

And re our last months letter on the decriminalization of prostitution: again from the Minister of Justice.

Thank you for your letter of April 13, 1983, concerning legislation to deal with prostitution.

As you may know, the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs has, since May 1982, been considering the matter of street soliciting for the purpose of prostitution. On March 25, 1983, the Justice Committee reported to Parliament on this matter and recommended changes to the Criminal Code which would make it an offence to offer or accept an offer to engage in prostitution in a public place. Such an amendment would apply equally to customers or prostitutes whether they are male or female. The Justice Committee did recognize that this is part of a wider social problem and recommended further review of this whole area within three years of the proposed legislation being approved by Parliament. If the government decides to act on the recommendations of the Justice Committee, I would certainly want a review of the other provisions of the Criminal Code dealing with prostitution, that is the bawdy house and procuring provisions, to ensure that we have the most stringent legislation available to deal with pimps.

I am satisfied that the amendments to the Criminal Code in relation to assaults and sexual assaults which came into force on Jan. 4/83, particularly those dealing with the sexual history of the complainant, do afford greater protection to prostitutes against violence from both pimps and clients. If your

organization is not satisfied with the way these provisions are being enforced by the police for offences involving prostitutes, you may wish to express your concerns to your municipal politicians, chiefs of police and the Attorney General of your province.

Yours sincerely, Mark MacGuigan

more response to our letter about the 'Applebert' Report and pay T.V.

Thank you for your recent letter in which you express grave concern about the direction of cultural policy in Canada.

I am a strong supporter of Studio D, and I certainly agree with you that it has served the women of Canada well. In addition, it performs an important cultural role by providing a professional forum for female film-makers producing films which explore many pertinent women's issues.

I also share your concern about the high visibility of sex role stereotyped and often pornographic, images of women in our society. In my view, there are a number of issues which must be addressed if we are to ensure that pay T.V. and other media reflect an acceptable image of women:

- the prohibition of obscenity on pay T.V.
- the regulation of material which degrades and exploits women, whether or not that material meets the legal definition of obscenity
- the need for consistent enforcement of laws prohibiting and regulating obscenity and pornography
- the depiction of negative sex-stereotypes of women in T.V. programs
- the creation of employment opportunities for women performers in Canada without assurances that the women are not subjected to degrading employment conditions and
- the need to ensure more exacting methods of determining Canadian content standards.

You can be assured that I will pursue these concerns with my colleague, the Honourable Francis Fox, who is responsible for communications policy.

I appreciate your taking the time to bring your views to my attention, they will be taken into consideration during any discussions on these matters.

Yours sincerely, Judy Erola

Thank you for your recent letter bringing to my attention the concerns of the Victoria Status of Women Action Group about pornography and pay television programming, as well as the Applebaum-Hebert Report.

Your members will be pleased to know that proposals to amend sec. 159 of the Criminal Code are now under consideration. The prevalence of materials depicting violence or acts degrading to the person has led to expressions of concern by many Canadians that the Criminal Code obscenity provisions are inadequate to respond to these trends in pornography. I HOPE TO BE IN A POSITION TO PRESENT MY PROPOSALS TO PARLIAMENT IN THE NEAR FUTURE. (ed. caps.)

Further, the public reaction to the possibility of pornographic content on pay television and the concerns expressed by my colleague the Minister of Communications, led the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission to undertake a review of its proposed Pay Television Network Regulations. I am hopeful that the CRTC will, when it promulgates the regulations, adopt provisions to prohibit the showing of indecent materials.

Finally, I appreciate your bringing to my attention the views of the Victoria SWAG concerning the Applebaum-Herbert Report. As you know, this falls within the purview of the Honourable Francis Fox, Minister of Communications, and I note that you have also written to him on the subject.

Yours sincerely, Mark MacGuigan

to Monique Begin
Minister of Health

We are shocked and angered to hear of the cut to the Planned Parenthood federal grant. A cut of over 50% is inexcusable. How can you justify denying the young people of Canada access to birth control information?

Planned Parenthood Centers are essential in every community. If they did not fulfill a vital need they would not exist.

You have a mandate to develop responsible health and welfare policy. This action indicates either complete unawareness or a total lack of concern. Either case is hardly appropriate for a minister of the state.

When the statistics are next calculated we will hold you responsible for the increase in teenage pregnancies and/or abortions.

In disbelief, I remain,
Shirley Avril
for the co-ordinating committee

her response:

I acknowledge receipt and thank you for your letter of May 5, 1983, concerning funding to the Planned Parenthood Federation of Canada.

Decisions to reduce funding result from an examination of priorities in this period of restraint. As a result, the family planning grants program, among others, has been reduced by \$1.4 million over two years. This reduction will no doubt affect many people, but an attempt has been made to distribute the remaining funds in the most equitable manner so that each ongoing project will be in receipt of minimal operating funds. Federal contributions to family planning services will continue to be available through the Canada Assistance Plan and the Established Programs Financing Act.

Thank you for taking the time to express your views on this matter.

Yours truly, Monique Begin

and some thank yous:

I would like to thank you ever so much for the copy of Changing Times: Women and Employment in British Columbia.

It is a most informative and comprehensive report of the situation of women in B.C. I have passed it on to my officials for their information.

Yours sincerely, Judy Erola

Thank you for your recent package enclosing copies of materials prepared by the Women Against Pornography and the Status of Women Action Group in Victoria.

The proliferation of Pornographic materials in this country is a matter of grave concern for me. I am particularly distressed about the prevalence of materials depicting violence against women and children. I have passed your papers on to the officials at Status of Women Canada who are working on this issue. I am sure they will find your work beneficial.

Once again, I appreciate your having taken the time to bring your views to my attention.

Yours sincerely, Judy Erola

remember Jim Ricks?

in response to a request from the Public Service Commission for permission to share Pam's letter regarding Playing Around with J.R.

Yes, you may certainly share the letter written by Pam Blackstone for the co-ordinating committee of the Status of Women Action Group regarding the book Playing Around by Jim Ricks.

You may also share with him my personal frustration and anger that a person who considers philandering a joke, a woman a plaything and racial characteristics objects of derision maintains any credibility with the helping professions. So much for family support structures!

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,
Shirley Avril
for the co-ordinating committee

more from members:

Dear SWAG:

....Sometimes when I get depressed about women in society (how they allow themselves to be portrayed and how they are portrayed) I read your SWAG newsletters and realize that someone else is trying just like I am to make this a more equal world for both sexes, and I feel better.

Keep up the good work,
sincerely yours,
Wendy Ackincklose

to: Lesbian Action Committee
B.C. Federation of Women

the following was written in response to a question in the Lesbian Action Committee report to the B.C.F.W. Co-ordinating Collective meeting, May 7-8, 1983, asking about National Action Committee on S/W policy on lesbianism.

Dear Women:

Yes, NAC does have policy on lesbianism. The policy is that sexual orientation be included in the Canadian Human Rights Code for protection from discrimination (in housing, employment, and services). The policy was passed at the 1980 convention. I spoke to the motion. There was no opposing vote but there was indeed tension in the air. The opposition, as I heard it, was voiced primarily as, "There is always so much support for those in 'alternative' lifestyles. What about support for those of us who struggle in 'traditional' relationships?"

During the lobby that year, a group of representatives met with the Human Rights Commissioners to speak in support of our new policy. The commissioners were all in agreement with the policy and have in fact recommended the inclusion of sexual orientation several times to parliament. Those recommendations, as you know, have been largely ignored.

I feel there is a great deal of room for NAC to take a higher profile in the struggle for lesbian rights, specifically with regard to the Immigration Act and custody of children, in addition to the Human Rights Code changes.

NAC, as most women's groups, operates on volunteer efforts by women. Therefore having the group take action is very much a case of finding women who are willing to become active within the organization to work on this particular issue.

I have been relatively inactive in NAC over the last year, however, I intend to become more involved over the next few years. I am willing to lobby other lesbians within NAC to join you in raising the issue of lesbian rights in Canada.

In sisterhood,
Shirley Avril

Dear Ms. Brewin: (copy to SWAG)

I am writing in regard to the recent action taken by the Vancouver City Council to refuse future zoning/licensing for video outlets renting/selling pornographic materials. Now that this precedent has been set I invite you to introduce a motion at council by which Victoria would follow suit. I hope that soon every municipality in B.C. will cease to grant zoning or licensing to any business that profits from the depiction of violence against women and children. I hope this will be approached in the same way that selling hate literature about any other group, i.e. native, black, immigrant, etc. would be viewed.

If you or any of your colleagues are interested in hearing from groups and individuals within the city that support this policy I am sure you will have no trouble finding them. I hope you will consider a motion and bylaw of this kind in the very near future.

Thank you,
Judy Liefshultz

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'NEWS & VIEWS'

CONFESSION

First they treated women's bodies as objects with which to advertise material goods. I didn't object. I was too busy polishing floors or buying broadloom.

Then they distorted our bodies and displayed them to sell a lifestyle harmful to families. They sold their product in my corner store, but I didn't want to appear a prude. I went along with it.

They showed for entertainment pictures of men abusing women, but they kept it in a special part of town. I pretended I didn't see.

They moved those pictures into the common air, into my community, but I didn't think it affected me.

Now when a twelve-year old is raped by her own step-father, the judge says, "It wasn't violent" and reduces the man's sentence.

When teen-aged children are forced into prostitution, the judge says the money is for their support. He acquits the step-father.

When my Calgary sister is raped, her crutches kicked away, the judge says she should have expected it. MY GOD, WHAT HAVE I DONE? WHAT CAN I DO NOW?

- From the newsletter of the North Shore Women's Centre April 1983

DAY CARE GROWTH HAS SLOWED

The growth of licensed day care spaces in Canada has slowed down in the past two years. The number of licensed or supervised day care spaces increased by 6.8 per cent per year, 1980-82, compared to a 16.3 per cent increase one year earlier, 1979-80.

Day care spaces increased by two-thirds (65%) each year 1973-76, did not grow 1976-78, then resumed growth at a significantly reduced rate of 12.7 per cent per year, 1979-82.

The mid-seventies witnessed the hey-day, the late seventies a moratorium, and the early 1980's a modest improvement to day care.

In 1981 in Canada, 54.1% of all mothers with children under 16 years of age were either working or seeking work; this included 49.5% of all mothers with youngest child under 3 years of age (Statistics Canada,

Labour Force Survey Division, unpublished data). This marked increase in labour force participation by young mothers has hardly been matched by a significant growth in licensed day care in the early 1980's.

It is very safe to assume that more than 1-in-10 working mothers would rather place her child in licensed or supervised day care. Access to affordable and high quality day care should become more a priority in the mid-eighties as it was in the mid-seventies. Time will tell whether the actions generated out of the 2nd Canadian Conference on Day Care last September in Winnipeg will spark a return to larger increases in day care.

- From the newsletter of the Canadian Council on Social Development, vol. 1 Number 2

REVIEWS

BOOK REVIEW

Louky Bersianik's THE EUGELIONNE

First published in Quebec, the French edition was an immediate success, selling more than 15,000 copies - a major, almost unheard-of achievement for a Canadian feminist literary title. The later Paris edition brought THE EUGELIONNE international critical acclaim.

Now THE EUGELIONNE is available in English - translated by women at the University of Victoria and published by the women of Press Porcépic.

THE EUGELIONNE is a constantly changing, stimulating work which expands the bounds of the novel. The Eugelionne arrives from another planet in search of what she calls "the male of my species." she quickly relinquishes all hope of finding him on Earth, but sets about through her contact with the women of the planet to help them step outside their traditional roles. She helps them see, through her new and astonished eyes, the absurdities so casually accepted by women in our society. In so doing, she offers insights into the church, Freudian psychology, the law and the language.

Its pervasive optimism and its insistence on the possibility of joy and love make THE EUGUELIONNE a remarkable book.

Published by Press Porcepic of Victoria, THE EUGUELIONNE is distributed in Canada by Beaverbooks, 195 Allstate Parkway, Markham, Ontario, L3R 4T8, (416) 477-0030 and costs \$9.95. It is sold at Everywoman's Books in Victoria.

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If anyone is aware that the video cassette "Custer's Revenge" is on sale anywhere, the Attorney-General's office should be notified immediately. This particular cassette has been banned from Canada.



***** Announcements *****

THE VICTORIA WOMENS' SEXUAL ASSAULT CENTRE NEEDS YOUR HELP!

In 1983-84 we will receive \$50,000 from the Ministry of the Attorney General to operate our centre. This is a start BUT it is only sufficient to cover two salaries and some of our basic costs.

IT DOES NOT FUND:

- *preventive programs for young people to help them avoid sexual assault

- *educational programs for those in the community dealing with survivors of sexual assault

- *sufficient staff to handle the numbers of inquiries and to train volunteers.

From January 1, 1983 to March 31, 1983, 87 survivors and their supporters called the centre for help for recent and past assaults.

- *all necessary operating costs including part of the rent, telephone costs and transportation costs for volunteers.

WHAT YOUR MONEY COULD BUY

- \$10 buys...

- *1/2 day rent at the sexual assault centre

- *a week's rent of the telephone pagers for staff and volunteers

- \$15 buys...

- *a week's rental of our 24-hour crisis line

- *a presentation to a group of young people about preventing sexual assault

- \$20 buys...

- *a day's rent at the sexual assault centre

- *a monthly honorarium for volunteers to help defray their travel costs

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WELCOME!!!

Please make your cheque payable to:
Victoria Women's Sexual Assault Centre

1045 Linden Avenue
Victoria, B.C. V8B 4H3

Please include your name and address - we want to thank you.

♀ ♀ ♀

THERESE F. CASGRAIN FOUNDATION

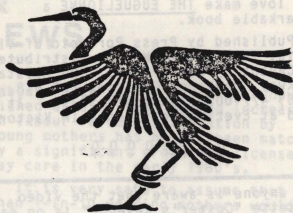
A group of Canadians from many walks of life have joined together in order to perpetuate the memory of Senator Therese F. Casgrain who devoted her life to the promotion of women and the cause of social justice. To this purpose, a campaign is being undertaken to set up a trust fund of \$250,000, the interest of which will serve as a research scholarship on the status of women available to candidates from any Canadian university.

Such an objective cannot be reached without widespread support. The foundation is asking all those who think it important to carry on the

work of this eminent Canadian to make a contribution, however small, to this fund, in the hope that research might point the way to the harmonious evolution of women's role in society.

Contributions may be sent to:
Therese-F. Casgrain Foundation
800 Dorchester Blvd. West
Suite 1036
Montreal, Quebec H3B 1X9
Tel. (514) 283-3048

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ARTICLES

PROSTITUTES....an end to the invisibility

Perhaps once of the most disturbing comments to find its way into the opinion pages of the Sun appears on Sat., April 30 in a letter from a concerned West End resident, Marie Hietakangas. In her response to Jillian Riddington's call for decriminalization of prostitution she says, "Riddington can see here and now the effects of decriminalization: a neighbourhood under seige. We long ago lost the right to walk our streets after 7 p.m. We are harrassed daily by cruising johns, who mistake all pedestrians for prostitutes, and by the prostitutes, who feel we have no right to be here ...A child is raped on her way home from school...We must walk blocks out of our way to avoid confrontation... We are the victims, and our neighborhood is being destroyed.

Yes, for Marie and the Concerned Residents of the West End (CROWE), a group currently lobbying the federal government for increased legislation controlling prostitution, real problems are evident in their neighbourhood. What is disturbing in the arguments used to promote greater legal penalties on the street prostitute, however, is simply that they serve only to scapegoat the female streetwalker for a host of ills for which she is not responsible. West End residents working primarily to make prostitution invisible, seem to believe that in doing so, this invisibility will extend to the eradication of sexual harassment, rape, child abuse, and general noise and nuisance problems.

For West End residents and other citizens feeling the very real effects of urban disintegration in the midst of an economic crisis, the prostitute is a convenient target. For Mayor Harcourt and Alderman May Brown, who are currently picking up on these peoples concerns, the prostitute is a timely political vehicle. It is obvious that criminal sanctions placed on the individual prostitute will not even begin to alleviate the critical lack of safety for women and children in our neighbourhoods, let alone address the issue of 'prostitution' itself. Nonetheless, these politicians insist upon pressing ahead to garner votes from a constituency clearly shocked and outraged at the violence and sexual exploitation concentrated on their streets.

Prostitution is a difficult issue: it affects all of us in a deeply personal way by laying bare the foundations of sexual power and barter in our society. To seriously take on the issue, is to confront the severe economic oppression of women and young people, society's attitudes toward 'so-called' promiscuous women, child neglect and abuse, general police harassment, society's indifference toward rape and wife battering (especially the violence done to independent women), and the over all daily exploitation of sexuality for profit which is a cornerstone of a free market economy functioning for the sole benefit of men.

Little wonder Harcourt and Brown's solutions embrace the simplistic.

Not surprisingly, feminists who have dared to speak out in support of prostitutes have come under attack on many fronts, not the least of which is a seeming inconsistency between their stand on pornography and their stand against criminal sanctions for prostitutes. Marie's letter to the SUN also states: "The National Action Committee on the Status of Women takes great offence at pornography, but supports the right of some to act out explicitly on our streets and at the entrance to our homes what they find degrading and morally offensive on film and in magazines." But of course, there is no real inconsistency between these two positions. Pimps and johns are to prostitution what pornographers are to pornography. Further, it is clear to feminists working on the issues, that society is wholly responsible for the creation of both the market for prostitution and the glaring lack of opportunity which makes that market an avenue for women seeking some means of survival for themselves and, in many cases, their children.

The real hypocrisy is found in the defenders of sexual mores who tolerate and condone third party observation, recordings, and sales from sexual degradation of women for male profit, while slapping legal penalties on women who directly sell their sexual services. Their idea is not to rid society of its abusive and degrading attitudes toward women, rather, it is simply to remove the up-front barter and all its consequences from the public eye while punishing those women who have seen through the thinly disguised relation between a woman's sexual availability and her monetary worth, and who are prepared to act on that knowledge.

It is this social and physical punishment of prostitutes that makes prostitution a crucial issue for feminists. While it is true that the situation in Vancouver has been brought to a confrontation in recent months, the local debate serves to primarily underscore a much larger feminist concern which is that prostitutes bear the brunt of woman as offender, woman as evil, woman as object to be simultaneously used and loathed. The women's movement as a whole has been slow to act on behalf of prostitutes and in this has left a gap that can no longer go unnoticed. We cannot effectively deal with sexuality, abuse of women, and the economics of women's lot generally without developing a strategy to deal with prostitution and the problems prostitutes face.

It is questionable whether a viable strategy can be formulated without the direct input of prostitutes themselves. Feminists and prostitutes have yet to establish a clear channel of communication for a number of reasons. Certainly prostitutes themselves are wary of "straight women" and of being treated in a patronizing or moralizing manner. Neither do they wish to be seen as hapless victims in need of some form of feminist rescue.

Feminists, on the other hand, are without first-hand knowledge of the street, something which makes working with prostitutes somewhat intimidating. Furthermore, the voluntary commoditization of women that is prostitution, is no less disturbing for feminists than it is for other members of "straight" society, albeit for different reasons.

Prostitutes in Vancouver have begun to organize. The Alliance for the Safety of Prostitutes (ASP) joins a growing list of prostitutes advocacy groups in North America. The demands they are making warrant study on the part of feminists concerned with taking action on prostitution. ASP's overriding mandate (and it has been a prime concern of prostitute's groups since the formation of COYOTE in San Francisco more than 10 years ago) is the decriminalization of prostitution. Decriminalization is often confused with legalization, the former being the eradication of all laws that deal with prostitution, the latter removing the illegality of soliciting, but leaving laws in place to govern its practice. What makes legalization undesirable is that it makes the government the pimp.

Where prostitution has been legalized it has resulted in forced brothelization and further ghettoization of prostitutes.

Decriminalization, however, is far from the complete answer. While it would mean that a judge could not sleep with a woman by night and sentence her by day, there is little reason to assume that prostitutes would have any more control over their working situation than they do now. Until the focus is taken off the prostitute and is put on the customer, until a prostitute has a chance of being believed when she charges someone with sexual assault or battering, decriminalization will remain a desirable step but an incomplete solution.

The question of what kind of long-term goals we have regarding prostitution is a very real one and probably the most problematic for feminists. Regardless of whether or not we support prostitution in the long run, however, we can be clear that we support the prostitutes.

....by Kinesis staffwriters

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Breaking Down the Barriers to Employment

Systemic Discrimination

The most damaging discrimination does not result from isolated, individual acts motivated by prejudice but rather from historical assumptions and traditions which have become an intrinsic part of the employment system.

Established rules, policies and practices often embody a bias against women, minorities and the disabled that effectively excludes them from employment opportunities. This "systemic" discrimination exists even when there is no intent to discriminate.

Some examples include:

- *Height and weight requirements may be unnecessarily geared to the physical proportions of white males without sufficient regard for the actual requirements needed to perform the job, and therefore, exclude females and some minorities.

- *Hiring officials, historically white males, who rely on "word of mouth" recruiting among their friends and colleagues, so that only this select group, usually the same race and sex learn of potential job openings.

- *Rules requiring that only English be spoken at the workplace, even when not a business necessity, result in discrimination against individuals whose first language is not English.

The Affirmative Action Experience

The Human Rights Code of British Columbia provides redress for discrimination but it is usually limited to the investigation and resolution of individual complaints. Some systemic barriers may be addressed in the course of an investigation, however, no comprehensive strategy to address systemic discrimination is contemplated by the legislation.

Affirmative Action is a comprehensive strategy to identify and eliminate discriminatory employment policies and practices; to remedy the effects of past discrimination; and to ensure

fair representation of women, minorities, and the disabled in the labour force.

An examination of data on earnings, occupations, career patterns and unemployment, supports the need for affirmative action programs. That data reveals serious disparities between disadvantaged groups and other workers. The earnings and career progression of these groups, for example, are inferior to those of white males with equivalent qualifications. Moreover, the pervasiveness of past discrimination has led to a pattern of inferior education, a more limited career range, less career preparation and greater social, economic and cultural problems for women, minorities, and the disabled.

The Charter of Rights in the new Canadian Constitution not only prohibits discrimination but recognizes the validity of affirmative action. (See below)

The fact that provision for affirmative action programs has been incorporated into the Constitution reflects a Canada wide recognition that affirmative action is an important and necessary tool for eliminating the discrimination that is inherent in our current employment systems. Furthermore, Section 15(2) ensures that affirmative action programs designed by federal and provincial agencies for the benefit of disadvantaged groups, will be allowed by the Charter of Rights.

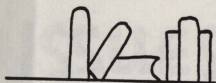
In essence, affirmative action is a strategy to combat the most serious, subtle, pervasive type of discrimination ---systemic discrimination.

***** Canadian Charter of Rights Section 15

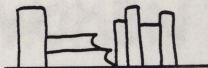
"15.(1) Every individual is equal before and under the law and has the right to the equal protection, equal benefit of the law without discrimination and, in particular without discrimination based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, or mental or physical disability.

(2) Subsection (1) does not preclude any law, program or activity that has as its object the amelioration of conditions of disadvantaged individuals or groups, including those that are disadvantaged because of race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age or mental or physical disability."

Article above from Human Rights Commission Newsletter, Volume 4, Number 4, Spring 1985



RESOURCES



RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Please note that the ARCHIVES column has been given a new name to reflect more accurately the purpose of this information to members. I do hope that you approve. In addition, in order to cut down on space, we will only indicate the titles. Do call into the office for any resources you need, or just to browse, or or or.

FEMINIST RESOURCES:

SWAG newsletter
Off Our Backs
CARAL newsletter
North Island Women's
Newsletter
CAAW&S Newsletter
Ontario Native Women's
Newsletter
Tapestry
Grapevine

FLAGRANT
BROADSIDE
KINESIS
The Ontario Committee
on the Status of
Women
WOMAN TODAY
COMMUNIQUE'ELLES
ACTION newsletter
NORTH SHORE WOMEN

Status of Women
News
CRIAW PAPERS:
Sport, Sex Roles and
Sex Identity
Canadian Women in
Politics: An Overview
INCORPORATION IS A
FEMINIST ISSUE?

OTHER RESOURCES:

Women of Europe newsletter
Response to violence in the
family and sexual assault
Labour Research Bulletin
Canadian Filmmakers'
Distribution West Catalogue 1983
Ecnemical News

News-Nouvelles (Journal of
Planned Parenthood Federation
of Canada)
Human Rights Commission of B.C.
Newsletter & following pamphlets:
'How to Make It Work'
'What This Country Did to Us, It
Did to Itself'
'I'M OKAY; We're Not so Sure About You

MORNINGS I HATE.



SOMETIMES I THINK...

GOING ON THE BUS
TO WORK I HATE.



WHAT A RELIEF TO
ESCAPE ALL THIS
AND GET MARRIED.

WORK I HATE.



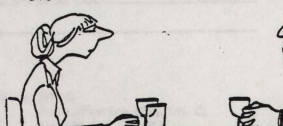
AND THEN I
REMEMBER....

COMING HOME FROM
WORK I HATE.



I AM MARRIED.

FEIFFER



Hon. Mark MacGuigan
Minister of Justice
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario

Dear Mr. MacGuigan,

I am writing to vigorously protest the inadequate defense presented by the Federal Government in response to Joe Borowski's legal suit challenging section 251 of the Criminal Code.

The Canadian Abortion Rights Action League, which sought to represent the interests of women, was denied intervenor status in the case.

Consequently, the concerns and voices of the women of Canada, the very group of Canadians most directly affected by this legislation, were not heard in court.

If Borowski wins, abortion will once again be illegal in this country. The resulting increases in 'backstreet' illegal, medically unsafe abortions, and deaths from these procedures, will prove once again that the Federal Government is concerned more with politics than the health of women in this country. Poor women will be especially discriminated against as it is they who do not have the economic resources to pursue less hazardous alternatives such as journeying to the United States or Europe to obtain an abortion in sterile, safe, medical establishments.

As you know, the majority of Canadians believe women should have the right to legal abortion. I seek your assurance that the Government will ensure that women have access to safe legal abortion.

Yours truly,

ISSUES FOR YOUNG WOMEN

A VIDEO PRESENTATION FROM THE STATUS OF WOMEN ACTION GROUP

AND

LET'S TALK ABOUT SEXUAL ASSAULT

A SLIDE SHOW FROM THE WOMEN'S SEXUAL ASSAULT CENTER

PREMIER SHOWING

DATE/TIME

Tuesday, June 28, 1983 7:30 p.m.

LOCATION

James Bay Community Center
140 Oswego Street

REFRESHMENTS SERVED

sponsored by the Status of Women Action Group

3181-1012

Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____

Renewal: ☐ New: ☐ Gift: ☐

Membership is \$10⁰⁰ per year due March 8.

(Reduced rates available if needed).

Send to: SWAG

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