



VICTORIA STATUS OF WOMEN ACTION GROUP

Office: 320-620 View St., Victoria, V8W 1J6, (604) 381-1012

NEWS

JUN. 1987 Vol. 14, No. 3

JUNE 20 STAND UP FOR CHOICE

It's time to Stand Up for Choice.

SWAG members, your family, friends and even the household pet are urged to dress in their favorite red and white garb, and gather at the Legislature Saturday, June 20 at noon to rally for choice in all areas of women's reproductive rights.

All members of the community are invited to show their support for choice in women's reproductive freedom by joining in the song and fun planned for the afternoon.

Sponsored by SWAG's reproductive rights committee, The Handmaid's Rebellion, the rally will feature music, speakers and a march around the legislative buildings. Given the current climate in many parts of the province on the issue of women's right to choose, we encourage all pro-choice people to make a positive stand for choice.

We need only think of situations like the Kamloops and Vernon hospital boards, and the recent Ministry of Social Services decision to claim a fetus as a ward of the state to remind us that visible action is necessary if women are to be truly autonomous members of society.

The Handmaid's Rebellion was formed six months ago to ensure ongoing reproductive rights activities occurred in Victoria. The local C.A.R.A.L. chapter folded last fall and we now invite all women interested in reproduction issues to become active on this committee. A schedule for regular meetings could be established for the fall, so please call SWAG if you are interested (381-1012).

Anyone who would like to help with the June 20 rally is also urged to call the office.

Remember to mark June 20 as a day of action on your calendar, and gather with us to Stand Up for Choice.

600 WOMEN GATHER FOR NAC CONFERENCE

JEAN KAVANAGH

We were refused entry to 24 Sussex Drive, and refused permission to hand over the letters. After demonstrating at the gate for some time, we returned to the NAC conference. M.P. Margaret Mitchell managed to get the letters delivered for us, and the message obviously got through: the Conservative presence at the lobby was the largest ever!

Women from all regions of Canada came together last month in Ottawa to lend their voices to the country's largest feminist group, The National Action Committee on the Status of Women (NAC).

1987 was the 15th consecutive year that women gathered under the NAC umbrella to discuss, debate and agree on policy and strategy for Canada's women's movement.

While such forums can be both empowering and frustrating for each woman (often at the same time!) this year's NAC AGM was appropriately called "Coming of Age - from yesterday to tomorrow."

Like all women's groups, NAC has gone through growing pains, but this vital organisation has also enjoyed tremendous gains. The organisation's growth over the past two years testifies to the strength of feminism in Canada. NAC membership has more than doubled since 1985, and today boasts the support of more than 500 women's groups and organisations.

SWAG is one of the 60 B.C. NAC member groups. Our staffperson Debby Gregory and coordinating committee chair Joan Graves attended the NAC AGM for the first time this year. Because the AGM is NAC's sole policy making body, participation is vital for groups that wish to have their views heard and discussed at the national level.

Like all national groups, NAC shares in the Canadian dilemma which our vast country presents us. Equal representation for all regions remains an issue within NAC, as do travel subsidies to attend the AGM and mid-year meeting. The final stage of a major organisational review is now underway, and hopefully will resolve these dilemmas by next year's meeting.

But concerns must be put into proper perspective and NAC's achievements given their due. NAC committees work on a full range of issues from age-old women's concerns to current pressing issues like free trade, economic development and employment and job training. And in keeping with the women's movement reputation for being on the vanguard of social concerns, NAC this year adopted an anti-racist policy as opposed to a multicultural policy...

Cont...

and will continue to address sensitive issues like prostitution and pornography.

SWAG's steering committee would like to see our organisation play an active role in NAC this year. We need to keep our regional rep Robin LeDrew from Vernon apprised of our concerns, and up to date on our activities.

If enough women are interested, we can request that NAC president Louise Dulude come to Vancouver Island and address us in our own community.

Any woman who has an interest in national issues, and would like more information about NAC can call the office and someone will get back to you.

D.A.W.N. **Disabled Women's Network**

A cross Canada network of Disabled Women's Groups working independently and nationally to bring about change for women who are physically, mentally or emotionally challenged. We have many obstacles to remove from the path to equal access, equal opportunity, equal pay, recognition of our full humanity, restoration of our rights as human beings.

Even within the women's movement our struggle is immense. Is the transition house in your area accessible? Were you able to get into the bookstore? How about the Sexual Assault Centre? The last dance?

Which women's group fought for your right to have or keep your child? Who speaks for us? D.A.W.N. speaks for ourselves. We exist to solve our own problems and to ask the feminist community to share our struggles and our triumphs. We need advocates, support, money, expertise. Most of all we need your desire to be a part of this growing momentum towards equality for women within the women's movement and women everywhere who are disabled.

D.A.W.N. Victoria- 385-4890 Reva, representative for Vancouver Island.

A History of D.A.W.N.

The first conference was held in Ottawa in June of 1985. All the provinces and territories were represented which resulted in each province forming its own chapter and to this end, in March 1986, DAWN-BC held its first conference in White Rock with attendance of over 80 women from all parts of the province and Yukon. In October 1986 DAWN was incorporated as a non-profit society. The stated purposes of the society are:

To establish and maintain a network of communications, promote better communications, educate, provide support and resources among all women and to present information, research, and resolutions on concerns specific to disabled women and issues that have a greater impact on disabled women to the appropriate self-help and lobby groups in B.C. such as women's groups, disabled people's organizations and elsewhere where appropriate, and finally to do everything incidental and necessary to attain and to continue to promote the foregoing purposes throughout B.C. and Canada.

DAWN-Victoria was formed just last year. Victoria representative Reva Hutkin, fresh from the second DAWN conference, held in Brackendale, capsulizes: "It was no surprise to me that the power of disabled women to organize a cross B.C. conference could be so potent"
"Can you imagine 50 or so women with multiple and varied

handicaps spending four days together?...sharing our lives and having a lot of fun?"

"It was empowering and enriching- women helping women to help themselves and others, as someone aptly put it."

The fundamental task for the year was to educate. To raise the consciousness of women's groups to the needs of disabled women, and to let them know of their, very often daily, frustrations. Things like not being able to shop for a book, record, or article of your choice in the retail outlet of your choice- because it is not wheelchair accessible. This is especially hard when the particular outlet is run by feminists. Take for example the Vancouver Women's Bookstore, which has stairs. Says Reva:

"What do you do?"

"Considering the reasoning for the renting of the space- because it's cheap, but if the landlord had said 'You can rent this space for a really low price except you can't allow any Native women to come in'- do you suppose they would have rented it anyhow?"

"Is it OK to say we can rent this space except we can't allow any women in wheelchairs to come in?"

"Is this a more acceptable prejudice?"

What of the deaf? There are many activities in the women's community that are not only politically informative, but allow networking and the chance to make friends and have fun. But how many of them are signed? Was International Women's Day's whole day of celebrations signed? If you were a deaf woman would you bother to attend? How many groups have a mandate to educate- at the very least one staff person- in sign language? What if a deaf person gets raped? Is there someone on the Sexual Assault Centre's staff who can communicate with her?

What of the blind? Even if one is skilled in braille and likes listening to books on tape...is the material that is of interest readily available in these formats? Are there women in the community making contact with the local CNIB to keep lines of communication open? How do blind people fight through their darkness to find a feminist community without some tangible support and cooperation from her seeing sisters?

What of the women who are very allergic to cigarette smoke? And they like to socialize, and they like to dance. Smokers often ignore the no-smoking area signs, and even if they don't the smoking area gets so congested it wafts into the non-smoking area until the allergic person has to leave. Should these people be restricted from ever going to a dance or party because of others' personal choice to smoke?

If Victoria and centres like Vancouver are so badly lacking in support and consideration for disabled women think of what it is like in smaller areas like Ladysmith, Chemainus, or Sayward, to name a few. There is much work to be done by DAWN and one of the things that is happening is an education process is beginning through SWAG and Women's Centres, wherever they are.

DAWN-Victoria will meet once a month. There is an annual membership of \$5 for an individual or \$10 for an organization or group. We hope to network with the money, and look forward to a growing body of support for sharing information, strategy, and action.

HOT FLASHES WOMEN'S CAFE

Friday June 19.

8-11 pm • 106 Superior St. • \$2.00
Outrageous Desserts • Fresh Coffees

TRAVELLING NETWORKING

Many women are taking to the highways, exploring new territories and will probably find themselves passing through Victoria at some point.

We would like to see the SWAG office be a place where these women might find places to stay and also find like-minded women with whom to share their enthusiasm, interests and visions.

If this exchange interests you, please send in a note, att. to Travel Network with your name, address, phone number, area of residence, length of stay allowed, your interests, smoking - non-smoking etc.

The vision for this project is the great opportunity it provides to support other women, to inform them of what is happening in Victoria, and to promote peace and a better understanding of who we are and our commitment to be united in our development of an equal and free society.

Thanks for supporting the project and have fun meeting new women.

FACES

SWAG is collecting photographs for a collage of women's faces so scour your old shoe boxes. Joan brought in a collage used as a display. Let's have fun and get as many different situations represented as possible. Or even better, lets have a collage work-bee sometime early in the Fall.

WE'RE LOOKIN' GLASSY

Shirley Avril has several of her paintings on display until the end of June. We will always try to have displays by different women artists, so don't be shy. There is, however, a slight commission.

AN APPEAL-\$\$\$\$

The MICHELE MADELENA case is continuing. She was sexually abused by her foster father who was charged with having sex with a minor. She sued MHR and her foster father for damages when she reached legal age, but she lost. She would appreciate SWAG support in her appeal to help cover legal costs. Dulcie McCallum is donating her time as a lawyer. Thanks.

WOMEN AND \$\$\$

JEAN WADE

EARLY FINANCIAL PLANNING - A SWAG POLICY

It's very difficult to compete with the glorious sunny weekends we've been having lately. However, the MONEY..from the Ground Up! seminar attracted a small but very involved group on Saturday, May 9th at the Shoreline Community School.

This seminar explored all aspects of personal finances from budgeting, credit and insurance to investing and taxes. A very experienced lineup of professional women presented the information in an informal, round-table session.

Sherry Lassey (a SWAG member) and Sue Clamp of Eaton's Financial Services led a two-hour session which examined financial planning and investing. Their slide-show presentation on RRSP's generated enthusiastic questions. Peggy Waterton and Lebbie McDonald of Dollars and Sense examined basic budgeting and credit. Annetta Haddon of the Cdn.

Imperial Bank of Commerce (Hillside) had several good comments on mortgages and loans while Lynne Kumpula of Aetna Insurance gave a talk on insurance needs.

The post-seminar evaluations were very favorable, ranging from 'extremely informative' to 'a most valuable \$10 spent'.

SWAG states that early financial planning is one of their policies. The emphasis should be on the word EARLY.

You don't need much money to ensure a solid nest egg for your later years but you do need TIME!

Future personal financial sessions have been requested and we'd appreciate knowing your preferences and needs in order to plan them.

I am interested in attending a workshop on personal finances. I would like to see the following topics presented:

- Living Below the Poverty Line _____
- Best Buys in Town _____
- Basic Budgeting _____
- Creating a Personal Financial Plan _____
- Wills & Estates _____
- Insurance Needs _____
- Credit _____
- Mortgages & Loans _____
- Current Tax Law for Individuals _____
- Basic Investment Definitions _____
- RRSP's _____
- Stocks & Bonds _____
- Tax Shelters _____
- Other Investments (please name) _____
- Other Topics (please name) _____
- Best day of the week _____
- Best time of day _____
- Please mail to the SWAG office at 320-620 View St., Victoria V8W 1J6

6.7 per cent of the women in the labor force earn more than \$30,000, while for men that figure is 28.6 per cent ... almost five times as many men as women who make more than \$30,000.

Roland de Corneille
Commons Debate 1987

In 1984, the average wage for women was 65.5 per cent of the average wage for men. Last year it was 64.9 per cent...In British Columbia women are earning 61.6 per cent of men's earnings.

Margaret Mitchell
Commons Debate 1987

A total of 38 women have been elected to sit in the House of Commons since 1921. At the current rate of increase, it will take 842 years before equal numbers of women and men are elected to Parliament.

Margaret Mitchell
Commons Debate 1987

Of all Canadians who are working at the minimum wage, two-thirds are women.

Roland de Corneille
Commons Debate 1987

Where do we go from here? Provincial Women's Centres 1st A.G.M.

JEAN KAVANAUGH

Progress continues on the provincial feminist scene as some 80 representatives of B.C.'s 34 women's centres gather for the first Annual General Meeting of the B.C.-Yukon Association of Women's Centres at Simon Fraser University June 19-21.

Women's centres offer some of the most grass-roots support not only to women, but also to their families, in in most communities around the province. Whether the issue is unemployment, battering, childcare or political action these centres play major roles in the local, provincial and national women's movement.

Workshops, film screenings, support groups and community action are just some of the activities that occur regularly in centres throughout B.C. With an attitude of "every issue is a woman's issue", women's centres take part in the debates on free trade, the budget, job creation and training programs, pensions, health care, education - and the list goes on.

Communities often don't realise the vital work and services women's centres and groups provide. And, like SWAG in Victoria, the centres often join associations and coalitions to get their message out. This was the case last May at Naramata, in the province's interior, when SWAG united with other women's centres to form the B.C.Y.A.W.C. - only the second such organisation to form in the country.

The Association's first steering committee has met throughout the year here on Vancouver Island. Four women from Campbell River, Courtenay, Port Alberni and Victoria have travelled the island organising the Association's first year, and planning for the upcoming AGM.

The first AGM will focus on "Where do we go from here?", and should embark on some interesting discussion on the role of the Association on the provincial scene. Also up for discussion is the issue of establishing a provincial umbrella organisation of feminist groups. Skills workshops on Fundraising, Board-Staff Relations, the New Right and Building Alliances will round off the packed agenda. Social networking time, speakers and a Saturday evening dance are also planned.

Women's organisations with a feminist perspective that might be interested in attending the conference with observer status and participating in the discussion on a provincial feminist umbrella organisation are asked to call Jean at 385-4969.

1987-88 SWAG Coordinating Committee Members

THE 1987-1988 SWAG COORDINATING
COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE:

CHAIR: Joan Graves
FAST CHAIR: Lyn Hunter
TREASURER: Jean Wade
SCRIBE: Liz Phillipose
MEDIA: Jean Kavanagh
NEWSLETTER: Jan Boutillier
AT LARGE: Janet Lundman
Ann Marr
Anna Paletta
STAFFPERSON: Debby Gregory

Summer Volunteers Needed

If you have one morning a week free during May, June or July, or August, and think you might enjoy being the office scribe, please stop in or phone us as soon as possible. We can offer initial training, free unlimited coffee/tea, and a chance to meet interesting women, as well as to learn about the many resources available to women in our city. You DON'T have to have typing skills.

WOMEN MEAN BUSINESS

The new directory of women's businesses, services, and organisations, WOMEN MEAN BUSINESS, co-sponsored by SWAG, is now available at our office as well as at local bookstores. It retails for \$4.95. Only 500 copies have been printed, so don't wait too long. Proceeds will go towards the cost of a second printing.

SUPPORT WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

STAND UP FOR CHOICE

Saturday, June 20, 1987
12 noon at the Legislature

EVERYONE INVITED
PLEASE JOIN US

SPEAKERS

MUSIC

SURPRISES

WEAR THE OFFICIAL
RAILY COLORED
RED & WHITE

SPONSORED BY THE HANDMAIDS' REBELLION 381-1012

WOMEN OF ERITREA: Centuries of Oppression Are Being Washed Away

LYNN HUNTER

ERITREA - CONCLUSION

The EPLF has over the last fifteen years, set out to radically change the position of women in their society.

The result has been an impressive list of accomplishments. These achievements affect women's lives most dramatically throughout the EPLF controlled zones (roughly one-third of the country) but their impact has even been felt in the Ethiopian controlled towns. Change is occurring rapidly and it is clear that for the women of Eritrea there is no going back. As one old woman said, "it is like washing with soap and seeing through the layers of dust." Centuries of oppression are being washed away.

The exigencies of warfare have made nonsense of the sexual division of labour. Women make up one third of the fighters in the military units of the EPLF. Women and their families are not only motivated by patriotism to join the fight but also by the realities of existing under an army of occupation. As in other wars, women are viewed as part of the spoils of war in the Ethiopian controlled towns. Families would rather see their daughters be actively oppose Ethiopian aggression than be passive victims of abuse. Women fighting side-by-side with men, exhibiting equal bravery and commitment has transformed traditional views of women. The dress and demeanor of these women speak volumes. All the women I met were individually humble but it is a humility born of collective self-assurance. They carried themselves with such quiet confidence and inner pride that it was all I could do not to cheer them.

Women also make up over 30% of the administrative branches of the EPLF and women's rights occupy an important place in the EPLF's National Democratic Programme, the document containing their objectives. Within revolutionary movements these types of initiatives are common. Sadly, it is also common for the actual change in women's lives to be marginal. What I witnessed in Eritrea, under the EPLF, is not following this sad pattern. As the women I met attested, change is reaching every aspect of Eritrean life.

The EPLF's land reform has been a major significance for women who can now own land in their own right. Economic independence is a door to freedom for women. One woman I met, Tebereh, is an excellent example of this. She was from Asmera where her husband was a teacher. He was an alcoholic who beat her regularly.

She has seven children but she ran away to her family over twenty times. She was always forced to go back. Five years ago she took her children and ran away to the EPLF zone. She was given sufficient land to feed her family, assistance to get started and ongoing encouragement. Under such treatment she has flourished and has realized unmet potential. She is currently working full time for the National Union of Women, (NUEWnn), the civilian branch of the EPLF which organizes women. She is the chief organizer for women in her district. She has gone from a battered wife to an impressive political figure in the span of five years.

The NUEWnn is also involved at a very basic and practical level in changing their society. They have been instrumental in working with the medical department to institutetraining for traditional birth attendants. It is at this level that the horrific practices of the past are being eliminated. Another project is the funding and operation of a sanitary napkin factory. One woman told me that these napkins are taken as a miracle they so transform women's lives. Although there are difficulties in obtaining the raw materials these products are distributed freely throughout the liberated zones. It is impossible to satisfy the demand. It is only through international support for these types of problems that these logistical problems can be solved.

Marriage practice has undergone fundamental alteration. In 1978, the EPLF outlawed child marriage and marriages arranged without the full consent of the couple concerned. In order to be sensitive when encouraging people to adhere to these laws, the EPLF has instituted a political campaign in education to explain the benefits. It is a multi-pronged approach to change that has accorded the EPLF such a high degree of popular support. They do not impose their ideas on an unwilling populace but they use their popular support to encourage the changes that are necessary to transform their society.

Central to this political education is an impressive literacy campaign organized for women. The NUEWnn has received funding assistance for this campaign from OXFAM-Canada. The NUEWnn gives a high priority to raising the political consciousness of Eritrean women so they can grasp the source of their oppression and what is required to change it. As a feminist working in international development, this type of project is marvelously exciting. It exemplifies the sisterhood that exists among all women everywhere and the wonderful potential that sisterhood has 0000

Name: _____

Address: _____

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\$10 Membership Fee includes Newsletter

Enclosed \$ _____ membership

SEND TO:



**VICTORIA STATUS OF WOMEN
ACTION GROUP**

Box 6296, Station C, Victoria, B.C. V8P 5L5
Office: 320-620 View St., Victoria, V8W 1J6, (604) 381-1012

Donation \$ _____

SWAGgerins' . . .

DEBBY GREGORY

It feels like Summer, with some of the hectic pace of the past few months slowing down to a civilised canter.

Our new office space is a delight. The reception room contains resource materials, the middle room looks almost like a proper office, with a postage meter our newest acquisition. The back room is big enough to hold meetings quite comfortably as well as to house all the coffee makings.

Reva Hutkin of the Disabled Women's Network (DAWN) spoke of the need for women's spaces to be wheelchair accessible, and our office is not only accessible but comfortable. Lately it has also become quite beautiful with the temporary show of paintings by Shirley Avril. They will be on display at least until the end of June, when the work of another local woman artist will be displayed. I'm sure there are enough talented women in Victoria to keep our walls glorious for years.

The meeting room is also doubling as work space for Agnes Gati, SWAG's new part-time bookkeeper. Agnes is learning the intricacies of non-profit, audit-perfect transactions a few hours a week.

The Office Volunteer staff has undergone a few changes as Summer holidays approach. Long-time SWAG member Doris Bergbusch does Mondays; Freda Nobbs is on Tuesdays; newcomer Leslie Wallace looks after Wednesdays; Janet Lundman is in on Thursdays; and Georgina Wells, another old-timer, is in on Fridays. Saturdays are staffed in turn by Linda St. Louis, Loree Potts, Sherry Edmunds, and Connie Carter.

The work of the Office Collective will be much easier now that we have a Training Manual written up for them. Ever since I started working for SWAG last July, I've been meaning to get a manual written and typed up so that procedures would be more easily learned and standardised. Time flies when you're having fun, so I must be having a ball, as it has taken me until now to find time to write the manual.

The truth is, it got written because we had the services of Trudy Hanson, from Camosun College, on a work placement project for two mornings a week during May. I wrote and Trudy typed and photocopied. If she can work so well in a busy, unstructured office like ours, where nobody knows who will walk in next, Trudy can be a hit anywhere.

Another project I've had on the back burner for some time was to produce a new pamphlet about Lesbians for the office. The one we had was outdated and a bit grim. Melaney Black and Liz Cullen collaborated on text and graphics, and by the time you read this, the new pamphlet will be back from the printer's. In the Fall, we'll have an evening of discussion and a bit of a 'pamphlet launching party'. I hope that a lot of women will attend, no matter what our sexual preferences are, as we all have a lot to learn from each other.

Wishing everyone a happy and healthy Summer. I've signed up for a weekend course in introductory rock climbing and rappelling, and I'll be doing some back packing near Jasper. In the Fall, we've got Starhawk to look forward to, as well as a new Radical Feminist Theory Group. Cheers.

Bye. Bye. Brian

Pack up all our cares and woes here we go, singing low
bye, bye Brian

We were there but you weren't
there, now we know that you
don't care
bye, bye Brian

As one here can love or understand us
Oh what hard luck stories they
all hand us!

We were here to fight the fight
Equality of women is our right
Brian, bye bye!

This was sung to the tune of 'Bye bye Blackbird' by a delegation of 50 women at the National Action Committee on the Status of Women AGM who tried to present the Prime Minister with letters protesting the scheduling of a debate on the Constitution at the same time as the NAC lobby (May 11 in Ottawa).

THE MAGNIFICENT MIDDLE AGES

On Friday night and Saturday, May 29 and 30, SWAG highlighted a celebration for forty "older women" (the focus was women over forty) from lower Vancouver Island and the mainland. "Is It Hot In Here?", the latest N.F.B. footage on menopause, premiered Friday evening following an introduction from Jennifer Torrance, Vancouver based producer of the film. Refreshments and conversation furthered inspiration for the Saturday speakers and workshops.

Susan Moger, a feminist whose work over the last ten years has focused on women and health, in particular menopause, aging and self-care, led the workshops on menopause; Woody Prince, a social worker in private therapy practice in Victoria, spearheaded the sexuality workshops; Marjorie Martin, an Assistant Professor at the University of Victoria and member of "Women for Economic Survival", spoke on older women and poverty; and Joan McHardy, Ph.D., sessional lecturer on the sociology of aging at the University of Victoria, led the discussions about stereotypes and attitudes. Keynote speaker Rosemary Brown, former MLA and current chair of Women's Studies at Simon Fraser University, challenged everyone to appreciate the advantages middle-age and older women have worked hard to achieve and to continue the struggle for improved benefits, especially within the political arena.

Further highlights with possible follow-up news and/or support groups in the next newsletter.

SUMMER FILMS ANYBODY?

Would anybody like to help organize some film events over the summer? Several good NFB films are available. Call the office if there is a film you would like to see and help get some people together to help make it worthwhile. It's fun!

Women make up 43 per cent of the labor force yet only 34 per cent of the people participating in the Canadian Jobs Strategy (for Women Program) are women.

You, the Media and The Pornography Bill

Canadian Coalition Against
Media Pornography
newsletter May 1987

This bill (C-54 tabled May 4, 1987), in essence, says:

Pornography is defined as visual matter that shows

- i) sexual conduct described below that involves children, or the sexual parts of a child's body for sexual purposes;
- ii) actual physical harm being done to a person in a sexual context (snuff films ...);
- iii) sexually violent conduct (rape, physical pain ...);
- iv) degrading acts in a sexual context (being urinated on, bondage ...);
- v) bestiality, incest or necrophilia;
- vi) masturbation, ejaculation or anal, oral or vaginal intercourse (portrayal of actual penetration).

The written word would also be considered porn if it promoted, encouraged or endorsed the conduct referred to in sections i to v - and not iv.

Possession would be an offence ONLY in the case of child porn, otherwise those charged would be the ones who make, sell and distribute pornography.

There is a defence on the grounds of artistic merit or educational, scientific or medical purpose for material other than that described in sections i and ii.

The press is concentrating on section vi without being clear that if actual penetration is not shown, the scene would not be considered pornographic.

The government was in a bind on this issue because they were told by many of us to make the new law stricter, with the present law, the portrayal of actual penetration is illegal.

Sexually explicit material involving children for the purpose of stimulation is wrong (section i). Sections ii to v describe pornography as defined by the test question: "Does this degrade and/or lie about women?". But when using these standards, section vi seems to describe something other than pornography.

Although the portrayal of actual penetration does not in itself degrade the participants, showing scene after scene of it does degrade and lie about the act by suggesting that nothing more than mechanics is involved. *

You must decide if you think the sixth definition should be called pornography or not. Either way, it is very important that you write to Mr. Hnatyshyn (the Minister of Justice), the Prime Minister and your MP to tell them that you are in favor of this bill (with or without amendments). No postage needed if addressed to them at: House of Commons, Ottawa, Ont. K1A 0A6.

You can get a copy of this bill (C-54) from: Communications and Public Affairs, Dept of Justice, Justice Building, Ottawa, Ont. K1A 0H8. Or call: (613)996-7192.

*A point: Oral intercourse is also mentioned in section vi and often happens without penetration.

P.M.S. Support Group

I have been dealing with Pre-Menstrual Syndrome for two weeks out of each month for the last three years. I would like to form a group of women to examine the issues related to menstruation, sexuality, health, diet, various treatment approaches and especially to support each other emotionally. Please call Esther at 385-9554 for more info.

SWAG MEMBER OFF TO MOSCOW

SWAG member Milnor Alexander has been selected to be one of Canada's representatives at the World Congress of Women to be held in Moscow June 23 to 27, 1987. The conference will centre its three discussions around the three interrelated themes of peace, equality and development.

As we are all aware, Milnor has been a dedicated activist throughout her life. She has worked with countless organizations here and elsewhere in order to help to forward the causes of peace, women's equality and social justice. Her most recent significant contribution to our community was that of co-ordinator of this year's very successful Peace Walk.

Courageous Crones Gather

The second annual gathering of Courageous Crones and Far Out Older Lesbians (sponsored by A WEB OF CRONES newsletter) will be held on the beach on beautiful Hornby Island from Aug 15 to 22 - come for part or all of it if you think you qualify OR would like to support this venture.

There will be: poetry readings by Gert Beadle, Pat Smith's play "The Older Living", workshops, discussion groups, future plans for alternative living as we age; and of course: swimming, relaxation and walks.

Some camping is available, as well as a cabin to sleep six. Bed & breakfast can be arranged for those who would prefer this.

Sliding scale: \$50 to \$20; or donations of money/food. Reserve your place NOW by sending a small deposit to:

Emma Joy Crone
c/o Web of Crones
RR#1, Hornby Island, BC
V0R 1Z0

New Acquisitions

Morgantaler, Abortion in Canada; Sex & Destiny; Stepmothers: Exploring the Myth; Handbook for Achieving Sex Equity Through Education; Sportsfitness for Women; Critique of the Strengths and Weaknesses of the Fraser Report as Draft Legislation; A series of papers on contraception prepared by the Population Crisis Committee...Issues in Contraceptive Development; Accelerating Fertility Declines: Policy Alternatives; National Family Planning: Periodic Abstinence as a Method of Fertility Control; World Abortion Trends; "Sharing the Responsibility" Special Committee on Child Care: The Pro-Family Movement: Are They For or Against Families; Health and Home: Women as Health Guardians; The Family Violence Audio-Visual Catalogue; Equality & Access: A New Social Contract; bound back issues of the Human Rights Advocate; Winter, Wilderness and Womanhood; Explanations or Excuses For Mental Health Problems; Connexions Directory of Canadian Organizations for Social Justice, 1987; LEAF Litigation Year One; Children: the Right to be Wanted; A Decade of Family Planning Progress; Towards Smaller Families: The Crucial Role of the Private Sector; Wiccan Discussion, SWAG 1987 (cassette); Radio - Spreading the Word on Family Planning.

D A T E L I N E S

JUNE

17 18

VANCOUVER
Conference on women and self-esteem, Canadian Psychological Association. Info in the SWAG office.

19

June 19 Women's Dance

140 Oswego, \$5/\$4 unwaged. Bop till you drop.

JUNE 19

HOT FLASHES
WOMEN'S CAFE
8-11 p.m.
106 Superior Street
\$2. outrageous desserts,
fresh coffees
9 p.m.- an informative
and timely presentation
by a member of AIDS
Vancouver Island, followed
by a question and answer
period.

20

June 20 STAND UP FOR CHOICE

If you do nothing else all year, come out and support the pro-choice struggle to protect women's reproductive rights. 12 noon at the Legislature.

23

June 23 Good Books by Women Discussion Group

7:30pm, #4-1626 Rockland. Reading Housekeeping by Marilynne Robinson.

25

June 25 "Support Services For Families of Long-Term Prisoners"

Free noon-time talk by Office Volunteer Sherry Edmunds, who knows whereof she speaks.

JULY

2

July 2

D.A.W.N.
Disabled Women's Network
In the swag office from 2 to 4. The building is wheelchair accessible.

July 2 Disabled Women's Network (DAWN) meeting

2-4pm at the SWAG office, all women welcome.

September 18-19-20 Starhawk

