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VICTORIA STATUS OF WOMEN ACTION GROUP

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

NEWS

OCT. 1987 Vol. 14, No. 4



APPREHENSION OF FETUS —Is This The Future?—

A frightening precedent has been set, a precedent that reminds us of the painful, degrading and sexist scenarios described for us by Margaret Atwood in her novel The Handmaid's Tale. For the first time in B.C. the Ministry of Social Services and Housing has apprehended an unborn child - legally known as a fetus.

The case involves a woman who arrived at Grace Hospital, a Vancouver maternity hospital, Wednesday, May 20th to give birth. Details about the woman or about the circumstances of the case have not been made public, but by all accounts there was a difference of opinion over how the woman should birth. As we understand it, she refused to have a caesarean section and on the basis of her non-co-operation the Ministry moved to apprehend the unborn child.

While the legal status of this apprehension has not yet been defined, many community, women's health, human rights, and legal advocates are outraged that the Ministry would move into an area over which it has absolutely no jurisdiction.

This is not the first case in Canada where a fetus has been apprehended. Earlier this year the Children's Aid Society of Belleville, Ontario, apprehended the unborn child of a woman who was eight months pregnant. In his ruling Judge Kirkland made an order that the woman could be forced to have a medical examination to see if the fetus was healthy. He also cited in his judgement a statement from "a local psychiatrist (who) was quoted recently as saying, "Every child should have certain basic rights such as: the right to be wanted, the right to be born healthy, the right to live in a healthy environment, the right to such needs as food, housing and education, and the right to continuous care." This is the only case considered where the fetus is given status as a person.

Canadian law, unlike American law, does not distinguish between a 6 week old fetus and a thirty eight week old fetus. Given this, the apprehension of any fetus puts women on the slippery slope of having their rights become secondary to the rights of the fetus. . .

Outraged by the inhumane treatment of this woman and by the implications of the precedent-setting apprehension, the Women's Health Collective speedily called a press conference, taking the opportunity to bring to light some of the issues this case touches upon.

Participants in the conference included representatives from the Vancouver Status of Women, the National Association of Women in the Law, the B.C. Human Rights Coalition, and the B.C. Coalition for Abortion Clinics.

Our statement read:

First, we are deeply concerned about the woman whose life has been disrupted by these events. We want to ensure that her interests are protected and represented in the way she decides is best. We do not pretend to, and we can never speak for her.

Whatever the precise circumstances of this case, we know that if the Ministry of Social Services and Housing's apprehension order is upheld, this decision will have severe implications on the rights of women to make individual, autonomous choices about our reproductive health. We also know that if upheld, this decision will make such questionable apprehensions, which occur all too often in this province, much easier in the future, thereby depriving women of the right to parent their children. We firmly believe that this precedent has the potential of adversely affecting women who choose to have children as well as women who choose to have an abortion. We are not about to sit back and watch the courts further limit the control we have over our bodies.

Cont. . . .



- P. 1 Photo credit to Donna J. Murray
 P. 6 Christine St Peter is Assistant Professor of Women's Studies at UVic; Jennifer Waelti-Walters is the Chair of the Department of Women's Studies
 P. 8 Homophobia Workshop is OCTOBER 24 and not September 24

DATELINE: Saturday October 10: "WOMEN IN A DEVELOPING WORLD"

All-day conference at Camosun College to explore commonalities and differences in the position of women at home & internationally
 8 workshops to choose from - Keynote address by Iona Campagnola - \$12 fee includes lunch (\$15 at the door) - 381-1012, 384-3732, or 385-2333 for information

SWAG office.

HEALTH NEEDS OF WOMEN: A SURVEY

ANNA PALETTA

During the summer of 1986, the Status of Women Health Consumer Action Group carried out a survey to assess whether the health needs of the women of Victoria were being met. The 164 questionnaires that were filled out and returned have now been processed and this is a preliminary report of the findings. Because one of the main concerns of the Health Group was that there are no women gynecologists or psychiatrists in private practice in Victoria, this report focusses on this issue.

One of the questions asked the sex of the physician used and the sex of the physician preferred for various health needs. The majority of women preferred a female physician in 7 of the 9 health needs listed. But, the pattern was that although the majority preferred a female physician, they used a male. For example, among the respondents who preferred to use a female physician for pregnancy/childbirth, 62.5% preferred to use a female physician but used a male, whereas only 27.5% of the women who preferred a female physician were able to use a female.

The importance of the finding that although the majority of women prefer to use a woman medical practitioner but are unable to do so is brought out in a comment that one woman made. She writes: "Much more anxiety was provoked than necessary because the gynecologist was male - not my preference." Or, as another woman wrote: "I certainly feel that there should be female obstetricians and gynecologists in our city and that medical training should include more emphasis on recognizing and respecting women's attitudes, fears, and feelings about themselves."

came out in the open-ended questions was that of cost. The issue here is the need for B.C. Med to cover such services as psychologists. Again letting the respondents speak for themselves, one woman wrote: "The cost of counselling (non-psychiatric) is prohibitive. Counselling psychologists should be covered under M.S.P.. This would reduce demand on psychiatrists Many women are forced to see psychiatrists because that is the only affordable therapy." Another woman wrote: "I hope you will work to have psychologists included under the medical services plan - chiropractors and physiotherapists are."

The findings of the closed-ended questions, then, are confirmed in the responses to the open-ended questions where women were asked for their own comments. A large number of respondents site the need for women medical practitioners. The need for women gynecologists and psychiatrists as well as for women in other medical fields was the largest single category of responses.

Another large category of responses to the open-ended questions was the need for a more preventive and holistic approach to medicine.

There are other important findings that have come up in this study. Nine point two percent, i.e., almost one in ten, of the women who responded needed counselling for post partum depression but did not get it. Seven point two percent needed counselling for emotional abuse/cruelty but did not get it, an additional 18.4% did. That is, one in four women needed counselling for emotional abuse or cruelty.

These are some of the highlights of the health survey. Generally, the findings establish that women medical practitioners are sorely needed particularly in the fields of gynecology and psychiatry. The need for a such broader medical approach also came through.

There is so much that I haven't touched on here. For example, we have done some analysis of the responses by income and by age. If you are interested in looking at more of this rich data you are invited to come in to SWAG and do so.

We call on Claude Richmond, Minister of Social Services to withdraw this apprehension order.

We encourage those of you who share our outrage over this case to write to:

Claude Richmond
Minister of Social Services and
Housing
Legislative Buildings
Victoria, B.C.

and to your MLA, expressing your views. Those of you who want to become involved in the Ad Hoc Committee for Maternal Autonomy can contact the Health Collective to find out how.

- Healthmatters - A publication of the
Vancouver Women's Health Collective

Note: Healthmatters is available in the
SWAG office.

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The importance of the finding that although the majority of women prefer to use a woman medical practitioner but are unable to do so is brought out in a comment that one woman made. She writes: "Much more anxiety was provoked than necessary because the gynecologist was male - not my preference." Or, as another woman wrote: "I certainly feel that there should be female obstetricians and gynecologists in our city and that medical training should include more emphasis on recognizing and respecting women's attitudes, fears, and feelings about themselves."

It was also found that where women practitioners are available they are being used. For example, in the case of routine exams, which are carried out by G.P.s many of which in Victoria are women, preference and use coincided: 69.6% of the respondents preferred and used a female physician.

The findings for psychological health care are similar to those above on physical health care. The difference here is in the availability of female practitioners. That is, counsellors might include social workers, school counsellors, and community health nurses, which are all predominantly female enclaves, as well as psychiatrists, psychologists, and clergy. For psychological health care, then, both the preference and the use was predominantly for a female.

One problem in mental health care that came out in the open-ended questions was that of cost. The issue here is the need for B.C. Med to cover such services as psychologists. Again letting the respondents speak for themselves, one woman wrote: "The cost of counselling (non-psychiatric) is prohibitive. Counselling psychologists should be covered under M.S.P.. This would reduce demand on psychiatrists ... Many women are forced to see psychiatrists because that is the only affordable therapy." Another woman wrote: "I hope you will work to have psychologists included under the medical services plan - chiropractors and physiotherapists are."

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THE RIGHTS OF OLDER WOMEN

JOAN McHARDY

"I am bitter and frustrated and wasted, but don't you pretend for a minute as you look at me, forty-three, fat, and looking exactly my age, that I am not as alive as you are and that I do not suffer from the category into which you are forcing me."

This quote is from Zoe Moss' article called "It Hurts to Be Alive and Obsolete: The Aging Woman".

Zoe Moss is one of the few women who has the courage to face aging - and ageism - in our society. Ageism is the discrimination of someone based solely on age. When we dismiss an adolescent's opinion because she's too young - we are ageist. When we accept myths and fallacies about aging - we are ageist. No, senility is not an inevitable part of growing old.

Ageism and sexism combine in a particularly virulent type of discrimination - the discrimination against older women.

Prejudice and discrimination are the result of negative attitudes and stereotypes. Prejudice against older women can be seen in the images on television. Discrimination affects older women looking for employment. Ageism and sexism combine to block an older woman from opportunities to explore her potential.

SWAG sponsored a conference at the end of May on women and aging. There were four main areas of discussion: sexuality, menopause, poverty and stereotypes. Rosemary Brown was the keynote speaker. Her topic was the celebration of aging.

As a result of that conference, a number of women became determined to challenge ageist attitudes, to take political action to change social policies and to work together to ensure that older women are full participants in the political, economic, and social life of Canada.

New Acquisitions

Here is just an inkling of the many interesting new acquisitions in our resource library:

Caring for Canada's Children; a special report on the crisis in child care. Margaret Mitchell. Ottawa: 1987.

Bevy of Anarchist/Feminists. A collection. Montreal: BOA

A Feminist Approach to Pap Tests, revised ed. Robin Barnett, Rebecca Fox. Vancouver: The Vancouver Women's Health Collective, 1986.

Natural Menopause. Victoria, BC: Prime Time (A project for women in their middle years, 1977-1980).

Women and the Law. 5th ed. Ann Beveridge, Linda Reid. Vancouver: The Public Legal Education Society, 1987.

Battered But Not Beaten: Preventing Wife Battering in Canada. Linda MacLeod. Ottawa: Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women, 1987.

Taking Control of our Future: Clerical Workers and New Technology. Marcy Cohen, Margaret White. Vancouver: Women's Skill Development Society, 1987.

Training Women in the Workplace. Halifax: Federal/Provincial/Territorial Ministers' Meeting, 1987.

The Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women. Nairobi, Kenya: UN Decade for Women, 1985.

Over the summer a group of women have been meeting to outline some of the major goals and issues which must be addressed. We are a new group affiliated with SWAG. We would like to encourage women of all ages who are interested in the rights of older women to join us.

Our next meeting is on September 17th at 7:15 p.m. in the SWAG office. We look forward to meeting new members.

Types of submissions: short stories, poetry, graphics, short essays, b/w photographs, oral narratives

Publication date: approximately Summer '88

Submission deadline: Oct. 31, 1987

For writers' guidelines write to:

Ts'eku Collective
c/o 603 Powell St.
Vancouver, B.C.
V6A 1H2

or phone: (604) 738-5738
(604) 254-5069

We have survived residential schools, prisons, the Indian Act, the welfare system, hunting and fishing restrictions, cultural genocide, assimilation, sexism, racism, the legal system...

Who we are:

Ts'eku Collective is a native women's group which is compiling an anthology of Indian, Metis and Inuit women's writings.

Ts'eku is the Carrier word meaning 'women'.

Forthcoming from Press Gang Publishers

Call for Submissions • Call for Submissions • Call for Submissions

New Loan Guarantee Fund

VENTURES, the people who staged Women's Business Week in May, are in the process of capitalizing a new loan guarantee fund. To meet the needs of small businesses requiring operating credit the Capital Ideas Fund will offer guarantees for loans under \$100,000.

52% of the loan guarantee funds has been designated for women-led businesses. This is in response to many studies showing that women do not have easy access to credit. They also cite financing as one of their most frequent business problems.

The \$10,000 limit on loan guarantees stems from small business owners experiencing difficulty borrowing small amounts through banks and credit unions. The limit also reflects Ventures's priority on serving as many clients as possible until the fund grows in size. At this moment loans under \$10,000 for operating capital are the most difficult to obtain though they may often mean the difference between expansion and failure. They may also provide leverage for larger sums.

Initial funding for the fund is being discussed with the provincial Ministry of Economic Development. Fund-raising from financial institutions and the community is scheduled for the fall. For more information on this and other women's business programs call Judy Biefschultz at the Ventures office, 396-1666. (See Fall Workshop schedule in this issue)

Copies of the handbook are available from the Justice Institute of B.C., 4180 West Fourth Avenue, Vancouver, B.C., V6R 4J5 (telephone 228-9771):Police Services Branch, Ministry of Attorney General, 207-815 Hornby Street, Vancouver, B.C., V6Z 2E1; and the Special Projects Division, Ministry of Attorney General, 609 Broughton Street, Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4

-Provincial Report July 19

VENTURES Fall Workshops

Sept. 19 "Catalogue Sales, Mail Order and Direct Mail: Marketing for the Future" 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Sherwood Park Hotel. \$50.00 (includes lunch) Limit 50.

Sept. 28 "Networking for Women - 2nd Edition" 5:00-6:30 p.m. Roxanne Restaurant, 777 Fort St Appetizers and cash bar \$6.00 Limit 60

Oct. 13 "Marketing Your Art - Art as Business" 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Captain's Palace \$35.00 (includes lunch) Limit 30

Oct. 14, 21 "The Elements of Effective Print Advertising - How to Get and Measure Results" Michele Poirier 7:30-9:30 p.m. First United Church, \$35.00 (for 2 sessions) Limit 50

Nov. 2 "Home-Based Businesses: Where Do I Go From Here?" 7:30-9:30 p.m. 106 Superior St. \$5.00 Desserts and coffee available Limit 50

Nov. 16 "Women's Business is Victoria - Meet Your Women Municipal Candidates" 7:30-9:30 p.m. Prancing Pony Restaurant Sinful desserts and coffee Limit 50

Dec. 7 "Distributing Your Product, Direct, Indirect and Other Sale Techniques, Selling" 7:30-9:30 p.m. Sherwood Park Inn. Barbara Densmore \$10.00 Limit 8

FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL 386-1666

WIFE ASSAULT CASES: Handbook For Helpers

The Ministry of Attorney General is widely distributing a special handbook assisting social workers who deal with wife assault cases.

The Wife Assault - Victim Support Worker Handbook has been produced by the Justice Institute of B.C., in conjunction with the Ministry of Attorney General and the Women's Programs Branch of the Ministry of Advanced Education and Job Training.

It is being distributed to government and private agencies throughout the province as a training tool of persons who provide assistance to wife assault victims. This includes Family Court Counsellors, social workers, and those who work in transition houses, crisis centres and women's centres.

The 69-page handbook gives the support workers an historical perspective of wife assault, statistics showing how the number of cases has been increasing, details of different forms of abuse and their causes, the technicalities of intervening in assault incidents, and an analysis of the policy adopted by the Attorney General's Ministry in these kinds of cases.

That policy says the onus no longer rests solely with the assaulted woman to lay charges but is the responsibility of the police and Crown prosecutor. This provides protection and means that an assaulted woman cannot be pressured by her husband or commonlaw partner to withdraw a charge.

Transition houses and emergency shelters for women receive government financial support and are situated in communities throughout British Columbia.

WORLD CONGRESS OF WOMEN

MILNOR ALEXANDER

The theme of the World Congress of Women in Moscow from June 23rd to 27th was "Toward 2000 - without nuclear weapons: For Peace, Equality, Development". There were 2800 women delegates from 154 countries -- 800 national, 73 international non-governmental and 15 UN organizations. Betsy Carr (Toronto) and Ann Crosby (Hamilton) were representing the National Action Committee. There were 17 of us from B.C. including three native women.

Mikhail Gorbachev addressed the opening session, and Robert Mugabe (Zimbabwe) the closing session, but there were also women speakers, including Freda Brown, the President of the Women's International Democratic Federation. Gorbachev stressed his glasnost (openness) policy, and did seem to be sympathetic to women's concerns, but Mugabe does not seem to understand the feminist point of view! And all the women from his country wore colorful dresses (all alike) with his picture on them, front and back!

The eight Commissions during the Congress were:

1. Women for Peace and Disarmament
2. Women in Society
3. Women and Work
4. Women, Children and Families
5. Women's Involvement in the Struggle for National Liberation, Independence and Self-determination
6. Problems of Development and Women
7. Mass Media and Women
8. The Role and Cooperation of NGOs in Implementing the Forward-looking Strategies Adopted

There were also three Centres functioning parallel to the Commissions. In one of them there were Hearings on violations of women's rights. The one on "Women and Socialism" provided an opportunity to obtain information on the life of women in socialist societies. The third centre was a topic centre where discussions could take place on various problems of particular interest to specific groups of participants, such as trade union women, religious women, environmentalists, etc.

One of the most interesting sessions in the whole Congress was a special one where Dr. Helen Caldicott spoke. Because there were no facilities for translation in the hall, everyone there spoke English, and there was the best dialogue and real sharing, of any session. Dr. Caldicott spoke about the need to end the nuclear arms race, as she does in her book, Missile Envy, but she also referred to the male chauvinism that pushed her out of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War.

I had been to the Mid-Decade UN Conference on Women at Copenhagen in 1980, and the facts reported at that conference are still true seven years later: - Women make up 50% of the world's population, do 2/3 of the world's work, earn 10% of the world's income, and own 1% of the world's wealth. We still have a long way to go!

NEW MEMBERSHIP FEES

Yes, we're getting better and better: We not only have a copier and a postage meter, but now a brilliant plan for keeping membership fees up to date!

Starting this September SWAG will be charging \$12 for memberships. September '87 is also the magic month for EVERYBODY to renew their old membership in SWAG.

The increase in fee will allow easy pro-rating for new members joining after September '87 - a dollar off for each month - as well as allow simple reduction of old members' fees who have paid up before September '87. Those members of SWAG who have paid their 1987 fees will find their reduced rate for 1988 fees included with this month's Newsletter. By September 1988 everybody will be billed \$12 membership fee for the year.

Sound simple? Simply brilliant, we think. This plan will also add some needed revenues to help defray rising postal costs, not to mention the costs of all the machine-made efficiency.

Thanks to Janet Lundman for putting the above information into coherent form.



Everywomans Books

641 Johnson Street
Victoria, B.C. V8W 1M7

Phone 388-9411

Monday - Saturday
10:30 - 5:30

A SELECTION OF NEW TITLES FROM EVERYWOMANS BOOKS

The Mad Woman's Underclothes,
Germaine Greer - Sociology

Myths of Gender, Anne Fausto-
Sterling - Sociology

Auntie's Knitting a Baby, Lois
Sirmie - Youth

To Live and To Write: Anthology of
Japanese Women Writers -
Fiction

Mothers on Trial, Phyllis Chesler
Parenting

Women's Life in Greece and Rome -
History

A Studio of One's Own, Stokes -
Lesbian non-fiction

Women and Fatigue - Health

Tin-Can Tree, Anne ler - Fiction

Planet of Exile, Ursula LeGuin -
Science Fiction

Prairie Jungle: Songs, Poems and
Stories for Children - Youth

City of Roses, Moffat - Biography

SWAG MEMBERS: IN CHALLENGING NEW POSITIONS

DEBBY GREGORY

Two SWAG members, Barb Latham and Christine St Peter, have recently obtained important new appointments in the field of education.

Barb Latham, who had taught courses in English, History, and the Sociology of Women at Camosun College for several years, is now their Assistant Director of Liberal and Applied Arts. Four new Assistant Director posts have been created, functioning not only to release the college Deans from some of their administrative load, but also to provide co-directors. Although all the Directors are men, two of the four Assistant Director positions are held by women.

"I get pretty excited and hopeful," says Barb, who sees administrative work as mainly planning. The college has a sexual harassment policy, which Barb has been instrumental in developing, but it has no affirmative action programme. Barb, who says she's in there for the long haul, intends to be a watchful women's advocate. She has learned that "Where people can be with you, they will be."

Barb also hopes to have some broader educational influence through such matters as course outlines, scheduling, and especially course content. She has always loved teaching, and in fact has taught for over 20 years. "Every school I've taught in has burned down," she notes with a laugh - a result, no doubt, of her legendary burning enthusiasm. She will still teach one course each year. Michiko Lambertson will be taking over the Sociology of Women course.

The impact of women's studies courses, although not easily measurable, is felt over the long term by individuals, the academic community, and the wider society. Christine St Peter put together an interdisciplinary, introductory course in 1982, at the behest of "the Founding Mothers" of women's studies at UVic, Connie Rooke, Paddy Tsurumi, and Jennifer Waelti-Walters. She participated in several years of experimentation in course design in conjunction with the University Women's Studies Committee while teaching on a seasonal basis. During 1985-6 about fifteen women met with the Vice President Academic for eight months to convince the university

administration of the need for a women's studies programme. A result of all the hard work by Christine and the committee is the recent establishment of a Chair in Women's Studies, offering a minor specialization, and the appointment of Christine as Assistant Professor of Women's Studies. She will share the core course teaching with Jenny Waelti-Walters.

The new Chair of the Department of Women's Studies sees her field as "an arena of struggle" - a struggle of thought rather than of action. She sees one of the primary aims of the program as reducing the fragmentation of knowledge, so common under patriarchal systems. She sees a "new wave - or at least a ripple" in the university community. Typically, students in Women's Studies courses are more radical than the norm. She finds her students do a lot of the teaching.

Interestingly enough, neither Christine nor Barb was able to do her advanced degree in her chosen field. Barb's 1971 MA from Queens University is in literature - she'd wanted to do it on Canadian literature but was told "There is none." Christine's PhD from the U of T is in Irish Drama.

Barb and Christine both have the satisfaction of knowing they have inspired hundreds of women throughout their teaching careers, though they both acknowledge there is no limit to what still needs to be done. There are no ivory towers for these women, who both combine a zest for active participation in feminist organizing along with their theoretical and practical work.

The women's community is greatly enriched by the dynamic presence of Barb Latham and Christine St Peter, and it is a real pleasure to offer our heartfelt congratulations for their new appointments.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____

\$ 12 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

Those Autumn leaves are starting to float by my window as the papers on my desk pile up, so I'd guess Summer is on its way out. I hope you've enjoyed yours.

A big THANKS to those volunteers who kept the office going over the Summer and allowed me to enjoy my holiday: Doris Bergbusch, Preda Nobbs, Anne Gale, Debi Jarach, Georgia Welles, Ros Taylor, Connie Carter, Loree Potts, Linda St Louis, and Janet Lundman.

Margaret McCrory, who keeps track of our burgeoning resource library, also did much of the typing for this Newsletter, without a moan. She and Alice Albert have started to set up a proper archival system, with the assistance of the Provincial Archives. This will free up space for current publications, as well as make older material accessible.

New members since the last Newsletter appeared are: Linda Allen, Donna Dow, Lisa Fiederer, Cory Greenlees, Fiona Hyslop, Debi Jarach, Judith Jeffery, Judith Krause, Connie Kurtenbach, Coleen T. Lee, Pat McGuire, Reeta Sanatani, and Marina Smith. Welcome to SWAG.

The Programming Committee met in July and worked out a number of events for the coming year. Look for meetings on women's issues in the November municipal elections, work on anti-pornography, pro-choice, sex-role stereotyping - all the old favourites! We also worked out the schedule for Coordinating Committee meetings and topics for discussion for the rest of the year:

- Sept. 15: Finding Time For Ourselves
- Oct. 13: Homophobia and Misogyny
- Nov. 10: Porn & Sex-Role Stereotypes
- Dec. 8: Exploring Feminist Approaches to human relationships

If you think you might like to be part of the discussion, give us a call.

ISLAND WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

WORKING TOGETHER FOR CHANGE



Port Alberni Women's Resources Society

SEPTEMBER 25-26, 1987
7:15 pm Friday
9:00 am - 6:30 pm Saturday

NORTH ISLAND COLLEGE
4006 - 8th Avenue
Port Alberni

YOUR VOTE COUNTS!

ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE? Remember, the Municipal and School Board Elections are coming up in November. YOUR VOTE COUNTS MORE THAN EVER AT THE MUNICIPAL LEVEL. GET REGISTERED AND GET OUT TO THE POLLS IN NOVEMBER.



CONGRATULATIONS TO AVIS RASMUSSEN, on winning a Jury Prize for her artwork at the Sooke Fine Arts '87 show.

QUICK QUIZ

Please take a minute to consider these questions:

1. I sometimes feel my feminist commitment is doubted because I'm married.
YES/NO
2. I sometimes feel nervous about saying I'm a Lesbian.
YES/NO
3. I sometimes feel invisible as a bisexual woman.
YES/NO
4. I sometimes think heterosexual women don't have much understanding of what it's like to live without male credibility.
YES/NO
5. I sometimes think Lesbians aren't supportive to the struggles of ordinary women.
YES/NO
6. I sometimes think bisexual women take advantage of other women's struggles.
YES/NO
7. I sometimes think Lesbians/Heterosexuals are too dominant in the women's movement.
YES/NO
8. I am sometimes curious about the lives of Lesbian/Heterosexual/Bisexual women.
YES/NO

If you answered YES to even one question, have we got the workshop for you. It's called Homophobia and Misogyny, and it's in October.

Janna Taylor, the national chairwoman of Mediawatch puts on this workshop. It is for women of every sexual orientation to explore ways in which homophobia and misogyny affect their lives.

Janna did a shortened form of the workshop at the recent BC-Yukon Association of Women's Centres conference, and those of us who attended felt truly inspired. It was the highlight of the weekend.

Details of the Saturday workshop will be available soon. (Probably by the time you receive your Newsletter.)

D A T E L I N E S

SEPTEMBER

3rd DAWN, the Disabled Women's Network, meets from 2 - 4pm at the wheelchair accessible SWAG office. For information phone Reva Hutkin 385-4890

8th GOOD BOOKS BY WOMEN
This friendly, informal discussion group meets at 7:30pm, #4-1626 Rockland Avenue to talk about Janet Turner Hospital's Borderline. New women always welcome. For information 381-1012.

11th SWAG OPEN HOUSE
3 - 6pm in the SWAG office. Drop by for a chat and simple refreshments. If you haven't yet seen the new office, prepare to be amazed. 381-1012 for information.

11th WOMEN'S DANCE
Hot Flashes Women's Cafe presents an alcohol- and smoke-free dance. 9pm-lam at 106 Superior Street. Tickets \$3 at Everywomans Books and at the door.

13th PANEL DISCUSSION
International YW/YMCA sponsors a program of women from Ghana, South Africa, New Zealand, Grenada, and Peru, speaking on problems faced by women in their communities. Noon - 4pm. 386-7511 for information. No admission fee.

16th ALTERNATIVE CONSUMERISM
Victoria Business and Professional Women's Club meets at the Imperial Inn. 5pm. Speakers from the Network Buyers Association and LETS. Guests welcome. Inez Cole, 477-7908 for info.

17th RIGHTS OF OLDER WOMEN
7:15pm meeting at the SWAG Office. All women are welcome - no arbitrary age limits. 381-1012 for info.

18-19-20 STARHAWK
Pre-registration closes September 11th. No admission at the door. 381-1012 for information.

24 HOMOPHOBIA
WORKSHOP. 10am - 4pm
106 Superior St.
\$10.00

25-26th WORKING TOGETHER FOR CHANGE
Island Women's Conference. Port Alberni Women's Resources Society. \$15. Travel, accomodation, child care are subsidised. 724-7111 in Port Alberni for information. We have brochures in the office.



25-26th OFF THE STREET
Provincial Conference on Street Youth sponsored by Victoria Association for Street Kids and BC Public Interest Research Group. Elliott Bldg, University of Victoria. \$25, youth & students free. 383-3514 for information. We have brochures in the SWAG Office.

30th RADICAL FEMINIST THEORY GROUP.
Introductory meeting: who are we, what do we understand by radical feminist theory, how do we want to work together and other basic questions will be raised if not answered. Open to all women who think they might be interested. 7:30 at the SWAG Office. 381-1012 for information.

THURSDAY NOON TALKS

Thursday noon talks have become very popular. If you would like to see a particular topic addressed, or if you would like to hear a particular speaker, please let us know. If you have an area of interest or knowledge, do consider leading the discussion one week. There is usually a small, friendly group.

Talks resume, after the Summer break, in late September, and will run until next Summer.

Sept. 17 "Ethics of Power: The Contribution of Yvonne Spirituality" - By Yvonne Owen

Sept. 24 "The World Congress of Women" - By Milnor Alexander

Oct. 1 "Networking For Women in Management" - By Nola Landucci

OCTOBER

Oct. 8 "Simple, Low-Cost Funerals Arrangements" - BC Memorial Society

Oct. 15 "Lesbians & Babies" - By Jannit Rabinovitz of the Lavender Conception Conspiracy

Oct. 22, 29 TBA

1987 SPECTRUM SCHOOL SERIES
WEDNESDAYS, 7:30-9

SEPTEMBER

30th Feminism in Victoria.

30th FEMINISM IN VICTORIA
The contemporary feminist movement; feminist groups and resources available in the community, the province and across Canada. -Jean Kavanagh
October

7th IMAGES OF WOMEN IN THE MEDIA
How we see ourselves, and how society sees us, depends partly on how we are portrayed in the media. These portrayals are based on notions of what women are and should be like. -Leslie Wallace

14th WOMEN AND MONEY
Women are often economically dependent on men, and the majority of poor Canadians are women. You don't need large amounts of discretionary income in order to benefit from learning more about the mechanics of money and personal finances- Jean Wade.

21st WOMEN IN THE SEX TRADE
Video produced by Victoria Women Against Pornography about women working in the sex trade as dancers and prostitutes, followed by discussion- Jan Boutillier.

28th WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT
It is finally being recognized that in order for assistance to developing countries to make a lasting difference, the position of women in those societies must be improved. Slide/discussion with Lyn Hunter, Oxfam-Canada.

NOVEMBER

4th FEMINIST POSSIBILITIES: ALTERNATIVE FUTURES
Temporarily putting aside our concerns for the present realities facing women, we can create positive fantasy visions about what the future may hold. Joan Graves & Anna Paletta.