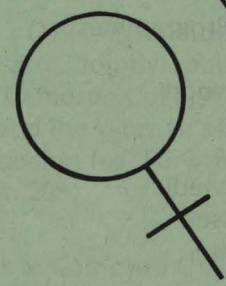


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swag STATUS OF WOMEN NEWS

**Taking Care
of
Ourselves**



February '81

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

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

ADDRESS: P.O. Box 6269, Stn. C,
Victoria, B.C. V8P 5L5

President:

Lois Vickery
552 Victoria Ave.,
598-1704

Vice-President (Programmes)

Gwen Bavin
1160 Greenwood
383-2502

Vice-President (Media)

Avis Rasmussen
3050 Uplands
598-3188

Vice-President (Projects)

Liz Bristowe
4834 Townsend
479-0937

Secretary (Correspondence)

Pam Blackstone
9026 West Saanich Rd.,
Sidney, RR#2
656-7776

Secretary (Recording)

Lynn Gough
4056 Saanich Rd.,
V8X 1Z5 479-2183

Treasurer

Diana Butler
2149 Granite
598-6964

Membership

Sylvia Watson
129 Ontario
V8V 1M8 382-3914

Contact Persons

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 Persons

Family Law	Gwen Bavin 383-2502
Education	Avis Rasmussen 598-3188
Human Rights	Norrie Preston 598-1390
Health	Susan Moger 592-4215
Labour	Stella Lord 595-2542
Feminist History	Alice Albert 382-1536
Archives	Alice Albert
Social Services	Elizabeth Hamlet 595-2569
Newsletter Editorial Board	Lois Vickery, Shirley Avril Catherine Winter
Editor	Catherine Winter 592-1281 Ext. 378

MEMBERSHIP Entitles you to a subscription to SWAG NEWS (\$7.50 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 fourth Monday of each month (except when it falls on a holiday) at the James Bay Community Center, 140 Oswego St., Meeting Room. 2, 7:30 p.m.

WHO? WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?

February 15, Sunday

Feminist History Group Meeting. 3050 Uplands Rd. at 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. Topic: Evelyn Farris by Tami Adelman.

February 21, Saturday

Alternatives to Isolation in NANAIMO at the Women's Centre (149 Wallace St.) 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Each women's group represented will have up to 12 minutes to share information about themselves. Bring a bag lunch. Supper will be \$5 each - we'll pool our money and go out. The evening will be a time of sharing music, stories, poetry. Bring your instruments etc. If you need *billeting* and/or *childcare* contact Nanaimo Rape Relief (753-1021) before Feb. 14th. **SWAG is looking for a delegate. If you can go contact Lois 598-1704.**

February 23, Monday

SWAG General Meeting 7:30 p.m. WITCHCRAFT. James Bay Community Center.

March 3, Tuesday

SWAG Coordinating Committee Meeting 7:30, 2149 Granite Street.

March 8, Sunday. International Women's Day

Bus Tour of Buildings and Homes of Famous Victoria Women. \$5.00 Tickets must be purchased in advance. Sponsored by the Women's Building Society. For information call LeeAnn Johnson at VIDEA 383-2333 or Cynthia Williams at University Extension UVIC 477-6911 ext. 4803.

International Women's Day Fair. Camosun College, Fisher Building. Noon to 4 p.m. Jointly sponsored by VIDEA, University of Victoria, Camosun College, the Inter-Cultural Association, BCGEU, and the Women's Building Society of Victoria. Nominal admission fee. For information call Barb Colombo 592-1281 ext. 208.

March 13, Friday

Debra Lewis will speak at Camosun College. She is the co-author of *Rape: the Price of Coercive Sexuality*. The talk is sponsored by the Camosun College Women's Society. For information call Beverley Kruitchof 386-4326.

March 15, Sunday

Feminist History Group 3:30 - 5 p.m. Topic: Equal pay for women in Britain by Lynn Gough.

March 13-16 Friday - Sunday

National Action Committee on the Status of Women Conference in Ottawa. Information available from Shirley Avril or Lois Vickery.

May 15-18 Friday - Monday

National Lesbian Conference in Vancouver. For information write: 1981 Lesbian Conference Committee, P.O. Box 65563, Station F, Vancouver, B.C.

June 4-6 Thursday - Saturday

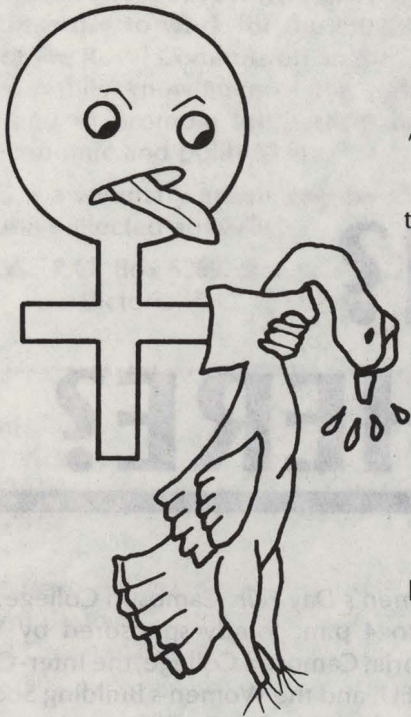
National Women's Network Conference in Vancouver. Information available from 228-2181 in Vancouver.

Memberships Due January, February

Jude Angione	Hellaute Friedmann	Carole Miller	Avis Rasmussen	Diane Bouthillier	Jean Nordstrom
Patty Beatty	Jo-Anne Ingram	M. Nixon	Mimi Robertson	Ella Brett	Grace Tse
Elma Cobb	Barbara Latham	Muriel Overgaard	Genevieve Singleton	Dona Casler	Carol Whitney
Shelley Dean	Maria Lockhart	Janet H. Patterson	Audrey Winkenhower	Astrid Davidson	Maxine Zurbrigg
Jesse Dillard	Elizabeth Mahon	Bel Paul	Alexandra Zacharias	Edith Forsyth	
Elaine Forsey	Caroline Meggison	Roberta Pazdro	Agnes Ages	Patricia McCarthy	

Membership is \$7.50 per year. Please send cheque payable to:
SWAG, P.O. Box 6269, Stn. C, Victoria, B.C. V8P 5L5
Any donations are welcome.

Turkey of the Month!



Ed McKenzie
for his column
"Say, girls, why
are you so
touchy?" in the
Standard. The
article was
written in
support of
Harry Hays
who kindly
sent us a
photocopy in
reply to our
letter about his
comment.

SWAG would like to thank Dallas Hanson of Design Typesetting Ltd. who did the paste-up for this issue free of charge. She also did the typesetting and gave assistance to the editor.

Letters

Editor
SWAG News,

Dear Ms. Avril,

I am dismayed at the cavalier treatment in the SWAG NEWS of December of Eugene Kaellis, a long time advocate of women's rights.

As I was not present at the CARAL meeting in question I cannot comment personally on his remarks. If in fact his recent letter to you contains an accurate report of what was said, I suggest that your reporter over-reacted considerably.

Your "Turkey-of-the-Month" feature is a powerful one and should not be used to tear strips off a supporter.

The word "trashing" is powerful also. Was what he said as destructive and insulting as that implies?

Would it not have been better to have discussed this with him personally later if it was not appropriate at the meeting?

Have we so many active male advocates for women's causes that we can afford to alienate them with cheap shots?

Sincerely,
Pat Carfra

Good News and Bad

From the Courtwatch the following: Bentey was given two years less a day on the charge of rape. He will receive psychiatric care voluntarily. After a long string of good character witnesses, the Judge said he should be ashamed to have let all those people down. The adversity of his childhood was no excuse in the Judge's eyes.

Jenny, who was raped on the Pat Bay Highway, has been fired from her job because she will have to take too much time off to testify.

From the Hospital Society: The Compulsory Pregnancy forces turned in 1800 memberships on January 31st.

From Everywoman's Books: Everywoman's celebrated their sixth anniversary on Saturday, February 14. Congratulations from SWAG.

Painting Classes

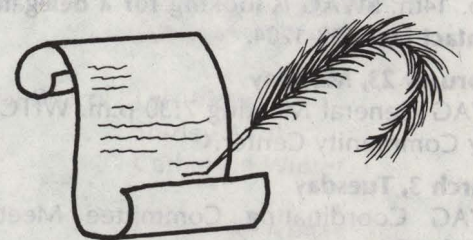
Phyllis will teach a painting class open to people at all levels. The class will explore old and new ideas in creativity.

Call Phyllis Serota 386-7659, 2625 Graham. **Price** \$80 for 10 weeks. **Starts** March 3rd, Tuesday.

Important New Book

In Her Own Right selected essays of Women's History in B.C. Edited by Cathy Kess and Barbara Latham. Limited edition. \$6.00 Order: In Her Own Right, Liberal and Applied Arts Division, Camosun College, 1950 Lansdowne Rd., Victoria, B.C. V8P 5J2. Make cheques payable to Camosun College.

The Women's Building Society has a new address:
P.O. Box 5264, Stn. B,
Victoria, B.C.
V8R 6N4



Mr. M. Daigneault,
Director of TV News,
Canadian Broadcasting Corporation,
Box 500, Terminal A,
Toronto, Ontario M5W 1E6

Dear Mr. Daigneault,

I am writing on behalf of the Status of Women Action Group to express our disappointment in the quality of news coverage regarding Doris Anderson's controversial resignation from the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women.

The CBC is no less guilty than other news media of not providing full, unbiased coverage of this matter. We feel that more members of the Advisory Council should have been interviewed, to provide the women of Canada with the fullest possible information on an issue so vital to us.

Coverage to date has been remarkably one sided.

Sincerely,
Pamela L. Blackstone

cc: Marguerite McDonald,
Social Affairs Reporter,
National Television News

The Editor,
Peninsula Free Press,
9803 Third St.,
Sidney, B.C.

Dear Sir:

I am writing on behalf of the Status of Women Action Group to express our concern at a cartoon which appeared in your January 28th issue.

Signed "Griffiths", it depicted an apparently smug husband "kicking" his wife at the alter.

This cartoon is in extremely poor taste, and lacks any noticeable humour, particularly considering the frequency of domestic violence in Canada. In 1978, an estimated 500,000 Canadian women were beaten by the men they live with. For approximately 10% of Canada's women, the scene your cartoonist chose to portray is a reality.

We are appalled that such a shocking and tasteless cartoon has appeared in a paper with an apparently enlightened editorial policy. Wife battering is not a cause for humour.

Sincerely,
P. L. Blackstone

January 27, 1981.

I am writing in reply to your letters concerning reports in the media that some members of the Knights of Columbus will withhold payment of a portion of their income tax as a form of protest against federal expenditures in relation to the matter of abortions.

As Minister of National Revenue, it is my duty to ensure that the tax law is applied in an equitable and fair manner to all taxpayers. The withholding of taxes as a means of protest against any particular law or policy is not legitimate and will not be tolerated. Every means available to the Department under the law to collect taxes owing will be used.

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As a practical matter, Revenue Canada ordinarily finds it most efficient to use a number of mechanisms to collect taxes owing. These include the offsetting of any tax refund against amounts owing; the garnishee of salary or wage, bank accounts or amounts due from other parties; and the seizure and sale of assets.

Naturally, if for any reason these methods fail, which would be highly unlikely, other avenues can be followed including court action. I would expect however that our normal collection procedures will be more than adequate to carry out the requirements of the Income Tax Act.

Yours Sincerely,
William H Rompkey

January 13, 1981

Lois Vickery
SWAG
552 Victoria Ave.
Victoria, B.C.
V8S 4M6

Dear Lois,

We wish to thank you very much for the presentation you made to the Task Force Panel concerning the issues affecting older women.

It's from contributions like yours and those from the women attending the Hearings that we will be able to push these issues into public focus, a necessary stage in the process of getting action to correct the problems.

We so appreciate your taking the time and giving of your knowledge.

When the report is completed next year, we will be pleased to send you a copy. We hope you will be able to support the recommendations that come out of it.

Again, many thanks.

Sincerely,
Gloria Levi,
Chairwoman,
Task Force on Older Women

ANNUAL REPORTS 1980

President's Report

1980 proved to be a productive year despite the rotating chair and an aggressive anti-choice faction.

Many letters were written on a variety of topics/statements, numerous form letters on abortion were distributed, networking increased among women's group, we commenced monitoring court cases, and produced a resolution on midwifery.

Three briefs were submitted on 1) Sexism in the Schools, 2) Women's Concerns (Federal), and 3) Older Women.

Our video presentation, "50 Years as Persons", was shown on local TV and we have retained a copy.

Meetings were generally well attended with the largest drawing card being Mary Daly's GYN/ECOLOGY.

The annual conference with the focus on Sisterhood (networking) was a tremendous success with very positive feedback.

Rotating the chair was a mixed blessing. It did succeed in terms of sharing responsibility, but the lack of continuity was felt by all people chairing.

Lois, Cathy, Gwen, Avis, Josephine, Susan, Alice, Diana.

Education Committee Chair Report 1980-81

by Avis Rasmussen

First, followup of action which had been taken by Mary Kafka, previous chairperson of the Education Committee shows: The SWAG Education brief to the Commission on Education SD 61, chaired by B. Gillie resulted in recommendation #68, "That the Board through the B.C. School Trustees Association bring strong pressure to bear on the Ministry of Education to launch a program for the elimination of all racist and sexist material found in present school text books." p.86 Report of a Commission on Education SD61 Sept. 1980; a statement was made in conjunction with the Justice Council concerning legal education in High Schools. Hon. Brian Smith, at the hearing Oct./80 Monterey School, confirmed orally that Family Law will not be deleted from the Gr. eleven law course.

Actions this year include:

A questionnaire (plus brief report) regarding pre-school sexism and sex bias in University required reading and courses printed in the newsletter.

Conference work on my part coordination the workshop

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leader, following Josephine's organization of this, ordering on *Herstory 1981* from Gray's Publishing, Sidney, letters etc.

A six point brief written and read for the hearing on Education at Monterey Elementary School in October, 1980. The brief was printed in the January newsletter.

Resource person for the Education Committee which means helping women who want information or are trying to solve problems in sexism in education. The committee has excellent files built up over the years by previous chairwomen and committees. Sexism and Education, was a summer project carried out by Christina Johnson, Dean and Rob Pazdro a few years ago and the information is still relevant.

Meetings attended:

Completion of a term as member of the Community Council of Social Work UVic

Business and Professional Women, courtesy of Dorothy Maxwell with a panel of alderwomen speaking. Conference announced.

Women's Building Committee meetings; first on constitution, then Resources and Research

Last meeting of the Advisory Council for Community Education Programs for Women.

Avis Rasmussen

Health Committee

The Health Committee is small - in fact this past year it has basically consisted of two members - Susan Moger and myself. We have felt rather overwhelmed and unable to do all that needs to be done but we did attend to a number of issues and we worked on a few projects.

We continued with the doctor questionnaires that were printed in the fall of 1979. We have gathered in about sixty and are getting a picture of which doctors are good and which should be avoided. We haven't done a thorough analyses, however, because we are discouraged about the point of doing it. There is no women's center to make the information available to women and Susan and I are getting tired of taking calls at home. Actually, Susan is still willing to receive calls. I don't want to get any more!

We put quite a lot of energy into the issues of midwifery and home birth. I attended a conference on midwifery in Vancouver in February and wrote a report on it for the Newsletter. One of the best results of attending the conference was making contact with some of the members of the Victoria Society for Alternatives in Childbirth. A number of women from SWAG attended Margaret Marsh's trial. We were pleased that she was found not guilty. She still faces charges from the B.C. College of Physicians and Surgeons of practising midwifery without a license. We will be watching for the trial and will do what we can in her support. Lois Vickery and I wrote a position paper on midwifery which was discussed and approved by the membership and printed in the Newsletter.

Susan has been continuing her work with the menopause program that she started while working with Prime Time.

One of the most enjoyable activities of the year was our participation in the James Bay Health Festival in April. We made a banner for the occasion - big, blue, felt letters and a large women's symbol on a bright orange background. We rather like it.

**TAKING CARE
OF
OURSELVES**



(The banner has had further use at the SWAG fall conference and most recently in a window display at Everywoman's Books.) At the festival we set up a display table using various books, pamphlets and a short information handout. We made a lot of good contacts at the Festival and felt pleased to provide some feminist perspectives of health issues.

These were our main activities for the year. There are many more issues that need to be worked on. I am feeling very burned out and want to withdraw. Susan is still willing to work on women's health concerns but she doesn't want to chair the committee. However, if anyone is interested in working on a health committee, please feel free to contact her - phone 592-4215.

Cathy Mountain

Labour Committee Report

The past year has not been a very active year. This state of affairs is partly due to a seeming lack of interest in members to become involved and work on labour issues (at least within SWAG Committee structure). Partly it is due to my own lack of energy in organizing anything regarding labour - my energies over the past year have been spent on other SWAG activities and on some personal interests outside SWAG.

There are a few positive things to report however. These are as follows: assistance with the Conference and a labour component to that conference - "Creating Work from Home" and "Building Unions for Women"; organizing an issue of the Newsletter on labour issues with contributions from Jean Newton and Jeanette Poirier; organizing a monthly meeting on farm and domestic workers with particular assistance from Jeanette Poirier (who has become an executive member of SORWUC and keeps in close touch with happenings in that area); some counselling of women who phone for assistance with work related problems e.g. sexual harassment, firings, UIC, etc.; maintaining contact with and working on various community based labour concerned organizations, e.g. The Women's Employment Committee, which has involved information exchange and lobbying - both written and face to face.

I have been chairperson of the Labour Committee for almost four years and I feel it is time to move on and let someone else take over and for me to work in another area. I hope someone will come forward and agree to do the job as it is certainly an important area for women to be concerned and actively involved in. there are many areas

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where no progress has been made e.g. wage differentials and other areas where only little progress has been made for some time e.g. day care, stereotyping, pensions, etc.

I urge you to get involved and help to make sure that 1981 in this area is better and more productive than 1980.

Thanks,
Diana Butler

Feminist History Group

Two of the most exciting things that took place in 1980 were our ability to attract new participants and formulate a successful format. Our group now consists of approximately twelve women most of whom attend the meetings; but the core of six women ensure the continuance of our group. During 1980 we met approximately seven times with a guest speaker. Topics ranged from Liberal women in the 1920's to One Woman's Experience with the CNR. We also do focus on women outside B.C. and Canada — for example, one of our subjects dealt with working class women in Glasgow, Scotland at the end of the nineteenth and beginning of the twentieth centuries.

Because of the apparent success of 1980, we propose to meet on a regular basis. Of course, we are open to new members and would appreciate any woman who has a subject that she wishes to talk on to contact the Co-Ordinator. It is most important to stress that while our group is entitled "Feminist History Group," we do present and encourage an interest in contemporary issues and not those necessarily with an historical thesis. In fact we will deal with the issue of prostitution later in this year!

Problems beset any group and we are no exception. Lack of funds prevent better advertising; and a permanent location to meet. I should like to take this opportunity to thank all those members who have donated their living rooms and refreshments. Once Victoria has her Woman's Building at least one problem will be resolved.

One of the most singular events that we undertook this year was the creation and presentation of '50 Years As Persons' — a documentary on the achievement of political rights for women in Victoria — which was shown on Cable 10 in May and June, 1980. SWAG, as Lois has mentioned in her report, kindly bought a copy of the programme which is available from the Archives by request.

We look forward to continuing success in 1981 and have already held one meeting, with two more scheduled. The next will take place on Sunday 15 February at 3:30 p.m., once again, at the home of Avis. The topic will 'Evelyn Farris' to be presented by Tami Adelman.

Thank you members of SWAG

Alice J. Albert
Co-Ordinator

Annual Meeting: Archives Report

This will be a short report due to the fact that the condition of the Archives remains much the same as it was when I

took over a few months ago. There are a number of boxes full of important resource materials, from which all members of SWAG are welcome to borrow from. Unfortunately until I get more room in our basement the organization of the Archives will remain in a rudimentary format.

Please do not be put off. Some members have already borrowed material — in fact would they see me or phone me. I shall have to institute a system of borrowing as the 'honour' system does not seem to be working.

Most months recent acquisitions appear in the newsletter. Any suggestions as to an improvement on the presentation will be more than welcome. I anticipated a busier year when more women will avail themselves of the facilities.

Thank You.

Alice J. Albert
Archivist.

SWAG NEWS Editor's Report

submitted by Shirley Avril
January 26, 1981

Last January I began publication of SWAG NEWS. Lois Vickery had re-established the newsletter after it had floundered through a time of collective effort. The paper I inherited from her was informative, provocative and well received. I saw my task as one of improving layout and increasing distribution.

One of my last jobs as president in 1979 was to work with Mary Jane Lewis on updating and reorganizing the membership and subscription files. These files had, through lack of attention, fallen into great disorder. Mary Jane and I pared the list down to 149 paid-up subscriptions. The number now stands at 275. I am satisfied with this increase. However, as many of you realize, the membership files are again in disorder because of tertiary care since Mary Jane left the job last June.

The increase in distribution was at least partially due to the efforts carried out under the Secretary of State funded 'communication network' project. From October 1979 to June 1980 I distributed between 200 to 600 complimentary copies of SWAG NEWS to libraries, recreation centers, women's groups and interested individuals all over Vancouver Island. A trip was made in January 1980 to introduce the newsletter personally to as many groups as possible. Ideas and information were solicited at that time for content, layout and distribution. A follow-up trip was made in June 1980 at which time many new people were contacted and feedback was collected from those familiar with the newsletter.

The objective of the communication network project was to develop SWAG NEWS as a vehicle for networking urban and rural women. While this goal is a long way from being achieved, our distribution is indeed wider than it was and tentative personal connections have been established between women from a variety of areas. The essential ingredient necessary to make the newsletter welcomed

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and used as a net-work vehicle is local news and issue analysis. It is my opinion that this will be impossible without the continuous solicitation and pickup of material from all areas of geographical distribution. While everyone agrees that locally written material is 'the best' no one seems to get the copy to the editor.

I have made considerable effort to improve layout. Basically the steps have been simple — Letraset here; border lines there; regular columns. The original copy is all on file so there can be continuity. During the year I made increasing use of the gestafax electrically made stencils. These supposedly make better copy from original or copied material. There are, however, inherent problems and it is my opinion that while the machine could make stencils of material that it was otherwise impossible to reproduce on the gestetner machine, the final product was questionable to say the least. Since September I have made extensive use of the gestafax stencils as the typist, Joan Pearson, moved to Vancouver. I think you would agree that the copy produced has been unsatisfactory.

The feedback regarding content and generally speaking, the layout of the newsletter this year has been good. SWAG membership has always considered the newsletter a priority and for large numbers of people it has been a major contact with feminist issues. It is my information that this continues to be true.

As outgoing editor/publisher/printer of SWAG NEWS I have two major recommendations:

1. The newsletter would be best produced by a team of at least two people plus the coalating crew. My suggestion would be that the duties be divided thus:
 - a) editor A responsible for collection and editing of major articles, reports etc.
 - b) editor B responsible for regular columns, space fillers and layout.

These people could conceivably type their own pages and produce camera ready copy.

2. The newsletter is best printed commercially.
 - a) The job of printing with a gestetner machine is tedious and produces frustrating, bad results.
 - b) Well printed material is always legible and infinitely more attractive.
 - c) Judging from the response (nil) to calls for a new editor most of us do not have the time to take on this job. If it is important, then we simply must pay to have it done.

Respectfully submitted:
Shirley Avril.

Conference Report

The SWAG 1980 Fall Conference —**Celebrating Sisterhood**— was a success! We had thought, and crossed our fingers, that we might have 250 participants, but in the end we had close to 300. Financially, as well, the Conference was a success. The fee (\$7.50 plus \$2.50 for lunch) brought in nearly \$2500.00 and we were given a

grant by the Federal Secretary of State Department of \$2000.00 This revenue more than covered our expenses (and for once we were able to pay honoraria to our hardworking workshop leaders). We were also able to put aside some money to help to operate SWAG over the next year and keep dues down to a minimum.

The Conference was organized over many months and represented much hard work. In the main the primary organizers were — Josephine Payne O'Connor (Co-ordination, Conference theme, and organization), Avis Rasmussen (workshop leaders), Alice Albert (physical facilities and lunch), Diana Butler (grant, treasurer, displays and registration), Susan Slatkoff (publicity), Elzby Jazwinsky (posters and registration forms) and the many SWAG members who gave additional advice and assistance before and during the Conference.

The theme of the Conference was celebration — celebration of being a woman as an individual and as part of a larger group who care for and support each other. The Conference dealt with both our successes and our failures. It examined problems and barriers we still face, it indicated ways and means to overcome these, it provided information about ourselves and asked that we explore further, it examined our culture and society and brought us in touch with our roots.

The Conference was organized around twelve different workshops: *Women as Parents* a discussion of issues around birth and motherhood, led by Pearl Denny; *Women and Sanity* a critique of traditional coping strategies and a discussion of feminist alternatives, led by Lois Vickery and Rowena Hunnisett; *Daughters of the Earth* an exploration of ancient wicca and the possibilities for modern wicca (witchcraft), led by Jean Kozocari; *Poverty and Power* an examination of poverty as violence against women and of solutions to this problem, led by Rosemary Brown; *Saving the Earth* a discussion of women's crucial role in saving our Mother Earth, led by Toni Bacon; *Creating Work from Home* strategies for building economic independence for ourselves at home, led by Joyce Backland and Jocelyn Gifford; *Women Against Violence* a videotape discussion of surviving violence, led by Jude Angione; *Feminist Party of Canada* exploring ways to build our own women's political party, led by Muriel Gough-Azmier and Josephine Payne O'Connor; *Rituals for a Woman's Life/Native Indian Celebration* a presentation of rituals in dance and song for women, led by Rose Whims; *Building Unions for Women* strategies for building power at work, led by Jeanette Poirier and Pat Barter; *The Fairy Tale Princess* an exploration of the impact of feminine ideals in the lives of young girls, led by Jennifer Waelti-Walters and Frances Ricks; *Mother and the Older Child* a discussion of the responsibilities we have to our older children and ourselves, led by Bet McMurchey.

The Conference took place at the University of Victoria in the McLaurin Building on Saturday, November 1st. We had the use of a large lecture hall for the plenary sessions, the foyer and corridor outside the hall for the lunch and displays, and several classrooms for the workshops. This space was made available through the assistance of the Women's Action Group at UVIC.

Our thanks to them. In the evening the Conference adjourned to the Unitarian Church for a dramatic presentation by Linda Hardy, then a cash bar and dance. Coffee, tea and juice at the Conference were provided on donation by the Centennial Day Care. Our thanks to them as well.

Over twenty groups displayed at the Conference on tables ranged along a wide hallway. The groups and organizations who provided displayed material and information included Everywoman's Books, The Women's Society, the Rape Assault Centre, the Business and Professional Women's Club, the B.C. Women's Institute, the Multi-Cultural Association, the Vancouver Island Co-Operative Pre-School Association, the UVIC Women's Action Group Divorce Lifeline, Alternatives in Childbirth, CARAL, SORWUC, Women's Studies at Camosun College, the Law Centre, SWAG, the Feminist Party of Canada, the Widow's Association, the Canada-China Friendship Centre, the Victoria Coalition for Disarmament, and the Transition House. Several other groups expressed interest but due to timing and resources were unable to display this year. Clearly though, a wide range of community based and feminist organizations were able and happy to come and the response of conference participants indicates this is an important aspect of the SWAG Conference.

Feedback forms were distributed at the Conference and approximately 25% of participants responded. The results for the organizers were very gratifying and are as follows:

Who Attended: For 67% of respondents this was their first SWAG Conference and most respondents (again 67%) were not members of SWAG. Obviously the Conference meets a response across the community.

Publicity: Most respondents first heard about the Conference by word of mouth (50%) or from poster (30%). The organized media - TV, Radio and newspapers were not very important in spreading the word about the Conference except for providing additional information and laterally greater interest in the Conference. Some 36% of respondents felt that publicity was effective, but many either had no comment (again 36%) or felt it could be improved (27%). Improvements suggested that posters needed times, places and topics outlined. As well it was felt by many that more posters were needed especially outside Victoria.

Registration: Most (79%) of respondents liked the format of the registration form, some had no comment and only 9% did not like it, basically because they felt it needed more information on it. Some 67% of respondents said it was easy to register for the Conference, 20% had no comment and only 14% said it wasn't.

Cost and Location: Almost all the respondents felt the cost was satisfactory - only 4 commented that it was too much. All the respondents liked the location of the Conference.

Displays: 97% of respondents viewed the displays at the Conference and the same number said they were worthwhile. Suggestions were made as to other groups

who might be asked to display e.g. ethnic groups, holistic health groups, environmental groups, senior's groups, and financial institutions. Other suggestions such as non-status Indians, FLAG, Planned Parenthood and Silver Threads were asked, but for one reason or another did not display.

Lunch: Most (70%) said the cost (\$2.50) of lunch was satisfactory, and 73% said the selection was fine. In both cases another 21% had no comment. Lunch consisted of vegetarian or non-vegetarian sandwiches, fruit, juice and dessert (68% of respondents bought lunch at the Conference). Half the respondents said the location of lunch in the foyer was satisfactory, many added comments that it was casual, informal, relaxing, encouraged chatting and networking. Another 47% had no comment.

Babysitting: 76% of respondents said they did not need babysitting, another 21% made no comment. Obviously, but somewhat surprisingly, babysitting was not a great need for the majority of women at the Conference.

Conference Format: Some 76% of respondents said they liked the Conference being on a single day with same day entertainment. Only 8% said they didn't. This is a good indication of preference for future Conference Planning.

Workshops: Some 85% of respondents said the choice of workshops was satisfactory. However, as to length there was a split - 58% said the workshops were not long enough (most commonly preferring 1½ hours to 1 hour) and 30% said they were long enough. 68% felt the workshop sizes were appropriate to the topic and style of the workshop leader - the most common dissenting opinion was "the smaller the better". Most (61%) said 4 workshops in day were fine, although 22% said they wanted more. Similarly 61% said they were satisfied with the information and discussion in their workshops. Where respondents disagreed (some 17%) most wanted longer workshops and more discussion and some felt certain leaders could have been better organized and prepared. Just over half the respondents said the workshop leaders were satisfactory - most said they were good to excellent; 26% had no comment; and, the remainder stated some leaders were not clear or organized (particular concern was expressed on the Native Indian workshop).

General Comments: The comments written out on the feedback form under this heading are generally more than favorable e.g. "Had fun networking", "Super conference", "enjoyable", "thanks", "will be back again", "great day", "congratulations to organizers for a smoothly running, quality day", "informative", "valuable day", "feeling of togetherness", etc. Several made suggestions for future conferences e.g. workshops on radical feminism and being a wife/lover - are they compatible, mothers and daughter, women and medicine, women in the third world, single women, and, not having children. Other suggestions included having a whole weekend conference, a narrower focus

and deeper discussion for workshops, having more open forum time for topics to be raised by individual women, and having a list of women's organizations in Vancouver and Victoria and a contact person.

All in all, if the feedback forms are any indication the Conference was a success. We thank all who took the time to fill out and return the forms as they help us in assessing the strengths and weaknesses of the Conference and in

planning future Conferences. And with this Conference now behind us, it is not too soon to start thinking about the next, ensuring that it will take place and be as good, if not better than this year's. A Conference organizing committee will be formed in the next few months so if you are interested do lend a hand and make the next one both a reality and a valuable event.

Diana Butler

Notice of Motion

A motion will be made at the March meeting to change the bylaws of the Constitution.

Page 2 Section 4 now reads:

4. Seven directors shall be elected at the general meeting by the majority present on a show of hands.

The directors shall become the following officers.

President
Vice President (2)
Recording Secretary
Corresponding Secretary
Treasurer
Membership Secretary

Proposed ammendment:

Paragraph 1 delete "seven"

Paragraph 2 delete "The directors shall become . . . Membership Secretary" Replace Paragraph 2 with:

The directors will be known as the Coordinating Committee and become the following officers:

Co-ordinator
Programs
Media
Conference
Correspondence
Recording Secretary
Treasurer
Membership

Times—Colonist Jan. 28, 1981

Preston Condemns Anderson's 'Smear'

By Stephen Hume

A member of the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women said in Victoria Tuesday that former chairman Doris Anderson has created a distorted impression of events leading up to her resignation.

Norrie Preston, a Victoria resident and council member for the past five years, is the first council member to speak out in the press following Anderson's resignation last week from her \$46,000 a year job.

Preston returned from Ottawa last Saturday after attending the council's meeting where Anderson, 55, a former editor of Chatelaine magazine, resigned after a majority of the council voted against her plans to proceed with a women's conference on the constitution.

Anderson said her executive had caved in to pressure from Lloyd Axworthy, minister responsible for the status of women.

But Preston disagreed, saying it was "basically a showdown over the way she conducted her chairmanship."

Preston told the Times-Colonist Tuesday that events leading up to Anderson's resignation had been simmering since last spring and had little to do with interference from Axworthy.

Preston said: "I finally decided to go to the media after realizing that Anderson was intent on carrying out a continuing smear campaign against the members."

"Contrary to news reports, she lost the confidence of her executive not over ministerial interference, but her failure to consult with the council and be responsive to its consensus."

"Resigning was the proper thing for Anderson to do because she had lost the confidence of her executive and the majority of her council."

Preston said Anderson told the council that she hadn't learned how to control her executive.

"That indicated her view that the executive was a body to control, not work with."

"Council members felt they were being hampered with in their work and were unhappy. Anderson arranged the agendas in such a way that council members had little opportunity to do committee work."

"It's important for a women's group to operate through consensus and not through the kind of hierarchical decision-making process you would have with a boss and his subordinates."

"Since last spring it became evident that she saw working by consensus as a weakness."

Preston said Anderson was more upset by interference from the executive and council than by any interference from the minister.

Preston, chairman of the council's employment committee, said Anderson told her last June she was not prepared to accept certain recommendations on employment because they "might annoy the minister." (Axworthy is also the minister responsible for employment and immigration.)

"But she was reminded by the committee that she was obligated to present the recommendations to the full council," Preston said.

The mandate of the 30 member council, established in 1973 by the federal government, is to advise the government on its policies toward women.

ARCHIVES

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Feminist Newsletter and Resources:

IWTC (International Women's Tribune Centre — No. 13 3rd Quarter 1980

Lavender Sheets (Lesbian Organization of Toronto) — Summer 1980, October 1980

CARAL — Sept 1980

Equal Times (Federal N.D.P.) — v. 2-#2 Sept. 1980

The Ontario Status of Women-Committee — Fall 1980

NAC Memo — October 1980

FLAG Rag — Nov. 1980

PNL — Nov. 1980

Bulletin — v.4-#8 Dec. 1980

Broadside — v. 2-#1,2 Oct./Nov. 1980 v. 2-#3 Dec./Jan. 1980

Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women-WOMEN, HUMAN RIGHTS and the CONSTITUTION, by Beverly Baines — Oct. 1980

Canadian Association of Sexual Assault Centres — Nov. 1980

NAC: presentation to the Senate, House of Commons, Special Joint Committee on the Constitution of Canada — Nov. 1980

Vancouver Status of Women: A Presentation to the Minister of Education, the Hon. Brian Smith — Dec. 1, 1980

Resource Material

Draper Fund Report, Improving the Status of Women #9 — October 1980

Divorce; Custody, & etc.- selection of articles on Women's Programs, UVIC Extension — for Spring 1980

FRYWORK PROJECT: sponsor - Elizabeth Fry Society — October 1980

Human Rights Commission of B.C. - newsletter v. 2-#3 — October 1980

ACTION (on the International Year of the Disabled) — October 1980

House of Commons Debates: Actions and Questions by NDP members in the 32nd Parliament on the Status of Women — Apr./Jul. 1980

Notes for a Speech by Ed Broadbent to the Canadian Public Personnel Management Association, Chateau Laurier, Ottawa — Thurs. 19 June, 1980

Canadian Human Rights Commission: Press Release on compensation paid to five parties — Nov.1980

Notes for an Address by R.G.L. Fairweather, Chief Commissioner, Canadian Human Rights Commission, to the Special Joint Committee on the Constitution of Canada, Ottawa (Fr. and Eng.) — Nov. 1980

Presentation by the Canadian Human Rights Commission to the Special Joint Committee on the Constitution of Canada (Fr. and Eng.) — Nov. 1980

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announcing

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GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY FEBRUARY 23

WITCHCRAFT

7:30 James Bay Recreation Centre

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