

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

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

ADDRESS: P.O. Box 6296, Stn. C,
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381-1012

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February	— Stella Lord
March	— Diana Butler
April	— Josephine Payne-O'Conner
May	— Catherine Winter
June	— Alice Albert
July	— Gwen Bavin
August	— Alice Albert
September	— Avis Rasmussen
October	— Pam Blackstone
November	— Stella Lord
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Contact Women

Each of the Contact Persons has a particular area of interest in women's issues. Members who share that interest or, have a concern or problem in that area are encouraged to make contact.

Contact Women

B.C.F.W.	Sylvia Watson 382-3914 Stella Lord 595-2542
Family Law	Gwen Bavin 383-2502
Education	Jean Newton 598-3786 Marguerite Mousseau 479-1572
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 Stella Lord
Editor	Catherine Winter 389-2959
Cover Design	Avis Rasmussen 598-3188

MEMBERSHIP Entitles you to a subscription to SWA NEWS (\$10.00 per year) — a completely volunteer effort dependent upon your contributions... poems, article 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 Women's Building, 760 Yates, 7:30 p.m.

WHO? WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?

May 22-July 4

The Dinner Party is at the Art Gallery of Ontario in Toronto.

June 24, Thursday

Victoria Women's Network will have Eileen Hendry, Western Vice-President of the Advisory Council on the Status of Women to speak on Networking and the Advisory Council. 7 p.m. Imperial Inn. No-host bar. Members \$3.50, Non-members \$4.50. For information call Lynn Gough 384-7825

June 28, Monday

SWAG Pot Luck Barbecue. 6:30 p.m. 3050 Uplands. (Map on inside back cover)

July 5-August 14

Women and Education Summer Institute. Theme: Prairie Women in the 80's. At the University of Saskatchewan. Information from: WESI Co-ordinator, Room 3087 College of Education, Univ. of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon S7N 0W0 Ph: 343-5327

July 16, Wednesday

Business and Professional Women Meeting. Speaker: Dr. Carol Johnson Topic: Six Months of Teaching English in China. Illustrated with slides. Gathering 6 p.m. dinner 6:30 p.m., speaker 7:30 p.m. at the Imperial Inn.

July 16-18, Friday - Sunday

Vancouver Folk Music Festival. Included are: Ferron, Meg Christian, The Robin Flower Band, Holly Near and Cris Williamson. Jericho Beach Park. In Victoria, tickets at: Victoria Folklore Centre, 539 Pandora, 383-3412 or Richard's Records 1318 Government, 383-2733

July 25, Sunday

Feminist History Group. Pot Luck Barbecue 3 p.m. Topic: A Personal Perspective on the Toronto Women's Movement. For venue-call Alice the week before - 382-1536



FESTIVAL 82

A CELEBRATION OF

WOMEN IN THE ARTS

July 5 - 15

Robson Square Media Centre

- | | | |
|--------|------------|----------------------------|
| July 5 | 8 p.m. | Opening |
| 6 | 8 p.m. | Film Night |
| 7 | 8 p.m. | Featured Reading |
| 8 | 8 p.m. | Play - Rites of Passage |
| 9 | 8 p.m. | Rites of Passage |
| 10 | 10-12:30 | Workshops |
| | 1-4:30 | Open Reading |
| | 8 p.m. | Film Night |
| 11 | 10-12:30 | Workshops |
| | 12:30-1:30 | Music and Lunch |
| | 1:30-4:30 | Panel on Women in the Arts |
| | 8 p.m. | Music Concert |
| 12 | 8 p.m. | Video Night |
| 13 | 8 p.m. | Evening of Dance |
| 14 | 8 p.m. | Poetry and Folk Music |
| 15 | 8 p.m. | Finale |

Turkey of the Month!

JUDGE WILLIAM

REINICKE



Who labeled a child rape victim promiscuous

see p.9 for more info.

Letters



May 3, 1982

Ms. Pamela L. Blackstone,
Correspondence Coordinator,
Status of Women Action Group,
Box 6206, Station C,
Victoria, B.C. V8P 5L5

Dear Ms. Blackstone:

After a six month delay, I have finally received a response to my letter to the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs resulting from my inquiry on your behalf last October 20th.

The Minister has chosen to hide behind the legal system in this matter in choosing not to comment. However, I share your hope that all the cases before the court will be dismissed in due course.

Please do not hesitate to write to me again should you wish to comment further on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Allan McKinnon.

The Honourable Allan McKinnon, P.C.M.P.
House of Commons,
Ottawa, Ont. K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. McKinnon: April 29, 1982

Please accept my apologies for the delay in replying to your previously acknowledged letter of October 7, 1981 concerning the occupation by Indian people of the British Columbia Regional Office.

Since the prosecution of charges resulting from the occupation is wholly within the jurisdiction of the Attorney General of British Columbia, I am unable to comment on the matter. I am sure you are aware, however, that four cases were dismissed in court, and the Crown has entered a stay of proceedings on all outstanding charges.

Yours sincerely,

John C. Munro.

May 4, 1982

D.L. Hartwig
Managing Director
Operations and Services Division
Ministry of Education
Victoria, B.C. V8V 4S2

Dear Mr. Hartwig:

Your School Library Book Purchase Plan has not selected in Her Own Right: Selected Essays on Women's History in B.C. for distribution to the province's schools. I fail to see how it does not meet your criteria: recently made in B.C., for B.C., for all time, for a

wide audience. In Her Own Right is unique; it is not just one more book on armies, emigrants, railroads, tow-boats, totem poles, horses, rivers and weather. As far as I can gather from your "accepted list", the books chosen for B.C. schools overwhelmingly favour male culture. Equally clearly, I can see we need a "Woman Content" law to govern our ideological structures since women's political and cultural invisibility continues to be perpetuated, even by your 1982 committee.

My anger is not a result of lost sales, since In Her Own Right has been very successful. My anger is caused by your bureaucratic refusal to give even minute support to hundreds of adolescents, and maybe their teachers, who are looking for examples of women participants in the building of B.C.

I would like a report in writing, indentifying the criteria which prevented In Her Own Right from being suitable for B.C. secondary school libraries--and don't tell me it's because of its soft cover and black and white photography.

Barbara Latham
Editor, In Her Own Right

May 9, 1982

Sawyer Sewing Centres
840 Fort St.
Victoria, B.C.

To Whom It May Concern:

Your advertisement on page 18 of the May 7 - 13, 1982 issue of "Monday Magazine" sexually exploits a child in order to get "Daddy's" attention. Whether intended or not, this exploitation is unacceptable, especially as a Mother's Day come-on. Can I have your assurance that good taste and good sense will prevail in the future?

Sincerely,
Ms. C More

Copy: SWAG (J. Payne O'Connor)
Similar complaint: Monday Mag.

May 18, 1982

Gene Miller
Pres. Monday Publications
823 Broughton Street
Victoria, B.C. V8W 1E5

Dear Mr. Miller:

Enclosed herewith a copy of correspondence with Sawyer Sewing Centre re an advertisement appearing in your magazine.

We would add to this self-explanatory letter that we also view the recent Harpo's advertisement for the "Models" as offensive to women, using

this woman in a redundant phallic theme. Again we received complaints and concern from the public.

Our intention here is to request that Monday establish standards for non-sexist, non-exploitive advertising and accepts only ads that conform to those guidelines.

Sincerely,
Valerie Naiad
WOMEN AGAINST
PORNOGRAPHY

May 18, 1982

Sawyer Sewing Centre
840 Fort Street
Victoria, B.C.
To The Manager:

We want to express our outrage at the advertisement you placed recently in Monday Magazine.

The ad depicted a naked little girl, on all fours, tape measure wrapped around her, submissively (and timidly) looking to "Daddy", chin resting on your "ELNA" machine.

We view this as extremely offensive, depicting nothing less than oppressive and incestuous themes. Your attempt to sell your merchandise through the exploitation of the vulnerability of this particular little girl (and all those she represents) is degradation in a most blatant form.

We are corresponding with you on behalf of the many people who have registered complaints with us and in an effort to increase your awareness of the true impact of this debasing sort of advertising. (Research indicates this sort of imagery contributes to the increasing occurrence of incest /abuse.)

Should Sawyer Sewing Centre continue to use exploitive themes we will take steps to bring it to the public's attention, and suspect this may involve a decline in sales for you.

Sincerely,
Valerie Naiad
for WOMEN AGAINST
PORNOGRAPHY

May 25, 1982

To: The House of Commons Standing
Committee on Justice and Legal
Affairs

Re: Decriminalization of
Prostitution

Please be advised that the Victoria Status of Women fully endorses the recommendations contained in the appended brief concerning the decriminalization of prostitution.

The major points emphasized in this brief and the recommendations made, concur with our position on this subject, as discussed in Chapter 11, (f)(iv) of our recent brief, Changing

Times: Women and Employment in B.C.

We share the belief that the present laws are discriminatory and unfairly penalize women, while allowing the men who comprise both the market and the merchandizers of the service virtual immunity.

We also believe the economic and other factors which lead women to a life of prostitution are not well recognized or understood. Furthermore, laws against soliciting are clearly designed to protect men (from unwelcome sexual advances and/or slurs upon their character). We ask why there are no laws to protect women from the sexual solicitations we experience daily. The double standard here is clear and contemptible.

Moreover, the present law has long proven ineffective, as it has dismally failed to deter soliciting, and as it leads to the massive expenditure of public funds processing women through the judicial system. In considering alternatives, the vital distinction between decriminalization and legalization -- as it would affect the women concerned -- must be clearly understood. We support decriminalization; we, IN NO WAY, support legalization. Decriminalization would function to allow prostitutes some autonomy from the judicial system, and thus licensing and taxation of earnings, implies not only the state's approval of, but also complicity in, prostitution and the attendant violence of this lifestyle. This is, quite simply, big government as pimp.

No campaign to eliminate prostitution will succeed without the establishment of outreach programs, to offer support assistance, and tangible resources to these women. Quality, unbiased counselling and government-subsidized job skills training and/or educational up-grading are equally essential. Prostitution is not a victimless crime. The women who do this type of work are "victims" of a society which, commercializes female sexuality; prostitution is one of many ways this commoditization of women, and the transferring of our sexuality into economic terms, takes place. A woman who, with her economic security in mind, "marries into money", enters an agreement supposedly allowing her husband the use of her body in return for this security. This pervasive demeaning of woman into a sexual commodity is reflected everywhere in our culture -- in pornography, advertising, etc. We see prostitution as an extension of this problem. Also, prostitution is a job which carries an unusually high number of job hazards. Prostitutes, in pursuing their livelihood, risk frequent arrest, police

harassment, entrapment, exposure to venereal disease, unwanted pregnancy, rape, beatings, humiliating/dangerous practices by clients, and violence from both pimps and clients.

As long as we have a society in which men hold the power; in which women are considered merely sexual commodities; as long as women continue to be economically vulnerable, there will be prostitution. We suggest the most effective way, ultimately, to fight prostitution is to change these conditions.

Sincerely,

Pam Blackstone,
for the Co-ordinating Committee.

The Mayor and Members of Oak Bay Council

We are writing to you with deep concern about the licensing of family day care in Oak Bay. We urge you to take a positive stand supporting family day care licensing in the municipality.

The need for good quality child care which fosters the emotional, physical and intellectual development of a child is a fact of life in our society. In Canada today, nearly 60% of all married women between the ages of 20 and 44 years are in the labour force; over 10% of all families are single parent families (mostly headed by women); and, over 40% of mothers with children under the age of 6 are working outside the home. However some might wish, the working mother is a reality now and likely to be both a continuing and increasing reality in the future.

There are currently long waiting lists for day care services for children over 3 years, an even more critical lack of licensed places for children under 3, and few if any services for school age children (before and after school and during vacation periods). Licensed family day care in Oak Bay would greatly help to alleviate some of these problems. Such services in hard economic times would also greatly assist the working parent or parents as well as the person licensed: it would enable parents to opt for remunerative employment; it would provide additional and usually essential income for the day care operator.

Years ago there were lots of children on every block in Oak Bay--at a time when 3 and 4 or more children per family were common (we didn't worry about noise then!). This situation

probably helped to create a real feeling of neighbourliness and community in Oak Bay and no doubt also contributed to general well-being of children. Licensed family day care in Oak Bay would help to recapture some of this. It is neighbourhood based, it provides child care in a home-like setting which is more personalized than some larger institutional centres and as such is a satisfactory setting of developing children. As well, it is also often more convenient for parents, cutting short time spent taking children to and from care situations and leaving more time for parents to spend with their children in productive activities. Family day care would also lessen the prevalence of "latch key" children, ensuring that there is somewhere for these young people to go and be adequately taken care of until their parents are free from other responsibilities.

A community is only a satisfactory living place if we value human life and that includes caring for our children. There is no question that good quality day care is a necessity in our society--to argue otherwise is to ignore the facts. Parental support systems, of which family day care is one, helps to make our most valuable resource, we should therefore make sure that their needs are being met satisfactorily and that includes ensuring quality care.

For these reasons, the Victoria Status of Women Action Group urges you to support the licensing of family day care in Oak Bay. We trust that you will so do.

Yours sincerely,

Josephine Payne
O'Connor
Chairperson,
Parenting Comm.
SWAG

Letter to Monday Magazine
appearing in May21-27 issue

"What Revolution?"

In his article "Adventures in the Skin Trade" ("Sexuality in the 80s - Part Three", Monday May 7-13) the basic premise which John Hofess seems to have unquestioningly accepted is that we have witnessed a sexual revolution. This is simply not so. In his usual manner (profound, viewed superficially; superficial, viewed more profoundly) Mr Hofess had made a confusion between revolution and counter-revolution.

Men have always wanted a community of sexually-available women. With the aid of such "revolutionaries" as Hugh Hefner and Bob Guccione they have succeeded in convincing themselves and many women that the realization of that objective constitutes a revolution. This is not the first time that a counter-revolution has been mistaken for a revolution.

As a result of Mr. Hofsess's "revolution", most women have lost much of the restricted but definite status they used to have as wives and mothers and have been very inadequately compensated for this loss by being "freed" sexually (to be-available). Their situation, particularly now is roughly comparable to that of former slaves in the Reconstruction Era, emancipated serfs in tsarist Russia, and many native people in Canada today.

Furthermore, Mr. Hofsess seems to be unwilling to establish or apply a consistent distinction between eros and pornography. There is one. The former involves mutuality, respect, humour, and a certain soulfulness. The latter only use, with its corollaries of objectification (reification), fragmentation and alienation.

E. Kaellis
1289 Balmoral Rd.

ARTICLES

Abortion Speech May 8, 1982

Josephine Payne-O'Connor.

SWAG celebrates and wholeheartedly supports the sustained and determined efforts of our sisters in CARAL in this long battle for choice on abortion.

SWAG supports the right of every woman to direct the course of our own life. We recognize that safe and effective abortion, available on demand to all women, is a necessity in a world where contraception is dangerous and unreliable, where rape is rampant, and where motherhood is sold to women as instant glory or the penalty for intercourse. If we lived in a world of economic and social certainties, where contraception was safe and reliable, rape unknown and motherhood one dignified choice among many for women; then abortion would not be necessary. But until we have achieved that world; abortion is the right of every woman.

Women's Retreat and Restoration

Emotional release work, message, meditation, stress reduction exercises, creative visualization, and feminist analysis.

Group 1 August 6-8 Texada Island

Group 2 August 11-15 Texada Island

Group 3 August 21-22 Victoria

Sliding scale fees. Register before July 28 for Group 1 or 2 and before August 15 for Group 3. For more information and to register phone or write: Sara David, 1643 Haultain, V8R 2K8 595-8217. Individual and group work also available.

SWAG celebrates and supports all women as we make our own personal and individual choices about reproduction. We support women who chose to bear a child or children; and we are working hard to make our society more affirming of mothers and children. We support women who are facing a difficult and lonely struggle to conceive or to bring a child to term. We reach out in sympathy and support to women whose children do not survive birth, infancy or childhood, and we support women who chose not to be mothers either before or after the point of conception. In so many of these ways we are brought face to face with ourselves in relation to our power to create human life. We face responsibilities, we face the impact of future uncertainties, we face our inadequacies, our hopes and fears. Each of us, alone, reaches our own responsible resolution. Each of us, alone, discovers what we can and must do.

Choice about abortion is a part of the choice about creating or not creating life, and since this is women's power, this is women's responsibility. No wonder then, that our position creates such irrational hysteria among those who deny women's role in the creation of life. We live in a society largely committed to the belief that non-human, disembodied man creates all human life; a society in which the phrase "test-tube baby" has currency, and in which taxi-drivers or doctors are said to "deliver" babies. It is an obvious fact that throughout pregnancy a woman is directly creating a human life, but women are cast in the role of irrelevant and distant relations to the fetus: though we are allowed an occasional guest appearance as the bad guy if we are pro-choice, drunken or single mothers. For this reason the debate of our hysterical opposition focusses on the supposed "right to life of the fetus".

It ignores completely the much more central issue: does any human have the right to live in the body of another. As far as I can see there is no existing right of one individual to live in the body of another. Moreover, as far as I can see, there is no "right to life": life is not a right we claim from others; life is a privilege extended to us by our mother, by her own free choice. We respect the lives of others because each human life represents that same freely extended privilege from each person's mother.

Our culture is based on the unpaid work of women in the home and the poorly paid work of women in the labour force. It has been an on-going cultural assumption that women are "to be of use", questioned only at each resurgence of feminism. It is natural, then, for our opposition to insist on extending this "use of women's lives and bodies" to fetuses without even batting an eyelid. When we speak out today for the right of every woman to choose for herself what she will do with her life, and with her body, we are attacking directly, the foundations of the society and the culture in which we live. We can certainly expect fireworks!! It is the same battle when women insist we do not have to take physical abuse in the home or sexual abuse in the work-place. It is the same battle when homemakers demand fair pensions or wages for housework, and women in the labour force demand equal pay for work of equal value. All of these battles are directed at ending the slavery and abuse of women and in each case we must deal with the overwhelming culture-shock of the opposition, who have assumed women to be some sort of domesticated animal, or with luck, household pet.

Our sisters in CARAL are waging this difficult battle with great courage, great vision and an inspiring determination. They have to work daily around the insult of coming in second to a fetus. It is one thing to face a battle in which we come in second to the Man; it is so much more outrageous when we come in second to a fetus. To our opposition, fetuses inspire more loyalty and commitment and action than do children, women, wild-life, whales, trees or seal pups. If only they would turn their considerable energies to stopping incest and the pornographic exploitation of children, or to providing a decent future for them, and us all!!

SWAG rejects this loyalty to the fetus as the ideal of human life. We find it a very disturbing fetish. The fetus is presented in a vacuum, sealed off from action in the world, blind and passive and irresponsible. It appears very much like Ronald Reagan in his Nuclear Fallout Shelter after the Holocaust. The fetus is used to manipulate women while its very dependency on women is unacknowledged.

We find this cultural image, and the loyalty it inspires, frightening. In it we can see the new model patriarch ready for launching, and we completely and totally reject it.

We stand instead for women; women facing the difficult and complicated choices around reproduction. And we support all women in all those choices, including the option of safe, simple, efficient abortion, preferably in the privacy of her own home.

DOMESTIC WORKER'S EXPERIENCE

The following article was written by a Jamaican domestic worker.

When I first came to Canada in 1979, I came as a domestic worker to work with a family of six. It was winter. That was the first time I experienced freezing temperature and snow.

I was forced by my employer to clean the windows outside in the cold even though she has a window cleaner who cleans them every week. Anyway, I cleaned them and ending up with a cold which last me for a while. I thank God that I didn't die from pneumonia.

My employer woke me up at seven in the morning to prepare breakfast and lunch for the children so that they could go to school on time. I don't mind starting work early in the morning, but the disadvantage of this was I finished working at 7:30 in the evening but did not receive overtime pay.

When I signed my contract back home, I signed to work for \$450 a month. But when I came to Canada, there were changes in my salary. My employer gave me only \$350 plus deduction of tax, etc. which leave me roughly \$300. I asked her about the contract that she made with me and to pay me \$450. She said she will talk it over with her husband. The following evening, she gave me a piece of paper with all the deductions. I did not say anything after that.

I had to do the laundry everyday because the kids would play in the snow before and after school. I washed the bathroom, vacuumed, cooked, made six beds, changed towels, dust, etc., everyday. On my days off, no one would do all those things. It would take me two days to catch up on my work each time.

One Saturday, after working for six weeks, I asked the lady for my pay since I needed warm clothes. She turned to me and said she was sending me home. I did not believe a word that she said since I have a 12-month contract with her.

I went to my room and phoned a friend that I knew from home. I told her what the lady has told me, and my friend said: "Are you serious?" After I finished talking to my friend, I went back upstairs and talked to my employer. She told me that she has already booked my fare for me to go home the following Monday night.

I did not know what to do. I phoned a lady that I have met through a friend and she invited me over. I told her everything that my employer have told me. She told me to pack my things and come stay with her because she was not going to let me go home.

I packed my things, and the next day, Sunday, the lady, her keeper and a friend of mine came for me. The lady that I worked with was surprised when she saw my suitcase at the door, because I did not tell her anything about moving out.

The next morning, I went to Immigration and told them everything that happened. The officer that I spoke to called my employer and asked her what happened between the two of us. She told her everything that was impossible with me but she did not tell her about the long hours of work and that I had to work without overtime pay.

The immigration officer then told me that I have to return to my country. I explained to her that I gave up my apartment and job before I came here and if I go back I don't have any place to live in or money to spend. But she insisted that I have to go.

I phoned the lady whom I was then staying with and told her what took place at the immigration office. She said: "You are not going home to Jamaica. Just come straight on home." By the time I got there her husband was home. They were all upset and they kept repeating: "You are not going home. Just believe us."

It was a good thing that both of them knew one of the immigration officers. So they phoned him and told him what happened. The officer told them that I should come down and see him the following day, Tuesday - one day pass my deadline.

Back in the immigration office, I did not see the officer I talked to before. Or the officer I was supposed to see. Instead, this lady, maybe his secretary, interviewed me and wrote down everything I told her.

I was made to wait at the front room. Finally, my name was called and I was told that I can stay for three months and look for another job.

I went home and told the family whom I was staying with the good news. Everyone was happy and relieved. I stayed with them for three weeks until I found a new employer, whom I have now been working for, for two years and three months.

Thank God for the good Samaritan!

Taken from the C.A.R.D.WO. Newsletter
No. 2 April 1982
Page 4,5, & 6.

+++++BOOKS+++++

A Quick Look At Women's SF

Call it what you like science fiction, science fantasy, visionary utopia or futuristic but I shall label the following books as SF. They are all written by women. Some of them portray powerful female cultures in the future, the remainder at least, incorporate women in all aspects of the future.

If SF is new to you Pamela Sargent's Women of Wonder is the best introduction I can think of. In her initial notes she touches on why only 15% of the writers are women and maybe 10% of the readers are female. Sargent examines the history of women SF writers, how men have treated women in SF in the past and present.

Perhaps Sargent's strongest point is made concerning questioning futurological explorations. "People who believe they are not gifted in scientific thought or intellectual discipline...can, and should, take part in such explorations... If women do not want men to make their future for them, they must explore these problems. Science Fiction is one tool for doing this."

Sargent produced three books starting with Women of Wonder at \$3.95, then More Women of Wonder, \$3.95 then The New Women of Wonder, \$3.25 all Vintage Paperbacks. Each book is a collection of 8-12 writers representing a varied array of styles and approaches. Yet all speak to women's concerns.

Three of My Favorite SF Writers:

Doris Lessing since 1975 has been concentrating on visionary novels. The Memoirs of a Survivor, \$3.50 Bantam Paperback, was the first to appear in 1975. This is a 'journal of a woman set in the times of a broken down society. Only one word can describe The Memoirs - sparse. I prefer Lessing's latest work Canopus in Argos: Archives. Book One is Shikasta at \$3.95 a Granada Paperback and Book Two is The Marraiges Between Zone 3, 4, 5 at \$3.95 is also a Granada Paperback. Her third book in the series is The Sirian Experiments available at the Public Library in hardcover. These books explain more fully what she touched on in The Memoirs. In fact, they are almost a brief history of the world. The Marraiges Between Zones I found slightly disappointing in comparison to Shikasta. Yet, how she dealt with the struggles between men and women was superb. The entire novel is a treatise on sex and love and the emotions involved.

On one hand is a feminist writer like Lessing who has recently entered the SF field. On the other hand is Ursula K. LeGuin who has written only SF. She was

my first introduction to the field when I devoured her EarthSea trilogy. She has won an impressive array of awards and honours for her writing. Certainly, The Word for World is Forest, a novella, is the one SF I have recommended most.

One other long time SF writer is Marion Zimmer Bradley. She has been writing SF since 1953 and perhaps is best known for her Darkover novels. Most of her work is published by DAW and Ace books. Bradley's treatment of women is symbolic of all women SF writers.

Women are involved in struggles, some are strong, many weak, and women are also portrayed in a women only culture. Bradley developed a Sisterhood of Free Women which Darkover men called the Free Amazons. These women broke away from a society dominated by men and swore oaths to a guild charter never to be at the mercy of any man. These women were sworn to defend themselves, to turn to no man for protection. Like many other women SF writers, this sisterhood of Free Women is a feminist concept and certainly a modern day dream.

In all SF there prevails a great deal of what society is like today. Some of it is reality-like, as in Lessing's work. More often than not it is fantasy-like as in Le Guin's work. But always there is a current of hope and change for men and women in the future.

As Pamela Sargent states: "Science fiction opens the mind ... at its best it can also provide a new and different literary experience."

Connie McCann of Everywoman's Books

Women Needed

Fundraising Committee

We need two or three members ready to begin work in September. The committee will meet once a month and plan strategy, fill in forms and organize SWAG's fundraising drive. Contact Diana, 598-6964 or leave a message at the Office, 381-1012.

Archive Committee

The nucleus of an Archives Committee has been formed. We need more workers to help organize and catalogue the Archives. If you can help leave a message at the Office, 381-1012.

*****Announcements*****

NESTLE BOYCOTT CONTINUES DESPITE PROPOSED MARKETING REFORMS

According to the Infant Formula Action Coalition (INFACT Canada) the international boycott of Nestle corporation continues despite the firm's March 16 compliance with the World Health Organization's restrictions for third world marketing of infant formulas.

The capitulation came only days after Nestle suffered serious public relation defeats. A Nestle poll in Toronto indicated growing issue awareness and boycott support with 10% of the populace, some 250,000 people, actively abiding by it.

Nestle was also unable to defeat a student boycott referendum at Notre Dame School. The American Public Health Association then voted unanimously to join the International Nestle Boycott Committee and its negotiation team.

The boycott, in effect five years, has attempted to pressure Nestle (controllers of one third of the worldwide infant formula market) to change their aggressive marketing practices. Health officials believe such tactics have contributed to the malnutrition, disease and death of millions of infants

Although infant formula is potentially life sustaining, the contamination of water, poverty and illiteracy prevalent in third world nations combines lethally with advertising which discourages breast feeding in favour of breast milk substitutes.

Rafael Pagan, president of the Nestle Co-ordination Centre for Nutrition, maintains that Nestle will implement the WHO code "on its own initiative where no measures have been taken to apply (it)." It will switch to non-promotional labelling and will ban gift packages containing formula, bottles or other baby accessories. Health workers will receive supplies of formula only upon request.

Spokespeople for the boycott express guarded optimism. David Hallman of INFACT notes discrepancies between the WHO code and Nestle's apparent interpretation of it.

Douglas Johnson, national chairperson of INFACT, cautions that the announcement is not to be regarded as a settlement. He recognizes a need to establish negotiations with Nestle to agree upon procedures of code implementation and continuing monitoring of Nestle compliance.

Although an invitation to begin talks has been extended to the firm, Johnson stresses that the boycott will not be lifted until Nestle's commitment is confirmed with action.

Taken from KINESIS - May, 1982
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Judge Calls Child Rape Victim Promiscuous

Last December 22, Judge William Reinicke of Grant County in southwestern Wisconsin called a rape victim "an unusually sexually permissive young lady."

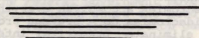
The young lady was five years old.

The controversy began at the sentencing of Ralph Snodgrass, who was convicted by a jury of first-degree sexual assault of the five-year-old girl. After characterizing the victim as promiscuous, Reinecke said that he believed she had initiated the incident. He gave Snodgrass 90 days in the county jail, with work-release privileges, and three years probation. Reinecke said that the 90-day sentence was imposed primarily because Snodgrass has attempted to lie to the judge. "I think that if he had come in and admitted to me that he did this thing, he would have walked out that very day on the street under probation," Reinecke said in court.

Reinecke contends that the facts of the case justified his comments: "I don't understand what all the uproar is about," he said. Court records showed the child had been exposed to sexual acts between her mother and Snodgrass, who was described as her mother's boyfriend. The assault occurred after the child jumped on top of Snodgrass, who had been sleeping nude while the mother was doing chores. The attack came to light several days later when the child's kindergarten teacher saw she was in pain and took her to the school nurse.

A recall petition has begun, but Reinecke's recall is far from a foregone conclusion. The judge, a conservative Republican, has been on the bench for 15 years in this community, and his defenders include all but two members of the local bar association.

From: Aegis, Spring 1982 p. 42



Penisectomies instead of Clitoridectomies?

In response to a letter from a magistrate (male) which equated male and female circumcision, Fran Hosken makes this correction and modest proposal:

This cutting off of the clitoris is the same as cutting off the penis. Cutting off the tip of the clitoris (an operation that many African men claim has no damaging after effects) is the same as cutting off the glans (=the tip) of the penis - the most sensitive part of the male body, much as the tip of the clitoris is the most sensitive part of the female body, resulting in extreme pain. How many men would like to have their penises or the glans of their penises cut off, being told that this is a minor operation that has no after effects but will remind them that they are now adults ...

From a medical point of view amputation of the penis does not impair male fertility. Ejaculation continues through the stump of the penis - as well as urination - once the flesh wound is healed. Ejaculation takes place without sexual intercourse - for instance at night during sleep. As long as the testicles are intact the production of semen continues. Impregnation can take place by putting the semen into the vagina for instance with a spoon.

Penisectomy has the same physical results as clitoridectomy; it makes orgasm impossible: but neither operation impairs fertility or reproduction. The amputation of the penis however has important social consequences that the amputation of the clitoris does not have. Amputation of the penis makes rape and sexual assault impossible, this can save billions of Dollars annually in court and legal costs. Penisectomy would greatly reduce the need for prisons all over the world and it would free women from the constant fear and threat of sexual assault: it would enable all people to lead more peaceful and productive lives.

Physicians have been performing the female operations for a fee - as the letter to the World Health Organization in this issue documents. They could do the same for boys/men with the same results plus important social consequences.

The time has come to examine the advantages of performing penisectomies on boys instead of clitoridectomies on girls. Penisectomies accomplish everything clitoridectomies do - prevent promiscuity, eliminate premarital intercourse, reduce the number of unwanted children

to zero, preserve female virginity, assure paternity and preserve the family. In addition penisectomies eliminate rape - the worst and most frequent international crime. Instead of performing female circumcision in dispensaries...it would be far better for the welfare of his society (and others) to perform penisectomies "hygienically" as he says. We urge male volunteers ...to come forward and show how beneficial the operations are, performed in dispensaries and hospitals as advocated.

From: WNN News, Spring 1982 p.32-33

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Did You Know???????????

- * Pornography is the third largest industry in Denmark
- * In the last decade in Denmark there has been a rise in rape higher than anything previously experienced.
- * In Sweden 30 million copies of porn magazines are sold annually (There are 4 million men)
- * Pornography grosses \$550 million each year in Canada
- * Porn video cassettes out sell straight cassettes 3 to 1
- * The porn industry is larger than the conventional film and record industries combined.
- * Over 50% of porn contains violence
- * "Kiddy Porn" grosses \$1 billion a year in North America
- * 1 1/2 million children are used annually in commercial sex (prostitution or porn)
- * A growing body of research documents:
 - a) A correlation between exposure to representations of violence and committing of violent acts
 - b) A correlation between exposure to porn and committing sexually abusive acts against women (& children)

More of these facts are available in a leaflet from Women Against Pornography.

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and the Queens Head announce

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Parliamentary Report on Wife Battering

17 recommendations were made by the Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs on wife battering. Their recommendations are:

R.C.M.P. Training:

1. Members of the R.C.M.P. who act as provincial or territorial police should receive training which is specifically related to answering calls in cases of wife battering. As a result of this training each officer should have an understanding of the problem of wife battering; he or she should also be willing and able to guide the victim to an emergency shelter, and to give her accurate information about the legal and other services available to her in or near the community.

2. The police training program should be developed with the assistance of those people in the community who are responsible for providing services to battered women.

3. The R.C.M.P. should introduce an affirmative action hiring program to increase the number of women officers. It should assign male-female teams to family violence cases.

4. Competent or outstanding performance of duties associated with family violence calls should be rewarded in the same way that such performance is rewarded with respect to other duties.

Funding for Shelters

5. With the consent of the provinces, federal monies should be appropriated to fund the initial capital costs of new emergency shelters and second stage housing. Funds for each house should be adequate to cover all staffing costs and the costs of child care services as well as building costs, and should be available for a long enough period to ensure the stability of the project.

6. Unoccupied buildings owned by the Crown should be converted into emergency shelters in those areas where it is possible to do so.

7. The Federal Government should encourage the use of the provisions of the National Housing Act which relate to loans and contributions to charitable associations and corporations, for the specific purpose of acquiring or constructing emergency and second stage housing for battered women.

8. The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation should be encouraged to direct that a certain number of units in housing subsidized by the Corporation be set aside as second stage or permanent housing for battered women with children.

9. Research and funding programs within the Department of National Health and Welfare should be used to suggest plans and help implement proposed projects for housing rural women and women from isolated areas who do not want to be removed to urban centres but whose numbers do not warrant the establishment of a transition house.

Treatment for Wife Batterers

10. Research and funding programs within the Departments of National Health and Welfare and Justice should devote adequate funds to the development of treatment programs for wife batterers.

Long Term Research

11. Programs within the Department of National Health and Welfare should encourage and help fund research

- (a) into the causes of wife battering
- (b) into the development of educational programs designed to change our attitudes about violence as appropriate male behaviour and acquiescence to violence as appropriate female behaviour.

Publicizing the Problem of Wife Battering

12. The Federal Government should develop programs for television and radio designed to inform the public about the nature and extent of the problem of wife battering.

13. The Federal Government should use inserts in family allowance cheques to give women general information about their legal rights in a wife battering situation, the resources available to them in their province, and where to turn for further information.

14. To help develop a mass media which is more aware of its responsibility in relation to the depiction of violence, the CRTC should be given the discretion to suggest guidelines to its licensees on this matter.

Jurisdiction of Federally-Appointed Judges Over Family Matters

15. A recent decision of the Supreme Court of Canada has called into question the right of provincially-appointed family court judges to issue civil orders designed to exclude a spouse from the family home or to prevent him from harming his partner. To prevent any delay caused by processing all such orders through county or superior courts we recommend that the Federal Government move quickly to appoint judges where the need is apparent. (This recommendation carries no implication as to an ultimate division of powers in the family law area. We recognize that a long term solution to the problem of creating a unified family court is a federal-provincial matter, and

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have worded recommendation 17, which deals with such a court, accordingly).

Federal-Provincial Conference

16. In the light of its conclusion with respect to the protection of the wife and the enforcement of criminal legislation in wife battering cases, (see paragraphs 32, 35-37) this Committee recommends that a federal-provincial conference be held on the subject of wife battering and family violence as it relates to the enforcement and the administration of the criminal law.

17. In the light of the decision of the Supreme Court of Canada referred to in recommendation 15, we recommend that the proposed conference also address the problem of establishing a validly constituted civil court which is able to issue orders affecting the possession of the family home, and preventing a man from harming his wife at least as quickly and with as little cost to the wife as provincial courts do now.

The Committee further recommends that the following specific items be put on the agenda of the proposed conference:

A. A proposal that all current criminal orders which prevent a man from seeing or harassing his wife be registered on a province-wide and country-wide computer system. Such orders would include recognizances to keep the peace, bail conditions, and probation orders;

B. a proposal that a breach of these orders that results in violence or is accompanied by a threat of violence be followed by arrest, or some other measure which protects the victim;

C. a proposal that the police regularly lay charges in wife assault cases;

D. a proposal that the victim be made a compelling witness against her husband at the option of the Crown in the prosecution of wife assault cases;

E. a proposal with respect to the development of uniform and punitive sentences in wife battering cases (This Committee respectfully suggests that the impaired driving provisions of the Criminal Code be used as a guide. These provisions distinguish between first, second and subsequent offences, make allowances for the case where a subsequent conviction occurs long after the original conviction, and allow the judge to offer the accused treatment if referral is not contrary to the public interest.)

F. a proposal with respect to the development of treatment facilities for battering men as a sentencing alternative;

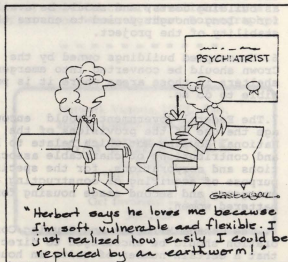
G. a proposal with respect to the training of police at the provincial and local government level.

(i) The proposed program should be motivated by considerations similar to those set out in recommendations 1-4 of this report;

(ii) The program should ensure that municipal police officers receive the same training as their provincial colleagues. (We respectfully suggest that at present this might be accomplished by grants to needy municipalities. However, we think it preferable that police officers at both levels of government receive the same training before they take up their positions.)

Rape/Assault Centre Update

The Steering Committee for Rape/Assault Services, a coalition of women's groups has prepared and submitted a proposal and budget for providing service. They have had a meeting with the officials from the Attorney General's Office. The budget must be revised to allow for two staff members rather than three. The situation looks promising if the Committee can revise the budget to the satisfaction of the Attorney General's Office.

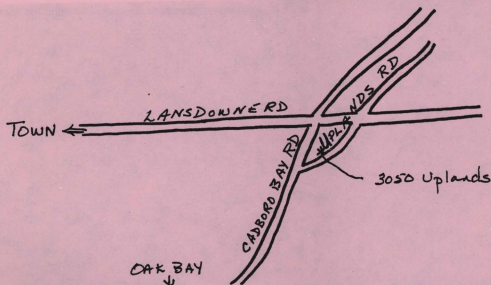


swag MEETING

POT LUCK BARBECUE

6:30 Monday June 28

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